



Cleveland Chapter One **NEWSLETTER** Established 1951

Spring Quarter 2015

W8LYD 146.850 PL 110.9

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

Spring Luncheon is April 11th at Mimi's Restaurant in Parma

THINKING INSIDE THE BOX THE GO BOX



Our **Saturday, April 11th** meeting will feature **Eddie Stevens KD8FTS**, who is well known in our area for participating in public service events and ARES.

He will lecture on *Advanced and Portable Communication*. Would you be ready for Field Day in an hour? Eddie will show you how to do it.

Join us starting at 11:30 a.m. for our quarterly luncheon. **We are meeting at Mimi's Restaurant, located at 7528 Broadview Road in Parma, Ohio. Exit I-77 at Pleasant Valley Westbound (Parma) and proceed about 2 miles to Broadview. Turn left and immediately turn right into the shopping plaza. Mimi's is located in the back (western edge) of the plaza.** Eat off the lunch menu for about \$10.00. Door prizes, 50-50 raffle, music, and fellowship awaits! Please bring a friend! ■

In This Issue

2. People; Answer to Mystery Quiz
3. Secretary & Treasurer's Reports
3. Photos from Winter Luncheon
4. Birthdays
4. Heard on the Net
5. President's Perspective
- 6-7. Salt Water Antenna

Who are These People?



Jack Goldfarb, W8WGO, thought you would appreciate this photo of the first meeting of our chapter taken on 15 November 1951! These founding members include: First Row— W8DI, W8LY, W8AF, W8AWF, W8VK, W8VM, W8PM; Second Row—W8BAH, W8ZHG, 8ADN?, W8GD, W8KC, W8BSS, W8RN, W8AZ, W8QV; Third Row—W8EJ, W8AOK, W8COG, W8WV, W8RYR, W8DBU, W8NCE, W8HXL, W8CKR. Identification provided in 1992 by Paul Cornell, W8EFW, SK. Paul noted all but one member was a silent key at that time.



Cleveland Chapter One Newsletter

Editor: Robert M. Winston, W2THU

Past editors: George Mistic, KE8RN; "Dee" Logan, W1HEO; Bernie Hinrichsen, W2NTB (SK); Joe Zelle, W8FAZ (SK); Joe Tomazic, WT8P (SK).

Distribution: Robert M. Winston, W2THU

Roster changes: Notify Secretary Al Moriarty, N8CX; (216) 221-3682; <n8cx@mindspring.com>

Meetings: Second Saturday of January, April, July, and October. Mimi's Restaurant, 7528 Broadview Road, Parma, Ohio (temporarily)

Dues: \$10.00 per year.

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Chapter One Officers

President: Robert M. Winston, W2THU; (216) 924-3314, <w2thu@arrl.net.>

Vice President: Al Moriarty, N8CX

Secretary: Al Moriarty, N8CX; (216) 221-3682 <n8cx@mindspring.com>

Treasurer: Dave Foran, WB8APD; 5439 Nan Linn Drive, Willoughby, OH 44094; (440) 942-0618 <wb8apd@hamnet.org>

Operational Group

Membership: KE9UL

Net controls: N8ZT, KC8UIQ

QCWA Journal reporter: WB8N

License trustee: W8WGO

Awards chairman: W8WGO

Chief radio officer: K8QOT

Chapter musicians: WA8OZC, WB8ADF

Sunshine reporter: Dick Ingraham, WA8TPP, <reingraham@sbcglobal.net >

Web administrator: K8ZGW, <dritchie@dr.com>



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

PEOPLE

Recent Activities:

George Mistic, KE8RN, had a new patent issued entitled *Interface Devices for use with Intercavity Probes for High Field Strength Magnetic Resonance Imaging*. This is George's 38th US patent and he is the sole inventor.

Dee Logan, W1HEO, recently published another article in *CQ Magazine* entitled *The Ragchewer's Conversation Guide*.

Craig Kollai, N8ZT, was the guest speaker at our chapter luncheon in January when he showed us pictures of his recent trip to Bletchley Park outside London and also Disneyland Paris. Thank you Craig!

Sunshine:

Joe Gutoskey, W8DOE, is recovering at home after a nasty fall.

Mary Ingraham, XYL of Dick, WA8TPP, is still rehabbing at the nursing home and is improving.

John Esborn, K8OCK is home after about 6 months at the VA Hospital recovering from a bad fall. His spirits are good and he looks forward to seeing chapter members.

ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY PICTURE QUIZ IN THE WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER.

This is a salt water antenna designed and built by Ray Lotenero, W8GR. See his article on page 6.



MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY

Hi everyone, and a very, very HAPPY SPRING!!! I certainly hope that everyone is beginning to enjoy our somewhat warmer weather and beginning to get outside.

I just printed another 100 mailing labels for this issue of the newsletter. While there are some who still have not paid dues for this year or for a few past years, Chapter #1 is alive and well.

I am trying to keep a New Year's resolution to get more active on the bands, remember more club net nights and attend more Friday Lunch Bunch get togethers. I think I am doing better.

Let me remind everyone that the Friday Lunch Bunch (FLB) meets at the Manhattan Deli every Friday at 11:00 plus or minus. It's located in the shopping plaza on Ridge Road in Willoughby Hills just west of SR 91 and adjacent to Heinen's.

Hope to see everyone at the quarterly luncheon on Saturday, April 11th at Mimi's. So, let me say, vy vy best 73s to u es urs,

Al, N8CX, VP/Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Greetings!

To date, we have \$xxxx.xx in the bank. After spending a month in Philadelphia visiting our son's family, I hope to see all of you at the meeting! If you forgot to pay your chapter dues I will accept it at Mimi's.

de **Dave Foran, WB8APD**

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM OUR WINTER 2015 LUNCHEON



Craig Kollai, N8ZT, our Chapter net control operator, is shown making a presentation on his visit to Bletchley Park and Disney Paris.



Some of the many Chapter 1 members enjoying Craig's very informative program on how the British cracked the German codes during WWII.



The typical set up at Mimi's Restaurant, our west side meeting location.



Birthdays this Quarter

April

W8JH	Joe Hoffman	4/8
W8GR	Ray Lotenero	4/9
N8QE	Robert Hajdak	4/12
KC8FQV	Mark Studer	4/14
W8TAB	Thomas Bishop	4/22
W8MET	Metro Sinko	4/27

May

WIHEO	Dee Logan	5/3
N5JED	Charles Joseph	5/3
WA8TPP	Dick Ingraham	5/6
KB8QKC	Larry Caskey	5/10
K8YSE	John Papay	5/15
AB8SB	David Parris	5/16
KC8UIQ	Bob Robertson	5/18
K8DBT	Donald Thomas	5/18
WA8YVF	George Ingmand	5/29

June

K8OCK	John Esborn	6/1
N8UAZ	Tom Suhadolnik	6/3
KE9UL	Joe Nocifora	6/7
W8IMO	Robert Sull	6/14
W8LE	Byrness Haworth	6/15
K8ME	Dwaine Modock	6/16
W8BNT	Richard Petscher	6/20
W8FDN	Richard Scott	6/20
WI3U	Henry Schultz	6/23

Is your birthday missing or wrong?

Then, let our secretary know.

Birthdays are announced each week during the chapter's Wednesday night net at 8:00 p.m. on 146.850 pl 110.9. Join us! (Corrections to Al Moriarty, N8CX—n8cx@mindspring.com)

HEARD ON OUR CHAPTER NET



Instead of trying to answer a trivia question, our nets feature discussion questions.

We discussed call letter license plates on the Feb 18th net. Almost everybody said they had them, although **Ed, KE8ZZ** and **Jack, W8WGO** do not because they feel it attracts attention to thieves or vandals. **Dick, W8FDN**, **Al, WA8OZC** and **John, W8VRJ** have had them since first issued in Ohio. **Bob, W2THU** has had his call on Wisconsin, New York and Ohio plates.

On March 4th we debated the merits of vertical vs. horizontal antennas for HF work. The overwhelming majority of check-ins transmit through horizontally polarized antennas including beams, dipoles and various wire configurations. However, **Dick, WA8TPP** reported that he does better on 10m with a vertical, while **John, W8VRJ** said that verticals are simpler, require little maintenance and take up little room.

On April's Fool Day we asked if you prefer to operate high power, big antenna stations or QRP. **Dwayne, K8ME** said he likes high power, but QRP is kind of exciting. **Gary, WA8TJL** feels QRP can be a lot of fun with a good antenna but he likes both.

Why not add your 2 cents worth by checking into our weekly chapter net every Wednesday evening at 8:00 pm on our own 146.85 repeater. All you need is a PL tone of 110.9 Hz.

President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

All through March I kept my eye on that huge pile of snow at the bottom of our driveway which was created by months of snowplowing. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, it decreased in size until finally, just yesterday, it was no more. It took four weeks to melt but that, my fellow amateur radio operators, marks the end of winter. Yes, it was another very cold affair, and I am beginning to lean towards the concept of the snowbird.

Mind you, the idea of permanently retiring to a southern state where it rarely snows in winter is not in my DNA. I would never want to leave the green lushness of northeast Ohio, the change of seasons and the freedom and space to erect large antennas free of HOA and zoning rules.

Jeannie and I did dip our toes in the snowbird concept a bit when we drove to southern Florida for three weeks in late January and early February. I brought an Alinco dual band transceiver and a quarter wave magmount antenna to set up shop in the condominium apartment that we called home. The weather was as we expected, with temperatures in the high 60s and low 70s. The gated community's swimming pool was barely used and no one was swimming in the ocean, but from our perspective, anything above freezing was our goal.

I found a large metal tray in the kitchen for the magmount which was set down on

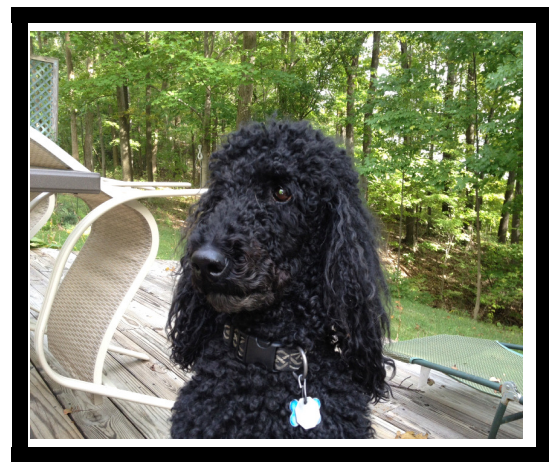
on a table in the 2nd floor spare bedroom that served as our shack. A quick search of the internet located the area repeaters which I programmed into the Alinco. I set the radio on scan, and just like home, things were very quiet. Another search for local clubs on line revealed there would be a net on Mondays. It was a combined ARES/club net and I was welcomed as a guest. At other times, area hams suggested dining and local attractions. It was fun!

We returned just in time for the extreme cold weather in February and that is why we are motivated to repeat and extend our winter sojourn next year if possible.

Don't forget that this is the beginning of public service season. A very big reason for the government support of our fine hobby is rooted in our volunteer work. Please help where and when you can.

I look forward to seeing you at Mimi's this coming Saturday for a very interesting program.

Best 73, Bob Winston W2THU



Our Wally passed away suddenly on 14 January 2015 at the age of eight. He was a wonderful standard poodle. We miss him.

20 Meter Vertical Ionic Liquid Antenna

“Antenna here is a 16 foot column of salt water”

by Ray Lotenero, W8GR

If you have ever thought you’ve tried most antenna designs (barring that full size Rhombic we all promise to build some day) here is one that actually is possible and will truly amaze.

In 2001, the NASA Glenn Amateur Radio Club, NA8SA, participated in the ARRL Field Day. I volunteered to set up a GOTA (Get on the Air) station for the event. In past FD events, my young nephews Jason 12 and Justin 13 would help out setting up tables, running power cords and trying their hand at putting antennas in trees. This time, I wanted to make this FD event even more memorable for the non-ham kids and adults.

I knew that bonus points are always big for the club, so I headed to the internet to find something that I could incorporate into the GOTA station that would keep the kids’ attention through the event, be educational, fun and pick up those needed points. This is when I stumbled upon an article by David Hatch, N8ZRT, describing in detail a salt water antenna he experimented with on 20 meters. My first reaction was “Oh come on, salt water as a radiator, let alone as a receiving medium Salt water is a good conductor, but that can’t possibly work, but I will give it a try!”

To cover the technical details of the ionic liquid antennas or ILA is not feasible here. There are numerous construction articles and white papers on the internet that will describe in detail just how it works. However, here is a pull quote from an N8ZRT article on who initially inspired his experiments: “The Ionic Liquid Antenna was born out by Pierre Goral of SGC who expounded the benefits of using sea water as a counterpoise just by dropping a bare wire into it.. The idea became reversed in my head. Turn



The author’s Field Day station with the salt water antenna laying on the ground in the background.

sea water (salt water) into an antenna. The credit goes to Pierre Goral of SGC.”

Field Day was less than a week away and I needed to get going on obtaining some supplies that I didn’t have at home. Let’s see: (2) 10 foot sections of 2” schedule 40 PVC, (1) 2” PVC “T,” (1) closet flange, (1) 2” bushing w/pipe plug, PVC primer/cement and a tube of RTV. Solid #12AWG wire, copper sheet, #2AWG lug, SO-239 connector, guy rope and a 4’X 4’ piece of plywood for the base should be in the garage. We can’t forget the main ingredient of the radiator—a bag of water softener pellets! I made a quick call to my nephews to let them know our plans and if they would like to go with me to get the supplies. They were psyched.

First on the agenda was to make at least 3 gallons of supersaturated salt water. My wife’s large stew pot was perfect for this. I filled it about three quarters full of water, placed it on the burner and brought it almost to a boil. I added salt pellets and stirred the mixture, watching the salt dissolve in solution until it would not dissolve any additional salt. This is when the specific gravity value of 1176-1179 is reached, or supersaturation. Once the mixture cooled, I transferred it into a discarded laboratory jug, ready for use later.

The Field Day weekend arrived and the nephews and I needed to get an early start since we were headed for a very unique antenna raising.

I grabbed the usual FD equipment including our ILA parts. When it came to decide what radio to bring, I paused and thought for a moment. We need a transceiver with a decent front end, but the final section must be very forgiving. Ah yes..., tubes. As you can see (photo on p.6), I chose to use a Swan 350 since it does have a decent receiver and if I fry the final section, at least some junk parts can repair it. According to the N8ZRT article, a liquid quarter wave vertical will closely mimic a regular metal vertical with an adequate ground system. The feed point should come in around 50 ohms.

To save time, we pre-assembled the “copper wire spider” coupling system and base. We cut 15 to 20 copper wires and fed them through the pipe plug at the side of the “T” and sealed it with ample amounts of RTV. We bonded the body of the UHF connector to the copper plate. Then we cemented the “T” to the closet flange and bolted the assembly with the counterpoise mounting plate to the plywood sheet (see photo below).



You’re almost ready for the pipe. Plan the placement carefully since you will need three guy ropes to keep a very heavy and unruly pipe straight (see photo below).



Cement the 16’ PVC pipe to the “T.” Fill the pipe to the top with salt water being careful not

to spill any on wanted vegetation. As old timers we know to set the guy ropes and mark the area with cones to minimize people running into them especially at night.

The excitement was mounting. Everyone wanted to see this wacky idea of a liquid antenna working first hand. Justin started to connect the RG-213 to the antenna connector, I told him “not quite yet,” we have more work to do. A ground system is needed to make it work efficiently. I showed the boys how to solder (8) 14ft. lengths of solid building wire onto the copper plate, running them out from the base and staking them taut to minimize a trip hazard.

We fired up the radio and waited for the tubes to warm up. There were squawks of sideband signals, fairly strong too. I’ll be darned. It does work. I proceeded with reckless abandon, but I did connect a SWR meter just to satisfy my curiosity on how well things were going. We needed to tune the final section to see if anyone could hear us. I set the main dial to 14.280 MHz (I figured the AM’ers wouldn’t mind) and the mode control in tune position. I showed the bystanders how to dip the plate and peak the load control during transmit. We were on the air.

I can’t recall how many QSOs we logged that year, but many of the check-ins couldn’t believe our working conditions. Would I recommend this antenna for full time duty at home? Probably not. There are YouTube videos showing a ham coupling RF into a pressurized vertical stream of ocean water. The suggested use was on crowded antenna arrays on upper decks of military vessels. There is one benefit of having one in our climate...at least it won’t freeze!

