

The Listening Post

February Meeting

The February meeting of the Queen City Emergency Net will take place on Thursday, February 12th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Red Cross building, 2111 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207. Guests are welcome. In addition to the in-person meeting, there will be a Zoom component for those who cannot attend the meeting in person. Members who, because of age, distance, difficulty driving at night, etc. are encouraged to attend via Zoom so they can keep in touch with the club activities and with other members.

Each month we try to have a presentation on a topic of interest to hams. This month, Don, KE8WYK, will talk to us about Wires X, a digital radio application. Wires X is a Yaesu product, developed along with Yaesu's Fusion radio, which uses the C4FM system of digital conversion of signals. Yaesu's literature says: *WIRES (Wide-coverage Internet Repeater Enhancement System) is an Internet communication system which expands the range of amateur radio communication.*

Don has been very interested in this technology since becoming a ham a few years ago. He has helped a number of club members get on the air with this system. We look forward to an interesting program.

Club business will also be a part of the meeting. We are already starting to plan various radio activities for the coming year. The meeting officially starts at 7:30, but many members arrive early to spend some time chatting with others and occasionally using the equipment in the radio room.



Coming Events:

Feb 12th QCEN meeting

Feb 9 thru 13 ARRL
School Club
Roundup

Feb 21 ARRL International
DX Contest (CW)

March 7 ARRL International
DX Contest (PH)

March 12th QCEN Meeting

Winter Field Day at W8VVL - Review

By *Bob Bross, W8NFM*

“If this had been an actual alert “

The purpose of any communications drill is to test readiness in case of a disaster. The concept of Winter Field Day was to deliberately activate stations under assumed “less than ideal” conditions (cold verses the nice warm days of summer.) Unprecedented weather in our region led to concerns of people being able to return home safely on Sunday. For this reason, the decision was made to shut down operations at W8VVL at 2000 ET on Saturday, January 25th.



***Cold? Snow coming?
Let's have Field Day!***

What was accomplished during the eight-hour activation at the Cincinnati Red Cross?

- All radio desks/systems/modes were used - and worked successfully.
- Members had the opportunity to get hands-on experience with our equipment.
- Simultaneous operation of HF systems assessed the effectiveness of our band pass filters.
- Logging speed and efficiency were demonstrated.
- On-site improvements and enhancements were made, benefiting future operations.
- Several new members performed rapid setup/teardown of an additional long wire antenna.

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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 2026
President: Em Rhodes, N8MCR
Vice President: Jim Craycroft, KB8UCJ
Treasurer: Bob Bross, W8NFM
Secretary: Rob Blocher, N8JMV
Communications Manager: Steve Lewis, N8TFD
Director: Kitty Hevener, W8TDA
Director: Franics Smith, N8PEE

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- Simplex testing and coordination with OHKYIN.
- Everyone returned home safely.

Overall, we accomplished all our goals in one-third of the time; therefore, this event was a success! Thank you to ALL who participated (or were on standby for later operating times.) “Summer” Field Day is only four months away. (The snow should have melted by then.)

Hamvention 2026 - “Radio Adventures”

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

The Dayton Hamvention will be held at the Greene County Fairgrounds on May 15th-17th 2026; the theme will be “Radio Adventures.” This is considered the largest amateur radio gathering in the world, with a record 36,814 attendees from all over the world in 2025. Manufacturers introduce new equipment; retailers and distributors offer special pricing on a variety of items; experts have lectures and Q&A sessions on a variety of topics; and of course, there is the flea market

Is it worth attending? Absolutely! Even if you are not in the market for equipment, the knowledge you will gain is valuable. You may get answers in solving a radio problem; innovative ideas on antenna design; software to help in your communication activities; seeing a piece of history on display. There are endless possibilities.

QCEN has had a flea market booth for many years - and expect to do so again this year. Volunteers from our group staff the booth on Friday and Saturday (attendance is lower on Sunday, so we normally operate on Friday and Saturday only.) Our booth is also a place where you can store your purchases instead of lugging them around all day; that’s especially helpful with a 40-amp Astron power supply or a 500-watt linear!

One of the best aspects of Hamvention is the opportunity to meet other amateurs from around the world. They may become new friends or could be people you have previously contacted on-air. There are also those DXpedition folks who are planning operating from a VERY remote location (see additional information in the “Contest Corner” section of this newsletter.)

Details on QCEN activities at the Hamvention to follow in the next three months. Mark your calendar NOW!

ARTEMIS II Launch and Amateur Radio Involvement

By Bob Bross, W8NFM



Sometime in March of this year (latest information as of this writing) the crewed ARTIMIS II mission will launch on a planned 10-day mission to circle around the moon and return safely to Earth. This will allow the crew to check all environmental, communication and tracking systems. Unlike the International Space Station, there will be no amateur radio equipment on board (even though three of the four astronauts ARE licensed.)

There IS a civilian role during this mission; selected commercial organizations and individuals (including four amateur radio operators) will be providing telemetry tracking information to NASA. This is to test alternate/backup tracking capabilities for accuracy and consistency as the private sector continues to expand its role in space.

Amateur radio 2-way communications have been relayed via satellite since the 1960's; OSCAR 3 was the first with a transponder in 1965, and more sophisticated amateur radio satellites (AMSAT) have been launched since. The first direct 2-way conversation between the Earth and someone in space was 18 years later; on December 1st, 1983, Astronaut Owen Garriot W5LFL (SK) sent out a CQ from the Space Shuttle Columbia on STS-9 and made contact with Lance Collister, WA1JXN (now W7GU.) As Garriot was the first amateur radio operator in space, he decided to try and make "a few more" contacts, finishing with almost 300 before the end of that mission. This was 15 years before the first piece of the International Space Station was put into orbit. The ISS regularly makes contact with ground stations; if you have not already done so, add 145.800 MHz to your scanner and listen on the downlink as various school groups communicate with the ISS.



Could there be 2-way amateur radio communication from the Moon (or even Mars) in the future? A considerable number of astronauts are licensed amateur radio operators, and their enthusiasm is likely to continue as we expand throughout our solar system. Any lunar base would simply aim their antenna once, as Earth is always in the same location when viewed from the Moon; the shifting directional work would have to be on our end! Expect any QSL card exchange to take a bit of time.

Contest Corner

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

While doing research for any upcoming article, I am frequently sidetracked by other topics which are encountered along the way. Curious about upcoming DXpeditions? There's a Web site for that: www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html

Winter Field Day is behind us (though the snow remains.) What lies ahead in the upcoming weeks?

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Mode(s)</u>	<u>Link</u>
02/21-02/22	ARRL International DX Contest CW	CW	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
02/28-03/01	South Carolina QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	www.scqso.com
02/27-03/01	CQ 160 Meter Contest SSB	Ph	www.cq160.com
03/01-03/02	North Carolina QSO Party	CW PH Dig	www.ncqso.com
03/07-03/08	ARRL International DX Contest Ph	Ph	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
03/14-03/15	South Africa Field Day Contest	CW Ph Dig	www.mysarl.org.za

There are many other smaller/niche contests as we warm up to spring; check the ARRL Web site and/or www.contestcalendar.com for more information.

NWS Weather Spotter Program

By Bob Bross, W8NFM and Paul Loveless, KF8FNS



As Spring draws ever closer, we also enter the prime season for severe weather in our area. While thunderstorms and tornados can occur any time of the year, now is the time to enhance your knowledge of weather conditions through the National Weather Service training programs. The first virtual session will be on Wednesday, February 19th; please visit the NWS link at www.weather.gov/iln/spottertrainingschedule for details. Additional virtual and online sessions are normally scheduled, but don't miss this early opportunity. For more information on amateur radio's role in national SKYWARN program, check the local WARN network at www.warn.org

QCEN Meeting January 8, 2026

Called to order at 7:30pm, Pledge to the Flag & self-introductions. Pres. Em N8MCR welcomed all at Red Cross & and on Zoom.

Visitor - Paul L. renewing expired license w/ Tech exam soon.

Winter Field Day to be at Red Cross W8VVL January 24 & 25. Pres. Showed video about Winter Field Day operations. Bob B. W8NFM is organizing schedule and food & drinks.

- Secretary report of December meeting accepted as in L.P. online
- Comm. Mgr. Steve N8TFD - QCEN had three events in 2025. Flying Pig sign-up soon, Heart Mini (maybe), Bike MS July 18 & 19.
- Treasurer report - Bob B., W8NFM - all bills are paid, dues received..
- QCEN Audit Committee to meet and report at next meeting.

Motion made for Secretary to cast vote for 2026 slate of officers, I did.

QCEN 2026 Officers -

President-Em N8MCR,

Vice President- Jim KB8UCJ,

Secretary- Rob N8JMV,

Treasurer- Bob W8NFM,

Communications Manager -Steve N8TFD,

Senior Director - Kitty W8TDA,

Junior Director- Francis N8PEE.

Meeting adjourned 9:05pm We had 18 people present.

Next Meeting to be Thursday February 12, 2026 at Red Cross.

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.