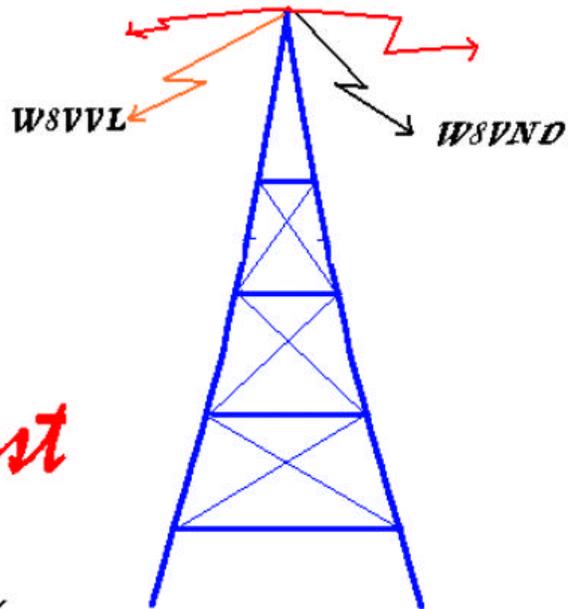


# The Listening Post



Official Publication of the  
**QCEN** QUEEN CITY  
EMERGENCY NET

Volume 58 - Nr. 2 - January 1999

**QCEN Annual Meeting - Friday, January 15, 1999 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Cincinnati Red Cross - 720 Sycamore Street, Downtown**  
**Committee Reports, Review of 1998**  
**Election of Officers**

**Com out for this very important Event of the Organization**

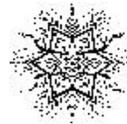
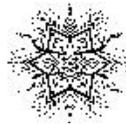
## Index

[Meeting Announcement](#)  
[Officers](#)  
[Comm MgrReport](#)

[Prez Column](#)  
[Ham Calendar](#)  
[Contests](#)

[Charts & Maps](#)  
[Digital Symposium](#)  
[Membership](#)

[Dec Minutes](#)  
[For Sale](#)  
[Editorial](#)



[Back to  
index](#)

## Mark's Musings - de wb9bvv

1998 was certainly an interesting year from a personal standpoint, I hope it was a good year for all of you. From the standpoint of QCEN, we had an interesting year, although not quite as busy as last year. QCEN responded to several Red Cross call outs including flood surveys and damage assessments. This past year had flooding in areas that were not typically thought of as flood prone (parts of Colerain Township) as well as more expected areas along some of the rivers.

QCEN provided communications assistance for several events, including the MS150 and MS Walkathon, the Cancer Walk and the Heart Mini Marathon. This was a warm up for our participation as the communications group for the Flying Pig Marathon in 1999. Several members participated in providing communications support for a festival in Madeira.

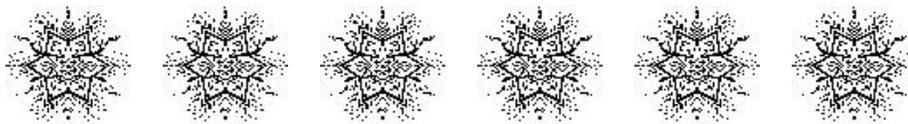
1998 saw the repair and upgrade of some of our facilities. Many of these deficiencies were noted during the 1997 flood response by a committee, appointed in 1997 by then president WB8MCX. This committee was carried through to 1998, and with minor changes most of the suggestions were implemented. We still have some repairs needed at W8VND (rotor and antennas mainly) and we need to finish the

upgrades at W8VVL. The repeater system continues to need finalization of the remote link, this should be completed in early 1999, thereby returning our repeater coverage to its former glory.

I thank all the members of the 1998 executive committee for their efforts during the year and I want to thank all of the club members for their support this past year. We have another busy year coming up and I would like all members to evaluate their ability to participate. If you are unable to respond to call ups or field assignments, perhaps you can assist as a net control station, either from one of the club stations or from home. Maybe you can assist in calling up others for response or provide mentoring to some of the newer members. There are openings for everyone.

Again, thank you for a wonderful 1998 and best wishes for 1999.

73 de Mark, WB9BVV



[Back to index](#)

## QCEN MEETING - DECEMBER 18, 1998

The December meeting of the Queen City Emergency Net was called to order by **President, Mark WB9BVV** at 1930 hours. All members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a round of introductions.

Prior to the meeting, **Dean KB8GFN** exchanged old Red Cross pagers for pagers with the new QCEN group cap code in them. As members tested the "beep" mode on their new pagers **President, Mark WB9BVV** invoked "Executive order # 1" which required all pagers to be set in the vibrate mode.

The minutes were approved as published in the LP. Treasurer, **John WA8DFD** gave the treasurer's report. It was approved as read.

Communication's Manager, Steve N8TFD circulated a sign-up sheet for net control stations for the Tuesday Ten Net. He also reported that he would begin work on the Cincinnati Marathon shortly after the first of the year.

**Activities, Jim N8ZZW** reported that the January meeting would be the annual meeting and election of officers for the upcoming year. The program for February will be an overview of incident command by **Dean KB8GFN**.

**Education, Ed KF4UTO** reported on the meeting held on December 10th by the education sub committee. They are working on new ideas to promote the radio classes.

**Engineering, John WA8DFD** reporting for **Chuck K8CR** indicated that the receive links for 147.240 are not operational yet. As repairs were being made some other problems developed.

**President, Mark WB9BVV** reported that the construction project near W8VND consists of a new roof being put on the water tower. (no port-o-let report this month).

**Membership, Fred K8FR** handed out membership pins with special note of **Harold Blocher W4YWH** for 55 years of service.

**Disaster, Tom KC7TN** told the group that he would get jackets and hard hats for those new members who need them. He reported on the purpose of the new QCEN group cap code and indicated that those needing to switch out pagers should see Dean KB8GFN.

The nominating committee read the list of nominees for office in 1999:

**President** Mark Reising WB9BVV

**Vice-Pres.** Jim Walsh N8ZZW

**Comm. Mgr.** Steve Lewis N8TFD

**Treasurer**

**John Dine WA8DFD**

**Secretary**

**Dean Winkelman KB8GFN**

**President, Mark WB9BVV** asked for nominations from the floor. **Ed KF4UTO** made a motion to close the nominations which was second by **Rob N8JMV**.

**Mark WB9BVV** appointed an audit committee consisting of **John WA8DFD**, **Jim N8ZZW** and **Dick WB8MCX**. They will conduct an audit of the books and report at the annual meeting.

**Vice President, Hank N8XX** reported on the South Western Ohio Digital Symposium to be held on January 16, 1999.

**Rob N8JMV** asked if QCEN had any plans to conduct radio classes in the near future. **Ed KF4UTO** replied that the sub committee is working on the project.

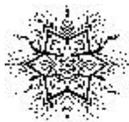
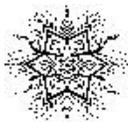
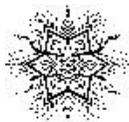
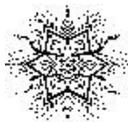
**Publications, Hank N8XX** reminded all committees that they need to turn in a yearly report. They will be published in the LP.

**Hank N8XX** made a motion to adjourn at 1955 hours.

The annual holiday party followed with lots of good food, socializing, and a gift exchange.

Respectfully submitted

**Dean Winkelman KB8GFN, Secretary**



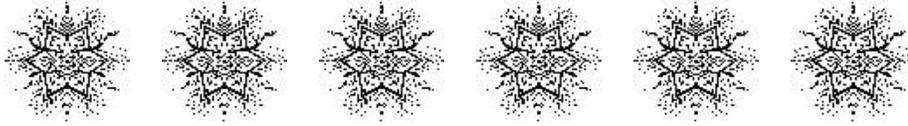
[Back to index](#)

## **QCEN - CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 1999**

**EVERY TUESDAY at 10:00 P.M. - Tuesday 10 Net 147.84/24**

<b>Jan 15 - QCEN Annual Meeting &amp; Elections</b>	Feb 6-7 - FYBO Winter QRP Field Day
Jan 16 - SWOH Digital Symposium	Feb 6- 7 -Ten Ten Winter Phone QSO Party
Jan 16 -17 North American QSO Party, phone.	Feb 6-7 - YL-OM Contest, CW
Jan 17 - Nelsonville (OH) Hamfest	Feb 6-7 - Spring Classic Radio Exchange
Jan 17 - Hazel Park (MI) Hamfest	Feb 7 - Lorain (OH) Hamfest
<b>Jan 22 - LP Deadline</b>	Feb 12-14 - North American Sprint, CW.
<b>Jan 22-24 - ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes</b>	Feb 12-14 - YL/OM Contest, Phone
Jan 24 - Dover (OH) Hamfest	Feb 12-14 - WorldWide RTTY WPX Contest,
Jan 30-31 - CQ WW 160-Meter DX Contest,	Feb 12-14 - PACC Contest
Jan 30-31 - YL International QSO Party	Feb 20-21 - ARRL International DX Contest, CW.
Jan 30-31 - REF French Contest, CW	Feb 13 - Negaunee (MI) Hamfest
Jan 30-31 - UBA Contest, phone,	Feb 13 - Traverse City (MI) Hamfest
Jan 30-31 - Kansas QSO Party	Feb 14 - Mansfield (OH) Hamfest
Feb 6-8 - North American Sprint, Phone,	<b>Feb 19 - QCEN Meeting</b>
Feb 6-7 - Minnesota QSO Party	<b>Feb 27-28 - Cincinnati ARRL 99</b>
Feb 6-7 - Delaware QSO Party	<b>Mar 6-7 - ARRL DX Contest, Phone</b>
Feb 6-7 - Vermont QSO Party	<b>Jun 26-27 - Field Day</b>
Feb 6-7 - New Hampshire QSO Party	Jul 7 - N8XX Birthday

VISIT QCEN on the World Wide Web @ <http://w3.one.net/~rkuns/qcen.html>



[Back to index](#)

Thirteenth Annual  
**Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium**  
Saturday January 16, 1999 -9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Thesken Hall, Middletown Campus,  
Miami University, Middletown, OH  
AMSAT, Packet, APRS, DX Clusters, and others

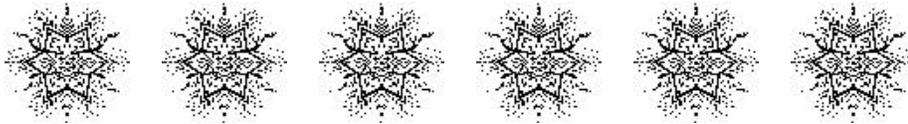
Sponsored by The Center for Chemical Education,  
Miami University, Middletown,  
DIAL Radio Club, and The Ohio Packet Council

This is an ARRL sanctioned Hamfest

For more details contact, Hank Greeb, N8XX

@W8MWO.OH.USA e-mail: [72277.706@compuserve.com](mailto:72277.706@compuserve.com).

See the program at: <http://w3.one.net/~rkuns/swohdigi.html>



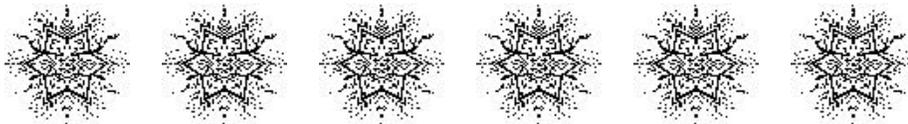
[Back to index](#)

**From the Membership Chairman:**

As I always say, the QCEN membership year does not end until April first. Here are the statistics: as of Jan 1st, our current membership stands at 122. This is an increase of 2 over last year when we had 120 members. I went back to 1982 to see what the membership totals have been since then.

Our lowest year was 1985 when we had 95 members and our highest actually was in 1989 when we had 126 members. The average over the past 17 years is about 110 and is very stable. These figures are both good and bad. The good is that our membership has remained fairly constant over these past years but the bad news is that our membership has remained fairly constant over these past years. In recent years, requests for assistance from the Red Cross and other organizations have increased dramatically. For the past couple years, however, we have had to ask for help outside the QCEN to provide this assistance. It would be great if we could cover all our activities with our own members. We could do this if every member would recruit just one new member. Remember, that a member does not have to be a currently licensed radio amateur. We have an associate membership for those that share the goals of this organization but are not yet licensed. That will probably come later after they get involved. All of us as members need to talk up QCEN and recruit as many new members as we can.

73 de K8FR, Fred



[Back to index](#)

**Steve's Sayings, de n8tfd**

A chronology of communications happenings during 1998:

February 4 - QCEN notified to be prepared for activation related to snowstorm of February 4-5.

March 21 - QCEN hosts an "Emergency Communications Conference" among leaders of many tri-state communications groups. E-mail list and web page developed, and closer contact between groups has been a result.

March 29 - 14 QCEN members assisted Hamilton County ARPSC with communications and administration of the Heart Association's Mini-Marathon.

April 16 - 3 members sent to Warren County's Deerfield Twp. to assess flood damage after some minor flooding on the Little Miami River. Very little damage was found. W8VVL was staffed for the duration, and many Net members were on "stand-by" to assist.

May 17 - 12 QCEN members provided communications for the MS Walk.

June 6/7 - 24 QCEN members provided communications for the MS150 (Kings High School to Wittenberg U. and back).

June 27/28 - Field Day '98. 19 folks participated in this event. We operated from W8VND (more thoughts on Field Day later). Event was a huge success by every measure.

July 2 - Nine QCEN members provided communications/ logistics support for Madeira 4th of July festival/fireworks.

July 25 - QCEN provided damage assessment in the aftermath of flash flooding in Hamilton County on July 19/20. Damage was found in Colerain Twp. and North College Hill. 8 members participated, despite a very poor response from pager-carrying club members.

September 19 - QCEN participated in a Mass Casualty Incident drill put on by the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, the University of Cincinnati, 6 local hospitals, and the Red Cross (of course). Communications provided logistical support for the drill as well as "victim" tracking from 5 of the 6 hospitals involved. Many things went well, many need improvement. Plenty of notes were taken for "next time" -- most likely an airport drill in 9/1999. 22 Net members spent time at the scene, the hospitals, in RC vehicles, or at the Red Cross Chapter.

October 4 - QCEN provided 10 volunteers to assist Warren Co. RACES/ARES with the Autumn Little Miami Triathlon.

October 25 - 12 QCEN members provided communications support for the Cancer Walk. A lot of feedback was received from our volunteers about our role, and about general administration of the event.

November 8 - 7.5 QCEN members (yours truly counting only one-half) carpooled to Columbus, Ohio to observe the Columbus Marathon. We observed all of the different net control positions and functions, and captured many of the happenings on video tape. This will help to kick-start our logistics planning for the Cincinnati Marathon on 5/9/1999.

Some other thoughts...

The crowning achievement of QCEN members this year was the rehabilitation of W8VND. With Field Day readiness as a goal, the Engineering Committee worked for weeks (and for several consecutive nights as the event approached) to bring the place back to a clean and functional state. As I write this there are a couple of functional problems there, but the general condition of the antennas and radios and emergency power is very good.

A new, "scalable" version of the QCEN Communicators' Manual was developed and distributed. This new manual features ARRL and Red Cross traffic forms, station logs..and most importantly the ability to quickly replace outdated information and add new information. Approximately 65-70 have gone out, and enough are "in stock" such that we can issue them to new members immediately.

After some/much debate, e-mail lists were created to simplify the posting of announcements for/by QCEN members.

The Tuesday Ten Net had at a number of new net controls and very good participation, including the weeks when the net was held on simplex. You'll be much better at control of a disaster net when you've taken on this one first!

The club is beginning to implement a group-call pager system. This will alleviate questions about page delivery -- and will hopefully yield better response to short-notice Red Cross callups.

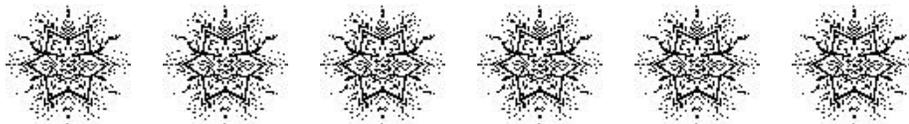
I believe K8FR has reported (or will) that the QCEN roster is larger than ever before. That's a tribute to all of you that are proud of this group and talk it up. And it is fortunate, because plenty of work remains to be done.

There are still work parties to be had at W8VND and W8VVL to complete a number of tasks necessary to bring both to complete operational readiness. The Net will be coordinating as many as 100 communicators for the new Cincinnati Marathon, which is a new challenge for the group. The MS150 will follow a "new" route. As the group continues to be a larger and better-trained and better-equipped group, requests for our services will continue to increase.

Thanks for your support of the Net during 1998. Between weekly nets, RC callups, the disaster drill, and other opportunities (like our booth at the ARRL GLD Convention in February), a decent percentage of our roster (somewhere between one-third and one-half) contributed time and energy to the Net in 1998.

Thanks for your help. It made my first year as Communications Manager a pleasure and a privilege.

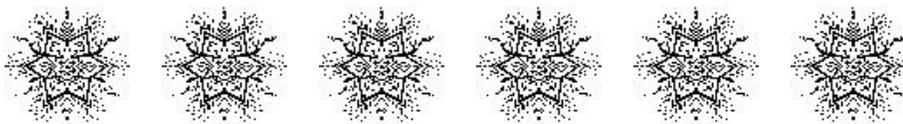
-73-de n8tfd, steve



[Back to index](#)

## Contest Anyone? - de k8cr

A couple contests are coming up - Mark your calendars for January 22-24, the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. We've a very nice VHF station at W8VND, and this will be an ideal time to try it out (particularly if the sn\*w isn't so deep as to require a bulldozer to get into the place. (We shouldn't have air conditioning troubles at this time of year!) Then, on March 6 \* 7, we have the ARRL Phone DX Contest. We should have the rotor on the HF beam fixed, so this should be an excellent opportunity to try your hand at HF Dxing. You needn't be licensed to participate, we'll have plenty of control ops. Perhaps you'll get the itch to upgrade? See me on the Tuesday-10 net or call

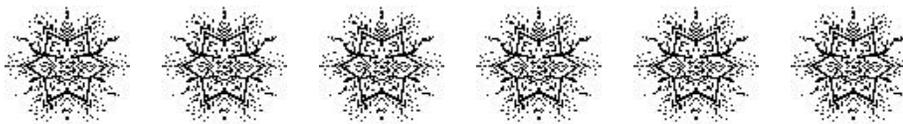


[Back to index](#)

### Charts & Maps? - de kc8iys

*It was a quiet year for Charts and Maps. I took over toward the end of the year, and donated state Gazetteers for Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. I have made topographical software available to the club, and that is about all for now.*

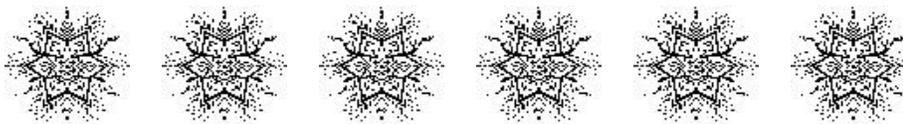
73 de kc8iys, Bruce



[Back to index](#)

### FOR SALE - de WB9BVV

<p>Drake TR7 with PS7 power supply, \$500.  MFJ model 1796 half wave vertical antenna for 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters, \$75.  Hustler 5BTV, 80 thru 10 meter vertical, \$50. Butternut HF4B HF beam \$100.</p>	<p>Mark, WB9BVV  <a href="mailto:mreising@aol.com">mreising@aol.com</a></p>
---	---



[Back to index](#)

### Olde Englyshe - de n8xx

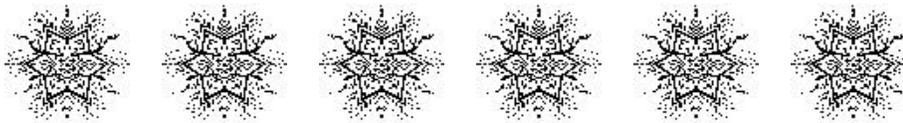
*Greetings. Wow! What a sn\*wtorm and cold wx. Haven't had such a long period of sn\*w and cold temperatures since 1994, I do believe.*

*1998 was a good year for QCEN. Membership is up - interest is up, there's lots of youth and new ideas coming up. This bodes well for QCEN. Let's continue to work toward being hams, and serving the community.*

*Methinks that we sometimes forget we're ham radio operators - and forget what being a ham is all about. Emergency communications is a part of ham radio, but we shouldn't get myopic in our zeal for public service. We need a folks who are skilled in communications first and foremost - and on-the air exercises such as contests, drills, and the like will hone such skills. We also cannot afford to let our club station, W8VND, fall into a state of disrepair, lest it be as unusable in the next disaster as it was during the floods of 1997. Steve, N8TFD, and others have rightly congratulated the leaders and membership on getting our stations almost up to where they should have been prior to March 1997. Will we take the time to exercise them so we know how they operate, and find out glitches **before** the next big disaster?*

*In that vein, I point out the VHF Contest on January 23 & 24, and the ARRL DX contest in March. These events are fun - it's a challenge to get into the chase! Just incidentally, your operating skills will improve, and you'll have even more fun in the future.*

73 de n8xx, Hg



[Back to index](#)

### Officers, Queen City Emergency Net, 1999

		<b>CALL</b>
<b>President</b>	Mark Reising	WB9BVV
<b>Jim Walsh</b>	Jim Walsh	N8ZZW
<b>Secretary</b>	Dean Winkelman	KB8GFN
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Dine	WA8DFD
<b>Communications Manager</b>	Steve Lewis	N8TFD

Page formatted by [Hank Greeb, N8XX](#)

Uploaded by [Richard Kuns, KC8TW](#), 14 Jan 98