



# Cleveland Chapter One **NEWSLETTER** Established 1951

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

## Visit the International Space Station at our Spring meeting

*Time to thaw out and chow down!*

Our April 9th luncheon meeting will feature a video presentation on amateur radio communication on board the International Space Station (ISS). While



some members have had a QSO with ISS, this video will provide a rare look inside the station and its ham-astronaut operators.

Launched on October 31, 2000, the station has orbited the earth more than 68,000 times and traveled over 1.7 billion miles.

Visited by more than 196 individuals from 8 countries, many ISS astronauts have been radio amateurs, including Owen and son Richard Garriott. The space station covers an area the size of a football field and weighs 827,794 pounds.

Many school children have spoken with ISS ham operators as part of the program called Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS).

Join us Saturday, April 9, starting at 11:30 a.m. for our quarterly luncheon. The place is Dimitri's restaurant in the Midtown Shopping Center, 1830 Snow Road, Parma. Lunch orders taken at noon. Door prizes, 50-50 raffle, music, and fellowship awaits!

Do bring a friend! ■

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### Good ideas and comments Collected during chapter survey

*We asked, and you told us!*

Thanks to those who participated in the recent chapter one survey. The results will help the operational group plan future changes that reflect the wishes of its members. Some comments:

It is clear that many would welcome the addition of more frequent informal meetings — perhaps monthly — held at different locations and at different times and days. Meetings should be shorter, with programs kept to a given time span.

Meeting topics should be related to amateur radio according to most members. A few think that general topics such as health would be OK. Suggestions for programs covered a wide range of ham radio interests, including propagation, home-brewing, DX, equipment and operating.

Our weekly net solicited a number of comments and suggestions dealing with its format and content. Some are comfortable with the present approach and feel that the net control does a good job. But others would like a different way to handle checkins and a different format from the present one. Some members aren't able to make the weekly net, or simply don't find it interesting.

Changes ahead: All comments will influence future changes that will be presented to members by the operational group. Some changes will need help from members, so please help out when you can!

Thanks to those who conducted the survey. ■



## Cleveland Chapter One Newsletter

**Editor:** D.E. "Dee" Logan, W1HEO;  
<deverelogan@gmail.com> (440) 352-8292.

**Past editors:** Bernie Hinrichsen, W2NTB (SK);  
Joe Zelle, W8FAZ (SK); Joe Tomazic, WT8P  
(SK).

**Distribution:** Jack Goldfarb, W8WGO;  
<jgldfrb1@roadrunner.com>

**Roster changes:** Notify Secretary Paul Poling,  
K8CKG; 1281 French Ave., Lakewood, Ohio  
44107-2467; (216) 228-3427; e-mail:  
<k8ckg@yahoo.com>

**Meetings:** Second Saturday of January, April,  
July, and October. Dimitri's Restaurant, Parma.

**Dues:** \$10.00 per year.

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### Chapter One Officers

**President:** Robert Winston, W2THU;  
(216) 771-3314, <W2THU@arrl.net.>

**Vice President:** Al Moriarty, N8CX;  
(216) 221-3682 <n8cx@mindsoring.com>

**Secretary:** Paul Poling, K8CKG;  
(216) 228-3427 <k8ckg@yahoo.com>

**Treasurer:** Robert Knaack, K8RDK;  
238 Stanford Drive, Berea, OH 44017-1561;  
(216) 470-3753 <k8rdk@arrl.net>

### Operational Group

**Membership:** KE9UL

**Net controls:** N8ZT, KC8UIQ

**QCWA Journal reporter:** W1HEO

**License trustee:** W8WGO

**Awards chairman:** W8WGO

**Chief radio officer:** K8QOT

**Chapter musicians:** WA8OZC, WB8ADF

**Sunshine reporter:** Dick Ingraham, WA8TPP,  
<reingraham@sbcglobal.net >

**Web administrator:** K8ZGW, <dritchie@dr.  
com>

■  
*Please notify Secretary Paul Poling of any  
changes in your address, e-mail etc. so your  
roster information can be kept current. Thanks.*



**New member:** Welcome to **Charles  
"Chuck" Joseph, N5JD**  
of Middleburg Heights.

**Radio activities:** **Harry Winfield,  
K8LXH**, is helping the Fairfax Radio  
Club expand to include Echolink and  
correct antenna problems....

**Bob Martin, W8MUA**, enjoys HF CW  
& PSK and has plans to try satellite  
work..... **Don Ritchie, K8ZGW**, is  
building a 6 meter collinear vertical,  
working on his 6m Master II, and  
repairing his G5RV so he can work  
**"Dee" Logan, W1HEO**, when he  
operates from Aruba (P4) the first two  
weeks of April....**Don Adams,  
WA8QZZ**, is using Bluetooth radios  
for serial port wireless connections.  
Says it's better & cheaper than wifi.

**Other goings on:** **Craig Kollai,  
N8ZT**, keeps in shape by running, and  
did a 10k and marathon.....

**Mark Studer, KC8FQV**, is using  
Echolink with his Motorola  
Smartphone to keep in touch with  
N6NNF in sunny California. ■

### Silent Keys

We are saddened to report the  
passing of Bernie Hinrichsen, W2NTB,  
following a long illness. He served as  
editor of this newsletter for many years  
and was an active chapter member.  
Also, Augustine "Gus"  
Mirsalis, W8RPT, has passed away.  
Please keep them in your thoughts and  
prayers.

## “We Don’t Use Microphones!”

By Dick Scott, W8FDN

After WW II, W8LT was the call of The Ohio State University amateur radio station. In 1950 I received my W8FDN class B license, after learning that W8LT was available for student use. I was living in a Columbus boarding house and there was no way I could set up a station there. And I had no equipment or surplus funds.

I located the station trustee, a professor in the electrical engineering department, and showed him my FCC ticket. I filled out some personal information, learned the station rules, and was handed a key to the station. W8LT was housed in a wooden shack, and available any time, seven days a week. Equipment included an HRO receiver, a BC-610 transmitter with two 100-foot towers and a Lazy H antenna.

**My first visit** found three hams ragchewing. They said that now was the time for my first QSO. They moved a J-38 hand key in front of me and said to call CQ.

I asked if there was a microphone, feeling that I would feel more comfortable operating phone. They told me there were no microphones in the station, since they were all CW operators. Some sent Morse at 40 words per minute.

**With some nervousness**, I tapped out a CQ at about 10wpm and worked a station in Kansas. I made some mistakes while surrounded by the veteran hams, but it was a moment that you don’t forget.

Later, I often visited the station, firing up a pot-bellied stove and operated. It was a little bit of ham heaven! After graduation, I served in Korea, and eventually was able to set up my first station. It’s been a great ride. W8LT still exists today. ■

## Beacons provide radio Propagation clues

By Lee Wical, KH6BZF

**How many of you** tune to WWV time clicks on 2.5, 5.0, 10, 15 and 20MHz for band openings? At 18 minutes past each hour there is a NOAA/SESC announcement on the Solar Flux Index and K indices updated every three hours. There are global time beacons — JJY in Japan, China and several European countries transmitting on the same frequencies as WWV.

### The Northern California DX

Foundation operates a global beacon system with time slots locked in via GPS that transmits on 14.110, 18.110, 21.110, 24.920 and 28.110 MHz with call signs of each country. Stations transmit regularly to allow propagation conditions from various locations to be monitored. Details: [www.ncdxf.org](http://www.ncdxf.org).

**Sorry, there are** no NCDXF beacons on the lower bands. However, on 160 and 80 meters, old timers have told me that they listen for static crashes from lightning west of their stations to determine possible band openings to the west of their locations.

Here in Hawaii, we have mild lightning. Mainland weather yields continental static over land. Lightning is now being investigated by scientists, since little is known as to what drives lightning.

The best band beacon on the radio is simply: ‘If they’re heard, work ‘em!’

*Lee Wical, KH6BZF, is a former resident of Mentor and held the call`*



## *Birthdays this Quarter*

By Paul Poling, K8CKG

### April

|        |                  |       |
|--------|------------------|-------|
| W8CZW  | William K. Tisza | 04/07 |
| N8QE   | Robert M. Hajdak | 04/12 |
| KC8CUJ | Ted Knyszek      | 04/13 |
| KC8FQV | Mark Studer      | 04/14 |
| W8TAB  | Thomas A. Bishop | 04/22 |
| WA8QZZ | Donald J. Adams  | 04/27 |
| W8MET  | Metro Sinko      | 04/27 |

### May

|        |                     |       |
|--------|---------------------|-------|
| W1HEO  | Devere E. Logan     | 05/03 |
| WA8TPP | Richard E. Ingraham | 05/06 |
| W8UNI  | Herman P. Pekrul    | 05/15 |
| AB8SB  | David C. Parris     | 05/16 |
| KC8UIQ | Robert E. Robertson | 05/18 |
| K8DBT  | Donald B. Thomas    | 05/18 |
| W4EU   | Earl Carter         | 05/28 |
| WA8YVF | George Ingmand      | 05/29 |

### June

|        |                      |       |
|--------|----------------------|-------|
| K8OCK  | John E. Esborn       | 06/01 |
| W8KDT  | Francis Bousquet     | 06/04 |
| KE9UL  | Joseph Nocifora      | 06/07 |
| KB8JTZ | Ross Stillisano      | 06/09 |
| W8MMC  | Robert F. Briggs     | 06/11 |
| WA8LYC | John R. Martin       | 06/12 |
| W8IMO  | Robert S. Sull       | 06/14 |
| W8LE   | Byrness Haworth      | 06/15 |
| K8ME   | Dwayne P. Modock     | 06/16 |
| KA8YHZ | Vance S. Roth        | 06/17 |
| W8HFE  | Robert M Simmons     | 06/17 |
| W8BNT  | Richard L. Petscher  | 06/20 |
| W8FDN  | Richard L. Scott     | 06/20 |
| WI3U   | Henry L. Schultz Jr. | 06/23 |

*Birthdays are announced each week during the chapter's Wednesday night net at 8:00 p.m. on 146.850 pl 110.9. Join us!*

#### Join the Friday Lunch Bunch

QCWA Chapter One members and other radio hams gather for lunch each Friday at 11:00 in Willoughby Hills. The place? The Firehouse Grill & Pub, one block west of route 91 and route 6, at 2768 Stark Drive. Stark is the first street west of route 91. Join us!

## Keeping Skeds for 70 Years

By Kirk Sanderson, W8WNA

In a 1936-37 physics class in Roseville, Illinois, three students learned of ham radio and became licensed as W9MGI, W9LGK, and W9CVM. They had many three-way QSOs on 160 and 40 meters. Today, more than 70 years later, the same three-way continues on 40 meters — CW or SSB. Their current call letters are W9MGI, AB2UO and W8WNA.

**All three spent** their working days in the electronics field. W9MGI was a leading technician at the Rock Island Arsenal; AB2UO headed a research division at GE (and is a Fellow of IEEE and received an award for pioneering development of monopulse radar).

After three years of Naval Aviation Electronics, W8WNA spent 35 years in broadcast engineering with NBC.

That small start in ham radio proved to be a lifetime career in electronics, and the three-way QSOs continue today. ■

## Weekly Net Report

By Craig Kollai, N8ZT

### December 2010 Total Checkins

96 members      2 listeners      98 total

### January 2011 Total Checkins

79 members      0 listeners      79 total

### February 2011 Total Checkins

71 members      1 listener      72 total

### Selected net trivia questions

1. What was Robert Gonset's most popular product?
  2. Who was the first person to transmit voice long range with a spark gap transmitter?
  3. What amateur radio band is known as Top Band?
- (Answers below) ■

*1. Gonset Communicator 2. Reginald Fessenden 3. 160 meters.*

## President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

**As I write this column**, spring is only 3 weeks away. Surely, we have endured another cold and snowy Northeast Ohio winter, but our January luncheon provided a warm and welcome relief from these gray days. In addition to the dual accordion playing of Al, WA8OZC and Jerry, WB8ADF, the usual door prizes, and 50-50 raffle, Dave Kennett, W8KFJ gave an excellent presentation on software-defined radios. Everybody in attendance was sent home with a CD containing the software to emulate such a radio. I found the concept fascinating. Thanks to Dave for a great presentation.

**The chapter** has lost a wonderful member with the passing of Bernie Hinrichsen, W2NTB. Although I did not know Bernie while growing up in Queens, there was this special sense of kinship when we met in Cleveland. Bernie served QCWA well and he will be missed.

**As you know**, Dee, W1HEO has organized a survey of our member's opinions regarding our Chapter 1 net, luncheon and newsletter. It appears that most of you want shorter luncheons, while some would like to see changes in the format of our net. The vast majority enjoy the newsletter just the way it is. Thanks to those of you who contacted our members to gather this survey information in order to improve our chapter. Look for changes in these areas as we follow your suggestions.

**At our recent** Executive Committee meeting, secretary Paul K8CKG reported that six new members joined Chapter 1 in 2010. Our new treasurer Bob, K8RDK has been efficiently collecting the dues and his balance sheet indicates that we have \$ 5,314.99 in our treasury.

**We will be trying** a new incentive to entice our members and guests to check in to our Wednesday night net. Anyone who checks in during the 3 months prior to any luncheon will receive an extra door prize ticket. As always, I look forward to meeting you on the net or at the April luncheon.

**Finally**, please remember that this is Dee's last Newsletter for Chapter 1. We all know that he



## News From Ham

**FCC actions:** Glen Baxter, K1MAN, has been cited by the Commission for conducting "unlawful activities," including causing interference and broadcasting without contacting any particular station. Also, the Monroe, MI Doctor Radio's CB Shop was cited for selling ham radios capable of operating in the CB band and at higher power than authorized.

**Pirates slay hams:** Four Americans sailing their yacht near Oman were held hostage by pirates and later killed. Three hams were among the victims: K9ESO, KF6RVB and KE7IIV.

**New ham band?** A proposal for a new amateur band between 415 and 526.5 kHz is being prepared to present at the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference.

**New QSL bureau rates:** New rates for the ARRL's outgoing bureau are: \$2 for 10 or fewer cards in one envelope, \$3 for 11-20 cards in one envelope, or 75 cents an ounce for packages containing 21 or more cards.

**Emergency helpers:** Radio amateurs have provided emergency communication support during several major disasters. In Christchurch, New Zealand, a major earthquake destroyed much of the city, with hams providing radio support, mostly via VHF. Elsewhere, tornados in Missouri, Illinois and Arkansas found hams spotting for the National Weather Service. ■

has done a terrific job and we are very grateful for his time and effort over these past 6 years. We are still looking for someone to accept the responsibility for this very important function. If you know someone who is willing to learn how to edit and publish a newsletter, then please contact me at [w2thu@arrl.net](mailto:w2thu@arrl.net) or 216.771.3314. Thank you.

73, Bob Winston, W2THU, President

## OPEN MIKE

By "Dee" Logan, W1HEO



**Six years ago** I became editor of this newsletter. It has been an interesting run, but now it's time for me to move on. I challenge those of you who enjoy writing and are comfortable with words to offer your help with future newsletters. This is, after all, *your* publication.

There are important reasons for having a regular written communication channel for the chapter. It records history. It provides an information source. Supplies news.

Offers interesting radio topics. Features hams and their activities. And more.

It's important that our chapter remains a vital organization. Nothing much happens without the active participation by its members. It's not a spectator sport.

**So allow me to** urge you to give serious consideration to the ways in which you could help. With a few members handling single topics, the newsletter can become a true cooperative effort, just as it should be. Yes, some of us have limitations on what we are able to do. That's life. For others who can, however, doing something for the chapter can be most satisfying.

**QCWA should be** a leader in the amateur radio community. Our experience and knowledge has great value, and we should welcome the role of sharing it with other, less senior members. Doing this will be a beacon for our wireless fraternity. It's sure to attract many to our chapter and the rare fellowship that it offers.

The future is shaped by the many things we do now. It eventually reflects those steps that have been taken today. Actions, not only words, will make that happen. ■