



# Cleveland Chapter One **NEWSLETTER**

Established 1951

Summer Quarter 2013

W8LYD 146.850 PL 110.9

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

## Summer lunch is July 13th; WHAT ARE SOME CHAPTER 1 HAMS DOING TO SAVE OUR HOBBY?

*Find out at our **NEW** luncheon location!*

Our Saturday, July 13th meeting will feature a program from Chapter 1 members **Tom Wayne, WB8N** and **Gary Dewey, NI8Z**, who, along with other CARS members, have set up ham radio stations in two area schools.

Many of you remember when ham radio clubs were the norm in many area schools, such as St. Ignatius, Cleveland State, St. Joseph's High School, and Case Western Reserve University. Unfortunately, most of these clubs are gone or have very few members.

Ham radio in the lower grades is most important to keep our hobby alive. One example is Gilmour Academy, where Ken Kane, KG8DN, has established quite a sophisticated ham station and club.

Tom and Gary will guide us through their experience in setting up stations and getting students licensed in the Copley-Fairlawn Middle School and Copley High School.

Join us Saturday, July 13th, starting at 11:30 a.m. for our quarterly luncheon. **The new place is Dino's restaurant located at 4145 State Route 306 in Willoughby.** Lunch orders taken at noon. Door prizes, 50-50 raffle, music, and fellowship awaits!

Do bring a friend! ■

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## CHAPTER 1 RECEIVES 60TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD!

On May 24th, QCWA National Director, **Ken Simpson, W8EK**, presented QCWA's 60th Anniversary Award to our chapter. Since Chapter 1 is the Association's oldest chapter, we were honored to be the first to receive this impressive longevity award.

Ken and his wife **Susan, N8AJU** were not able to bring the plaque to our quarterly luncheon, due to their travel schedule, so we gathered as many members as possible to a Friday Lunch Bunch at Dino's Restaurant in Willoughby.

Chapter vice-president **Al Moriarty, N8CX** was on hand to accept the award on behalf of all of our members. Chapter 1 extends a big thank you to Ken and Sue for making the trip to Cleveland from Orlando.



W8EK presents award to N8CX

If you would like to see the plaque close up, then by all means, come to the luncheon on Saturday!



## 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. Dino's Restaurant, 4145 State Route 306, Willoughby, Ohio

**Dues:** \$10.00 per year.

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### Chapter One Officers

**President:** Robert M. Winston, W2THU; (216) 771-3314, <w2thu@arrl.net.>

**Vice President:** Al Moriarty, N8CX

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

**Treasurer:** Robert Knaack, K8RDK; 238 Stanford Drive, Berea, OH 44017-1561; (216) 470-3753 <k8rdk@arrl.net>

### Operational Group

**Membership:** KE9UL

**Net controls:** N8ZT, KC8UIQ

**QCWA Journal reporter:** Open

**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

### Radio activities:

**Al Lada, WA8OZC** can get into the 146.85 QCWA Chapter 1 repeater from Brooklyn with a 300mW HT into his 11 element 2 meter beam.

**Dwayne Modock, K8ME** received the ARRL Honor Roll Plaques for SSB and CW. He is also on the CQ Honor Roll for SSB and CW. Congratulations Dwayne!

**Gary Dewey, NI8Z** reports that chipmunks are eating the control cable for the Stepp-IR verticals at both his QTH and **Metro Sinko, W8MET's** QTH.

**Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ** wrote another article in Electric-Radio about the Drake TR-4 SSB filter system. He recently finished building a new Elecraft KAT-500 1 kw antenna tuner for his K-3 line.

### SILENT KEY

Longtime chapter member **Clarence (Sac) Saccany, K8SLF**, passed away shortly before our Winter 2013 Luncheon. Please extend your condolences to his daughter, Chapter 1 member, Kate Saccany, KC8IQF, and family. May he rest in peace.

## Secretary's Report

By Al Moriarty,  
N8CX



Hi everyone,

Well, although summer is in full swing, we are at the half-way point. It won't be long until Labor Day weekend essentially, but not officially, signals the end. We still have some ham club picnics to go. The idea is to make the most of summer and get our ham projects, especially antenna projects, finished while the weather is good. I know that the best antenna weather is in January, but let's do it now.

I hope to see many of the members at the meeting next Saturday. The meeting is at Dino's in Willoughby. Dino's is located on Rt 306 just south of I-90 on the left side of the street just before the Speedway gas station. Very easy to get to. You can't miss it.

vy best 73s to all,  
Al, N8CX  
VP / Secretary

## *HAM RADIO WITH A SHORT SHELF LIFE*

Joe Gutoskey, W8DOE, recently celebrated a milestone birthday. He received a very special gift—a brand new ham radio.

But, don't try to plug it in. It's really a birthday cake!



W8DOE BIRTHDAY CAKE

### *Ham Radio Services:*

**Equipment sold or purchased:** If you want to dispose of old radio equipment that you no longer want, KE8RN offers to either purchase it or sell it for you on eBaY. Excellent eBaY reputation with 15 years experience. Call George Mistic on 412-486-8566 or email him at [KE8RN@comcast.net](mailto:KE8RN@comcast.net).



## *Birthdays this Quarter*

### **July**

K8SGM	George Keltner	7/4
W8PT	Charles Patelis	7/4
W8ANJ	Steve Molnar	7/25
WA8OZC	Alphonse Lada	7/25
W2THU	Bob Winston	7/28
WB8ADF	Jerry Dusa	7/29
NW8X	Richard Williams, Sr	7/30

### **August**

N8CX	Al Moriarty	8/5
W8AR	Walter Robinson	8/7
W8WHO	Clifford Dice	8/8
K8ZGW	Don Ritchie	8/10
KC9IQF	Kate Saccany	8/12
W8GVE	Howard Reichle	8/14
KE8GA	George Vilican	8/17
WB8N	Tom Wayne	8/17
AA8BV	Robert Mate, Sr.	8/22
K8SHJ	Carl Lewis	8/28
W8FSF	Fred Freer	8/30

### **September**

W8WNA	Kirk Sanderson	9/6
N8EQT	Ray Suing	9/16
K8LXH	Harry Winfield	9/21

*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—*

#### **Join the Friday Lunch Bunch**

QCWA Chapter One members and other radio hams gather for lunch each Friday at 11:00 in Willoughby, The place? 34601 Ridge Road, Willoughby (That's in the Pine Ridge Plaza next to Heinen's.) Join us!

## **HEARD ON OUR CHAPTER NET**



Are traffic nets necessary in today's age of email, instant messaging and Twitter? This was the discussion question on the May 1st net. W1HEO said that if the power goes out, Twitter is out of business, so traffic nets are necessary. KB8QKC commented that he is a net control for the Tri-County Traffic Net and not many people older than 14 use social media, so there is still a place for these nets.

The May 8th net asked about our professional sports attendance. NI8Z said that he attends each team at least once a year and that includes the Monsters. W8WGO tries to see the Indians a few times a year and once in a while the Browns, but never the Cavaliers. K8IIU used to go to all the games and all the teams, but not since he retired.

We reported our Field Day plans, or lack thereof, just before Field Day. Most check-ins said that they had no plans or would work FD from home (WA8TPP, W8VRJ, W8WNA, W8FDN, W1HEO). Others intended to visit various FD sites (W2THU, K8EHP, N8EQT, KC8FQV, KD8NVX).

*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

As I write this column, summertime is already one-third over. And by summertime, I mean June, July and August, when school is out, daylight is plentiful, and we enjoy some of the nicest weather in Northeast Ohio. As usual, this newsletter is a reminder that our next quarterly luncheon is coming very soon.

Some may be wondering why we are meeting in yet another location. As you recall, our longtime meeting venue in Parma abruptly closed in January 2012. We transitioned to the east side of town where we found JBMilano's in Richmond Heights. That worked out very well until they also abruptly closed after our January luncheon of this year. Our April meeting was at Café Europa in Willoughby. The food was very good, the service was fair, but the venue for a private club was not suitable. We had expected this restaurant to be closed for our "private party" but it was not, resulting in a lot of QRN from a group of diners that interfered with our guest speaker. Some attendees made it clear that they would not come to luncheons if our chapter didn't find a more suitable site.

I knew that we had to keep looking even during that luncheon and I asked for suggestions. Dino's was highly recommended for its food, service, price, and very importantly, a private meeting

room. Your Executive Committee is aware that the luncheon venues are moving further east and we hope that this will not be a deterrent to our west side members, just as Dimitri's location was accepted by our east side members for many, many years.

I attended the QCWA forum at the Dayton Hamvention this year. Our national association's top brass were there to review all of the changes recently implemented by our officers and directors. After listening to their enthusiastic speeches it was very clear that they had saved QCWA from bankruptcy and that they are now operating in the black. Moreover, except for the accountant, no one is paid for their work, which in some instances approaches 80 hours per week!

QCWA President, Ken Oelke, VE6AFO was sporting a cowboy hat because he is from Calgary, Alberta, which hosts the annual Calgary Stampede.



QCWA President, VE6AFO at Hamvention

I look forward to seeing all of you at the luncheon this Saturday at Dino's!

## HEATHKIT HAM RADIO FAILURES; ONLY A FEW OVER THE YEARS

de George Mistic, KE8RN



HEATHKIT HW-17

Heathkit was a very successful company in ham radio in the mid 1950's to the 1970's, but they did make a few products that were not as successful as expected, or were real failures. Some of their radios were wildly successful, but I will visit some that were not so great for a variety of reasons. Over the years, I have had a chance to own some of the less than successful products and also many of the very successful products. Their early radios all did quite well; the AT-1 transmitter was followed by the very successful DX-100 and DX-100B AM CW 80, 40, 20, 15, 11, and 10 meter transmitters. When these transmitters came out, 11 meters was still a ham band; it became the Citizen's Band in 1958. The

DX-100 knocked off the Johnson Viking I and Viking II but included a built-in VFO, which the Viking I and II did not have. Both of these rigs ran a pair of 6146 tubes in the final amplifier, giving a power input in the 100-150 watt range. The Heathkit offering was about \$100 cheaper than the Johnson offering and included a VFO which was not built-in on the Johnson rig.

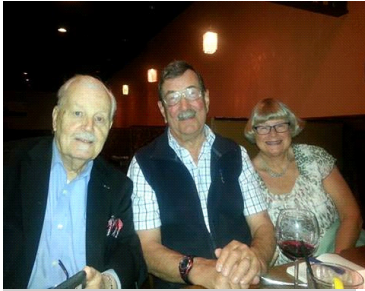
Heathkit initially made a simple version of their popular CB-1 lunchbox transceiver for ten meters; the ten meter version of the radio was not a big hit, but a six and two meter versions were quite popular. The super regenerative receiver was not up to the job on ten meters because of very poor selectivity. Heath thought the lunch box concept would work on 10 meters, but if more than one signal was in the band, the receiver in the HW-19 Tener could not separate them. This was much less of an issue on six and two meters and the simple radios worked fairly well and were quite popular; the popularity was due to the low cost and the capability to get on a VHF band, not on the lunchbox concept.

The first Heathkit designed for the ham radio market that did not do as well as expected was the HW-17 AM two meter transceiver. It did not have one major flaw, but rather a laundry list of issues that were annoying things that were minor problems. When it became obvious that two meters was going FM in a big way, Heathkit made an FM transmit [only] adapter for the HW-17 that did not work too well, and they did nothing to improve the FM reception. Slope detection of an FM signal was all the HW-17 had to offer; a very poor compromise, indeed. Heathkit brought out the HW-202, a very successful two meter FM rig that effectively offered six channels; since the transmit and receive channels could be changed independently, they called it a 36 channel radio [6 X 6]. Nobody wanted to listen on 146.88 and transmit on 146.16, so such a channel made no sense. They tried to follow up the HW-202 with a synthesized radio, the HW-2026 three years later. It resulted in Heathkit's first product recall ever. The rig had spurious outputs that triggered repeaters and other spurs that were on the frequency of high-band police and fire radios; not a good thing. The only HW-2026's remaining now are ones that were not turned in in response to the product recall. I have a friend [Herman Cone, N4CH] who wants to buy one of the few radios still in the hands of hams; they are rare and hard to find. Heathkit brought out the HW-2036 about a year after the HW-2026; they made VERY sure it was very clean and free of spurs.

About the same time as the Tener, Heathkit brought out a 2 KW linear amplifier, the KL-1 'Chippewa' and the KS-1 power supply for the Chippewa. The amplifier worked well but it was much too expensive and heavy [175 pounds with power supply]. The only goof in the design was that the full 300VDC plate supply appears on the plate current meter; an obvious shock hazard.

Continued on page 7.

## VISITORS FROM SWEDEN



K8OCK, SM00Y and Gunilla

Some of you may recall an article in the chapter newsletter three years ago about Bob Winston, W2THU's visit to Sweden. At that time he and Jeannie, KC8MNX surprised Bob's dear friend, Lars (Lasse) Nordgren, SM00Y by dropping in on Lasse's 70th birthday party in Stockholm.

When Bob joined Chapter 1 some years back, he met John Esborn, K8OCK and soon learned that John was a native of Sweden who had moved to Cleveland at the age of 10. Bob asked John if he ever worked SM00Y, and he said that he believed he did. Bob informed Lars that he met a native Swede who is also a ham radio operator, and that it would be great if they could have an eyeball QSO some day.

This past May, Lars and his wife, Gunilla, reciprocated with a visit to Cleveland, timed to attend the Dayton Hamvention. After that event, K8OCK invited SM00Y, Gunilla, W2THU and KC8MNX to dinner at a very nice restaurant, along with John's son and daughter-in-law. John and Lars finally met and talked about Sweden, family and ham radio. The memorable evening ended when all donned fur coats and hats in order to share vodka inside a walk in freezer.

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## HEATHKIT FAILURES (continued from p. 6)

They went to the SB-104 solid state rig in 1974 although the SB-102 was not stopped until 1975 and the HW-101 low cost version of the SB-102 was made until 1983. The SB-104 had many problems that Heathkit tried very hard to fix. The SB-104A which supposedly had all the problems fixed came out in 1977 and solved most of the problems but not all. The SB-104 never made a profit for Heathkit due to all the problems with the rig. Heathkit started work on a next-generation solid state rig that started life as the SS-8000. By the time they were ready to ship it, Heathkit finally realized it was way too complex for the average kit customer to build and align. Heathkit spent nearly three years turning the SS-8000 into the factory assembled SS-9000. The competition from Japanese companies like Kenwood and Yaesu made the redesigned and factory assembled SS-9000 way too expensive to be competitive at \$2795.00 for the SS-9000 and \$279.00 for the AC Power Supply. Heathkit blew out the SS-9000 and its AC Power Supply, the PS-9000 for bargain prices; they lost a lot of money on the SS-9000.

Heathkit is still around now; they make some home automation products, but no kits. The kit business was essentially done in ham radio in the mid 1980's and completely gone by the early 1990's. Heath was bought by Zenith, the TV manufacturer about September of 1979; Zenith was only interested in Heathkit's computer products and stopped the development of any new kits. A rough end for Heathkit after a great run for many years.