

# The Listening Post

## May Meeting

Our monthly meeting may seem early this month, but it really isn't. The first day of May was a Thursday, so the second Thursday is May 8th. Early on the calendar, but perfectly on schedule as the second Thursday of the month.

So we hope to see all of you there. The meeting will take place at the Red Cross building, 2111 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207. Guests are welcome, and new hams are invited to come to the meeting. There will also be a Zoom session for those who cannot attend in person.

There are a number of items to discuss, not the least of which are the Hamvention and Field Day. We also need to talk about on-going projects, such as the shed work at the W8VND site.

We'll do a quick review of the activity at the Cincinnati Museum Center in April. Check out the photos from the event starting on page 4.

Our program will be presented by Paul, WB8ANY. He'll demonstrate some principles of crystal radios and how the early "cat whisker" crystals gave way to tuned radio frequency radios. He'll show the basic operation of detectors, necessary for all radios.

You can see his profile on page 6 and following of this edition.

We hope to see you at the meeting Thursday evening.



## Coming Events:

**May 8 QCEN Meeting**

**May 16, 17, 18 Dayton  
Hamvention**

**June 28 & 29  
ARRL Field Day**

## Contest Corner

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

There are no ARRL contests in May; June is another matter.

With Hamvention just around the corner, followed by Memorial Day weekend, many of us will be busy; however, contests never end - so there is plenty to look forward to in the next several weeks!

|                             |                                    |           |  |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 05/10-05/11                 | Canada Prairies QSO Party          | CW Ph     | <a href="http://www.cqpq.vethams.ca">www.cqpq.vethams.ca</a>                             |
| 05/17-05/18                 | Arkansas QSO Party                 | CW Ph Dig | <a href="http://www.arkqp.com">www.arkqp.com</a>   |
| 05/24-05/25                 | CW WW WPX Contest CW               | CW        | <a href="http://www.cqwpq.com/rules/">www.cqwpq.com/rules/</a>                           |
| <a href="#">06/07-06/08</a> | Museum Ships Weekend               | CW Ph Dig | <a href="http://www.nj2bb.org/museum">www.nj2bb.org/museum</a>                           |
| <a href="#">06/07-06/08</a> | Atlantic Canada QSO Party          | CW Ph     | <a href="http://www.acqp.com">www.acqp.com</a>   |
| 06/07-06/08                 | Kentucky QSO Party                 | CW Ph Dig | <a href="http://www.kyqsoparty.org">www.kyqsoparty.org</a>                               |
| 06/07-06/08                 | ARRL International Digital Contest | Dig       | <a href="http://www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest">www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest</a> |
|                             |                                    |           |  |
| 06/14-06/16                 | ARRL June VHF Contest              | CW Ph Dig | <a href="http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf">www.arrl.org/june-vhf</a>                         |
| 06/21-06/22                 | All Asian DX Contest CW            | CW        | <a href="http://www.jarl.org">www.jarl.org</a>   |
| 06/21-06/22                 | West Virginia QSO Party            | CW Ph Dig | <a href="http://www.qsl.net/wvqp">www.qsl.net/wvqp</a>                                   |
| 06/28-06/29                 | ARRL Field Day                     | CW Ph Dig | <a href="http://www.arrl.org/field-day">www.arrl.org/field-day</a>                       |

Two special notes: QCEN will be conducting Field Day operations from the Red Cross building, 2111 Dana Avenue from 1400 ET Saturday through 1400 ET Sunday; this includes overnight operations. For a fun and challenging time, try working the Museum Ships Weekend and let us know the "fleet" you build up.

W8NFM will have more information about both these events at our May meeting this week; full details will be sent out via email as additional details develop.

As always, details on ALL contests can be found at [www.contestcalendar.com](http://www.contestcalendar.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 2025**  
*President:* Em Rhodes, N8MCR  
*Vice President:* Jim Craycroft, KB8UCJ  
*Treasurer:* Bob Bross, W8NFM  
*Secretary:* Rob Blocher, N8JMV  
*Communications Manager:* Steve Lewis, N8TFD  
*Director:* Bob Garfield, W8MRG  
*Director:* Kitty Hevener, W8TDA

## Hamvention 2025 is ONE WEEK AWAY

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

*Our new Flea Market spaces (7814, 7815 and 7816) bring us even closer to all the main activities. Thanks to those of you who have already submitted equipment, we have a variety of items to sell. Special thanks to Scott, W8GXR for the use of his trailer! Remember: we are operating the booth on Friday and Saturday ONLY.*

If you have something to sell (but have not yet brought it in) please either bring it to the monthly QCEN meeting at 2111 Dana Avenue (Red Cross building) THIS Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> - OR - call Bob W8NFM at 513-550-1889 to make pickup arrangements. ALL items must be in Bob's hands (i.e. garage) by Wednesday evening, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Emailing Bob a list ahead of time with your items and prices is greatly appreciated.

To remind you of how we sell items:

- We work to get the best possible price, to give us your asking price and bottom price.
- If you will not be at Hamvention, we need a phone number to reach you in case of "negotiations" with a possible buyer.
- QCEN keeps 10% of any sale, up to a maximum of \$30.00; this helps us pay for the booth space and related expenses.

QCEN members volunteer at the booth to help YOUR items sell; if you will be at Hamvention, an hour or so of your time is greatly appreciated! Set-up and teardown each day takes time; if you arrive early, contact us and we can escort you in prior to the 0900 opening.

We will be using 147.420 simplex/123.0 tone for communications at Hamvention. You can also reach Bob W8NFM at 513-550-1889 during that time. Keep in mind that you can drop off any purchases at our booth; we will hold them for you. The booth is also a place to rest and hang out as needed.

For those who are attending for the first time: don't hesitate to ask any questions. We guarantee you will learn new things and find lots of interesting items to see AND buy. If you can, pair up with a "veteran" to help show you around. If it rains, things can get a bit muddy; hiking boots are recommended.

The four main things to remember:

- It will rain at some time during the weekend;
- Everyone is friendly;
- There is no such thing as a stupid question (okay, there ARE stupid questions, but no one will tell you that to your face);
- The line for the giant pork chop sandwiches moves fast - and is worth the wait!

Have a great Hamvention experience!

## OHKYIN and QCEN at the Cincinnati Museum Center for World Amateur Radio Day, April 12, 2025

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Outdoor setup featuring various RF configurations.



One young man enjoying learning Fox Hunting techniques.

***We estimated that we had over 400 people interact with us and the various displays over the course of the five hours!***



The lines were long at the STEM center, and we had many, many kids and adults learning to build the CW oscillator kit.





**A “classic” artifact from the QCEN collection, on display at the History Museum.**



**Kids learned how their name sounds in CW, then went on to build one of the CW oscillators they could take home with them. This young lady was fascinated as Kitty, W8TDA, demonstrated CW for her.**

## New Feature: Member Profile

*We'll be introducing new members as well as veteran members in this space. This month we feature an interview with Paul, KB8ANY. A long-time ham, he works CW, and has recently joined QCEN.*

### ***What inspired you to get into ham radio ?***

That's easy. My father, W8VEL, was a ham, and a policeman. Many times when I was in elementary and high school I would help him by "holding the other end," as he termed it, while he was soldering some homebrew project. This would be in the basement workshop, and we would have either Station X (Cincinnati) or the Midwest Police Net on the radio while we were working. Station X was voice, and the Midwest Net was CW. Hearing the dispatcher in Eden Park responding to something like a purse snatching by setting up quadrants



around the reported site, and listening to him calling and responding to cars while doing this, was more exciting than watching a police show on TV. Also a few times we heard dragnet calls on the Midwest Net - my father translated from the CW as this was happening, and it really made me feel like I was in on the action!

### ***How did you first obtain your ham radio license?***

Not until after I got out of the army, and out of graduate school. My father gave me what we "thought" (sic.) were enough materials to study. His ham friend, Bill, W8HMX, learned we were doing this, and gave me a several-page typewritten list of topics covered on the novice exam. We literally did not know there were study materials available from ARRL. My father had always done self-directed reading about radio with books and mags at the downtown library, and he simply never thought in terms of getting a novice study guide. Fortunately, the typewritten material from Bill was enough - I took and passed the novice exam at the Bedford, Indiana, hamfest in October, 1988. From that point on I used ARRL study guides - that made studying much easier.

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### ***Most memorable QSO***

I can't give the name, call, and date, because those records were lost in a move from one house to the next. But I remember the QSO, all right ! It was in the general portion of the CW band on 40 Meters. I was at home, and the other op was driving his car in Eutaw, Nebraska, on his way to visit family. I thought that was the most romantic thing in the world - to be operating CW while driving, and I vowed that some day I would be able to do that. Within about three years I was in fact doing that on a regular basis, using a Radio Shack 10 Meter rig. Later the rig was a Yaesu FT-100D, so that I could do that on 40 Meters while driving. I did that for years.



### ***Current equipment.***

My main shack rig is a Yaesu FT-450D. The backup is a Globe Chief Deluxe, much modified to grid-block CW only, with a much-modified Ramsey kit receiver for 40 Meters only. I got the 450D because I wanted a full-featured rig that was not terribly expensive. The Globe was my first transmitter - I got it at the GCARA hamfest in Stricker's Grove maybe in 1987, in preparation for getting my ticket. I had to cure a bad chirp in it, and the modification became the basis of an article in Electric Radio magazine. My first receiver was an Allied AX-190. Years later I had to recap this receiver, which was easy to do because of the type of construction used. Much later, in preparation for moving, I gave the Globe and the AX-190 away. Then after that the ham I gave them to gave me back the Globe, and I tweaked the Ramsey receiver so I could have a full backup setup, at least on 40.

I also have MFJ QRP rigs for 40, 30, and 20. These are quite old by today's standards - I got the most recent one in 1990, and maybe four years ago recapped them all as a matter of course. This by itself is an indication of why I have kept these rigs - I can work on them myself.

And finally, I have a Baofeng 2M/440 handheld. I have this one because I won it as a door prize. My FT-100D used to perform the work for my "serious" VHF/UHF volunteer work, but I gave it away last year, and I need to get a new VHF/UHF rig.

### ***How has ham radio impacted you?***

Quite literally ham radio, and ham activities, provide practice in striking up conversations and expressing interest in other people at events like business meetings, formal events, group dinners, and so on. By training I am a sociologist, and it is almost a tru-

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ism in human interaction that people can appear to be aloof, or alternatively they can feel excluded from conversations simply because they do not know how to get started in a conversation with other people. The coaching provided by articles in ARRL and other pubs on how to initiate a QSO, or how to carry on a lengthy ragchew may seem formulaic, but it works. The coaching, and a lot of QSO's, sure provided me with practice in talking to people out of the blue.

### ***Advice to a new ham?***

- Do not be misled into thinking you need extensive or expensive equipment.
- Join a club, and attend meetings at several different clubs before deciding on which one.
- Different levels of interest and involvement throughout your life are to be expected.
- Remember item #5 in the amateur's code: Be balanced. Don't let ham radio interfere with your duties to your home, job, school, or community.



### ***Passing to note:***

The Net has been informed that one of our past presidents, Doug Rinnert, N8BZZ, passed away last August. He served two years, 1988 and 1989, as club president. He was the owner of V.I.P. Printing & Design in West Chester. He was 82. Services were private.



## QCEN Meeting April 10, 2025

Called to order at 7:30pm, with Pledge to the Flag and self-introductions. Vice Pres. Jim C., KB8UCJ welcomed all at Red Cross and those on Zoom. Pres. Em N8MCR unable to be here, due to illness, get better soon...

- Secretary Report of March meeting is accepted as in L.P. online.

**Program:** Scott W8GXR - WinLink - Send and receive email over radio, Can do global radio messaging, we have several local VHF stations and HF at W8GXR. Check info on [Winlink.org/user/programs](http://Winlink.org/user/programs) - sign up. Fill in account setup info, had a good slide show of how to do it.

- Treasurer's Report - Bob B. - Bills are paid, Verizon Internet for W8VND Site is on new price of \$39.75 fixed rate.
- Comm. Mgr. Steve L., N8TFD - Flying Pig Volunteers still needed, several more volunteers to help Sunday May 4.
- Tuesday Net Control Ops. Are needed and Standby Net Control Ops.
- Mentoring on ZOOM is the last Tuesday each month.

W8VND site Shed and other work date to be set later in May.

ARRL World Amateur Day is April 18. QCEN & OHKYIN will work together at Cincinnati Museum Center Saturday April 19th 9am-4pm.

Amateur License Classes - Exams on April 12th 10am at Red Cross.

HamVention - May 16 & 17 - flea market space Friday & Saturday. Volunteers needed & anything to sell contact W8NFM@ARRL.NET

ARRL Field Day June 28 & 29 to be at W8VVL Radio room at Red Cross.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm, we had 21 people.

Next regular meeting at Red Cross is Thursday May 8th at 7:30pm.

73;

Q.C.E.N. Secretary  
Robert Blocher, N8JMV

QCEN MEMBER DUES DUE IN JANUARY EACH YEAR  
[WWW.QCEN.ORG](http://WWW.QCEN.ORG), go to Membership to pay thru Paypal  
or at any club meeting or by mail to club treasurer.