

THE LISTENING POST



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New Repeater for QCEN

QCEN has once again benefited from the generosity of others. First of all, we have to thank long-time member Dick Lefler, W8RLL (formerly WB8MCX) for making the arrangements that allowed us to take over coordination of the 442.700 MHz repeater. And now, Kenton County in Kentucky has donated a surplus repeater to the club. It is now functioning as W8VVL. It does use the 123Hz CTCSS for access, as do many repeaters in the area.

So the club now has two repeaters, our two-meter W8VND on 147.24, and W8VVL on 442.7.

Eventually, we'll be able to tie them together, either on a regular basis, or at least for Nets and special operations, whether public service or response.

For now, making sure they are used is the big task for all the club members.



Club apparel Hats Any- one??

It's been many years since the club got shirts and hats for those who want. We have a vendor who will do "QCEN" logo hats for \$5. They're not the fancy stitching that we had, but they should work quite well. A lot of members don't have any club ID of this sort. So if you'd like a hat with the QCEN logo, sign up at the meeting, or let us know by e-mail.



Classes

It's not too late to sign up for either the one-day Technician class or the two-day General class sessions this weekend, March 21 & 22, sponsored by QCEN and OHKYIN. Classes start at 8 a.m. at the church building on Mozart and Higbee in Westwood. Be sure to register right away. You can go to www.qcen.org and look for "classes" to find all the information. Time for you to upgrade? Now's a perfect opportunity!

Are you prepared?

Table-top Drill at March Meeting

Emergencies only come along every so often. And when they do, they're not convenient. They come at you sort of off kilter, and until you're in the middle of one, you don't realize what has happened. So that's where training comes in. It's important to know all the right procedures, but there's nothing like actually practicing.

The table-top drill planned for the meeting this week is a great way to actually do some communicating and see how prepared you are.

Remember to bring an HT,

because radio communications is what we're all about, and that's what will be practiced.



You can review any notes you have on emergency operations. The QCEN Communicator's Manual would be a good thing to have, and you can print it from the web or dig out your old copy. And the manual for your HT might be helpful in case you need to change frequency and can't remember how to do it.

From the President

A Good Year So Far

We've started off the year well. First and foremost, we have not one, but two, operating repeaters, one on VHF and one on UHF. The 147.24 machine still has a few problems, but the radio portion of it is working great. As spring gets here, we'll tackle the antenna problems, but they don't seem to be causing us too much trouble. Again, our thanks to Harold, W4YWH, for all the hard work, dedication, and technical experience that he provided.

The new machine on 442.700 is a donation from Kenton County. Our thanks to Harold, WB4VOA, for helping to bring it about. The repeater is no-frills, but it works great, and its coverage is excellent. Over the course of the next year, we will see what we can do to make use of the various remote receive sites it once had. But for now, it works great as a stand-alone repeater.

Activity is beginning to return to the 147.24 machine, and we need to encourage use of the 442.7.

Moving the Net to 9 p.m. has proved to be a good thing. We've more than doubled the number of regular check-ins. We're committed to providing some sort of training,

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Flea Market

Club to have space at Dayton Hamvention

At the February meeting, the club decided to get Flea Market space at the upcoming Dayton Hamvention. Members voted to spend the \$100 to get sufficient space. As part of managing the budget, the suggestion was made that we ask for contributions in the way of surplus equipment that members would be willing to donate to the club for sale in the flea market. If we get enough "stuff," we can pay cost without hitting the treasury. And, members could get rid of some "stuff."

The caution here is that we don't want boat anchors that won't sell. The guys running the show want to take stuff to Dayton and SELL it, not bring it back. So think carefully about what you have, and as long as it has a reasonable chance of selling for a few bucks, then consider donating it, and we'll use the proceeds for the club.

Any member who wants to sell something larger for himself/herself, is welcome to use the space in the flea market. Would you consider making a small contribution to the club out of your profit?

There is also a "fund" set up with the Treasurer for cash donations to offset the money we allocated. Donations are always welcome.

news or information at each session. So be sure to check in as often as you can.

I can't stress enough the importance of the drill at this month's meeting. Remember the "emergency" part of our club name. We have to be prepared. Even though this is just a practice, it will help us hone our skills, and remind us of some of the things we need to do to be ready. We haven't been tested in over ten years. Now, we'd all like disasters to stay away for at least another ten years. No one wants to have to respond in times when people have lost homes, belongings, etc. But the reality is, disasters

happen, and we need to be ready.

Finally, let's make this a "radio-active" year. We have the repeaters. We have our own low-band equipment, as well as the club's equipment. Let's all find ways, no matter what the mode, to operate and use our radio skills.

See you at the meeting.

73,

Tom W8WTD

On the 147.24 machine

Repeater tricks

Want to test your signal? See how you sound in the repeater? Just punch in the code 55221, and wait for the prompt, "ready." Then say your message, probably just your call sign, and release the mike. (You have a total of four seconds.) Then the repeater will play back your message, and automatically erase it and get ready again.

From the Communications Manager:

Flying Pig News:

As of this writing there has not been a "formal" organizational meeting. It looks like that's coming, and I'll have more updates when/if it occurs. I have been invited to two other meetings...one to meet/greet relay/zone captains to see what (more) we can do for them. The other, of more interest to several of you, is a meeting about the "courtesy van" situation from last year.

On that topic...you have my assurance that I will not knowingly put any Flying Pig volunteer in an unfortunate situation. We will "decline to help" on a particular function rather than accept risk.

MS bike ride updates:

The Saturday 25/50 mile routes have been proposed. It looks like all the routes will be contained in Warren and Clermont Counties. When the "final" routes are published to the bikeMS committee, QCEN and a First Aid Team representative will go survey the route and determine a communications plan. (All the First Aid "rovers" are now licensed.)

There are no formal overnight accommodations for bikeMS volunteers. You may tent camp in the big soccer field, or do your own thing. Some QCEN and First Aid team members will be staying at the Comfort Inn/Suites near PKI. If you're interested in this, please contact Randy Miller or me as soon as possible.

Other updates:

We need a handful of volunteers to support the St. Joseph's Run for the Stars 5K. I'll be soliciting help at the March meeting and afterwards. This event is Saturday, 4/25, in the morning.

As noted elsewhere, QCEN will have a flea mar-



ket spot at Dayton. While we're probably not as creative as some...feel free to provide a little flair (read: chairs, space heaters, insulation, waterproofing) to make the spaces a little more fun! We will have 2 "flea market" tickets, meaning that any 2 people will be allowed to haul in equipment early (Thursday) and have access "early" each day to get the place ready.

Other events

I will be driving up to the Ohio Section ARES conference in Reynoldsburg on March 28. Seats are still available in my car. Please let me know if you'd like a ride up or will be driving yourself up.

We are NOT an ARES group but it is important that we are represented in "what's going on" discussions relative to the Ohio Section.

Exam sessions:

QCEN had some success at offering monthly VE sessions. We've gotten away from it. I'd like to get back to "3rd Thursday, 7pm" sessions at Blue Ash but I can't guarantee attendance at every one. Do we have enough VEs (they don't have to be QCEN members, many aren't) that can make the commitment to get this done? It's a great "gateway" to QCEN for new ham "prospects".

Field Day

And one last thought... has anyone given any consideration to Field Day yet? What would you like to see?



Oh...and one more... there needs to be some serious mulching done at the N8TFD estate this year...volunteers welcome. :-)

-73-
Steve, N8TFD

Net Report

Over the last three weeks, participation in the Tuesday on-air net has increased substantially. Instead of the three or four check-ins per week during January and early February. Check-ins were between 10 and 14, with some different people each time, so that the overall numbers are looking good. Training topics and other topics of interest will be a regular part of each net. Have you checked in yet? 9 p.m., each Tuesday evening.

QCEN Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2009

Meeting was held at Red Cross Downtown. Meeting was called to order at 7:33pm. **President, Tom Delaney W8WTD** welcomed everyone and then led Pledge of Allegiance. Tom started the round of introductions of the people who were present. The Program for the evening is Electrical Safety with **Gary Coffey KB8MYC**. It was a GREAT CLASS on Safety.

Business Meeting started at 8:40pm.

Minutes were accepted with a motion by **Mark Reising WM8R**, seconded by **Aaron McKnight KD8ILV**, and a vote by the members at the meeting.

Treasurers Report, Jim Walsh N8ZZW, Gave the report on Treasury, members are paying their dues. Thank You. Those still needing to pay Please do so.

Communication Manager Steve Lewis N8TFD: The Flying Pig is First of May. Please Sign Up. The St. Joseph Orphanage 5K Run April 25, 2009. Need 5-6 communicators for a several hours in the morning time. 4th week in June is Field Day. Keep that in mind. MS Bike Ride is the 29 & 30 of August at Camp Kern, In Warren County.

Old Business

Repeater Status- It is up and running. It is still being worked on, and for example software, checking wire and antenna but so far so good. Please use the repeater. Motion to pay Harold for the repeater repair was made by **Peter Feichtner KC8BZM** and seconded by **Stu Press KC8HQT**. Vote taken and it was passed.

New Business

Survey was conducted by **President, Tom Delaney W8WTD**

- Time of the net
- Should we consider moving the meeting

The time of the weekly net was a tossup between 7:30pm or 9:00pm. We will try 9:00pm at first. The meeting will stay the same as it is.

Is it possible for the club to get space at Hamvention Flea Market? Motion was made by **Mark Reising WM8R** and seconded by **Kitty Hevener WB8TDA**, to pay the fee for the Hamvention space. Motion was passed by vote of the members.

Announcements

President – Tom Delaney N8WTD:

1. Working with OHKYIN teaching Tech & Classes 21 March 2009, Request to have people for ON AIR contacts and to show off equipment during the meeting.
2. Save lives Breakfast 4th of March.
3. Next Month's Meeting- Table Top Meeting- Bring a Hand Held. A QCEN meeting Drill with Gary Miller. Longer time members bring your Emergency Kit for Display.

Motion was made **Kitty Hevener WB8TDA** and **Peter Feichtner KC8BZM** to adjourn the meeting, the motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Francis Smith N8PEE

Secretary

What's a "Go" Kit?

QCEN should be ready at any time, not just severe weather season, but our most likely time for response is the Springtime. So, is your "Go Kit" ready to go? Do you have one? Or how do you build one?

First, it's a bag, a box, a plastic container, something that holds many of the things you might need if deployed. It's not an overnight camping bag, although that could be handy for other reasons. This should serve your radio needs. Some people keep in in the car; others have it where they can grab it as they go out the door.

If you're a long-time QCEN member and your kit is well-stocked, bring it to the meeting and show it off! And if you need to learn about go-kits, be sure to come to the March meeting and learn all about them!

Suggested items for your kit:

Spare radio batteries	Spare Alkaline batteries
Headset	Tool Kit
Extra Coax	Coax adapters
Fuses, electrical tape	Flashlight
Pens, paper	Rain gear