



Cleveland Chapter One NEWSLETTER

Established 1951

Winter Quarter 2023

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

WHY DIGITAL MODES?

JOIN OUR UPCOMING LUNCHEON ON
SATURDAY, 14 JANUARY 2023 AT NOON

Firehouse Grill & Pub
2768 Stark Drive
Willoughby Hills, Ohio



This month's meeting features our ARRL Ohio Section Youth Coordinator, **Anthony Luscre, K8ZT**, who will outline some of the many reasons why you may consider embracing digital operation. He will also discuss some software applications like PSK reporter to help improve your DX performance.

If you are struggling to earn DXCC, WAS or other rewarding accomplishments, you might consider the digital modes, such as FT-4 or FT-8. K8ZT will explain why you may want to put down that microphone and pick up your mouse for a change.

This will be a hybrid meeting, so if you can't make it to Willoughby Hills, join us via Zoom. Look for a timely link in your email as we approach the meeting date or click or type into your browser: <https://johncarrolluniversity.zoom.us/j/92359348765>

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QCWA CELEBRATES ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY



It is well known that QCWA had its organizational meeting in New York City in 1947. A special event to celebrate its founding is the 75/75 contest. Simply work 75 QCWA members within the 75 day period ending on February 18, 2023 at 1930 EST.

It sounds easy but where do you look? Try several QCWA nets such as the Sunday SSB net on 14.347 MHz at 2000Z, the Wednesday CW net on 7.035, then qsy to 3.535 at 2000ET. Also the Chapter 17 net on Mondays at 1930ET on 3.958 MHz.

Future Luncheon Dates

April 8, 2023, July 8, 2023,
October 14, 2023, January 13, 2024



Cleveland Chapter One Newsletter

Editor: Robert M. Winston, W2THU

Distribution: Fred Freer, K8IG

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

Meetings: Second Saturday of January, April, July, and October at: *Varies*

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 © 2023** 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, KC8UIQ

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:

Robert Check, W8GC of Independence.

(New members are called by net control at the beginning of our Wednesday night nets.)

Welcome Bob!

Happenings:

Fred Freer, K8IG, is enjoying his brand new *HyEnd* antenna from the Netherlands, as recommended by **Alan Jaffee, W8AJ**. This is a well made high efficiency end fed with a common mode choke. *Check out HyEnd online.*

Jim McMillan, WA8ZHN, is having fun with Mr. Morse (Morsele.fun). There is a new word daily, practice mode and lower speed lockdown. *Try it!*

Andy Jock, N8WDC, is recovering in hospital from an unspecified illness.

Don Ritchie, K8ZGW has moved from Twinsburg to Macedonia.

George Harizal, K8HLJ, is recovering at home from open heart surgery at the Cleveland Clinic and is doing a lot of cardiac rehab.

Silent Keys:

It is with deep regret that we report the following members who have recently passed away -

Charlie Whalen, WA8NJP

Dr. Seth Hirschfeld, N8LMB

Frenchie Bousquet, W8KDT

Robert Sull, W8IMO

Alan Moriarty, N8CX (former secretary)

William Kahn, WB8ZEJ

TREASURER'S REPORT Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK

The Chapter One treasury is in fine shape, with an adequate balance as this is written on 1/3/2023. Once again, I am asking you to keep me informed of any changes to your Email address. Currently I have an invalid address for at least two members. If you have not gotten an Email from me, or seen this newsletter appear in your in box, you need to update us with your Email info. Send it to me at: jgarcaro@juno.com



Also, several have let their QCWA National membership expire. We currently have no local membership dues, but do require you to maintain National membership, if you qualify. That includes being licensed 25 or more years ago, as well as being currently licensed. If you are not sure, let me know, and I can check the status for you.

I hope to be able to attend the upcoming lunch at The Firehouse in Willoughby Hills, and see some friends I haven't seen in quite a while. Remember too, if you are not well, stay home and check in on Zoom. It is not good to spread germs around all us old timers. 73, Jim WD8PFK

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

Amateur Radio Mobile Operations Still Permitted Under New Ohio Distracted Driving Law

Ohio's Governor De Wine has signed into law an enhanced distracted driving bill that will make texting while driving a primary offense. The law goes into effect in April 2023, at which time only warnings will be issued by law enforcement for the first 6 months. After that, modest penalties apply to violators who insist on texting, which do escalate for repeat offenders.

Of interest to mobile amateur radio operators is the law's definition of the so-called Electronic Wireless Communications Device (EWCD), which was so broad as to



possibly include the microphone of your 2 meter or dual band rig. Rather than expose Ohio hams to a traffic ticket while doing what has been legal since the 1930s, your ARRL Ohio Section, through its State Government Liaison, Bob Winston, W2THU, sought help in exempting ham radio from the new law.

Several hams wrote to their state legislators to explain how the proposed law would effect our ability to help out in emergencies and public service events. Thanks to the efforts of Michael Kalter, W8CI, who met with one of the bill's sponsors, the new law specifically exempts amateur radio operation. Therefore, you may continue to go on the air from your vehicle, but please drive carefully, as always.

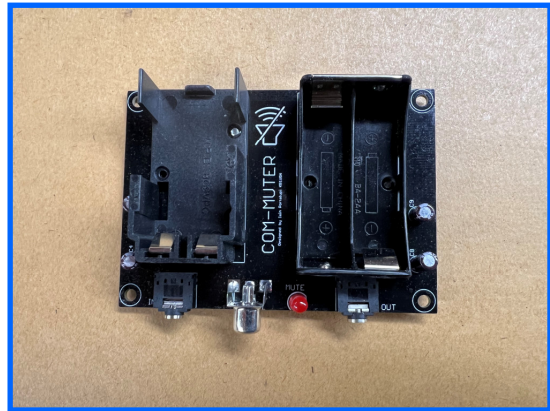
HUSH!

by Fred Freer, K8IG

Or, in amateur radio parlance...”mute.” Receiver muting is required when using secondary receivers, SDR receivers or when using boat anchor receivers that may not be TR switched with receiver muting. I regularly use remote SDR receivers...domestic and foreign...to hear what my antennas and receivers do not hear. The problem was how best to “mute” the SDR receivers when transmitting?

For me, this was a problem in search of a solution. As is often the case, if you have a problem, somebody else has also likely experienced that problem...and solved it.

As noted above, my challenge was that I was using a transceiver in addition to a remote SDR providing its audio through one of my computers. I needed a way to mute the SDR receiver during a transmission. My solution has been to use a manual switch controlling the SDR/



Com-Muter

computer audio. It worked. But it was an inelegant solution...and it required me to remember to flip the switch both before transmitting and after.

Providence intervened. One day, in an AM QSO with a Vermont AM'er, I learned about the “Com-Muter.” Designed and built by Iain (pronounced Ian), KB1UGN, the Com-Muter (I’ll just call it the “Muter”) is designed to mute the audio chain by optically (using an opto-isolator and two battery sources for isolation to prevent ground loops) interrupting the audio with activation control through a push-to-talk (PTT) RCA jack (connecting the center pin to the shield of the RCA jack will activate the “muter”). Now this was an elegant solution! The Com-Muter has 3.5mm audio input and audio output jacks. The unit is powered by one 9 V battery and two AA batteries. Mounted on a nicely designed and labeled printed circuit board, the Muter PC board mounts discrete components on the topside and surface mount devices on the underside of the circuit board. A small 3 mm red LED indicates active mute status.

Clearly, the “muter” can be used as supplied and deployed on a desktop or shelf as is. Just add batteries and connecting cables and you’re good to go. However, I chose to mount the “muter” in a project box (5.2”X3.5”X2.3” from Amazon) to protect the PC board. I also removed the 3 mm LED and installed an outboard 10 mm red LED on the surface of the project box. The project box has two mounting flanges with four mounting holes.

Parenthetically, I use Heil foot switches (FS-2) to activate several transmitters. Conveniently, the Heil foot switch is equipped with two cables. One cable is terminated in an RCA plug (a red cable which is activated by a microswitch prior to the companion black – phone jack terminated - cable) and the other in a quarter-inch phone plug (the black cable). Thus, either cable can be used to activate the “muter” but the red cable is preferred. Of course, if the red cable is in use to control a transmitter, transceiver or amplifier, an RCA “Y” or splitter cable could be used.

President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

Happy New Year:

Welcome to the New Year, 2023! This past year was the beginning of overcoming many challenges brought on by a worldwide epidemic. QCWA Chapter 1 was finally able to resume in person restaurant luncheons as reported elsewhere.

I hope you have enjoyed the special December 2022 *QCWA Journal*, which celebrates QCWA's 75th anniversary. There is so much nostalgia in that issue, including a note from Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, the famous guitarist, singer and songwriter who played with the Eagles and the James Gang (remember *Hotel California*?). It turns out that Joe moved from Columbus, Ohio to my old neighborhood in Queens, NY in the 60s, but came back to Ohio to attend Kent State University for a short time.

Chapter 1 Net:

Our Wednesday night net is going strong thanks to our net control **Craig, N8ZT** and alternate net control, Bob, KC8UIQ. Thanks to both, and an occasional substitute, for keeping up a very long Chapter 1 tradition. Unfortunately, many hams who used to check in every week are now silent keys or are too ill to participate and they are not being replaced by younger members. Other members have told me that they want to check in but forget to do so. To jog your memory, our treasurer, **Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK** has been sending out weekly email reminders.

If you haven't checked in for the past 8 weeks, then do check in at the beginning of the net when net control will ask for new check-ins before the regular roll call. Thus, you don't have to wait until all the regulars are called. Craig will read the headlines from the ARRL Letter, then pose a trivia question and a discussion question for you to answer. Of course, you can bring up any other topic and everybody is invited to make additional comments after all the participants have had their say. The net usually runs about 30 minutes and it is held on the NORMA repeater (147.015 in Geauga County, pl 110.9). This repeater has very wide coverage which allows members as far as Medina to check in.



W2THU

Volunteers Needed:

Like every non-profit organization your chapter needs help to provide all the services available to its members. Look at page 2 of this Newsletter to see what positions are marked "open." Yes, we need a membership reporter, a sunshine reporter and an awards chair. Contact me for more information.

QCWA Nominations:

Nominations are now closed and I am happy to report that one of our members is a candidate for the Board of Directors of QCWA. Look for **Robert Hajdak, N8QE**'s name on the ballot later this year along with his biography.

More on the QCWA 75/75 Contest:

Dates: From now to 0000 UTC, 18 Feb 2023.

Bands/Modes: 160/80/40/20/15/10/6 phone & CW only. No digital. Phone in phone sub bands only.

Exchange: "CQ QCWA" is suggested and must be between members only. Exchange is your name and QCWA number.

Logging: Electronic logs preferred or use Excel sheet available from headquarters.

Submissions: Electronic logs to secretary@qcwa.org by 10 March 2023. Full recap in the May 2023 *QCWA Journal*.

Awards: The top 3 scorers will received life membership, 5 year or 3 year membership extensions.

In closing, thank you to all have contributed to our wonderful chapter by writing for this newsletter, running our nets, helping out at our luncheons or working behind the scenes to keep things going smoothly!

OUR FALL LUNCHEON IN PHOTOS

Approximately 25 members and friends enjoyed our first post Covid luncheon at Simon's Restaurant in Brecksville. We had our own room, our own server and we were able to order off the menu. This central location brought attendees from Cuyahoga and at least 3 surrounding counties.

Everybody received a door prize thanks to the generosity of **Fred Doob, K8PP**, who donated a variety of butane torches from his former Solder-It business. Thank you, Fred!

This was also our annual awards luncheon. President **Bob Winston, W2THU**, brought framed awards for W8GVE, K8HLJ, K8RBV, W8IZC, W8AJ, N4LG, N8LMB, WA8WPV, WB8LCD, W8SKG, W8CBP, WH2U, W2THU, WD8PFK, KB8LJ, N8JIW, N8UIN, AB8M and N8VTA. Contact Bob to arrange alternate delivery if you didn't receive your award.



All photos courtesy of Mark Studer, KC8FQV

Heathkits Purchased New by W8VRJ, John Mistic^{Note} by George Mistic, 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.



SB-300 Receiver - Photo courtesy of Kristopher Gunter

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.

George J. Mistic KE8RN

(Note: George's father, John Mistic, also a QCWA Chapter 1 member, passed away in 2016. *Ed*)