

QCWA Chapter One Winter, 2012 Newsletter

Hello; this is my second attempt at editing the QCWA Chapter One Newsletter. Input material is needed to create the newsletter; please write a few lines about ham radio or other hobby activity or any other news. I will start preparing each newsletter about eight weeks before the meeting date, so you are free to send any material to me up to two months before the meeting date. I can be reached by phone at 412-486-8566, Email at KE8RN@comcast.net, or by mail at 1936 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, PA 15101-2824.

George J. Mistic KE8RN, editor

Next QCWA Meeting at Dimitri's Restaurant, 1830 Snow Road, Parma on January 14, 2012; Program on Restoring Vintage Radios by Jeff Covelli,

WA8SAJ Our feature talk will be given by Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ; his topic will be restoring antique ham radios. An experienced technician who has worked on a variety of older transmitters and receivers, he will explain some of the techniques he uses to keep the oldies on the air. Another challenge is finding the parts to complete his repairs on such well known makes as Collins, Johnson, and Drake and others. Jeff has developed a variety of ways to track down or reproduce rare parts, plus restoring radio front panels to look brand new. So fans of the "golden oldies," do plan on hearing Jeff's secrets and ring along your questions. Do join us at 11:30 AM 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!

DUES ARE DUE! Please see Bob Winston's column for the address to send your \$10.00 dues for 2012!!! Do not forget to pay national dues; as of this writing, 34 Chapter One members are behind on national dues.

President Bob Winston, W2THU, Quarterly Letter to Members

As the year winds to an end, we are reminded that our first quarterly luncheon of the new year is closely approaching. Please join us on January 14th for a terrific program by our own Chapter 1 member, Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ, who is known world wide for his expertise in restoring vintage ham radios. In addition, we offer camaraderie, prizes and, of course, lunch at Dimitri's restaurant in Parma. Please note that our quarterly luncheons are always on the second Saturday of January, April, July and October.

Another year end reminder is that it is time to send your chapter annual dues of \$10.00 to our treasurer, Bob Knaack, K8RDK, whose address is 238 Stanford Drive, Berea, Ohio 44017-1561. I am sure that Bob is looking forward to getting all those checks in the mail. Our chapter dues is a real bargain at less than a dollar per month. How many ham clubs do you know, with their own repeater (146.85 MHz), that have such low dues? Please do not forget your national QCWA dues.

Recently, there has been a lot of chatter on the national QCWA email list concerning the concept of an associate member in our national organization. As we all know, to be eligible for membership in the Quarter Century Wireless Association you need to have been licensed at least 25 years prior to membership. Initially, continuous licensure was required with no gaps as a ham. Later, probably to bring in more members, the rule was changed to bring in hams who were licensed more than 25 years, but who had allowed their FCC license to expire and then came back into the hobby. I am sure this was a controversial idea back then.

Now, some QCWA members support the concept of creating a second tier in the national organization for those amateurs who were not licensed 25 or more years ago. Some call it an associate membership, but it is undefined. For example, do the associates get to vote? Do they get the QCWA Journal? Chapter presidents were asked to take a survey at their next meeting and to report the results. Since we only meet 4 times a year, I took an informal survey at the Lunch Bunch (every Friday at 11:30 a.m. at JB Milano's restaurant at the Cuyahoga County airport on Richmond Road in Richmond Heights), and also on our weekly net (146.85MHz every Wednesday night at 8:00p.m.). Both surveys show significant interest in the idea. I also support the concept because it creates a cadre of interested hams who will most likely become regular QCWA members when they meet the 25 year eligibility rule. I will take a formal survey at our January 2012 luncheon.

Finally, I want to invite all of you to check into our weekly net, mentioned above. Although we have about 100 members in Chapter 1 only about 20% are checking in on a regular basis. We have a very good net control and back up (Craig, N8ZT and Bob KC8UIQ), trivia questions, sunshine reports and officer reports in addition to regular traffic. Please join us.

As the holidays approach, Jeannie and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and a joyous and healthy New Year!

73, Bob W2THU, President

QCWA Lunch Friday Lunch Bunch New Lunch Location; Fly Away to the Airport

The **Friday "Lunch Bunch," (FLB)** has moved to a new location: Milano's restaurant at the Cuyahoga County Airport. The move reflects a group decision to dine where the food is good, the service is friendly, and the prices are right. Join us! While many of the group are QCWA members, this is not a requirement for admission. Nope. Any licensed ham or even SWLs are welcome. The restaurant opens its doors around 11:30 a.m., and the **FLB**ers meet in the private dining room to the left of the bar. To find Milano's, simply exit Interstate 90 at Bishop Road and south on Bishop to the airport. Turn right on Curtiss Wright Parkway and turn left on Crossover. An alternate is via Richmond Road. See you there!

QCWA Chapter One People Column

A donation of \$100.00 was made in memory of Chapter 1 member **Anthony Coppola, WA8FTW** by family friends for whom Tony used to run phone patches. These funds were forwarded to the QCWA scholarship fund.

Gord Tiffen, VA3GNK, former chapter member who often checked into our net from across Lake Erie, passed away on 6 November 2011.

Ham Radio Promotion: Our chapter was among the first to support the Ham Radio Promotion Project whose goal is to help radio clubs with their publicity and recruitment. Chapter One members **David Dennis, W8DDD, Dee Logan, W1HEO, Don Richie, K8ZGW, and Jack Goldfarb, W8WGO**, have run the project since its beginning in 2006. Recently, the project distributed promotional banners and signs purchased with funds from the sale of the video, "Amateur Radio, Wireless Window to the World." Over 25 clubs are now members of the project.

Former newsletter editor "**Dee**" **Logan, W1HEO**, has written a QST article, "Avoiding Problems in the RF Chain," that will appear in the February issue. He had technical assistance from chapter one members **W8DOE and WD8PFK**.

From Kate Saccony, KC9IQF: How to run a marathon while on the air with an HT Answer: Practice!

It was easier than I expected. I promised a friend that I would run the marathon in memory of her husband, but on the other hand, I really wanted to volunteer as a ham as usual. I had previously run up to 18 miles with my radio in my hand just to see if I could do it, but I was not on the air, talking. The question was, could I run distance and also report on my location and any key markers, incidents, or people within my eyesight? I viewed this whole exercise as preparation for a real emergency communication situation.

The key part of preparing for a marathon is a long run one day a week which usually starts at eight miles and peaks with a 20 mile run 18 weeks later, three weeks before the marathon. I used those long runs to practice running and talking. The hard part was finding hams to talk to at 4:30 on a Saturday morning, which is when I do these practice runs. That got solved via a posting to my club bulletin board and finding a few night owls and insomniacs. One lady ham followed me on Google maps as I announced passing intersections. Another ham whose sole mode of transportation is bicycle responded to my location announcements with his own extremely accurate description of my surroundings. I was also quite surprised at the number of casual CQ hams heard me and peppered me with "What are you doing" questions and "how do you train?" As a result I discovered that talking that much during practice runs caused me to deplete the battery after 15 miles, which doesn't happen during e-comm exercises when we're just briefly on the air.

I also discovered that running with an HT, in my case the Kenwood Th-6A, is easier than running with a bottle of water in my hand. My hand did not get tired if I transferred it between hands. I originally thought of Velcro-ing it to my hand so I wouldn't drop it, but transferring it was a problem. Yes, it did get dislodged a couple times but I never dropped it - the strap worked. I also found that I could grab water cups and eat gels, marathon fuel, without getting any on the radio. Sweaty hands did make it slippery, but not enough to drop it. .

The hard part turned out to be the actual marathon itself is very, very noisy, over one million spectators. I predicted, and I was right, that parts of the course were so loud, I couldn't hear net control and they couldn't hear me. If you look at the marathon map on the Chicago marathon web site, going through the Loop was a problem until I got north of the river on LaSalle Street. Going north I was close to the lake, also not a problem, but once I turned west toward Wrigley Field and headed south on Broadway, I couldn't hear a thing until Mile 14, heading west toward the United Center. From that point to the end I had no problem talking or listening. We used six repeaters, three different support nets, and I had no problem with any of them except the one I was supposed to use as my primary. I learned at the end that it was the repeater itself that was acting up and everyone had a problem with it.

As a runner it wasn't my best day. The course was much too crowded to keep a steady pace, and a washroom stop added an unplanned seven minutes to my time. After that I purposely started visiting ham stations along the way to

say Howdy to every ham that I'd met via email while assisting in the organization of the event. I didn't meet all 110 ham volunteers, but I came close. That was truly the highlight of the day. This year for the first time the marathon organizers understood the importance of a mobile ham shack and allowed one ham vehicle per aid station to park next to the course, and I must say, there are some truly impressive, fully outfitted shacks on wheels out there. I felt "underdressed" with my HT and suffered from Equipment Envy.

Would I do it again? In a heartbeat.

73

KC9IQF Kate, who also sent the following item

Ham Radio in Hollywood: Comedian Tim Allen Stars as Radio Amateur on New TV Show

Tim Allen -- star of [Home Improvement](#), [Toy Story](#), [The Santa Clause](#) and [Galaxy Quest](#), just to name a few -- stars in [Last Man Standing](#), an ABC comedy airing at 8 PM (EST) on Tuesday nights. Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, a married father of three and the director of marketing at an outdoor sporting goods store in Colorado whose life is dominated by women. While Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the first episodes, according to John Amodeo, NN6JA -- the producer of *Last Man Standing* -- it is a part of the show and an important part of Mike's character. The episode that will establish Mike as a radio amateur is currently scheduled to air in mid-January.

"Tim's character Mike is involved in creating the sales strategy for the store, including their catalog and Internet identity," Amodeo told the ARRL. "The store is like Bass Pro Shops or Cabelas. There is a strong self-sufficiency overtone to Mike's approach to life. Ham radio fits in the story as a means of emergency communication. It's not directly featured in the foreground story, but at the moment, it's a background element on the home set. Once I allow something to be put on the set, there's a chance the writers will feature it. Now that we have actually established Mike Baxter as KA0XTT, we can do more things featuring Amateur Radio."

To make Mike a ham, Amodeo needed Mike to have a call sign. So he contacted ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, to help him out. "In film and TV, we create fictitious telephone numbers, addresses and brands," Amodeo explained. "We do this mostly to avoid being sued by real brands and to avoid complications with advertisers. As a producer and a ham, I was torn between wanting the show to be accurate and needing to keep my studios out of trouble. An accurate and positive portrayal of ham radio on TV would be a good thing." Many TV shows and movies use telephone numbers with a 555 exchange (such as 555-1212), as that exchange is not valid.

Together with Pitts, and with input from Tim Allen, Amodeo created a call sign for Mike Baxter: KA0XTT. Since the show is set in Colorado, they wanted Mike to have a call sign with a 0 in it. "We wanted a call sign that sounded real, but was not valid," Amodeo said. "The call sign is a 2x3 format with an X suffix. A call sign in this format is an experimental call sign and is not assignable to a radio amateur except in special circumstances. We especially liked the suffix, as it is a play on Tim's character from his former show, *Home Improvement*: 'ex-Tim Taylor.'"

Amodeo told the ARRL that both his studio (Fox) and ABC were "delighted to have a useable call sign. In the past, TV shows just made up some crazy call or used someone else's without permission. And because we've had so much talk about Amateur Radio here on the show, a few of my production assistants took their Technician exam." Amodeo applied to be an ARRL Volunteer Examiner so he could help administer the exams. On October 6, Amodeo and two other ARRL VEs administered the Technician exam to seven prospective hams. All seven passed, with two making perfect scores. Since Mike Baxter is a ham, he needed a shack. So Amodeo and the set designers installed an Amateur Radio station in the corner of Mike's set office. Allen, as Baxter, uses an ICOM IC-9100 HF/6 meter/2 meter transceiver and an IC-92AD handheld transceiver, both provided to the show courtesy of ICOM America. Amodeo told the ARRL that he has plans to add vintage equipment to the shack in the future. "The radio equipment was originally intended to be used as props and set dressing items," Amodeo told the ARRL. "But since eight of the show's staff members are radio amateurs, it didn't take long before we made the radio equipment 'practical,' which is to say, actually capable of making radio calls live from the stage when we're not shooting." He said that radios will always be on and lit whenever they are shooting scenes in the office.

Pitts and ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, have been working with Amodeo to make sure that Amateur Radio is correctly portrayed in the show. Keane also provided ARRL and Amateur Radio-related materials that are used on the set, such as issues of [QST](#), [NCJ](#) and [QEX](#), as well as a call sign map, a [2012 ARRL Handbook](#), a 2012 ARRL calendar and various ARRL stickers (look for one on the HF rig). “We also sent fake versions of [DXCC](#), [Worked All States](#) and [Worked All Continents](#) certificates, as well as a [Morse Code Proficiency Certificate](#),” Keane explained. “Each certificate bears the name Mike Baxter and has KA0XTT as the call sign. All the certificates have issue dates of December 25, playing upon Tim Allen’s role in *The Santa Clause* movie series.” Amodeo told the ARRL that he also installed a Comet CHV-5X HF dipole and GP-1 antenna for 2 meters and 70 cm (courtesy of NCG/Comet) “up high, about 50 feet, inside the sound stage. The ultimate goal is to have the hams on our staff make contacts from our stage during down times.”

Last Man Standing also stars Nancy Travis ([Three Men and a Baby](#)) as Mike’s wife and Hector Elizondo ([Pretty Woman](#), [The Princess Diaries](#), [Monk](#)) as Mike’s boss. Amodeo also produced the critically acclaimed [Sports Night](#) and [Arrested Development](#).

George Mistic, KE8RN had his first article published in [Electric Radio Magazine](#) for January, 2012; the magazine celebrates a bygone era in radio. The article concerns the Signal One transceiver and tells of the purchase of a Signal One owned by **Thelma, W8AND** and **Jerry, W8JOU**, parents of Chapter One member **Betty, KC8FF**. This meeting’s speaker, **Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ**, has appeared in print in the magazine many times, often writing about Drake radios.

QCWA Member Birthdays

One fall birthday was missed last newsletter; **Jack Shoff K8IIU** had a birthday on November 13. It appears this date was given in error for Richard Scott, whose birthday is in July.

January birthdays

January 13 was a popular birthday date; **three** Chapter One members has a birthday on the 13th. They are: Lester A. Peine K8LP; Dino M. Pocaró WD8DBQ; Alex F. Dolgosh K8EUR; all have a January 13 birthday

Robert B. Rhoton WA8KHL; Jan 18 Sherrell Wimer W8UIN; Jan 21 David D. Dennis W8DDD; Jan 26 Ethel M. Tomazic N8MJ; January 27 Charles F. Martin WB8LVD; January 28

February birthdays

Robert W. Mills K8TTZ; February 10 John Petkac K8NMY; February 17 Betty J. Scholz KC8FF; February 18 Floyd C. Wimer KC8ZOE; Feb 21 George J. Mistic KE8RN; Feb 22 George W. Cox W8PJN; February 28 William J. Whebrink N8IJG; February 29!

March birthdays

Michael Cegelski K8EHP; and Charles W. Whalen Jr. WA8NJP; March 02 again Raymond W. Wassum W8SLZ; and Jim Wimer N8OOG; Mar 04 again James R. Pracker K8QOT; March 08 Charles Collister N8TCN; and Paul W. Poling K8CKG; Mar 09 again Marvin S. Grossman W8AZO; Mar 10 Arthur R. Lewis WA8VSJ; March 11 Donald E. Norman AF8B; Mar 17 Ronald L. Mayer W8KYD; March 18 Joe Gutoskey N8DOE; March 24 Jack H. Goldfarb W8WGO; and Herbert Schieman K8AZW; both Mar 29

April birthdays

Raymond C. Lotenero W8GR; April 09 Robert M. Hajdak N8QE; April 12 Mark Studer KC8FQV; April 14 Thomas A. Bishop W8TAB; April 22 Donald J. Adams WA8QZZ; and Metro Sinko W8MET; April 27 again

We have a lot of members with duplicate birthdays this time; it seems more than would happen by chance.

QCWA Chapter One Future Meetings 2012, 2013

>>>Please plan on attending our next meeting JANUARY 14, 2012 at Dimitri's starting at 11:30 AM

2012 April 14, July 14, October 13

2013 January 12, April 13, July 13, October 12

Vintage Ham Radio Feature Article-Davco DR-30



DAVCO DR-30 about actual size showing why it is Barbara's favorite item in my collection of radios.

I recently traded for a highly sought-after older radio from the 1960's; a Davco DR-30 solid state 80-6 meter receiver. The DR-30 was an effort to put the performance of a Collins 75A-4 plus six meters in a cabinet the size of a 3 X 5 inch file card box. For the most part, they succeeded but the company that made the receiver disappeared without ever bringing out any other ham radio products. The receiver uses all germanium transistors and two field effect transistors; it essentially predates most of the high frequency integrated circuits and therefore does not use any. It predates the industry moving to silicon transistors for most uses, but it does use two field effect transistors, one in the front end RF amplifier and one in the first mixer; this was pushing the state of the art in the mid 1960's when this receiver initially came out. It uses a Collins mechanical filter for SSB selectivity and a sharper crystal filter for CW reception; it can bypass the mechanical filter for a good bandwidth for AM operation. The Davco receiver uses a crystal controlled front end circuit seen in the Collins A-Line receivers and greatly popularized by the Drake and Heathkit 4-Line and SB-Line respectively. As a result, it has the same stability and tuning rate on all bands like most modern equipment and well ahead of most of the Hallicrafters and Hammarlund receivers of contemporary vintage. I had the opportunity to repair one of these receivers when they were quite new; it was owned by Fred Barnes, WA8PCT. It had a failed RF amplifier FET that was a bit challenging to replace. Back then, I was going to Case Institute of Technology and we had an internal store where students could buy parts for projects that were part of the coursework; as a result, I did not have a problem getting a replacement part for the P-Channel RF FET. Now this is a big challenge, as the original is a P-Channel Junction FET which is now made of unobtainium like 100 watt light bulbs by the time you read this [Thanks a lot, Federal Government]. Nearly all RF FET's in common use now for RF amplifier service are N-Channel devices. I will be repairing another DR-30 for a friend from Florida; I will probably modify it so it works with a N-Channel device which is much easier to get. This should not be a problem to do as the RF amplifier in the Davco does not have AGC applied to it, so changing the polarity of the device will be fairly easy.

The Davco covers 80 to 6 meters; it does not cover 160 meters like some of its contemporaries like the Collins S-Line. It can also cover two additional bands between 3.3 and 54 MHz that may be selected by the owner by installing optional crystals for each band and wiring the unit so the preselector tunes the correct frequency range. The Davco has a tunable notch filter to aid in reception; it operates from 12 VDC which can be positive or negative ground. Battery operation is easily done as is mobile operation; Davco did offer an AC power supply, but suggested using batteries to operate the unit. To facilitate this, they provided a switch to turn off the dial lights when using batteries. They did plan to make a companion transmitter, but did not last long enough to actually do this.

I traded a Dentron Clipperton L 80-10 meter linear amplifier for this receiver; both the guy I traded with for it and I thought we got the better end of the bargain. It is a true collectors gem and is probably Barbara's favorite item in my collection due to its size and weight.

QCWA Chapter One Classifieds

Drake and other old radio service, including TR-7's. Thirty-five years of experience. Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ, 440-951-6406, wa8saj@ncweb.com.

Equipment sold or purchased; if you want to dispose of old radio equipment that you no longer want, KE8RN offers to either purchase it, or sell it for you on eBay. Excellent eBay reputation with 15 years of experience. Call 412-486-8566 or Email at KE8RN@comcast.net

To place a QCWA Chapter One classified, call, write, or Email George J. Mistic, KE8RN at 412-486-8566, 1936 Duncan Avenue, Allison Park, PA 15101-2824, KE8RN@comcast.net