



The Spirit of '76 and '88



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

UNDERSTANDING THE MESHTASTIC NETWORK

DECENTRALIZED MESH ARCHITECTURE

Nodes form a self-healing network. Packets hop between nodes. Extended range via routing.

WHAT MAKES MESHTASTIC STAND OUT?

- DECENTRALIZED & OFF-GRID**: No central server or cell towers. Works everywhere.
- LOW POWER consumption**: Uses small batteries, solar panels, and long life.
- LONG RANGE (LoRA)**: Uses low-frequency radio waves for kilometers of coverage.
- PRIVACY & SECURITY**: Strong end-to-end encryption (AES-256).
- OPEN SOURCE & AFFORDABLE**: Open software and inexpensive hardware (ESP32, Semtech).

MESHTASTIC VS TRADITIONAL NETWORKS

Traditional (e.g., Cell, Internet): CENTRALIZED, VULNERABLE, NEEDS INFRASTRUCTURE

MESHTASTIC MESH: RESILIENT, AD-HOC, NO INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED

POWERFUL COMMUNICATION, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

**LEARA Monthly Meeting
Meshtastic**
Dave, AD8G
The Firehouse Grille & Pub
2768 Stark Dr., Willoughby Hills, OH
April 28, 6:30 p.m.



Click or scan
QR code to RSVP

The Prez Says
by Bryan Torok, N800F

The March Meeting presentation was our annual Skywarn/Weather related program presented by **Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ**. Last month I said that no matter how many times I've seen his presentation, Mat manages to find a way to make it fresh and interesting. And, true to form, I did develop a



Meshtastic is an open source, off the grid, decentralized mesh network. No cell towers, no internet, but it provides peer-to-peer connectivity. And it's low cost to implement.

... continue on page 2

Prez cont.

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Bryan Torok President	N8OOF btorok@sbcglobal.net
Eric Jessen VP, License Trustee	N8AUC 440-554-3057
Eddie Stevens Treasurer	KD8FTS 440-668-7409
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Marv Grossman Membership	W8AZO 440-248-0031
Robert Wright, II Vice President	KE8CEO 216-502-1552
Eddie Stevens Venue	KD8FTS 440-668-7409
Ed Rivers Trustee	W8IE eddrivers@ameritech.net
Carl Gedeon Trustee	KB8VXE kb8vxe@arrl.net
Jon Anhold Trustee	KM8V km8v@arrl.net
Dave Andrzejewski Trustee	AD8G 440-220-2064
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Bob Winston	W2THU
POINTS OF CONTACT	
Robert Wright, II "Sunshine"	KE8CEO 216-502-1552
Bryan Torok Radio Officer	N8OOF btorok@sbcglobal.net
Dave Andrzejewski Radio Officer	AD8G 440-220-2064
NEWSLETTER	
<p><i>The Spirit of '76 & '88</i> 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

better understanding of roll clouds, shelf clouds, and a few other things. I've been to Spotter training put on by the regular NWS people many times and asked questions about which way the cloud was moving and what perspective the picture was taken from and was told they didn't know. With Mat, I didn't have to ask because he laid that out right up front. Very worthwhile.

I do apologize to any who came out because they were relying on my emailed weather forecast "to be nearly 70 degrees at meeting time with some light rain." On the way to the meeting Sara and I drove through torrential downpours. Between being on Brookpark Road and on the Berea Freeway we saw at least two accidents and seven or eight cars off the road or pulled over on the shoulder. It was true that it was only lightly raining as we walked into and out of the restaurant. But, while eating dinner we were treated to watching live weather radar from the NWS with lots of yellow, orange, and red areas. Also, we were entertained by the sound of cell phone emergency alerts for severe weather and possible tornadoes as well as the sound of high winds and rain lashing the windows. It was very appropriate for a Skywarn related weather meeting. Fortunately, the worst of the weather bypassed Teamz.

The April Meeting presentation will be on **Meshtastic**, by **Dave Andrzejewski, AD8G**. Meshtastic is an open source, off the grid, decentralized mesh network. It requires no cell towers, no internet, but it provides peer-to-peer connectivity. And it has a low cost to implement. This is going to be an interesting program. I hope you can make it.

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.

The April Meeting will be at **The Firehouse Grille & Pub**, 2768 Stark Dr., Willoughby Hills, OH. We will be ordering off the menu.

<https://firehousegrilleandpub.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Our-Menu-File.pdf>

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 have yet to be determined. 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.

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/>

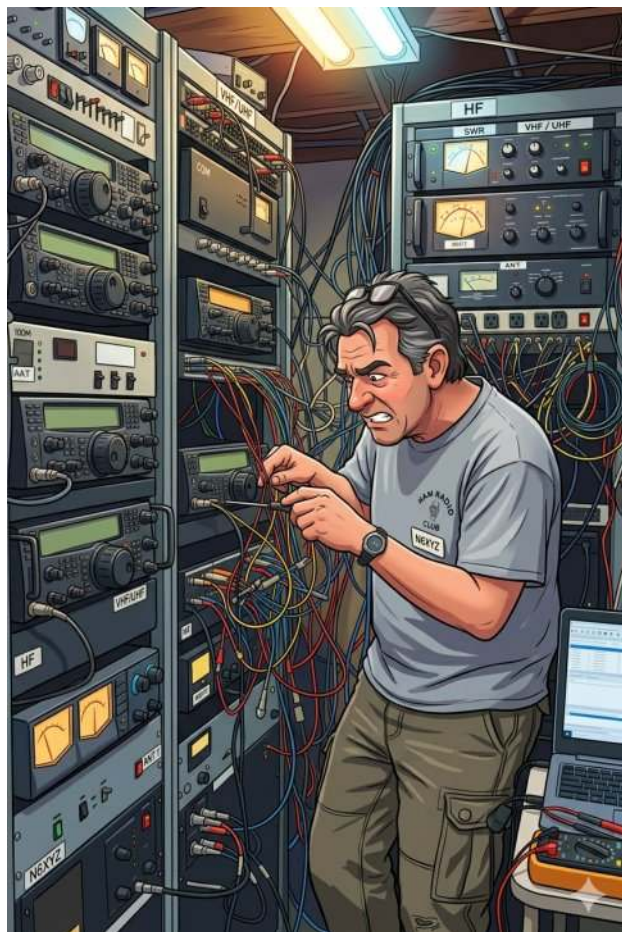
Until next month, talk on the radio and use the repeaters. Check into one of the many nets available on the LEARA repeaters. Join us for a Saturday morning Trustees meeting. Join us on the air, online, or in person. We really want to see or at least hear from you, even if it is only by radio or Zoom.

News from the Radio Officer

Dave Andrzejewski, AD8G

Hey all, just wanted to update everyone. Here's what I have going on:

- I've been hearing reports that the signal from 88 isn't as strong as it should be, so I'm going to go up there and investigate soon.
- The Lakewood site needs new Internet, I'm investigating options.
- I've been testing the new voter for 146.76 on my bench and I think it's ready to be installed.
- I want to upgrade the link receivers at 76 and I just found a good deal on some UHF radios that should fit the bill; I'll send a proposal to the trustees.





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.

March 2026 Check-Ins 13					
AD8PQ	Ken	KC8MRC	Bob	N8AZE	Joe
K2WJS	BILL	KE8CEO	Robert	W8IE	Ed
K8ARP	Arp	KF8DGD	Bill	W8ZHN	Jim
K8SAS	Steve	N8AHS	Fred		
KB8VXE	Carl	N8AUC	Eric		

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

The tentative scheduled NCOs for the next Nets are:
Please check the website for current assignments.
--- click ---

Net Control Schedule			
04/23/26	Jim	W8ZHN	
04/30/26	Carl	KB8VXE	
05/07/26	Ed	W8IE	
05/14/26	Robert	KE8CEO	
05/21/26	Jim	W8ZHN	
05/28/26	Eric	N8AUC	
06/04/26	Carl	KB8VXE	
06/11/26	Ed	W8IE	
06/18/26	Robert	KE8CEO	
06/25/26	Jim	W8ZHN	

NCOs	KB8VXE	Carl	W8IE	Ed
	KM8V*	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

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](#)

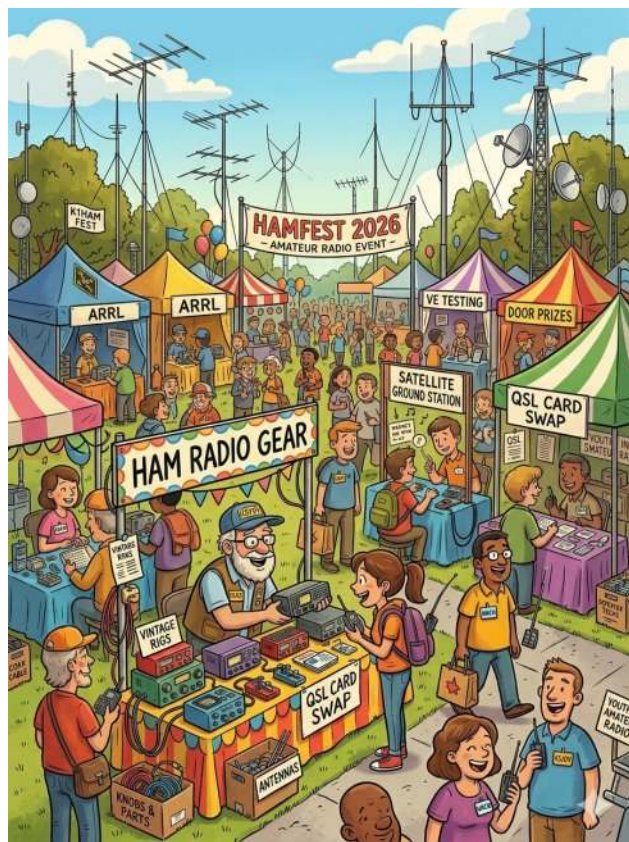
Location: Berea, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland

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

[Learn More](#)



Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

from www.arrl.org

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](#)

05/10/2026 | [Independence OH 44131](#)

Sponsor: Cuyahoga ARS

Location: Old Elmwood Recreation Center

Time: 9:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

06/06/2026 | [Kirtland OH 44094](#)

Sponsor: Lake County ARA

Location: Kirtland Library

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

[Learn More](#)

06/06/2026 | [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](#)



LEARA Meeting

Teamz Restaurant & Bar

March 31st 2026; Pictures: Bryan Torok



Severe Thunderstorm Watch

- Damaging wind gusts
- Large Hail

Tornado Watch

- Tornadoes
- Damaging winds and large hail

Flash Flood Watch

- Water flowing over roadways
- A rapid rise in water that is a threat to life and property



Local Skywarn Frequencies

County	Primary	Backup	Other
Cuyahoga	146.760 110.9	442.125 82.5	146.880 110.9
Geauga	146.940 110.9	147.015 110.9	
Lake	444.475 131.8	145.210 110.9	
Lorain	146.625 110.9		
Medina	147.030 141.3	147.030 131.8	147.030 88.5
Summit	146.640 110.9		

Cuyahoga County Skywarn Online

Web: www.ccskywarn.org
www.wx8cle.org
 E-Mail: info@ccskywarn.org
 Facebook: facebook.com/CuyahogaCountySkywarn

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

Check the Event Support Group Website for more event details
 >>> <https://n8esg.org/calendar/> <<<

ARISS Outlines Opportunities for Space Station Contacts in 2027

04/03/2026 from: <https://www.arrl.org/news/ariss-outlines-opportunities-for-space-station-contacts-in-2027>

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program is seeking formal and informal educational institutions and organizations, individually or working together, to host an amateur radio contact with a crew member on board the ISS.

Crew members will participate in scheduled amateur radio contacts. These radio contacts are approximately 10 minutes in length and allow students to interact with the astronauts through a question-and-answer session.

ARISS anticipates that the contact would be held between January 1 and June 30, 2027. Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine the exact contact dates. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan.

The deadline to submit a proposal is **May 22, 2026, 11:59 PM Pacific Time**. Proposal information and necessary details are at ariss-usa.org/proposal-overview/.

An ARISS Introductory Webinar session will be held **April 30 at 8 PM ET**. The Zoom link to sign up is:

[us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/3yid9dxzRkmYfVroIP0nWA](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3yid9dxzRkmYfVroIP0nWA).

An ARISS contact is a voice-only communication opportunity via amateur radio between astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the space station and classrooms and communities. ARISS contacts afford education audiences the opportunity to learn firsthand from astronauts what it is like to live and work in space and to learn about space research conducted on the ISS. Students also will have an opportunity to learn about satellite communication, wireless technology, and radio science. Because of the nature of human spaceflight and the complexity of scheduling activities aboard the ISS, organizations must demonstrate flexibility to accommodate changes in dates and times of the radio contact.

Amateur radio organizations around the world, with the support of NASA and space agencies in Russia, Canada, Japan, and Europe present educational organizations with this opportunity. The ham radio organizations' volunteer efforts provide the equipment and operational support to enable communication between crew on the ISS and students around the world using amateur radio. Please direct any questions to education@ariss-usa.org.

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