

The Listening Post

March Meeting

By Tom Delaney, W8WTD

The next meeting of QCEN will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2025, in the Red Cross building, 2111 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207, at 7:30 p.m.

While we're in the month of March, it's a good time to remember some QCEN history. The program for this month will be a review of QCEN procedures for disasters. That's very timely, considering that many of our biggest responses have been either in March or in early April. (On a personal note, though my property was not affected, one year ago a major tornado ripped through Logan County and the Indian Lake region.)

Many members will recall helping out in Northern Kentucky and over in Clermont/Brown counties in Ohio during the aftermath of a tornado on **March 2nd**, 2012. We were out for many days and weeks helping the Red Cross.

In **March** of 2008, we were out to help with response after flash floods hit the area. On April 9th, 1999, a tornado hit the Blue Ash area, and we were there to respond. And some of us still remember the big one of our time, the Ohio River flood of 1997, which began with rain on **March 1st** and **2nd**. We could look further back in our history, and without going into detail, we would see that every so often over the years since the 1940s, we have been called on to help in emergencies, many of them in the early part of the year. We've been fortunate in avoiding many disasters lately, but we always need to be prepared.

So please come to the meeting and find out, or be reminded, of what the club needs to do in an emergency.



Coming Events:

- March 13 QCEN Meeting
- March 23 ARRL North American Sprint —SSB
- March 29 & 30 CQWW WPX SSB Contest
- April 10 QCEN Meeting
- April 12 VE Exam session
- April 18 World Amateur Radio Day

Contest Corner

By Bob Cross, W8NFM

The ARRL DX Contest was held on the first weekend in March; hopefully, you were able to work it AND get some new DX contacts. Here are a few of the larger contests coming up before our next meeting:

03/15 - 03/16	Virginia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.qsl.net/sterling/uf1.htm
03/22 - 03/23	Africa International DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	www.mysarl.org.za
03/29 - 03/30	CW WW WPX SSB	Ph	www.cqwp.com/rules/
04/05 - 04/06	Indonesia DX Contest SSB	Ph	www.contest.ybdxpi.net
04/05 - 04/06	Louisiana QSO Contest	CW Ph Dig	www.laqp.louisianacontestclub.org
04/05 - 04/06	Mississippi QSO Contest	CW Ph Dig	www.arrlmiss.org
04/05 - 04/06	Missouri QSO Contest	CW Ph Dig	www.w0ma.org/index.php

For a full list of all upcoming contest, please visit www.contestcalendar.com

Be Radio-Active! Use the repeater. And join us for the Tuesday Net each Tuesday at 9 p.m. on 147.24 MHz. (+, 123 Hz tone.)

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

Weather Spotter Training Classes - Virtual and In Person

By Bob Cross, W8NFM

In our home, we recently completed watching a 6-part series: "In the Eye of the Storm" which combined news accounts and first-person footage on a variety of weather events. Highlights included: tornados, hurricanes, wild-fires, and winter storms. One topic stood out: a derecho, which is a straight-line storm. Think of a microburst on steroids, where the entire storm fury suddenly slams straight down; we witnessed one of these forming last year. I didn't know what it was called then - but I do now.



The National Weather Service needs trained volunteers to identify and report severe weather events; Doppler Radar only works line-of-sight, so visual and measured information is needed from below the cloud tops. While anyone can participate, amateur radio operators can rapidly collect and report information

to the Wilmington NWS office via WARN, the Cincinnati Ohio chapter of Skywarn. Weather nets are via the WB8CRS repeater on 146.880 MHz, 123.0 tone. You do NOT have to be a trained spotter to participate in a net; however, there are a few basic guidelines to follow:

Unless requested ("anyone located in Silverton?" etc.) there is no need to check in;

Net Control will periodically state what reports they are looking for: dime-sized hail, measured winds and/or rainfall, wall clouds funnels clouds, and so on. They are NOT looking for reports of "there's a whole lot of lighting", "the power is out", "are we under a tornado watch?"

What's the difference between a wall cloud and a funnel? For the answer to this - and many other questions - the Wil-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

ington NWS office is holding virtual and in-person training sessions during the next three months. There are two online sessions scheduled so far, and numerous in-person ones throughout the tri-state; the closest one to us is on Wednesday, April 9th at the Grove Event Center, 9158 Winton Rd, Springfield Township OH 45231. It is important that you register ahead of time; please visit: www.weather.gov/iln/spottertrainingschedule

To learn more about WARN, go to: www.warn.org

Amateur Radio Assists in a Space Mystery

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

In February 2025, startup space company AstroForge launched their Odin spacecraft in an attempt to scan an asteroid for valuable minerals, hoping to eventually mine one in the future; unfortunately, they lost contact shortly after launch. In an interesting turn of events, amateur radio inadvertently provided some information: *The team was unsure if the power amplifier was on, and without it they were unable to get any telemetry data from the spacecraft. While they made efforts to turn on the amplifier, sending instructions from the Earth below, ultimately, they still did not receive a signal.*



AstroForge received a little in the way of hope after AmSat, an amateur satellite network, picked up a 13-second communication matching their signal without even trying to look for Odin. By the time that they could look at the data, which confirmed that the spacecraft was booted up and the power amplifier was on, the satellite had already begun the next pass.

While hopes for a successful mission continue to fade, it is nice to know “our” space activities were able to assist in some small way. Hearing the first “beeps” from Sputnik; communications with Space Shuttle, Mir, and ISS astronauts/cosmonauts; numerous radio astronomy projects; ongoing AmSat satellites - amateur radio continues to forge new exploration “off world” in a multitude of ways.

Hamvention 2025 is Two Months Away - QCEN Preparations Needed!

By Bob Gross, W8NFM

QCEN voted to once again have a booth at the Hamvention, which will be held on Friday, May 16th through Sunday, May 18th. **Bob, W8NFM (that's me) is coordinating our activities for that weekend.** We will be operating our booth on Friday and Saturday ONLY. In the past, Bob, W8MRG and I have worked together on this effort; however, Mr. Garfield has decided to take an ill-timed vacation that weekend. One must have priorities in life - and his are obviously misplaced.

Here's what we need to help make this year a success for QCEN:



We need two large vehicles - preferably SUVs or vans - which will be available that Thursday afternoon and Friday; mine will be one of them. Both journey to the fairgrounds on Thursday afternoon, and one will be left there. Equipment will be moved from the returning vehicle into the passenger area of the one remaining behind; this is to make room in the return vehicle for additional personnel on Friday.

Both drivers - and any additional personnel - will head up in the returning vehicle on Friday. Somehow, we will cram enough into my vehicle so BOTH can "come home" on Friday; I will be returning on Saturday.

Volunteers who can arrive Friday and/or Saturday to help with booth setup. We have THREE nice canopies (the old ones have been replaced) and a large tarp to cover the gaps between them. There will also be multiple tables to set up. There are five Vendor passes available for those volunteers to walk in before the event actually opens at 0900; if we run out and you still want to help early, call in on the simplex frequency.



"OUR" QCEN HAMVENTION SIMPLEX FREQUENCY IS 147.420 123.0

There will be a sign-up sheet at our March meeting; updates will be sent out via email. Even you can only work for an hour, every bit will help.

We need items to sell! To pay for QCEN's space, we keep 10% of each sale, up to \$30.00 max for a single item. Example: if we sell an item of yours, QCEN keeps \$2.00, etc.; if an item sells for

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

\$450.00, the maximum amount to QCEN would limit to \$30.00



Let us know if the family of a “silent key” wants to liquidate a shack’s contents. We have done this before and will be glad to help in such a situation.

Ideally, we need to gather sale items in one place ahead of time - the earlier, the better. You can bring equipment to a QCEN meeting, or contact me at w8nfmusa@gmail.com or call/text at 513-550-1889

We will answer any questions you have at the meeting. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!



New Feature: Member Profile

We'll be introducing new members as well as veteran members in this space. We start with Michael, KE8PLM

"I have been a licensed ham since September 2020 and hold an Amateur Extra class license. I operate mostly FM on VHF/UHF and occasionally single-sideband voice on HF. I also dabble in data modes.

In the 1970s I was big into CB radio, operated in my vehicle, portable, and in my home. At the time I knew many hams and really wanted to get an amateur license, but the fear of Morse code (e.g. CW) and that dreaded test kept me away.



During the pandemic of 2020 I struck up a conversation with a neighbor regarding his freshly installed antennas. That conversation led to ham radio and learning that he was newly ticketed and that Morse code was no longer a requisite to a license. He learned about me, my professional background, and my historical interest in radio and offered to loan me his technician-level study guide. Two months later I earned my Technician and General license at the first in-person testing session I could find during the pandemic. Less than two years later I earned my Amateur Extra license.

Since licensure, I have engaged with the radio community in a variety of ways. I have become a member of multiple radio organizations and have become a VE affiliated with multiple VECs so I can assist with licensing. I have volunteered for many public service events (including out of area ones), assisted with multiple field day events and even chaired one. I have enjoyed volunteering in partnership with other hams to aid fellow radio enthusiasts get antenna systems installed and stations working at their homes.

My current radio-related passions are EmComm (Emergency Communications), public service and continued technical development. Presently I serve on the training and exercise committee of an ARES affiliate in Kentucky. I enjoy camping with my wife of over 40 years and the occasional woodworking project. My wife and I have had three children.

My most fond memory from amateur radio to date is when I received a radiogram from an overseas stranger welcoming me to the hobby soon after I earned my license.

Professionally speaking, I worked as a communications systems engineer for over 30 years and as a corporate software developer for an additional 10. Over 20 of these years was with design-build organizations and 22 with a professional engineering firm. I retired to enjoy more of life in January 2024."

QCEN Meeting February 13, 2025

Called to order at 7:50pm, with Pledge to the Flag and self-introductions. Pres. Em R., N8MCR welcomed all at Red Cross and those on Zoom.

Program: CW (Morse Code) for Beginners by Jack WB8FSV. He began his love of CW in the 1960's in Middletown, Ohio and later at Purdue U. and then Ohio State U. His website has a lot of info and he talked about many ways to learn Morse Code. Lots of Q & A.

- Secretary Report of January meeting is accepted as in L.P. online.
- Vice Pres. Jim C., KB8UCJ next month program: Emergency Operations.
- Comm. Mgr. Steve L., N8TFD - Flying Pig Vol. Registration Online. Bike MS in July will have a new place to sleep over, more soon...
- Treasurer Report - money received member dues & bills are paid. Checking into getting a better internet deal for W8VND.

New Member: Paul F., KB8ANY paid dues and voted in as member.

Audit Committee reported that the treasurer's records are all good.

March 1st and 2nd is the ARRL International DX contest.

Mentoring on ZOOM is the last Tuesday each month.

The 147.240 repeater had some power trouble, all good now.

Tom D to meet with construction co. about renovation of the Mt Airy Water Tower. We may need to move the repeater during this time.

W8VVL radio room at Red Cross needs a 10M & 15M filter for when we are doing contesting. Treasurer will order them from R&L.

ARRL World Amateur Day is April 18. QCEN & OHKYIN will work together at a public site on Saturday April 19th, more soon...

Amateur License Classes to start March 1st and Exams on April 12th.

Red Cross is doing a "on The Air" on March 14, 15, 16.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:19pm, we had 20 people.

Next regular meeting at Red Cross is Thursday March 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.