

THE LISTENING POST



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
QCEN *QUEEN CITY
EMERGENCY NET*
Amateur Radio Affiliates of the American Red Cross, Cincinnati Area Chapter

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Latest technology

QCEN Meeting Via “Net Meeting” on the web

As a result of some experimenting he is doing for his employer, Kevin, K8TNG, was able to hook up our November meeting through web-cam for those unable to make the meeting. Jim, N8MXH, took advantage of the offer, and was able to view the meeting from home.

While not a substitute for actually being there in person, this technology does offer the “virtual reality” of a webcast, and makes a good substitute for those who can’t attend in person, but want to see what is going on.



This is NOT available to anyone who is “surfing” the net. It requires passwords, so it is only available to those who can log in with permission.

As technology advances, ham radio has to take part in it. What we learn in one part of our lives can be used somewhere else. Many of the latest gadgets for ham radio have developed alongside or as a result of other technologies, and some of the building blocks of “gear” we use in our daily lives got their start in ham radio. So, we’re grateful to Kevin for allowing us to “play” with this new toy.

Join the Holiday Party from afar

For those of you long-time members reading from afar, if you’d like to say hello to old friends at the holi-

day party, give it a try. Watch for an e-mail from Kevin, and follow the instructions on Dec. 18th to “join” our party remotely. We’ll all be able to send along our holiday wishes, and if you have a webcam, maybe you can send your greetings to the club “in person.”

Reminder of Annual Meeting

Election of Officers at the January Meeting

Organizations are required to have at least one business meeting per year, and the January meeting has always been designated as

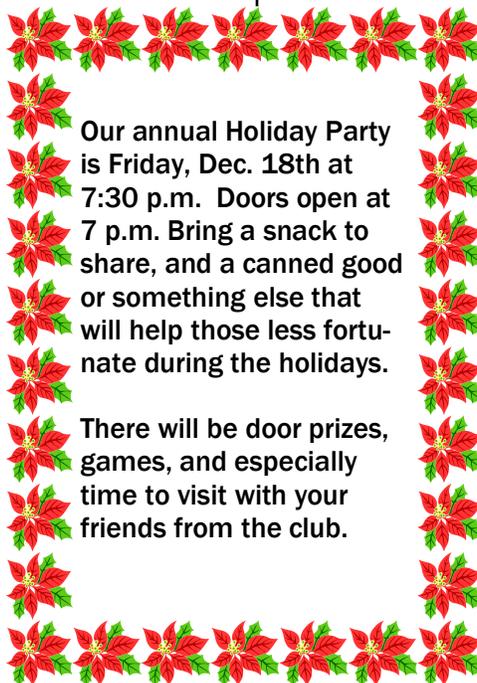
QCEN’s “annual meeting.” Each

year we elect offices and take care of any business related to By-Laws, Constitution, etc. For 2010, there are no items so far regarding any of the Net’s procedures, but of course we will have annual election of officers.

The nominating committee, headed by Andrew, N8MDH, and assisted by Bob, W8MRG, and Kat, KD4ZLT, presented a slate of officers for 2010. They are: for president, Tom Delaney, W8WTD; for vice-president, Aaron McKnight, KD8ILV; for treasurer, Jim Walsh, N8ZZW, for secretary, Francis Smith, N8PEE, for Communications Manager, Stu Press, KC8HQT, and for junior (2 year

term) director, Steve Lewis, N8TFD. According to club procedures, additional nominations for any of these positions may be made by club members from the floor during the December meeting.

So plan now to get to the January meeting, to be held on the 15th, and get your vote in. Activities for the coming year will likely be discussed as well.



Our annual Holiday Party is Friday, Dec. 18th at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Bring a snack to share, and a canned good or something else that will help those less fortunate during the holidays.

There will be door prizes, games, and especially time to visit with your friends from the club.

From the GCARA

Ham Radio and Scouting

The GCARA is looking into starting an Amateur Radio Venture Crew. The purpose of the Crew will be to promote Amateur Radio and Scouting values. The vision for this Crew will be support to the community and Scouting with any communications needed. Activities will include Field Day, Jamboree on the Air and other various Scouting events throughout the year. We will also be setting up a station at Camp Friedlander and hopefully support Summer Camp Operations and Radio Merit Badge. This Crew will be opened to Hams and non-Hams alike. One of the first items on the Crew agenda will be a Technician Class. Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age. If you are interested in joining as a member or Adult Volunteer email Dave, K8SSN at dave@k8ssn.com. There will be information sent out pertaining to meeting location and time to all who send an email. The projected first meeting will be January 20, 2009.



From the Comm. Manager

"2009 in review"

Ok, not the official review. That comes once the year is over, because who knows what happens from now until December 31?

A few perspectives from my world in 2009...

Best purchase: Magellan Maestro 4350 GPS. The Red Cross service area is so large, there's no way that I or anyone else in QCEN could know all the roads everywhere. It's nice to be able to get from point A to B without studying a map...or...to know what my approximate street address is wherever I am, even if there's no house or mailbox in sight! (This specific model works really well, but software and map updates are not frequent, so that's one limitation.)

Best "the future looks bright" moment: Being there as they bolted in the last I-beam to the new Red Cross chapter house on Dana Ave.

Honorable mention: driving down I-71 recently and seeing a parking lot proportional in size to the number of people who can use the building. *Biggest challenge:* keeping QCEN relevant during a "quiet" period. Tornadoes, floods, and winter weather crises have been uncommon for years. QCEN is prepared to respond, but we have to keep Red Cross aware of it --and also make sure our preparedness doesn't lag with time.

Best social hour: dinner after the meetings, where we solve all the world's problems, again. Come join us.

I'm writing this from a hotel room near Albany, NY. I let too much time lapse before seeing some old friends, and I'm here to correct that. I'm not a big New Year's Resolutions guy – but do take care of yourselves, your family, and your close friends, in the coming year! Hope to see all of you on Friday. If you "do the QCEN thing once a year", this Friday is the right night to do it.

-73-

Steve, N8TFD

Field Day Scores

The December issue of QST reported scores for 2009 F.D. Once again, QCEN scored first in its category on Field Day. And, once again, we were the only ones in the category! But how about this—in the entire report of all groups running 6 stations, we were fifteenth, and our total number of QSOs put us closer to tenth. That's a respectable showing, no matter how you feel about categories. Field Day comes around again on June 26 and 27, 2010.

QCEN CALENDAR

Fri 18 Dec. —Holiday Party
Fri. 15 Jan. —Annual Meeting,
and Election of Officers
Fri. 19 Feb. —Monthly Meeting
Fri., 19 Mar. —Monthly Meeting
Fri., 16 April —Monthly Meeting

The Listening Post is a publication of:

**The Queen City Emergency Net
720 Sycamore St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Editor: Tom Delaney W8WTD**

QCEN Officers for 2009

President:

Tom Delaney, W8WTD

Vice President

Kevin Re, K8TNG

Treasurer:

Jim Walsh, N8ZZW

Secretary:

Francis Smith, N8PEE

Communications Manager:

Steve Lewis, N8TFD

Director:

Mark Reising, WM8R

Director:

Andrew Crowl, N8MDH

What Should Every Ham Know How to Do

On the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list, there was recently a discussion about using modulated CW on 2m. One fellow pointed out that MFJ sold a unit that would do this. When I pointed out that this box cost \$100 and that they could do exactly the same thing with the \$18 PicoKeyer from HamGadgets.Com, I got some flack that the PicoKeyer was a kit, and that some people might not be able to build it.

I pointed out that a couple of years ago our club held a construction night, and that several people who had never soldered before successfully completed the kit. I also pointed out that even if the ham didn't have the proper tools, he or she could purchase a soldering iron, needle-nose pliers, and diagonal cutters, in addition to the kit, for less than \$100.

That pretty much shut him up, but I got to thinking about what a ham should be able to do. This is the list I've come up with so far. This list does, of course, imply that a ham is physically capable of doing them. I would not expect hams that are physically disabled to be able to do everything on this list.

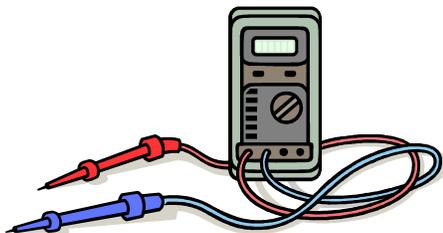
What Every Ham Should Know

1. Solder. Every ham should know how to solder a connection, and by extension, build small kits and cables. Over the course of one's ham career, this skill will save you a ton of time and money.
2. Build a dipole antenna. The dipole is the simplest and most versatile antenna.



Knowing how to build one and use one is an essential skill.

3. Check into a net. Net operation is one of the most basic operating skills.
4. Use a multimeter to measure voltage, current, and resistance and know what those measurements mean. This is the most basic skill used in troubleshooting, and at some point or another, you're going to have to troubleshoot something.



These are just the first four things that occur to me. What do you think every ham should know how to do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU used with permission.

Training

When Steve, N8TFD, pointed out the previous article to me, it got me thinking about QCEN's purpose. We always point out that we are all about emergency communications, and are proud of our connection with our served agency, the Red Cross. But there is more to our purpose.

The Constitution says: *It shall also be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to also conduct club programs and activities to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community.*

This past year, we had another antenna-building party at a meeting. I'm not satisfied. We need more. There is a large variety of technical ability within our club. Some people are experts in RF, some in systems, many in computers and digital, some in mechanical and large systems, and some are just interested because they like to do radio but aren't that adept. So we can all share our knowledge, and make everyone more competent.

There was a term in ham radio for what others call a "mentor" —an "Elmer." Probably from the early days of radio, when "Elmer" was the ham down the block that helped everyone get a license. It would be great for the club to do more mentoring, or have more "Elmers" around.

So let's think about the coming year. What is it that is needed? If you are a newer ham, what would you like to learn about? Can we interest you in another step in ham radio?

If you're an experienced ham, what do you like to do? What would you like to share with the club?

For all of us, it might well include more operating. Yes, I'd like to see more people use the club's repeaters. But there are a lot of other modes of communication out there. I don't turn on my low-band rig nearly often enough, but when I do, I am reminded of how much fun it can be. A month or so ago, I realized that one of the ARRL contests was on. Now the bands haven't been real great lately, but that weekend they opened up, and I was reminded once again why 15 meters is my favorite band. With just a tuned whip antenna and some radials, I worked from the Maritimes to Puerto Rico to Alaska with 100 watts.

I learned from other people how to make temporary antennas work. And that skill is one we might all want to focus on as members of an *emergency* net. Knowing all the different ways to use our radios, and how to hook them up in a variety of times and places may be just what will help us in the next disaster. It's coming! We just don't know when.

As we get into the New Year and we look for interesting programs for club meetings, let's hear from the membership on what you'd like, and from the experts in what they can provide!

73, Tom W8WTD

QCEN Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2009

At 7:30pm Red Cross Staffers gave a welcome to the QCEN and gave a review on the Red Cross and its functions. Thanks to Sara, Michelle, Diane and Gary for their information.

Meeting was held at Red Cross Downtown. *President*, Tom Delaney W8WTD called the meeting to order at 9:00pm. Welcomed all and then led the pledge of allegiance. A round of introductions was made around the room. The Minutes were published on the web. A motion to accept the minutes as published was made by Aaron McKnight KD8ILV and seconded by Joyce Turner KD8IMA. The motion was passed.

Treasurers Report: Jim Walsh N8ZZW gave the treasurers report.

Old Business:

Communication Manager: Steve Lewis N8TFD: Diabetes Bike Ride in Warren County & Greene County. QCEN 2010 Calendar is to be put on the Web.

Tom Delaney W8WTD: Gave a report on the trailer. New procedure manual is in the works. Trailer was put into winter mode. 147.24 Repeater is at the trailer till spring.

New Business:

Motion was made for Steve Lewis N8TFD to become Statutory Agent for QCEN by Andrew Crowl N8MDH and seconded by Pete Feichtner KC8BZM. The motion was passed. Jim Benson W8OUU was the agent before this and has done a great job.

Nominating Committee for Officers

Andrew Crowl N8MDH Nominating Committee for officers, Bob Garfield W8MRG and Kat Anlage KD4ZLT. The recommendation is as follows:

For President: Tom Delaney W8WTD

For Vice President: Aaron McKnight KD8ILV

For Communication Manager: Stu Press KC8HQT

For Treasurer: Jim Walsh N8ZZW

For Secretary: Francis Smith N8PEE

For Junior Director: Steve Lewis N8TFD

Stu Press KC8HQT, Made a request that all Red Cross pagers to be turned in.

Thanks to Kevin Re K8TNG put the meeting out on the web for QCEN members.

Funds for the Holiday Party were voted on. Motion was made by Bob Garfield W8MRG to spend up to \$100.00 for the Holiday Party. The motion was passed.

Motion for adjournment was made and the motion was passed.

Francis Smith N8PEE
Secretary