

PRIORITY TRAFFIC

The Listening Post
Monthly Newsletter of
May, 2004

QCEN QUEEN CITY
EMERGENCY NET
AMATEUR RADIO AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, EMERGENCY AID SOCIETY

Visit the QCEN Website at <http://www.qcen.net>



The President's Column

Mark's Musings...

PUBLIC SERVICE?????

What is one of the main justifications for the frequencies we have reserved for our use? Public Service! This includes not only communications in times of disaster, but also training for those occasions. We train by various means; the most common training opportunity for QCEN and many other local clubs is by providing communication for special events each year. Training and practice in Net operations is accomplished during these events. We have just completed one of our main events of the year, The Flying Pig Marathon, and not to steal Steve's thunder, but the early reports are that every one at the marathon was pleased with our service. Communication opportunities for these events is becoming scarce, with many served agencies going to cell phones and other technologies. Believe it or not, there are some major US cities where the amateur radio clubs no longer provide communications for special events, partly by choice and partly because of lack of opportunity. What is it that we bring to table besides radios?

We bring the ability to communicate, not just talk and not only with radios, but also other technologies. We have the organizational skills that allow us to distill messages down to their essential elements so they can be clearly understood by the recipients.

What about contests; what do they have to do with emergency communications? The premier emergency exercise for ham radio is Field Day, which is held each June. QCEN and most of the other area clubs participate in Field Day, which tests a group or individual's ability to operate from equipment setups that simulate emergency conditions. It's easy to see how Field Day prepares us for disaster operations. How about the other contests such as the Ohio and other state QSO , parties, and the DX contests? These test one's ability to operate under adverse conditions such as noisy band conditions. All of these events are fun and yet they also provide us with a learning opportunity.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

☞ **May 21, 2004—**

**QCEN Monthly Meeting
Red Cross Chapter House,
8 PM**

**Program: Guest speaker
Jay Slough, K4ZLE, Renowned
DX'er from South West Ohio.
Jay will discuss 8th district QSI
bureau.**

☞ **June 18, 2004—**

**QCEN Monthly Meeting
Red Cross Chapter House,
8PM**

**Program: Field Day Prep
Moderator: Dave Vest
Overview of ham radio's favorite
weekend adventure and update
on June 26th at W8VND!!**

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ACTIVITIES MAY 2004

DAVE VEST, K8DV

Last month at the QCEN meeting we had a great crowd turned out for the Flying Pig's Marathon preview and question and answer session. Steve N8TFD acted as moderator and our guest was the race director who fielded questions from the audience. I have to say it was a big success and something we should plan on doing in the future for any large-scale event.

Coming up in May our guest speaker will be Jay Slough, K4ZLE who is a prominent South West Ohio DX'er and has recently taken over the 8th district call area incoming QSL bureau. Jay will be joining us to talk about taking over the 8th bureau as well as how it works and what some of the future plans are. You never know he might even be willing to tell you how you can get involved if you desire.

In June the meeting will be a presentation by yours truly with an overview of ham radios favorite weekend adventures, yes you guessed it "Field Day".

Looking ahead to the summer the annual picnic will be held July 17, so mark that on your calendar and plan on bringing the family out, details to follow.

Plans are still under way for the bus trip to the museum, I need to hear back from anyone interested in going so we can determine if there is enough interest to make it happen, remember we only need 30 to make it a go. Make sure you are spreading the word to other clubs, which you are members.

- A. Hot Water 12
- B. Thunderbolt
- C. 3 Drifty
- D. Gold Dust Twins
- E. Venus
- F. Sky Champion
- G. Gooney Bird
- H. Triton
1
- I. Trap Master
- J. Big Bertha
s
- K. Clipperton L
- L. HRO
- M. Zephyr

As always if you have an idea for a meeting please step forward and we will do our best to try and set it up.

Dave Vest, K8DV

SO YOU KNOW HAM RADIO TODAY....

(WHAT ABOUT YESTERDAY?)

Test your knowledge by matching up the nicknames in the left column

With the manufacturer in the right column, have fun.

Answers next month.

Hope you enjoy your walk back into ham radio history. Is it just me, or would it be cool if they brought back some of the names of equipment from the past?

- _____ Dentron
- _____ Hallicrafters
- _____ Johnson
- _____ Mosley
- _____ Telrex
- _____ Heathkit
- _____ Vibroplex
- _____ National
- _____ Clegg
- _____ Collins
- _____ Gonset
- _____ Tentec
- _____ Swan

QCEN MEETING MINUTES: April 16, 2004

Dean Winkleman, KB8GFN

The regular monthly meeting of the Queen City Emergency Net was called to order by President, Mark Reising WM8R at 7:30PM. Mark welcomed everyone and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a round of introductions.

President, Mark WM8R asked everyone to sign the attendance list and indicate if they would like the LP via e-mail or hard copy.

President, Mark WM8R asked for a motion to accept the minutes as published in the LP. Hank N8XX asked that the statement "N8TFD made a sound resembling Hank N8XX and made a motion to adjourn" be removed because no one can make sounds resembling him. His request will be noted. The motion to accept the minutes passed.

Treasurer, Jim N8ZZW gave the Treasurer's report.

Vice-President, Dave K8DV reported that the May program would be a representative from the 8th area QSL bureau. The June meeting will be dedicated to Field Day.

The July meeting will be held on Saturday July 17th and will be the QCEN family picnic. On August 21st the net is planning a bus trip to the Museum of Radio & Technology, Inc. The cost of this trip is \$30.00 per person and reservations can be made by contacting Dave Vest K8DV.

Buildings and Grounds, John KC8SIL reported that the Tuesday evening work parties have begun and invited everyone to join in.

Disaster, Tom W8WTD told the group that the pager situation is well in hand. Tom has communicator manuals for anyone who does not have one.

Engineering, Chuck K8CR was not present but Dave K8DV reported that the repeater repair is well on its way.

Hank N8XX told the group that Earl W4PII had surgery this week. Membership, Bob W8MRG reported 122 members at this time. Bob has received a membership application from John Hockney KC8ZLG. John was recommended by Bob KB8TPC. A vote was taken and John is a new member.

Properties, Stu KC8HQT / Dave K8DV had no report.

President, Mark WM8R reminded everyone to sign the attendance list. In an attempt to reduce the nets expenses, we would like to have members receive the LP via the web site. An e-mail announcement will be sent telling everyone that the LP has been posted on the web site. The LP will still be mailed to anyone wanting a hard copy.

Security, Dick WB8MCX reported that everything is secure. At 7:55PM Earl W4PII arrived and introduced himself and his wife. Mark WM8R asked K. C. W8ZFR about the progress on the mission statement. K. C. advised that he has been very busy with work activities and had no update on the mission statement. Mark WM8R told K. C. W8ZFR that he was much more useful when he was unemployed. Hank N8XX reported that he is chair of the constitution & by laws review committee and is looking for input from the membership.

(Con't on Page 5)

When The RF Ends

Dave Vest, K8DV

I just returned home from a long day trip with a good ham friend of mine, we met up with another friend and onto our mission. Well on this warm April day we had been asked by a good ham friend of ours to assist them in dismantling their antenna system because they were going to be moving and no were no longer going to needing it. Well that in its self could be the story but that will have to wait for another time and place.

The real story is in the journey and the conversation that took place and it brought back a lot of memories of my early life in ham radio. There have been a lot of hams that have touched my life and took the time to teach me both good and bad habits about the hobby. Overall the friendships that were made will continue in my heart forever.

One of the old timers that I have some of my favorite memories of would have to be an old-timer that was 50 years my senior but when we were together it was like no age difference at all. He was a retired executive of a company in the area where I grew up. I met him I guess when I was 15 not to long after the local radio club was formed. Looking back he never treated me like I was kid and unknowing, more as a friend should be treated, with respect and dignity. I had been licensed around a year and a half, with him at the time had most likely had his license since the late forties some 35 years give or take a few. Although he would ask me what do you think of this rig or this one, it was great, not because he would ask what I thought but because he valued my input.

I would go see him and end up spending most of the afternoon in his basement.

It was like a ham radio shrine, there was old books, magazines, radios ranging from the twenties all the way up through the late seventies

It was ham heaven to a young kid new in the hobby. We stayed close for several years until I went away to school and after that we were still friends but I didn't have the time that I did before. I was going to school and living on campus and coming home on the weekends working and going back to school on Sunday evening for Monday classes, didn't leave much time for ham radio or much of anything else looking back. It was not to long after that I got word that he had taken ill and was not fairing so well, and he was not receiving visitors, I was upset not being able to see my friend and sometime later a few months or so I got word he had passed, I felt empty inside, although I had not seen him in some time I missed him.

His wife (wonderful lady by the way) called me to see if I would help her dispose of his radio equipment and to choose anything he had that I wanted big or small. Over the next several weeks I help her dispose of the equipment, I ended selecting two things, one was a radio tech manual that was his when he graduated from radio school training in the service and the other was a Heathkit memory keyer that I still have that was not built, that his wife told me that he was saving that for me to build for him when I got the chance.

So as I remember an old friend and give others a chance to take this walk down memory land and meet my friend, all I can hope for, is some day someone will remember me and be able to say I helped make a difference in their life as he did in mine, when the RF ends.

Who's Running The Show/Club?

Dave Vest, K8DV

I was listening to 40 meters the other day as I often do and heard a conversation between to hams that belong to a local ham club in their city.

I am not sure if they are members or members serving as officers or committee members of standing committees. The more I listened the more I thought about what they were saying. They ran through the list of officers, pausing to reflect on what each office meant and how well they thought the current officer was performing.

After several minutes of this one of the two said something on the lines of "Who's running the club?" the president, vice-president, or the membership? At that time a silence came on the frequency, I am sure you could have heard a pin drop when one of the two said, "**WE ARE!**"

I thought to myself WOW these guys must think a lot of themselves, until I heard him go on to talk about what he said. He went on to explain that a club is not made up of just officers, or just members or a group of folks that all have the same ideas. You joined for a reason and part of that was you wanted to contribute something and not necessarily monetary, but your ideas, time, and experiences of the hobby. It is up to each of the officers and the general membership alike to contribute to the success, we all pay the same in dues and by being a member in good standings means that we have the right to voice our opinions and concerns and help contribute to the success of the club.

A few minutes later they both said 73 to each other and signed off the air and both agreed that yes indeed they did run the club, but not by themselves but with the other members as well.

I sat there for a few minutes listening to the hiss coming out of the speaker while thinking about our club and sometimes I feel as if we have forgotten QCEN belongs to all of us, not just a select few.

(Minutes, Con't from Page 4)

Hank indicated that once the committee compiles its recommended changes they will be listed on the web site for everyone's review.

President, Mark WM8R reminded everyone that this meeting and the last meeting began at 7:30PM due to the length of the program. Some discussion followed about moving the meeting start time to 7:30PM. A show of hands indicated that most members were in favor of a 7:30PM start time. Bob W8MRG suggested that this might require a constitution change. Dick WB8MCX suggested that Mark, as President, had the authority to declare it 8:00PM at 7:30PM and begin the meeting.

President, Mark WM8R told the group that the long range planning committee would be meeting to develop the needs of the club for the next few years. Any member with suggestions for the committee should talk to Mark.

Dick WB8MCX told everyone that the club has three flea market spaces at the Dayton Hamvention but he can't remember the space numbers. Club members are invited to use his 443.9 (pl 123) repeater while at the Hamvention. Mark WM8R suggested that club members wear their red QCEN shirts on Saturday.

Bob W8MRG suggested that everyone should wear blue shirts on Sunday.

K. C. W8ZFR reminded Mark WM8R that last year there was some discussion as to the way the club disposes of equipment. A recommendation last year was that club members should have first choice to purchase club equipment. Some discussion followed.

Dick WB8MCX suggested that the long range planning committee should decide the best disposition for club property to best benefit the club. He added that the committee could notify club members before any property was to be sold giving members first chance to purchase it.

Pete KC8BZM suggested that any property to be sold could be announced on the 9:00PM net.

Hank N8XX made a motion to adjourn at 8:10PM

President, Mark WM8R asked the group to take a short break and then re-assemble for the Flying Pigs presentation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dean Winkelman KB8GFN

84/24 REPEATER STATUS...

Remember, this repeater will be off the air for (much needed) maintenance and updates.

Estimated down time, 60 days from March 1.

Questions? E mail Chuck
K8CR@QCEN.net

Mark's Musings....
(Continued from Page One)

QCEN is in the process of upgrading W8VND to make it a more fun place to be and also a better quality facility. Come on out for one of the contests, or just come out to operate sometime once the upgrades are under way.

73 DE Mark WM8R

QCEN Officers
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Dave Vest
K8DV
Secretary
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Chuck DeSantis
K8CR
Bob Garfield
W8MRG
John Frank
KC8SIL
Pete Feichtner
KC8BZM
Dean Winkelman
KB8GFN
KC Angel
W8ZFR
Stu Press
KC8HQT
Andrew Crowl
N8MDH
Tom Delaney
W8WTD
Dick Leffler
WB8MCX

Queen City Emergency Net
720 Sycamore Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Amateur Radio Affiliate of the American Red Cross
Cincinnati Area Chapter

Dues for 2004-2005 are now due!
Membership categories are:
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 ½ price

Please note any changes of address, etc on the form below.
Give the completed form to Bob Garfield, W8MRG. Or send it to
the address listed below.

Remember to talk up QCEN! We have 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 _____ LICENSECLASS _____

PAGER _____ CELL-PHONE _____ 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