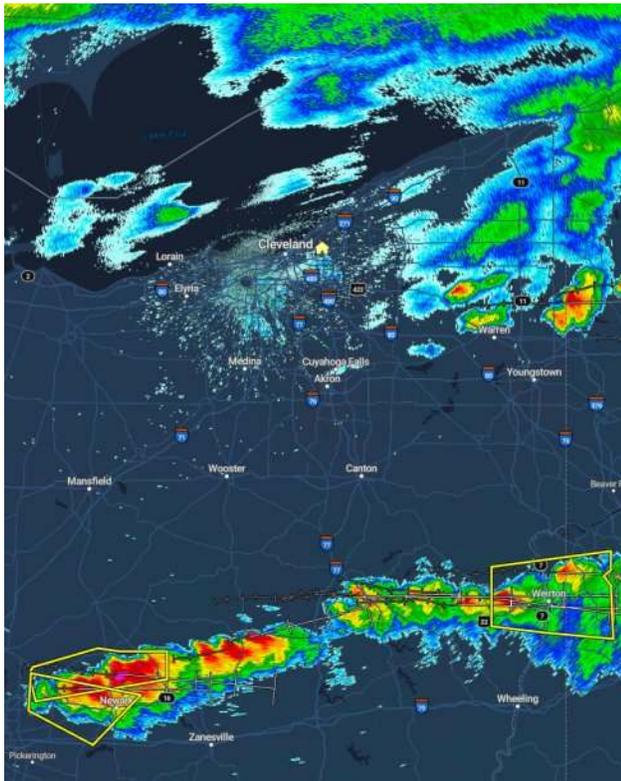




The Spirit of '76 and '88



Newsletter of the
March Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association 2026
Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB, Editor



LEARA Monthly Meeting
Skywarn/Weather
Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ
Teamz Restaurant & Bar
6611 Eastland Rd
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130
March 31, 6:30 p.m.



**Click or scan
QR code to RSVP**

The Prez Says
by Bryan Torok, N80OF



**Last Chance to Renew
Your LEARA
membership.**

As of the last count, we had 51 members who had not yet renewed. If you don't renew, you will be dropped from the roster at the end of March and will no longer receive newsletter and meeting

FINAL



Membership renewals!
Please be aware that membership renewals are due!

If you are still missing out, you can find renewal information or pay directly on our website: **Deadline 3/31**

<https://leara.org/membership/renew/>

... continue on page 2

Prez cont.

announcements via email. If you haven't yet renewed, please do it now. Your dues help to support club resources, including maintaining and upgrading the repeaters. The easiest way to do that is to go to our website, <https://leara.org/membership/renew/> and pay online using PayPal or your favorite credit card. You may also mail a check to LEARA, PO Box 22823, Beachwood, Ohio 44122-0823. To those who have renewed; thank you, we appreciate your support.

The February Meeting program was supposed to be on **The weekly #APRSTHURSDAY worldwide APRS net** presented by **Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL** as a hybrid Zoom/in-person meeting. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. First, the restaurant could not get the projector to turn on, so they moved us to one of the large-screen TVs on the wall. Then we couldn't get the sound to work. After we solved that problem, we had no presenter. It turned out that Mike had a last-minute family emergency and was unable to give the presentation. We intend to reschedule Mike's presentation for a future meeting. We are looking forward to a very interesting program.

Despite having problems with the projector and the sound and then having no presentation, nearly all the attendees stayed for well over another hour, longer than our typical presentation, just sitting around talking. One member later emailed me to say that this was a very enjoyable meeting and that he learned things about his fellow members that he had not known. But, hey, we are Hams. We solve problems and communicate for a hobby!

The March Meeting presentation will be the **Skywarn/Weather** related program presented by **Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ**.

OFFICERS and TRUSTEES	
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Al Severson	AB8P (SK)
Dave Foran	WB8APD (SK)
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NEWSLETTER	
<p>The Spirit of '76 & '88 is published monthly except in December. Contributions must be received by the 2nd Sunday of the month except on months with 5 Sundays and 5 Tuesdays when the 3rd Sunday will be sufficient.</p> <p>Editor: Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB E-mail: editor@leara.org</p> <p>Proofreading: TNX to W8AZO, N8YNR</p>	

V11/2026-03-22

The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Assn., Inc., **LEARA**, is a not-for-profit [501(c)(3)] organization dedicated to Amateur Radio and Public Service. Club information packets and applications for membership are available from **Marv Grossman, W8AZO, 440-248-0031**, or may be downloaded from our web site at www.leara.org. Annual membership is \$25.00.

LEARA's address is: LEARA, P.O. Box 22823, Beachwood, OH 44122-0823.

LEARA is an **ARRL**-affiliated club. When you [join](#) or [renew](#) the **ARRL**, **LEARA** benefits monetarily if you do so through the club.

Go to https://www.leara.org/files/ARRL_via_LEARA_Appl_Instructions.pdf and follow the instructions therein.

Membership Meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month (except December and June) at a Cleveland-area restaurant to be announced each month in the newsletter or, if situation requires, in a virtual conference meeting online. The **LEARA** newsletter usually arrives near the middle of the month. Locations for dinner may vary and often require a reservation. Those interested in dinner should arrive around 6 p.m. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all interested persons. You may attend without eating.

Trustees' Meetings are on the second Saturday of odd numbered months. Meetings are open to all current members of **LEARA**. **Locations are subject to change**. Trustees meet at one of the Cuyahoga County Public Library branches or in a virtual conference room online.

Contact a trustee or check the website at www.leara.org for details.

Prez cont.

No matter how many times I've seen his presentation, Mat manages to find a way to make it fresh and interesting. Please join us at **Teamz Restaurant & Bar**, 6611 Eastland Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. Teamz has a new menu. You can check it out here:

<https://www.teamzsportsbar.com/menu.html>

Reservations: Because we will be ordering off the menu, reservations are not strictly required, but are appreciated so we can let the restaurant know how many places to set. You may make your **reservation** on the website, <https://leara.org/dinner-reservation/> or by calling **Marv Grossman, W8AZO**, at **(440) 248-0031**. Come out for the food and camaraderie.

Future Meetings: The April meeting is scheduled to be at The Firehouse Grille & Pub, program TBD. As always, if you have any suggestions for meeting programs, please contact **Eric Jessen, N8AUC**, or me. Contact info is on page 2 in the left column.

Power outages: Spring storm and Skywarn weather has come to our area and along with that comes increased chances of having power outages and/or encountering downed wires.

Safety First: If you see any downed wires, do not approach them. Even telephone and cable TV wires can be energized with hundreds or thousands of volts if they contact power lines somewhere upstream. You can't tell just by looking. Call the pros.

If you are in Northeast Ohio the number to report downed wires or power outages is 1-888-544-4877. It is a good idea to store that number in your phone. Even if your neighbor has called, you should also call. The Illuminating Company prioritizes repairs based on the number of customers affected. Also, the problem causing your loss of power may be different from your neighbor's so your neighbor may get his power back and yours may still be out.

You may also report a downed wire or an outage online at

https://www.firstenergycorp.com/outages_help/current_outages_maps/outages-map.html

That is quite a bit to remember or type in so I just Google "Illuminating Company outage map". On that page you can enter your zip code to see a map showing the outages in your area, the number of customers affected, and an expected time to get the power back on. All of that, especially the time to repair, is an estimate and may vary as time goes on. Still, it beats not having any idea what is happening.

Repeater Etiquette Reminder: During some of our recent severe weather I was monitoring a local repeater and a couple of guys having a conversation. Another Ham came on and said his power was out. He was inquiring if anyone had any info as to the extent of the outage and how long the he could expect it to be out. After the other Hams said they had no info, he said he was going to get in his car and drive around. Heck, I've done that myself, but I have admit it may not be the best thing to do with trees and wires down and traffic lights not working.

I tried to get on the repeater to provide the above info on outage maps, but could not get in because the other Hams were not leaving any space between transmissions. After about five tries I gave up. Folks, **please remember to leave gaps between transmissions** so that others have a chance to get in. There may be someone out there with an emergency. That is especially true when we are having severe weather.

Until next month, talk on the radio and use the repeaters. Check into one of the many nets available on the LEARA repeaters. Join us for a Saturday morning Trustees meeting. Join us on the air, online, or in person. We really want to see or at least hear from you, even if it is only by radio or Zoom.



LEARA "On the Air"

Club Net Information
by Carl Gedeon, KB8VXE

The **Thursday Club Net** is held 8 p.m. on our 146.760 (or 146.880 backup) MHz (-600 kHz offset, PL 110.9) repeater. All nets will be

held on this repeater. Please use it and notify any trustee of any troubles or issues.

February 2026 Check-Ins 18					
AD8PQ	Ken	KC8FQV	Mark	N8AUC	Eric
K2WJS	BILL	KC8MRC	Bob	N8QXE	John
K8ARP	Arp	KE8CEO	Robert	W8IE	Ed
K8EHP	Mike	KF8DGD	Bill	W8JMI	Bryan
K8SAS	Steve	N8AGM	Tom	W8LRU	Andrew
K8BVXE	Carl	N8AHS	Fred	W8ZHN	Jim

Remember if you missed a net, check out the web page for a recap of the trivia and discussion questions.

		Net Control Schedule		
The tentative scheduled NCOs for the next Nets are: Please check the website for current assignments. --- click ---	03/26/26	Carl	K8BVXE	
	04/02/26	Ed	W8IE	
	04/09/26	Robert	KE8CEO	
	04/16/26	Eric	N8AUC	
	04/23/26	Jim	W8ZHN	
	04/30/26	Carl	K8BVXE	
	05/07/26	Ed	W8IE	
	05/14/26	Robert	KE8CEO	
	05/21/26	Jim	W8ZHN	
	05/28/26	Eric	N8AUC	

NCOs	K8BVXE	Carl	W8IE	Ed
	K8V*	Jon	W8ZJN	Jim
	N8AUC	Eric	KE8CEO	Robert

*Short time leave **Long term leave

The Wednesday Night Skywarn Practice Net

The Skywarn season runs from April thru September. Practice nets are held Wednesday evenings at 8:30 p.m. on the 146.76 repeater. With a simplex net to follow on 146.475. Should the National Weather Service issue a severe storm warning for Cuyahoga County, a weather net will be brought up on the 146.76 repeater.

Visit <https://n8esg.org/skywarn/> for more information and training sessions.

Information about Cleveland Weather operations can be found at <https://wx8cle.org/>

An On-Line Storm Spotter training video from the NWS is available at

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSCleveland/videos/858879174941020/>

ARES

ARES nets and meetings are held every Tuesday (Except the third Tuesday of the Month) at 8PM on 145.410 (+)110.9. A simplex net will be held afterwards. ARES meetings are in the meeting room at the Helwig Whistle Stop 599 West Bagley Rd. Berea, OH. at 7PM the third Tuesday of each month. More info about ARES can be found at www.n8esg.org/ares.

Note: The third Tuesday of the month March 17th, is St Patrick's Day. As there are many extra activities going on, the meeting will be held the following week on March 24th. A regular net will be held on St. Patrick's Day.

Sunshine

Please contact Robert Wright (ke8ceo@leara.org) with information.

Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

from www.arrl.org

04/11/2026 - [Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 70th Hamfest](#)

Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor:

Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Website: <https://www.cfarc-hamfest.org>

[Learn More](#)

07/11/2026 - [2026 Mansfield Mid Summer Trunkfest](#)

Location: Mansfield, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w8we.org>

[Learn More](#)

09/27/2026 - [Cleveland Hamfest](#)

Location: Berea, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland

Website: <https://www.HAC.org>

[Learn More](#)

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

from www.arrl.org

04/04/2026 | [Kirtland OH 44094](#)

Sponsor: Lake County ARA

Location: Kirtland Library

Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

04/04/2026 | [Stow OH 44224](#)

Sponsor: PCARS (Portage County Amateur Radio Service)

Location: PCARS Clubsite

Time: 10:00 AM

(No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

04/11/2026 | [Cuyahoga Falls OH 44223](#)

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls ARC

Location: Emidio & Sons Expo Center

Time: 8:30 AM

(No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

05/02/2026 | [Fairview Park OH 44126](#)

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Location: Fairview Park Library

Time: 10:00 AM

(No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)



Membership renewals!

Please be aware that membership renewals are due!

If you are still missing out, you can find renewal information or pay directly on our website: **Deadline 3/31**

<https://leara.org/membership/renew/>

**LAKE ERIE AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES' MEETING MINUTES**

March 14th, 2026

held virtually in a Zoom Video Conference

(Subject to Revision)

Attendance:

Bryan Torok, N8OOF; Eric Jessen, N8AUC; Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS; Robert Wright, KE8CEO; Carl Gedeon, KB8VXE; Jon Anhold, KM8V; Ed Rivers, W8IE

Members:

Jim MacMillan, WA8ZHN

Excused:

n/a

Absent:

Dave Andrzejewski, AD8G; Marv Grossman, W8AZO

1. Call to Order

The president called the meeting to order at 0918 ET. Recognized and thanked the Hamfest Association of Cleveland for the use of Zoom.

2. Previous Trustee Meeting Minutes:

The president called the meeting to order at 0918 ET. Recognized and thanked the Hamfest Association of Cleveland for the use of Zoom.

3. Treasurer's Report

provided by Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS.

4. Membership Report

Marv Grossman, W8AZO; not available at this time.

5. Venue Chair's Report/Discussion:

Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS stated March will be at Firehouse. The primary venues are still Firehouse Grille & Pub, My Friends Restaurant, and Teamz. Eddie stated he will be working on scheduling venues through the rest of 2026.

NOTE: 3/18/2026 change; March will be at Teamz and April will be at Firehouse.

6. Upcoming Programs:

Eric Jessen, N8AUC: Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL, canceled for the February meeting, to be rescheduled; March program will be Skywarn, by Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ.

7. Net Report:

Carl Gedeon, KB8VXE; Generally 8 to 12 check-ins. Scheduling discussed. Nothing new to report.

8. Sunshine

Robert Wright, KE8CEO; Russel Saepic, WB8UPA/SK.

9. Technical Committee Report:

Discussion of cost of Internet service for the repeater sites and use of T-Mobile hotspots.

10. Old Business:

None.

11. New Business:

Carl Gedeon, KB8VXE, announced that ARES NVIS Day will be 4/25/2026, about 10A to 2P local time, in Middleburg Hts. Central Park. All are welcome to attend or participate remotely.

12. Adjournment:

Motion by Eric Jessen, N8AUC, and seconded by Ed Rivers, W8IE, motion carried at 10:08 ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Torok, N8OOF

Buc-ee's Comes to Ohio

I can hear many of you asking, "What is a Buc-ee's?" I think of it as a humongous travel center. They started in Texas where everything is bigger. They typically have more than 100 gas pumps and a merch, convenience, and grocery store nearly the size of a Walmart. They are also famous for their brisket sandwiches and dozens of flavors of beef jerky. More info:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WksA55t6f9o>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_AGcU_7om4

So, why am I writing about Buc-ee's here? First, since Sara and I stopped at one in Tennessee, I've encountered a number of Hams who are fans of Buc-ee's. Second the first Buc-ee's in Ohio will open in a few weeks at 8000 OH-235, Huber Heights, OH 45424. That is northeast of Dayton

and certainly doable as a side stop while going to or from Hamvention, or even as an evening side trip.

ARES NVIS Day will be April 25, 2026, about 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time, in Middleburg Heights' Central Park. All are welcome to attend or participate remotely. More info: <https://arrl-ohio.org/nvis/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 March	30 March	31 6:30 p.m. LEARA meeting	1 April	2 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	10	11 Run the Land Marathon
12	13	14	15	16 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	24	25 NVIS Day
26	27	28 6:30 p.m. LEARA meeting	29	30 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	1 June	2

Check the Event Support Group Website for more event details

>>> <https://n8esg.org/calendar/> <<<

Hams Help Forecasters with Real-Time Data on Northeast Blizzard

02/27/2026 from: <https://www.arrl.org/news/hams-help-forecasters-with-real-time-data-on-northeast-blizzard>

A historic blizzard paralyzed much of the Northeast in late February, and amateur radio operators were on the air to help forecasters keep track of the storm's impact. Southeastern New England was one of the hardest-hit areas. ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator and Boston-area SKYWARN Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, provided this summary for ARRL News:

A severe blizzard left its mark on Southeast New England with massive amounts of snow, vehicles and even plows getting stuck, damaging winds gusts to hurricane force causing ~350,000 customers to lose power in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and some coastal flooding issues at high tide. The blizzard broke Rhode Island's state record for snowfall with 37.8 inches of snow in Providence. ARES-SKYWARN Nets across southern New England were activated with the WX1BOX amateur radio team to support the National Weather Service (NWS) Boston/Norton office, as well as local and state emergency management and broadcast media, with timely updates on the storm.

We had ARES-SKYWARN nets activating on an every 1-2 hour basis providing snowfall, wind gust, wind damage and coastal flood reports. The nets were very active with great participation, allowing a comprehensive situational awareness. We also interacted with many non-amateur radio SKYWARN spotters via social media.

...

Amateur Radio SKYWARN Nets were active on over a dozen repeaters across southern New England, along with the New England Amateur Radio VoIP Reflector system with snowfall, wind damage and wind gust reports. The Amateur Radio Net Plan for Massachusetts was sent into Massachusetts Emergency Management in an ICS-205 to ESF-2 as part of a closer working relationship with state emergency management. Well over 1,000 reports were generated from these nets and shared with partner agencies and the media. Blizzard conditions were met at numerous sites across southern New England.

Amateur radio received media attention on The Weather Channel several times throughout the blizzard. Jim Cantore stated, "When we get all these observations, it comes from SKYWARN spotters and amateur radio operators because when people can't communicate and the phone lines down, the amateur radio operators are all we got."

... read the full article here: [CLICK](#)

LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

More than **55 YEARS** of Serving Greater Cleveland Since 1969

VOICE REPEATERS:

146.76/R-	• Highland Hills	(Requires 110.9 Hz tone)
146.88/R-	• Lakewood	(Requires 110.9 Hz tone)
224.90/R-	• Lakewood	(Requires 141.3 Hz tone)
444.40/R+	• Macedonia	(Requires 131.8 Hz tone) (Offline)
444.70/R+	• Lakewood	Digital Only (mmdvm: Fusion, DMR, D-Star & P25) (Requires 131.8 Hz tone)

INTERNET: www.leara.org