

The Listening Post

October Meeting

7:30 p.m., Thursday October 12th, at the Red Cross building, 2111 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207. Guests are welcome. Zoom Session available.

Program:

Justin Patrick Moore, KE8COY, will present the Radio Phonics Laboratory Radio Hour (but not an entire hour!), a guided tour over the airwaves of our radio frequencies, down the old copper wires of the telegraph and telephone lines, and into the laboratories where strange scientists of sound dissected speech and broke it down into funky phonics. It's a story of inventors and engineers who moonlighted as musicians to bring us the earliest forms of electronic music, as presented in his new book: The Radio Phonics Laboratory: Telecommunications, Speech Synthesis, and the Birth of Electronic Music.

The drought may have muted our usual fall colors, but it is Autumn, and with it come some end of the year events as we prepare for winter. Our October meeting is Thursday of this week (October 12th, to be exact) at the usual time and place. One of the tasks for the club in October is the appointment of a nominating committee, looking forward to officer elections in January. This same week, on Saturday, will be the running of the Queen Bee Half Marathon. Steve, N8TFD, is looking for a few more volunteers.

Most of our activities wrap up after October, but we still need to prepare the Field Station for winter, and our Vice President has suggested we have an operating event each month, so that our newer members get HF experience, and all of us get the chance to have some time on the radios. Our weekly net still happens each Tuesday at 9 p.m. (when was the last time you checked in?) and we'll be trying a new format for the monthly Mentoring (via Zoom) meeting. Disasters do not happen on a schedule, and while most natural disaster around here happen in the late winter and early spring, we never know when we'll be needed, so we need to be ready—individually, and as a club.



Coming Events:

October 12: Queen Bee

October 19-20: JOTA

October 21-25 ARRL
School Club Roundup

Nov 2: VE Testing at Red
Cross

Nov 2-4 ARRL Sweeps
(CW)

Nov 10: Honor Run Half
Marathon (NKY)

Nov 14: QCEN Meeting

Nov 16-18 ARRL Sweeps
(SSB)

Dec 12: QCEN Meeting

Contest Corner

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

Hopefully, you had a chance to add some new states to your contact list in the last couple weeks - and perhaps some new countries during the 24 hours of the Oceania contest (The Philippines has now been added to my contact confirmation list!) My on-air time was very limited; however, there were a LOT of stations on the air Saturday evening, well past 2200 ET on 15 and 10 meters.

As we enter the fall season, most of the state contests are winding down; however, there ARE some exceptions, along with various international contests. Solar Cycle 25 has had a few fluctuations due to flares and prominences; overall, there has been a steady increase in propagation - which should continue for the next 18-24 months. On a recent Saturday morning, I created an Australia mini pile-up and worked over a dozen stations in less than 15 minutes; these are good DX times, my friends! Here are just a few of the upcoming contests:

10/12-10/13	Oceania DX Contest (CW)	CW	www.oceaniadxcontest.com
10/12-10/13	Nevada QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.nvqso.com
10/12-10/13	Arizona QSO Party	CW Ph	www.azqp.org
10/12-10/13	Pennsylvania QSO Party	CW Ph	www.psqso.org
10/12-10/13	South Dakota QSO Party	CW Ph	www.sdqsoparty.com
10/19-10/20	Worked All Germany Contest	CW Ph	www.darc.de
10/19-10/20	New York QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.nyqp.org
10/20-10/21	Illinois QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.w9awe.org/ilqp
10/26-10/27	CQ WW DX Contest (Phone)	Ph	www.cqww.com/
11/02-11/04	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest	CW	www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
11/09-11/10	Japan Worldwide DX Contest	Ph	www.jidx.org

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
President: Scott Tengen, W8GXR
Vice President: Em Rhodes, N8MCR
Treasurer: Bob Bross, W8NFM
Secretary: Rob Blocher, N8JMV
Communications Manager: Steve Lewis, N8TFD
Director: Francis Smith, N8PEE
Director: Steve Imhoff, W8SCI

[Editor's Note: The following was submitted by a ham who has checked into our Tuesday nets and is interested in becoming a member of QCEN.]

We here at the end of our road in Loveland, Ohio were without commercial power for 3 days. We made do with aircraft ELT (Emergency Locator Transmitter 121.5 MHz) battery packs which get changed out every 2 years or 5 minutes of use, whichever ever comes first. They contain 9 D cell batteries to make 13.8 volts. We used these packs to power the car Television set (LCD screen) and the Uniden SDS 200 scanner. When they fell below 10 volts we changed packs. They then went to provide USB charging for devices (phone, cameras, lights) until they fell below 7 volts. After that they provided voltage for LED lights. On Sunday morning we went to our shed and dug out the generator and got it running for the frig and deep freezer along with charging devices. Half hour into all this and commercial power came back. Guess we should have dug it out earlier. We used two packs up now only for USB charging.

My YouTube channel Roscoe1024 has video of this under the Electronics playlist.

We used Baofeng radios to monitor emergency freqs we got from the scanner and an old Radio Book from Radio Shack, railroads, GMRS, and the local repeaters on 2 meters and 440 MHz. We also used an aircraft receiver to monitor aircraft activity all on a discone antenna at 20 feet. The television received over the air stations locally and we got to watch some old shows we had not seen in a while. Commercials on this service are terrible and long.

Generator is now stored more conveniently for future use. Oil and filter now changed. We are thinking a whole house generator right now since we lose power 2 or 3 times a year for several days. The effect of living at the end of the transmission line. I checked into a lot of nets during that time.

Henry N5AWB
<http://www.yankee-aviation.com/>

When Remote Operations Become Critical *By Bob Brass, W8NFM*

Some of us experienced minor damage and/or inconvenience from Hurricane Helene, ranging from downed trees to power outages. This pales in comparison to communities in North Carolina and Tennessee - especially inland areas which are not normally heavily impacted by such weather events. Reports from mountainous areas being completely cut off from the outside world are especially disturbing.

VHF communications in some places will be severely hampered by mountainous terrain; unless satellite phones are available, the only reliable system might be HF via NVIS antenna systems. Do you have the ability to deploy such a system? If so, how "transportable" is it, and how easily can it be set up? We can practice field operations under "ideal" conditions, but what challenges are faced with little or no outside support? Something to consider for an upcoming field exercise

Editorial

By Tom Delaney, W8WTD

“It’s hard to find volunteers these days.” If that’s true of organizations, it’s even more true of trying to find leadership volunteers. At our October meeting, a committee will be appointed to search out and nominate officers for next year. They’ll contact many club members, asking if they would be willing to serve as one of the five officers. For the most part, they’ll be turned down.

Being a club officer is not that hard, and doesn’t take nearly the amount of time most people imagine. New people, if they will step forward, bring new ideas and new approaches to the club. This is not a criticism of the current officers. They do a good job. But many of them have been in those positions a long time. They might welcome someone else taking over, and the club might benefit from new ideas.

We’re fortunate that last year brought two new people into office. Maybe this next year we’ll get a few more. The club has been gaining membership, and has tried to provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy some aspect of ham radio that they either like already or would like to try out. There is a general enthusiasm for QCEN that I haven’t seen in many years. Some of our newer members come from interesting backgrounds, and should have a lot to contribute. I hope that at least one will decide to accept the challenge of helping to lead this organization.

Two passings to note:

Mike Valentine, W8MM passed away in September. Though not a member of QCEN, he was extremely active in Cincinnati ham radio, and in particular with the ARRL. He and his wife Peg were major donors for the Red Cross building, constructed and finished in 2010.

Don King AJ4DK (formerly WB4QIT). Don was a member of QCEN in the 1990s, served on the Executive Committee, and was also very helpful with the Skywarn organization. He served as President of the NKARC as well.

QCEN Meeting September 12, 2024

Called to order at 7:35pm, with Pledge to the Flag and self-introductions. Vice Pres. N8MCR welcomed all at Red Cross and on Zoom.

Program: Ken R., Red Cross Disaster Director, they cover 47 counties with 800 volunteers. They test the D.O.C. monthly, have the on going Smoke Alarm program, an EMComm vehicle that can go where needed.

He looks forward to working with QCEN when needed. Lots of Q & A.

- Secretary's report of July meeting accepted as posted in L.P.
- Treasurer reported that all bills are paid, Insurance paid, dues received.
- Comm Mgr. Steve L. N8TFD - Queen Bee is Oct. 12 help needed yet. Honor Run Half Marathon is in Florence, Ky. November 10th.
- Vice Pres. Is checking on QCEN shirts, more later.

We need to get two coax jumpers installed at Red Cross ASAP. May be having a Winlink station at the W8VND site, more later. W8VND site Shed - fix or replace to be checked later in October.

Ohio QSO Party in August was at W8VND site all went well.

License Classes are going well for Tech, General, & Extra

October Program: Justin Moore from OHKYIN, Radio Phonics Lab.

New Members: KD8WKS Oz S. and N8VW John K.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17pm, we had 17 people

Next regular meeting at Red Cross is Thursday October 10 at 7:30pm.

73;

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.