Cleveland Chapter One
NEWSLETTER
Established 1951

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Chapter One's Winter Luncheon
(Zoom Only)

Radio, Radio, Radio
100 Years of Commercial Broadcasting

Saturday, 10 Jan 2026 at Noon

Anthony Luscre, N8ZT

Join us for another one of Anthony Luscre's, K8ZT, wonderful programs from his vast collection. Anthony is our ARRL Ohio Section Youth Coordinator.

K8ZT is a prolific QRP operator, contester and DXer, He maintains a ham radio resource website, K8ZT.com with well over 100 presentations. This is one of them. Many hams began as broadcast band DXers so this topic will be of great interest to our members and guests.

Join Zoom Meeting: https://johncarrolluniversity.zoom.us/j/99080621103

Meeting ID: 990 8062 1103

In This Issue

Our Fall Luncheon

Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ receiving his 60th year anniversary award from Bob Winston, W2THU

Jeff, WA8SAJ, not only was our guest speaker, but he received his 60th Year Anniversary Award, too! Jeff 's well prepared and researched program about

(please turn to page 3)

Future Luncheon Dates
April 18, 2026, July 11, 2026,
October 10, 2026, 12 Dec 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: Quarterly luncheons on the Second Saturday of January, July, and October. Third Saturday in April. 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.

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; (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: Open
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:

Kim Culhan, W8HD of Hudson, OH joined QCWA this past November and is now a member of 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

Happenings:

Jeff Meyer, W4DKW will once again promote our great hobby at the Perry (Lake County) Library. His 4 Saturday noon monthly programs are scheduled for 24 Jan, 21 Feb, 21Mar & 18 Apr. Topics range from the history of radio to the NASA Mars rover, Doppler radar & Skywarn and amateur radio call signs, propagation and licensing.

Jim MacMillan, WA8ZHN, was the grand prize winner at the recently held Cleveland Hamfest. It was an Icom 7300. Congratulations Jim!

Silent Keys:

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of the following chapter members or family members:

Elizabeth S. Kollai, xyl of our Net Control Operator, Craig Kollai, N8ZT, passed away this past November at the age of 45.

Marcia Liddy, xyl of former member Bob Liddy, K8BL passed away last month at the age of 80.

Do you have anything to brag about? How about a family wedding, recognition on the job or volunteering, or at church? Tell us about an amateur radio activity that you would like to share with us. Any news is worthwhile!

More Info About Jim Russell, W8BU

by Kim Culhan, W8HD

(Editors Note: Our Winter Quarter 2022 Chapter 1 Newsletter featured a story about QCWA member W8BU, who was recognized during the 100th anniversary of the first amateur radio spark gap transatlantic QSOs. We asked for more information at that time. W8HD recently joined QCWA)

My dad and I knew Jim, W8BU in the sixties and we visited him and his wife Eila at their west-side Cleveland home. Jim was running a Collins KWM-2 transceiver with a 312b-5 VFO and a 30L-1 amplifier. They were active on 6 meters with a Clegg Thor-6 and a 6 meter beam on their tower.

Looking at a recent photo of their house at 4348 W. 223rd Street on Google maps, you can see they had a rather small lot but they were active on the ham bands from that location.

(Photo courtesy of Google Maps)

Jim had his law office in the Chester-12th building in Cleveland, across the hall from my grandfather's office. This is how we came to know Jim, who was a very nice and patient man. I spoke to my dad on the phone around the early 80's when he had received a letter from Jim, who I remember commented on his age being in his 90's at that time. In that letter, Jim referred to his wife, Eila, whose age was close to his.

W8BU was a good CW op and would make contacts at 50wpm or so. I remember him operating at that speed and I was amazed at that time. I was around age 12 then. My code speed was just novice level then. I remember that Jim had a Hallicrafters TO keyer and Vibroplex paddle. The KWM-2 worked well on CW and with the Collins 301-L amplifier, he could run 1 kw input on CW, the legal limit at that time. W8BU had a tri-band beam on their tower at a height of around 40 feet which provided a good signal.

That's what I remember from our visit to W8BU's house back around 1965. Just today I joined QCWA and I am looking forward to making contact with everyone.

Our Fall Luncheon (con't. from page 1)

Waiting for the hordes of members at Denny's

R. L. Drake Company's longtime chief engineer, Milt Sullivan. Milt was behind many of the advances in their amateur radio products. As always, Jeff's program was very well received by our members and guests.

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

AM MOBILE EQUIPMENT BUILT BY WELL KNOWN HAMS

By George Misic, KE8RN

Introduction

Gonset Company, and Collins Radio Company, both established amateur radio companies, and Morrow Radio Manufacturing Company and Multi Products Company made AM-CW equipment primarily for mobile use. Both companies made equipment primarily for mobile use, but their products could be used for home station use. Collins Radio products only transmitted on SSB or CW, they made no AM products; Gonset products for mobile use until the early 1960s were only for AM and CW operation, or SSB with the rare MSB-1 transceiver. In 1960, Gonset made the only AM-CW transmitter-receiver in 1960 with the G-76 that covered 80/75 to 10 meters with an internal VFO, plus the 6 meter band with only crystal controlled transmit.

Gonset Company

Gonset Company under the leadership of Faust Gonsett, W6VR, started as a company making VHF AM equipment with built in power supplies for home or mobile service. In 1955, Gonset began making the G-66 and G-66B amateur band receivers with the AM broadcast band; they were primarily designed for mobile service on CW and AM, the matching model G-77 and G-77A AM transmitters designed for mobile use with an internal VFO and Push To Talk [PTT] operation; all equipment covered 8/75 to 10 meters. The G-66, G-66B, G-77 and G-77A were all quite small and had matching size and style. They all had chrome plated front panels, each with a meter. The receiver was dual conversion with a 262 KHz last IF, the G-66B receiver had an extra stage of IF amplification; both receiver models had a BFO to enable CW and SSB reception. The G-77 or G-77A transmitter used a 6146 RF final amplifier tube, a VFO covering 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, and an antenna relay that works with the Push To Talk [PTT] system. They made an attractive pair of nice design for mobile operation and a much better transmitter than the earlier Commander series, but without six meters which the 1952 Commander transmitters had.

Gonset made their Communicator family of products that started in 1951 for two meters with the Communicator I that could be used mobile. In 1952, the similar Gonset Communicator II appeared for sale, like the Communicator I, it would operate from a 6 volt automobile electrical system. In 1954, the Communicator II was sold in a version to operate from a 12 volt automotive electrical system that was introduced on USA made cars in late 1952 on the 1953 models. In 1955, six meter version of the Communicator II was introduced. Special Communicators were built for Civil Defense [CD] and Civil Air Patrol [CAP] use and AM aircraft communications. In 1957, the Communicator II was replaced by the Gonset Communicator III; the cabinet color was changed from gay to white. Both two and six meter versions were sold, as well as the special purpose models. All units had a power supply using either 117 VAC or 12 VDC for mobile service. In 1961, Gonset advanced to the Communicator IV in a wide but low cabinet and a transistorized 12 volt DC power supply. The Communicator IV used the more convenient especially for mobile use push to talk receive-transmit switching [PTT] system. The Communicator IV was much more modern looking than the earlier Communicators; it also came in amateur radio versions for 50, 144, and 20 MHz bands as well as special models for CAP, CD, MARS, and other special uses.

(Please turn to page 6)

President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

Happy New Year-

There's not much that I can say about celebrating the end of another calendar year except for the usual "where did the time go?" Did you accomplish any of your goals for 2025? Did you put up that antenna you talked about or bought that new radio? Maybe you finally worked DXCC or WAS or earned some other long sought certificate.

On the other hand, did you downsize by getting rid of a bunch of stuff that you knew you would never use again? Or, like most of us, did you do nothing at all? Whatever your answer, our Cleveland area QCWA chapter wishes you and yours a very healthy and happy new year!

Is QCWA a "National Organization?" -

We often times talk about our chapter's president or newsletter or net even though our umbrella organization, the Quarter Century Wireless Association, has the same or similar entities.

Why the confusion? The QCWA was founded in the city of New York in 1947. Early members petitioned QCWA for permission to form local chapters so they did not have to travel long distances for their get-togethers. After all, one of the main benefits of membership is to sit down with other "old-timers" to share the history and know-how of our great hobby.

A group of Cleveland area hams were the first to write to headquarters requesting a charter. Hence, we became chapter 1 in 1951! Soon, more US hams did the same thing followed by countries outside the US. Check the opening page of the QCWA website to click on "chapters by number" and you will see there are 230 worldwide! (Only about one quarter of these are "active.")

There have been 8 DX chapters, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Israel, Austria and Switzerland. Of the latter, only Canada (Wild Rose chapter in Calgary), Germany and Switzerland are still active!

You may recall that the QCWA president for many years was VE6AFO, Ken Oelke.

So, when you refer to QCWA, our umbrella organization, it is indeed an **international organization**!

New Permanent Date for Our Spring Luncheon -

Do you normally read the future meeting dates on the first page of our Newsletters? If not, take a look when you get a chance. They are there so you can clear your calendar for our quarterly luncheons. Normally we meet on the second Saturday of January, April, July and October. After years of discussions, your officers have decided to permanently change the April luncheon to the third Saturday to accommodate the Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest. This is a good event and many of our members who normally attend our meetings have a difficult choice. So, something had to give and it was us!

Now you can enjoy both the CF hamfest and our April luncheon.

Old Friends -

W2THU and WB8ADF

Jerry Dusa and I met in 1979, the year I came to Cleveland. I was teaching in the Electronic Technology Department at CSU. Jerry was my student and when we discovered our common interest in ham radio, we bonded. Years went by when we rarely saw each other, but the power of amateur radio kept our friendship strong. Now we are both active in Chapter 1 and Jerry is our chapter musician. If you have never come to a luncheon, you are missing Jerry's wonderful accordion playing. Thanks for a great friendship Jerry!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our exclusive Zoom Meeting this coming Saturday!

Best 47 & 73, Bob W2THU

AM MOBILE EQUIPMENT BUILT BY WELL KNOWN HAMS

(Continued from page 4)

Gonset introduced in 1960 the only AM one piece [except for the power supply sold separately] transmitter-receiver, the model G-76 that covered 80/75, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters with a built-in VFO, and six meters using crystal controlled transmit frequency. The G-76 operated on both CW and AM; both AC and 12 volt DC power supplies were offered; the AC version came in a cabinet matching the G-76 and an internal speaker. The G-76 was the same size as the VHF Communicator IVs.

Multi-Products company

Multi-Products used the name Multi-Elmac on their AM mobile receivers, transmitters, and power supplies for mobile service from 1952 until the early 1960s. Like the Gonset G-66 and G-66B receivers, the Multi-Elmac receivers covered the AM broadcast band; the PMR-6 and PMR-6A receivers were built at the same time as the A-54 family of AM-CW transmitters; the A-54 Transmitters did not cover the 15 meter band, which was new in 1952.

The PMR-7 receiver and AF-67 transmitter did cover 15 meters. The AF-67 added 160 meters that the A-54 transmitters did not have; the AF-67 was made from 1953 to 1959. Multi-Products made the Multi-Elmac PMR-8 receiver and AF-68 AM-CW transmitter into the early 1960s. The PMR-8 and AF-68 AM-CW transmitter deleted 160 meters and added 6 meters, as six meters worked better as a mobile band because antennas for six meters were easier to implement in mobile service.

E. F. Johnson Company

In 1953, Johnson began selling an AM transmitter covering 75 to 10 meters including 15 meters. It was sold as a kit for $99.50 or $144.50 factory wired and tested. Called the Viking Mobile, it was sold without a power supply, crystals, VFO, or microphone; it used one 807 tube as the RF final amplifier and two more 807s as push-pull AM modulators. It was sold until 1958. Johnson did not sell a mobile receiver.

Morrow Radio Company

Morrow Radio in Oregon began making AM-CW amateur radio equipment in the mid 1950s; they manufactured separate receivers and transmitters plus power supplies. There early products did not include the 15 meter band, as the band did not exist when the design of the Morrow products started. In 1957, Morrow added the 15 meter band to the MB-565 AM-CW transmitter and the MB-6 amateur receiver. All the Morrow transmitters had a built-in VFO, plate modulation on AM, and PTT transmit-receive switching. In 1958, Morrow made the similar looking SSB transmitter that also provided CW and AM by adding a carrier to the SSB signal. The SSB transmitter was the model SBT and used the brand name Moradco. Power supplies were not included with any of these Morrow products, but were available. Some Morrow products were also sold as kits.

(*Please turn to page 7.)*

AM MOBILE EQUIPMENT (*continued from previous page*)

The Heath Company

In 1959, Heath introduced a receiver and transmitter designed for mobile service on AM and CW covering 80/75 to 10 meters in kit form; they were the MR-1 Comanche receiver and MT-1 Cheyenne transmitter. The MT-1 transmitter had a built-in VFO, PTT send-receive switching; it did not have the ability to use crystal controlled transmission. The MT-1 operated on CW and AM using screen grid AM modulation. In 1962, Heath replaced the MT-1 Cheyenne transmitter and MR-1 Comanche receiver with the HX-20 SSB-CW transmitter and HR-20 receiver as their mobile SSB equipment. All the Heath mobile equipment required a separate power supply for mobile or fixed station use. Heath sold the MP-1 power supply for mobile use or the UT-1 kit from 120 VAC operation.

Products for mobile use on the ten meter band

www.ngpix.com

Ten meters was a popular mobile band because a 102 inch whip antenna made a simple but effective mobile antenna. Lafayette Radio Company built low cost crystal controlled transmit, transmitter-receivers starting in the mid 1960s with the model HE-50 which had an internal AC and vibrator 12 VDC power supplies. The HE-50 went on sale in 1964 for $109.50 with a PTT microphone and both power cords. In 1967, Lafayette went to a Japanese made ten [and a similar six meter] HA -410 transmitter-receiver with a 2E36 final amplifier, push-pull plate AM modulation, an included PTT microphone, and a solid state DC power supply and a built-in VFO, for only $149.95.

Poly-Comm Laboratories, Incorporated made the Poly-Comm 10, introduced in 1960 for $329.95 including AC and DC power supplies, PTT microphone, and built-in VFO. It looked like the later models for six, two, and six and two meters in one unit.

Heath Company made a ten meter version of the Sixer, Twoer, and CB-1 Citizen's Band transmitter-receiver known as the model HW-19 and named the Tener for $39.95 in 1960 but without the DC power supply which was an optional $7.95 for the VP-1-6 or VP-1-12 or in 1961, $16.88 for the GP-11; both used a vibrator, the GP-11 replaced the rectifier tube with silicon diodes.

(*Note that due to the length of this article, it will be concluded in the spring 2026 edition of this QCWA Chapter 1 Newsletter.)*