



Cleveland Chapter One **NEWSLETTER** Established 1951

Summer Quarter 2026

W8LYD 146.850 PL 110.9

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

Summer Luncheon Please Join Us *It's a Picnic!*

Bring Your Show & Tell

Saturday, 18 July 2026 at Noon



**WILEY PARK PAVILION
(610 SOM Center Road)**

The tradition continues as your favorite QCWA Chapter hosts its annual FREE picnic lunch at Wiley Park in Mayfield Village. The club will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and drinks. Please bring your own side dishes and desserts for yourself, or better yet, to share with other guests.

For Show & Tell, bring something of interest to our ham community, such as your Novice transmitter, low band public service receiver or world war two short wave transmitter.

Expect 50-50, door prizes, and perhaps live music. Bring a friend!

PLEASE RSVP so we know how much food to bring (w2thu@arrl.net) OR text (216-924-3314).

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W8VRJ: KE8RN

-Our Spring Luncheon-

We had a truly unique experience when we met at John Carroll University in University Heights. Many thanks to our chapter secretary, **Marc Barnett, KA8CPB**, who suggested and



planned the entire event, starting in a university dining hall with good food and good choices. From there, we held our meeting in a very comfortable conference room with upholstered chairs and couches, sharing tales about how we became amateur radio operators.

(Please turn to page 3)

Future Luncheon Dates

*October 10, 2026, January 9, 2027,
April 17, 2027, July 10, 2027*



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: Quarterly luncheons on the Second Saturday of January, July, and October. Third Saturday in April. 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 © 2000-2026** by Cleveland Chapter One QCWA. All rights reserved.

Chapter One Officers

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

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

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

Treasurer: Jim Arcaro, WD8PFFK; (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: Open

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:

Warren Hamfest will be held on Sunday, 16 August 2026 from 0800 to 1300 at the Trumbull County Fairgrounds. Contact Andy, AB8MO [call or text: (234)238-2312] or navigate to hamfest@w8vtd.com or facebook.com/w8vtd for more information. We expect that QCWA Chapter 1 will have a table there.

Jeff Meyer, K4DKW has been promoting amateur radio monthly at the Perry Public Library in Lake County. In addition, Jeff started a ham club at Shaker Heights High School. See Jeff's article elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Cleveland Hamfest will take place on Sunday, 27 September 2026 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea from 0800 to noon. More info at hac.org. QCWA Chapter 1 will set up a table. Volunteers to assist at our table are welcome. Contact Bob, W2THU.

Silent Keys:

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of the following chapter members or family members: **None reported!**

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!

Our Spring Luncheon

(continued from first page)

The best part was a visit to John Carroll's FM radio station, WJCU. We had complete access to the studio of their 2.5 kw student run non-profit on 87.5MHz. Thanks Marc!



Ralph, N8BAY at WJCU studio



Mark, KC8FQV, Marv, W8AZO & Fred, K8IG and others enjoying their JCU dining hall meals



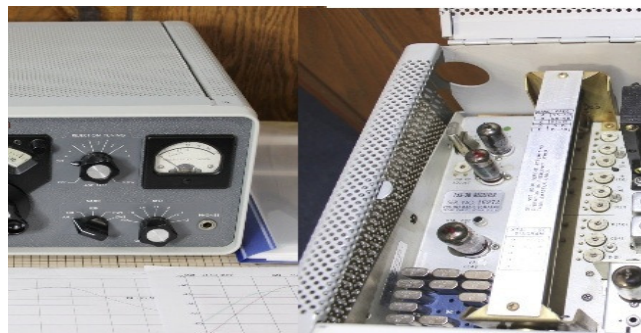
Relaxing in a JCU conference room

For Sale

[Free Ads for Chapter 1 Members]

Collins 75S3-B Receiver -

This is an estate sale from one of my friends. This receiver has been restored by me back in 2018 with paper work showing what was done, including the sweep alignment of the first and second I.F. sections. Many filter capacitors replaced, tubes as needed. The "product-detector" improvement mod for better SSB / CW recovered audio. The manual is included, dust cover, and power cord. Price: \$500.00 cash, sold as is with no returns. This is pickup only N.E. Cleveland, Ohio, please call my home phone (440) 951-6406 (no text) for more info, and thank you for looking, Jeff / WA8SAJ



STEPP-IR 3 ELEMENT 6-20M YAGI

(original design, not trombone style) Fully assembled. Never on the air nor in the air. I paid \$ 1951.20. **SELL FOR HALF PRICE.** My loss, your gain. Bob Winston, W2THU Call or text 216-924-3314.



COLLINS COMMUNICATION VAN by Fred Freer, K8IG



Ford Econovan

A gift may be unexpected. But it is welcome none the less. Such is the gift from James (Jim) Stitzinger, WA3CEX. The Collins Communications Van (pictured) has a storied past that should not be ignored. That Van's story is now being told, in significant detail, in the AWA (Autumn, 66-3) Journal to be in member's hands next month. Antique Wireless Association members will learn just how "lucky" the Van has been and how fortunate the AWA and its members are to have received this gift this month. All courtesy of one of AWA's benefactors: Jim Stitzinger. What follows -- in the complete Journal story -- is a longer story of remarkable mobile engineering, corporate commitment, personal responsibility and high-stakes historical preservation.

Luck and coincidence are often blessed by the timing of unrelated happenstances. Such is the case with the Van. Let's first return to yesteryear. 1960. Ford birthed the Econoline van, known as the "E" series, in 1960 for the 1961 model year. Ford was responding to what they determined to be a market-driven need for a fuel-efficient, compact, shorter vehicle with more useable capacity.

But before the Econoline, many amateur radio operators will recall that in 1958, Collins unveiled the "S-Line" of equipment. Collins Radio determined to market the S-Line, not as a radio, but as an integrated "system." Collins logically relied on its established reputation in the military and aerospace industries to promote the new S-Line. A complete system, they said, built to the rigorous and exacting standards required for military and avionics use. Collins also designed the S-Line to be family-room friendly: sleek unified grey boxes that were visually inviting. Gone were the tank-like, heavy, clunky, bulky, industrial, often ad-hoc looking, radios of the past. Table tops in radio rooms and family rooms were now graced with smaller, sleeker, light-grey, wrap-around cabinets where blended clean lines and leather-like face panels enhanced the cabinetry and overall appearance. And technologically, the new S-Line pioneered "transceive" operation (using a shared VFO) and emphasized single sideband (SSB) operation.

Jump ahead to 1964. Arthur Collins envisioned a new avenue of promotion for the S-Line and KWM-2 radios: the Collins Communication Van. He wanted to take "proof" of performance to the field. Certainly, the concept was ultimately executed by the dedicated Collins sales, marketing and engineering teams and a core of volunteers. Arthur Collins and his teams believed that the Van would demonstrate the mobility, tactical capabilities and the power flexibility of the two radios. In time, and travelling over 40,000 miles, the Van visited the 1964 New York World's Fair, Pacificon, and debuted at the Dayton Hamvention in 1966. It visited uncounted major distributors, vendors and other highly visible and high interest market sites over a two-year period...all for the benefit of Collins Radio.

Want to learn more? The AWA welcomes your membership.

President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

Warren Hamfest -

As announced in the PEOPLE column on page 2, the Warren Hamfest will occur on 16 August in Cortland. I have attended this event a number of times since moving to Ohio and it is a well run and worthwhile gathering. In fact, it is being promoted by our own Chapter 1 member, **Andy, AB8MO**, who personally invited me to attend last year when I promised to set up a table for QCWA this year. Won't you join me there? We might even gain some new members for QCWA and our chapter, too.

Cleveland Hamfest -

Also announced in this issue's PEOPLE column, I've been attending this hamfest regularly since 1979. It is not the biggest non-Hamvention gathering in Ohio, as I thought it should be, since at that time the city of Cleveland was the largest in the state. It does well, but could do better if only more vendors would show up.

Back in the 1990s I represented Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) whenever they needed legal representation for their Wickliffe store. I got to know the owner, Terry Sterman, W9DIA(SK). I asked Terry why AES did not attend the Cleveland Hamfest since they were the local amateur radio store. I thought that it would be mutually beneficial for both parties. My thinking was there would be more business for AES as they would attract more attendees to the Cleveland Hamfest.

Terry agreed and ordered the Wickliffe store to set up shop at the Cleveland Hamfest. I was happy and proud to see AES there, thinking that everybody would be happy that a national ham vendor was participating.

It turned out that I was wrong. I later learned from the Wickliffe store manager that the store employees were not happy having to load and unload a truck twice on a Sunday and that the sales did not justify all the extra work. They never returned. After all, if you, an amateur radio operator, were close enough to drive to the Cleveland Hamfest, then you were close enough to drive to Wickliffe any day of the week (except Sunday) to buy what you need.

I guess that is why I never went into retail.

What We've Lost and What We've Gained -

Let's start with what we've gained, or better said, what we have inherited as a QCWA chapter. Most importantly, we are number one! That might not be a big deal to some of you, but back in 1951 there were a group of hams in the Cleveland area who were smart enough to write to QCWA headquarters in New York City and propose that there should be chapters, so that we wouldn't have to drive 500 miles to a QCWA meeting. I bet the hams in Arizona liked that idea, too. But it all started here! The result was an international club of old timers in our hobby. (By the way, there is no QCWA chapter in the city of New York, anymore. But we're still here.)



Our Cleveland QCWA "ancestors" also developed a relationship with the VA hospital in Wade Park resulting in what was then a state of the art ham radio station that was accessible to the patients and our chapter members. Chapter 1 started a weekly net on its own 2 meter repeater, originated the quarterly luncheons and chapter Newsletters. This was all in place at least since the 1990s. Our VA station is gone, a victim of COVID and lack of use. Also gone is our Chapter 1 repeater because we found the NORMA repeater to have superior coverage during our nets.

But, as in every thriving endeavor, we have gained a member who has devoted his retirement to promoting ham radio, mainly to students and also the blind. Chapter 1 is supporting **Jeff Meyer, K4DKW** both morally and through very modest donations to his cause, which is our cause, as he plants the seeds of future QCWA members. Thank you Jeff!

See you at the picnic!

HAM CLASS UPDATES

by
Jeff Meyer, K4DKW



Greetings from K4DKW and here is what's been going on behind the scenes in NE Ohio:

Shaker Heights High School Amateur Radio Club -

With the help of Bob Winston, W2THU, Fred Freer, K8IG, Mark O'Keefe, Ben Thomas and Jonah Lorenzo, KF8FAA we were able to get a multiband antenna up at Shaker Heights HS and made several domestic QSOs before school let out for the summer. By scurrying quickly, we will be able to hit the ground running in September. We had several different students come and check it out with a varied roster each time. What a GREAT start!!

St. Ann's & Akron Blind Center Amateur Radio Clubs -

Our 5th year at St. Ann's Elementary School (where we placed second in the ARRL School Club Roundup February 2026 contest) will start back up in September and the Akron Blind Center ARC continues in year two from April to December.

Upcoming Events:

July 11, 2026 "Introduction to Amateur Radio, Part 3" @ Perry Public Library 12-2PM
August 1, 2026 Mentor Girl Scout Shack Visit @ my QTH
September 5, 2026 "Looking for a Cool Family Hobby?" Perry Public Library 12-2 PM
October 3, 2026 "Radio is All Around You, from your microwave oven to the ISS" @ Perry Public Library 12-2 PM
November 21, 2026 "At the Speed of Light" @ Perry Public Library 12-2 PM

The Perry Public Library programs continue to have varied interest from both the general public, new hams wanting to learn more and some of our seasoned hams dropping by. I'm still hopeful that we could establish a community station there, with posted office hours, for the increased exposure that our hobby desperately needs. The more attendees the better!

Should you be interested in stopping by, suggesting a topic, etc., please let me know.

Heathkits Purchased New by W8VRJ, John by George W. Misic, KE8RN

My father was a fairly loyal Heathkit customer from the mid 1950s to the 1980s. He bought much of their test equipment starting in the 1950s; we had signal generators, Vacuum Tube VoltMeters [VTVMs], oscilloscopes, Grid Dip Meters [GDMs], and other items. The first amateur radio kit that I recall was a model SB-300 80/75 to 10 meter amateur receiver that was the first item of the famous Heathkit SB-Line. The receiver came with an SSB optimized crystal lattice filter 2.1 KHz wide; the Heathkit Company offered an optional 400 Hz wide CW filter and a 3.5 KHz wide AM filter for installation in the receiver; my father bought both of them. He also purchased the Heathkit six and two meter converters for the receiver, plus the matching SB-600 speaker when it became available in 1966.

He never owned either of the two earlier receivers, the 1960 model GC-1 Mohican general coverage solid state 10 transistor receiver covering 540 KHz to 32.0 MHz or the 1958 vacuum tube RX-1 Mohawk 160 to 10 meter amateur band receiver. I find the GC-1 Mohican to be a surprisingly good receiver; it is powered by 8 standard type “C” battery cells or an optional AC power supply that fits in the back of the receiver in place of the batteries.



Shortly after the 80/75 to 10 meter SB-100 SSB-CW transceiver came out for

Christmas of 1965, John bought one with the HP-23 AC power supply and SB-600 speaker; the power supply fits in the speaker. The SB-100 did not perform well when built; I did some troubleshooting and determined the sealed 2.1 KHz bandwidth crystal lattice filter operating at 3395 KHz was the problem. After some hassle, Heathkit sent a new crystal filter; once installed the transceiver worked well.

My father bought the Heathkit model SB-200 linear amplifier to match the SB-100 transceiver. The SB-200 ran 1200 watts Peak Envelope Power [PEP] input on SSB and 100 watts on CW input power. The SB-200 was too early to need to comply with the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] regulation requiring no 10 meter operation in a largely futile attempt to keep them from being used on the Class D 11 meter Citizen's Band [CB]. He seldom used the linear and had me sell it for him.

I sold the SB-300 receiver for him many years ago; I remember nothing about selling it. I still have the SB-100 and associated kits including the AC power supply, speaker, and SB-610 station monitor scope. I have no plans to sell any part of the station; it is a great keepsake.