

THE LISTENING POST



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“Running” the Pig

The Flying Pig Marathon finished its thirteenth run on May 1st, with QCEN and other radio volunteers there as they have been from the beginning on May 9, 1999. A look at the history of the race shows just how popular it has become. About 6,200 runners took part in that initial weekend, while almost 30,000 runners took part in this year's events, with 5,083 running the full marathon, 12,155 running in the half-marathon, and 3,044 running in the relay events. That's a lot of runners to keep track of!

From a radio perspective, the biggest improvement this year came in the form of a better net control location. While individual operators on the course may not have noticed, the operators inside net control had permanent, not temporary operating positions, with a variety of antennas and radios at hand.

The new radio room at the “ROC” the Regional Operations Center proved very handy.



The control room at the ROC. (L-R) Rob, KB8UEY; Kitty, WB8TDA; Pat, KD8PAT; Joyce, KD8IMA.

The Flying Pig website lists “streakers,” by which they mean people who have a continuous “streak” of participation going. They weren't thinking about the 70s meaning of the word, but one showed up around mile 5. Aaron, KD8ILV, reports that the coordination of the ham radio group in the same building as the police command made it easy for the hams to report the individual to the police, who dealt with the situation. The nude runner was not “officially” registered to be in the race!

Aaron also reports that D-STAR and other new technologies were used experimentally. Anyone remember trying to use 1200 baud packet during the first several years of the Pig?

Other events on the weekend included two runs on Saturday, with 2,442 runners in the 10K, and 3,616 runners in the 5K. QCEN thanks all its members and friends who continue to provide safety and logistics help to the Marathon.

From the President's Desk:

Well, the disaster season is open and going strong. Currently Red Cross has seventeen job sites open across the Eastern half of the nation and the number is growing. Additionally, the hurricane season has not yet begun.

I just finished two weeks at the Triangle Region of American Red Cross located in Raleigh, North Carolina. Three and half weeks ago tornadoes went through the area destroying over 600 homes and damaging many more. The area of destruction was over 70 miles in and around the City of Raleigh.

My job was to maintain a network that supported fifteen laptops and one printer for forty-five users. It was not hard work but it kept me busy for the two weeks.

If you have the time, minimum of two weeks, I am sure that they can find work for you at one of the sites. Please contact the Emergency Services office of our chapter.

One last thing I want to bring up, I currently have about a third of the ID pictures of the NET.

I plan on being at the meeting Friday night and I will take anyone's ID photo that needs one. If you cannot make it to the meeting, please send me a picture via email. I need to turn these in by the end of the month. Stu, KC8HQT

BEFORE-THE-MEETING-ACTIVITIES

- for Friday, May 13th, 6:30 p.m.

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

Making the Change: Radio Programming 101

With the Dayton Hamvention only a week away, it's time to make certain our portable rigs are operational so we can keep in touch with each other while browsing the flea market, displays, and all the other worthwhile venues. Question: do you know how to put your portable into simplex mode? How about reprogramming it in the field? If you don't know how to get the most out of your portable, bring it to the meeting (along with the instruction manual) and we'll help you figure out how to make simple programming changes and set memory channels.

Hands on Training at W8VVL

Do you know how to work the equipment at W8VVL? If you don't, now is your chance to “get to know” the gear. It is also an opportunity to do some HF work as well; even if your license class doesn't allow it, there will be General, Advanced, and Extra class licensees on hand – so you're “covered”. Take the time to learn – Field Day is just around the corner!

From the Communications Manager

The Lucky 13th Pig is now in the books. It featured a streaker, a winner who was visually-impaired, a disappearing med tent (unfortunately), and several challenges. Ham radio volunteers responded very well to the challenges and "got it done" – which is why they keep us around!

Sixty four hams were on the "assignment grid", and the Flying Pig official photographer was also heard from. He promises to program his commercial radio correctly before the next one!

A lot of feedback has been received, and it's clear that merging some of the transportation stuff into an overall "unified command" would be very helpful. It is my job to convince the Pig that it needs to happen!

Now, we quickly shift gears to *fun* stuff, before some more work.

For dinner(s) at Dayton, I posted a "surveymonkey" link to the website and e-mail list. Early returns indicate a headcount of at least 8...with surprising interest in "the Pub at the Greene", and "chain food". Right now, I'm thinking Pub/Greene on Friday after the show, and TBD for Saturday. Pasta and pizza scoring very low this time! Please provide feedback -- I know we can't please everyone, so I promise not to try! :-)

QCEN will not be in the flea market due to our inability to staff a spot on Saturday. QCEN members will be present at Dayton en masse...look for us on 147.24+/442.7+ (PL 123) on the "commutes" and 147.06 (PL 100) onsite.

The next "work", generally, is a SLARC-type event...Morgan's Little Miami Triathlon on Sunday, June 5. Contact kb8uey@yahoo.com if you have interest in providing support for the bike portion of the day. I believe there is a need for someone at the canoe-run transition and possibly the run-bike transition as well. Yours truly will be competing against a larger field this time, as, I have apparently talked too much about winning awards last time.

Then, the next two QCEN events are the ADA bike ride on Saturday, June 18 (need support at fixed checkpoints, and

some mobile -- bike racks and/or pickup trucks required), and then Field Day.

Field Day will be hosted at W8VWL again (June 25/26, 2pm-2pm)...which means climate control and creature comforts. It will require some temporary antenna work in the days or week before Field Day. Planning for meals and other logistics begins shortly, expect some discussion at Friday night's meeting.

Next month, I'll write about Madeira 4th-of-July "thing", the club picnic, and bikeMS/OQP.

Thanks for your support in the first "wave" of events for 2011...more work, and more stories and laughs are sure to come.

-73-
Steve, N8TFD

DAYTON HAMVENTION – THE ROOKIE EXPERIENCE

By Bob Bross, W8NFM

At the tender age of 14, I made my first trip to the Dayton Hamvention. I have made the pilgrimage every single year since then. Hamvention 2011 marks my 40th – and consecutive – attendance. Actually, "attendance" isn't the best word: "experience" is better. When you go to the Hamvention, you become a part of it. What you bring away from it is directly based on how much you put into it. For those who have never been, fear not! The best way to get involved is by going to Dayton and asking questions. No one (well, almost no one) will make fun of you for pointing to something and asking: "What the heck is THAT?" Even if you buy nothing, you will become rich in knowledge. For more information, you can either go to www.hamvention.org - OR – ask a ham. See? That wasn't so hard; you've already taken the first step. May 20th through the 22nd, 2011. Hara Arena – Dayton, Ohio.

QCEN CALENDAR.

Fri May 13	Monthly Meeting
Fri May 20-Sun May 22	Dayton Hamvention
Fri. June 17	Monthly Meeting
Sat. June 18	Tour d'Cure
Sat.-Sun. June 25 & 26	Field Day
Sat. July 16	Club Picnic

**The Listening Post is a publication of:
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QCEN Officers for 2011

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Francis Smith, N8PEE

Communications Manager:

Steve Lewis, N8TFD

Director:

Kitty Hevener, WB8TDA

Director:

Tom Delaney, W8WTD

QCEN Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2011

Meeting started at 7:35pm. The Co-Director from the Flying Pig thanked the Club for all that is being done. **Stu Press KC8HQT President** started the Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of the people present.

Stu Press KC8HQT President read the *Treasurer's* report from **Jim Walsh N8ZZW**. Motion was made by **Robert Blocher N8JMV**. The motion was made and passed by vote of members present.

Communications Manager report was made by **Steve Lewis N8TFD**. **Steve Lewis N8TFD** received 15 years award from the **Red Cross**.

April 16th Tech Class at Red Cross 8 hour class. Test held following class at OHKYIN in St. Bernard City Building.

April 23rd **St Joe's Run** in Evendale, Ohio. Meeting at the ROC April the 19th. **Flying Pig Marathon** is May 1st. Earthquake Drill is May 16 – 19. Sunday June 5th Little Miami Triathlon, **ADA Bike Ride** -Sat June 18th, Milford Hamfest June 18th. **Field Day** end of June, **Milford Hamfest** June 18th. **Madeira 4th of July Parade (July 1st.)**. **QCEN Picnic** 3rd Saturday in July 16th in Madeira. August 27th & 28th MS Bike. **Bob Bross W8NFM** No Flea Market Space at Dayton this year. **Steve Lewis N8TFD** gave a small talk about the Meeting at the ROC.

Old Business W8VND Shed work and fix the generator, 6 meter beam repair. W8VVL Amp installed on the roof, Instruction manual for the radio room. Equipment inventory needs to be done. 2.7 repeater is down due to Electrical meter problem. Controller for 2.7 repeater need to be bought. Motion was made to purchase for the repeater. It was made by **Bob Kaegi N8RJK** and the motion was passed. **Francis Smith N8PEE** reported the anything that was stored outside the trailer was stolen over the winter.

Pictures taken for The Red Cross ID's. **Bob Bross W8NFM** gave a overview of the Red Cross Drill.

Motion made by **Rob Blocher N8JMV** to adjourn and the motion passed.

Francis Smith N8PEE

Francis Smith

Secretary