Amateur Radio Masons Masonic Gathering

The purpose of this is to invite you to attend a weekly Gathering of Amateur Radio Mason Gathering in the Freemason Room on the eQSO Internet system and the *Masons* Conference on the EchoLink Internet system and On The Air when connected via Links and Repeaters.

The Gathering takes place each Sunday evening at 8:30pm CST / 9:30pm EST (Monday 01:30 UTC), and usually last for about an hour and half.

The Place
Masonic Amateurs Gather for
Good Talk and
Great Fellowship

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The Web Site
http://MasonicGathering.net
http://MasonicGathering.com

The Masonic Gathering is a group of Amateur Radio Operators who belong to the oldest and greatest fraternity in the world, the Freemasons! We gather each Sunday evening at 8:30 CST (02:30 UTC Monday during the Central Standard Time, 01:30 UTC during Daylight Saving Time) in the Freemason Room on eQSO, and in the *Mason* Conference on EchoLink and via repeaters and links connected to those rooms all across the country and world.

History

In 2002, Brother Johnny Davis, K5JD of Dallas Lodge #760 started hosting eQSO on his server. At the suggestion of Brother Dick Brown, KE5R, a Freemason Room was opened up on the server. Interest grew as brothers started finding the room and chatting. Some times the room would have several brothers there and other time it would be empty. One evening, a group of the regulars were talking that it would be nice to have one time you could go to the room and find someone always there. Thus was born the ideal of the "Gathering" The first "Gathering" was held on September 8, 2002 with 10 checking in. (For a list of the "Charter Checkins" see our website at http://MasonicGathering.net) The "Gathering" was and still is held on Sunday evenings at 8:30 pm CST so not to conflict with any Lodge meeting or Church Functions.

Purpose

The purpose of the "Gathering" is for Brother Amateur Radio Masons to fellowship and exchange information. Many of our check-ins do not have the opportunity to attend lodge due to work or health reason and the "Gathering" give them the opportunity for Masonic Fellowship.

The Gathering is not a lodge, but just a Gathering of Masons who share the hobby of Amateur Radio and a love of the Craft. We are not recognized by any Grand Lodge or appending bodies.

Check-ins are open to the public and we do not discuss any of the esoteric work of the craft in the rooms or on the airwaves.

Each week we have a discussion topic which the brothers are invited to comment on. Brother Chuck Cumming, WA5THZ, who serves as the Gathering's Chaplin, brings a weekly program on some subject of interest to the brothers. These are always thought provoking and a joy to listen to.

The WebSite

On the web site we have: An Information page with links to download eQSO and EchoLink, The Photo Gallery has been a big hit, A Message Board, A Gathering List of all the members with links to QRZ from their callsign, A Notable Masons page, Links to all the US Grand Lodges and International Grand Lodges and much more
Take a look and fill out the Petition.

The Petition

Just our little way of knowing about you and your lodge. Also information for our "Gathering List" and "Weekly Reminder". We will **NOT PUBLISH** your email address on the **Gathering List** of the web page. But we need it to send you the **Weekly Reminder**. And **no** one will see your email address but Net Control and the Secretary

VOIP
Voice **O**ver **I**nternet **P**rovider

eQSO is designed to emulate a large hf radio net. The system is optimised for radio gateways, however the software for use on PCs is free and can be downloaded from http://www.eqso.net Support is available at http://www.eqso.org Access to eQSO may be by computer or through a radio gateway. eQSO users may register with the eQSO website, and receive their own eQSO.org email address.

eQSO is the simpler of the VOIP programs. It requires less memory to operate and has fewer conflicts when running across networks where firewall may be present. If you are using an older computer to access the internet, you may want to consider this program.

Echolink software has evolved from the iLink software, which is now largely defunct. Echolink can be used either through gateways, or by amateurs using computers. Echolink supports conference rooms, and the gateways respond to DTMF commands. It also permits computer to computer contracts. Echolink can be downloaded from http://www.synergenics.com/el/

The Echolink software package has more bell and whistles. In addition to station to station contacts, the package provides a text box for messaging the computer stations you are in contact with. It also let you set up favorites and alarms lists. It does require more memory to run and may require special configuration of the network ports.