

# Cleveland Chapter One NEWSLETTER for SPRING, 2012 Established 1951

Hello; this is my third attempt at editing the QCWA Chapter One Newsletter. Input material and suggestions are welcome. I will start preparing each newsletter about six weeks before the meeting date, so you are free to send any material to me up to two months before the meeting date. I can be reached by phone at 412-486-8566, Email at [KE8RN@comcast.net](mailto:KE8RN@comcast.net), or by mail at 1936 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, PA 15101-2824. George J. Mistic KE8RN, editor

## **Next QCWA Meeting on April 14, 2012; at J. B. Milano's, 355 Richmond Road at Cuyahoga County Airport Dee Logan, W1HEO will speak; see below:**

My presentation on the Panama Canal and USS Midway resulted from a 28-day cruise with XYL Liz to celebrate our 55th anniversary.

### **THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL & THE USS MIDWAY by Dee Logan W1HEO**

Our next chapter meeting, April 14, will include a first-person report by "Dee" Logan, W1HEO, on his recent cruise through the Panama Canal and tour of the USS Carrier Midway in San Diego. The Canal is one of the engineering marvels of all time, and the giant Midway's radio room provides an interesting look back at military communications. You'll see photos of both, along with some personal observations. Hope you can join us!

### Cleveland Chapter One Newsletter

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

## President Bob Winston, W2THU, Quarterly Letter to Members

I think I just spent my 33<sup>rd</sup> year wintering in Cleveland. The strange thing is that it never really came. Not only did we have very little snow, but it was rarely below freezing, even at night. And my biggest complaint about northeast Ohio winters, lack of sun, was quashed by mother nature, or la Nina or ocean oscillations or global warming, whatever tickles your fancy. The bottom line is that there is no need to become a snowbird if these kinds of winters continue.

As you know, we had a terrific Winter meeting this past January at our new location, JB Milano's. Our guest speaker, Jeff Covelli K8SAJ, gave an excellent presentation on how he restores old radios, such as Drake, Hammerlund and Swan. Jeff is known worldwide for his fine workmanship and he divulged some of the secrets he uses to make these venerable radios look brand new. Thanks Jeff for your time and excellent preparation.

You may recall that a few columns ago I suggested that you apply for General Manager of the QCWA National organization because Chuck Walbridge had resigned. Well, it turns out that the new position went to Jim Laporta, N1CC, of Mabank, Texas. Jim's biography suggests he is the right man for the job, as he has been very active in ham radio since 1956. Wherever Jim lived in the U.S., he joined his local ham club and quickly assumed leadership roles. His background includes military and corporate experience as well as a stint at the ARRL headquarters in Connecticut. We look forward to working with Jim in QCWA.

I have been having a lot of fun lately by joining the "lunch bunch" on Fridays at JB Milano's. Although this is not a QCWA event, most of the hams that attend are members of Chapter 1. Conversation runs all over the place but mostly about our great hobby. So, if you are unable to attend our quarterly luncheons because you are busy on Saturdays, here is an opportunity to enjoy an eyeball with fellow QCWA members. Arrive about 11:30 a.m.

Next month is the 61<sup>st</sup> Dayton Hamvention©. This is without doubt the greatest ham radio show on earth. I call it Ham Radio Heaven. Since we are all in this hobby more than 25 years, I will not review all the reasons why we Ohioans should attend. Needless to say, we are quite lucky to live only 3 to 4 hours away. If you are physically able, and have never attended, now is the time to go. You won't be disappointed. Don't forget that QCWA always has a presence, including a banquet and a forum.

Besides our weekly nets on 146.85MHz (PL 110.9) on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 p.m., our quarterly luncheons are the best way to enjoy our fine organization, eyeball with fellow members and attend an informative program. Please join us on Saturday, 14 April 2012 at JB Milano's when our own Dee Logan, W1HEO, will present a travelogue of his 30-day cruise through the Panama Canal. I look forward to seeing you there!

73, Bob Winston W2THU

## News from QCWA Chapter One members

Editor's note: **PLEASE CONTRIBUTE NEWS ITEMS!!!** Emailing items to the editor at [KE8RN@comcast.net](mailto:KE8RN@comcast.net) to facilitate the editor reading the submissions for the People column when assembling the newsletter.

Betty, KC8FF reports that she and her mom are really enjoying the great weather!

Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ got another gadget I got recently and it works just great, the ELECRAFT XG-3 signal generator that sweeps and comes with a program cable for frequencies from 1.5 MHz to 1.4 GHz. 4 separate outputs from 0 DBM to 1 uv, what a nice box built for \$169 complete. More on Elecraft later in the column.

Kate Saccony, KC9IQF, is manning [womanning?] the Chicago Marathon Ham Volunteer Group booth at the AES Hamfest in Milwaukee on 3/31/2012.

Dee Logan's article, "Avoiding Problems in the RF Chain" was published in QST's February issue. It was developed with help from several chapter one members. Also, W1HEO continues to be a regular contributor to the DX Magazine.

At the South Hills Hamfest in Pittsburgh, Barbara [KB3MPF] found a Clegg FM-28 2 meter FM transceiver for me [KE8RN]. The FM-28 came out after the Clegg FM-27B which covered 146-148 MHz continuously with no crystals to buy as almost all other rigs at the time required. I also recently acquired an Eddystone VLF receiver; it has their outstanding dial mechanism and is a vacuum tube unit from about 1960.

Jeff Covelli wants to mention his new USA made ELECRAFT K-3, also the P-3 panadapter and 500 watt KPA-500 all solid state amplifier with 'linear' power supply built in. He still has a vintage Drake station or two in the shack; he built the Elecraft radios to save money and learn about the software defined radio with real hardware front-end, roofing filters, and other state of the art features. He also recently got a ; he reports that Elecraft is again doubling in size to keep up with demand. They join Ten-Tec and MFJ as surviving US ham equipment manufacturers. Gone are Collins and Drake [as ham companies], and Galaxy, Swan, Gonset, Clegg, Hammarlund, and Hallicrafters.

I am eagerly awaiting the spring weather to start taking our old cars out. Our 1960 Lincoln Continental Mark V convertible will be out for its first times since I have owned it with a freshly rebuilt engine. Unfortunately, the previous owner changed oil on mileage only, so in its later years, it went 8 years without an oil change! The oil in the engine was like putty and caused the rebuild of the engine at only 48,000 miles; years ago I had other Lincolns with the same engine and got well over 200,000 miles out of them without any significant engine work. We also have a 1966 Lincoln Continental 4 door Convertible; it was once a stolen car, so it will need to pass state inspection.

# QCWA Lunch Friday Lunch Bunch

## **New Friday Lunch Location; Fly Away to the Airport**

The **Friday "Lunch Bunch," (FLB)** has moved to a new location: J. B. Milano's restaurant at the Cuyahoga County Airport. The move reflects a group decision to dine where the food is good, the service is friendly, and the prices are right. Join us! While many of the group are QCWA members, this is not a requirement for admission. Nope. Any licensed ham or even SWLs are welcome. The restaurant opens its doors around 11:30 a.m., and the **FLBers** meet in the private dining room to the left of the bar. To find Milano's, simply exit Interstate 90 at Bishop Road and go south on Bishop to the Cuyahoga County Airport. Turn right on Curtiss Wright Parkway and turn left on Crossover. An alternate is via Richmond Road. See you there!

## **QCWA Chapter One Future Meetings 2012, 2013**

**>>>Please plan on attending our next meeting APRIL 14, 2012 at starting at 11:30 AM at J. B. Milano's**

**2012 April 14, July 14, October 13**

**2013 January 12, April 13, July 13, October 12**

## *QCWA Chapter One Birthdays April, May, June, 2012*

### **April birthdays**

Raymond C. Lotenero W8GR; April 09 Robert M. Hajdak N8QE; April 12 Mark Studer KC8FQV; April 14 Thomas A. Bishop W8TAB; April 22 Donald J. Adams WA8QZZ; and Metro Sinko W8MET; April 27 again

### **May birthdays**

Charles D. Joseph N5JED 05/03; Devere E. Logan W1HEO 05/03; Richard E. Ingraham WA8TPP 05/06; Herman P Pekrul W8UNI 05/15; David C Parris AB8SB 05/16; Donald B. Thomas K8DBT 05/18; Robert E. Robertson KC8UIQ 05/18; Earl Carter W4EU 05/28; George Ingmand WA8YVF 05/29

### **June birthdays**

John E. Esborn K8OCK 06/01; Thomas W. Suhadolink N8UAX 06/03; Joseph Nocifora KE9UL 06/07; Robert F. Briggs W8MMC 06/11; Robert S. Sull W8IMO 06/14; Byrness E. Haworth W8LE 06/15; Dwane P. Modock K8ME 06/16; John S. Shott K8IUU 06/17; Richard L. Petscher W8BNT 06/20; Richard L. Scott W8FDN 06/20; Henry L. Schultz Jr. W13U 06/23

### **July birthdays**

George J Keltner Sr.K8SGM 07/04; Charles M. Patellis W8PT 07/04; William Hammond WA8VMN 07/08; Marvin S. Goldfarb W8YEO 07/17; Alphonse H. Lada W8OZC 07/25; Steven K. Molnar W8ANJ 07/25; Robert M. Winston W2THU 07/28; Gevard F. Dusa WB8ADF 07/29; Richard H. Williams Sr. NW8X 07/30

# Vintage Ham Radio Feature Article

## **Vintage Ham Radio: The last gasp of Hammarlund as a major ham manufacturer; the Hammarlund HQ-215 receiver**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The Hammarlund HQ-215 was basically the last gasp of Hammarlund as a ham manufacturer trying to hang on to some market share as the equipment marched to sophisticated, high performance rigs designed primarily for SSB operation with a companion transmitter or as a transceiver; it was also Hammarlund's first venture into state-of-the-art solid state design. Hammarlund's primary competition in the late 1960's when the HQ-215 hit the market in early 1968 was the Collins 75S-3, Drake R-4B, Heathkit SB-301, and the first wave of quality imports like the early Sommerkamp line that was sold from Germany but made by Yaesu in Japan and the Kenwood R-599 and T-599 receiver-transmitter pair. The Hammarlund HQ-215 borrowed heavily from the Collins S-Line receivers in that it used Collins mechanical filters for selectivity, used the same frequency mixing scheme and crystals for each 200 KHz band, and covered ham bands in 200 KHz bites per each bandswitch position. The HQ-215 is actually a very nice receiver and might have been much more successful if Hammarlund was in better condition as a company and brought out other equipment to make a full station like a matching transmitter. Hammarlund was very successful years earlier when most hams bought a receiver from Hammarlund, Hallicrafters, National, or RME and put it with a transmitter from Johnson, Globe, WRL, or a transmitter manufacturer.

### **OVERALL LOOK**

I am sure it is no coincidence that the Hammarlund HQ-215 look is a great deal like the Collins S-Line receivers like the 75S-3. Collins was THE rig to copy; many had great success borrowing the Collins overall shape and design. Heathkit, Yaesu, and KW Electronics of England did it to a great degree; Kenwood and Drake copied the basic concepts, but not the shape or look of the S-Line components. Hammarlund had earlier tried to find a new "look" for their equipment; the HQ-100, HQ-110, HQ-145, HQ-170, HQ-180, HX-50 and HXL-1 all have a Hammarlund "family" look; the HX-500 transmitter may have been the first piece of a new look, but it was never followed up with another item having the same styling.

### **MECHANICAL FILTERS**

The HQ-215 uses the same Collins mechanical filters as the 75S-3B and 75S-3C receivers. The filters used in the 75S-3B and 75S-3C will plug directly into a Hammarlund HQ-215 and are identical to the filters sold by Hammarlund back when the HQ-215 was being sold new. The Collins AM bandwidth mechanical filter is also used in the Courier Royale CB transceiver, and will plug right into either a Collins 75S-3B or 75S-3C or a Hammarlund HQ-215; I watch flea markets for the Courier Royale CB radios as a source for the AM mechanical filters.

## **SOLID STATE SILICON TRANSISTOR DESIGN**

The Hammarlund HQ-215 was a solid state receiver; essentially Hammarlund's first solid state receiver and one of the first high quality solid state receivers ever produced for the consumer [non-military] market. The HQ-215 is made totally of bipolar transistors; they were silicon types when the industry was beginning to change from germanium to silicon transistor types. Other early solid state ham gear was made with germanium transistor devices such as the SBE SB-33 transceiver and the Davco DR-30 communications receiver.

### **ACCESSORIES OFFERED WITH THE HQ-215**

Other than accessory mechanical filters of different bandwidths and accessory crystals for additional frequency coverage, the only other option for the HQ-215 was a matching accessory speaker. Hammarlund never offered a companion transmitter or other radios to accompany the HQ-215 and build a full station like those offered by their competitors who lasted a good bit longer in the amateur radio marketplace. Hammarlund ceased to produce ham radio equipment, or any other equipment other than air variable capacitors not too long after the HQ-215's introduction.

### **SUMMARY**

The HQ-215 came too late in Hammarlund's many years as a ham radio manufacturer to save the company. It was a good performing receiver of modern, advanced design for 1968, but without a companion transmitter as offered by Collins, Drake, Heathkit, Hallicrafters, KW Electronics [England] and the future competitors from Yaesu and Kenwood, it was not an attractive enough unit to sell well without a companion transmitter. Collins, Drake, and Heathkit went on for another ten years before being buried by the Japanese competition. If the Hammarlund HQ-215 had a companion transmitter and a compliment of equipment to round out a complete station, it might have been much more successful. -----George Mistic KE8RN

## **QCWA Chapter One Classifieds**

Drake and other old radio service, including TR-7's. Thirty-five years of experience. Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ, 440-951-6406, [wa8saj@ncweb.com](mailto:wa8saj@ncweb.com).

Equipment sold or purchased; if you want to dispose of old radio equipment that you no longer want, KE8RN offers to either purchase it, or sell it for you on eBaY. Excellent eBaY reputation with 15 years of experience. Call 412-486-8566 or Email at [KE8RN@comcast.net](mailto:KE8RN@comcast.net)

To place a QCWA Chapter One classified, call, write, or Email George J. Mistic, KE8RN at 412-486-8566, 1936 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, PA 15101-2824, [KE8RN@comcast.net](mailto:KE8RN@comcast.net)