



Cleveland Chapter One NEWSLETTER

Established 1951

Winter Quarter 2024

W8LYD 146.850 PL 110.9

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

Winter Luncheon Returns To the FireHouse Grill & Pub in Willoughby Hills

Saturday, 13 Jan 2024, at 11:30 AM

*What are the 10 worst amateur
radio antennas?*

ARRL Ohio Section Youth
Coordinator, **Anthony Luscre, N8ZT**,



returns to Chapter 1 to answer that question and hopefully describe some good ones, too. K8ZT is well known in Ohio, around the country and internationally as an exceptional speaker on amateur radio topics of great interest to our hobby.

Join us for live music, 50/50, door prizes, and comradery. Bring a friend!

Can't come to the luncheon? Then join us on Zoom between 11:30 and 2:30 PM!

<https://johncarrolluniversity.zoom.us/j/97244556843>

Please RSVP to w2thu@arrl.net

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Our Fall Luncheon Awards & Request for Assistance



Members enjoyed a fine luncheon at Amici's Restaurant in North Royalton. In addition, several attendees received their Anniversary Award Certificates and the very special president's microphone trophy was awarded to **Jeff Meyer, K4DKW** (above) in recognition of his efforts in introducing ham radio to elementary school students in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

Jeff also asked for members to help
(Please turn to page 3.)

Future Luncheon Dates

April 13, 2024, July 13, 2024
October 12, 2024, January 11, 2025



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 at FireHouse Grill & Pub

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.>

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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, 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.

PEOPLE

Happenings:

Fred Freer, K8IG, reports that his new KIO Technologies 6 band (6-20) Hexbeam is now installed on the roof of his QTH and it is working as expected. Meanwhile his XYL, Mary is slowly recovering from hip replacement surgery. We wish her a full and complete recovery! (**See page 7.**)

Bob Hajdak, N8QE, operated as W2MM for the QCWA 76 Anniversary Special Event in early December. All his efforts were FT8 with 269 contacts in 40 states, and 18 countries on 5 continents as W2MM. Bob, a QCWA Director, reports that he had a lot of fun doing it. He also reminds anyone who worked W2MM during the special event timeframe that a certificate suitable for framing will be available to print out at the end of the first quarter of 2024 on the QCWA national website link.

Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ, reports that he has sold many of his watt meters and purchased a Telepost LP-700 Digital Power/SWR meter, waveform monitor scope and modulation spectrum display that can handle 4 remote couplers for 160-6m plus one for 2m at 3 to 5kw. Now he has four separate watt meters in one package. He also continues to expand his solar generator, while working plenty of 10m AM with his K-4D.

Silent Keys:

We regret to report the following amateurs who have passed away -

Howard Reichel, W8GVE, was a QCWA and Chapter 1 member for many years, even though he had moved from Hinckley, Ohio to Virginia so long ago that our present members don't recall meeting him. His grandson, Michael, checked into our weekly net via Allstar to apprise us of Howard's death. Michael now has his grandfather's call.

Steve Molnar, W8ANJ, of North Ridgeville, Ohio was a longtime member of QCWA, although not recently active in Chapter 1. He was 81 years old.

ARES CONFERENCE by Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ

(As mentioned elsewhere, we are very appreciative to Mat for salvaging some very valuable Chapter 1 memorabilia from the VA ham station, Ed.)

Ohio ARES District 10, is pleased to present the 2024 ARES Conference on Saturday, February 17th, from 8am until 4pm. This event is open to all. You do not have to be associated with ARES to attend. Anyone who is interested in amateur radio communications is welcome. Registration is FREE, and all attendees will be provided donuts and coffee in the morning, as well as pizza and salad for lunch. (donations are encouraged to offset costs).

Go-Box Display

Please bring your Go-Box to add to our Go-Box display. Boxes will be viewable between sessions and during lunch.

Registration is REQUIRED to ensure we don't overfill the conference room, and for lunch planning purposes. Please visit <http://n8esg.org/conference> to register

Location:

Tri-Point Medical Center
7590 Auburn Rd
Painesville, OH 44077

When entering the facility off Auburn Rd, take the main entrance drive and turn right. The conference room is on the north end of the facility.

Talk-In Frequency for directions
146.415 Simplex
147.015/R 110.9

Our Fall Luncheon (Continued from page 1)

in his mission to reach out to other schools in the Cleveland area. (See his article in the Autumn 2023 Newsletter). You can reach Jeff at [jeffreymeyer55\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jeffreymeyer55@gmail.com).

Other Anniversary Award Recipients-



Jennifer West, KG8WJ



Marc Barnett, KA8CPB



George Pindroh, K8KR

End of the Cleveland VA Amateur Radio Station, WA8VA

WA8VA is no more. Most members



Unknown ham operating the Cleveland VA amateur radio station (1970s?)

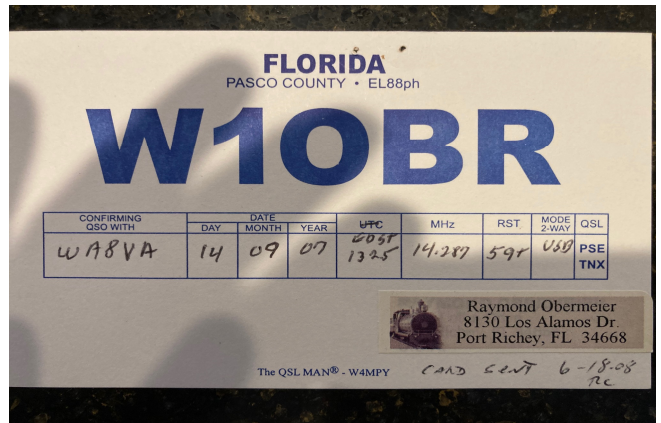
know that our Chapter 1 had a strong affiliation with the VA Medical Center ham shack. A dedicated core of our members kept the station on the air for many years. Yet, we were not notified that the station was being closed.

Apparently, the VA needed the space for another purpose and all our members who kept WA8VA on the air are now silent keys. The VA didn't try very hard to find us even though there was a Chapter 1 banner hanging in the ham shack. A simple search on the internet for "QCWA Chapter 1" would have enabled them to contact us and, at least, share their plans.

Fortunately, someone at the VA reached out to Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ, the ARES District 10 EC. At that time, Mat did not know about the QCWA connection, so he did not alert Chapter 1 either. Only after the VA dismantled and auctioned off the ham gear, which was owned by the VA, did Mat accidentally discover our role at WA8VA. (He was reading through the Chapter 1 website.) Mat immediately contacted Bob Winston,

W2THU, to bring Bob up to date and to relate that he had rescued a banner and some old photos and QSL cards which are now in our chapter's possession.

At this point in time we don't know if the ham shack could have been saved even if Chapter 1 had been timely notified of the VA's plans. However, this brings to mind the old maxim "use it or lose it."



A QSL card confirming a QSO with WA8VA for a 20m phone contact in 2007.

The FCC license trustee for the VA station is Dennis Doran, WB8DD. Dennis, who recently retired from the VA Medical Center, explained how this latest version of the ham shack came to be. He stated that after 911, an edict came down from Washington, D.C. that all VA hospitals needed to have an amateur radio station. Dennis asked his boss for funding to assemble a state of the art ham station including an HF beam & rotor. The Cleveland VA director agreed to pay for it only if Dennis could guarantee it would be the number 1 VA ham station in the country, and it was for a long time, partly due to our chapter's participation.

WB8DD was saddened to learn of its closure, especially because he was to be notified of any changes to the station. He believes that Covid killed the station because the hospital probably needed the space to treat Covid patients. But, once he retired, he was never contacted and no chapter members were around during Covid to alert us either.

President's Perspective

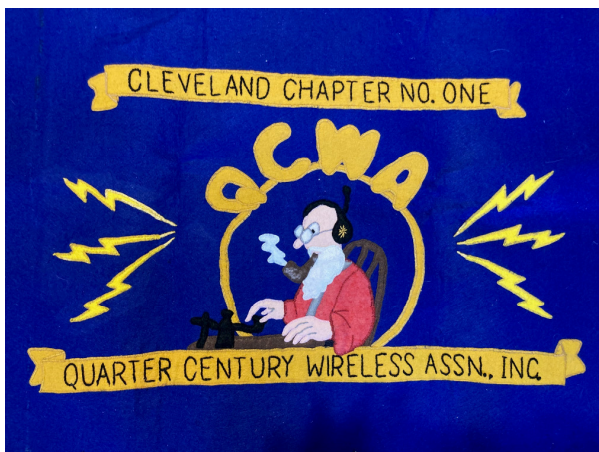
By Bob Winston, W2THU

Happy New Year 2024! -

Thank you to everyone who helped our chapter continue to be one of the largest and most active in QCWA. Special thanks to our officers, vice-president Fred Freer, K8IG, secretary Marc Barnett, KA8CPB, and treasurer Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK. Also, our net control Craig Kollai, N8ZT, alternate Bob Hajdak, N8QE, webmaster Don Ritchie, K8ZGW, radio officer Jim Pracker, K8QOT and Jerry Dusa, WB8ADF, our chief musician.

Note that we still have openings for the following positions: membership reporter, awards chair and sunshine reporter. Contact me if you wish to serve.

Salvaged From the VA Ham Station -



We have all seen the official QCWA banner displayed at all our luncheons. However, the above is not the real thing. It was found at the VA ham shack and appears to be a tapestry. Note the drawing of the old man is similar, but not the same as the one we see on the QCWA website and on our own banner. Does anybody know who made this one? Please let me know.

Anniversary Award Certificates -

In the old days of Chapter 1, you picked up your certificates at the fall luncheon, The chapter ordered them from QCWA headquarters and distributed them to our members. It was a big deal. Nowadays, you can download them yourself,

print them and hang them on the wall. This is true up to and including the 65 year award. For 70 years plus and the Century Certificate, you must order these from headquarters. They will email them to you.

Each year I download and print all the certificates that I plan to bring to the fall luncheon. I can tell if you have already done it on your own and I don't print those. I then send an email to our entire chapter 1 membership so you know if your certificate will be at the fall luncheon. I am always surprised when members don't come to the luncheon to pick up their certificates and also never ask me for them later. If you are in this group, contact me and I'll email it to you.

The Russell Brothers, W8BU & WB8QYZ-

Boy, I wish that I had this photo when I wrote the article about W8BU's 1922 transatlantic QSO with Scotland (see winter 2022 Newsletter). Remember, he was the furthest west of that group and right here in the Cleveland area. Well, here are Jim and his brother David receiving their 60 year



QCWA anniversary awards! (Photo also salvaged from the VA shack.)

Photo Quiz -

What well known amateur radio establishment used to be located in this building? Bonus question: What is the former address of the business?



Two Major Salvage Efforts Undertaken in My Youth

by George J. Mistic, KE8RN

Introduction

I have always been more interested in the electronic technology behind amateur radio designs and products rather than operating a station and making contacts. As a result, I was interested in the actual operation of the electronic design of a particular item. This interest led me to my first job in 1965 when I was sixteen years old. Ham radio friends and I [I was first licensed in 1963 at age fourteen] made a trip about once a month to radio stores. While making our monthly visit to places of radio interest like Electronic Surplus, Olson Radio, and Bernie's Ham Shack, I was offered a part time job at Bernie's Ham Shack store on Saturdays. Having a driver's license and an automobile, and with gasoline about \$0.36 a gallon, the sixteen dollars I earned on a Saturday made financial sense. I took the job and started the next Saturday. I demonstrated and sold equipment, made cables, installed microphone plugs, repaired equipment and reconditioned trade-in equipment.

SBE SB-33 Four Band SSB Transceiver

During a radio club ARRL Field Day effort, a SideBand Engineers [SBE] model SB-33 75 to 15 meter Single Sideband [SSB] transceiver was the victim of a cabling error; a Collins KWM-2 transmitted into the receiver of the SBE SB-33. The KWM-2 was not harmed; the SB-33 would not receive or transmit. I was not involved in the field day event, but heard about it and eventually purchased the SB-33 for a very low price. It



Eunice Bernon, K8ONA, often mentioned in George's Articles

took about two months but I was able to return the SB-33 to the living; the fact that SBE was in business back then and was making the similar model SB-34 was a huge help because an RF coil that was burned up in the accident could be purchased as a repair part. Bernie had a new DC power inverter for the SB-33 and found a buyer for the repaired radio, his DC inverter, and a set of Newtronics mobile antennas. I installed the SB-33 for

the buyer, and he was pleased with how it worked. We all made out OK and the repair was a technical challenge.

National NCX-5 and NCX-A

About three years later, I was in college and working at Pioneer-Standard Electronics amateur radio and commercial sound department, since Bernie Bernon had died at age 54 and his wife, Eunice, K8ONA closed the store. (Please turn to page 7)

(continued from page 6)

I sold a new Drake station to a ham with a National NCX-5 that had been functionally destroyed when a vertical antenna he was installing fell on a 16,000 VAC power line while it was connected to the NCX-5. I bought the NCX-5 for \$25.00 with the also dead NCX-A AC power supply. I was eventually able to bring the NCX-5 and NCX-A back to the living, but it was a major project; all the tube filaments were open. The voltage regulator tube was the only vacuum tube that survived. The NCX-A power transformer failed also; fortunately, National was still in the SSB transceiver business at the time, so I was able to buy a replacement transformer. I was fascinated with the mechanical digital dial on the NCX-5; it is a great bit of mostly mechanical engineering and is accurate within about 500 Hz everywhere.

Lessons Learned

I learned patience and persistence from these two projects. The experiences helped me when working to solve problems with MRI devices; the ability to stay with a problem until solved helped me to stick with ideas in MRI devices until a successful conclusion. This work helped me to ultimately get thirty-eight US patents on MRI devices. Sadly, SBE and National Radio Company are both now gone, but I do have both an SBE SB-33 and a National NCX-5 station with their remote VFO, crystal calibrator, and NCL-2000 linear amplifier. The NCL-2000 was purchased from QCWA Chapter One member Bob Briggs, W8MMC, in about 1980 along with other items when he updated his station.



K8IG’s Hexbeam Installation

In early October, Fred Freer, with the assistance of a tree service company, raised his brand new hexbeam antenna to the top of his house. Note that the right equipment was used to safely raise the antenna without danger to Fred or his helpers.

The machine is called a Nifty Lift and if you want to purchase one it costs about \$60,000.00. Fred rented it, along with the experienced operator, for a reasonable fee.

The hexbeam is doing a fine job!

