



# Cleveland Chapter One **NEWSLETTER** Established 1951

Third Quarter 2009

W8LYD 146.850 PL 110.9

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

## It may be a hot time for all at Our July 11th lunch meeting *Suntan lotion is optional!*

**Summer is here** and a good time to get out and about by letting the sun shine in and heading for our next Chapter One luncheon meeting. On tap will be the usual mix of good fellowship, fun, food, door prizes, 50-50 raffle, and an interesting program.



The meeting topic will be digital voice. Certainly a timely subject now that our TV stations have dumped analog in favor of pretty pixels. Ham radio, like our video cousin, is zooming ahead into the new digital age., so let's take a look at what it can mean for our hobby. Today's technology is a giant step forward from the very first digital (and still popular) mode: Morse code.

**Bring a friend!** How about inviting a fellow ham to join us at our upcoming meeting? This is a great way to recruit a new member.

Mark the date: Saturday, July 11th. The place: Dimitri's restaurant in the Midtown Shopping Center, 1830 Snow Road, Parma. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. with lunch orders taken around noon. ■

**Wednesdays are net nights.**  
Join us at 8:00 p.m.  
146.850, PL 110.9  
QCWA news and information.

### In This Large Print Issue

2. People
3. DXing with an indoor antenna
4. Radio classics: the EICO 720
4. Techniquiz
5. Ham radio news briefs
6. Chapter one resource list

## Sunspot cycle 24: forecasters Have no idea what's ahead *Your guess is as good as theirs!*

**The new cycle may be here**, but the "experts" don't agree on what the future will bring. The forecasts of all these "wizards" are being discredited by no less than Tom Hood, NW7US, the propagation editor of *CQ Magazine*.

"No one can postulate with any credibility just how intense the new cycle will be," he says, "because there's no direct correlation between this solar minimum and any regular pattern of past minimums."



**Hood points out** that NASA's lead representative on the panel of solar researchers has said that "it turns out that none of our models were totally correct."

There are signs of an awakening of new solar cycle 24 according to Hood. So he encourages hams to "enjoy the unique propagation opportunities presenting themselves during this quiet phase and prepare for whatever the sun will do by honing your radio skills." ■



## Cleveland Chapter One Newsletter

**Editor:** D.E. "Dee" Logan, W1HEO.  
<delogan@ameritech.net> (440) 352-8292.

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

**Distribution:** Jack Goldfarb, W8WGO.

**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:** Richard Ingraham, WA8TPP; (440) 946-4879; <reingraham@sbcglobal.net>

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

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

Please send roster changes to the Secretary.

**Treasurer:** Raymond Wassum, W8SLZ; 205 Hamlet Hills Dr., Apt. 74, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022-2817 (440) 247-4582, <raywas@sbcglobal.net>

### Operational Group

**Membership:** KE9UL

**Net controls:** N8ZT, KC8UIQ

**ARRL Letter reporter:** W8WGO

**QCWA Journal reporter:** W1HEO

**License trustee:** W8WGO

**Awards chairman:** W8WGO

**Chief radio officer:** K8QOT

**Chapter musician:** WA8OZC

**Sunshine reporter:** K8SGM, (440) 842-1767, <gk-k8sgm@sbcglobal.net >

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

**Chapter E-mail address:** w8lyd @ qsl.net



**Volunteering:** Tom Bishop, W8TAB, is a radio reader at the Cleveland Sight Center. Net Control **Craig Kollai, N8ZT**, participated in the Scuba for Diabetes and raised \$225. And **Kate Saccany, KC9IQF**, attended a weather spotter course sponsored by the local EMS.

**New members:** A warm welcome to **Donald Adams, WA8QZZ**, of Chagrin Falls and **Dave Foran, WB8APD**, of Willoughby, who have joined Chapter One.

**Membergrams:** We hear that **Bob Winston, W2THU**, has a new grand daughter. Congratulations. **Kirk Sanderson, W8WNA**, is spending more time on Skype than ham radio. It allows him to use video with lots of DX. "But radio is more fun," he adds.

**Silent keys:** We regret to announce the passing of **Clyde Rothstein, W8QHM**, and **Tim Culek, KQ8TC**. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. ■

### CLASSIFIED AD

**Estate of KQ8TC (SK):** B&W TVI filter; MFJ-116 multiple DC power outlet strip; Archer 20A noise filter; 6 ft. USB cable; ARRL repeater directory—2006-2007; GPS & Amateur Radio book; ARRL book "From Spark to Space"; Gordon West General class and Morse code course on cassettes; 12 volt 3A DC supply. Contact "Dee" W1HEO at (440) 352-8292 or <delogan@ameritech.net>



## *Birthdays this Quarter*

By Paul Poling, K8CKG

### July

W8PT	Charles Patellis	07/04
K8SGM	George J. Keltner Sr.	07/04
WA8VMN	William Hammond	07/08
K8YLY	Kenneth J. Wolenski	07/16
W8YEO	Marvin S. Goldfarb	07/17
WA8OZC	Alphonse H. Lada	07/25
W8JZZ	Albert S. Wilde	07/26
W2THU	Robert M. Winston	07/28
WB8ADF	Gevard Dusa	07/29
NW8X	Richard H. Williams Sr.	07/30

### August

N8CX	Alan Moriarty	08/05
W8WHO	Clifford P. Dice	08/08
K8ZGW	Don Ritchie	08/10
KC9IQF	Cathy D. Saccany	08/12
WD8AQH	Nadya Cole	08/15
K8SLF	Clarence Saccany	08/22
AA8BV	Robert C. Mate Sr	08/22
W8RPT	Augustine Mirsalis	08/28
W8PIU	Onerio L. Sabetto	08/29
W8FSF	Fred S. Freer	08/30

### September

W8WNA	Kirk Sanderson	09/06
W8CJB	Clifford E. Bade	09/11
KB3MPF	Barbara Misis	09/12
N8EQT	Raymond B. Suing	09/16
K8LXH	Harry L. Winfield	09/21

**Birthdays are announced weekly on the Wednesday night Chapter One net.**

#### Join the Friday lunch bunch

Each Friday a group of QCWA members and others gather for lunch. Fellowship is the main menu, but radio topics and the news of the day also are chewed over. The place is the Firehouse Grill & Pub, one block west of route 91 and route 6, at 2768 Stark Drive in Willoughby Hills. Stark is the first left off route 6. Seating at 11:00 with orders taken at 11:30. Join us!

## How W8SLZ works DX With an indoor antenna

*He did it, and so can you!*

**On February 28**, at 10:30 in the morning, Ray Wassum was sitting inside his apartment and checking the 20 meter band. He heard a strong 5 by 9 signal from an Italian station, IY1GM, and despite having only an indoor antenna, Ray gave him a call.

Bingo! He made the contact.

His experience should give hope to those who are “antenna restricted” for various reasons.

**Ray’s antenna** is similar to one described in the March issue of *QST*.

“I used lamp cord — otherwise called zip cord — purchased at ACE hardware,” he says. “It’s a 32-foot-long dipole hung up by the ceiling and fed with 40 feet of RG58 and coupled to a W2AU balun.

“The antenna is hung in a corner of the wall and at the end corners of opposite walls.”

**Each horizontal leg** is 12 feet long, so he adds an extra four feet that hangs down on each end for a total of 32 feet.

How does it work? Ray reports that the SWR is under 1.5 to 1. He’s used the antenna since last November. It appears to work very well we’d say. ■

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

You’ll find lots of handy information and links on the Chapter Website. There’s information on QCWA, call sign listings, an FCC license renewal link, newsletters and much more. Do check it out!

## Ham Radio Classics: The EICO 720 transmitter: a Novice op's honey for the money

Introduced in 1958, the 720 was a 90-watt CW transmitter was sold as a kit (\$79.95) or wired (\$119.95). Covering 80-10 meters including the 11-meter band, the crystal-controlled rig could also operate with an external VFO. A matching plate modulator was sold for \$49.95 as a kit or \$79.95 wired.

The tube lineup included a 6CL6 Colpitts oscillator, 6AQ5 class A buffer-multiplier, 5R4 rectifier and a 6146 final RF amplifier.

The 720 featured a heavy copper-plated chassis. A switch on the back selected either an external VFO or front panel crystal. A pi network made antenna matching easy.



Competing rigs included Heathkit's DX-40 75-watt transmitter at \$64.95 but with AM screen modulation built in. Also available at the time was the WRL Globe Chief 90; similar to the 720, priced at \$49.95.

As 720 fan K9AUB says, "There were two types of hams in the 1950s: those who owned an EICO 720 and those who wished they did." ■

### Weekly Net Report By Jack Goldfarb, W8WGO

#### March 2009 Checkins

4	15 members	0 listeners	15 total
11	22 members	0 listeners	22 total
18	22 members	2 listeners	22 total
25	20 members	0 listeners	20 total

#### April 2009

1	23 members	0 listeners	23 total
8	19 members	0 listeners	19 total
15	18 members	1 listener	19 total
22	23 members	0 listeners	23 total
29	19 members	1 listener	20 total

#### May 2009

6	24 members	0 listeners	24 total
13	21 members	0 listeners	21 total
20	20 members	1 listener	20 total
27	21 members	0 listeners	21 total

Note: When our normal repeater (146.850) is down, look for the Wednesday night 8:00 p.m. net on the 147.060 repeater with an offset of +600 and a PL of 110.9. ■

### QCWA TechniQuiz A brain-jogging exercise

#### Circuit Circus

- A resistor with a tolerance of 5% has a band of what color?  
A. White B. Gray C. Black D. Gold
- How much current flows when 4 volts is applied across an 8 ohm resistor?  
A. 3.2 amperes B. 8 amperes  
C. 0.5 amperes D. 4 amperes
- What determines the number of electrons that can be stored in a capacitor?  
A. Plate size and thickness  
B. Spacing and plate size  
C. Electron flow rate  
D. Dielectric type
- A pentode vacuum tube has how many elements?  
A. Five B. Four  
C. Two D. Three

Answers below

1. D 2. C 3. B 4. A



## News From Ham Radio's Wide World

**Police become pirates:** The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department has stopped the practice of using Amateur Radio frequencies by unlicensed officers. The ham frequencies were being used to supplement normal channels during drug surveillance. The FCC reminded the police that many tactical channels are available to them on a secondary basis.

### **Earth calling Venus:**

A German AMSAT group has successfully bounced ham radio signals off the planet Venus. The team's transmitter was running 6 kW CW on 2.4 GHz. The 100 million kilometer round trip took about five minutes.

**Loran-C closing down:** The U.S. Coast Guard is closing down 24 of its Long Range Aid to Navigation (LORAN-C) stations on 100 kHz due to the economy. The stations provide navigation, location and timing services for civilian and military land, air and marine users. LORAN-A stations were used during WW II and operated in and around the 160-meter ham band and were phased out in 1979.

**Code speed contest:** Who is the world's fastest Morse operator? In 1936 it was W9ERU, with a winning speed of 52.2 words per minute. Current championships reach speeds of 500 characters or 100 words per minute. The next IARU High Speed Telegraphy Championship is to be held in September at Obzor, Bulgaria. ■

*The ARRL Letter*

## OPEN MIKE

Commentary by W1HEO



**Some facts of life** are unavoidable, such as death and taxes. Each of us will eventually become a silent key and go to that big ham shack in the sky. Then, our survivors will face the question of what to do with the amateur radio equipment we leave behind.

Recently we were asked to handle the sale of radio equipment owned by Chapter One silent key Tim Culek, KQ8TC. He asked us to do this shortly before he passed away. It was hard to say no.

**While we've done this** before, the volume of his equipment was huge. Tim never threw anything away, so simply taking an inventory was a major project. Fortunately, distributing the list via the internet helped find buyers, but it was a big job to identify, test and locate manuals and other documentation on the gear.

**What can we learn from this?** Start today to organize your ham shack. Put manuals and sales receipts in clearly marked files. Toss items that no longer work. Leave suggestions for your close relatives as to how to dispose of your gear, and who could help with its sale. (A licensed ham familiar with the equipment and value is the best choice.)

Surviving members of your family will face enough stress after you've gone without worrying about your equipment. So plan ahead. ■

## QCWA Chapter One Resource List

Our members have a variety of specialized knowledge and experience that can be shared with others. This is the first such listing. What can *you* offer? Contact the editor at <delogan@ameritech.net> or (440) 352-8292. Thanks!

### Antennas & DX

D.E. "Dee" Logan, W1HEO  
(440) 352-8292 <delogan@ameritech.net>

### Legal

Robert Winston, W2THU  
(216) 771-3314 <w2thu@arrl.net>

### Building electronics

Joe Gutoskey, W8DOE  
(440) 944-3774 <joegtsky@msn.com>

### Medical literature

Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNW  
(216) 382-0484 <jxn12@case.edu>

### General help & Troubleshooting

Kirk Sanderson, W8WNA  
(440) 526-4132 <kirksanderson@juno.com>

### Running

Kate Saccany, KC9IQF  
(847) 226-7434 <cdsaccany@aol.com>

### Echolink & CQ100

Jack Goldfarb, W8WGO  
(216) 371-1981 <jgldfrb1@roadrunner.com>

This space reserved for *your* listing.