

The Listening Post

Build an Antenna

QCEN's regular monthly meeting will not be regular. It's still on for Thursday, June 13th. The "not regular" part will be an antenna building session that begins at 6:30 p.m., with the usual business meeting to be held after that session ends, perhaps around 8 p.m.

All QCEN members are invited to the meeting. If you wish to build an antenna, come early. Otherwise, come when you can, and you can assist in the building project, or just watch, or have a conversation with other members as you wait for the meeting to begin.

Again, that's Thursday, June 13th, at the Red Cross building, 2111 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207. Guests are welcome. There will be a Zoom component, but it will not begin until just before the business meeting starts.

As for the antennas, this project is mainly aimed at new hams, but anyone can participate. We will offer three kinds of antennas. First is a 2-meter ground-plane antenna made from an SO-239 connector and some welding rod. Very simple, can go just about anywhere, and has increased gain over a rubber duck antenna. Second is a "roll-up" J-Pole for 2 m and 70 cm. It's a "roll-up" because it's flexible and is a great portable antenna, or even a more permanent one inside a house. And then there are the beam antennas, made out of measuring tape and PVC pipe. They were designed for "Fox Hunting" (hidden transmitter hunts) but could be used for temporary situations, like for field operations where you need higher gain to reach a repeater.

Cost for all this will be a flat fee of \$10 payable to the club. And there will be plenty of mentors around to help with the construction. We'll have enough materials around to build lots of antennas. Let N8MCR know what you'd like to build, but even if you decide last-minute to participate, we'll be ready. Hope to see you at the meeting!



Coming Events:

- June 13 QCEN Meeting
- June 22-23 Field Day
- July 1-7 13 Colonies
- July 13 QCEN Picnic
- July 20 & 21 MS Bike
- Aug. 24 Ohio QSO Party
- Sept 7 Ohio Parks on the Air

Contest Corner

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

As many of you know, ARRL suffered a cyber-attack just before the Hamvention started. While most things are back up, LoTW (Logbook of The World) is still down. This does NOT affect users of the N3FJP software; you can still log contacts, but they won't be confirmed until LoTW is running again. On top of that, ongoing solar activities have had a noticeable (mostly negative) effect on propagation; it appears Solar Cycle 25 had a few surprises for us!

Hang in there - things WILL improve. One thing which tends to happen during these types of events is operators get frustrated and stay off the air for a while; however, bring in a big contest or two, and the airwaves get very busy. Three big ones will occur in the next few weeks: Field Day, 13 Colonies Contest, and the IARU HF World Championship. Mark your calendars now for these and other events:

06/15-06/16 All Asian DX Contest (CW) CW www.jarl.org

06/15-06/16 West Virginia QSO Party CW,Ph,Dig www.qsl.net/wvsarc/

06/22-06/23 ARRL Field Day CW,Ph,Dig www.arrl.org/field-day

07/01-07/01 RAC Canada Contest CW,Ph www.contest.rac.ca

07/01-07/07 13 Colonies Contest CW,Ph,Dig www.13colonies.us

07/13-07/14 IARU HF World Championship CW,Ph,Dig
www.arrl.org (long link)

Additional information (and contests) can be found via ARRL and contestcalendar.com



The *Listening Post* is a publication of The Queen City Emergency Net, 2111 Dana Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45207
Editor: Tom Delaney W8WTD

QCEN is an ARRL-affiliated club.

QCEN Officers for 2024
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Director: Steve Imhoff, W8SCI

Hamvention 2024 - “Have You Ever Seen the Rain?” By Bob Bross, W8NFM

“When it’s over, so they say
It’ll rain a sunny day
I know, shinin’ down like water”

Those words from John Fogerty of CCR (Creedence Clearwater Revival, to non-rock lovers) might best describe the weather which tends to show up at every Hamvention - and this year did not disappoint. Friday morning saw very little flea market activity; however, the inside displays and vendors were VERY busy. Fortunately, around 1230 that afternoon saw clear skies, which lasted for the rest of the weekend. QCEN made some decent sales, paid for our booth spaces, and realized over \$150.00 in profit.

We appreciate all who volunteered to help out in flea market - those who signed up, and others who stopped by unannounced to chip in. I don’t want to miss anyone, but you know who you are! Special thanks to W8WTD and K8AAX, who donated equipment to help out QCEN.



Steve, N8TFD clearly had a leg up on booth sales.

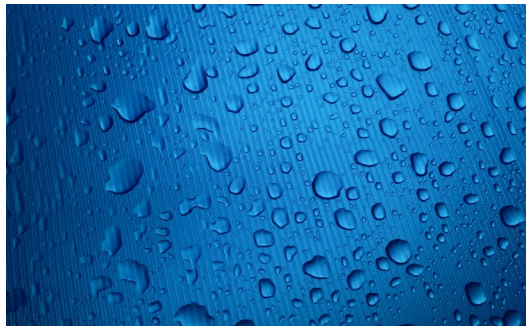
(Hamvention, continued)



One of the more unusual sales was the original Godzilla movie from 1954, first time out on DVD. My wife bought it for me online, only to later discover it was in PAL 2 format (can only be played on machines made in Europe, Africa, and Asia.) A ham - from Japan - purchased it for a friend; he looked at the cover, screamed "GODZILLA!" and went running down the aisle. We both had a good laugh, especially when I remarked: "It's amazing: your lips and voice are in perfect synchronization" - whereupon he began speaking with a heavy accent and deliberately began talking out of sync. Humor knows international boundaries . . .



Two women brought three "rescue ducks" to the Hamvention this year; could this have been the reason for all the rain?



QCEN's Celebrity



Yes, that's Fred, K8FR, on *The Price is Right* in May. He and his wife travelled with family to Los Angeles, where they got tickets to the TV show. Fred was called down from the audience ("Come On Down") as a contestant. Unfortunately he did not bid successfully in his initial bid, so did not advance. But he had fun, and we got a chance to see him on TV.

FIELD DAY 2024 - THE TIME IS NEAR (June 22nd - 23rd)

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

What is Field Day?

A key capability in amateur radio is ability to operate in a remote location, independent from local power and infrastructure (no repeater.) This can be done through a 5-watt handheld, which many/most of us own. While the range is limited, it does provide the ability to communicate remotely. That range can be enhanced with a better/higher antenna; signals can also be improved with more power, using a mobile radio. In the VHF/UHF bands, the overall range is limited to line-of-sight (except for grey line propagation.)

HF signals can travel farther, but require larger antennas; NVIS-type antennas facilitate in-state communications, while other types enable national and international transmissions. **HF and VHF/UHF bands can be called into service during large-scale events and disasters.**



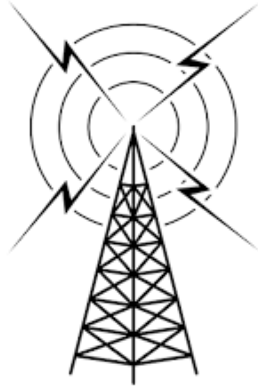
Field Day encourages amateur radio operators to “get out of the shack” and set up portable/remote stations, sometimes using off-grid power sources. Others operate from Emergency Operation Centers (EOC’s) to test the effectiveness of those facilities. This exercise helps sharpen operating and logging skills, tests equipment, and provides real-time feedback on individual and group capabilities.

QCEN will be operating from the Red Cross EOC during Field Day Weekend 2024. Our goal is to get as many people as possible on the air, using as many radio types as possible. The N3FJP logging system will be used (if you’ve never used it before, you will love its capabilities.) Modes of operation will be voice, CW, and digital; while the main concentration will be on HF bands, we will be using VHF and UHF as well.

This is YOUR opportunity to try new methods of communication. If you’ve never worked HF before, and/or are new to amateur radio, fear not - experienced member will be on hand to encourage and assist you. As a group - and with at least General Class amateurs on site - you will be able to

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)



operate outside your band privileges; some of you will be using HF frequencies for the first time, and will be communicating across the country. If you have someone who is interested in amateur radio, bring them along; everyone will get an opportunity to be on the air.

Field Day officially operates from 1400 ET Saturday, June 22nd through 2000 ET Sunday. Rules state no station can operate more than 24 hours total; QCEN will be on the air from 1400 Saturday to 1400 Sunday - and yes, that is a continuous 24 hours. You think the air waves die off overnight? We have made hundreds of contacts during that time, and will do so again (several die-hard operators love night operations, and welcome “newbies” to join them.)

We encourage you to sign up in advance; however, walk-ins at any time (we had two after 2300 during Winter Field Day.) Please email (preferable) or call/text Bob, W8NFM at w8nfmusa@gmail.com 513-550-1889. Schedule is at the end of this message.

The location: Red Cross Building, 2111 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45207 The building will be locked during the weekend, but you have two ways to gain access: call the Communications Room at Red Cross radio room at 513-579-3936, or check in on the W8VND repeater 147.240/123.0 As in the past, QCEN will be providing food and drinks; however, it is always welcome if you bring something to share with the group (snacks are especially useful after midnight!)

QCEN Meeting May 9, 2024

Called to order at 7:35pm, Pledge to the flag, self-introduction.

Vice Pres. N8MCR welcomed all at Red Cross & on Zoom.

Program: Scott N8SY-ARRL Director Great Lakes Division

751233 U.S. Hams, 27221 in Ohio, ARRL G.L. Div 11,208. QCEN is ARRL associate club since November 4 1942. We need to check into becoming a ARRL Special Service Club. ARRL Club Commission Program - pay ARRL dues thru QCEN, new and renew our club gets some of it, \$20. new & \$5. for renew. There was Q & A, HamVention Forum to be Saturday afternoon.

- Vice Pres. - June Meeting - Antenna Building Project...
- Secretary's report of April meeting accepted as in L.P. on website.
- Treasurer report W8NFM - Bills are paid.
- Comm. Mgr. Steve N8TFD , Thanked all for Flying Pig Marathon . Bike MS - JULY 20 & 21 AT Miami U., Oxford, Oh., Vol help needed.

QCEN Picnic to be July 13th at Selman Park, Madeira, Ohio.

Ohio NVIS Day - at W8VND site - 4 stations, at least 15 people.

ARRL Field Day - June 22 & 23 to be at W8VVL, Red Cross.

HamVention - May 17 & 18, W8NFM, Flea Market spaces 7543-7545.

We will be selling on Friday and Saturday at HamVention.

Our oldest member Jim B., W8OUU, is donating his IC-7300 to the club

Adjourned 9:09pm, we had 25 people attend at the meeting & on Zoom.

Next Meeting: Thursday June 13 -- 7:30pm at Red Cross & on Zoom.

Q.C.E.N. Secretary
Robert Blocher, N8JMV

QCEN MEMBER DUES DUE IN JANUARY EACH YEAR
WWW.QCEN.ORG , go to Membership to pay thru Paypal
or at any club meeting or by mail to club treasurer.