



Cleveland Chapter One NEWSLETTER

Established 1951

Summer Quarter 2021

W8LYD 146.850 PL 110.9

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

TIME FOR A PICNIC!

**SUMMER LUNCHEON IS SATURDAY
10 JULY 2021 AT 11:30 A.M.**



Harriet Keeler Picnic Area (courtesy Metroparks)

What better way to ease out of the pandemic and virtual meetings than to come together for a Chapter 1 picnic. Now that most of us are vaccinated and feel safer gathering in groups, an outdoor meeting makes a lot of sense and addresses the need to breathe fresh air.

The Brecksville Reservation is centrally located and is the favorite picnic location for other amateur radio clubs such as CARS and LEARA.

We ask you to bring your own food and drink. Charcoal grills will be available for cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. Chapter 1 will provide the charcoal and lighter fluid.

Let's go on the air, too! Bring your portable rigs and set up an antenna or two.

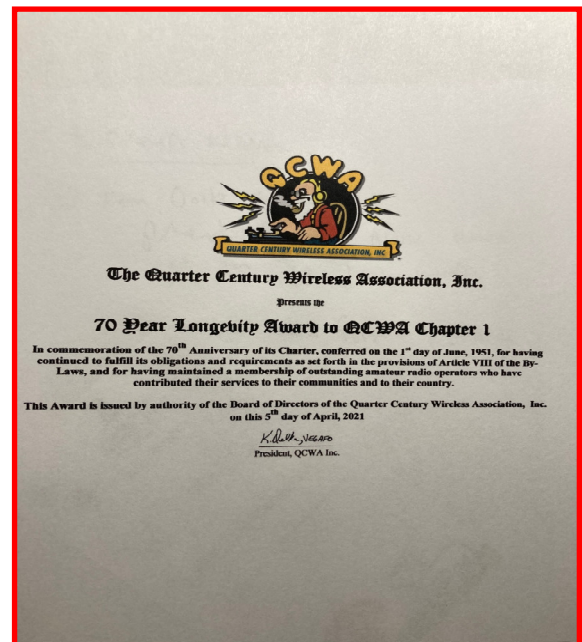
Harriet Keeler Picnic area is accessed from SR-82, just east of Brecksville Road. This is the entrance to the Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. The entrance road is called Chippewa Creek

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Drive. Proceed a quarter mile and park on the right. The picnic area is a short walk past the lot on your left. They have many picnic tables, a shelter, grills and the restrooms are a short walk away.

QCWA RECOGNIZES OUR 70th ANNIVERSARY!



QCWA President **Ken Oelke, VE6AFO**, presented the above certificate at our Spring Zoom meeting. Chapter 1 was chartered on 1 June 1951.

Future Luncheon Dates
October 9, 2021, January 8, 2022,
April 9, 2022, July 9, 2022



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>
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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 © 2021** by Cleveland Chapter One QCWA. All rights reserved.

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Operational Group

Membership reporter: Open
Net controls: N8ZT, KC8UIQ
QCWA Journal reporter: K8IG
License trustee: N8ZT
Awards chair: Open
Chief radio officer: K8QOT
Chapter musicians: WB8ADF

Sunshine reporter: Betty Scholz, KC8FF,
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■
 Please notify Secretary/Treasurer Jim Arcaro of any changes in your address, e-mail etc. so your roster information can be kept current. Thanks.



New Members:

Arthur (Art) Moody, W8UTC of Elyria, Ohio is a member of QCWA and our Chapter One. Welcome!

New members and friends are welcomed on our Wednesday night net on the NORMA repeater, 147.015 (pl 110.9Hz) until our own 146.85 repeater is fixed.

Happenings:

Ed Stevens, WB8ROK, finally moved into his brand new house which was rebuilt on the site of his former residence that was completely destroyed by fire over 2 years ago. (Congratulations to a very patient ham!)

Silent Keys:

With deep regret, we note the passing of the following friends and members of Chapter 1:

Raymond (Ray) Suing, N8EQT of Chardon Township who regularly checked into many area nets and club meetings passed away on 26 June 2021 at the age of 84. Ray was very active in our hobby and he will be missed.

Lars Nordgren, SM0OY of Stockholm, Sweden passed away on 20 May 2021 at the age of 80. Although not a QCWA member, Lars was a dear friend for over 50 years of Chapter 1 member Bob Winston, W2THU. Lars and Bob visited each other many times and they attended Hamvention on several occasions together.

John (Jack) Shott, K8IIU, of Brecksville passed away on 25 April 2021 at the age of 83. Jack regularly checked into our nets until about a year ago.

Roger Fell, N8DZE, a New Zealand native (ZL2TAB) of Avon Lake passed away on 19 May 2021 at the age of 76. He was active in soaring and a NOARS member, too.

SEC'T/TREASURER REPORT

Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK.

Members and Friends, I am pleased to report that the Treasury is in good shape, with a balance of 4,888.92 dollars. Most of the money spent was on postage and printing of the newsletter for those who choose to receive it that way. For that we charge 10 dollars per year, unless you are 80 years of age, or older. There is no charge to Paid In Full members of QCWA National who choose to receive this newsletter via Email. Please let me know of any change to your Email address, due to name change, call letters changed, service provider changed, etc.



Reminder – if you are currently a Friend, and reach 25 years as a licensed ham radio operator, you should be joining QCWA National. We thank those who have followed through. Our Friend status is granted to those who have been a ham for less than 25 years, make application to the Chapter, and submit a 10 dollar fee.

For any questions, changes, etc. please let me know at: jgarcaro@juno.com I answer most Emails within one day.

Last column we talked about some mobile antenna issues. This issue we have some simple antenna math. We call our VHF radios “Two Meters”, but what does that mean? It means that one full wavelength for that frequency is nearly two meters long. So a half wave would be one meter, and a quarter wave would be one-half meter. Keeping the math simple, here's where that 2 meter figure comes from:

The frequencies we use for our VHF repeaters are close to 150 MHz. The speed of light is almost 300 million meters per second. 300 million meters per second divided by 150 MegaHertz (megacycles per second) = 2 meters per cycle. So the easy formula for wavelength is the Speed of Light divided by the frequency. Keep both units in millions, and you don't have to mess with all the zeros. See how easy that is !!

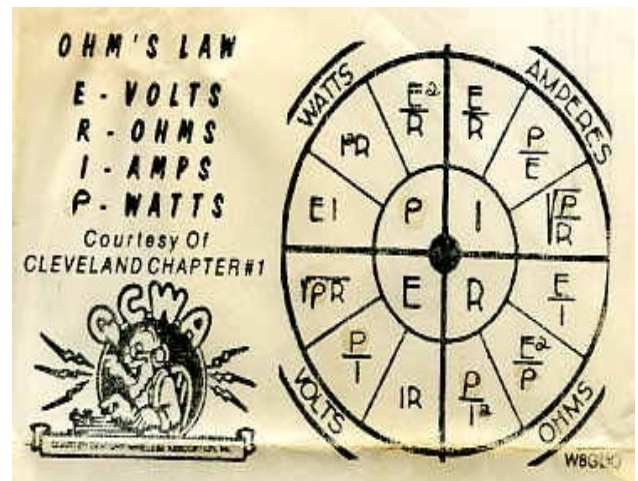
You can flip this around and find a frequency for a band too. For 80 meters, take 300 and divide by 80. The answer is 3.75 MHz, which puts you right in the middle of the 80 meter ham band. Some bands are rounded to the nearest whole number. For instance, 10 meters. 300 divided by 10 is 30 MHz, but the 10 meter band is actually a little below that.

What frequency is the 70 cm band near? Take 300 and divide by 0.70 giving us 428.6 MHz. For 1.25 meters? It's 300 divided by 1.25, which equals 240, just a bit higher than 222 to 225 MHz.

Now you may ask, why aren't antennas exactly a certain length, given the math. Well, the math makes certain assumptions, and ignores others. For instance, the speed of light isn't exactly 300 million meters per second – but it's close. The formula doesn't take into account other factors, such as height above ground, the distance to the closest conducting object, the length and orientation of that object, the conductors velocity of propagation, end effects, losses, etc. But simple math will usually “get you in the ballpark.”

We hope to see some of you at one of our Chapter meetings, Friday Lunch Bunch, or the Cleveland Hamfest 2021. Be safe in whatever you do. That's Rule Number One. 73, WD8PFK

FROM QCWA ARCHIVES!



Recently, QCWA President **Ken Oelke, VE6AFO** sent your editor the above Ohm's Law table that was very common decades ago. Note that it was provided “Courtesy of CLEVELAND CHAPTER #1. Yes, that's us! Is there anybody around who remembers this donation? If so, please provide us with some background information.

The Origins of Friday Lunch Bunch (FLB)

By Don Ritchie, K8ZGW

(Editor's Note: Having tirelessly promoted FLB at Chapter 1 luncheons, Wednesday night nets and in this Newsletter, I asked Don to write this article about how it all started. Many thanks to **Ed Stevens, WB8ROK** for the many photos he took over the years and his son, **Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS** for sorting through 8,000 photos to select only those from FLB.)



FLB AT THE MANHATTAN DELI CIRCA 2019

Long, long ago, in a place far, far away.. isn't that how a history story should start ? I am going to take you back about 40 years, around 1980 , when there was a reasonably active amateur radio club, called the Indian Hills Radio Club.

Just for a little "background," we met on the first and third Thursdays of the month, and in those months that had a fifth Thursday, we would have a get together, usually for food and beer at the home of Ray, W8ICS. In those days we met at a bar in Cleveland, next to Ray's TV shop. We jokingly called these Saturday meetings "Board of Directors Meetings." These BOD meetings went on for years, then "Life happened " and fewer and fewer members were showing up for the "Board" meetings.

We often met before our meetings for dinner at the Richmond restaurant at East 260th and Euclid. This went on for a few years, then guess what ? "Life happened." It's funny how that works, now because we were no longer meeting for "the meeting before the meeting," it was decided to try to get together for lunch on Fridays, and because most of us knew the staff at the "Richmond" that is where we met.

One thing led to another and we decided to move the FLB (Friday Lunch Bunch) to the restaurant at the Cuyahoga County Airport in Highland Heights. So, for argument's sake, it is fair to say that FLB began at the Richmond Restaurant in Euclid. Let me try to remember who was usually at these gatherings and then we will go on to the other locations ...

Of course, I was there (Don, K8ZGW), then David, WD8SCH (now W8DDD), In my memory it seems as though Ray, W8ICS was only with us occasionally.

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President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

Welcome to summer in Northeast Ohio. As ham radio events resume, I was really hoping to attend the DX Engineering Hamfest combined with the ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention. Sadly, that was cancelled and the Convention is being held in Kentucky later this year. But it appears that our own Cleveland Hamfest will take place as scheduled on Sunday, 26 September 2021. Chapter 1 will set up a table as usual so we'll see you there.

The rest of this column is a reprint of my article in the ARRL *Ohio Section Journal* which concerns every ham who operates mobile in our state.

HERE WE GO AGAIN –

Ohio's attempt to enact a distracted driver law failed in the previous biennial legislative session (the 133rd General Assembly). This is because SB-285 was never voted out of committee before the session expired at the end of 2020. Thus, SB-285 is no more. In its place are two quite different proposals aimed to curb texting while driving which is the primary objective of these distracted driving bills.

The first is designated HB-111, introduced by Mary Lightbody in the Ohio House. Its stated purpose is to limit distracted driving by prohibiting the use of **HANDHELD** electronic wireless communication devices (EWCD) while driving. It does this by not allowing a driver to hold a EWCD to do any of the following:

- 1) write, send or read a text-based communication
- 2) view, play, or otherwise interact with any game or internet based content

3) use or manipulate any application that is either factory installed or downloaded to the device

None of these activities describe the typical ham radio operation whereby we communicate by voice. Further, an EWCD is defined as a wireless telephone, a text messaging device, a personal digital



assistant or a computer, including a laptop computer and a computer tablet or any other substantially similar wireless device that is **designed or used to communicate text**. Therefore, I don't believe that the passage of this bill would inhibit amateur radio mobile communications.

HB-111 has been referred to the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, where the only hearing was on 21 May 2021, when Representative Lightbody testified in support of her bill.

The second bill (HB-283), also introduced in the Ohio House by Cindy Abrams and Brian Lampton, prohibits drivers from holding or physically supporting an EWCD with any part of the body with certain exceptions. These exceptions include voice-operated/hands free use, emergency situations, and an exemption for first responders and utility workers responding to an emergency. Interestingly, there is also an exception for what is designated as a "single touch or single swipe policy."

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THE HEATHKIT SB-LINE WENT FROM 1963-1983

(Final Instalment - Continued from Spring 2021 Newsletter)

By George J. Mistic, KE8RN

The Heathkit SB-104 was released in time for Christmas of 1974 along with a complete family of accessories to use with it. The SB-104 cost \$699.95 in kit form throughout its product life. When introduced with major color QST advertising, Heathkit had a full family of accessory products to use with the new SB-104; they included the SB-604 speaker that also housed the power supply for \$33.95, the HP-1144 AC power supply for \$99.95, the SB-614 monitor oscilloscope for \$199.95, the SB-634 station console for \$199.95, the SB-644 remote VFO [LMO] for \$134.95, and the SB-230 conduction cooled linear amplifier with an Eimac type 8873 triode tube for \$469.95. It was possible to spend from \$1000.00 to \$1800.00 on a Heathkit SB-104 station!

The SB-104 80/75 to 10 meter 100 watt input SSB-CW transceiver soldiered on until 1982 with a significant update to the SB-104A in 1977 with no increase in price. Heathkit corrected many but not all issues with the SB-104/SB-104A. The SB-104 and SB-104A cost Heathkit a great deal of money and customer satisfaction. The HW-104 lower cost version of the SB-104 came out for Christmas of 1975, a year after the SB-104; it deleted the digital readout to the nearest 100 Hz and replaced it with a mechanical dial. The HW-104 cost \$569.95; a substantial increase from the HW-100 at \$250.00 seven years earlier.



Heathkit SS-9000

The SS-9000 and HW-5400 SSB-CW transceivers

The end of Heathkit 80/75 to 10 meter transceivers came with the SS-9000 in 1982 right after the end of the SB-104A as a fully assembled product at \$2795.00 without the PS-9000 AC power supply for \$295.00 which was often included at no charge in many sales promotions to try and sell the SS-9000 and PS-9000 until 1984.

The low cost version of the SS-9000 was the HW-5400 8 band kit form transceiver that added the fairly new WARC bands and sold for \$499.95. Heathkit reportedly lost over \$3,000,000.00 on the SS-9000/HW-5400 project and has never done any major scale amateur radio projects since.

A 2021 Heathkit internet presence

Heathkit has an internet presence currently at www.heathkit.com. The current owners plan on trying to revive Heathkit; it will be interesting to see if they succeed.

Origin of Friday Lunch Bunch

Continued from page 4

Some of the other regulars were (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER) John, K8OCK, Joe, W8DOE, Dee, W1HEO, Ross, KB8JTZ, Jeff, WA8SAJ, Dave WB8APD, Marv, W8AZO, Dick Scott W8FDN, Al Benedetti W8NPH, John Rogowski KS8A, Jack W8WGO, Gus, W8RPT, Herb, K8AZW.



Lunch Bunch at JB Milano's—Airport

On occasion we would see Fritz, K8WLF and Jim, WD8PFK, Ed and Eddie Stevens WB8ROK & WD8FTS, Dick WA8TPP and John, K8OFI. And then there were the very occasional visitors Frank, KB8WHY, Les K8LP, Bill, N8IJG Frenchie W8KDT.

And I'm sure I'm missing a few (I think if we tried to list everyone, this article would be too long.) At any rate, as the group grew and shrunk and grew again, we moved a few times, so from memory, which I have already said is not that good, we started at the Richmond Restaurant , but I'm sure few remember that. Then we moved to the [Manhattan Deli](#) in Lohman's Plaza. From there we went to the restaurant at the Cuyahoga County airport, which had a few names as we moved back and forth between it and the Firehouse.

After the Manhattan Deli moved to its current location, at Rts 84 and 91, I think that has been the "home" of the FRIDAY LUNCH BUNCH ...As to who came to which place . . My memory is not THAT good

President's Perspective

Continued from page 5

Such a policy would allow drivers to utilize their EWCD for minimal distraction features that only require a single swipe or touch, as long as the EWCD is not being held or supported by the individual.

Although it appears that HB-283 is focused on prohibiting texting, it is more broadly worded, because it **bans holding the EWCD**, period. In other words, it prohibits texting by enforcing only hands-free operation. So, is our microphone an EWCD? It is connected to our mobile rig, but in my opinion, in and of itself, it is not an EWCD. But you would have to argue that position to a peace officer, magistrate or judge.

HB-283 was referred to the House Criminal Justice Committee where the sponsors spoke on behalf of their bill on 20 May 2021. Then on 10 June 2021, twenty-three (23) proponents testified in favor of this bill.

Both bills agree that texting while driving will become a primary offense. Presently, Ohio is one of only three states that still views distracted driving as a secondary offense (except for juvenile drivers where it is primary) which means that a police officer cannot stop you for texting unless you have committed another violation such as speeding or running a stop sign.

Although I believe that neither bill intends to prohibit ham radio mobile operation, it would be best to avoid arguing your case to a judge if you do get cited for talking on your radio. The Ohio Section is working with a lobbyist to help insert language in these bills that would specifically exempt FCC licensed amateur radio operators.