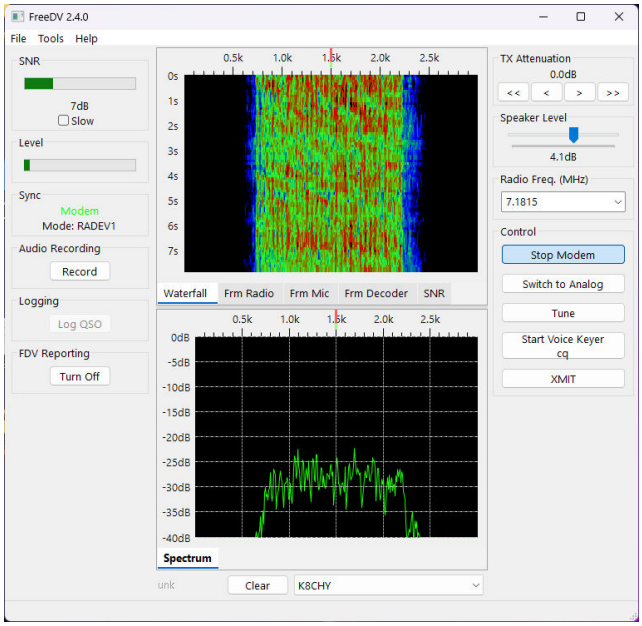
The Spirit of ’76 and ’88

Newsletter of the
October **Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association** **2026**

Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB, Editor



Digital voice over High Frequency (HF) replaces Single Sideband (SSB) with clear, digitized audio transmitted through an SSB-capable transceiver. HF Digital Voice has several advantages including:

- Narrower Bandwidth, 1.5 kHz, compared to 3 kHz for standard SSB.
- Low-SNR Performance: Can decode cleanly in noisy or weak-signal conditions where analog SSB becomes unintelligible.
- FM-Like Squelch: Features complete silence when no one is speaking, eliminating background static.
- Power Efficiency: Low peak-to-average power ratio (PAPR).

LEARA Monthly Meeting

Digital Voice on HF

Ed Rivers, W8IE

Teamz Restaurant & Bar
6611 Eastland Rd
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130

October 27, 6:30 p.m.

Click or scan QR code to RSVP

The Prez Says

by Bryan Torok, N8OOF

YOU BLEW IT BIG TIME if you didn’t attend the September meeting! We had a fantastic presentation via Zoom from **Patrick Bolan, KJ7ZSU**, the owner of **Geochron**. To be honest, I was skeptical about this presentation. There are many videos available online about the

... continue on page 2

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NEWSLETTER

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.

Editor:
Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB
E-mail: editor@leara.org

Proofreading:
TNX to W8AZO, N8YNR

V11/2026-03-22

Prez cont.

Geochron and its competitors. BUT, what makes the Zoom presentation different and worth attending is the two-way interaction. You get to ask YOUR questions about the owner of the company and get answers in real time. Oh, and one more thing. At the close of the presentation, Patrick put up a QR code link to a page with $285 worth of coupons.

Patrick started out with a brief history of the original Geochron electro-mechanical world clock. He also showed pics of the Geochron in the White House, CIA headquarters, and many movies. For those who are fans of the original, they still make and sell it.

However, the modern electronic version does way more and is way cheaper. The device uses a 4K display of your choice: a computer monitor or television. The electronic Geochron comes in two different versions. The primary difference, besides the price, is the processor and the resulting speed of rendering the 4k images and layers. It also has **available 90 different layers**, categorized into Static Overlays, Live Data Layers, and Premium Subscription Layers.

There are layers available that track weather, pollution, CO_2 levels, airplanes, volcanoes, and eruptions. If you are into watching geopolitical activity, there is a layer that tracks the locations of aircraft carriers of various nations, including the USA, China, and Russia.

Some of the layers that would be of particular interest to ham radio operators include DX, FT8, WSPR, Maximum Usable

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.

Frequency, AMSAT Satellites, DRAP and ROTI, Lunar Terminator, and Solar Conditions.

Patrick discussed the differences between less expensive alternatives such as Hamclock and the Geochron. He then explained what layers are included with the purchase of Geochron hardware and the subscription pricing of premium layers and special packages. To see what is included in the Ham Radio Premium package, go here: https://www.geochron.com/ham-radio-premium-bundle. While it may not be for everyone, I was very impressed.

The October Meeting will be **Tuesday, October 27, 2026** at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starting about 7:30 p.m. at **Teamz Restaurant & Bar**, 6611 Eastland Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130.

The meeting will feature a presentation by **Ed Rivers, W8IE** on **Free Digital Voice on HF.** In addition to a PowerPoint presentation, Ed will have a video, and as a special treat, do a **LIVE DEMONSTRATION** by logging into his home station over the internet.

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I can’t wait to see all this, including Ed’s **LIVE DEMONSTRATION**. Please join us live at Teamz.

As a reminder: Anyone interested in amateur radio is welcome to attend the meeting. **It is not necessary to have dinner to attend the meeting.**

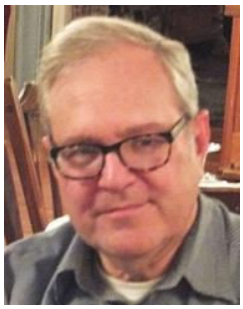
The October Meeting will be at **Teamz Restaurant & Bar**, 6611 Eastland Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. You can check out their menu here: https://www.teamzsportsbar.com/menu.html

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. Please make your **reservation** either 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: November will be the annual Holiday Meeting held at Fire House Grill & Pub. Did you enjoy the White Elephant Gift Exchange last year? Want to do it again? Please let us know! There is no meeting in December. In January we will be back at Teamz. If you have any suggestions for meeting programs, please contact **Eric Jessen, N8AUC** or me. Contact info is on page 2 in the column to the left.

Trustees and Officers: Because no new nominations were received, there was no election, and the incumbents (**Eric Jessen, N8AUC; Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS; and Jon Anhold, KM8V**) will be seated at the November Trustees’ meeting. The election of officers will also take place at that meeting. The meeting will be held via Zoom, and members are invited to attend.

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 Zoom 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 8PM 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.

September 2026 Check-Ins 16					
AD8PQ	Ken	KC8MRC	Bob	N8AUC	Eric
K2WJS	BILL	KE8CEO	Robert	N8AZE	Joe
K8SAS	Steve	KE8NNC	Brian	W8IE	Ed
KA8WQL	Bob	KF8GNB	John	WA8ZHN	Jim
KB8VXE	Carl	N7WAM	Bill		
KC8FQV	Mark	N8AHS	Fred		

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

For November and December the tentative scheduled NCOs are:

NOTE: There has been a slight change in assignments since last edition.

Net Control Schedule		
10/22/26	Carl	KB8VXE
10/29/26	Robert	KE8CEO
11/05/26	Ed	W8IE
11/12/26	Eric	N8AUC
11/19/26	Jim	WA8ZHN
11/26/26	T-G	No net
12/03/26	Carl	KB8VXE
12/10/26	Ed	W8IE
12/17/26	Robert	KE8CEO
12/24/26	Xmas	Eve
12/31/26	NY	Eve

Please check the website https://leara.org/net/ for current assignments. There will be no scheduled net on Thanksgiving. Feel free to check out the frequency and have an old-fashioned rag chew with others there.

NOTE: Please check the LEARA website for the latest up-to-date schedules.

NCOs				
	KB8VXE	Carl	W8IE	Ed
	KM8V*	Jon	WA8ZJN	Jim
	N8AUC	Eric	KE8CEO	Robert

*Short time leave **Long term leave

Net Control

Do you know K2??? How about ??UPZ? Do you recognize the voice? Have you met them in person? What about N8OOF? Every one of us has a unique voice. A great way to learn who these voices belong to is to be a net controller! Not only do you learn their voice, but when you see them face to face at a meeting you remember the “whole” person. Consider being a net controller.

Contact: Carl, KB8VXE, email: kb8vxe@arrl.net

ARES

ARES nets are held every Tuesday (Except the third Tuesday of the Month) at 8PM on one of four repeaters: 145.410, 146.82 (+)110.9, 440.050 PL 131.8 and 442.125 PL 82.5. A simplex net will be held afterwards. An E-Mail with information will be sent via CCARES E-mail. To register for the mailing list, go to VolunteerHam.com, and press “New Registration”.

ARES meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month in person at the Helwig Whistle Stop, 599 West Bagley Rd., Berea, OH, at 7PM. Please monitor the ARES website at www.n8esg.org/ares for information on nets and events, and the calendar at https://n8esg.org/calendar/.

NOTE: ARES activities are suspended until January 2027.

Sunshine

Mike Cegelski, K8EHP passed away on September 27. Due to recent illnesses, Mike was not able to participate with ARES. Both he and his wife **Mary, KC8YLC** used to be very active in public service events. He will be missed.

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

Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

from www.arrl.org

11/01/2026 - 2026 Massillon ARC Hamfest at MAPS

Location: N. Canton, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://w8np.net
Learn More

04/10/2027 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 71st Hamfest

Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio, Inc
Website: https://cfarc.org
Learn More

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

from www.arrl.org

11/07/2026 | Fairview Park OH 44126

Sponsor: NOARS K8KRG
Location: Fairview Park Library
Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

11/08/2026 | Independence OH 44131

Sponsor: Cuyahoga ARS
Location: Old Elmwood Recreation Center
Time: 9:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

12/05/2026 | Kirtland OH 44094

Sponsor: Lake County ARA
Location: Kirtland Library
Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

01/10/2027 | Independence OH 44131

Sponsor: Cuyahoga ARS
Location: Old Elmwood Recreation Center
Time: 9:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

03/14/2027 | Independence OH 44131

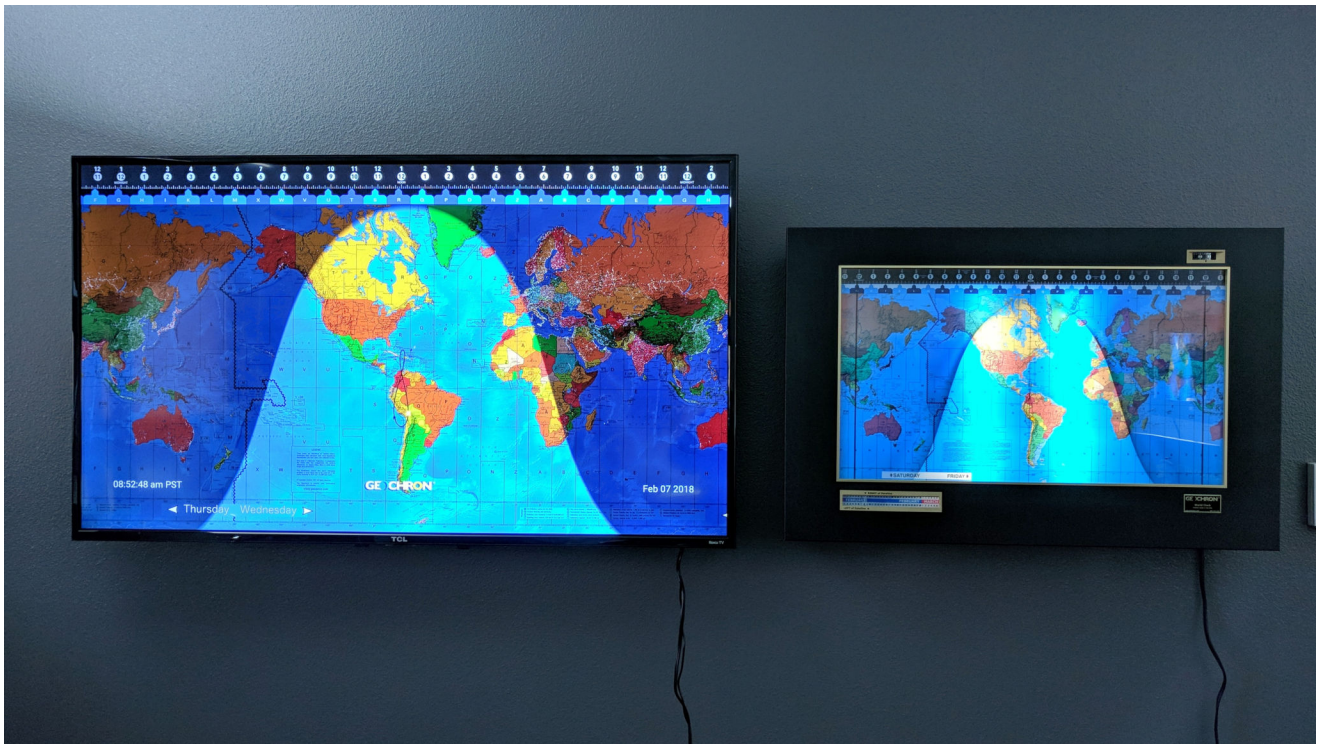
Sponsor: Cuyahoga ARS
Location: Old Elmwood Recreation Center
Time: 9:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

05/09/2027 | Independence OH 44131

Sponsor: Cuyahoga ARS
Location: Old Elmwood Recreation Center
Time: 9:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

LEARA Meeting

September 29th 2026
Pictures: Carsten Lohrmann



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 **October**	26	27 **6:30 p.m.** LEARA Meeting	28	29 **8 p.m.** LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	30	31
1 **November**	2	3	4	5 **8 p.m.** LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 **8 p.m.** LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 **8 p.m.** LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	20	21
22	23	24 **6:30 p.m.** LEARA Holiday Party	25	26 **Thanksgiving**	27	28
29	30	1 **December**	2	3 **8 p.m.** LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	4	5

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

Florida Hams Provide Communications Support During Hurricane Isaias

10/16/2026 from: https://www.arrl.org/news/florida-hams-provide-communications-support-during-hurricane-isaias

Amateur radio operators from Florida’s Santa Rosa, Nassau, Lake, Pinellas, and Leon Counties played an important role in supporting emergency communications efforts during and following Hurricane Isaias, helping ensure that critical communication capabilities remained available throughout the storm.

In Santa Rosa County, volunteer amateur radio operators staffed the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the evacuation shelter at the Milton Community Center. These volunteers provided a communications link between the shelter and the EOC, relaying situational updates and maintaining readiness to support emergency communications should traditional systems become unavailable.

Amateur radio operators across the state also supported auxiliary communications efforts, providing additional capabilities to maintain contact with the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee if conventional communication networks experienced disruptions.

“While traditional communications systems have become significantly more reliable over the years, amateur radio continues to serve as a dependable auxiliary communications resource,“ said **Arc Thames, W4CPD**, Santa Rosa County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Program Manager. “When disaster strikes, our volunteers are trained, prepared, and ready to step in wherever we’re needed. It’s another layer of resiliency that helps protect our communities.”

Thames also serves as the ARRL Northern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator and the Amateur Radio Liaison to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, supporting the coordination of amateur radio and auxiliary communications resources statewide.

“During tropical weather events impacting Florida, our Auxiliary Communications team provides volunteer operators to monitor amateur radio communications at the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee,” Thames explained. “This ensures that if someone is unable to reach emergency officials through traditional means, we have another way to receive and relay critical information. We always hope we’re not needed, but we’re glad to be there just in case when all else fails.” — Thanks to ARRL Northern Florida SEC **Arc Thames, W4CPD**, for the above.

LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

More than 57 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