



Cleveland Chapter One NEWSLETTER

Established 1951

Fall Quarter 2023

W8LYD 146.850 PL 110.9

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

Our Award's Luncheon On the West Side 14 October 2023 at 11:30 AM

Join us at Amici Restaurant & Bar !



13000 Royalton Rd on the NE
Corner of W 130th & Royalton Rd

It's been a while since we met west of the Cuyahoga. The last time was Simon's Restaurant in Brecksville. We did not return because the meeting room had no door and the walls did not go to the ceiling, resulting in a lot of external noise that interfered with our luncheon.

Amici, in North Royalton, fits the bill because it has a private room with a door. You can eat off the menu and the food is excellent!

Join us for live music, 50/50 and door prizes. There is ample parking. Use the entrance door on the left (northernmost) to avoid walking up a small flight of steps inside the restaurant. The private room is to the left of the pool table.

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Chapter 1 at Cleveland Hamfest



George Pindroh, K8KR, mans the Chapter 1 table while QCWA Director and chapter member **Bob Hajdak, N8QE** and prospective new member Joe Wehner, W8KNO admire the exhibits and hand outs provided to the hamfest attendees.

We had 37 hams sign the attendance sheet. Several of them took new member applications. In addition to the above, many thanks to **Paul Andrews, N8YNI**, and **Joan Andrews, N8YFF** for their assistance.

Future Luncheon Dates

*January 13, 2024, April 13, 2024
July 13, 2024, October 12, 2024*



Cleveland Chapter One Newsletter

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Dues: \$10.00 per year if you want this Newsletter mailed to you via USPS. Dues are free if you are 80 or older or accept this Newsletter via email only. **Copyright © 2023** by Cleveland Chapter One QCWA. All rights reserved.

Chapter One Officers

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Operational Group

Membership reporter: Open
Net controls: N8ZT, N8QE
QCWA Journal reporter: K8IG
License trustee: N8ZT
Awards chair: Open
Chief radio officer: K8QOT
Chapter musician: WB8ADF
Webmaster: K8ZGW
Sunshine reporter: Open

Please notify Secretary Marc Barnett of any changes in your address, e-mail etc. so your roster information can be kept current.

PEOPLE

New Members and Friends:
None reported for this quarter.

Happenings:

Fred Freer, K8IG, reports that his new KIO Technologies 6 band (6-20) Hexbeam should be installed by the time you read this. It replaces the 4 Double Bazookas (80,40,30,20) lost in a severe windstorm earlier this year. Also, his XYL, Mary will have hip replacement surgery next month. We wish her well!

Tom Porter, W8KYZ, was recognized in the July 2023 *QST* for his very generous **President Class** lifetime donations to the ARRL.

Jeff Meyer, K4DKW, is looking for a used communications van in good shape to promote his ham radio outreach program. See Jeff's article in this quarter's Newsletter.

George Mistic, KE8RN, wrote a biographical article that was published in the September 2023 *QCWA Journal*.

David Kazdan, AD8Y, reports that the CWRU club is doing well. They have a full suite of undergraduate officers and 120 first year students asking to be on their mailing list. About 30 are attending their Thursday evening open-station sessions and they recently licensed 16 new hams and upgraded 3 more! Dave also noted that the ham gear, donated by Jack Goldfarb, W8WGO(SK) is being put to good use!

Silent Keys:

We regret to report that **Tom Kopcak, N8ETP**, recently passed away. He first joined QCWA in 2008. Tom would have received his 40 year Anniversary Award at our upcoming luncheon. Instead, it was posthumously presented to his son, Jeff, K8JTK, our Ohio ARRL Section Technical Coordinator.

Secretary's Report Marc Barnett, KA8CPB

I'm Marc Barnett, KA8CPB and I am the secretary of QCWA Chapter 1. I have been a ham since 1978. During the day, I am the Director of Infrastructure at John Carroll University.

I was asked kind of 'tongue in cheek' if I was interested in becoming the secretary of Chapter 1.

I said sure, why not.



Why not? Well let's see - there are many sources of information for our data about our membership. Different lists, some with names, some with only emails, and then the ones that are not in spreadsheet format that need to be converted before they can be searched.

This information is unique in that there are many entries in some cases for the same person. Some with their call signs, some with call signs that have changed, and most without dates that they were recorded, so that one could determine which is newer than another. And of course there is also the status of your membership, and sometimes the updates of the SK or Silent Key.

And now comes the real fun part. Email addresses! Yes email addresses, some that are correct, some that are not, and some that have changed. Some, for example, that were registered at the ARRL.org site and that either do not exist any longer, or that the email server

that the ARRL uses does not like to be queried by certain senders. And then there is the data or the information itself. Some records include city and state, but is it where you live or is it the city that your mail is delivered to? And is the information correct, or was it transposed sometime in the past?

The database part itself is not so bad. Not so good either. Merging data fields that you know contain the correct information is good, right? How could correct information be bad? Oh, formatting differences that just happen to be embedded in the field. Is it really a telephone number if it is separated by dashes, or is it ok if it uses periods? And what if there are just spaces, or maybe it's all run together.

I started out with around 140 entries. I decided to send out an email to every address we had. And I would ask, if it did make it to target, did they still want to be on the list and were there any changes that needed to be made? Out of 140, 32 email addresses were bad or did not make it to the target or recipient. Another handful asked to be removed from our list. And another 10 gave me information to update the records.

This is a continuous activity, and if anyone who reads this newsletter has information that needs to be updated or changed please let me know. Please do let me know information to keep this updated data current. QCWA #, CALL, Email, Telephone, Chapter #, name, address, etc. Email remains the most reliable and least costly method to reach our membership and provide information to you.

You can reach me at Marc Barnett wireless.marc@gmail.com. Or if you need to speak to me, my cell phone is 440-476-8800

73 and thank you for reading.

FRIDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Every Friday around 11 AM, a group of hams meet at the Manhattan Deli, located on Ridge Road, just west of SOM Center Road in Willoughby Hills. This is not a QCWA event. All hams, and even non hams, are welcome. The food is very good

Amateur Radio Outreach and Visibility Proposal for QCWA Chapter 1

by
Jeff Meyer, K4DKW



No matter how long you've been a ham or where your QTH is, you know the average age of hams is getting older. Clubs are always talking about the need for new members but the vast majority of clubs don't designate a club officer responsible for outreach or ongoing PR activities. No surprise there.

Second, as the average ham operates predominantly at home and out of the public eye, how can we realistically expect to grow and diversify if the general public can't readily meet us, see what we do and learn what the hobby offers them?

AND

Third, if you're one of those hams who thinks kids are too busy playing video games and texting, to find Amateur Radio interesting, you need to hear this. Beginning last fall, I successfully started

three elementary school Amateur Radio Clubs, with one of them placing second in the ARRL February 2023 School Club Roundup (in their first attempt). Pretty good for 3rd to 6th graders, you think? No interest or opportunities there?

The interest in Amateur Radio is out there, we just need to make it easy for them to find us.

“If you build it, they will come.”

To that end, I'd like QCWA Chapter 1 to lead the way and consider obtaining and regularly using a portable communications trailer in our region: Why?

- To increase our visibility
- To recruit new hams and members
- To use as a portable meeting point for our geographically diverse membership AND concurrently
- To bring Amateur Radio into a variety of communities especially where families gather (parks, fairs, beaches, etc.)

I have more ideas about how we could successfully implement an Outreach program like this and have the energy to make it a reality for Chapter 1. Let's discuss this opportunity and be the example for other chapters and clubs to follow.

P.S. Does anybody know where we could find a communications van?

Jeff can be reached at his email:
jeffreymeyer55@gmail.com

President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

Our Summer 2023 Picnic– An Alternative to the Metroparks for Next Year-

Twenty-five chapter 1 members and friends gathered at the North Chagrin Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks on a lovely July day. This was the third time our summer luncheon has been held out of doors and I believe that we have established a tradition of a picnic gathering in lieu of indoor restaurant dining.



WB8ADF, showing off at Show & Tell

Last year's hiccup of finding our first choice pavilion was already occupied by another group (and fortunately we found an unoccupied picnic area nearby) was not a problem this year. Metroparks does not allow reservations, so we were happy to have first digs on the Strawberry picnic area. Then, something weird happened that detracted from our gathering. A very nice and polite gentleman arrived with his family and friends to celebrate his 65th birthday! He politely asked us to share the pavilion and at first I said no, but relented in deference to his special day.

After enjoying the standard hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and many side dishes brought by our group, we began the fun and interesting show and tell. Meanwhile, the birthday group was getting louder and louder, making it difficult to hear our members describe the ham related devices that they brought to show us.

Personally, I have very little tolerance for QRN when I'm speaking before a group, whether it's at a club meeting or in court. Yes, I demand total silence. So, in the future, we'll be having our picnics where we won't be sharing the venue, by asking one of our members to reserve a municipal pavilion. Next year, VP Fred Freer, K8IG, agreed to reserve in Mayfield Village. Other members are welcome to do the same. Let me know.

What Should We Do With Our 146.85 Repeater? —

The handful of members who check into our net are fully aware that we are using the NORMA repeater on 147.015 MHz. This machine simply has better coverage than our own and we are grateful to NORMA for allowing our weekly use.

I don't know the full history of the W8LYD machine other than when I became active in Chapter 1, the repeater was located in Chagrin Falls. I heard it was split site. Now, of course, **Jimmy Pracker, K8QOT**, our chief radio officer, has it located at his tower site in Newbury, Geauga County. Jimmy has been very helpful over the years in maintaining our repeater but the vagaries of 2 meter rf simply favor the use of 147.015 by our club.

I would hate to see our own repeater fade away, but that is what's happening now. It is even fitted with the Yaesu Fusion system that doesn't seem to work.

If you have any suggestions, please let me now.

QCWA Has a New President, Again -

As you recall, QCWA recently had an election where we chose a new president in a three way race. The winner was Ron Fish, KX1W, who resigned for personal reasons after a few months. So, the Board, following its bylaws, chose Tom Loughney, AJ4XM, who came in second in the forementioned election, to be our latest president.

Now I know Tom, a resident of West Palm Beach, from assisting at the QCWA table at Hamcation, in Orlando. I look forward to his leadership and I believe he has gotten off to a good start. Please read his letter to the membership on the QCWA website. (qcwa.org/new-members-president.pdf)

I look forward to seeing you at Amici Italian Restaurant on Saturday at 11:00 A.M. !

Mobile Rigs Over the Years

by George J. Mistic, KE8RN

W8VRJs ten meter mobile; a Gonset converter and home-brew transmitter

Many years ago I recall my father, W8VRJ, having ten meter mobile equipment in our 1950 Buick Special four door sedan in the 1950s. He had a Gonset mobile converter in front of the AM car radio and a home brew transmitter using a type 2E26 final amplifier tube. The antenna was a 102 inch whip antenna mounted to the rear bumper. As I recall, the transmitter was powered by a small dynamotor, which was a 6 VDC motor built with a 350 VDC generator that was military surplus.

Olson RA-570 six meter radio

In the early 1960s, he obtained an Olson model RA-570 six meter AM transmitter-receiver running about 16 watts to a 2E26 final. Olson was a family of radio equipment stores in the Ohio area headquartered in Akron, Ohio and headed by Phil Olson whom I knew. The Olson radio was manufactured by Utica in Chicago, Illinois. It had a double conversion receiver but used a mechanical vibrator in the internal DC power supply. My father tried for years to get one of the solid state replacements for the vibrator to work reliably in the Olson RA-570 with little success. The Utica version of the same radio was quite a bit nicer with a chrome rather than gray painted cabinet, a bit more transmit power and a transistor inverter for the DC power supply. Both radios had Push To Talk operation, which is very convenient for mobile operation.



My rebuilt Lafayette HE-45

In the late 1960s, I purchased a non-functional Lafayette HE-45 for as I recall \$15.00 from Thomas P. Lawrence, WA8UXL [SK]. I rebuilt it extensively with the intention to improve the transmit audio, which was notoriously poor on the HE-45s and HE-45As. I switched the 6AQ5 receiver audio and modulator tube with a type 7868 pentode tube and replaced

the audio output and modulator transformer with a vertical output transformer from an old TV set that I salvaged for parts. I made the final tuning control accessible from the front panel by removing one of the six crystal sockets on the front panel. I converted the DC power supply from a vibrator to using two power transistors. I refinished the HE-45 in two-tone brown and changed the weird microphone connector used by Lafayette to an Amphenol type 80MC-2M style as used on many Johnson, Collins and Hallicrafters rigs. I was a member of Eunice Bernon's Apricot Net at the time and I worked Saturdays at Bernie's Ham Shack on East 21st Street; no one could believe I was using a Lafayette HE-45 since the rig sounded so good. I believe I still have this radio somewhere.

Mobile Radios *(continued from page 6)*

W8VRJ's Lafayette HA-460

My father bought a new Lafayette model HA-460 six meter transmitter-receiver with an internal VFO, a solid state DC power supply, double conversion receiver, and very good transmit push-pull audio in about 1967-1968. It worked quite well and was in use for years. Sadly, they were made in Japan, unlike the American made HE-45. I don't recall if the HA-460 was ever used in his 1971 Buick Centurion, but I think it was. It was ultimately replaced by two meter FM equipment in later years.

Mobile goes from six meter AM to two meter FM

In about 1973-1974 I bought one of the very few amateur radio products I bought new, a Clegg model FM-27B two meter transceiver purchased from J. D. Csicsila at Communications World. I obtained a telephone company touch-tone pad and set it up with the FM-27B in the 1965 Lincoln Continental I was driving at that time. The 16-76 repeater in Cleveland had an auto-patch system at that time; a mobile telephone was a very rare device to have at that time.



Right now I have refitted my Clegg FM-27B so that it has a sub-audible tone encoder inside the microphone [a tight fit, but it works]. The FM-27B was the first solid state mobile FM rig that needed no crystals to cover the entire two meter FM band from 146.0 to 148.0 MHz with dial up frequency accurate enough to set the controls [a switch to the nearest 100 KHz and a dial with each 100 KHz]. The tone generator will be in Electric Radio Magazine sometime in the future.

(Photo credits: Clegg 27-B by Rigreference and Galaxy Lafayette HE-45 by rig.pix)