

# PRIORITY TRAFFIC

The Listening Post  
Monthly Newsletter  
February 2004

**QCEN** QUEEN CITY  
EMERGENCY NET  
Amateur Radio Affiliate of the American Red Cross, Cincinnati Area Chapter



Something you want to see in the Newsletter? Send your suggestions to the editor by e mail at [KB8VMY@QCEN.net](mailto:KB8VMY@QCEN.net)

*Mark's Musings...a welcome letter from QCEN President Mark Reising to all members of QCEN, February 2004.*

Welcome to the QCEN New Year! Our New Year happens to coincide with the 2004 Chinese New Year, the Year of the Monkey. However, there is no monkey business here, just an attempt to keep everyone informed of upcoming QCEN events.

QCEN, as you know, is about public service, and we do a good job with those projects. However, we also need to keep the fun side of amateur radio in mind. One of my goals in 2004 is to increase the attendance at the general membership meetings. To do that we need interesting programs to make attending worthy of your time.

That is where *you*, as a member of QCEN, come in. We need your input! We have several quality programs already lined up. (Please see K8DV's column for more info.) However, we still need your input on what you want to see and do in the coming year. I also want to continue the improvements at W8VND, started by KC, W8ZFR. W8VND is an asset that few area clubs can match. We want to make it a place that is available for contests and social activities. It should be fun to go there for these events. Stay tuned for more information on this front.

Thanks for your vote of confidence at the recent elections. Please, remember to communicate with the executive

committee and let them know what you want to see in this club. It is your club. I welcome all comments and/or suggestions. Send them to me at [wm8r@qcen.net](mailto:wm8r@qcen.net).

**73 de Mark WM8R**

As all of you know, ham radio is steeped in tradition, legend, codes and symbols. Some of you, if not all, may wonder about such things as, "Where did the word Ham come from?" Or, "Where did the Q signals come from?" Over the next several months, we will explore the who, what when where and why these things came about. Some may contain more myth than fact, but it will be interesting. It will give new perspective to our wonderful hobby. I hope you enjoy these fun facts. Let me know if there is something you want to see here and I will answer your questions. This month we look at:

**"Why are we called Hams?"**

The definition given in G.M. Dodge's, "The Telegraph Instructor", a publication before radio is:

***Ham: a poor operator. A 'plug'.***

That definition had never changed in wire telegraphy. The first wireless operators were landline telegraphers who left their offices to go to sea or to man coastal stations. They brought with them their language and much of their older profession.

In those early days, spark was king and every station occupied the same wavelength, or more accurately perhaps, every station occupied the whole spectrum with its broad spark signal. Government stations, ships and coastal stations and the increasing number of amateurs all competed (continued on page 5)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

☞☞ **February 20, 2004--**  
**QCEN Monthly Meeting**  
**Red Cross Chapter House,**  
**8 pm**  
**Program: Jim Weaver,**  
**K8JE Great Lakes Division**  
**Director**  
**Bring your questions about**  
**current ARRL happenings!**

☞☞ **March 19, 2004--**  
**QCEN Monthly Meeting,**  
**Red Cross Chapter House,**  
**8 pm**  
**Program: Rich Apuzzo,**  
**chief meteorologist,**  
**WXIX-TV19**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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**On The Lighter Side...**

**Greetings from John Dine**

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## Bio of the Month....

### *Mark Reising, President*

Mark has been involved in ham radio since 1969. His first call was WN9BVV and later, after his upgrade to technician in 1970, WB9BVV. He was involved in local club activities while in high school, like the fox hunts on 160 and 6 meters. He then remained active with his college club station, WOEEE at University of Missouri-Rolla.

Mark upgraded to extra in 1992 or 1993 ("...memory ain't what it used to be...") and finally got his vanity call in 2002, WM8R.

Mark has been most active with QCEN since moving to Cincinnati in

1988 and has also been involved with Hamilton County ARPSC.

He is currently serving as vice president of GCARA.

His public service activities for QCEN have included installing a ham station at Camp Freidlander Boy Scout camp. Many scouts received their Radio Merit Badge at the camp over the last few years. Mark ran a license class and exam sessions, resulting in several scouts and a scout leader becoming licensed hams.

Mark's profession as a hazardous materials instructor keeps him busy, especially due to increased terrorism response since Sept 11, 2001.

Mark's wife, Leora, KBOBTA, has been a ham since 1987. Their son Matthew, KB8TCN, got his technician license in 1994 at age 9. Matthew recently passed his code test, so look for his general or extra call sign very soon!

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Great Lakes Division Director at our next monthly meeting February 20, 2004. Jim is our featured program speaker.

He brings over 40 years of service to amateur radio, including past president of QCEN. Jim is also active in many other amateur radio groups in Cincinnati. He is an avid DX'er. You can hear him on many ham bands, from 160 meters to 70 centimeters.

Meeting starts at 7:30 and Jim will speak at 8pm.

*See you there!*

***Meet our new  
President, Mark  
Reising,  
WM8R,  
QCEN member  
since 1988.***

***Congratulations!  
Matt Reising, KB8TCN,  
successfully upgraded to  
General Class on  
February 7, 2004.***

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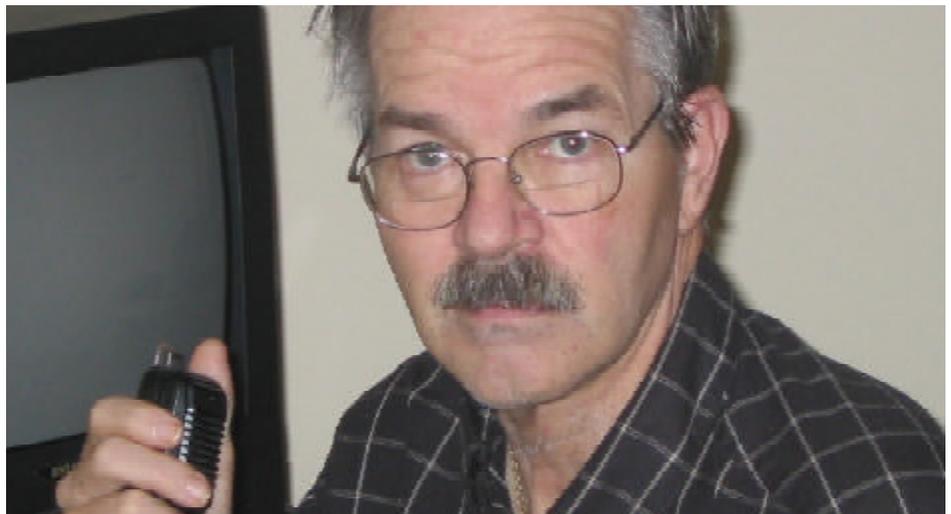
**Be sure to call John soon!**

## Member Update:

### **John Dine**

*Dick Leffler, WB8MCX*

Chuck and I are waiting on some better weather( yes, we know that antenna work is supposed to be done in bad weather) to make a trip to John's to install a G5RV, somehow. This tends to be a bit of a challenge because it's a one story building with no trees around and he doesn't own the property. After the installation of the antenna, you should be able to talk to him on 40 mtrs and he will be able to get back on HF.



### **JOHN ON HIS RIG, RECENTLY.**

Remember that you can talk to John every evening on 145.61 Simplex, PL 123.0 or 442.700 +, PI 123.0 around 8:30 to 9pm or so. This is accomplished with the use of Gary's,

WB8BFW's-- ECHOLINK on 145.61. 442.700 is just linked into Gary's link. John would like to hear from you.

## QCEN MEETING MINUTES

*January 16, 2004*

*The annual meeting of the Queen City emergency Net was called to order by President, K.C. Angel W8ZFR at 8:00PM. K.C. welcomed everyone and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a round of introductions.*

A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter.

*Secretary, Dean KB8GFN gave the secretary's annual report and the good will annual report. Dean told the group that Ron Dieselberg W8PCK was in Bethesda North Hospital.*

*Treasurer Jim, N8ZZW gave the treasurer's report.*

*Communications, Steve N8TFD reported on the recent damage assessment effort on the part of the net. Steve reported that there were some issues with the way people filled out the paperwork. Steve reminded the group that photo I.D. cards were being made tonight if anyone needs one. Steve reported on the Flying Pigs Expo to be held on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center. Some discussion followed about this activity. Stu KC8HQT volunteered to help coordinate this event. A sign up sheet was passed around. Steve reminded everyone that he has many positions to fill for the Flying Pig Marathon, which will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Steve indicated that there would be some tactical operations changes this year.*

*Communications, Steve N8TFD then asked everyone to mark their calendars for the following activities: Ride for Red on June 13, Diabetes bike ride on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and the MS150 bike ride on July 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Steve reported that Dean KB8GFN would coordinate the MS Walk to be held on May 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*Communications, Steve N8TFD reported that due to some problems with the 147.240 repeater, that the Tuesday Ten Net was held on simplex this past Tuesday. He reported that there was a lot of interest in the simplex net with lots of check ins. Most people could hear everyone else. This was a good test*

*President, K.C. W8ZFR asked Steve N8TFD to move along.*

*Education, Mark WM8R told everyone that his annual report was published in the newsletter. Mark discussed the possibility of getting a VE team together.*

*Engineering, Chuck K8CR put the finishing touches on his annual report, passed his laptop to Dave K8DV, and asked him to read the report to the group.*

*Membership, Bob W8MRG distributed membership pins with special mention to Fred K8FR for 30 years of service and Earl W4PII for 45 years.*

*Red Cross, Tom W8WTD told everyone that he had a meeting with Arch paging to discuss the group paging issues that the net and Red Cross are having. Arch has agreed to work with Red Cross to resolve the issues. This may mean that net members who carry Red Cross issued pagers will need to swap them out again. Tom will keep the group*

updated.

*Kitty, WB8TDA asked if there was an alternative to digital pagers. Tom W8WTD said that he will work on this issue.*

*Security, Dick WB8MCX gave his annual report to the group.*

*Traffic, Steve N8TFD indicated that he would have to file his report at a later date.*

*Hank, N8XX read the annual report for Station Trustee, Jim W8OUU. President, K.C. W8ZFR appointed an audit committee of Jim N8ZZW, Andrew N8MDH, and Dean KB8GFN.*

*President, K.C. W8ZFR initiated a discussion that had begun last October in regards to the Tuesday Ten Net. This topic generated much discussion. Main discussion points were: move the time to 9PM (many agreed), shorten the check in process, update and shorten the preamble, have a monthly simplex net. Mark WM8R made a motion to change the net time to 9PM. Some discussion followed. Bob W8MRG was not paying attention and asked what the motion was about. Kitty WB8TDA suggested that we not make too many changes at one time. K.C. W8ZFR suggested that these issues might be better handled by the communication's manager and his committee. Mark WM8R withdrew his motion. Steve N8TFD indicated that the net time would move to 9PM on the first Tuesday of February. Steve reported that he would take the other suggestions under advisement.*

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...)

**Dick WB8MCX** asked if we were ever going to use the “members only” portion of the web page. **K.C. W8ZFR** told **Dick** that he was working on that area. **Dick** suggested that Red Cross assessment forms could be put in that

**K.C. W8ZFR** thanked the net for their cooperation during the last year and passed the gavel to **President, Mark Reising WM8R**.

**President, Mark WM8R** sat down



section for net members' use. Some discussion about the ever changing forms which are Red Cross property.

**K.C. W8ZFR** thanked the current executive committee and then dismissed them.

**K.C. W8ZFR** read the current slate of officers and asked for a motion to elect the current slate. A motion was made by **Andrew N8MDH** and second by **Richard KA8HXR**. A vote was taken and the following people are now the officers for 2004.

- President**-Mark Reising - WM8R
- Vice President**-Dave Vest-K8DV
- Secretary**-Dean Winkelman-KB8GFN
- Treasurer**-Jim Walsh-N8ZZW
- Comm Manager**-Steve Lewis N8TFD

***Your 2004 Executive Board at Work!***

**Pictured:left to right,standing: Stu Press, Pete Feichtner, Dick Leffler, Dean Winkleman;Andrew Crowl; John Frank; Bob Garfield, Chuck DeSantis. Seated: Jim Walsh; Mark Reising, Dave Vest.**

and thanked **K.C.** for warming up the set. **Mark** thanked now **Past President, K.C. W8ZFR** for a job well done over the past year. **Mark** read over the list of executive committee positions which he has already filled. He indicated that he still has a position or two open. Anyone interested in filling one should contact him.

**Hank N8XX** made a motion to adjourn at 9:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dean Winkelman, Secretary  
KB8GFN

**QCEN Officers**

- President**  
Mark Reising  
WM8R  
513-697-6213
- Vice President**  
Dave Vest  
K8DV
- Secretary**  
Dean Winkelman  
KB8GFN  
513-561-3066
- Treasurer**  
Jim Walsh  
N8ZZW  
513-754-0527
- Communications Manager**  
Steve Lewis  
N8TFD  
513-961-5237

- Executive Committee**  
Dave Vest  
K8DV  
Chuck DeSantis  
K8CR  
Bob Garfield  
W8MRG  
John Frank  
KC8SIL  
Pete Feichtner  
KC8BZM  
Dean Winkleman  
KB8GFN  
KC Angel  
W8ZFR  
Stu Press  
KC8HQT  
Andrew Crowl  
N8MDH  
Tom Delaney  
W8WTD  
Dick Leffler  
WB8MCX

- Newsletter Editor**  
Shelia DeSantis  
KB8VMY

Steve Lewis, N8TFD

Thing can change.

I spent a late January afternoon at the Flying Pig Marathon office. I was there for a candid meeting to discuss what things were right and wrong with the pig.

I came armed with comments from: WD8JCT, K8DV, WB8QXL, and a large number of people who agree with me that runner-tracking needs to be handled differently.

(I had comments from dozens of participants over the 5 years, but Greg's, Dave's and Terry's came closest to zeroing in on very specific problems that can be handled most easily.)

We have a commitment from the FP staff to make things better. One of the major sources of "noise" on the nets is inquiries about simple race factoids that should be known ahead of time. This will be handled by changing the mailing that gets sent to volunteers. Here's how:

For the April meeting, the FP director (Don Connelly) will speak to us. We should be able to hand out assignments, T-shirts, and credentials this night (instead of mailing them out in the final week.)

Further, we will be handing out a revised Spectator Handbook, which will contain dozens of factoids to answer questions such as "where is the \_\_\_\_\_" and "when does \_\_\_\_\_?"

It has been a long process, longer than I'd like. But the FP directors are going to help us do a better job of helping them. And we're going further, making changes in how and where net control is managed--- to reduce "freelancing". So now, more than ever, *take notes and speak up!* See you on May 2!

(Hams...con't from page 1)

for time and signal supremacy in each other's receivers. Many of the amateur stations were very powerful. Two amateurs, working each other across town, could effectively jam all the other operations in the area. When this happened, frustrated commercial operators would call the ship whose weaker signals had been blotted out by amateurs and say "SRI OM THOSE #&\$!@ HAMS ARE JAMMING YOU."

Amateurs, possibly unfamiliar with the real meaning of the term, picked it up and applied it to themselves in true "Yankee Doodle" fashion and wore it with pride. As the years advanced, the original meaning has completely disappeared. Author - Louise Ramsey Moreau W3WRE/WB6BBO

Next month we will look into a more popular definition of how we came to be known as Hams.

73 de Dave K8DV



**Pictured left to right: QCEN Vice President, Dave Vest; Treasurer, Jim Walsh; President, Mark Reising; Secretary, Dean Winkleman.**

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## ARRL NEWS UPDATE

League Files "A Plan for the Next Decade" with FCC (Jan 28, 2004) -- The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules to complete the Amateur Service restructuring the Commission began in 1999 but left unfinished. The League wants the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra (see "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access"). The ARRL says its petition follows in the footsteps of changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. Among those changes, WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. While several countries--including Germany, the UK and Australia--already have dropped their Morse testing requirements, the ARRL emphasized in its petition that Morse code is not the primary issue at hand.

**Queen City Emergency Net**  
**720 Sycamore Street**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45202**

*Amateur Radio Affiliate of the American Red Cross,  
Cincinnati Area Chapter*

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Dues for 2004-2005 are now due!

Please note any changes of address, etc on the form below.

Membership categories are:

Give the completed form to Bob Garfield, W8MRG. Or send it to  
the address listed below.

Regular- \$15.00 per year

Sustaining- \$20.00 or more per year

Student- \$3.50 per year

Non-resident- \$5.00 per year

Family members pay 1/2 price

Remember to talk up QCEN! we've got a great group, and others  
may be interested in joining!

## ***QUEEN CITY EMERGENCY NET, INC***

### ***Application for Membership-Renewal***

***(PLEASE CHECK) NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP***

***NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE***

***ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ OVER 21? \_\_\_\_\_***

***CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_***

***TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_***

***LICENSECLASS \_\_\_\_\_ PAGER \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER PHONE \_\_\_\_\_***

***E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER OF ARRL? \_\_\_\_\_***

***PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER FCC LICENSES \_\_\_\_\_***

***QCEN MEMBER RECOMMENDING YOU \_\_\_\_\_***

***Mail to: Bob Garfield, W8MRG, 13038 Coopermeadow Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45242 Phone (513)652-6300***