



# The Spirit of '76 and '88



February      Newsletter of the      Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association      2025  
Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB, Editor



**Trucking and Ham Radio:** Eddie (KD8FTS) will tell us why he decided to take a break from his career in IT to become an over-the-road truck driver. He will tell us what it takes and how he accomplished his goal, what life on the road is like, and some amusing anecdotes.



### 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:

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

## LEARA Monthly Meeting

### Trucking and Ham Radio

Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS

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

February 25, 6:30 p.m.



Click or scan  
QR code to RSVP

## The Prez Says

by Bryan Torok, N8OOF

The January 2025 meeting was at My Friends Restaurant on Detroit Rd. in Cleveland. Stan Broadway, N8BHL gave a very interesting presentation on The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN). Stan told us how the HWN was formed in 1965 and developed over time. The HWN functions in two ways. It helps disseminate forecast info to those in the



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**Prez cont.**

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NEWSLETTER	
<p><i>The Spirit of '76 &amp; '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><b>Editor:</b> Carsten Lohrmann, KD8WBB E-mail: editor@leara.org</p> <p><b>Proofreading:</b> TNX to W8AZO, N8YNR</p>	

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areas affected by tropical storms. In return, ground truth observations are gathered and relayed to the National Hurricane Center's forecasters. Stan gave examples of how HWN assisted with recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico as well as the recent hurricanes that ravaged Florida, several east-coast states and all the way up into Tennessee and Kentucky. Members of the net are located all over North America so hams all over the US can participate. Check out <https://hwn.org/> for a wealth of information.

For the **February meeting** we will have a presentation by **Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS**, on Trucking and Ham Radio. Eddie will tell us why he decided to take a break from his career in IT to become an over-the-road truck driver. He will tell us what it takes and how he accomplished his goal, what life on the road is like, and some amusing anecdotes. I had the opportunity to see Eddie's presentation about a year or so ago and found it very entertaining.

Join us 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>) 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://leara.org/dinner-reservation/> or by calling **Marv Grossman, W8AZO**, at **(440) 248-0031**. Come out for the food and camaraderie.

**Future Meetings:** The March and April meetings will be at The Firehouse Grille & Pub in Willoughby Hills. March will be our

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](http://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](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](http://www.leara.org) for details.

## Prez cont.

annual Skywarn/Weather presentation by Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ. April will be a special viewing of the PBS program “Mr. Tornado,” the history of Tetsuya Fujita.

As always, if you have any suggestions for meeting programs, please contact **Eric Jessen**, N8AUC, or me. Contact info is in the column to the left.

**News Alert: RigExpert Administrative Offices Get Bombed!** On February 12, 2025 RigExpert announced on X that their administrative office was destroyed by a Russian ballistic missile. <https://x.com/rigexpert/status/1889651196534681660/photo/1> They go on to say, “The good news—our entire team is safe. Despite the challenges, we remain committed to delivering our products and minimizing any delays.”

RigExpert, headquartered in Kyiv, Ukraine, was founded in 2003 by four Ukrainian radio amateurs. RigExpert is widely known for their excellent antenna analyzers, transceiver interfaces and amateur radio software including some new SDR related software. <https://www.dxengineering.com/search/brand/rigexpert>

**Fight for AM Car Radios Continues.** In the May 2024 issue of the newsletter, I reported that several auto makers had dropped AM broadcast radios from their new cars, particularly hybrid and EVs, and on efforts in Congress to pass a law requiring manufacturers to include AM radios in all new cars. That bill expired at the end of the last year.

However, two Senators, in a bi-partisan effort, have introduced a new bill. The bill already has 50 cosponsors, has been voted out of committee, and will be scheduled for a full floor vote. I’ve included links to the full text and other online resources below. It appears that the federal government believes that AM radio is useful for disseminating info in an emergency. This is

supported by many people using it during and after Hurricane Helene and also the wildfires in California.

### S.315 - AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act of 2025

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/315/text/is>

Automakers are losing the battle with this 100-year-old tech

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=587Q2KhyWmI>

<https://www.radioworld.com/news-and-business/headlines/markey-cruz-reintroduce-am-bill-in-the-senate>

[https://www.insideradio.com/free/l-a-radio-listeners-counted-on-local-radio-during-fires/article\\_15456e8e-e527-11ef-b982-7f1b32d80fde.html](https://www.insideradio.com/free/l-a-radio-listeners-counted-on-local-radio-during-fires/article_15456e8e-e527-11ef-b982-7f1b32d80fde.html)

Last year I told you of Tesla cars creating RFI from AM broadcast up through the 440 band. Now, there is some positive news from a user on YouTube, @stargazer7644, “When I test drove a new Ford Lightning EV pickup I took an HF/VHF/UHF radio with me to check for interference. It was fine. No problems from 80 M to 70 cm.”

Please contact our Senators and tell them to vote for this bill.

<https://www.moreno.senate.gov/> and <https://www.husted.senate.gov/>

**The Big Chuck and Lil’ John Show** If you were in a Cleveland in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and even into the 2000s and watched television on late Friday nights, there is a good chance you watched or at least heard of “Ghoulardi,” the “Hoolihan and Big Chuck Show,” or the “The Big Chuck and Lil’ John Show.” These shows pioneered the concept of showing a low quality

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## 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.

January 2025 Checkins - 22					
K8CVM	Chuck	KE8BLX	James	N8QMK	Mike
K8EHP	Mike	KE8CEO	Robert	N8UPZ	Bill
K8RJH	Ron	KF8BNF	Mike	W8IE	Ed
K8SAS	Steve	KF8DDN	Andrew	W8JMI	Bryan
KA8WQL	Bob	N8ACP	Chris	W8PKT	William
KB8VXE	Carl	N8AHS	Fred	WA8ZHN	Jim
KC8FQV	Mark	N8AUC	Eric		
KC8MRC	Bob	N8LXY	William		

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		
	01/23/25	Ed	W8IE
	01/30/25	Eric	N8AUC
	02/06/25	Eric	N8AUC
	02/13/25	Jim	WA8ZHN
	02/20/25	Carl	KB8VXE
	02/27/25	Ed	W8IE
	03/06/25	Eric	N8AUC
	03/13/25	Jim	WA8ZHN
	03/20/25	Carl	KB8VXE
03/27/25	Ed	W8IE	

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

\*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](http://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](http://www.n8esg.org/ares).

## Sunshine

Please contact Robert Wright ([ke8ceo@leara.org](mailto:ke8ceo@leara.org)) with information.

## Silent Key

**Jim Pracker, K8QOT,** passed away

The obituary can be found here:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/chesterland-oh/james-pracker-12211670>



## Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

from [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

### 03/09/2025 - [Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Winter Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Elyria, OH

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Northern Ohio  
Amateur Radio Society

**Website:**

<https://www.noars.net/hamfests/winter-hamfest/>

[Learn More](#)

### 04/05/2025 - [Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 69th Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Cuyahoga Falls , OH

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Cuyahoga Falls  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

[Learn More](#)

### 09/28/2025 - [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](http://www.arrl.org)

### 02/02/2025 | [Kirtland OH 44094-8500](#)

**Sponsor:** Lake County ARA

**Location:** Kirtland Library

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

[Learn More](#)

### 03/01/2025 | [Fairview Park OH 44126](#)

**Sponsor:** Northern Ohio

Amateur Radio Society

**Location:** Fairview Park Library

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

[Learn More](#)

### 03/09/2025 | [Independence OH 44131](#)

**Sponsor:** Cuyahoga ARS

**Location:** Old Elmwood

Recreation Center

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

[Learn More](#)

### 04/05/2025 | [Kirtland OH 44094-8500](#)

**Sponsor:** Lake County ARA

**Location:** Kirtland Library

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

[Learn More](#)

### 05/03/2025 | [Fairview Park OH 44126](#)

**Sponsor:** Northern Ohio

Amateur Radio Society

**Location:** Fairview Park Library

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

[Learn More](#)



# LEARA Meeting

My Friends Restaurant

January 28, 2025; Pictures: Bryan Torok



**Prez cont.**

movie, often scary or a monster movie, and interspersing skits and gags during the commercial breaks. Many were uproariously funny.

Recently, I heard that the mainstay of these shows, Big Chuck Shodowski, had passed away.

<https://fox8.com/news/fox-8s-big-chuck-dies-at-90/>  
<https://www.cleveland.com/entertainment/2025/01/cleveland-tv-legend-big-chuck-schodowski-dead-at-90.html>

You can catch replays of the skits of Big Chuck & Lil' John Show Sunday nights (Monday morning) 12:30 AM on WJW, Ch. 8. I DVR them

to watch at a different time. Also, if you search "Big Chuck" on YouTube, you will find literally hundreds of these skits. If you are in need of a laugh and maybe a shot of Cleveland nostalgia, I heartily recommend watching a few.

**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. We really want to see or at least hear from you, even if it is only by radio or Zoom.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23 <b>February</b>	24	25 6:30 p.m. <b>LEARA meeting</b>	26	27 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	28	1
2 <b>March</b>	3	4	5	6 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	14	15
16	17	18 7:00 p.m. Cuyahoga County ARES Meeting	19	20 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	21	22
23	24	25 6:30 p.m. <b>LEARA meeting</b>	26	27 8 p.m. LEARA VOICE 146.76/R	28	29
30	31	1 <b>April</b>	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/> <<<

## Amateur Radio Emergency Service Renews Relationship with Red Cross in Puerto Rico

02/14/2025 from: <https://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-emergency-service-renews-relationship-with-red-cross-in-puerto-rico>

Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) in the Puerto Rico Section of ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has signed a renewal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the American Red Cross Puerto Rico Region. The agreement establishes a framework of cooperation and a close working relationship with ARRL ARES volunteers.

Both ARES and the Red Cross agree that, with the resources of both organizations, the public will be best served during disasters, emergencies, and other public service related situations.

ARRL Puerto Rico Section Manager Carmen N. Greene, KP4QVQ, believes the new MOU benefits everyone. “The renewal of the existing MOU with the American Red Cross of Puerto Rico is a testament to the relationship and commitment we have at the local section level with the legendary organization,” she said. “We feel that our communities will greatly benefit from the

joint efforts to train and practice the ability to pass messages when the normal infrastructure is not available.”

She added that as a new Section Manager, it feels great to have this experience with an important organization, as well as having great contact with all the hams around the island.



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## 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) ( <b>Offline</b> )  |
| 444.70/R+ | • Lakewood       | <b>Digital Only</b> (mmdvm: Fusion, DMR, D-Star & P25)<br>(Requires 131.8 Hz tone) |

INTERNET: [www.leara.org](http://www.leara.org)