

The Listening Post

November Meeting

About this time of year, as the weather changes, we start to think about indoor projects, and typically put the outdoor projects, like antennas, on hold until spring, unless the mild weather continues. So our program for the month features Tim Duffy, K3LR, of DX Engineering, with some pointers on Grounding and Bonding. Maybe we'll have a little bit of outdoor work on this topic, but most of it could be done in the shack—the bonding part, at least. So join us on Thursday, November 14th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Red Cross building, 2111 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207 for the program and the business meeting.

QCEN Monthly Meeting

Thursday, November 14th

Location: 2111 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207

Zoom session available. Guests are welcome, either in person, or by Zoom. For information on the link, guests should contact a club officer.

It was a relatively quiet month for QCEN since our last meeting, but there were several activities. First, the joint QCEN/OHKYIN education effort wrapped up. We had three people advance to Extra: Rosemary, KE8WYJ, Don, KE8WYK, and Randy, N8BAK. Four people got General: Scott, KB8EGE (who held a Novice license), Kim, KF8AUW, Dave, K8EDT, and Terrence, KC8GEF. Three got Tech, Aric, Simón and Jasmine, with calls not posted to the FCC website as of the time of this publication.

Also, we took advantage of the CQ WW DX contest to introduce a few newer hams to both contesting and DX.

At the October meeting, a nominating committee was formed to find candidates for officers for 2025. Their results will be announced at the November meeting. As provided for in the club Constitution, nominations from the floor can be made at the December meeting.



Coming Events:

Nov 14: QCEN Meeting

Nov 16-18 ARRL Sweeps (SSB)

Nov 26 QCEN Mentoring Meeting via Zoom

Dec 6-8 ARRL 160-Meter Contest

Dec 12: QCEN Meeting

Dec 14 Operating Day at W8VVL

Dec 14 & 15 ARRL Ten Meter Contest

Jan 9 QCEN Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

CQ WW DX Contest

We took the opportunity to introduce some newer hams to contesting. The contest, which was held on the weekend of October 26th and 27th, saw the bands in great shape for DX. Rosemary, KE8WYJ, and Kim, KF8AUW, each got a chance to operate on ten meters from the W8VVL station. The pace of any contest can be challenging, but both took to it immediately, and made several contacts.



And Coming up Next....

December's operating day will be Dec 14 from noon until 4, or longer if folks are interested. There is a contest on 10m that weekend. It is a great opportunity for hams with a tech license to operate HF. Please email Em, N8MCR, at jazzliveson@gmail.com if you are interested.

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: Vacant

Changing Formats

By Tom Delaney, W8WTD



Learning how to do things is part of ham radio. A new technique, some hints on soldering or antenna building—these are all part of having fun with ham radio and improving skills as we do. A traditional part of ham radio was the person next door or down the block who was a more experienced ham and who would help newer people. He was known as “Elmer,” and that was probably the name of more than one such person. His work was mentoring, (traditionally, the one offering the help was referred to as an “Elmer”) and we continue that work today in club meetings, and other gatherings.



As you know, QCEN has offered a once-a-month mentoring call via Zoom. We started just by inviting people to drop by and ask questions. That seems to be a little too open-ended, and only a few people had questions. So this past month, we tried a new format. We’ll set a topic or two for the meeting, and if the topic interests someone, they’ll join in. We did get a few new people on the call, and so it’s worth continuing.

Ham radio has so many interesting aspects, it’s hard to focus on one that is of interest to everyone. And there are YouTube videos on so many subjects, that for general knowledge, one of those on a subject that catches your fancy, is a good start. But connecting with local club members who can follow up with you on your project or interest may be even more important. From “what materials do I need for this antenna” to “what did I do wrong” are questions that you can’t necessarily get answers about from a YouTube video.

We’re still choosing topics for our November meeting, set for November 26th. Because the date for the December meeting would fall on New Year’s Eve, we’ll skip December, and start again in January. If you have a topic to contribute, let us know.

Contest Corner

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

In the last month, we have had six state QSO parties and four worldwide contests (including participation from the W8VVL station.) Between now and the end of 2024, some early Christmas gifts will arrive in the form of some band-specific and nationwide contact opportunities.

Band conditions in Cycle 25 continue to enable great DX work (I hosted a brief pileup with over a dozen stations from Japan in less than 10 minutes; didn't know I was that popular in the Land of the Rising Sun!) Please take the opportunity to peruse the list below, and improve your confirmation list; while there are a lot of "smaller" (all found at www.contestcalendar.com /) there are four main ones. CW operators will be happy with the CQ one, and ARRL wants to have a big play with three more - one CW only, one Phone only, and one for both. Enjoy!

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|-------------|------------------------------|----------|--|
| 11/16-11/18 | ARRL November Sweeps - Phone | Ph | www.arrl.org/sweepstakes |
| 11/22-11/23 | CQ WW DX Contest (CW) | CW | www.cqww.com |
| 12/06-12/08 | ARRL 160 Meter Contest (CW) | CW | www.arrl.org/160-meter |
| 12/14-12/15 | ARRL 10 Meter Contest | CW Ph | www.arrl.org/10-meter |



Two of our "community service" activities have been completed recently; the Queen Bee in October and the Honor Run this past weekend. As always - Thank you to all who participated. One had great weather; the other tested how well we can protect our gear during continual rain!

QCEN Meeting October 10, 2024

Called to order at 7:40pm, with Pledge to the Flag and self-introductions. Vice Pres. N8MCR welcomed all at Red Cross and on Zoom.

Program: Justin , KC8COY - Radio Phonics Lab. He began at young age learning about electronic and music. Talked on history of audio frequency, Theramin "ether phone", and computer music, demonstrated electronic sounds, Q&A.

New member - N5AWB - Henry - introduced and voted in.

N8MCR is having a Operating Day at W8VVL 10-28-24 at 3pm.

- **Secretary's report** of September 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.** QCEN shirts to be \$35 need minimum of 20 to order.

Thanksgiving Parade in Price Hill needs volunteer help in morning.

The W8VND Repeater site is to be renovated in 1 - 2 years...

December Holiday Party/Meeting needs a survey of who and what.

- **Nominating Committee** for 2025 Officers: W8MRG, N8PEE, N8OXG.

November Program: DX Engineering.

W8VND Site: we need to find cheaper internet access.

Fred R., K8FR has several years of QST Magazines free for anyone.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm, we had 24 people

Next regular meeting at Red Cross is Thursday November 14 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.