



Cleveland Chapter One **NEWSLETTER** Established 1951

Fall Quarter 2024

W8LYD 146.850 PL 110.9

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

Join Our Fall Luncheon! With Ted Alexander, W8IXY (Awards, too)

Das Schnitzel Haus
5728 Pearl Road
Parma, Ohio

Saturday, 12 October 2024, at Noon



Our quarterly luncheon will be held on the westside in Parma, at a really wonderful restaurant. *Das Schnitzel Haus* is located about 1 mile south of I-480.

Ted Alexander, W8IXY, will be our guest speaker. As most of you know, Ted has a long history in Cleveland commercial radio, as a disc jockey, talk show host, broadcast engineer and more. He has many memorable stories to share with us!

In addition, we will present framed service awards and century club awards to those who wish to receive them during the luncheon. (A list of recipients will be emailed to you shortly.)

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

Please RSVP to w2thu (at) arrl.net

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Our Summer Luncheon: Picnic in Mayfield Village



Jeannie, KC8MNW & Jeff, WA8SAJ
playing cornhole.

A big thank you to VP **Fred Freer, K8IG** for reserving the Wiley Pavilion in Mayfield Village. We had a terrific picnic, including our chapter musician, **Jerry, WB8ADF** on the button box, hamburgers and hot dogs grilled to perfection by **Marc**, (please turn to page 4)

Future Luncheon Dates

*January 11, 2025, April 12, 2025,
July 12, 2025, October 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. 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

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Treasurer: Jim Arcaro, WD8PFB; 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.



New Members & Friends:

Robert J. Dianetti, KT8DX, Chardon, Ohio joined QCWA last year and is now an official 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, PL 110.9.

Happenings:

Fred Freer, K8IG, reports that the recent tornadoes of 6 August brought down a tree limb onto his 80 meter end fed antenna. He was out of commission on 75/80m for about 6 weeks until a tree climber reinstalled his repaired antenna. Fred acknowledged that his loss was nothing compared to the destruction caused by recent hurricane Helene.

Jeff Meyer, K4DKW, says that his portable amateur radio trailer is effectively done. (see the summer 2024 edition of this Newsletter). It just needs to be deployed to different parks. His school kids ham club at Communion of Saints Elementary School started two weeks ago. Want to help? Call 252-717-9442

That's all we've got! Send us your news for the winter 2025 Newsletter.

Sunshine:

Joan Andrews, N8YFF, is completely recovered from a serious condition after surgery. We wish her well!

Silent Keys:

Jeff Beals, WA4AW, passed away on 20 July in West Palm Beach, FL. Jeff was the QCWA Vice President and the ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director.

Confessions and Observations of an Addict

by Fred Freer, K8IG

Okay, I admit it. I am a recovering (kit builder) addict. I miss the hours spent reading the well-crafted instruction manuals, inventorying the copious parts, contemplating the assembly process, envisioning the finished project and, as a final step, delighting in a project's passage of "the smoke test." I valued the craftsmanship that was embedded in my newly created test equipment, audio equipment and ham radio gear. Those memorable days of kit building are largely long gone. Or so I thought.

One further admission. I am a QRO guy...not QRP. Guided by Part 97, I use the power necessary to achieve the QSO. At my 82 years, I am not rewarded by the challenge of struggling for that elusive QRP station somewhere in the ether. But then it happened. Wandering into the 4 State QRP Group (also called Four State) website (www.4sqrp.com), what should appear to my wondering eyes...an eye candy kit. David Cripe, NM0S, has designed a visually inviting and fully functional QRP tuner/coupler offered only in kit form. Alas, to satisfy my kit craving, I succumbed and bought the QRP tuner kit (\$45 + USPS shipping). The finished project is pictured here perhaps destined to become a shelf display. Recall I said that I don't do QRP!

A few comments about the kit and the tuner/coupler are in order. I really enjoyed and learned from the instructive and explanatory nature of the earlier kit manuals as from Heathkit and EICO to name two. Not so with the 4 Square kit. By way of explanation, the "assembly manual" is in download form from the website. That said, it should be easy for 4 Square to readily correct and update the manual as necessary. The "latest" manual is version 1.4 last revised in December, 2015! There are many reasons the manual should be revised. The manual relies on paragraphical assembly steps that refer to labeled pictures that lack definition and context. The instructions begin with the winding of the toroidal inductor but did not mention whether the toroid is viewed from above or below making the direction of the windings uncertain. The manual refers to lengths of wire to be prepared but doesn't specify the wire type, gauge or insulation and it was not included as shipped. The manual refers to the (contact) lugs on the inductor switch with the above mounted toroid winding and progressing counterclockwise but the switch lug identification in the manual is incorrect. I had to call David Cripe to verify that my assumptions were correct. That's the bad news. Once the toroid is wound and installed, the installation of the discrete components is straightforward. The top, bottom and four sides are easily assembled to form the enclosure by soldering adjacent panel tabs together.

The good news is that unlike that green tuner pictured on their website, the finished product is a handsome black finished enclosure (3" X 3" X 2") replete with appropriate lettering (as shown). The BNC connectors are robust and firmly mounted. The unit is equipped with two LEDs (red and green). The green LED indicates output power (variable brilliance) and the red LED indicates reflected power (again, variable brilliance). Terminating into a long-wire or coax, at 2:1 VSWR, the lamps are of equal brilliance. Tuning is easy and intuitive and fun to dial up the green brilliance and down the red brilliance once the appropriate inductor step (12 steps) has been selected. The manual reports that the maximum power throughput has been tested at 10 watts: perfect for QRP! While the insertion loss is (when properly matched) reported as "low" the loss is not specified. The author utilized a Bird 43 wattmeter with a 5 watt slug to verify performance.

The look and feel of the tuner/coupler unit is both professional and fun to use. And it temporarily satisfied my kit craving.



Chapter 1 at the Cleveland Hamfest



Jim MacMillan, WA8ZHN, helping Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK out at our chapter table.

This year we raised a little cash by raffling off an Astatic D-104 with the American Eagle emblem on the back of the mike. You can see the D-104 and the box for depositing your raffle tickets in the above photo on the right side of the table. The winner was Randy Goudy, KF8CFC, a resident of Funk, Ohio.

Randy said that he would donate the microphone to the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society (CARS) so that they could raffle it off at a future event. KF8CFC suggested that the winner of that future raffle would do the same, so as to “pass it forward” to yet another ham club and so on.

Bob, W2THU was recently gifted the microphone by Alan Richards, WA2EGA a resident of Long Island, NY. Bob and Alan were classmates at Jamaica High School in Queens, NY and they hadn’t seen each other for 62 years! When WA2EGA was informed of the above arrangement he stated, “ Sounds like a plan. In the end, however, I don’t want it back no matter how many clubs and auctions it goes through.” (Alan always had a great sense of humor.)

Our exhibit featured the usual handouts promoting QCWA and our chapter. We did sign up one new member, **Bob Dianetti, KT8DX** of Chardon, Ohio and many others signed our attendance sheet.

Chapter 1 Summer Picnic

(continued from page 1)

KA8CPB and Jeff, **WA8SAJ**.

We had several show & tell items, including W2THU’s one tube regenerative radio for monitoring the NYC Police Department around 1960.

Here are some more photos.



If you missed this year’s Cleveland Hamfest, we hope to see you next year and don’t forget to visit your QCWA Chapter 1 table!

President's Perspective

By Bob Winston, W2THU

Luncheon Venues—Eastside, Westside

This quarter's luncheon is being held on the westside for a couple of reasons. First, our usual eastside meeting place, The Firehouse Grill & Pub in Willoughby was not happy last spring when we reserved their big, cozy private room, and less than 20 people showed up. Second, and more importantly, **Chapter 1 is the Cleveland area QCWA chapter and not just the Lake County chapter.**

When I became active in QCWA, around the year 2000, our chapter had been meeting at Dimitri's on Snow Rd. in Parma for years. I was living in a Cleveland eastern suburb and the idea of traveling to Parma was just fine. I recall one winter luncheon when the snow was really coming down, yet most of our regular members showed up at Dimitri's just the same. It was a white knuckle drive, where I stayed off I-480 by driving cross town on Granger and Brookpark Roads.

After the sudden closure of Dimitri's we met at JB Milano's at the Cuyahoga County Airport in Richmond Heights. They, too, closed suddenly, so we tried a restaurant called the Europa in Willoughby Hills, whose owner promised that he would close his place to the outside public so we could have a private meeting. But, he didn't keep his promise, and our luncheon was completely spoiled by the loud talking of regular guests.

We thought we had a permanent home at the Play Arcade & Kitchen in Mayfield Heights which not only went out of business, but the entire building was torn down.

Over the years I have often requested suggestions for westside venues. Last fall, at the suggestion of **George Pindroh, K8KR**, we met at Amici's Italian Restaurant & Bar in North Royalton, a favorite spot of the NODXA. The food was very good and we had a private room. But, again, the owner was disappointed because we did not have enough guests and she wanted to impose a room charge.

We also met at the Creekside Restaurant & Bar in Brecksville, several years back. We had a private room, the food was good, but there was no door and the walls didn't go up to the ceiling, so the noise from other parts of the venue interfered with our luncheon.



W2THU visits Alan Richards, WA2EGA 62 years after we graduated high school. Alan donated the D-104 that was raffled off at the Cleveland Hamfest (see p.4)

Now, that brings us to the current choice, Das Schnitzelhaus in Parma. It was suggested by **Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS**, friend of our chapter and the LEARA venue chair. Jeannie and I attended the latest LEARA dinner meeting there and it satisfies all of our club's requirements. We'll have a private room with a door. The food is excellent, especially if you like German and eastern European dishes.

So, if you like this choice, it can become our permanent westside location, while we re-think our eastside location. Of course, The Firehouse will book our future luncheons if we can guarantee better attendance and that's up to you, our members and friends!

Be sure to let me know if you are coming so that the restaurant supplies enough wait staff. [w2thu (at) arrl.net].

Awards Luncheon -

Fall is always our awards luncheon. We give out framed anniversary awards, century club awards and 50 years continuously licensed certificates. If you would like to receive these very attractive certificates in front of your fellow members and friends, then let me know. You've earned this accolade through your years of participating in our great hobby.

I look forward to seeing you at Das Schnitzelhaus!

47& 73, Bob, W2THU

Collins Radio Company Contributions to Amateur Radio Technology

by George Misic, KE8RN

Introduction

The topics included here are from 1946 until the 1970s when Arthur Collins, W0CXX was involved in Collins Radio Company; this period includes Collins Radio being an independent company and being owned by Rockwell International Corporation.

Major Collins Radio ideas

Crystal controlled first conversion oscillator: In 1946, Collins Radio built their first amateur radio band receiver, the model 75-A covering 80/75, 40, 20, 15, 11, and all of 10 meters. The Collins 51J-1 to 51J-4 was similar to the 75-A1, 75-A2, and 75-A3; the 75-A3 and 51J-4 was the first receiver to use the Collins mechanical filter for excellent selectivity.

Collins mechanical filters for selectivity: In 1953, the Collins 75-A3 amateur band receiver came with a 455 KHz mechanical filter with 3.0 KHz bandwidth that worked well for SSB or one sideband of an AM signal. Mechanical filters were used in the 75-A4 receiver, the S-Line receivers and SSB-CW transmitters plus the KWM-1 and KWM-2 SSB-CW transceivers.

The KWM-1 SSB-CW transceiver: For 1957, Collins created the first SSB-CW transceiver covering 14.0 to 30.0 MHz in ten 100 KHz slices of 20, 15, and 10 meters. The KWM-1 came without a power supply or speaker but with a 100 KHz crystal calibrator and a VOX control system for receive-transmit switching. Collins made power supplies for 117 VAC, 12 VDC, and 28 VDC input for fixed station, automotive, and aircraft mobile service.



Collins 75A-4 (Photo courtesy of K8IG)

The Collins S-Line receiver and SSB-CW transmitter invent transceiving or independent frequency control: In 1958, Collins Radio began making a matching receiver and SSB-CW transmitter that could operate at a frequency selected by the receiver, or, at the flip of a switch, the receiver and transmitter could each select their own operating frequency to enable working foreign stations transmitting outside of the USA phone band segment.

Collins also made a five band SSB-CW transceiver using much technology from the S-Line; it was the model KWM-2 from 1959 to 1975.

Collins exits the amateur radio market after the KWM-380 SSB-CW transceiver

Collins left amateur radio after manufacturing the solid state KWM-380 SSB-CW transceiver from 1978 to 1982. It covered 160 to 10 meters with internal AC power supply, speaker, and digital frequency readout to 10 Hz.

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 from previous nets in the past 3 years. (Answers at the bottom of this page—**Don't peak!**)

1. Last Sunday was the first day of fall, which is apple cider season. Which state has named apple cider its official state drink? A) New Hampshire B) Ohio C) New York D) Maine
2. Today is the anniversary of 9/11 when almost 3,000 people died and the World Trade Center in NYC was destroyed by terrorists. Who owned the World Trade Center? A) The NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority B) The NY Mets C) The Port Authority of NY & NJ D) Michael Bloomberg
3. Labor Day is celebrated this coming Monday. Which country originated this holiday? A) Canada B) USA C) Australia D) India
4. Which country gives students the longest summer holiday? A) USA B) Australia C) Chile D) Italy.
5. Which American architect designed the Guggenheim Museum in NYC? A) Frank Gehry B) Frank Lloyd Wright C) Buckminster Fuller D) I. M. Pei
6. Where does the US Vice-President live? A) Tudor Place B) The Old Stone House C) Dumberton House D) US Naval Observatory

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)A 2)C 3)A 4)D 5)A 6) D