



# Cleveland Chapter One NEWSLETTER

Established 1951

Summer Quarter 2024

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

**Join Our Summer Luncheon  
PICNIC and SHOW & TELL  
Mayfield Village  
Wiley Park Pavilion  
610 SOM Center Road**

**Saturday, 13 July 2024, at Noon**



**Wiley Park Pavilion**

Chapter 1 continues its Covid inspired summer luncheon at an outdoor venue. This year we are avoiding outside interference by meeting at a location which is reserved solely for our group's use.

Hot dogs & hamburgers will be supplied and grilled on site, while you bring your favorite side dishes and desserts. We will also provide cold drinks and chips.

Bring an item from your shack that you would like to demonstrate to our members and friends. Electricity is available if needed. **The food is free, but let us know how many are coming so there is enough to eat for everyone!**

Join us for live music, 50/50, door prizes, and comradery. Bring a friend!

**Please RSVP to [w2thu@arrl.net](mailto:w2thu@arrl.net)**

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## Our Spring Luncheon Over the Road Ham



**Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS**

**Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS**, gave a very interesting presentation about his almost two year hiatus as a tractor-trailer driver for a well known trucking company. A gifted raconteur, Eddie shared many experiences including the regulations of this industry and operating a 2 meter radio in the big rig. Thank you Eddie!

## ***Future Luncheon Dates***

***October 12, 2024, January 11, 2025,  
April 12, 2025, July 12, 2025***



## Cleveland Chapter One Newsletter

**Editor:** Robert M. Winston, W2THU

**Distribution:** Fred Freer, K8IG

**Roster changes:** Notify Secretary Marc Barnett, KA8CPB < wireless.marc(at)gmail.com>

**Meetings:** Second Saturday of January, April, July, and October at FireHouse Grill & Pub

**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 © 2000-2024** by Cleveland Chapter One QCWA. All rights reserved.

### Chapter One Officers

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

**Vice President:** Fred Freer, K8IG; (440)446-8000, <k8ig(at)arrl.net>

**Secretary:** Marc Barnett, KA8CPB; (440) 476-8800, <wireless.marc(at)gmail.com>

**Treasurer:** Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK; PO Box 324, Wickliffe, OH 44092; (216) 337-2793 <jgarcaro(at)juno.com>

### 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.*



### *New Members & Friends:*

**Jeffrey L. Evans, KB8ZUN**, of North Ridgeville, OH recently joined QCWA and our Chapter, too.

**Andrew Juchnowski, AB8MO** of Burton, OH joined QCWA and is in the process of joining our Chapter, too.

Welcome! New members are announced and invited to call in on our Wednesday night nets at 8PM. Presently, we are using the NORMA repeater, 147.015 MHz, PL 110.9.

### *Happenings:*

**Bob Hajdak, N8QE**, worked the 13 Colonies Event Challenge in 24 hours! This is the fastest he has ever worked all 13 Colonies plus the 3 bonus stations. *Congratulations Bob.*

**Craig Kollai, N8ZT**, is enjoying his brand new 2024 Lincoln Nautilus hybrid with a nifty dashboard à la James Bond 007.

**Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNW**, plans to bring her corn hole game to the summer picnic.

*That's all we've got! Send us your news for the autumn Newsletter.*

### *Sunshine:*

*None reported.*

### *Silent Keys:*

**Donald Howard, N8JIW**, was a long time QCWA and Chapter 1 member who often checked into our local net. He was an attorney known for representing abused children in juvenile court *pro bono*. Before his long legal career, Don was an engineer, having degrees from Ohio State, Cleveland State and CWRU. He was well liked by all who knew him as a gentle and caring man. May he rest in peace.

## And Another One Bites The Dust !

by Fred Freer, K8IG

*(reprinted from the AWA Journal with the author's permission)*

And the counting continues! The last half-century has watched notable radio parts and equipment manufacturers, retailers and distributors close their business doors including (and in no particular order) Allied, Lafayette, EICO, Heathkit, Collins, Dentron, Radio Shack, Drake, Universal Radio, Ten-Tec, Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), Swan, EF Johnson, Signal-One...and now MFJ! And, with the shuttering of MFJ doors, we also will lose MFJ rescued corporations like Ameritron, Cushcraft, Hy-Gain, Mirage and Vecronics. Ironic isn't it? MFJ rescued these five manufacturers from financial demise only to extend their "leases on life" by unintentionally kicking the can down the road to a later demise day.

Amateur radio operators, short wave listeners, electronic hobbyists, experimenters, public broadcasters and service technicians to name just a few, have all come to depend on MFJ products in the furtherance of their interests, hobbies and professions. When (the collective) we weren't quite so "antique", we had many if not most of the manufacturers and distributors cited above available to us. But none marketed (and manufactured in the US) a product line as broad and as encompassing as that offered by MFJ in early 2024. A product line that just seemed to have something for virtually every radio enthusiast's wants...or needs. Who among us hasn't taken a QST, an HRO catalog, a DX Engineering or an MFJ flyer to "the reading room" for thoughtful consideration and contemplation of MFJ and other product offerings?

The impact of MFJ ceasing manufacturing operations will be felt far and wide. Perhaps, I would argue, it will be more broadly felt than any of the single closings cited earlier. Why, because MFJ is one of the last "made in the United States" companies manufacturing a comprehensive range of radio and related products. A fact that is important to many buyers. Why because MFJ offered an expansive and evolving product line that appealed to novice's, experienced amateur operators and SWL's alike. Why because MFJ offered a "no matter what" 12 month (conditional) warranty on its products to original purchasers from authorized dealers (or MFJ). Why, because MFJ provided out of warranty service at a stated bench labor rate for its products (plus shipping). Why, because MFJ helpfully made all of their product manuals available on their website as PDF documents. Why, because MFJ deployed a liberal advertising budget to alert "the market" to its extensive product line month in and month out.



*(Please turn to p. 4)*

**And Another One Bites the Dust !**

*(continued from p. 3)*

Yes, jobs will be lost and that certainly affects the local Starkville, MS community in terms of lost income and corporate tax revenues. But perhaps more importantly the lost “purchasing” multiplier that those employee incomes produced in buying power will also be lost. We can imagine that the financial impact will ripple down well beyond the Starkville community. Who will lose? Certainly the loss of advertising dollars will be felt by the ARRL, HRO and perhaps DXE and others that MFJ supported. But MFJ also had a road show. Their expansive booths were readily found at ham fests including the Dayton Hamvention, Orlando Hamcation and Huntsville to cite a few. Local economies in those towns also felt a financial boost from MFJ employee expenditures during these events. What cannot be quantified are the future MFJ contributions to profit that will be subtracted from radio equipment sales by retailers and distributors globally with MFJ’s closure.

As radio aficionados, we are fortunate to enjoy a free-market economy where we can buy what we want (budget permitting), when we want it and from whom we want it. Our ability to learn about just what is available for purchase, where it is available and at what price, has been superbly enhanced by the internet. MFJ has been a growing and ever-present market force throughout much of my 60+ years of “hamming.” MFJ was “in your face” with their advertising. That’s how we discovered our “new toys.” The amateurs of tomorrow will lack the vital resource that MFJ has become for so many of us. Sad for sure! Please accept our collective thanks, Mr. Jue and the hundreds of MFJ employees, for the gift of 52 years of electronic innovation and market stimulation. In closing, a “73” would be fitting as a way of saying thank you! Alas, the Western Union 92 Code of 1859 suggests that a “30” (“No more – the end”) is tragically more apt. *(The views expressed herein are those of the author only and not of QCWA or Chapter 1.)*

**Chapter 1 at Hamvention**

Several of our chapter members helped out new QCWA President, **Tom Loughney, AJ4XM**, at the QCWA table this past May in Xenia. They included **Jeannie**



**St. Marie, KC8MNW**, (pictured above with Tom Loughney assisting a prospective member) **Bob Winston, W2THU**, QCWA Director **Bob Hajdak, N8QE** and **Chuck Patellis, W8PT**.

Thanks to their efforts, and others, our organization was able to sign up many new members in addition to processing renewals. QCWA’s presence at the Dayton Hamvention is an important reminder to the over 35,000 attendees that we are an active group of experienced hams with worldwide chapters. The displays at the booth summarized all the reasons to join QCWA including our scholarship program which you support with your dues.

**Nobody Got It Right!**



What ham radio store was here?

# President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

## The Wonderful QCWA Website! -

Sometimes our members ask questions that are readily answered on the QCWA website. I find [qcwa.org](http://qcwa.org) a valuable asset that might not be fully explored by our membership. So, here are some highlights for your perusal.

Even if you're not a QCWA member, there are many items available to you now. The opening page has a list of the most recent new members going back about one month. From that you can tell that there are 17 new members from 13 different states, as of July 4th. Additionally, you can read a message from QCWA president, AJ4XM, or read about a featured member or chapter of the week.

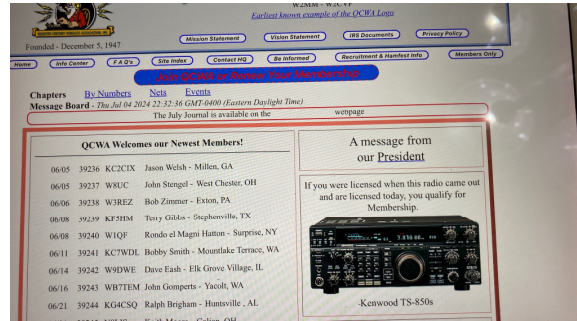
At the top of the page, click on "Info Center" which brings you to a ton of good stuff such as our By-Laws, Constitution, Hamfest Brochures, Scholarship Program, History and many more items. There is also a listing of members who received special awards over the years, such as the Presidential Awards. Speaking of awards, do you know that you are eligible for Service Awards, Anniversary Certificates (which is the most popular) 50 year Continuous Licensing Certificate, Century Club Certificate and Meritorious Award Certificate? If you don't know what these are just read about them on the website and claim them if you are eligible. There are also rare operating awards for working members in all 50 states, working 60 chapters and working 100 members. (I'm not sure that these are still available.)

There is a list of active chapters so you can see if there is one near you, and if not, there are instructions for starting your own chapter. Finally, there is a list of past officers and appointees and resolutions.

Other pages available to everyone include the Mission Statement, Vision Statement, business and legal documents (including the original Certificate of Incorporation), and recruitment & hamfest information.

Now for the fun part. If you are a member, click where it says "Members Only" on the top right. Login and you will have access to a host of useful functions listed on the left margin. The top of the list are the current and back issues of the QCWA Journal. Next, you can print out your

membership card and/or certificate. You can also print out your Anniversary Award from 30 years to 65 years. 70 years and up must be ordered from the Certificate Custodian.



Other items reserved for members include the minutes of the Board of Directors and the annual member's meeting. Member supplies including coasters, lapel pins, name badge, decals, front license plates (for those states that allow them), mouse pads, qsl cards, mugs and stamps are all available.

My favorite feature is the "Find My Friend" button, where you type in a ham's last name or QCWA number or call sign to learn if someone you know is currently a QCWA member. Try it!

## K4DKW's Amateur Radio Trailer -



As you know, **Jeff Meyer, K8DKW** has been recognized by our chapter for promoting amateur radio to elementary school students. At the spring luncheon Chapter 1 voted to make a modest donation in support of his efforts, including the radio trailer that Jeff designed and constructed to further his project.

Jeff is always looking for assistance in his endeavors. You may contact him via: [jeffreymeyer55\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jeffreymeyer55(at)gmail.com).

I look forward to meeting all of you at the upcoming summer picnic luncheon! 73, Bob.

## The Collins KWM-380 Was An Impressive Exit by George Mistic, KE8RN

### Overview of the Collins KWM-380 Amateur Transceiver

The Collins KWM-380 was the last amateur radio product developed by Rockwell-Collins in 1979; at least Collins exited the ham radio marketplace on a high note. It was a very nice solid state transceiver with a built-in AC power supply, dual VFOs to allow splitting the receive and transmit frequencies to facilitate working DX stations, and speaker. It became available in 1979 and was available until 1983. Art Collins was still alive and affiliated with the company when the KWM-380 was released for sale, but Rockwell International, who had purchased Collins, was fully in charge of the company. It is somewhat surprising that an amateur radio transceiver project was done at this time. Of course it was a lightly modified version of a transceiver they made for government and military use.

The radio included a general coverage receiver covering 1.60 to 30.0 MHz with full sensitivity and performance and 500 KHz to 1.60 MHz with reduced performance. The LED digital readout reads MHz, KHz, 100 Hz, and the nearest 10 Hz with seven digits. Unlike the Heathkit SB-104 where flicker of the 100 Hz digit is often an issue, Collins seems to have solved the issue of flicker of the 100 and 10 Hz digits; they appear quite stable.

### Technical Summary of the Collins KWM-380

As delivered, the KWM-380 will only transmit on the amateur radio bands, but Collins manufactured a version of the radio for government and military service called the HF-380; it can transmit anywhere from 1.60 to 30.0 MHz with the full 100 watts of RF output power into a good 50 ohm load. The unit will receive from 0.5 to 30.0 MHz with reduced performance from 0.5 to 1.6 MHz which is the AM broadcast band. The KWM-380 is frequency synthesized to establish the operating frequency; two independent frequencies can be selected, one for the receive mode and a second for the transmit mode to enable working of DX stations that operate outside of the US phone band. The tuning rate can be selected from 10 Hz steps up to one MHz in steps of ten times [10 Hz, 100Hz, 1 KHz, 10 KHz, 100 KHz, 1.0 MHz]. The frequency synthesizer is accurate to within 5 Hz of the frequency set; drift is essentially zero. An accessory keypad is available to enter a desired frequency.



Photo Courtesy of Rig.Reference

The receiver comes with a 2.2 KHz bandwidth SSB filter and a bandwidth of 8.0 KHz without the benefit of a filter, other than one four pole filter built in as part of the circuitry; this is the bandwidth with no 455 KHz filter in use which should work well for AM signals. The KWM-380 allows the installation of up to three optional filters of the four available. The first intermediate frequency [IF] used in the KWM-380 is 39.145 MHz and the second IF is 455 KHz. Up-conversion was not commonly used when the KWM-380 came on to the market in 1979; it is much more commonly used in ham gear now. A frequency of 6.255 MHz is used as the shuttle frequency for the passband tuning feature. The KWM-380, like most other Collins equipment, features both a product detector for SSB and CW and an equivalent diode detector for AM reception. The following extra cost optional IF crystal lattice were available for the KWM-380:

*(continued from page 6)*

### **The Collins KWM-380**

AC-3813	6.0 KHz wide AM receive bandwidth filter
AC-3812	1700 Hz RTTY filter
AC-3811	500 Hz CW filter [wider]
AC-3810	250 Hz CW filter [narrow]

100 watts of nominal power is available everywhere the transmitter operates. High VSWR or long duty cycles will cause the KWM-380 to partially shut down to prevent overheating of or damage to the RF power amplifier. The radio will deliver full power into a load with a Voltage Standing Wave Ratio [VSWR] of 2.0:1 and automatically ramps down the output power if the VSWR is higher. Also common to many Collins products, no AM transmit capability is provided.

The unit has a ¼ inch two circuit phone jack on the front panel to insert headphones; using headphones mutes the internal speaker and the external speaker jack. A 3/16 inch three circuit phone jack on the front panel accepts a Push To Talk [PTT] high or low impedance microphone with a PTT push-button. The specific input impedance of the microphone input is 3.3 K ohms; low for a high impedance microphone and high for a low impedance microphone. A crystal or ceramic microphone would be inappropriate to use with the KWM-380 unless the microphone includes a built-in preamplifier. PTT, manual transmit via a push-button, or Voice Operated Transmit [VOX] can be used to select receive or transmit.

The antenna connector is the commonly used SO-239 that mates with a popular PL-259. A ¼ inch two circuit phone jack is provided on the rear panel for an external speaker [can be used but not needed]; a second similar jack is provided for a CW key or keyer. The power connector is a Cinch-Jones S-406-CCT; the power input can be 50 or 60 Hz and voltages from 105 to 250 VAC; a DC input of 12.0 to 15.0 VDC may also be used. The unit may draw up to 100 watts on receive and up to 600 watts on transmit.

The unit measures 15.5 by 7.5 by 18 inches without considering the knobs, connectors, or rubber feet. The unit weighs 50 pounds with the internal power supply and speaker. The unit is tan and brown rather than the more common gray or black.

The reviews posted on Eham range from the highest rating of 5 down to a 1. I am definitely in the 5 group; I very much like the KWM-380 and am very impressed with its capabilities, especially the very good general coverage receiver, especially when one considers that it entered the amateur radio market in 1979. I think most users will find the Collins KWM-380 a very pleasurable radio to use; I certainly do.

#### **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