

The Listening Post

January Meeting

The “annual” meeting of the Queen City Emergency Net will take place on Thursday evening, January 9th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Red Cross building. This meeting is referred to as the “annual” meeting since it meets the requirements for corporations. Election of officers will take place at the January meeting.

For those not able to attend in person, ballots have gone out via email. By now, it may be too late to respond by regular mail, unless you get lucky with the postal delivery. The QCEN By-Laws specify that voting may be done by mail, as long as the ballot gets to the Secretary before the meeting. It also specifies that two envelopes are needed, one, unmarked, containing your ballot, and the other with your return address and call sign so that the Secretary can record the fact that you as a member have voted.

Besides the voting, there will be several topics on the agenda for the meeting. Some of the discussion at the December meeting about the shed at the W8VND station and the coax lines at Red Cross will be followed up.

A major event for the club is coming up at the end of the month, and so there will be discussion of Winter Field Day. All the practical details of operation, food, building security, etc., will likely be discussed.

Members are encouraged to attend, either in person, or by Zoom. Information on the Zoom call will go out by email before the meeting. Guests are welcome, in person or on-line. The meeting will take place at the Red Cross building, 2111 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207. Any guests wishing to participate via Zoom should contact a club officer to get the Zoom information.



Coming Events:

- Jan 9 QCEN Annual Meeting and Election of Officers
- Jan 11 & 12 N. Amer. QSO Party —CW
- Jan 18 Ohio VHF Contest
- Jan 18 & 20 N. Amer. QSO Party —SSB
- Jan 25 & 26 Winter Field Day
- Feb 10—14 ARRL School Roundup
- Feb 15-16 ARRL Int’nl DX Contest (CW)

Contest Corner

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

Still working on a WAS (Worked All States) award? Trying to build up that DX list? It's a new year, so take a fresh view of what is coming up in the next 12 months. Each month, I list some of the more "significant" contests which occur between our meetings; however, there are ALWAYS many other events of interest for those who have/make the time.

For that reason, please refer to the ARRL Contest Calendar site as well as the www.contestcalendar.com resource. There are a number of sprints and special event opportunities; some of these may only last a few hours, but could be worthwhile in your contact pursuits. There are also interesting special event contest, such as Museum Ships Weekend and the 13 Colonies Contest. For those who love CW, I include some of those as well. Don't just take my word for it - see what YOU can find out there!

01/11-01/11	YB DX Contest (Indonesia)	Ph	www.ybdxcontest.com
01/18-01/19	North American QSO Party - Phone	Ph	www.ncjweb.com/naqp
01/18-01/20	ARRL VHF Contest	CW Ph Dig	www.arrl.org/january-vhf
01/25-01/26	Winter Field Day	CW Ph Dig	www.winterfieldday.com
01/25-01/26	Australia Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	www.wia.org/au
02/01-02/02	Vermont QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.ranv.org/vtqso.html
02/01-02/02	EU DX Contest	CW Ph	www.eudx-contest.com
02-01-02/02	Minnesota QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.w0aa.org/mnqp-rules

Additional information (and contests) can be found via ARRL and contest-calendar.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
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

Winter Field Day at W8VVL

By Bob Gross, W8NFM



As I write this, the first major snow “event” of 2025 is upon us. As we watch the frozen precipitation - in multiple forms - pile up, think of being inside in front of a nice warm radio as you work others outside in the freezing cold across North America.

You will have that opportunity in just a few weeks, as QCEN will conduct Winter Field Day operations from the confines of W8VVL.

An interesting note: the rules page for this contest was not yet active; however, the start time is listed at 1600Z (same as UTC), which translates to 1100 ET - three hours earlier than in the past. More details in the coming days; however, QCEN will operate for 24 straight hours in all modes through Sunday morning. We will limit the Digital time on air, as that tends to interfere with the rest of the bands; the intent is to get more CW and SSB contacts across more bands this time around.



There will be a sign-up sheet at our January meeting. We encourage you to spend a couple hours sometime during the weekend. By the way: it is easy - and fun - to create pile-ups in the overnight hours on 80 and 40 meters for those with “skills”; those die-hards who want to have some fun are encouraged to work then.

Please contact Bob, W8NFM if you wish to participate - you WILL get on the air!

The Dayton Hamvention is **FOUR** months away - May 16th - 18th

Health News

This by way of Kitty, W8TDA: Joe, KA2UYB, suffered a fall in which he broke his hip. Currently (as of this writing) he is in Mercy West Hospital, but is scheduled to move to a rehab facility soon for additional treatment.

He would no doubt appreciate hearing from his friends in the Net.

The Tale of the Portable Vertical

By Scott Tengen, W8GXR

Part of the fun of radio is experimenting with antennas once you have the radio, in this case HF radio and portable operations. Knowing we need some wire and math skills building an antenna from parts can be a fun project.

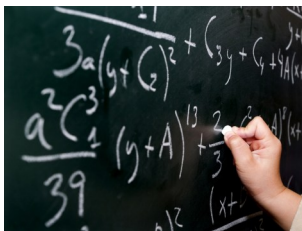
Round One: Let's see what we can do with 20 meters and some miscellaneous parts laying about the laboratory, ok junk box.



- I need a stand: This tripod for a halogen lamp will work
- I need a pole and whip: Ah, the old ham sticks I have might work
- A balun: Hmm --not enough junk. LDG to the rescue for \$27
- Wire: Oh, we have plenty of low voltage wires from cat 5, to alarm wires - perfect
- Mounts: perfect! An old CB whip mount for a truck

Assembly time!

The hamstick has a coil of wire therefore it is longer than it looks. With some measurements and math I came up with an approximate length then mounted the whip to complete the vertical element. Measured out lengths of wires, two, for radials and connected those to balun.



Now I have this setup, what might the SWR be with my creative math skills? Put the antenna analyzer on and 1.7 SWR on 20 meters, whoa what a good set of skills or guesses-- you choose.

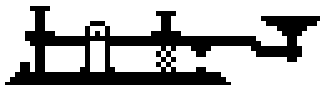
Since I was in a digital frame of mind, FT8 came to life and bam, contacts from all over the world with a setup that was maybe \$50 in parts.

To add to the story, this was an HF operation in Florida in a HOA area where antennas are bad, very bad. Fifty feet of co-ax and this small wonder in the backyard performed beyond expectations. I am looking forward to trying some POTA, Race-track portable and more with this setup, probably Field Day too!

What Are YOUR Amateur Radio Goals in 2025?

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

What a way to start off the New Year: January 11th is “Learn Your Name in Morse Code Day.” (Of course, our “name” on the air would be our Call Sign - but the intent is to spark CW interest.)



2024 welcomed a number of new amateur radio operators into our fold: some were first-time licensees, while others upgraded their license class - and a few did both! So - what are YOUR plans for this year?

Some suggestions:

- make that final license upgrade;
- participate in a Field Day;
- attend Hamvention;
- work a special contest;
- equipment improvement.

The BEST, and perhaps most rewarding goal, is making a special friend on-air. We come from all walks of life and have varied experiences, so once you get past the signal report and equipment type - find out something new from someone in another part of the world.

Ohio VHF Simplex Contest

Here's a short (four-hour) contest that may be of interest to club members. Saturday, January 18th, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m., operations will take place on six meters, two meters and 70 centimeters. How far can you talk on simplex? Get your rigs and antennas ready.

Complete rules are on the Ohio Section website: <https://ohsimplex.org/rules/>

QCEN Meeting December 12, 2024

People arriving at 6pm, Let's eat at 6:30pm, lots of good food & fun. Called to order at 7:20pm, with Pledge to the Flag and self-introductions Pres. Scott T., W8GXR welcomed all at Red Cross

Secretary's report of November meeting accepted as posted in L.P. online.

Due to W8SCI stepping down as Jr. Director, someone had to be appointed to fill position for December & then Sr. Director for 2025. Bob G. W8MRG accepted the appointment.

Nominations from the floor were asked for.

- Scott T., W8GXR & 'Em' R. N8MCR for President,
- Vice Pres. - KB8UCJ,
- Secretary - N8JMV,
- Treasurer - W8NFM,
- Comm. Mgr. - N8TFD,
- Jr. Director - Kitty H. - W8TDA.

Voting will be at the January 9th meeting.

Audit Comm - N8PEE, KE8PLM, KB8SOH will get with treasurer asap.

W8VND Site - any serious changes need Cin. Water Dept. approval.

Tom D. W8WTD has information about who to contact at Cincinnati Water Dept. regarding the repeater site.

- Leasing Comm - W8GXR, KB8EGE, W8WTD, KE8WYK, W8MRG.
- Shed Comm.. - N8MCR, W8NFM, KE8WYK, KB8UCJ.

W8VVL Operating event 12-14-24 noon - 4pm, ARRL 10M Contest.

Treasurer reported that all bills are paid, member dues received, Bob B. visited Richard T, KA8HXR was in hospital & doing better now.

Comm Mgr. N8TFD -, Flying Pig Marathon is first weekend in May, Bike MS in July at Miami U., Oxford, Oh., probably last one.

Tuesday Net & Mentoring Session cancelled for Dec. 24th & 31st.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm, we had 32 people.

Next regular meeting at Red Cross is Thursday January 9th 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.