



Cleveland Chapter One NEWSLETTER

Established 1951

Summer Quarter 2025

W8LYD 146.850 PL 110.9

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

Chapter One's Summer Luncheon *It's a Picnic!*

Saturday, 12 July 2025, at Noon



Wiley Park in Mayfield Village
610 SOM Center Road

Join us for another fun picnic meeting in conveniently located Wiley Park, just 3 miles south of the SR-91 exit of I-90.

Chapter 1 will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, and soda pop. **(Let us know if you are coming so we can buy enough food.)** You can bring salads, desserts and whatever else you want to eat.

There will be no specific program other than a round of Show & Tell. Do bring something from your ham shack that you are proud of and will be of interest to the members.

As usual, expect live music, 50-50, door prizes and good camaraderie! Bring a friend!

DON'T FORGET TO RSVP!
(w2thu@arrl.net)

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Our Spring Luncheon:



Bob Winston, W2THU

The spring luncheon took place for the first time at Denny's Restaurant in Highland Heights. The excellent venue featured a very private room. Chapter president, **Bob W2THU**, lectured about an old legal case where he defended a Parma Heights ham who was prosecuted for RF interference to his neighbors.

Future Luncheon Dates

*October 11, 2025, January 10, 2026,
April 18, 2026, July 11, 2026*



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. Location announced in current Newsletter, and Wednesday Night Net.

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, WD8PFB; 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:

None reported this quarter.

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

Happenings:

Bob Hajdak, N8QE, completed the clean sweep of the 13 Colonies Special event in 5 hours including the 3 bonus stations, his all time best! Bob also finished second in the 2024 PA QSO Party for the ARRL Ohio section, and 40m WAS with a middle of the night contact with Alaska. Finally, he operated at the PCARS 2025 Field Day. Congratulations!

Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ recently visited the Voice of American transmitter site near Cincinnati for a tour of the large Drake display and he also visited Palstar on the way home from Cincinnati. (See more from Jeff on page 3 of this Newsletter.)

Bob Winston, W2THU, announced his retirement from the presidency of QCWA Chapter 1. He is looking for a replacement. (See *President's Perspective* on page 5 of this Newsletter.)

Craig Kollai, N8ZT, recently travelled to Australia and Japan, and plans to visit California, Pennsylvania, Disneyland and Cedar Point this summer. Safe Travels Craig!

Do you have anything to brag about? How about a family wedding, recognition on the job or volunteering, or at church? Tell us about an amateur radio activity that you would like to share with us. Any news is worthwhile!

DRAKE DISPLAY AT THE VOA MUSEUM

By Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ

After I wrote the article about Milt Sullivan, the chief engineer for the R.L. Drake Co, I thought that I should donate all of Bill's personal files to the Voice of America or the Antique Wireless Association. So I contacted Bill Frost (service manager for Drake retired) and asked if he knew of the Drake club that has a large display at the Voice of America. He gave me the contact person, Lee Hite, and I made an overnight trip down to Cincinnati, Ohio and what a great trip!

Lee showed me behind the scenes of the entire VOA and how they all work to make it a great tour display well worth the trip. Lee will make up a "kiosk" with many of the pictures next to the many Drake displays, along with other manufacturers.

Lee had ask Bill if there was any more Drake info for the museum and timing was perfect for him and the VOA. He went bonkers when he saw what I had, plus pictures no one has seen yet. (By the way, I have given power point talks about this subject for many radio clubs.)

While on my way back I wanted to visit "Palstar" and visit with my friend Paul (N8PH) who owns Palstar and now with MFJ gone, they are selling more products Tuners, Amplifiers, etc. All made in the USA!



Drake Display at VOA Museum
(Photo Courtesy WA8SAJ)

CHAPTER 1 ASSISTS AT HAMVENTION

Here are some photos of the QCWA booth which our chapter set up and later took down at the 2025 version of the Dayton Hamvention at the Xenia Fairgrounds. See the *President's Perspective* in this Newsletter for the names of all our helpers.



The Initial Setup Thursday Afternoon



Chuck Patellis, W8PT and
Director Bob Hajdak, N8QE assisting
at the QCWA booth all weekend!

RME WAS THE FIRST OF THE OLD-LINE HAM RADIO MANUFACTURERS TO DISAPPEAR

by George Misic, KE8RN

Most of the old-line USA manufacturers went out of business in the 1970s or 1980s; Radio Manufacturing Engineers [RME] ran into trouble earlier than Hallicrafters or Hammarlund; they vanished in about 1963. RME started in the amateur radio and Short Wave Listener [SWL] business in 1932, about the same time Bill Halligan started Hallicrafters and well after both National and Hammarlund got started in business.

RME's first receiver was the model 9 in 1932. The model 9 was a single conversion superheterodyne that included bandsread tuning, Automatic Gain Control [AGC], a signal strength meter, a Beat Frequency Oscillator [BFO] for CW reception, and general coverage tuning as well as amateur radio bandsread. The model 9 was one of the most advanced receivers when it was introduced; it sold very well requiring RME to move to larger facilities to keep up with the demand for the model 9.

RME followed the model 9 and later model 9D with the quite popular model 69 first introduced in 1935 and available until sometime in 1940. The model 69 covered 550 KHz to 31.5 MHz in six bands with bandsread on all bands. The receiver provided a BFO, S-Meter, one crystal filter in the 465 KHz Intermediate Frequency [IF], AGC, bandsread, a built-in speaker, and a ¼ inch headphone jack. For the most part, the receiver used tubes using a top cap for one connection, usually the control grid. A type 80 served as the rectifier tube and a type 42 as the audio output tube. Many model 69s were made with no function marked on the various front panel controls, a most unusual move for the manufacturer to take. RME claimed that experienced radio users would know what the controls did without them being marked!



RME went through the WWII era supplying the federal government with radio equipment to use in the war; none of the RME models were adopted by any unit of the US military as happened with products from Collins, Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, and National. RME picked up many contracts to build equipment to print; often it was designed by some other company.

RME introduced new models after WWII including the models 43, 45, 50, 79, and 84; all were decent performers but none had breakthrough technology like the Collins 75A-1, 75A-3, 75A-4, 75S-1, 51S-1, Hallicrafters S-76, National HRO-500, Drake 1-A and 2-B. Starting in the mid-1950s, RME introduced a few ham band only receivers starting with the model 4300 in 1955; the 4300 was smaller, lighter at 28 pounds, and ready for SSB use with the optional 4301 SSB adapter that provided a product detector and Automatic Gain Control [AGC] that operated on SSB and CW, greatly improving the receiver's operation on SSB and CW. 1957 saw the 4300 replaced by the 4350 featuring double conversion for much better image rejection than the single conversion 4300 in 1957 with only a \$35.00 increase in the selling price to \$229.00.

(Please turn to page 6)

President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

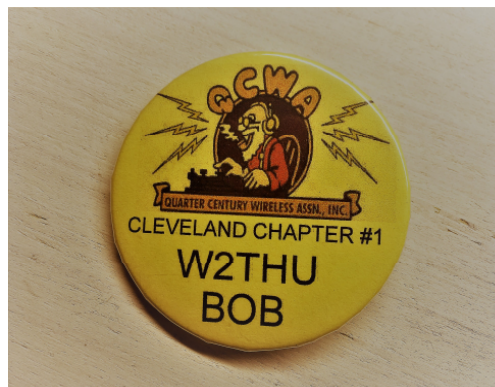
Time to Retire -

I've been vice-president and president of Chapter 1 for about 15 years now. A few years ago I solicited volunteers to replace all of the officers who had worked so hard to keep our chapter strong. Since that time, all of those officials (VP, Secretary and Treasurer) have passed away and they have been replaced by our current and very competent crew.

As you know, Chapter 1 does not hold elections and this often results in long tenured leadership. In the past few years I have unsuccessfully sought a replacement for myself, simply by asking members who I believe would do a good job. But there could be a member reading this who I have not asked, and who would be the right candidate for this job. If that is you, please contact me to discuss this opportunity.

Dayton Hamvention -

QCWA continued its tradition of participating in the largest amateur radio hamfest in the US. This year I was tasked with setting up the booth in the Tesla Building. We were in the vicinity of the ARRL, Flex Radio and Yaesu! This was fun and I got a lot of great support including National Director and Chapter 1 member, **Bob Hajdak, N8QE**, chapter members **Metro Sinko, W8MET** and **Chuck Patellis, W8PT**, National Secretary Tony, N1IU, National Director Bill, AD8BC and Chapter 29 President Walt, N2IK. We processed member renewals, as it seems that a lot of QCWA members wait until they attend Hamcation or Hamvention to renew. We also signed up new members. Interestingly, the vast majority in that group had been eligible for QCWA for many, many years but had not gotten around to it. Several bragged that they were first licensed 50 years ago, well above our 25 year requirement.



Order your Chapter 1 Badge NOW!

Badges Now Available -

It's been 8 years since Chapter member Jack Goldfarb, W8WGO, passed away. I mention this because Jack made all of the above pictured chapter badges for each new member. There was no charge to the amateur.

Secretary **Marc Barnett, KA8CPB**, volunteered to find a new badge maker. I am pleased to announce that Marc has been successful in finding a company that will make our badges for a reasonable price. Therefore, please contact Marc if you wish to order our very special and unique badge. Don't forget to wear it at all of our luncheons and QCWA events.

By the way, you might have noticed that there is a lot of white space in this Newsletter edition. That's because I received very few contributions. In the future, please write something of interest to our chapter. Don't worry about your grammar. I can fix that. That's my job as editor. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing you at our summer picnic luncheon in Mayfield Village!

Best 47 & 73, Bob W2THU

RME FIRST HAM RADIO MANUFACTURER TO DISAPPEAR

(continued from page 4)

RME upgraded it to the 4350A in 1958 by adding a 100 KHz crystal calibrator and raising the selling price to \$249.00. The 4350A used the same accessories as the 4300 and 4350 except for the calibrator which was built-in. Sadly, the 4350A was being left behind by the added features in other receivers, the biggest being the ability to transceive like the Collins S-Line in 1958.

RME's last successful receiver was their very attractive model 6900 in 1959 for \$350.00. The receiver had a product detector, SSB and CW AGC, a 100 KHz crystal calibrator, and a low frequency 57 KHz last IF for improved selectivity. I own one of the model 6900 RME receivers; it works very nicely, but became dated when it had no transmitter to operate with in the transceive mode. The Collins S-Line that first featured the ability to transceive and the KWM-1 and KWM-2 transceivers pointed the way ham radio equipment would go in the future. RME introduced one final model before going out of business in 1963; it was the model 6902. I have never seen one and know essentially nothing about it. Very few were sold due to the availability of competing equipment with better features like the ability to transceive or being a transceiver.

If you would like to read an article about your favorite amateur radio gear, then let me know. **George Misic, KE8RN** (ke8rn@comcast.net). You can also contact the Newsletter editor, Bob Winston, W2THU, (w2thu@arrl.net). Thank you!

A MESSAGE FROM QCWA INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT CHUCK FARNHAM, WD6CHC

As your Vice President, I am proud to be an officer in our great organization, which will soon be 80 years old! QCWA is unique among amateur radio organizations in its celebration of operators who were licensed at least a quarter century ago and are still licensed today.

But the world—and ham radio—have undergone many changes since our founding in 1947, shortly after the end of World War II. There are fewer radio amateurs today, most of us operate manufactured as opposed to homebrew equipment, and digital is replacing analog in many ways. QCWA has to consider how to appeal to newer amateurs who may want different things from our hobby—and from QCWA—when they become eligible to join.

Your board is working on a number of new and exciting projects that will bring additional value to your membership. We will be at Hamvention, at Booth 2106 in Building 2 (past the ARRL Expo and across the aisle from FlexRadio). Please come by for a visit so we can discuss some of these ideas on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

We will be asking some members to join several of our new working committees as we shape QCWA for the second century. These committees will not require a lot of work, but we want to have a member-driven, bottom-up organization—not one driven by the board alone. We also would like to consider broadening our appeal—help us think about that!

There has been a change in our board, and as VP, I will be leading QCWA for the time being.

Finally, if you have any suggestions that would help improve QCWA, please drop us an email at: ideas@qcwa.org. I—and the board—want to hear from you!

QCWA Chapter 1 Net Trivia

Our Wednesday night net (147.015, pl 110.9) at 8 PM features a trivia question and a discussion question. Here is a sample of the former since the last issue. (Answers at the bottom of this page—**Don't peak!**)

1. What is Ohio's state beverage? A) Tomato Juice B) Vodka C) Milk D) Apple Cider
2. Which famous movie director was born in Ohio? A) Rob Reiner B) Ron Howard C) George Lucas D) Steven Spielberg
3. As defined by the US Census, the Midwest Region includes 2 subdivisions. One of these includes Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and what other state? A) Minnesota B) Iowa C) Michigan D) Kansas
4. How many states, besides Ohio, start and finish with the same letter? A) 0 B) 1 C) 2 D) 3
5. Which of the following was not a nickname for Cleveland? A) Best Location in the Nation B) Mistake by the Lake C) The Spider City D) Forest City

FOR SALE

(Free advertising for all Chapter 1 members & friends)

Hambulance, with all radios removed, but most of the other electronics and computer monitors will remain. Asking \$5,000. Money will be used to fund additional upgrades on the trailer they have built to replace the ambulance. Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ. (Event Support Group).
mnickoson@n8esg.org



SteppIR 3 element yagi with 6m element. Fully assembled but never in the air, or on the air. I paid \$1,951.20. **Sell for half price.** My loss, your gain.
Bob Winston, W2THU, 216-924-3314

Answers to trivia: 1)A 2)D 3)C 4)D 5)C If you like trivia, join us on the **NORMA repeater (147.015 MHz) - Wednesday night QCWA net at 2000.**