



Cleveland Chapter One NEWSLETTER

Established 1951

Fall Quarter 2020

W8LYD 146.850 PL 110.9

<http://qcwa-cleveland-1.org>

FALL LUNCHEON TO BE VIRTUAL ON ZOOM

JOIN US ON SATURDAY
17 OCTOBER 2020
At 1:00 P.M.



Chapter 1 hasn't met since January of this year due to the pandemic. This is way too long, so we have decided to join the rest of the world and host a virtual meeting. However, you can make it a luncheon just by eating in front of your computer. This way, you won't eat any contaminated food supplied by a restaurant, nor get sick from anyone sitting at the same table.

We are still working on the program. As soon as it is arranged you will receive an email with all the information. Normally we meet on the second Saturday of October, but this time only, we will meet the following Saturday, 17 October 2020.

For your convenience, the location is your QTH! Our webmaster, **Don Ritchie, K8ZGW** will host. Don advises that he will invite you to log in to test and chat at noon.

STAY HEALTHY-BE SAFE!

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WHY ZOOM?



The Hamfest Association of Cleveland (HAC), which puts on the annual Cleveland Hamfest, has purchased a Zoom account for all area ham radio clubs to use for their own meetings. Thus, it will cost Chapter 1 nothing to enjoy this valuable service. Thank you HAC!

You must sign up for a ZOOM account in order to participate in our virtual meeting. Simply go to www.zoom.us and follow the instructions.

Future Luncheon Dates

*January 9, 2021, April 10, 2021
July 10, 2021, October 9, 2021*



Cleveland Chapter One Newsletter

Editor: .Robert M. Winston, W2THU
Distribution: Fred Freer, K8IG
Roster changes: Notify Secretary/Treasurer Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK <jgarcaro(at)juno.com>
Meetings: Second Saturday of January, April, July, and October at: *To be determined*
Dues: \$10.00 per year if you want this Newsletter mailed to you via USPS. Dues is free if you are 80 or older or accept this Newsletter via email only.
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Operational Group

Membership reporter: Open
Net controls: N8ZT, KC8UIQ
QCWA Journal reporter: K8IG
License trustee: N8ZT
Awards chair: Open
Door Prize chair: N1BCF
Chief radio officer: K8QOT
Chapter musicians: WA8OZC, WB8ADF, N1BCF
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Web administrator: K8ZGW, <dritchie(at)dr.com>

■
Please notify Secretary/Treasurer Jim Arcaro of any changes in your address, e-mail etc. so your roster information can be kept current. Thanks.

PEOPLE

New Members and Friends:

None this quarter. If you know anybody who was a ham 25 years ago and is licensed today, please tell them about QCWA.

New members and friends are welcomed on our Wednesday night net on our own 146.85 MHz repeater, PL 110.9 at 2000. (Alternate repeater is 147.015 MHz, PL 110.9)

Silent Keys:

Regrettably, we note the passing of the following Chapter 1 members and friends-

Frank M. (Fritz) Hemrich, K8WLF, although not a QCWA member, was well known in our community of hams. Fritz was a submariner and very active on the USS COD amateur radio station. He also sang with several barbershop quartets over the years.

Happenings:

Sara Torok, KC8KSU, has been staying safe, going to the horse barn several days per week during the pandemic, where she is mostly by herself.

Fred Doob, K8PP, known to many at the Dayton Hamvention as Mr. Solder-It, recently moved to a condo in Chagrin Falls with antenna restrictions. He sold all of his radio gear, including his tower & Stepp-IR beam and is trying to remain active with a new Yaesu HT.

Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ, just finished a 6 circuit transfer switch for emergency power from his NEW EGO battery powered pure sign wave 2kw AC generator. He will soon be on solar power. Jeff is selling off lots of goodies on QRZ to make room for a new Elecraft K-4 down the road. Our condolences to Jeff and family on the loss of his mom, Ruth Alice Covelli, on 14 September at the age of 93.

SEC'T/TREASURER REPORT

Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK

I'm writing this on Thursday October 1, 2020. The wind is blowing, it's raining, and quite chilly. So much for the Summer of 2020. I put a new battery in the Miata convertible in the Spring, and it's almost time to take it back out. Even though we stayed home a lot, the Summer went by fast, didn't it ?



The QCWA Chapter 1 Treasury is rock solid, standing today at 5,117.41 dollars.

This past quarter there was no income, and we had the normal printing and postage costs for those who receive this newsletter by mail. If you do receive this newsletter by mail, you may be getting a notice about renewing for the next year. The cost is 10 dollars per year - unless you are 80 years of age, or older - then the cost is waived. Several of you have paid in advance for 2 or 3 years, and I have a record of that. Of course, receiving this newsletter by Email continues to be FREE, for current QCWA members. Any questions, Email me at : Jgarcaro@juno.com, or send mail to: QCWA Ch 1, PO Box 324, Wickliffe, Ohio 44092.

Our weekly QCWA Chapter 1 Net, on Wednesday's, has shifted to the 147.015 repeater. This repeater gets out pretty darn good, and I can hear it much better than 146.850 - though I still cannot "get in" from my location. Also, I am able to hear it on the scanner located on the first floor of my house. The problem with the 146.850 machine will be investigated.

If you have not heard, Fritz Hemrich K8WLF has passed away. He had not been in good health for several years. Fritz was the radio technician for the City of Euclid for many years. After Fritz retired, the company I worked for took over the servicing of the Police, Fire and Service department radio system. If I had a problem, I opened the manuals that Fritz had left, and there were his helpful notes. He would also stop by once in a while, just to see what new piece of equipment we had installed. Fritz was also involved with the submarine USS Cod, having been a submariner himself. I just read where the USS Cod will be towed to Erie, PA and put in drydock for some needed work.

Recently I noticed a lot of interference on the FM broadcast band, while driving around. I have noticed it on 93.7, 97.5 and 90.3. The VHF band has been open, mostly due to the hot, clear weather, and signals are travelling lots farther. Others have been "catching" out of town TV signals, on the UHF band. Have any of you been taking advantage of this, and doing any VHF or UHF DX ? Any of you remember the old FCC test questions, where VHF was 30 to 300 MHz, and UHF was 300 MHz to 3,000 MHz ?

Those "sweaty" pipes I mentioned in my last column - I forgot to mention that they run across the ceiling, right over the area that is my basement workshop. Insulating them with the foam insulation "tubing" did the trick.

MASONRY AND AMATEUR RADIO

by
Don Ritchie, K8ZGW
(P.M. Acacia 651)

It is 2:30 in the morning, and I cannot sleep, so I might as well write an article for the Newsletter. I got interested in amateur radio while in high school, and I got my license in 1960, while a junior, so doing the math, I have been licensed 60 years. But this article isn't about me, just a few things that flow through my mind (at 2:30 in the morning),

Through the hobby, I met a friend by the name of Mike Upson. We had built a remote base station at his house on East 170th street. One day he said something to me about going to a Lodge meeting and told me a few (non-secret) things about lodge. Long story, short,



about a year later I was sitting as Jr Deacon in Glenville 618, in Shaker Hts Ohio. But still not what this article is about.

At that time there were (and no doubt still are) "Square clubs", which are a group of masons that perform the MM degree on like minded members. At the time of my Raising, I knew a number of amateur radio operators, but had no idea that they were also Masons. After the degree I noticed that I knew most of the team and met the ones I did not know that night, most of whom were also Shriners. Soon after that, about a year, I was a member of Al Koran Shrine.

I got into "line" soon after my raising, because Glenville Lodge was "in trouble." Now Mike had a number of other friends who were also amateur radio operators, and the year he was Master, the entire "progressive line" was made up of Hams.

Master, Mike Upson W8PTI (SK)
SW, Don Ritchie, K8ZGW
JW, Tom Chaney N8DBL (SK)
SD, Hank Lewis, W8HAL (SK)
JD, Ed Lintala, WB8ZGK, at the time, now KC8JM

While SK in masonry is taken to mean Sir Knight, in Amateur radio SK is taken to mean "Silent Key", as in died. Just to clear it up, I am a "Sir Knight" and not dead yet Mike, Hank and Tom were also Sir Knights.

In 1990, I was appointed to the post of "Director" of the Al Koran Shrine Radio Unit. While the Director serves at the pleasure of the Potentate, and I have not been replaced, I guess you could say I am still the "Director" of a non-existent "unit."

Letter From Bryan Torok, N800F, LEARA President

Prior to the pandemic I was adamantly opposed to virtual/online meetings. Since the March LEARA Trustees' meeting I have embraced Zoom meetings and come to appreciate the advantages. Besides not having to travel, we can get meeting presenters from anywhere they have the internet. We do miss the social aspects of face to face meetings, having a meal, and will welcome them when they return.

Sara, KC8KSU, and I have participated in several NOARS on-foot fox hunts with great success. I had to dig out my tape measure beam and offset attenuator and get them tuned up. I even bought a Byonics Microfox PicCON fox transmitter. At the last hunt we had three foxes. It is a great way to get some fresh air, sunshine, exercise and some social interaction while maintaining distance.

President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

Chapter 1 Net QSY -

If you check into our Wednesday night net you will notice that many folks don't get into the repeater very well. Sometimes our repeater on 146.85 is hard to hear. Of course, there are many variables that explain this, including the terrain between you and the machine, your antenna and power and even weather conditions.

Our repeater, located in the Newbury area, seems to favor east and west. It does very poorly to the northwest and the north, based on how we hear amateurs who are checking in from those locations. I am NOT talking about hams who try to check in using an HT with a rubber ducky. They create their own problems, and frankly, shouldn't be talking on any repeater with a radio that just brings up the machine with a signal that is barely above the noise level. This is not good amateur radio practice and is annoying to your fellow hams.

Recently, when our repeater (W8LYD) wasn't working, we ran the net on 147.015. This is the NORMA (Northern Ohio Repeater Management Association) machine. The results were fantastic. All of those hams who we could barely hear above the noise on 146.85 were full quieting and they told us that they could hear 147.015 full quieting, too.

For example, **Tom, W8TAB** in Rocky River, **George, K8KR**, near the Triskett rapid stop (Cleveland westside) and **Jen, KG8WJ** in Willoughby, who were all very noisy on 146.85, were a pleasure to hear on the NORMA machine. The audio on the NORMA repeater is also noticeably better. This was verified with our net control **Craig, N8ZT** who is always full quieting into both repeaters,

Of course, we do want to use our own repeater in the near future. But, until then we will continue the Wednesday night nets on 147.015 with thanks to the NORMA group.

Time to Move On? -

I was trying to figure out how long I have been the Chapter 1 president by reviewing past Newsletters. They are all on our website going back to 2008 and the "Third Quarter" (now known

as the Fall Quarter) of 2008 Newsletter published my first column as president. That was 10 years and 40 Newsletters ago! I really think it is time for someone else to take over my role as president.

I am willing to continue as Newsletter editor. It is interesting to note that my first column was much shorter than the current ramblings. Also, I had said that our then current treasurer, newsletter editor, secretary and membership chair were all looking to retire. We are now on our third treasurer, third secretary, second newsletter editor and we don't have a membership chair. Please contact any officer if you are interested in leading our QCWA Chapter 1 or encouraging hams to join our ranks.

Front License Plate Solution -



I had said in my previous column that my new front plate would either be promoting the ARRL or my alma mater. Then I got an email from our QCWA president, **Ken Oelke, VE6AFO**, who suggested a QCWA license plate. How could I refuse? Doesn't it look snazzy? It's nice to know that our Newsletter is read by the top brass in Alberta. If you would like a similar plate, but with your name and call sign on it, order one from QCWA.org. Mine arrived in less than a week.

Lunch Bunch -

A few of us resumed "Lunch Bunch" at the Manhattan Deli when it re-opened in the summer. We dined mainly on the outside patio but it was HOT! After a couple of times inside, we decided to no longer tempt fate and wait until the pandemic is over. We're still waiting. Another great tradition is temporarily on hold.

We look forward to seeing you at our virtual fall meeting on Zoom. Please join us!

73, Bob W2THU

STAY SAFE—STAY HEALTHY!

ITEMS PURCHASED FROM THE ORIGINAL OWNER

By George J. Mistic, KE8RN



NATIONAL HRO-7

Introduction

A fair number of the amateur radio items in my collection of USA and UK made equipment was purchased from the original owner. I have tried to recall where the equipment came from and who I purchased it from to make sure I have captured all of the items purchased from the original owners. I especially like to find equipment that is for sale by the original owner, as it is usually cherished from new and is usually in excellent condition.

A National HRO-7 starts my collection of high end vintage gear

About the first piece of used equipment I purchased that started me collecting the units many amateur radio operators coveted, when it was new equipment, was a National HRO-7. I purchased it about 1964 from the person who bought the receiver new in 1947. I have everything that was supplied with the receiver, specifically four coil sets, a wood box that holds three coil sets, a speaker, an AC power supply, and the instruction manual. The original owner did not buy any of the optional coil sets or the plug-in FM adapter. I still have the receiver and it works great; it still has three of the original tubes since 1947 that are branded "National." It replaced my Heathkit AR-3 and vastly outperformed it. It caused me to buy a National HRO-5, HRO-50, HRO-60, and two HRO-500s. They are all mechanically superb and all work very well.

A Hallicrafters SX-117 and HT-44 that were used with a National NCL-2000

In the late 1980s, I bought a Hallicrafters SX-117 receiver and the matching HT-44 SSB-CW-AM transmitter that was used with a National NCL-2000 linear amplifier; this station was bought new by the amateur radio hobbyist who sold it to me. He was a QCWA Chapter One member before sadly becoming a silent key; he was Bob Briggs. As I recall, he was W8MMC and worked at Picker X-Ray for many years before I worked there. He modified the HT-44 so it had an internal receive-transmit antenna relay as described in the HT-44 instruction manual; he was a technically very competent radio technician. I actually bought two National NCL-2000 linear amplifiers from him; one of them I very neatly modified to operate on six meters where it worked very well.

Continued on following page-

ITEMS PURCHASED

Continued from previous page

My Collins AM station

About 1990 I purchased a Collins 75A-3 and 32V-3 from the original owner; I don't think I got a matching speaker with the receiver. Both came with the original instruction manuals and purchase receipt. They were NOT inexpensive when new in 1953; the two units cost well over \$1000.00, a large sum in 1953. They work like new and are my AM station once I added a Collins matching speaker and a Dow Key antenna relay. I ultimately substituted a Collins 75A-2 for the 75A-3; the practice of tuning an AM station off center to put only one sideband through the 3.0 KHz wide supplied Collins mechanical filter in the 75A-3 seems unnatural to me.

A rare Collins 62S-1 from Toledo, Ohio



About 1998 I bought a Collins S-Line with a 62S-1 six and two meter transverter and 75S-3C receiver. Both were new, but I think the 32S-1 transmitter was used and had been modified very neatly so it would transmit the AM mode, which is handy to have with the 62S-1 as many VHFers could not receive SSB when the 62S-1 entered the marketplace in 1963. The whole set is my VHF station and the S-Line has been used on 20 and 75 meter SSB. I knew about this 62S-1 due to my working part time while in college at Pioneer-Standard Electronics at 5403 Prospect Avenue in Cleveland because the 62S-1 was brought in for service work by the owner. I remembered his name and city [Toledo], so I contacted him to see if he still had the 62S-1 and had any interest in selling it. I wound up buying an S-Line plus the 62S-1; he had a KWM-380 at that time which was his primary station.

A Drake TR-7 lives with all my Drake tube radios

I bought a Drake TR-7 from the original owner along with the PS-7 AC power supply. I wish I could recall why he sold this transceiver; I hope it was NOT to replace it with a Japanese made transceiver. Of course it works very well. I have Drake stations on a Drake bench which I built from two kitchen cabinets and two solid core doors that includes a Drake 4-C-Line, a TR-6 six meter transceiver, an R-7A receiver, and a Drake TR-5 solid state transceiver, their last amateur radio product.

The RME 6900 receiver is fairly lonely

I have an RME 6900 receiver which I obtained from the original purchaser in the late 1990s. I don't recall exactly when I purchased the 6900 or any of the other details of the transaction. The 6900 is an attractive receiver with a product detector and 100 KHz crystal calibrator, but does not transceive with any



RME 6900 Receiver transmitter and uses a free running local oscillator as the first conversion, not using the idea first seen in the Collins 75A and 75A-1 from 1946. By 1961, both Collins and Drake were well ahead of RME in technology, and would soon be passed by Heathkit and Hallicrafters. It is the last somewhat popular receiver RME made. They did make one receiver after the 6900, but it was much less popular and I have never seen one. It was the model 6902. RME was out of the amateur radio business by 1962.