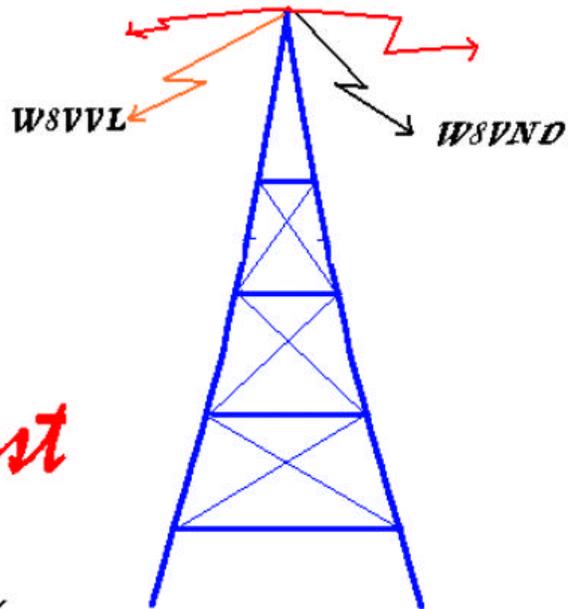


The Listening Post



Official Publication of the
QCEN QUEEN CITY
EMERGENCY NET

Volume 58 - Nr. 6 - May 1999

QCEN Meeting - Friday, May 21, 1999 - 8:00 p.m.
Cincinnati Red Cross - 720 Sycamore Street, Downtown
Emergency Preparedness Night
Bring your emergency kit!

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Mark's Musings - de wb9bvv

Greetings from sunny Santa Fe, NM. Wow! What a month we had in April. Thanks to everyone who helped or offered to help on DR879. While we had some minor problems, overall we performed well. One thing I want to do is encourage all members, especially our newer members, to take a couple stints as net control for the Tuesday Ten Net. This gives one invaluable experience for operating nets without the pressure of a disaster. As mentioned during the meeting, the repeater should be improved by the middle of May, so please continue to check into or monitor the net even if you can't get into the repeater.

The May meeting will be a "show and tell" of emergency kits. Please bring what you pack in your kit, explain why you selected what you use, examine what others use and their reasons. If you don't have a kit, check out the others and decide what you need. We have a busy couple of months coming up, get your kit together.

73 de Mark, WB9BVV

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The Listening Post is published by the Committee for Amateur Radio for education of its' members. Articles, comments, rebuttals are invited and may be sent to Hank Greeb, N8XX, via e-Mail 72277.706@compuserve.com Deadline is one week after the meeting.

QCEN MEETING April 16, 1999

Following a wonderful meal provided by Red Cross and prepared by Shells Seafood, **President, Mark WB9BVV** called the monthly meeting

to order. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a round of introductions. Mark reviewed the agenda for the meeting and turned the program over to Bob Armstrong.

Bob thanked the group for the great assistance given during the April 9th tornado.

Following Bob's presentation **Mark WB9BVV** turned the program over to **Communications Manager, Steve N8TFD** who asked **Tom KC7TN** to push "play" on the VCR. The tape was a review of the operations for the Columbus Marathon. Following the tape Steve N8TFD reported on the operations for the Cincinnati Flying Pigs Marathon. He has no specific assignments yet. The repeaters selected for the event will be 146.880 administration, 146.670 medical, and 147.060 drop out. There will be a stand-by repeater designated as a back up. Steve will mail out maps and assignments as soon as they are finalized. Steve turned the program over to Rich Williams who is the director of the Flying Pigs Marathon. Rich gave the group an over view of the entire marathon.

Publications, Hank N8XX asked that all articles be submitted by May 1st for the May edition of the Listening Post. He handed out copies of the Listening Post to those who did not receive them in the mail.

President, Mark WB9BVV asked for a motion to accept the minutes as published in the LP. A motion was made, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer, John WA8DFD presented the treasurer's report. A motion was made to accept the report. The report was approved.

Communication Manager, Steve N8TFD reported on the MS 150 bike ride being held on June 12th and 13th. Communicators are still needed for the event.

Steve asked that everyone who participated in the April 9th tornado activities, fill out a blue form. Tom KC7TN explained the purpose of the form. There was a brief discussion about the official name of the tornado activities.

Activities, Bruce KC8IYS reported that the program for the May meeting would be a display of member's "emergency kits". Everyone was urged to bring their kit to the meeting.

Traffic, Vern WD4EEB reported on the participation in the Tuesday Ten Net.

Engineering, Chuck K8CR reported on the problem with the W8VND repeater. He also reported that Field Day would be held at W8VND this year.

Publicity, Ed KF4UTO reported that the group received some great publicity during the tornado event. He reported that John WA8DFD had his picture in the Cincinnati Post, and Bruce KC8IYS appeared on CNN. Ed told the group that he was working on golf shirts and ball caps with the new QCEN logo on them. Mark WB9BVV displayed his shirt with the new logo on it.

Membership, Dick WB8MCX thanked **N8EXF** for helping with the production of I.D. cards. Dick reported that we currently have 135 paid members in the organization. He also presented **Bob W8MRG** with his five year membership pin. Dick then presented the following people for membership in QCEN **Tom, WG8C; Michael, WB8DNZ; Herb, W3EOA; Jeff, KD4EVB; Steve, AA8HH; Steve, KC8LWW; Randy, KB9PTZ; Joe, K8QOE; Cynthia, KB9ULL; & Don, KB8YUO**. A motion was made and seconded to accept these applicants into QCEN. A vote was taken and all were accepted. Dick then revised his membership total to 145. President Mark WB9BVV welcomed the new members. Bruce KC8IYS remarked that if we had another tornado we could have 200 members in QCEN.

Security, John WA8DFD stood and explained the location and function of the W8VND club station.

Disaster, Tom KC7TN thanked the group for the outstanding response during the tornado. He explained his role with Red Cross. Tom told the new members to see him about jackets, hard hats and pagers.

Mark WB9BVV read ARRL bulletin 26 regarding Amateur Radio Volunteers. He also read an on line letter entitled "Cincinnati Hams Respond as Tornado Strikes". Mark also told the group a suggested reading on page 32 of this month's QST magazine. (Tom KC7TN held up a copy).

Joe Philips K8QOE spoke to the group about frequency protection.

Following a short recess, Mark reconvened the meeting. Mark explained the ground rules for the critique of the disaster. He indicated that **Dick WB8MCX** would moderate, and **Steve N8TFD** would write on the easel.

John WA8DFD told the group that two messages were sent from the Hamilton County EMA to Tom KC7TN. These messages were never delivered to Tom. John emphasized the importance of delivering all messages in a timely manor.

Hank N8XX, made motion to adjourn at 2210 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Winkelman, KB8GFN, Secretary

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QCEN - CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 1999

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

May 14-16 - Dayton Hamvention	Jun 5 - QRP TACTical Contest
May 15 - EU Spring Sprint	Jun 12-13 - MS-150 Bicycle tour
May 16 - MS Walk	Jun 12-14 - ARRL June VHF QSO Party
May 21 - QCEN Meeting	Jun 12-14 - TOEC WW Grid Contest
May 29 - LP Deadline	Jun 12-14 - ANARTS WW RTTY / Digital Contest
May 30 - Hilliard (OH) Hamfest	Jun 12-14 - Portugal Day DX Contest
Jun 6 - Wabash (IN) Hamfest	Jun 13 - Northern Kentucky Hamfest
Jun 6 - Medina (OH) Hamfest	Jun 13 - Akron (OH) Hamfest
May 21-23 - Major Six Club Contest	June 18 - QCEN Meeting
May 23 - Texas QSO Party	June 19 - Milford (OH) Hamfest
May 29-30 - CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	Jun 26-27 - Field Day
May 29-30 - ARCI QRP Hoot Owl Sprint, CW	Jul 7 - N8XX Birthday
May 29-30 - Memorial Day CW Sprint	Sep 18 - Red Cross Airport Disaster Drill

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

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Steve's Sayings, de n8tfd

Big thank-you's go out to the 55 amateur radio operators that gave their time and energy to the Red Cross during DR879, the "Cincinnati Tornado of '99". The Red Cross is thrilled with the way we supported the Communications, Damage Assessment, and Disaster Welfare Inquiry functions during this disaster.

Many things have been learned. Something that may have surprised many people is that repeater coverage is not guaranteed for HT operators, EVEN IN HAMILTON COUNTY.

Suddenly, the May QCEN meeting seems quite timely. It's "Emergency Kit" night. Bring out your toys...be they few or many, simple or complex. It's often the little things that separate those who are truly ready for tough situations from those who hope that others are prepared!

A few NON-equipment issues to think about for next time: 1) Pending completion of antenna work at W8VVL, every QCEN member needs to be shown how to use the radios/antennas there.

2) We ALL must be a little more patient with each other during disasters. Sometimes directives are a little slower or less direct than we would like, but the freq(s) we're using are not the place to vent our frustrations.

3) When asked for a "yes/no answer" by net control, we need to give an answer. Playing "twenty questions" with net control wastes time for all concerned.

4) Tactical calls. Use them. 'nuff said.

Ok, that's outta the way. I want to again welcome all of the new members to QCEN. It is my/our intention to get you involved early and often. If you feel under-used, let me know. There's net control duties, W8VND/W8VVL work parties, club meetings (got a neat program idea?), public service events, "operating events" like Field Day and other contents, and the inevitable disasters that happen from time to time. Upcoming events of note:

May 14-16:	Dayton Hamvention
May 16:	MS Walk
May 21:	May meeting
June 12-13:	MS150
June 19:	June meeting
June 26-27:	Field Day

(much more on FD later, I promise!)

See y'all at these happenings! -73-

73 de n8tfd, Steve

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For Sale - de W8PCK

A3S triband beam.

Has never been assembled, still in the box. \$200.00 (\$175 to any card carrying QCEN member.)

Ron W8PCK

w8pck@juno.com

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Field Day Comment - de WA8DFD

As a long time member of the Net , and a very long time participant in Field Day, I wish to comment on the Net's decision to operate the contest from W8VND an existing station.

The intent of Field Day is to set up and operate for a 24 hour period under the kind of conditions that we might experience in an emergency such as the recent tornado. Field Day is an excellent training event in this area. The decision to use W8VND, an existing station, is a nice idea, but it violates the spirit and intent of Field Day if not the rules. I can justify the use of the club station in this event occasionally, but I felt that last year was too soon since the last time we did it at W8VND and to do it again this year is not justified. Because of these items I cannot participate with the Net in this event .

It is not my intent to discourage your participation in Field Day, but I encourage you to express you feelings to the Officers .

John Dine WA8DFD.

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Olde Englyshe - de n8xx

I'd like to add a few comments of my own about Field Day.

First of all, from the rules of Field Day:

Object: To work as many stations as possible on any or all amateur bands (excluding the 30, 17, and 12-Meter bands) and, in doing so, to learn to operate in abnormal situations under less-than-optimum conditions. A premium is placed on skills and equipment developed to meet the challenge of emergency preparedness and to acquaint the public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

I suppose it can be said that we are exercising our skills and equipment that is designated and dedicated to emergency preparedness. However, further down the rules, we find that much emphasis is placed on operation in field situations - in fact, there are 5 different categories of field stations, and two categories of home stations. Field stations may contact any other station for points, home stations may only contact field stations for points. (full FD rules may be found in May QST or at

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/99/rules-fd.html>

As John says, we all agree that we should exercise the equipment at W8VND during contests often - even occasionally during Field Day, because we all need familiarity with the station to be effective during an emergency. However, there are **many, many** contests designed for home stations, and **very, very few** dedicated to operation of portable equipment set up in the field.

As group dedicated to emergency preparedness, it seems to me that we'd honor the spirit and intent of Field Day and operate from a field location. At least one site is available at this late date.

73 de N8XX Hg

p.s. Now a note from the procedures manual:

Editorials written by the publisher are permitted provided such editorials, opinions or comments are clearly identified and opposing views are solicited and printed.

In line with the above, see the policy below the president's column concerning soliciting of input from the membership

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Earl Nichols, W4PII is Honored by American Cancer Society

Our own Earl Nichols, W4PII was honored at a Black Tie affair, The Striders Ball, at the Weston Hotel by the American Cancer Society for his 32-years of service by naming him "Volunteer of the Year", on April 17th.

He has worked with the Cancer office on both sides of the river, but is currently a driver for the "Road to Recovery" program, transporting patients for their Cancer treatments. Congratulations!

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OPEN LETTER TO QCEN de k8qoe

Once again, QCEN and the Cincinnati Area Red Cross, demonstrates ham radio's skills and mission in a exercise which defines our public image. By providing the communications arm for the Red Cross services into the tornado torn area, the QCEN membership gave a "first person account" of why our hobby is necessary to the civic well being of our society. Thank you, QCEN for making your presence at the tornado site, immediate, complete and efficient. Not only does Cincinnati owe you thanks, but your fellow hams owe you thanks for reminding Cincinnati and the rest of Ohio why we exist and why our privileges should never be tampered with.

Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Ohio Section Manager, ARRL

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PROGRAM IDEAS, PLEASE de kc8iys

I am looking for suggestions for the members for guests/activities for future QCEN meetings. This is your club, and I would like the meetings to reflect your wants and desires. (within limits) Please email me at webmaster@brugold.com with any suggestions you have for future meetings.

We are going to be discussing emergency packs at our May meeting, so brings yours, and let's compare. I know when we did this a couple of years ago, I learned a great deal. I hope to learn more this meeting. See you there.

de Brugold KC8IYS/Activities Chairman

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Net Roster in June '99

We'll be printing a roster of currently paid-up members as of June 1, 1999. If you haven't paid your dues, and wish to be included in that roster, please pay at the May meeting, or send your dues to WB8MCX.

Tnx es 73 de n8xx es wb8mcx

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CINCINNATI HAMS RESPOND AS TORNADO STRIKES

From **The ARRL letter**, April 16, 1999

The Cincinnati Section SKYWARN Weather Amateur Radio Net was in operation April 9 when a killer tornado struck the Blue Ash/Montgomery area of the city around 6 AM. Six people died as a result of the storm, which caused heavy damage and power outages. WARN, with its W8NWS net control site at WLW radio, quickly reported weather conditions and damage as it occurred and alerted police and emergency crews.

As a result, WARN Public Information Officer and ARRL PIO Michael Nie, KB8VMX, ended up as the live lead story on the 6 o'clock news on April 15 on Cincinnati's WKRC-TV Channel 12. The station's Chief Meteorologist, Tim Hedrick, interviewed Nie live on the value of severe weather spotters and especially ham radio spotters.

"I was shocked," said Nie. "All the press releases and business cards finally paid off." During the interview, Nie told how two local spotters used Amateur Radio to relay the first reports of a tornado on the ground, as they dove for cover in a ditch. Despite the close call, the spotters were not injured. (For more information on this event and on WARN operations, visit the WARN Web site, <http://www.warn.org>.)

The Queen City Emergency Net provided communication support on VHF with operators at various emergency operating centers, command posts, shelters, and disaster relief agency headquarters. QCEN is affiliated with the Cincinnati Red Cross and typically provides damage assessment and communication support for the agency. The storm also affected parts of Indiana and Kentucky.

--Fred Stone, W8LLY; Mike Nie, KB8VMX

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Page formatted by [Hank Greeb, N8XX](#). Uploaded to the web by [Richard Kuns, KC8TW](#)