



## Officer Info

President Mel Vye [w8mv@arrl.net](mailto:w8mv@arrl.net)  
 Vice Pres. Tom Price [virginislesun@yahoo.com](mailto:virginislesun@yahoo.com)  
 Secretary, Jim Grover [grizgrover@gmail.com](mailto:grizgrover@gmail.com)  
 Treasury, Les Myers [fyrwolf@sssnet.com](mailto:fyrwolf@sssnet.com)  
 Director, Dennis Moriarty [k8agb-2@att.net](mailto:k8agb-2@att.net)  
 Director, Perry Ballinger [w8au@sssnet.com](mailto:w8au@sssnet.com)

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## Started with Morse Code

By Franklin Sanor, WA8WHP

I got interested in ham radio in 1955 when some hams came to our Boy Scout troop to teach us Morse Code, which was a requirement then for First Class. I was given an early kit for Christmas that piqued my interest more, then I convinced my parents to allow me to take a correspondence course from National Radio Institute in Washington DC. This was while I was still in grade school.

After college I went to work for the state as a lab technician at Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center where, in 1967 I got my novice license which I upgraded to technician the same year.



Figure 1: 1926 Advertisement for NRI

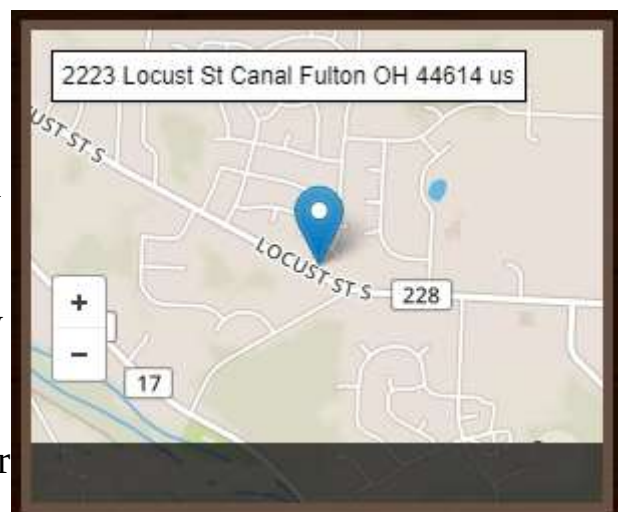
In 1969, I took time from emergency communication duties during the flood in Wooster, Ohio on July 4 to go to Columbus to take my Radiotelephone license exam from the FCC. In 1982 I went to Pittsburgh to take my Advanced Amateur license and in 1989 I went to Akron to take my Extra. The last was on a dare from the students in the class I was teaching at the time. I never opened the book but got the license.



Figure 2: Wooster 1969 Flood

## Upcoming Event

Take a walk through ham history with a trip to Cid Vance’s collection of radios from the past. We will meet at the Canal Grill, 2223 Locust Street, Canal Fulton OH at noon on Saturday, May 11th. After the meal and meeting we will go to Sid’s collection at 4456 Erie Avenue NW, Massillon at Smith Mill. Just look for the big mill stone and four story building just south of High Mill Avenue and Erie Avenue NW. Parking available in front of the three car garage.



## Ragchew



**D**on't forget the monthly ragchew at Tim's Tavern at Noon on the last Wednesday of the month. The address is 3323 Parkway Street NW, Canton Ohio 44708. All are invited. For you information that is April 24, May 29, and June 26 for the next quarter. Add these dates to your calendar.

## Local Dues

**T**he first of August 2019 was the beginning of the QCWA Chapter 21 fiscal year. If you have not already done so, please pay your local dues at the next meeting or rag-chew.



## Some Local Hamfests

### 04/20/2019 | Portsmouth Radio Club H

Location: Portsmouth , OH

Sponsor: Portsmouth Radio Club

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/w4p>

### 04/28/2019 | Athens Hamfest

Location: Athens, OH

Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio

Website: <http://www.ac-ara.org/>

### 05/17-19/2019 | Dayton Hamvention

Location: Xenia, OH

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://hamvention.org/>



**06/01/2019 | FCARC Summer Swap**

Location: Wauseon, OH

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

**06/08/2019 | Union County ARC TailGate & TrunkFest**

Location: Marysville, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Union County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.ohiohams.net>

**06/15/2019 | Milford Hamfest**

Location: Owensville, OH

Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w8mrc.com>

**06/15/2019 | W8DXCC DX Convention**

Location: Owensville, OH

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: SouthWest Ohio DX Association

Website: <http://www.w8dxcc.com>

**07/07/2019 | 20/9 Radio Club Hamfest, Computer, & Electronics Show**

Location: Austintown, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: 20/9 Radio Club, Inc.

Website: <http://20over9.org>

## Minutes

The minutes for the 2019 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly meeting of QCWA #21 are as follows:

The attendance was 16 people with 14 members. The meeting was called to order by John Demuth, K8CQA, the club's President. John Demuth resigned from his position as President of the chapter. By president Mel Vye became the President because he was the chapter Vice President. Nominations were taken for Vice President. Tom Price was asked if he would serve and he said yes and was then nominated by Mel Vye. Hearing no more nominations the nominations for Vice President, the process was terminated. Tom was voted to the position by a unanimous vote of the chapter members present. All other officers and directors agreed to continue their service. Those officers and directors were then voted as a slate of candidates and continued their service by a unanimous vote.

Jim, N8PZL, requested articles for the next Newsletter. The treasurer, Les Myers, KK8K stated that the current balance at Huntington National Bank was \$597.28.

Mel Vye then organized the future quarterly meeting by mutual agreement as:

May 11, 2019 – Lunch at the Canal Fulton restaurant and a visit of Sid Vance's collection of amateur radio equipment – see meeting notice for details



August 10, 2019 – Pontoon boat ride on Portage Lakes after meeting at Mil and Martha Vye’s home. Lunch will be at a restaurant on the Portage Lakes.

9 November 2019 – Lunch at a local restaurant followed by a presentation on Mel’s travels to Mongolia.

If there are any additions or corrections, please contact the secretary at [N8PZL@arrl.net](mailto:N8PZL@arrl.net).

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING**

The Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc.  
2380 Mohansic Ave  
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598



(QCWA) pursuant to NY.s N-PCL §605(a) hereby gives notice of the annual meeting to be held at the Greene County Fair Grounds and Expo Center, 210 Fairgrounds Rd., Xenia, OH 45385 in conjunction with the QCWA Forum at the Dayton Hamvention® on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 1:40 PM (EDT) to present its annual report in accordance with the provisions of NY.s N-PCL §519 and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

### QCWA HISTORY

Ralph Hasslinger, W2CVF (SK),  
published in the Spring 1994  
QCWA Journal Vol XLIII,  
Number 1 (V43N1) Pages 19-20.

**I**t was 7 PM on the evening of Friday, December 5, 1947, in an upstairs room of Pappas Restaurant on 14th St. in New York City. Gathered were 34 young men who, unknowingly, were making amateur wireless history. The 34 were Amateur Radio Operators, who had been licensed at least 25 years before, and were assembled because of an idea, originated by a 10 meter round table the month before, by John DiBlasi, W2FX; Uda Ross, W2UD/OA4J; Ed Crane W2EF; John Gioe, W2FD; Dr. Ernest Cyriax, W2DI; Irving Groves, W2DX/K4HT. All are now Silent Keys except Irving Groves, K4HT. By December 31, 1947, twenty more names had been added so that the entire Charter Member numbered fifty-four.

There were several factors of common bondage that made for a very nostalgic evening. Licensed 25 years or more, indicated 1922 or before, which, in turn, meant all had operated in the old spark days a-Ford spark coil to start and working up to a KW with a rotary gap, etc. etc.-all operating on or above 200 meters.

Then came the development of CW, the shorter wavelengths, and their world of wonders-75, 40, 20, 10, 5, 2 1 / 2 meters, etc., each with different characteristics to be developed, explored and marveled at. The term “frequencies” was not in use in

those days. (In fact my original station license of 1922 indicated that I could transmit on wavelengths of 180, and 190 as well as 200 meters!)

World War II had ended two years before which also resulted in new equipment and stories of war experiences. There was discussion about the name for the new group and the final result, as presented by Frank Lester, W2AMJ (W4AMJ) was “Quarter Century” for the 25 years, and “Wireless Association” to indicate an organization of members who had pioneered amateur radio from the days of its wireless spark roots.

Officers elected were: President John DiBlasi, W2FX; Vice President George Droste, W2IN; Secretary Leon Hanson, W2FIT; and Treasurer Dave Talley, W2PF.

Meeting continued twice a year, much of the time of over 100 present. Speakers of pioneer fame included Paul Godley, Hugo Gernsback, Arthur Batcheller, Alfred N. Goldsmith, J.O. Smith, and many others famous in the early days of wireless communications. All meetings between 1947 and 1971 were held in New York. The first several meetings outside New York were held in Washington, DC (1972); Scottsdale, Arizona (1973); Orlando, Florida (1974); and Reston, Virginia (1975).

As the years rolled by and more and more qualified, the membership increased and spread out over the United States. By 1951 there were well over 300 members. Because it was impossible for many members to travel the distance to New York, it was decided to allow Chapters to be chartered geographically, so that local meetings could be held.



The first Chapter was the Cleveland Chapter, Charter Number 1, on January 6, 1951. It has been followed by many others totally over 180 today.

Of the 54 Charter members, 47 are now Silent Keys (Spring 1994) with seven still living, including Irvin Groves, K4HT, Frank Lester, W4AMJ, Ralph Hasslinger, W2CVF, Clarence Seid, W2KW, Bill Kennedy, W2AS, Nat Burnett, K4OL and Bob Baird, W9NN.”

Frank Lester-W2AMJ (W4AMJ) proposed the name of the organization. The logo was developed from a cartoon in a 1923 QST accompanying an article "ROTTEN QRM," written by "The Old Man" himself, Hiram Percy Maxim. Otto Eppers-W2EA, a commercial artist, made some minor modifications to the drawing, added some sparks and the letters "QCWA," and the QCWA logo was born.



The above QSL Card image from Otto Eppers, W2EA <http://www.qcwa.org/w2ea-00012-sk.htm> to W2OVC is the earliest known in-use example of our own beloved "Old Man" logo. It is dated only 8 weeks after it was first conceived (and spontaneously scribbled on a table napkin!) at the dinner gathering that marked our Founding on Dec. 5, 1947. (Thanks to Pete Varounis, NL7XM for the QSL card)

Membership grew rapidly within the first month and when the rolls were closed on December 31, 1947, there were 54 Charter Members:

- |                               |                                    |                               |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. John DiBlasi, W2FX         | 2. G. T. Droste, W2IN              | 3. Leon Hansen, W2FIT         |
| 4. David Talley, W2PF         | 5. James Millen, W1HRX             | 6. Fred W. Huff, W2AMB        |
| 7. Irving Groves, W2DX        | 8. W.J. Howell, W2II               | 9. Uda B. Ross, W2UD          |
| 10. W. H. Neuman, W2RB        | 11. E.S. Crane, W2EF               | 12. Otto Eppers, W2EA         |
| 13. Frank Lester, W2AMJ       | 14. J.A. Stobbe, W2WZ              | 15. Lester Reiss, W2BR        |
| 16. Morton Kahn, W2KR         | 17. Dan E. Lindsay, W2PL           | 18. H.T. Hayden, Jr., W2FO    |
| 19. Frank Frimmerman, W2FZ    | 20. Alfred B. O'Hara, W2OG         | 21. Harold D. Perry, W2LFR    |
| 22. Dr. A. L. Walsh, W2BW     | 23. <b>Ralph Hasslinger, W2CVF</b> | 24. F. C. W. Thiede, W2EC     |
| 25. E. W. Dannals, W2GG       | 26. Thomas McCann, W2AFB           | 27. R. D. Valentine, W2GX     |
| 28. John A. Gioe, W2FD        | 29. Walter A Cobb, W2CO            | 30. Earl R. Thomas, W2MM      |
| 31. Clarence Seid, W2KW       | 32. Kurt Schoenfeld, W2BT          | 33. Reeve O. Strock, W2YW     |
| 34. Raymond Farwell, W2BJ     | 35. Jack Heidt, W4MW               | 36. W.H. Kennedy, W2AS        |
| 37. F. A. Long, W2PYY         | 38. Oscar Oehman, W2KU             | 39. Murry Blum, W2MY          |
| 40. W. L. Wheeler, Jr., W2ILO | 41. W. E. Owens, W2DDA             | 42. Moe Joffe, W6PHE          |
| 43. Nat Burnett, K40L         | 44. Perce B. Collison, W2KN        | 45. George Nolan, W2QF        |
| 46. Harold Wetterholm, W2BKY  | 47. Philip Levinson, W2MIN         | 48. Dr. E. A. Cyriax, W2DI    |
| 49. Dr. Paul Z. Haus, W2VH    | 50. Charles A. Service, Jr., W4IE  | 51. Myron J. Earl, W9WNF      |
| 52. Robert E. Baird, W9NN     | 53. Gordon Braendle, W6YYU         | 54. Ambrose H. Hardwick, W2YQ |

Our last Charter Member to become a Silent Key was Ralph Hasslinger, W2CVF on March 27, 2008. We are using the original call signs our members held in 1947. Where members are now Silent Keys, we have reverted to their original call sign at the time of chartering.

In January 1951, a group in Cleveland, Ohio petitioned to become a chapter of QCWA and in June 1954, Chicago area became the second chapter. From there on, chapters began springing up all over the country. It was not until 1966, however, that the Bylaws were changed to permit officers and directors of the national organization to be elected from outside the New York Metropolitan area.

In spite of the great increase in QCWA membership throughout the years, the number of directors remained at five from 1947 through 1983. At that time the constitution was amended to provide for an additional five directors. Efforts were made to obtain candidates from each of the U.S. call sign areas and from Canada and overseas. The following election resulted in selection of members from eight U.S. call areas and a VE and DL to serve on the Board of Directors.

By mid-1984, total memberships issued were approaching 18,000 and there were over 150 chapters throughout the world. By mid-1993 the total membership had reached well over 25,000, and there were over 10,000 active members and 187 local Chapters. As the membership had grown, more activities have been added. There is a good turnout at the weekly international nets and on numerous local nets. CW and SSB QSO Parties attract many participants every Spring and Fall and there is always a good attendance at the Annual Meeting and Convention each Fall. A number of attractive certificates and honor awards are offered to recognize operating accomplishments and leadership contributions to QCWA. The QCWA Journal is published four times a year and the Hot Line Report is available every few months. QCWA is an organization made up of many of the world's most experienced Amateurs. It has a proud history and great potential for the future, making use of the reservoir of knowledge and experience represented within the membership for the benefit of all Radio Amateurs. (Thanks to Dave Talley, W2PF for much of the above information.)

**THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED**

Past Presidents

1947 - 1964 John DiBlasi, W2FX\*

Executive Secretary/General Managers/  
Executive Administrator/Office  
Manager

1955 - 1964 Ralph Barber, W2ZM\*

## Chapter 21 Quarterly Newsletter

April 15, 2019

1965 - 1968 Earl R. Thomas, W2MM*	1965 - 1973 Gus Gironda, W2JE*
1969 - 1971 Clarence Seid, W2KW*	1974 - 1976 Ethel Smith, K4LMB*
1972 - 1973 Barry Goldwater, K7UGA*	1976 - 1991 Ted Heithecker, W5EJ*
1974 - 1977 Frank Gunther, W2ALS*	1992 - 2003 Jim Walsh, W7LVN*
1978 - 1981 Harry Gartsman, W6ATC*	2004 - 2012 Chuck Walbridge, K1IGD
1982 - 1985 Stuart Meyer, W2GHK*	2012 - 2012 Jim LaPorta, N1CC
1986 - 1989 Leland Smith, W5KL*	2012 - 2014 Ken Simpson, W8EK
1990 - 1993 Harry Dannals, W2HD	2015 - 2016 Tom Loughney, AJ4XM
1994 - 1996 Lew McCoy, W1ICP*	2016 - Roberta Cohen, WA2FRW
1996 - 1998 John Kelleher, W4ZC*	
1998 - 2002 Gary Harrison, K0BC	
2002 - 2004 Croft Taylor, VE3CT*	
2004 - 2008 John B. Johnston, W3BE	
2008 - 2012 Bob Roske, NØUF	
2012 - Ken Oelke, VE6AFO	* Silent Keys