



The Spirit of '76 and '88



Newsletter of the
April Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association 2024
Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB, Editor

Total Solar Eclipse 2024 Recap

see page 6 for recaps



Watch a Timelapse of the eclipse here:

<https://carstenlohrmann.smugmug.com/Private/Various/Solar-Eclipse-2024/Total-Solar-Eclipse-2024/n-zsvz9V/i-w3TD5jx/A>

LEARA Monthly Meeting

**NVIS Antennas for
Public Service**
Eric Jessen, N8AUC

April 30, 6:30 p.m.

The Firehouse Grille & Pub,
2768 Stark Dr. Willoughby Hills,
OH

**Click or scan QR code
to RSVP**



The Prez Says

by Bryan Torok, N8OOF



The March meeting was at a new-to-LEARA restaurant, Amici Italian Restaurant & Bar, in North Royalton. We were able to order off the menu with no extra charge for the room. Both the service and the food were excellent. The menu is largely Italian, with a few other choices available.

... continue on page 2

OFFICERS and TRUSTEES	
Bryan Torok President	N8OOF btorok@sbcglobal.net
Eric Jessen VP, License Trustee	N8AUC 440-554-3057
Eddie Stevens Treasurer	KD8FTS 440-668-7409
TRUSTEES	
Marv Grossman Membership	W8AZO 440-248-0031
Robert Wright, II Vice President	KE8CEO 216-502-1552
Eddie Stevens Venue	KD8FTS 440-668-7409
Carl Gedeon Trustee	KB8VXE kb8vxe@arrl.net
Jon Anhold Trustee	KM8V km8v@arrl.net
Dave Andrzejewski Trustee	AD8G 440-220-2064
TRUSTEES EMERITI	
Al Amster	W8TTY (SK)
Don Raith	N8DJG (SK)
Fred Collins	W8ADW(SK)
John Radney	KC8FOC(SK)
Pat Shreve	W8GRG (SK)
Al Severson	AB8P (SK)
Dave Foran	WB8APD (SK)
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>	

v09/2024-04-21

Prez cont.

The March presentation was the **Skywarn** related program presented by **Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ**. To be honest, there have been times I have been skeptical of a particular program thinking, "We've had that before." However, Mat always presents the weather program with a fresh and interesting perspective.

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>).

Since Saturday, April 27 is NVIS Antenna day in the ARRL Ohio Section, **Eric Jessen, N8AUC** will be the speaker for April talking about one of his favorite wire antennas. The topic will be "**NVIS Antennas for Public Service**".

Because we are 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://www.leara.org/meetings-and-events/dinner-reservation> or by calling **Marv Grossman, W8AZO, at (440) 248-0031**. Come out for the food and camaraderie.

As I'm writing this, I am planning on NOT having a Zoom link up for this meeting.

Upcoming Meetings & Programs: The May meeting will be at My Friends Restaurant with Bob Winston, W2THU, presenting Ham Radio & the Law. June will be the picnic meeting, in the same park in Independence as last year. However, we will be in

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.

a different shelter with open sides. We plan to have it catered by Mister Mike, same as last year. We are looking into having another drone program with the picnic meeting. If you have any suggestions for meeting programs, please contact Eric Jessen, N8AUC, or me.

The folks who put on the **Amateur Radio Meet and Greet Potluck** multi club event last year are planning to do it again. It will be Sunday, August 4, 2024, 1 to 4 PM in the Cottonwood Picnic Area of the Cleveland MetroParks, the same as last year. Last year the event was very successful. However, they did end up with an excess of one kind of dish and not enough of another. This year the organizers are trying out a system to divvy up the types of dishes by the attendees last initial. More details to come.

The big solar eclipse of 2024 has come and gone. For the eclipse in 2017, Sara, KC8KSU, and I were in a beautiful location in Missouri with clear blue skies up until just before totality. Then clouds moved in along with a light rain which obscured the finer details of the eclipse. The rain lasted about six or seven minutes and cleared up right after totality ended. My best guess is that the air temperature was just above the dew point and the sharp drop in temperature that accompanies a solar eclipse put us below the dew point causing moisture to condense and fall out of the sky.

Given that it will be another 40 years before another eclipse crosses the USA, I really wanted to be somewhere with good viewing conditions for this one. So we spent months prior to the event researching historical trends and watching weather reports to try to figure out where we would have the best chance of clear skies. Typically, the southern states, Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas would have the clearest skies. But about a week before the eclipse a weather system moved in and covered that whole area with clouds.

For the week prior to April 8, predictions for most of the path varied from mediocre to poor and changed from day-to-day. Towards the end, the only place showing consistently clear skies was in Maine. But, by then there were no commercially available flights to Maine and it was unlikely we would find any kind of available lodging. At that point I seriously considered chartering a small business jet to go see the total eclipse of the sun, but then I decided I wasn't that vain.

We ended up viewing the eclipse from a large farm field in Amherst, Ohio. That field is used by Skybusters (rocket club) for rocket launches throughout the year and I was able to obtain permission for us to park in the middle of the field that day. We had light overcast with a few very light clouds. I took lots of pictures and even captured one of the solar prominences, a red triangle near the 6 o'clock position. I videoed the 360 degree sunrise/sunset phenomenon. We also noted changes in the activity of birds and insects. Despite intermittent light cloud cover, the view from the Cleveland area was pretty spectacular.

Recently, I sent out an email requesting members to submit their eclipse related observations and thoughts. Those will be published over the next few months. If you haven't already sent yours, you still can do so.

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 on the air, online, or in person. If you don't feel safe meeting in person, we understand. But, 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.

March 2024 Checkins 33					
AB8UM	Mike	KD8ICR	Don	N8IYA	Steve
AD8G	Dave	KD8IDC	?	N8QMK	Mike
K2WJS	BILL	KE8IPC	Tim	N8UPZ	Bill
K8CVM	Chuck	KE8RGC	John	N8WHR	Mike
K8EHP	Mike	KE8WED	Josey	W2STU	Stu
K8SAS	Steve	KE8YWD	Nathan	W8DKA	Doug
KB8VXE	Carl	KE8ZBL	CJ	W8IE	Ed
KC8MRC	Bob	KF8AIL	Rob	W8JMI	Bryan
KC8NZJ	Mat	N8ACP	Chris	W8AWD	Bob
KD8AJZ	Rich	N8AHS	Fred	W8ZHN	Jim
KD8FTS	Eddie	N8AUC	Eric	WW8AX	?

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		
04/18/24	Eric	N8AUC
04/25/24	Mike	AB8UM
05/02/24	Jim	W8ZHN
05/09/24	Carl	KB8VXE
05/16/24	Eric	N8AUC
05/23/24	Mike	AB8UM
05/30/24	Ed	W8IE
06/06/24	Jim	W8ZHN
06/13/24	Carl	KB8VXE
06/20/24	Eric	N8AUC
06/27/24	Mike	AB8UM

NCOs

AB8UM	MIKE	KM8V*	Jon
K8SAS *	STEVE	N8AUC	ERIC
KB8VXE	CARL	W8IE	Ed
AD8G	Dave	W8ZHN	Jim

*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 146.745. 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 www.ccskywarn.org for more information and training sessions.

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.

Thursday Net NCOs

Do you know K2??? How about ??UPZ? A great way to learn who these voices belong to is to be a net controller! Consider being a net controller.

We look forward to your participation!
Carl, KB8VXE, E-Mail: kb8vxe@arrl.net

Sunshine

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 April	29	30 6:30p.m. LEARA meeting	1	2 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	3 May	4
5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	10	11 9 a.m. Trustees Meeting
12 Mothers Day	13	14	15	16 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	17	18 Cleveland Marathon
19 Cleveland Marathon	20	21	22	23 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28 6:30p.m. LEARA meeting	29	30 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	31	1
2 June	3	4	5	6 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	7	8 Bike to the Bay

Dayton Hamvention® 2024 Award Winners Announced

The recipients of the 2024 Dayton Hamvention® awards were announced on March 8, 2024. This year's Hamvention will be held on May 17 – 19.

Special Achievement Award: **Anthony Luscre, K8ZT**. Luscre is from near Akron, Ohio, and he was first licensed in 1981. He has been a low-power operator, contester, and teacher throughout his amateur radio career. He received his Amateur Extra-class license in 2000. Luscre is active on HF and VHF/UHF, and he operates on CW, phone, and digital modes. His lowpower contacts now top 115,000. Between licensing classes, club programs, webinars, hamfests,

conferences, youth and school radio demonstrations, and other in-person and online talks, Luscre has presented more than 500 sessions since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. He has presented multiple times for Contest University, the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo, and Hamvention. He holds a weekly class, "The Joy of Operating," for the Long Island CW Club. Luscre serves as the ARRL Ohio Section Youth Coordinator and is an officer in the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club.

Total Solar Eclipse 2024 Recap

Following the eclipse of April 8, 2024, I sent out an email to the LEARA membership asking for their thoughts and observations on the eclipse, where they were and what equipment they used. The following are some of the responses I received.

Bryan Torok, N8OOF

Steve - K8SAS

Great question Bryan, Chris and I sat on our deck watching the entire show. I guess what makes this so fantastic was....A Sun, a planet and its moon....floating in orbital space lining up perfectly to give us all a very memorable show.

Magnificent!

73,

Steve Spisak - K8SAS

David Andrzejewski, AD8G

GEARS – the Geauga Emergency Amateur Radio Service – was asked by the county Emergency Management Agency to provide volunteers for several locations throughout the county. Additionally, they asked us to deploy our portable data network and camera system so it could be monitored at the EOC – as well as the Sheriff’s Office on the fairgrounds. We had cameras covering a few key areas of the fairgrounds as well as an intersection. We also brought in outside cameras from ODOT and the City of Chardon – all on one convenient web page.

This effort required several amateur radio volunteers and multiple county agencies to pull off. We placed cameras and network gear at the fire station at the fairgrounds thanks to the

Burton Fire Department. The cameras at the intersection were on a light plant provided by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office. The trailer was powered by a generator loaned to us by the EMA, who also provided us with mobile internet access to get the camera feeds back to the EOC.

Following are some photos.

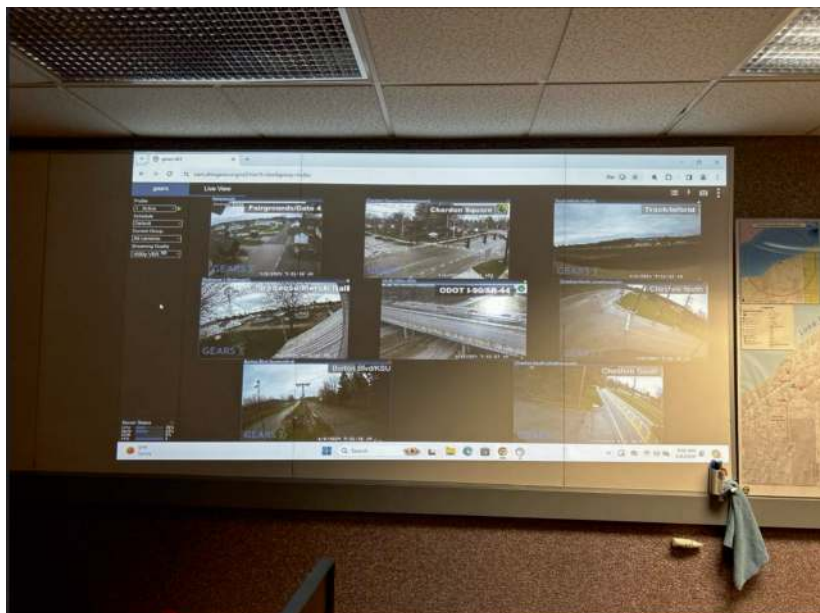
David Andrzejewski, AD8G



The GEARS communications trailer with microwave gear on our tripod – way in the back 40, out of the way.



A laptop in the Sheriff's building at the main entrance to the fairgrounds.



Our cameras on the big screen at the Geauga County Emergency Operations Center.



And The Steer. If you know, you know.

Eric Jessen, N8AUC

I did see the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8. Since the next one in Ohio won't be for 400 years or so, I figured I'd better catch this one. I'm fortunate in that I get to work from home. This gave me 2 advantages. First, when I wasn't tied up in meetings or conference calls, I could listen in to the ARES activities on our local repeaters. Second, I didn't have to take any real time off from work to see it. Told my boss I'd be away from the computer from 2:30PM until 3:30 PM to watch the eclipse. He was OK with that.

So about 2:30PM, it was 72 degrees and sunny, so I grabbed a light jacket and went outside. Took my eclipse viewing glasses, grabbed a lawn chair out of the garage, and parked myself in the driveway with a good view to the southwest. The first look through the glasses showed that the sun was already partially obscured, Maybe 30% or so. My neighbors were outside doing the same thing, so we talked a bit over the backyard fence. A look up and down our street from the front of the house showed many people sitting on lawn chairs in their front yards, all waiting to get a view of the eclipse.

As the eclipse progressed, the shadows became less well defined, and the color of everything became more subdued. It also got noticeably colder, so I had to go back inside about 5 minutes before totality to get a heavier coat. Tuesday morning on the Fox 8 news weather report, they said that the temperature in

Fairview Park dropped 11 degrees during the eclipse! I totally believe that!

At 3:13PM, everything went dark, right on cue. When it happened, the birds stopped flying and chirping, which was a little bit eerie. The street lights came on, and some morons a block or two over decided to try blowing their fingers of with fireworks. I'm not sure if they succeeded or not, but the eclipse itself was spectacular. I didn't see Baily's beads, or the diamond ring effect, but you could see a solar prominence appearing from around the moon, along with the ring formed by the sun's corona. The proninance appeared as a bright red triangle near the moon's south pole. It was totally dark overhead, and you could see stars, and the planet Venus (brightest object in the darkened sky). The really weird part was that even though it looked like night time directly overhead, for 360 degrees around the horizon it looked like a distant sunset. About 4 minutes later, it was as if someone turned the lights back on. At that point it was time to put the lawn chair away, and go back inside to get back to work.

73 de N8AUC, Eric

Gary Mikitin, AF8A

Eclipse day was a big one for me: My wife and I started out hosting 4 neighbors, but then their kids, grandkids and other neighbors joined in, about 20 total. I had a big monitor in the garage, watching NASA sites (in case of clouds!), snacks and lots of eclipse glasses. I built a mini-observatory using binoculars and a camera tripod.

Indoors, I participated in three HamSCI experiments: I ran a WSPR receiving station, I had a Grape 1 Doppler receiver monitoring WWV on 10MHZ and I made just over 100 QSOs in the Solar Eclipse QSO Party.

At totality, everyone loved the visuals, they felt the temperature drop, we heard the birds get

quiet and the frogs (spring peepers) begin their mating songs. Spoiling it somewhat were the photocell equipped street lights, the really big lights over I-271 and various 'smart' outdoor fixtures that came on. Oh, and the knucklehead who had to shoot off bottle rockets during the moments of awe. I wish a major pox on them, somewhere on their body they can't easily scratch!

Last but not least, I attended a talk by NASA folks at the City Club a few days before, where I met my first astronaut: Jessica Watkins, who holds at least one endurance record on the ISS. Way cool!

73 de Gary, AF8A

Puzzle 4 (Medium, difficulty rating 0.49)

							3	8
			7	9			6	5
		4	6		3			
		9	8		7			1
6	8						7	3
5			3		2	8		
			4		1	9		
1	4			2	8			
8	9							

Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

from www.arrl.org

07/06/2024 - [Mansfield Mid Summer Trunkfest](#)

Location: Mansfield, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://W8WE.ORG>

[Learn More](#)

07/20/2024 - [NOARSFEST](#)

Location: Elyria, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.noars.net>

[Learn More](#)

09/22/2024 - [Cleveland Hamfest](#)

Location: Berea, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland

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

[Learn More](#)

10/27/2024 - [2024 MARC Hamfest at MAPS](#)

Location: N. Canton, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://www.w8np.net>

[Learn More](#)

Volunteer Exam Dates and Locations

from www.arrl.org

05/04/2024 | [Fairview Park OH 44126](#)

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Location: Fairview Park Library

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

05/11/2024 | [Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221](#)

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls ARC

Location: Cuyahoga Falls Library

Time: 10:30 AM

(No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

05/12/2024 | [Independence OH 44131](#)

Sponsor: Cuyahoga ARS

Location: Old Elmwood Recreation Center

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

[Learn More](#)

06/01/2024 | [Kirtland OH 44094-8500](#)

Sponsor: Lake County ARA

Location: Kirtland Library

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

[Learn More](#)

06/10/2024 | [Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221](#)

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls ARC

Location: Cuyahoga Falls Library

Time: 6:30 PM

(No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

Amateur Radio Saves Family in Death Valley National Park

04/12/2024 - from: <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-saves-family-in-death-valley-national-park>

Death Valley National Park is in a remote desert in southern California, where mobile phone networks are spotty at best. On Saturday, April 6, a radio amateur and his family were enjoying the park when their vehicle became stuck in mud in a dangerous area. Without access to a cell network, the ham called for help on the 10-meter band.

According to a news release from the Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club, Caleb Gustwiller, KD8TGB, jumped into action.

Gustwiller was monitoring from Ohio when he picked up the distress call. He was able to hear the call sign and the general location of the ham in distress. He lost the signal to the noise, so he wrote a post in the Parks on the Air® Facebook group asking for other hams to listen for the calls.

Several hams contacted emergency officials in southern California, which led to the ham and their family being rescued within a few hours by

park rangers. The club stated in their Facebook post: "Without Caleb hearing this distress call, it could have quickly become a very deadly situation for the operator and his family."



LEARA — The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

More than **50 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 System Fusion & Analog (Req. 131.8 Hz tone) |

INTERNET:

- www.leara.org
- To subscribe via e-mail, send a message to: spirit76-request@leara.org
Put "**subscribe**" in the subject area and your name and call sign in the body.
Those who subscribe via e-mail will not receive a paper copy of the newsletter.