

The Listening Post

September Meeting

Though it's not officially Fall for a few more weeks, we can say that Fall has arrived for QCEN, with our monthly meetings resumed, the beginning of ham radio instruction, and a few more events on the operating calendar.

Just as a reminder, our September meeting takes place on Thursday, September 12th, at the usual time and place, which will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Red Cross building. For any visitors, that address is 2111 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207. And visitors are welcome! Please come by and see what we do.

Our program this month will feature Ken Robinson, Regional Disaster Director for the American Red Cross. He will speak to us about our relationship to the Red Cross, and also offer suggestions about how our members can volunteer locally for the Red Cross here in the Tri-State area.

If you can't attend the meeting in person, we will provide a Zoom call. Information on how to attend remotely will be emailed to members soon. Anyone not on the membership list can get that same information by contacting one of the club officers.

As you'll see elsewhere in this newsletter, we had good participation in the Ohio QSO Party from the W8VND site. We didn't set any records for contacts, but we exercised the station, found and fixed some problems, helped new people get on the air, and had a good time doing it.

Steve, N8TFD, will be recruiting for the Queen Bee half marathon coming up in October. We encourage new members to participate in this public service event. The club meeting is a good time to discuss techniques and equipment with those who have done it more than a time or two.



Coming Events:

- Sept 12 QCEN Meeting
- Sept. 16th Extra Class instruction begins
- Sept. 30 General Class and Technician Class Instruction begins
- October 12th Queen Bee Half-Marathon

Contest Corner

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

First of all: I apologize for not having a “Contest Corner” in our last newsletter. We were busy with preparations for a Rhine River cruise, and the logistics with that and setting up “caregivers” for our son Taylor took a LOT of time. Because of that, it was a surprise to “discover” the All Asian Contest this past weekend. There was not much time to work any stations, but I actually heard a number of rare operators: Vietnam, Cambodia and East Timor among many others. There was a lot of early morning activity on 40 meters with some of these stations.

In speaking with several (five) Australian stations, we discussed recent band conditions. It seems Solar Cycle 25 is finally living up to expectations, and solid DX contacts are being made on a regular basis. With that in mind, spend some time tuning around the bands and make some new contacts. In addition, LoTW is apparently caught up with the backlog from the May cyber-attack; some new confirmations have showed in my log - perhaps you have some as well.

It looks like mostly state QSO parties for the next few weeks; however, there is an ARRL VHF contest THIS weekend; it’s a good time to see how well the “magic” 6 meter band is working. Check out some of the contests below, and keep in mind there will be a CQ Worldwide Contest later on in October. Happy Hunting!

09/14-09/16	ARRL VHF Contest	CW,Ph,Di g	www.arrl.org/september-vhf
09/21-09/22	New Jersey QSO Party	CW,Ph,Di g	www.k2td-bcrc.org/
09/21-09/22	Iowa QSO Party	CW,Ph,Di g	www.w0yl.com/
09/21-09/22	Texas QSO Party	CW,Ph,Di g	www.txqp.net/
09/21-09/22	New Hampshire QSO Party	CW,Ph,Di g	www.w1wqm.org/
09/28-09/29	Maine QSO Party	CW,Ph	www.ws1sm.com/
10/05-10/06	Oceania DX Contest (Phone)	Ph	www.oceaniadxcontest.com/
10/05-10/06	California QSO Party	CW,Ph	www.cqp.org/

Additional information can be found via ARRL and contestcalendar.com

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QCEN is an ARRL-affiliated club.

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Upgrade Your License, or Recruit a New Ham

By Tom Delaney, W8WTD



We're starting another round of instructions for the various license classes. The sessions for Extra Class will begin on Monday, September 16th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Red Cross building. Because the material is more challenging, we're giving seven weeks to that instruction. A reminder—if you have a manual from the last “pool” of questions, it isn't current. Some 100 questions have been changed, deleted, or replaced. The latest edition from ARRL is the Thirteen Edition, and one that we recommend you use for this set of instructional sessions. Stephen, KE8TEY, will continue as an instructor. Dan, KF8AV, has a conflict this time around, so Tom, W8WTD will be the additional instructor for Extra. We hope Dan can join us again for a later series.

Schedule:

Extra Class: 7 weeks, beginning Sept. 16th

General class: 5 weeks, beginning Sept. 30th

Technician Class: 5 weeks, beginning Sept. 30th

VE Session: Saturday, Nov 2, 10 a.m.

General Class: Instruction begins on September 30, for five weeks, also at the Red Cross, also at 7:00 p.m. Gary, KB8MYC, and Steve, AA8SW, will be the instructors. No change in the textbook. Still the General Class License Manual, 10th Edition, from ARRL.

Technician Class: Instruction also begins on September 30, for five weeks, also at the Red Cross, also at 7:00 p.m. Instructors will be Michael, KE8PLM, Bob, W8MRG, and Kitty, W8TDA. The Fifth Edition of the Ham Radio License Manual will be the text.

A VE Session is scheduled for Saturday morning, November 2nd, at 10:00 a.m. in the Red Cross building. Details on that closer to the event.

We have started publicity by posting on the QCEN and OHKYIN websites. Additional information will be on Facebook. Attention Facebook users—when you see these posts, help us by doing two things -LIKE, and then SHARE. Let's get the word out to as many people as we can.

Over the years, as media usage has changed, it's at least as difficult as it ever was to reach the general public, most of who are unaware of ham radio. Newspaper articles and “public service” announcements on commercial radio aren't much good any more. If anyone reading this has some ideas on reaching out to the public, or to specific groups who may become interested, let Tom know. We've had good success in recruiting people to the hobby, and both clubs have increased membership because of new licensees. Let's keep it up!

Ohio QSO Party Adventure

Various QCEN members participated in the Ohio QSO Party held on August 24, 2024. We activated the W8VND station in Finneytown, and ended up with three stations on HF. Two used the existing antennas, and one was set up with a temporary end-fed long wire. The HF beam performed well, as did the loop antenna, after we fixed it. Seems like the wind and the elements separated one connection between the insulator and the feed line. Once we got that taken care of, the antenna performed nicely.

Twelve people either operated or stopped by to see the operation. In no particular order:

Bob, W8MRG,

Tom, W8WTD,

Jim, KB8UCJ,

Scott, W8GXR,

Rob, N8JMV,

Stephen, KE8TEY,

Don, KE8YDX,

Kim, KF8AUW,

Bob, W8NFM, with son Taylor;

Steve, N8AAX,

and finally, a visitor from GCARA, and an excellent CW op, Paul, KB8ANY.

We didn't make all that many contacts, but learned a lot about how to use the Field station, and how to get temporary antennas set up. And by the way, the three canopies that the club recently purchased were put to good use on a hot, sunny day. They are now available for other club events, notably the Hamvention, and any other field events we may need them for.



OQP



