

# PRIORITY TRAFFIC

The Listening Post  
Monthly Newsletter of  
November, 2003



Visit the QCEN Website at <http://www.qcen.net>

## The Amateur's Code (Have We Forgotten or A Thing of The Past?)

Dave Vest, K8DZ

The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928. It is still applicable today.

### The Radio Amateur is:

**CONSIDERATE:** never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL:** offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE:** with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

**FRIENDLY:** slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED:** radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

**PATRIOTIC:** station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Fourteen lines, 130 words, 774 characters. Big deal, right? What does this have to with anything, you ask. Well, in today's world it seems as if you can't pick up a newspaper, watch TV or listen to the ham bands without hearing a lot of discontent over someone else's actions. The other day while thumbing through one of my old handbooks that I ran across the Amateur's Code. Yes, I knew it was there and that it has been published in every handbook since 1929. But, it along with a lot of other stuff had been mentally tucked away and not thought about much.

(Continued on page 4)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 21 — QCEN Meeting Red Cross Chapter House, 8 pm. Program — Digital, Public Safety Communications in Hamilton County
- December 12 — QCEN Meeting and Annual Holiday Party 7:30 pm; Red Cross Chapter House.
- January 16, 2004 — QCEN Annual Meeting and Elections 8 pm; Red Cross Chapter House
- February 20, 2004 — QCEN Monthly Meeting; Red Cross Chapter House, 8 pm

QCEN is  
an ARRL  
Affiliated  
Club



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Monthly Minutes	2
Tuesday Ten Net Schedule	3
Upcoming Meetings	3
Can You Help? You Can Help!	3
The eLP?	3

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**Newsletter  
Editor**

KC Angel,  
W8ZFR

From October, 2003

**QCEN Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 2003**

The regular monthly meeting of the Queen City Emergency Net was called to order by **President, K.C. Angel W8ZFR** at 8:15PM. **K.C.** welcomed everyone and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The 15 members present then introduced themselves.

**President, K.C. Angel W8ZFR** appointed the nominating committee consisting of **Chuck K8CR, Dave K8DV, and Dan W8DEX**. **K.C.** explained the nomination process and invited anyone interested in running for an office to contact **Chuck K8CR**. **Chuck K8CR** indicated that he accepts Visa or MasterCard.

**President, K.C. W8ZFR** announced that this evening's program would be presented by **Chuck K8CR** and is about station grounding.

A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter.

**Treasurer, Jim N8ZZW** was not present, however, he sent the Treasurer's report with **Dick WB8MCX** who is currently in the hallway and not available to give the report.

**Communications, Steve N8TFD** requested net control operators for the upcoming Tuesday Ten Nets. Steve reported on the 2004 MS150 and the 2004 Flying Pigs. **Steve** is still in need of several operators for the "Run Like Hell" to be held on October 24.

**Pete KC8BZM** commented that there is a big difference in the way that Tall Stacks and the MS150 utilize ham radio operators.

**Dick WB8MCX** returned to the meeting and presented the Treasurer's report.

**Engineering, Chuck K8CR** reported that projects are winding down as fall approaches.

**Membership, Bob W8MRG** reported that there are 116 members.

**Properties, Dave K8DV** reported that all property was ok.

**Publications, K.C. W8ZFR** displayed an envelope which was returned by the post office. The envelope contained several small pieces of the newsletter which had been ripped to shreds by the post office.

**Dick WB8MCX** announced that **John WA8DFD** was connected via Echo Link and gave a brief description of how that system worked.

**Security, Dick WB8MCX** reported that the lock codes would be changing in the near future.

**Ways and Means, Dick WB8MCX** reported that he is exploring several grant options.

**President, K.C. W8ZFR** told the group that the November program would be a presentation of the new Hamilton County 800 MHz radio system. **Dean KB8GFN** would be the presenter.

**President, K.C. W8ZFR** reminded everyone that the December meeting/holiday party would be held on Friday December 12, 2003. This is one week earlier than the normal meeting night.

Someone suggested that a notice be placed in the November newsletter to determine who would like to still receive a hard copy of the newsletter.

**Dick WB8MCX** suggested that the net place an ad in the GCARA newsletter advertising the QCEN November program.

**Hank, N8XX** reported on the upcoming Ft. Wayne Ham Fest.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

**K.C. and Steve** had a side bar conversation about ham fest tickets.

**Bob W8MRG** asked to have a discussion about the Tuesday Ten Net. A lengthy discussion followed (need to have every week, simplex, "lights out net", reading of training material, reading of news items).

**Pete KC8BZM** indicated that 10PM was bedtime for many people and suggested that the net begin an hour earlier. **Bob W8MRG** suggested reading of ARRL bulletins such as ARPSC does. **Justin KG4ZEP** reported that he was still a little fuzzy on the whole thing. **Andrew N8MDH** suggested varying the reminder page time. **Hank N8XX** told the group that he would check into the net if there was more substance to it. It was suggested that this was a good discussion to have at the January meeting when there might be more net members present.

**Hank N8XX** made a motion to adjourn at 9:25PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dean Winkelman, Secretary  
KB8GFN

## Upcoming Meetings

**November:** The nominating committee will make its report. Dean, KB8GFN, will give a presentation on the new 800MHz digital trunking radio system used by public safety organizations in Hamilton county.

**December:** Due to the holidays, the December meeting will be on the second Friday of the month, *one week early*, December 12th at 7:30 p.m. We will have a short business meeting which will include calling for nominations from the floor. Please bring a favorite food item to share (appetizers, snacks, deserts, etc.) This meeting is a great time to mingle with and get to know your fellow Net members. Got a new rig or working an interesting project? Bring it and show it off! As in previous years, we will be collecting food for donation to a local food bank. Please bring a sack of non-perishable food items.

**January:** The QCEN annual meeting will be held on the third Friday of January. Officers for 2004 will be elected. The discussion of the Tuesday Ten Net started at the October meeting will be continued. We'd like this meeting to be a reunion — we'd like to see as many Net members as possible at the meeting.

## Can You Help? You Can Help!

A couple of QCEN members have difficulties getting to and from Net meetings. Would you consider giving a ride to fellow hams and Net members?

If you are traveling to/from the west side or the Forest Park area and are willing to have a rider, please give KC, W8ZFR or Dick, WB8MCX a call for more information. W8ZFR can be reached at 513-708-4241 and WB8MCX can be reached at 513-825-7227.

## The eLP?

No, eLP does not stand for **extra-low power**, **excessive linear propagation** or **extraterrestrials liking produce**. It does stand for **electronic Listening Post**. That's right — the newsletter is going digital.

In order to reduce printing and postage costs, regular mailings of the monthly QCEN newsletter will be discontinued in January 2004. It will be posted on the QCEN website with email notification to members.

If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter via regular mail, please send a message to Bob Garfield, W8MRG. Bob may be reached via email at w8mrg@qcen.net or via snail-mail at 13038 Coopermeadow Lane, Cincinnati OH 45242.

**If you aren't familiar with BPL — Broadband over Power Line (also known as PLT — Power Line Telecommunication) and the threat it poses to HF communications, check out the ARRL website at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).**

## Tuesday Ten Net Net Control Schedule

11/18/03 — Available  
11/25/03 — Available  
12/02/03 — Available  
12/09/03 — Available  
12/16/03 — Available

- Have you ever been net control? When was the last time? Don't you think it makes sense to know how or practice? Will you be ready when you are needed?
- The Tuesday 10 Net is a great place to get your feet wet. Run the net, submit a check-in list and you could win a \$25 gift certificate.
- Contact N8TFD to run one!

*Amateur Radio Affiliate of the American Red Cross,  
Cincinnati Area Chapter*

*(Continued from page 1)*

As I listen around the ham bands in today's time, I wonder if ham radio is not becoming more and more like corporate America. There is no doubt that there is a lack of ethics in corporate America with all the financial scandals and the complete disregard for others (remember Enron). Well, as I see it, things may be headed back to when a hand shake made the deal and integrity was something of which you could be proud. Maybe this is because there have been new federal regulations put in place to require officers of corporations to be accountable of their actions.

I know you are asking yourself, "What does this have to do with ham radio?" Let me explain.

How many of us can say we operate our amateur stations in consistence with the Amateur's Code? I try to be a good operator, but am I always considerate of others? Am I willing to help out without always being asked? Am I loyal to the hobby and the foundation it is built upon? Is my station up with the times? Do I always try to be progressive with my operating habits; or do I dwindle in the past always reliving the good

ole days? Am I friendly; do I welcome new-comers and help them hone their operating habits? Do I keep a good balance between ham radio, family and my professional life? And in a time where everyone is waving the flag and being proud to be an American citizen do I do all I can to be ready with my skills and station for service if called upon?

Of course, the ham radio hobby has never been regulated for doing the right thing when dealing with another person, being gentlemanly or just acting with common sense. As we all know, the FCC regulates ham radio with rules and regulations that are full of fancy words with no emotion. Besides that, they are hard to read without falling asleep. You can search the Internet, books and about any place you like but you won't find any words in ham radio that speak more to the heart of the hobby as does the Amateur's Code.

So, the next time you call CQ think about the Amateur's Code, what it stands for and how you measure up. I am sure you will have a better QSO.

73 de Dave K8DV