

The Listening Post

February Meeting

The next meeting of the Queen City Emergency Net will take place on Thursday evening, February 13th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Red Cross building, 2111 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207. Visitors, and especially new hams, are always welcome. There will be a Zoom session for those who cannot be at the meeting in person. Members will receive an invite in their email. Guests should contact a club officer for the invitation.

The program this month will be presented by Jack Wagoner, WB8FSV. He will be speaking to us about his webpage promoting CW. As Jack says “Morse Code has a mystique to it - it is an extremely cool method with which to communicate”. In his *Beginner’s Guide to Making CW Contacts* he gives those hams new to CW ideas for how to get started. “How to find someone to talk with, what to talk about, how to deal with QRM, how to end a CW contact, how to get lots and lots of QSL cards, and much more useful and practical information.” Come join us to learn about this fun aspect of ham radio!

As usual, there will be many items of business to discuss, with reports from various committees. There are many plans under discussion for events in the coming year, so come find out what those are, and give your input on what the club should be involved in.

We’ll get an update on the Spring ham radio classes. A reminder, there will be opportunities for upgrades, as well as instruction for those seeking the entry-level Technician license.



Coming Events:

Feb. 10—14 ARRL School
Roundup

Feb 15-16 ARRL Int’nl
DX Contest (CW)

March 1 —Ham Classes
Begin

March 1 & 2 —ARRL
Int’nl DX Contest (SSB)

March 13 QCEN Meeting

April 10 QCEN Meeting

April 12 VE Exam session

Contest Corner

By Bob Cross, W8NFM

Thank you to all who participated in Winter Field Day 2025!

We are starting to see contests in the US and around the world start to increase. The list below highlights a few; more information is available on the ARRL Web site.

02/15-02/16	ARRL International DX Contest (CW)	CW	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
02/21-02/23	CQ 160-Meter Contest SSB	Ph	www.cq160.com
02/22-02/23	South Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.scqso.com
02/23-02/24	North Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.ncqsoparty.org
03/01-03/02	ARRL International DX Contest (SSB)	PH	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
03/02-03/02	NSARA Contest 80-Meter	CW Ph Dig	www.nsara.ca
03/08-03/09	South America 10-Meter Contest	CW Ph	www.sa10m.com.ar/wp/rules
03/08-03/09	Oklahoma QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.k5cm.com/okqp.htm
03/08-03/09	Idaho QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.idahoqsoparty.org
03/09-03/10	Wisconsin QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.warac.org

Hamvention 2025 is Three Months Away!

QCEN voted to once again have a booth at the Hamvention. Bob, W8NFM will be coordinating our activities for that weekend. There will be more details to follow; for now, start looking for equipment you may wish to sell - and of course, mark your calendar for May 16th through the 18th so you can get your tickets ahead of time.

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 2025
President: Em Rhodes, N8MCR
Vice President: Jim Craycroft, KB8UCJ
Treasurer: Bob Cross, W8NFM
Secretary: Rob Blocher, N8JMV
Communications Manager: Steve Lewis, N8TFD
Director: Bob Garfield, W8MRG
Director: Kitty Hevener, W8TDA

From the President's shack:

It is going to be a great 2025 for the Queen City Emergency Net! We have so many exciting activities in the works for this year so there is sure to be something for everyone. We will have some upgrades to our cabling system at the radio room at the Red Cross as we add capacity in concert with the renovations that are going to be done there. We now have remote access to the antennas on the tower at the Finneytown site. This was tested during the Ohio Simplex contest and worked great! Of course, there will be lots of opportunities to contest together over the year so check out the article by Bob W8NFM.

Committees have been formed to carry out important work on repairing the shed, cleaning up our emergency procedures, and sharpening up our PR materials so that we can let people know about all of the important things that we do.

Look for at least one outreach event or special event station. For example, at our meeting this Thursday, February 13, Tom W8WTD will let us know about an exciting event that we would like to do for World Amateur Day. We will also be continuing to have open operating days at the Red Cross radio room throughout the year. Lots of Elmers will be on hand to assist new members as well as hams who still have a lot to learn (like myself)! Of course, with ham radio, when do you stop learning, right? We are looking to augment these operating days with hands-on skill-building exercises.

I also think it is important that we do an emergency preparedness drill this year. Look for more details coming on this. Of course, our licensing classes are coming up soon. There is also the Dayton Hamvention, NVIS day, our public service events like the Flying Pig, and more.

Wow I look forward to seeing everyone at whatever event strikes your fancy!

73,

Em N8MCR

WARN (Skywarn) Training Schedule - Pending

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

As of this writing, the 2025 Spotter Training Schedule has not been released. As soon as it is available, a special notice will be sent out to our members. If the pattern from past years is followed, there will be both in-person and online sessions. For more information, please visit the WARN (Weather Amateur Radio Network) Web site at www.warn.org

Emergency Communications and Pile-Ups

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

In a recent documentary on the Hawaii wildfires of 2023, it was clearly displayed that events were happening far faster than anyone realized. People were fleeing for their lives with only minutes to spare - sometimes only seconds. There was no clear direction or places for evacuees to go for shelter; some had to go into the ocean and watch their homes burn. Similar scenes recently played out in the California wildfires.



As emergency communicators, we would not normally be on the front lines; however, we have been used in the past for post-disaster damage assessment. More likely roles would be to relay information for shelters, staging areas, and other duties. Anyone serving as a central “dispatch” position could be inundated with numerous calls at the same time. For those who have worked the Flying Pig Marathon, think back to the on-air activity as the start time approached: posts checking in; missing equipment, items “missing” for a particular post; radio reception problems; and, “The race will start in five, four, three, two, one - ‘BANG!’”

How does one prepare to handle the inevitable communication pile-ups? There are three basic ways:

- Listen to a Net Control and/or serve as a Net Control;
- Work a large contest (WorldWide SSB contest coming up March 1st-2nd);
- Participate in a practice disaster drill.

During our February meeting, we will be discussing several upcoming opportunities for QCEN members to practice these skills. Bring YOUR ideas as well, so we can ensure everyone has the chance to improve their personal capabilities as well. The unofficial “tornado season” is approaching, so the time to prepare is NOW.

Have you renewed your ARRL membership this year? If not, you can do so through QCEN and we will be reimbursed \$5.00 (a one-time \$15.00 reimbursement can be sent to QCEN for first-time ARRL membership.) All you have to do is get the form from our Treasurer, Bob (W8NFM) and write the check to QCEN; we will send it in for you. Forms are also available at our meetings.

QCEN Meeting January 9, 2025

Called to order at 7:50pm, with Pledge to the Flag and self-introductions. Pres. Scott T., W8GXR welcomed all at Red Cross and those on Zoom.

Winter Field Day to be at Red Cross W8VVL Radio Room. Program: Bob B., W8NFM
We need a survey of Members Radio Capabilities. He will be sending a Email form in MS-Word to be filled in and returned with what radio type you have to use when needed for future events.

The coax extension cables from Radio room to Disaster Services needed. Six cables to be done a.s.a.p., need to be by some time in February.

Audit Committee to report at February meeting.

Voting of 2025 Officers: ballots were handed out to members present. Three ballots were received by mail. W8MRG & N8PEE collected and counted the ballots then reported Em R., N8MCR is the new President. All other officers positions were unopposed. A big Thank You to W8GXR for doing a fine job as Pres. Scott gave the necessary papers to N8MCR and she accepted and continued with the normal meeting reports.

- Secretary Report of December meeting is accepted as in L.P. online.
- Treasurer Report - money received from ARRL & QCEN member dues, all bills are paid, Checking into getting a better internet deal for W8VND.
- Comm. Mgr. - N8TFD - Flying Pig Marathon Volunteer registration to be available soon. Bike MS to July 19 & 20 at Miami U., Oxford, Ohio.

Richard KA8HXR is doing better & Joe KA2UYB is in rehab doing ok.

Tuesday Net - KB8UCJ - we need more help with Net Control Operators.

W8VND Site - Don M. checked it out and says that repair shed is better.

HamVention - May 16 & 17 we will have a flea market space - 7543 -

Meeting adjourned at 9:19pm, we had 19 people. Next regular meeting at Red Cross is Thursday February 13th 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.