

The Listening Post

PICNIC TIME!

The annual QCEN picnic will be held this coming Saturday, July 12, at noon in Sellman Park in Madeira, Ohio.

Notes on the Shed Repair

Thanks to everyone for their thoughtful questions about the future of the storage shed for QCEN, located at the VND site in Finneytown.

We have a hard-working shed committee made up of Don Mortimer KE8WYK, Jim Craycroft KB8UCJ, and Bob Bross W8NFM. At the September 2024 general QCEN meeting, it was decided to study the issue of the shed damage to determine whether the shed should be fixed or replaced. The members of this committee were charged with gathering information about the shed and presenting their findings to the club. At the November 2024 general meeting, the shed committee reported that, based on their assessment, the cost to replace the shed would be approximately \$2,500. At the January meeting there was a lengthy discussion and a consensus was reached to repair the existing shed instead of replacing it. At the April meeting it was decided to hold a work date in May to determine the cost of the repair and at the May meeting that date was set for May 31.

On May 31, Don and Jim assessed the needed work and created an estimate of needed materials that totaled \$860.43. Spending of these funds will be voted on at the July 12 member meeting, held during the picnic.

Thanks again to the shed committee for their valuable input and efforts, and thanks to everyone for bringing your ideas and energy to the club.

Em N8MCR, President, QCEN



Coming Events:

July 12th QCEN Picnic

July 12th & 13th IARU

HF World

Championship

July 19th & 20th Bike MS

August 2nd Paddlefest

August 16 & 17 North

American QSO Party

August 23 Ohio QSO Party

Sept. 11 QCEN Meeting

Contest Corner

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

The most recent contests for many of us were Field Day and the 13 Colonies. Did you participate in either/both, and how did it help your on-air skills? Personally, my listening skills honed during the “crappy” Field Day conditions enabled me to pull out some very challenging contacts during 13 colonies. While I did not get a “sweep” on a single band, I came close on three of them. My actual sweep submission covered six bands; thought I’d spice it up a bit!

So - what’s left for the rest of the summer? This weekend is the IARU HF World Championship, and of course there is also the Ohio QSO Party in August. As our next meeting after the picnic will be in September, the list of “large” and/or “significant” contests runs through the end of August:

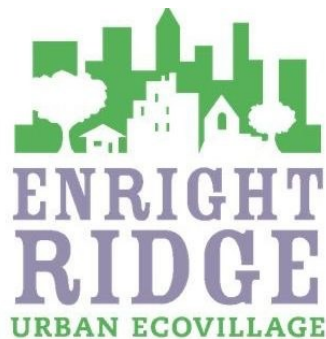
07/12-07/13	IARU HF World Championship	CW Ph	www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-
07/19-07/20	LABRE DX Contest (Brazil)	CW Ph	www.labre.org.br
07/19-07/20	North American QSO Party, RTTY	Dig	www.ncjweb.com
07/26-07/27	ARAM 50 MHz Contest (Portugal)	CW Ph	www.arem.pt
07/26-07/27	Alabama QSO Party	CW Ph	www.alabamacontestgroup.org
08/02-08/03	North American QSO Party, CW	CW	www.ncjweb.com
08/09-08/10	Maryland/DC QSO Party	CW Ph	www.w3vpr.org
08/16-08/17	North American QSO Party, SSB	Ph	www.ncjweb.com
08/23-08/24	Ohio QSO Party	CW Ph	www.ohqp.org
08/23-08/25	Hawaii QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.hawaiiqsoparty.org
08/30-08/31	U.S. Islands QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.usislands.org
08/30-08/31	Colorado QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.ppraa.org/coqp
08/30-08/31	Kansas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.ksqsoparty.org

Additional information can be found at www.contestcalendar.com

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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
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Director: Bob Garfield, W8MRG
Director: Kitty Hevener, W8TDA



Bringing Ham Radio to the Communities

Em Rhodes N8MCR, president of QCEN, had the opportunity to speak about ham radio to the members of the Enright Ridge Urban Ecovillage located in Price Hill. The ecovillage is an intentional community focused on environmentally sustainable practices and strong community ties. The members wanted to learn more about how ham radio could help them to be resilient during major storms and natural disasters. Em gave a history of Red Cross disaster responses in the Cincinnati area and outlined the many ways that the QCEN radio club provided services during those disasters. With the help of Bob Bross, W8NFM, Em was able to demonstrate a live radio transmission from West Chester to Price Hill and show attendees how the repeater system can relay communication throughout the region. This led to a thoughtful discussion about how the community could tap into the network if even one of their members got their ham license. Other resources were discussed such as the Skywarn network and websites such as the Hurricane Watch Net (www.hwn.org). Em encouraged participation in ham radio classes and several people expressed interest. It was great fun to introduce Ham Radio to a new and interested audience.



Post-Field Day at W8VVL

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

Thank you (and congratulations) to all who participated in Field Day 2025. Some participated from home; others visited one or more field sites; and then, there were those who operated from W8VVL at the Red Cross.

In a nutshell: band conditions were horrible this year. Thunderstorms in the surrounding area created significant noise across the band; hence, only the strongest signals could be heard. Despite the challenges, dedication to the task did yield results. While the overall number of contacts was lower than in the past, it clearly demonstrated the ability to overcome adverse conditions.

QCEN did have contacts on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters; 40 meters also had three different modes: SSB, CW and Digital. Seven operators worked from W8VVL and another from home. We also had people come in to help in setup before and teardown afterward. On behalf of QCEN, we appreciate everyone who helped in whatever role they did.

Why Scan Call-In Frequencies?

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

Many of us have scanners in our shack (and possibly in our vehicles as well.) Keeping up with what is going on in our area can be done by monitoring selected frequencies; Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS are obvious ones, but several others can provide rare and unusual information.

121.5 MHz is the international aviation emergency frequency; 156.8 MHz is used for international maritime distress. In the Amateur VHF band, 145.80 MHz is the downlink from the International Space Station, where one can hear periodic conversations for special school and other scheduled broadcasts. Of course, 146.52 MHz is the US call-in frequency (which should be in all our radios anyway.)

A few weeks ago, Fred K8FR heard an unusual call on this last one from 7000 feet. It seems a local skydiver decided to take a portable rig with him and proceeded to make contacts on his way down. I am only guessing, but based on the rate he was stating his altitude, the communications were being made AFTER his parachute had been deployed (otherwise, the calls would have been VERY fast!)

It's worth listening in to these and other frequencies - you never know who might "drop in"!

Project report for W8VVL Coax Junction Box

By Bob Garfield, W8MRG

The Junction Box Coax Project has been completed. We now have 3 Coax runs to the roof via the first floor office panel. Many Thanks to one of our new members, Jim Petera, WY8K. A shout out to him and the others who helped make this project a reality.

QCEN Meeting June 12, 2025

Called to order at 7:30pm, with Pledge to the Flag and self-introductions. Pres. Em N8MCR ... welcomed all at Red Cross and those on Zoom. Two new members: Ralph D., KK4RXI & Dan H., KF8AVJ voted in.

Program: Antennas by Steven G., KE8TEY - showed cables and simple antennas. Talked about Faraday, Hertz, Marconi. & The Light You Can Not See (a movie). Resonant antenna is best & always good grounding. Suggested a analyzer like RigExpert 230. Lots of Q & A.

- Pres. had a card for us to sign for Widow of Bruce P., N8WBP/sk.
- Secretary Report of May meeting is accepted as in L.P. online.
- Vice Pres. asking for programs for meeting & Net Control Ops.
- Treasurer Report - Bob B. - money rec'd from Kroger & Flying Pig marathon. Hamvention profit \$277., Insurance to be paid soon.
- Comm. Mgr. Steve L., N8TFD - Bike MS is July 19 & 20 good to go.

QCEN Picnic to be July 12th at Selman Park in Madeira - noon-4pm. Queen Bee Half Marathon to be Saturday October 11th - more later.

Shed fix at W8VND Site - Don has a list of material cost is about \$900. Several people put hands up to volunteer to help get it fixed late July.

Coax jumpers to be finished in Red Cross before Field Day.

W8VND Repeater site to be checked soon, Repeater will be relocated sometime in 2026 for unknown time while current site is renovated.

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

QCEN UHF Repeater 442.700 is off air, being checked, looking for new site.

Mentoring on ZOOM is the last Tuesday each month.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21pm, we had 24 people.

Next meeting is at QCEN Picnic Saturday July 12th for noon - 4pm

Here is the link to survey RSVP on google -or- N8TFD@fuse.net

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfTrco5utekYSlbrOMaQet3gV8q3k3BzuPX3WqHTbweGydCEQ/viewform?usp=dialog>

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.