

THE LISTENING POST



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB



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

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From the President

New Directions for QCEN

As I said in my remarks at the January meeting, QCEN has a number of new challenges ahead of us. We are fortunate to have had great leadership from Andrew, N8MDH, over the past two years. I hope to build on his work in the coming months.

I am happy to note that the 147.24 repeater is back on the air. With the repeater comes the first challenge—how will we use it? Let's make a resolution to make some contacts, every day if possible, and be active. I, for one, like the idea of making at least one contact a day on some band, somewhere.

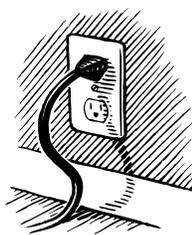
We also have the challenge of membership numbers. A club like ours is not for everyone, because of our special focus. But we need to maintain a good membership base so we can be there to help. We have two purposes in our club Constitution, public service, especially in emergency communications, and advancing the radio art. What are your particular interests in ham radio, and how can we as a club, help you with those?

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Electrical Safety in the Ham Shack

Whether you use your radio everyday or just once in a while, or whether you use an HT or a full-power rig on CW or SSB, you are making use of electricity. Knowing how to handle that, understanding the do's and don'ts of safe operation is something all of us can use.

QCEN is pleased to have Gary Coffey, KB8MYC, as our guest presenter at the February meeting. Gary is a safety instructor for a local company, and has twenty years experience in that area.



A member of OH-KY-IN, he has been one of the key people involved in the successful one-day radio classes that have been held over the past year. Working together, our two clubs have gotten a lot of new people involved in ham radio.

Be sure to come to the meeting and hear what Gary has to say.

Weekend Classes Offered in March

Have you been thinking about upgrading your license, and just haven't done anything about it? Or do you know someone, a family member or a friend who wants to get into amateur radio? Plan now to sign up for the March classes.

Technician preparation will be held on Saturday, March 21st. Students should have read the book ahead of time.

General preparation will be held over two days, Saturday and Sunday, 3/21 & 3/22. Advanced study on the student's part is also necessary.

Location: The Salem Presbyterian Church in Westwood.

Save the date!

Table-Top Drill at March Meeting

Spring brings more than just flowers—it can also bring bad weather. Though we've been lucky the last several years, and we certainly don't want any trouble, we all know that disasters can happen. QCEN participates in a few drills with Red Cross, but we haven't had our own drill in quite some time. So with the help of Gary Miller, we are planning a "table-top" drill at the March meeting, on March 20th. We'll try to de-

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February 3

Executive Board Meeting

The QCEN Executive Board met Thursday, Feb. 3rd. No motions were made and no votes taken. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss some of the areas of need and how the Net could meet them in the coming year.

One of the suggestions was a survey of the Net on several topics. That has since been done, and the results are on page 3.

Tom has started working on a new procedures manual for the committee. It will outline the duties of the officers, and attempt to pull together in one place important documents and other information necessary for the running of the Net, some of which had been too informal over the years. Examples would be lease papers, insurance papers, etc., as well as documentation of what was done at what time in the way of maintenance, purchases, etc. for club gear.

Mark, WM8R, will continue to oversee security at W8VND. A new door lock is planned. Continuing care of the building and grounds will need to be shared by all the members as the year progresses.



Getting Closer

Red Cross Building Design Phase Ending; Construction to Begin Soon

QCEN will have an important role to play with the Red Cross for many years to come. The new Communications room will be located just across the hall from the Disaster Operations Center. Just under twice the size of the current W8VVL room, it will provide room for five operators, and will have all the necessary power, antennas, etc. Planning the interior of the room itself is still a few steps away, but as building plans get solidified, we are moving closer to that reality.

Flea Market Space

QCEN is considering getting some space in the Flea Market at the Dayton Hamvention this year. Members would be able to use the space to sell equipment, have a central gathering place, and perhaps promote our club to any interested hams.

To offset the cost of the tickets, we are considering asking for donations of small, but useable items that the club might sell. If you've got something valuable to others that you would consider getting rid of, we'd like to hear from you.

More discussion of this topic will be held at the meeting.

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vote a good block of time, at least an hour and a half, to making sure that we are r e a d y .

You'll need to bring an HT to the meeting. B e y o n d that, you'll just have to



be ready! So mark your calendars and plan to be there for this very important exercise.

If you're one of the regulars, you may think that you know everything there is to know about communications. Great. Then we need your help. You can show the newer members what to do.

If you're new to ham radio, or haven't participated in emergency communications, then you should be there to find out how to put your radio skills to work.

Only the older members can remember what it's like to work a disaster. In this decade of the new millennium, we have not had to cope with a local disaster. The last two responses QCEN had to deal with were the flooding of 1997 and the tornado of 1999. And however much we prepare, the next disaster, whenever it comes, will not be like the last ones.

So whether you were around for the Beverly Hills fire in 1975, or you've never ever worked on a disaster, this exercise will help all of us hone skills that we hope we never need, but should be prepared to put into practice.



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Editor: Tom Delaney W8WTD

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Our "served agency," to use the EMCOMM term, is undergoing changes in many ways. The most exciting for all of us is the new building that should be in use by Spring of 2010. QCEN will have a role in all communications, not just ham radio operations there, and we are working closely with the Red Cross staff to make sure that the facilities will accommodate radio and help us help them.

A major challenge that we are going to be facing is that some of the planned commercial communications systems that they were counting on may not happen. If so, ham radio becomes all the more important. We can't do it all, but we can supplement. And, with the knowledge of radio that exists in this club, we can be key participants in advising about systems for the future.

We also have a budget challenge, as does every family in the U.S. and the world right now. We have expenditures that we should be making to keep our equipment operating properly. So if we ask you to be sure to pay your dues, that's just to insure that we can do what we need to do and have the things we need. It's sort of like investing in our radio "infrastructure."

If you have suggestions on things that might help the club, please contact me or one of the other officers and let us know what you are thinking.

Let's have a great year in 2009!

Tom, W8WTD

Survey Results

Keep the Meeting Time/Date, Move the Net

Results of the QCEN surveys are back, and even though participation was not everything we hoped for, enough members sent in responses to get a pretty clear picture of what they want. Nineteen members voted in the survey on the time and date of the meeting. 64% want to keep the meeting on the third Friday, and 82% want to keep it at the same time.

Among the suggestions the Executive Board heard (not directly from the survey) is the fact that programs of interest help draw people to meetings.

Not as clear was the survey on the Net. The choice of 10 p.m. on Tuesday night was deliberately left off, since fewer than five people check in to the net on a regular basis, no matter which repeater we use, and whether we are on simplex or not. Tuesday evening is still the favored

weekday by a large margin (90%), but when it comes to the time, there is a pretty clear split, with 44% wanting 9 p.m., and 33% wanting 7:30 p.m. Perhaps a vote at the next meeting is the best thing to do. Priority though, should be given to those who promise to participate. If only 20% of the 44% actually get on the air, then we haven't accomplished a whole lot. Would 100% of the 33% be sure to check in? Who knows?

The open-ended question about participation in the Net was helpful. Many cited the need for training. Some other comments: (*I would be more likely to participate if:*)

there were more announcements, club activity info, etc., rather than just idle chatter. Checking into the net and then being able to opt out after announcements (as in the past) would be nice.

Serving as net control station on our net should be good practice for the real disaster or public service.

there was something to hear. Just checking is not worth it. News about Red Cross, training or Ham Radio Emergency communications training would be good since we are emergency communicators for the Red Cross.

I moved [back] to Cincinnati, or you put the net on echolink.

Thanks to everyone for the feedback. It is always welcome. Let's hope that the club's response to any change is positive, and results in greater satisfaction for all the members.



QCEN Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2009

Meeting was held at Red Cross Downtown. Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm. **President, Andrew Crowl, N8MDH** welcomed everyone and then led Pledge of Allegiance. Andrew started the round of introductions of the people who were present.

Treasurers Report, Jim Walsh N8ZZW, Gave the report on Treasury, money from Dues payment is down "Please pay your dues". The bookkeeping for the year was audited by **Stu Press KC8HQT, Kat Anlage KD4ZLT** and everything looks fine.

Communication Manager Steve Lewis N8TFD: The annual report was published in the newsletter. The calendar was published on the web for this year events. Ms Bike Ride is in late August. Flying Pig Sign up is on the Web. Look for the other events on the Web.

Vice President, Tom Delaney W8WTD,

President, Andrew Crowl, N8MDH Thanked **Vice President, Tom Delaney W8WTD** for picking up the newsletter and getting it running again. Andrew talked about thing that happened during the last year.

Motion to Update By laws Made by **Stu Press KC8HQT**, Changes were posted in November Meeting. Vote was taken and motion was passed.

New Business: ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Ballots were given out and votes were made.

The New Officers are for 2009:

- **President – Tom Delaney W8WTD**
- **Vice President –Kevin Re K8TNG**
- **Secretary – Francis Smith N8PEE**
- **Communication Manager- Steve Lewis N8TFD**
- **Treasurer – Jim Walsh N8ZZW**
- **Director Sr.- Mark Reising WM8R**
- **Director Jr. –Andrew Crowl N8MDH**

President – Tom Delaney W8WTD gave a few words on the ongoing repair on the 2 meter repeater. The 440 repeater is down right now and **Steve Lewis N8TFD** is going to look in on it.

President – Tom Delaney W8WTD and **Kitty Hevener WB8TDA** working with OHKYIN Club are going to put another set of classes for both General and Tech Licenses. OHKYIN is also interested in putting a project class together for Ham Radio.

President – Tom Delaney W8WTD: Two major issues need to be addressed:

1. Meeting Time & Date- Is the night and the day of the week that we have now the best time for QCEN meeting?
2. What do we need to do on the air to get more people active? How do we get more members?

We need ideas to get more people involved maybe using training to get them going. Meeting ended at 8:45pm. The dinner announcement is Price Hill Chili or Buckhead's.

Respectfully Submitted

Francis Smith N8PEE

Secretary

QCEN Calendar for 2009

March 20 Monthly Meeting
March 21 & 22 Amateur radio
classes for Technician &
General
April 17 Monthly Meeting
April 25 St. Joseph's Run
for the Stars

May 2 & 3 Flying Pig events
May 8 Monthly Meeting
May 15, 16, 17 Dayton
Hamvention
June 19th Monthly Meeting
June 27 & 28 ARRL Field Day
July 18 annual club picnic

Aug 22 Ohio QSO Party
Aug 29 & 30 MS Bike Ride
Sept 18 Monthly Meeting
Oct 16 Monthly Meeting
Oct 30 Cystic Fibrosis run
Nov 20 Monthly Meeting
Dec 18 Monthly Meeting