



Cleveland Chapter One NEWSLETTER

Established 1951

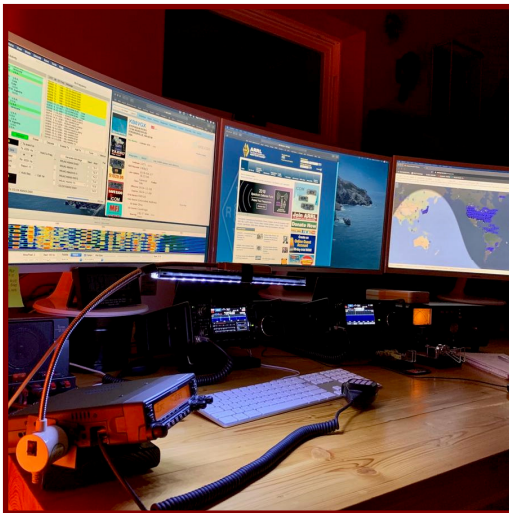
Winter Quarter 2025

W8LYD 146.850 PL 110.9

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

Join Chapter One's Winter Meeting ZOOM ONLY

Saturday, 11 January 2025, at Noon
Solar Powered Station



K8AXX Solar Powered Ham Shack

Our quarterly meeting will not be a luncheon in deference to the extreme cold and snow predicted for northeast Ohio.

Our guest speaker, **Axel Fisser, K8AXX**, has spent many years designing the ultimate solar powered amateur radio station. In fact, he only operates from solar power! Axel's program has been seen on various occasions at several area ham clubs.

If you've ever toyed with the idea of going solar, you'll truly enjoy this demonstration. And if you've seen it before at GARA, LCARA or LEARA, you may learn something new.

Join us using the following link:

<https://johncarrolluniversity.zoom.us/j/92426592840>

Password: 924 2659 2840

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Our Fall Luncheon: Ted Alexander, W8IXY



Chapter 1 enjoyed a trip down memory lane when **W8IXY** shared his long career as a broadcast engineer, disk jockey, talk show host, traffic reporter and voiceover artist. You can still hear Ted's popular *10,000 Oldies Show* on WQGR, 93.7 FM transmitting from North Madison, Ohio. *(please turn to page 4)*

Future Luncheon Dates

April 12, 2025, July 12, 2025,
October 11, 2025, January 10, 2026



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. 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 © 2000-2024** 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, 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

New Members & Friends:

Scott Yonally, N8SY of Lexington, Ohio, our ARRL Great Lakes Division Director, recently joined QCWA and our Chapter 1.

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, PL 110.9.

Happenings:

Bob Hajdak, N8QE, reports that Bernadette Wagner, KE8LWO, a PCARS member, was awarded a QCWA/FAR college scholarship. If you know any other licensed college student, advise Bob [rhajdak (at) aol.com], who is a QCWA national director.

Jeff Meyer, K4DKW, announced that his ham club at the Communion of Saints School won the Student Club roundup for the second time! Read more news from Jeff on page 4.

Silent Keys:

Richard Williams, NW8X, of Parma OH, passed away on 25 Aug 2024.

Sherrell Wimer, N8UIN, of Canton, OH, xyl of Jim Wimer, N8OOG and mother of Floyd Wimer, KC8ZOE, passed away on 12 Oct 2024

Mary Freer of Mayfield Village, OH, xyl of Chapter 1 vice-president Fred Freer, K8IG, passed away on 10 Nov 2024 after a long illness.

Pete Harmon, W1BKZ, of Burton, OH, passed away in late November 2024. Although Pete never joined QCWA, he often checked into our Chapter 1 nets and enjoyed our quarterly luncheons with his soulmate Sally Dawson, N1BCF.

Parks on the Air? What's the Big Deal ?

By Walter Robinson, W8AR

Just about from the time I got my first Ham license I was attracted to DXing, loved the pile ups and finally getting the contact. Sending and waiting for the QSL card was not as exciting but when it came, OH Boy! Another one! At that time I lived in Brunswick Hills Township so towers were no problem, I had two, a 75 and a 50 footer and worked the world. This was in the 70's and 80's and the bands were wide open. Day or night you could work somewhere. But the Sun cycle changed and things slowed down. There were still a lot of good DX spots but mostly for me it is the EU, S.A., West Indies, etc. I have moved and now live in Stow, OH with a 40 foot tower and several wires for 80 and 40. Also my interest had waned somewhat.

Then in 2016 the ARRL promoted the National Parks on the Air. I caught wind of it a little after it was rolling but got the bug and started looking for parks. I went after them like DX. It was great fun and the cards were only U.S. Postage (I liked that) as it turned out I did very well, ending in the top 8 percent (not bad for a late start); I got the Chaser certificate.

I'm not a big rag chewer but every once in a while I meet someone and we have a great conversation. So I was scrolling 40 meters and I hear a pile up, who's this?, DX? Then I hear someone giving reports so I jumped in (Didn't know what it was but wanted it, cuz you never know), worked it and got a sig report with a number. I found out it was P.O.T.A. and started investigating. Got on the P.O.T.A. website, learned quite a bit, bought the ARRL P.O.T.A. book. So What's the Big Deal?

P.O.T.A. is painless, no QSL'S (unless you need the card for WAS). You do not even have to send a log entry, because when the Activator uploads his card you are given credit automatically and they automatically figure the certificates you have earned. The pile ups are usually kind of small and they are fast and easy, just a signal report and state location. I log everything and send it to L.O.T.W. and QRZ Logbook. How do you find stations to work? The P.O.T.A. website has the current working stations listed, with the stations call sign, park number and frequency. Mostly it is just a good time. While there are P.O.T.As all over the world, the U.S. has 11866, every park must be either a State Park or a National Park and have a designated number. I cannot say which is the most active but P.O.T.A. is right up there with DXing.

And then, YOU can be an activator, Ever wanted to be a DX entity? While it isn't actually foreign DX stations from all over the world (mostly U.S.) working P.O.T.A., go to the P.O.T.A. website and pick a park. There is a map of the U.S. with every park. There is one close by you. Take a radio and antenna and just do it. I have activated 7 parks all within 40 miles. Great fun, enjoy!



Good POTA Location?



How about here?



POTA Set Up ?

Jeff Meyer, K4DKW, Report

Good morning and Happy New Year from K4DKW. I want to give all of you a short report on my outreach project, as your group has been a consistent source of support.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS AGAIN!

First, and hot off the ARRL press, my Communion of Saints Elementary School Amateur Radio Club won the October 2024 School Club Roundup. They have now won it twice and came in second twice, in their only four attempts. I'm so proud of them. We hang out around 14.250, on Fridays from 2:30-3:30, and will be starting up again January 24th, so stop by and have a QSO with us.

FIRST U.S. COMMUNITY BASED AMATEUR RADIO STATION, SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR A BLIND OPERATOR TO INDEPENDENTLY USE.

This coming March, I will be starting up the first totally accessible Ham club/station at the American Council for the Blind Service Center in Akron.

The Center staff and visitors have welcomed my project with open arms and the Center management has provided the best partnership I've had to date.

The only thing left to get is a new Kenwood TS590SG, as everything else needed is currently in my possession, including the very rare and discontinued Kenwood VGS-1 sound card.

Finally, I'm not the Wizard of Oz and will never claim I did all of this myself. Behind the curtain, was support from QCWA members, several families of Silent Keys as well as DX Engineering and EasyUp.

I'll let you all know when we get on the air and thanks again to all of you.

Chapter 1 Fall Luncheon

(continued from page 1)

Here are several photos of the large gathering enjoying the good food and Ted's program at *Das Schnitzel Haus*.



President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

Happy New Year 2025!

Another year has gone by so fast! This reminds me of an observation made by Chapter 1 member Jack Goldfarb, W8WGO (SK) when he turned 90 years of age. At that time, Jack told me that he had just turned 80 not long ago and he could not fathom how the next decade of his life had gone by so quickly.

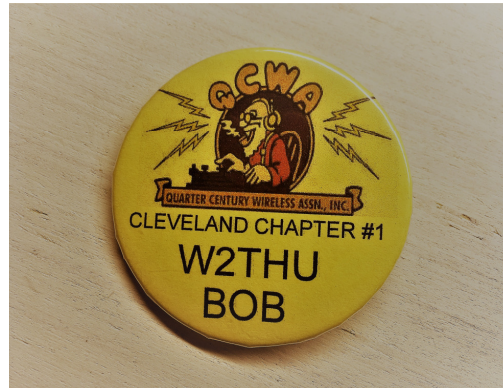
We belong to a club that requires a quarter century of amateur radio experience just to qualify for membership. Thus, most of us have witnessed the phenomenon described above, where time goes quicker as we age. I liken it to water swirling down the kitchen drain. Doesn't it appear to speed up just when the last of the water exits the sink?

Well, what does this have to do with the new year or QCWA? Probably nothing, but it's a good lead in to thanking all of our members and friends for their assistance in making Chapter 1 one of the largest, active chapters in QCWA. As I hope you know, we have a weekly net (formerly on our own repeater—W8LYD, 146.85 MHz, pl 110.9 in Geauga County), quarterly luncheons and a pretty good quarterly Newsletter. Some members of our chapter have been regularly assisting QCWA at both Hamvention in Xenia and Hamcation in Orlando. Our chapter member **Bob Hajdak, N8QE**, is one of the 5 national directors of QCWA.

Another chapter member, **George Mistic, KE8RN**, has written over 50 articles for our Newsletter about amateur radio transmitters, receivers, and transceivers that are a part of our collective heritage. Many of us have owned these radios and enjoy George's concise description of how they work and what made them unique in the amateur experience. George has published similar articles in *QST* and *Antique Wireless* magazine.

Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ, has also published in *Antique Wireless* and contributed many articles over the years to Chapter 1. Many of those describe new equipment that Jeff has purchased for himself and wants to share with our club.

Vice-president **Fred Freer, K8IG**, Treasurer **Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK** and several other members have done the same. Thank you to all!



Do you want a Chapter 1 Badge?

How Do We Keep This Going?

If you look at the QCWA website (qcwa.org), the left column lists new members in the past 30 days or so. There are 17 new members as of this writing. Unfortunately, many more members have become silent keys in the same time frame. (One insider told me that the ratio of SKs to new members is about 6 to 1.) Our local chapter tells a similar story. Read the PEOPLE column. We list two silent keys and one new member. We are losing more members than we are signing up. Typically, our chapter gains about 5 or 6 members annually. Nothing new you say? Correct, but what are we doing about it?

When I became active in Chapter 1, **Dee Logan, WIHEO** was quite concerned about retaining and increasing membership. He founded the *Ham Radio Promotion Project* to attract new hams into our hobby. This was a national effort. But, he also ran a chapter membership drive, striving to convince each of us to sign up just one new member so as to double our size! He offered a reward to the most successful member, but I don't recall what the prize was.

Some say that other non-ham organizations are having the same problem such as Rotary and Kiwanis. The generation behind us is not interested in joining clubs nor are they volunteering for anything. "They don't want to work," same some. What are your thoughts? Should we try a new membership drive?

See you on Zoom this Saturday at noon!

Best 47 & 73, Bob

My Favorite Older USA Made Amateur Radios

by George Mistic, KE8RN

My first older favorite I bought from the original owner many years ago; it was from an ad in the suburban Cleveland Sun weekly newspaper. It was a National HRO-7 receiver with the original four plug-in coils, speaker, external AC power supply and the original owner's manual. I had a Heathkit AR-3 shortwave radio I had built from a kit, and the HRO-7 was so vastly superior I could not believe the difference. The only modification I made to it was to shunt the resistor feeding B+ voltage to the BFO; this change improved the receiver on SSB very significantly. It still has some of the original National branded vacuum tubes from 1947; NOT BAD!

While working while in high school at Bernie's Ham Shack on East 21st Street, I bought a SideBand Engineer's [SBE] model SB-33, 75 to 15 meter transceiver. It had been damaged during an ARRL Field Day effort; because of a cabling error, a Collins KWM-2 accidentally transmitted into the SB-33. It was a multiple month effort to repair, but I was ultimately successful. It was a very nice SSB transceiver with a built-in AC power supply and speaker.

While working at Pioneer-Standard Electronics amateur radio and commercial sound department while in college, a customer came in to buy a new Drake station. He had been using a National NCX-5 SSB-AM-CW 80/75 to 10 meter transceiver with mechanical digital frequency readout. He had been putting up a vertical antenna on his roof; the antenna cable as connected to his NCX-5 when the antenna was caught by a wind gust and hit a 16,000 volt power company high tension line. This did not do good things to the NCX-5 or its AC power supply. I was able to buy it from his insurance company for \$25.00 in [obviously] not working condition. It took about six months, but I did eventually get it working again. All the vacuum tubes had blown filaments and the main transformer in the AC power supply had to have the filament winding redone. A huge effort but a satisfying one.



I have a Signal One CX-7 I bought years ago when my wife and I were dating at a Pittsburgh hamfest. The Signal One was a 160 to 10 meter transceiver that was largely solid state with only one tube in the final RF amplifier [an RCA type 8072 tetrode]; new it cost more than a Collins KWM-2 transceiver. It had most common accessories built-in including two VFOs, a speech processor, a noise blanker, a CW keyer, digital frequency readout, AC power supply, and speaker; the only things absent were an antenna tuner and a linear amplifier. I was looking for a Collins KWM-380 at the time which I described to my wife. She reported finding a radio the right size and color, but was not marked "Collins." It was the Signal One CX-7 which cost \$1595.00 in 1970. I bought it for what I considered a great price, and took it to the house in Pittsburgh I had just bought. I had recently installed a Newtronics 4-BTV vertical antenna in the back yard. I set the CX-7 up and turned it on listening to 20 meters. We heard a strong station with the call 9A9AA in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. I talked Barbara into calling him after his CQ; there was a big pileup calling him, but he answered her right away. A pleasant female voice works wonders.

I also have a National HRO-500 general coverage solid state receiver that I bought many years ago in Barberton, Ohio in not working condition. I got it what I considered a very good price because the complex, solid state HRO-500 probably intimidated most potential buyers. I got it working; I don't remember what was wrong with it. It cost \$1995.00 new; buying it not working made it affordable.

QCWA Chapter 1 Net Trivia

Our Wednesday night net (147.015, pl 110.9) at 8 PM features a trivia question and a discussion question. Here is a sample of the former since the last issue. (Answers at the bottom of this page—**Don't peak!**)

CORRECTION: The Fall 2024 edition of this Newsletter stated that Frank Gehry was the architect of the Guggenheim Museum in New York. The correct answer was B, Frank Lloyd Wright. [Apologies to Mr. Wright]

1. What do you call a type of precipitation that consists of small, white ice balls that fall from the sky? A) Snow B) Graupel C) Hail D) Ice Pellets
2. Name Cleveland's first mayor. A) John Willey B) Tris Speaker C) John Tebelak D) Charles Thwing
3. In 1975, what Cleveland supermarket chain opened "Food Palace?" A) Pick & Pay B) Catalanos C) Heinen's D) Giant Eagle
4. Which retailer was first to host a Thanksgiving Day parade? A) Gimbles in Philadelphia B) Filene's in Boston C) Macy's in New York D) Higbees in Cleveland
5. In 1863, Cleveland postal clerk Joseph Briggs initiated what postal first? A) Stamp Cancellation B) Postcards C) First door to door mail delivery D) Mail delivery twice daily in downtown Cleveland

FOR SALE

(Free advertising for all Chapter 1 members & friends)

Many ham estate items including Yaesu FT-897, Drake TR-7, Icom IC-251A, IC 3200-A, PS-30 power supply, Kenwood TS-130S, KPS-7 power supply, Leader LDC 822 frequency counter & Dentron GLT 1000 tuner. Also, National Radio, Heathkit, Viking, HAL, Astatic and much more. I'm not interested in getting the big bucks for this stuff, so call! Jeffrey Meyer, K4DKW (Painesville area) 252-717-9442.

SteppIR 3 element yagi. Fully assembled but never in the air, or on the air. I paid \$1,951.20. **Sell for half price.** My loss, your gain. Bob Winston, W2THU, 216-924-3314

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



Answers to trivia: 1) B 2) A 3) A 4) A 5) C