



Cleveland Chapter One NEWSLETTER

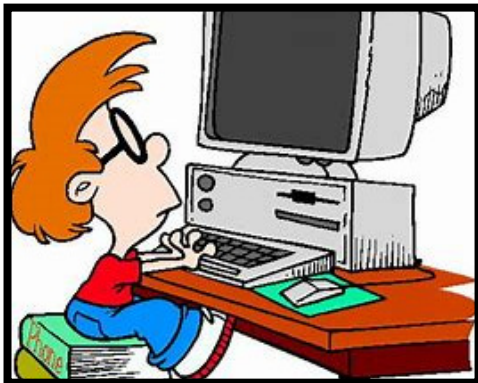
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Winter Quarter 2020

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

COME TO OUR WINTER LUNCHEON FOR A LINUX LESSON



Chapter 1 member **Mike Morrell, K8KE** will be presenting on the famous and free computer operating system known as Linux. Learn why Linux is preferred by so many over the standard OS that came with your PC or laptop.

Whether you are computer illiterate or computer savvy, Mike will explain the many benefits of and applications of Linux which is literally everywhere, from smartphones to cars, home appliances, supercomputers and maybe even inside your own ham radio.

Join us starting at 11:30 A.M. at **The Play Arcade and Kitchen, 5900 Mayfield Road in Mayfield Heights**. Whether we are up or down, the back door is closest. Eat off the lunch menu for about \$12.00. Door prizes, 50-50 raffle, music, and fellowship awaits!

RSVP on the Wednesday night net or to w2thu@arrl.net ■

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Dick Ingraham, WA8TPP, SK

By Bob Winston W2THU



WA8TPP Operating WA8VA

Sadly, our past chapter president, **Dick Ingraham, WA8TPP**, passed away on 4 November 2019 at the age of 88. Dick was first licensed in 1956 as WN8FXM and received his present call in 1966. He was a director of the Northern Ohio Repeater Management Association (NORMA), member of the Geauga Amateur Radio
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Future Luncheon Dates

*April 11, 2020, July 11, 2020,
October 10, 2020, January 9, 2021*



Cleveland Chapter One Newsletter

Editor: Robert M. Winston, W2THU
Distribution: Fred Freer, K8IG
Roster changes: Notify Secretary/Treasurer Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK <jgarcaro@juno.com>
Meetings: Second Saturday of January, April, July, and October at the *Play Arcade and Kitchen*
Dues: \$10.00 per year if you want this Newsletter mailed to you via USPS. Dues is free if you are 80 or older or accept this Newsletter via email only.
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Chapter One Officers

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

Operational Group

Membership reporter: Open
Net controls: N8ZT, KC8UIQ
QCWA Journal reporter: K8IG
License trustee: N8ZT
Awards chairman: Open
Door Prize chair: N1BCF
Chief radio officer: K8QOT
Chapter musicians: WA8OZC, WB8ADF
Sunshine reporter: Open
Web administrator: K8ZGW,
 <dritchie@dr.com>

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

PEOPLE

Silent Keys:

Dick Ingraham, WA8TPP, passed away at the age of 88 in early November 2019. (See article on front page.)

Sunshine:

Fred Freer, K8IG, is recovering at home from shoulder surgery.

Tom Bishop, W8TAB, is successfully battling another round of cancer. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Ray Suing, N8EQT, is back home after an extended period of rehab that kept him off our chapter net. Welcome back!

Al Lada, WA8OZC, is also recovering at home after he broke his hip. We missed his accordion music at the Fall luncheon.

Recent Activities:

Paul Andrews, N8NYI purchased a new rig, the FTM-7250 2m/440 Auto C4FM and was able to work North Yorkshire, England via 440 digital/internet while traveling north on I-71 from Columbus.

George Pindroh, K8KR, recently returned from Europe where he attended many celebrations of the 75th anniversary of liberation from the Nazis. He was in Belgium, France, Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg.

Fred Freer, K8IG is working a lot of DX on FT-8, enjoying his 4 recently installed double bazooka antennas for 80, 40, 30 & 20 meters, in addition to restoring a Hallicrafters SX-28 and Viking transmitter, plus more!

Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ published an article in *Electric Radio* about an ALC box that he designed to control your transmitter for better AM and it also lowers your power on older HF rigs when driving those solid state or any amplifier. Jeff notes that Hamvention® tickets are going up by \$5.00 but are still a bargain.

SECRETARY/ TREASURER'S REPORT

By Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK

QCWA Chapter 1 members and friends – I am pleased to report that the treasury continues in good shape, with a balance of \$5,305.74.



We are saddened by the loss of **Dick WA8TPP**. Dick was our Immediate Past President, and a regular at Friday's Lunch Bunch. In honor of his service to Chapter 1, the Chapter sent a nice flower arrangement of red, white and blue flowers, since Dick was in the US military. Several other Chapter 1 members sent flowers too, including **Betty KC8FF**, and **Ed WB8ROK** and **Eddie KD8FTS**.

Bob Winston W2THU and I were talking at the regular Friday Lunch Bunch get together, and it would be nice if we could get a few more volunteers to help out with the meetings. Currently helping us out are **Jeff WA8SAJ**, with sales of 50/50 raffle tickets, **Fred K8IG** who mails the newsletters to those without Email, and **Sally N1BCF**, who picks out the door prizes. We thank them very much for their help.

We could use a few others to help keep and maintain the Projector and Screen. Another to charge and tote around the small PA system, and another to setup, take down and store the QCWA banner. If you are a regular attendee of our quarterly meetings, and would like to help out, please let Bob W2THU, Fred K8IG or myself know.

We are also looking for members to present programs, anywhere from one half hour to forty five minutes in length. We would also like to thank all those who have presented some very interesting topics in the past few years, including: Jeff WA8SAJ, Fred K8IG (ex-W8FSF), **Paul N8NYI**, **Mark KA8CPB**, **Matt W8DEC**, **Jim KB8ZA**, **Eddie KD8FTS**, **George KE8RN**, **Jeff K8JTK**, **Craig N8ZT**, and myself Jim WD8PFK. If I have forgotten anyone, please let me know.

As always, if you change your call letters, physical address, phone number or Email address, please let me know at: jgarcaro@juno.com, or send a note with the changes to: Jim Arcaro WD8PFK PO Box 324 Wickliffe, Ohio 44092. Thank you.

FALL LUNCHEON REVIEW

Thirty-three members and friends were entertained by the special duet of **Sally Dawson, N1BCF** on the bass and **Jerry Dusa, WB8ADF** on the accordion. Sally wears many hats, literally, and two of those are music teacher and musician. We are very lucky to have such talented members in our chapter willing to perform.



Sally, N1BCF and Jerry, WB8ADF ensemble

After lunch, QCWA members were presented with their awards and plaques.



Charles, WB8LDV; Richard, NW8X; Jerry, WB8ADF, Jimmy, K8QOT accepting their awards.

Century Club awards were earned by **Fred Helwig, Jr., K8FH**, **Fred Doob, K8PP**, **George Mistic, KE8RN**, **Cliff Bade, W8CJB**, **Frenchie Bousquet, Jr., W8KDT**, **Charles Martin, WB8LDV** and **Richard Williams, NW8X**.

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WA8TPP, SK

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Association, the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association, the ARRL and QCWA #28,400.

Dick was an Army veteran of the Korean War and he volunteered at the Wade Park VA Hospital where he helped to keep WA8VA on the air, along with several other Chapter 1 members.

Dick brought me into Chapter 1 in the mid 1990s when he and Jack Goldfarb, W8WGO persuaded me to become vice-president.

WA8TPP and I became close friends as we traveled to ham radio club meetings, radio stores and hamfests together. We also met every Friday at Lunch Bunch along with many other hams from our chapter. He invited me to check into the Gould Net, even though I was not a former employee of “Clevite, Gould, Westinghouse and all related companies.” He was net control and kept

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

it going for many years.

Dick was also very modest. In addition to ham radio, many didn't know that he was keen on railroading.

I admired Dick for never saying anything negative about other people. We had differing views on life, but that did not interfere with our friendship. Dick will be missed. May he rest in peace.

OUR FALL LUNCHEON

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The following members earned Anniversary Awards as indicated: 70 years of service for **Frenchie Bousquet, W8KDT**, 65 years for **Don Sealy, W8QKO**, 60 years for **Jim Pracker, K8QOT**, 55 years for **Fred Helwig, K8FH**, **George Mistic, KE8RN**, and **Charles Whalen, WA8NJP**. 50 years for **John Crilly**,



Some of the 33 attendees at the Awards Luncheon

W8TD.

The Ham of the Year trophy went to **Jim Pracker, K8QOT** for his years of service to our chapter and amateur radio, while the 2019 President's award plaque went to our chapter vice-president, **Fred Freer, K8IG**, for his service to Chapter 1 and amateur radio. Congratulations to all!

Following the presentations, we were treated to a special demonstration of the Buddipole™ antenna system by chapter member **Paul Andrews, N8NYI**, who set up a couple of configurations, discussed the antenna's



Paul, N8NYI and his Buddipole™ effectiveness and answered questions from the audience. Thank you Paul!

President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

End of the year review and appreciation -

As we approach the year 2020 (can you believe it!) I want to acknowledge the efforts of so many of you in making Chapter 1 one of the most active in the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

Thanks to our chapter officers and volunteers for keeping things running smoothly. These include Vice-President **Fred Freer, K8IG** who chairs the meetings when yours truly is not available, in addition to submitting reports to the *QCWA Journal*, our secretary-treasurer **Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK**, who maintains the membership list, processes new members and keeps track of our funds, **Craig Kollai, N8ZT** who faithfully runs our weekly net and is our FCC license trustee and **Bob Robertson, KC8UIQ**, our alternate net control. Door prizes are selected and wrapped by **Sally Dawson, N1BCF**, while our Chapter musicians include **Al Lada, WA8OZC**, **Jerry Dusa, WB8ADF** and **Sally, N1BCF**. Further thanks to **Jim Pracker, K8QOT** our chief radio officer who keeps our repeater on the air, **Don Ritchie, K8ZGW** who maintains our website and **Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ** for always volunteering to sell 50-50 tickets at our luncheons. Finally, a big thank you to **George Mistic, KE8RN** for submitting articles on classic ham radios for every chapter newsletter. (Apologies to anybody I left out—please let me know!)

What's happening with our net? -

Net participation continues to decline. I'm sure that I've mentioned this before, but about 10 years ago, we had around 20-30 check-ins, Now, we routinely get 5-8. Adding trivia and discussion questions a few years ago has not attracted more participants, yet the very popular trivia net on 146.94 MHz in Geauga County is still doing very well every morning at 9 AM.

I reviewed an old check-in list and not surprisingly found that almost all of those folks are now silent keys or too infirm to check into our net. But, with a few exceptions, nobody is taking their place. Is there a solution? Should we keep our Chapter 1 net going for 5 people? What are your thoughts on this subject? (w2thu@arrl.net)

Future programs -

We have done quite well attracting interesting speakers to our luncheons. I believe that half the draw to any club meeting, be it Chapter 1 or any of the other fine radio clubs in the area, is an interesting program. (The other half is mostly the comradery and to some extent, the food.) Suggestions are always welcome. Contact any officer with your ideas. Remember, the program need not be about ham radio and speakers who are not affiliated with Chapter 1 are always welcome.



W2THU AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN AMATEUR RADIO STATION, W9YT

Personal Nostalgia -

At the risk of being ostracized by Buckeye fans, I did return to my graduate school *alma mater* this past November. While working on my MSEE in the 1960s, I spent many hours helping to keep W9YT on the air and I have a special fondness for collegiate and other educational institutions' ham clubs. Those of you who are alums of W8LT surely have similar memories while attending OSU in Columbus.

In those days, collegiate ham stations had many members. We had about 50 at the UW-Madison campus. Now, they have only a handful and a few years ago the radio club was disenfranchised from the student organizations. Thanks to alumni support and student recruitment, the Badger Amateur Radio Society is reinstated and back on the air. Let's keep this hobby going. Recruit young people!

Poly-Comm VHF Transceivers for 6 and 2 Meters

By George Mistic, KE8RN



Poly-comm was a USA manufacturer from 1960 to about 1966; they made amateur radio equipment starting with a 10 meter transmitter-receiver [technically not a transceiver as it did not automatically transmit on the receive frequency] in 1960 followed in 1961 by the Poly-comm 6 which was a very complete unit including a double conversion receiver, a transmitter VFO or the ability to use crystal control, an internal speaker, and an internal power supply that ran on 117 VAC or 12.6 VDC for fixed station or mobile operation. The unit operated only on the AM mode; no provisions for CW or SSB were made. The Poly-comm included a hand held Push To Talk [PTT] microphone. An S-Meter was also provided that also provided a transmit RF output indication. RF power input was 18 watts to a type 7551 final amplifier tube delivering an output of about 10 watts. Modulation was by a pair of 6BQ5 tubes in push-pull. The receiver used a 6DS4 NuVistor tube as the RF amplifier in the receiver. The rig weighed about 15 pounds; they were popular for both fixed station or mobile use.

Poly-comm will be seen as a hyphenated word or as a single word, Polycomm, with no hyphen. They built Citizen's Band Radios in the 1960s; they made perhaps about eight different CB models and kept manufacturing the CB units after they ceased making ham radio equipment. Poly-comm used the hyphenated version of "Poly-comm" on the front panel of most of their transmitter-receivers.

Soon after the Poly-comm 6 went on sale Polytronics Labs, Inc. [the company name for Poly-comm] developed the Poly-comm 2 for two meter AM operation. The Poly-comm 2 was essentially identical to the Poly-comm 6 with an extra conversion in the receiver to insure reasonable receiver stability. The transmitter had an extra tripler stage in the multiplication stages to reach two meters with crystals in the 8 MHz range via multiplication of 18 times.

Having developed both six and two meter AM transmitter-receivers with very similar layouts, Poly-comm next built a unit that operated on both six and two meters, the Poly-comm 62. Like the Poly-comm 2, the unit was triple conversion on two meters and double conversion on six meters. The transmitter was very cleverly designed to operate quite well on both bands. The model 62 retained all of the standard features common to both the six and two meter models including the transmit VFO on both bands, and the power supply for both fixed station and mobile use.

In 1963, Polytronics Labs, Inc. upgraded the model 62 to the model 62B. The 62B was about as easy to use as the single band versions. Power input was still around 18 watts input; output power was around 10 watts on six meters and about 7-8 watts on two meters.

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POLY-COMM TRANSCEIVERS

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The Polycomm series of radios were the first amateur radio products I ever saw use ¼ watt resistors where physically larger ½ watt resistors were not required. The ¼ watt resistors reduced clutter in the internally crowded Poly-comm 62 and 62B.

Long-term QCWA Chapter One members will remember Chapter One QCWA member Andrew Doles, W8UDG. He was quite active on six meters with a Poly-comm 62 or 62B; I think he had a 62B as I recall. He was often a regular on Eunice Bernon, K8ONA’s Apricot Net on 51.0 MHz. I don’t recall ever hearing W8UDG on two meters. I don’t ever remember him operating mobile, either. Both he could have done with his Poly-comm. Golden QCWA Chapter One memories.

HAM CRAM

By Don Ritchie, K8ZGW

The Summit county ARES and the Twinsburg and Copley CERT groups (three separate but associated groups) held what they called a “HAM CRAM” in November, and in about twenty five years we should have a half a dozen hams that will be qualified to join QCWA. They are:

- KE8MPR ALICE PATIG
- KE8NMY ZACHARY ANNICHINE (Son)
- KE8NMZ MARK ANNICHINE (Father)
- KE8NNA ROBERT ARMSTRONG JR.
- KE8NNB MARC KASCSAK
- KE8NNC BRIAN SHINHERL

Four (and a half) of whom are members of our Twinsburg CERT group. Also, on kind of the same subject, the PCARS group (Portage County Amateur Radio Service) will be holding a General class training at their club site in Ravenna on 2/5 thru 3/25, with the test on 3/25, (www.portcars.org).

Other things on “MY MIND” is the remote six meter base station I would like to see “happen” sometime soon. I have most of the equipment, which I will donate to the project, if I/we can find a site in northern Summit or Portage counties I also have a UHF repeater, which I would like to see someplace in Northern Summit county. We “thought” we might have a site in Twinsburg township, but that seems to have fallen through as the tower currently has no UHF antennas on it, and we can’t afford the “required studies.”

CWRU SURVEYING CLASS ASSISTS PLACEMENT OF W8EDU FIELD DAY ANTENNAS

By David Kazdan, AD8Y, Chapter 1 Member and Professor

In what must be a first for a university amateur radio club, the CWRU civil engineering department’s surveying class prepared a consultant’s report on Field Day antennas. Club officers worked with Prof. Katie Wheaton and teaching assistant Rachel Zable, KE8HWA to start students on the exercise. We gave an in-class client’s talk on what Field Day is, what dipole antennas are and how the Squire Valleevue Farm’s site was used. We requested a survey of the Farm’s trees, recommendations on dipole placements for 80, 40 and 20 meters, a discussion of cable paths to minimize trip hazards and the necessary cable lengths, and anything else the students wanted to include.



CWRU Civil Engineering Surveying Student

They had two classroom sessions to plan the survey, three trips to the farm to collect data, and a month of classroom time to prepare computer plots and a full-length report. The class prepared an article for the campus newspaper.

We plan to submit articles for publication in *QST* and in *IEEE Transactions on Education and Civil Engineering*.

**QCWA CHAPTER 1 IS ON
FACEBOOK**

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

**VIEW MANY ITEMS OF
INTEREST TO QCWA**