
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 44, Issue 3 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club March 2020

President's musings

There are a few members who still have not paid there 2020 club dues. Please bring it to the March meeting or mail it in. You can also check your dues status with K9VXD.

At our February 5th meeting we had 10 brave souls who made it through the winter storm; the rest of you used good judgment and stayed home. The only real vote we had was to accept WA9GBC donation of a very nice computer monitor, keyboard and mouse for our new to us computer that was donated at the last meeting. We had very little to report due to the fact that most of the committee members used good judgment and stayed home. We mainly just chewed the fat and had some great treats; yes, the treat man W9WE came in the winter tundra with his box of goodies, and we thank you.

It was discussed that we need to down load and print our new swap meet flyer that can be found on our web site. Print it off and take some copies to any other ham-related functions or bulletin boards or mail to an organization that would be interested. Another great free advertisement is to talk it up on the nets and during a QSO. We need better attendance at our swap meet. All this is a great FREE way to pass the word.

I want to thank the 10 members who did brave the snow in order to attend our February 5th meeting. We had just enough to make it an official meeting. See you all in March.

The Radio Amateur is....

Considerate.....never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

Loyal...offering loyalty, encouragement and support to the amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League through which Amateur Radio in the United Sates is represented national and internationally.

Progressive....with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.

Friendly.....with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interest of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

Balance.....radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, and community.

Patriotic.....with station and skill always ready for service to country and community. The Amateur's Code by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

De K9FHX, 73

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the February 2020 WIARC meeting:

The regular February, 2020, meeting of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club was called order by Pres. K9FHX at 7 PM with just a quorum of 10 members present.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved without correction on motion of N9JF, properly seconded and carried.

K9VXD passed around a written accounting for 2020 including a balance sheet as of February 2 which were approved on motions by N9JF, seconded by KD9NET and carried.

There was no repeater committee report.

WA9GBC reported that he had donated a monitor and keyboard and mouse cables to work with the new computer in the club station. N9BZ moved that the club accept the gift, seconded by WM4D and carried.

N9JF reported that the ILQP certificates had been completed by AB9DU and mailed. NG9R has a list of the plaques. There will be a new DX plaque this year for OM2VL from Slovakia sponsored by AD4EB in Tennessee.

There was no station trustee report

N9JF reported he had sent the required paperwork to the ARRL to have the 2020 swapfest sanctioned and that NA9Q had completed the flyers.

N9JF reminded everyone that we needed to get the location of April 18 dinner meeting scheduled.

There was no new business.

There were no applications for membership.

No new net control stations were assigned for after March 4.

N9JF asked members to send KB9YN ideas for publicity for the hamfest and further activities such as forums, having a special event station, etc.

The meeting was closed on motion by WA9GBC seconded by WM4D.

Because of the weather and sparse attendance there was no program following the regular meeting

Respectfully submitted, W9EMR, Sec.

DX News and Notes (some late February items are included since Feb is "long" this year.....ed)

Here is some interesting DX news. 73, Larry WB2UFO

4UNR, AUSTRIA (Special Event). Members of the Amateur Radio Contest DX Club (ARCDXC, <http://www.cqdx.ru/4u1a>) are active using the special callsign 4UNR during the month of February from the 4U1A station at the United Nations Vienna International Center. Activity is celebrating World Radio Day and will usually be on 80/40/20/15 meters using CW and SSB. QSL Manager is UA3DX (via the Bureau or direct). For more details, see: <http://www.cqdx.ru/4u1a/special-event/4unr-un-radio>

ADDED NOTE: Just a reminder that this counts for Austria for DXCC purposes.

5H, TANZANIA (Reminder/Other Update). Chas, NK8O/VE3ISD, will once again be active as 5H3DX from Zinga, Tanzania, sometime between February 23rd and March 23rd. Activity will be from the pediatric hospital at Zinga. He will be joined by his brother-in-law, Fred, to enhance their station's operation. Fred, N8AX, will be issued the callsign, 5H3AX, if all goes according to plan. Usual operations will be holiday style. Power output will be the legal limit for Tanzania at 100w and the primary antenna should be a Hexbeam configured for 40-6 meters, including the WARC bands and phased verticals for 40/30/20 meters. Operations will be primarily CW, with PSK31, FT8 and possibly SSB and 60m. He states that he will use a simple wire antenna and his KX3 with a KXPA100 amp. See QSL info on QRZ.com. Also, QSL via LoTW and eQSL. NO Bureau. Watch QRZ.com for updates.

6W, SENEGAL (Update/Reminder). Willy, ON4AVT, will once again be active as 6W7/ON4AVT between February 16th and March 27th. His main activity will be on 60/40/20/10 meters using mostly FT8/FT4, with some CW and SSB, with a FT-891 with 100 watts into a HyEndFed antenna. QSL via the Bureau. For more details and updates, watch: https://www.on4avt.be/trip_to_senegal.htm

8Q, MALDIVES. Noel, F6BGC, will be active as 8Q7NC from Veligandu Island, Rashdo Atoll, in the Maldives Islands (WW Loc. MJ64MH, IOTA AS-013) between March 12-21st. Activity will be holiday style (Suitcase Expedition) on 80-10 meters (depending on conditions) with 100w and a vertical, using all modes CW, SSB, and the Digital modes. QSL via F6BGC, direct or LotW. More information at: <https://www.qrz.com/db/8Q7NC>

9J2LA ZAMBIA DXPEDITION NEWS (Press Release, dated February 8th). [edited]

Some good news has to be shared today. After an endless long process to get our Zambian license we are finally there. A big thanks to Mario/9J2MYT (IK1MYT) and Brian/9J2BO in Lusaka who helped us achieving this important goal. The license has been received just before the weekend. We are concentrating on our "boy scout trip" now. Our QTH in Zambia is secured, bus transportation from Lusaka airport to the lodge is booked and flight tickets are purchased. We are still working on customs clearance details, but we hope that we have it sorted out soon. We will leave Oslo the 4th of March at 18:45 with a scheduled arrival at Lusaka airport the day after at 12:30 local time. Let's hope that the customs clearance will go smoothly and don't make too much of a headache ... however, you never know. The bus ride to the QTH is short of 2 hours, depending on traffic.

Furthermore there is an ongoing power shedding through the whole country right now as it has been over the last few months. The reason is that the country has some issues with one of the main power electricity generators. According to our last conversation with the lodge owner, they suffer 4 hours of power cut each evening. For this reason, we are also in the process of purchasing a portable electricity generator as a backup. The rainy season that comes late this year, has been rather dry as well. Stay tuned for more updates coming up soon! 73 de Rune LA7THA 9J2LA Team Leader

EDITOR'S NOTES: The 9J2LA team is planning to be active from Zambia between March 5-15th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. The update suggested frequencies are:

CW - 1826.5*, 3524, 7024, 10124, 14024, 18074, 21024, 24894 and 28024

SSB - 7082, 14185, 18140, 21295, 24955 and 28495

RTTY - 7045, 10142, 14082, 18096, 21082, 24912 and 28082

FT8 - 1844/1908**, 3590, 7060, 10140, 14086, 18104, 21095, 24918 and 28095

6m - 50104/CW and 50313/FT8

(*) 160m: 1826.5 kHz Isn dwn for JA, up for EU, NA and other continents.

(**) 160m: FT8, QSO 1908 for JA

9J2LA TEAM plans to use FT8 as the primary data mode. They will use FT8 DXpedition mode, operating as the Fox. If you hear them on the normal FT8 frequencies, they will not be using DXpedition mode and only work one station at the time. If the number of callers is high, they will announce a QSY to their DXpedition frequencies. QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog if internet access is available. QSL via M0OXO QSL service. The 9J2LA Web page is available at: <https://9j2la.com> Facebook and Twitter will be used for "Breaking News" the weeks before departure and during the Expedition. The media Web pages are: FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/9j2la> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/9J2LA>

CN, MOROCCO. Guy, F8ALU, is once again active as CN2BG until early March. Look for him on SSB generally on 14115 or 14130 kHz. QSL via his home callsign.

FJ, ST. BARTHELEMY. Operators Thierry/F6CUK and Gerard/F6EHJ will be active as FJ/F6CUK and FJ/F6EHJ, respectively, from the QTH of FJ5AB, between May 4-16th. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW and SSB. The duo and FJ5AB are planning to operate from Tintamarre Island (NA-199), St. Martin, sometime during their stay using a special callsign. Look for more details to be forthcoming.

GERMAN NORTH POLE DXPEDITION. Operators Martina/DF3TS and Thomas/DC8TM will activate Svalbard as JW/homecalls to start their DXpedition between April 10-13th. They will then be active from a Russian "Severnyi Polyus" the Scientific Polar Drifting Base (enclave by RFF) approx. 80kms from the North Pole on the Arctic Ocean where they will activate the WFFF area RFF-0176. Operators will use their special callsigns DP0LE (like POLE) and as RA/DC8TM/P and RA/DF3TS/P to represent the Russian flag of the camp between April 14-17th. Activity will be on 40/30/20/17 meters using SSB and FT8. Activity from the North Pole (90 Degrees North) – under DP0LE and DC8TM/P together with Martina DF3TS/P will take place sometime during this time (The exact schedule will depend very much on weather conditions) on 20 meters [14244 kHz (+/-)]. !! Activity is limited to approx. 30 minutes!! For more details and updates, watch:

<https://www.qrz.com/db/DC8TM>

PQ0, ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL ROCKS (Now on Hold). Last week it was reported that some operators were planning to be active as PQ0S from Saint Peter and Saint Paul Rocks (SA-014, DIB OC-03) sometime in March (possibly 14-16th). It has now been reported that a larger team is planning to activate Saint Peter and Saint Paul Rocks (details and dates are unknown), and now the PQ0S team has decided to take "a standby and let the others progress."

PY0F, FERNANDO DE NORONHA. Stephano, PT2IC, member of the Noronha Contest Group (NCG), will be active as PY0F from Fernando de Noronha Island (SA-003) during the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 7-8th) as a Single-Op entry. QSL via PY7RP. For more info about the station, see: <https://py0f.wordpress.com>

T30, WESTERN KIRIBATI (Update/Change). Alex, 5B4ALX, will be active as T30ET from Tarawa Atoll (OC-017) between March 18th and April 7th (not April 2nd). Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8/FT4 and RTTY. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW. For more details and updates, see: <http://www.5b4alx.cloud/t30et-tarawa-atoll-2020>

T8, PALAU. Ichiro, JH7IPR, will once again be active as T88UW from the VIP Guest Hotel (Free Radio Room) on Koror Island (OC-009), between October 7-15th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes (FSK, JT65, JT9 and FT8). QSL T88UW via JH7IPR, direct, by the Bureau, eQSL, LoTW or ClubLog.

TU, CÔTE D'IVOIRE (Reminder/Update). Operators Petr/OK1BOA, Petr/OK1FCJ, and David/OK6DJ will be active as TU5PCT from the Radio Club ADRASEC RCI in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), between February 24-29th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via OK6DJ, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW. For more details and updates, see: <https://www.cdxcz>

VP2M, MONTSERRAT. Charles, K1XX, will once again be active as VP2MMF from Gingerbread Hill, Montserrat (NA-103), during the ARRL International DX SSB Contest (March 7-8th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via KU9C or LoTW.

VU4, ANDAMAN ISLANDS. A VU Team (8 operators) will be active as VU4R from Neil Island in the Andaman Islands group (AS-001) during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 28-29th) as a Multi-Op entry. Before and after the contest, the team, which will be there between March 20-31st, will focus on 160/80/40 meters on various modes. QSL via VU2RS, direct or LoTW. Look for more details to be forthcoming.

If "DX" isn't exactly your thing, think closer to home. Lots closer. Get in on the Parks on the Air and WWFF programs and this tidbit:

Our Neighbors to the northwest: (from the *ARRL Contest Update*)

(This is a good opportunity to have some fun by activating an Iowa State Park, many of which are within easy driving distance of Quincy. Anyone up for a road trip this summer? Contact N9JF@arrl.net for details and scheduling...)

Iowa State Parks on the Air 2020 Celebrates Centennial of Iowa State Parks

Iowa State Parks on the Air ([IASPOTA-2020](#)) is under way and will continue through year's end. The event is sponsored by the [Great River Amateur Radio Club](#), with the support of Iowa ARRL Section Manager Lelia Garner, WA0UIG, and the Iowa Division of Natural Resources (DNR).

According to Colin Wheatley, W9UPK, Iowa had the first state park system in the nation, and Iowa's first state park, Backbone State Park, was dedicated in 1920. Since then, the state park system has grown to some 70 parks and recreational facilities, including 63 state parks.



Stations logging contacts with five of Iowa's state parks during the year-long celebration can request a certificate by sending a legal-size self-addressed, sealed envelope to IASPOTA-2020 c/o Great River Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1384, Dubuque, IA 52004.

From [The ARRL Contest Update](#), news and opinion from N9ADG:

“WARC Contesting?”

Perhaps you missed it. I certainly did. In the [rules of the 2020 Vermont QSO Party](#), is the complete section on how FT4 and FT8 contacts can be made for the VT QSO Party. There are a bunch of rules related to FTx mode contacts for the VT QSO party listed, including how the standard exchange of grid square is to be used, and this, rule 6:

"6. FT8/FT4 contacts can be made on the recognized FT8 frequencies of 10.136/10.140, 18.110/18.104 and 24.920/24.919 MHz upper side band. No other modes are allowed on 30, 17 and 12 meters."

The potential problem is that the frequencies cited in rule 6 are [WARC bands](#). There's been a gentleman's agreement among... I guess, "gentlemen," that the WARC bands won't be used for contesting. Certainly you [won't find any ARRL Contests](#) using the WARC bands. CQ Magazine and WWROF sponsored contests also disallow usage of WARC bands for their events. The verbiage in the [ARRL Contesting Guidelines](#) is the most explicit, stating the rules as well as the rationale: "WARC bands are not used for contests, therefore moving to these bands during contest weekends is an option for casual operators and rag chewers."

Hams are a self-regulating sort, by and large. It would be pretty obvious in other modes if someone were contesting on the WARC bands, since they might have the tells of sending "CQ TEST." Or if someone was soliciting a contest QSO without being obvious about it, they'd be taking their chances in getting someone

that wanted to have a genuine conversation beyond "59" and their state. That kind of stuff really ruins the rate.

But with the FT modes, the "regular" non-contest exchange is basically the same as the contest exchange. You really can't tell whether someone calling CQ from a particular grid is trying to use the band for a contest contact, or just wants a regular FTx contact.

I've made some FT4 and FT8 contacts both outside of contests and as part of the WW Digi DX and ARRL RTTY Roundup. Outside of a contest period, I've decoded people doing directional CQs, probably to work on their WAS awards...or maybe they just like one of that state's sports teams. But in the future, I might wonder if another QSO Party changed their rules to allow contacts on the WARC bands as well.

In my opinion, allowing FTx contacts to count for the VT QSO Party may not have been thought all the way through. Intended to spur greater participation, it's not breaking any regulations but runs counter to worldwide consensus that the WARC bands of 30, 17, and 12 meters should be contest-free to give non-contesters some breathing room on busy weekends. This has worked very, very well for more than 30 years. While one of the smaller state QSO parties will not be too disruptive, there's no reason to open the door to bigger events that certainly will cause problems."

I don't know where this is going, but rest assured that ILQP will NOT include WARC band activity anytime in the near future! De N9JF

From *The ARRL Letter*:

ARRL Board of Directors Re-Elects President Rick Roderick, K5UR

Meeting January 17 - 18 in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors re-elected ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, to a third 2-year term. Roderick outpolled the only other nominee, Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, 8 - 7. New England Division Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, was elected First Vice President, succeeding Greg Widin, K0GW, who did not seek another term. Raisbeck was the sole nominee. A successor will be appointed to fill the Vice Director seat that Raisbeck has vacated. Bob Vallio, W6RGG, was re-elected as Second Vice President as the only nominee.

On a 9 - 6 vote, the Board voted not to re-elect Howard Michel, WB2ITX, as Chief Executive Officer. Michel was in the post for 15 months. Former ARRL Chief Financial Officer and Chief Executive Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY, has come out of retirement to serve as interim ARRL CEO. He also was elected as Secretary. Shelley was ARRL's CFO for 28 years and served as CEO during 2018 before his retirement, following the departure of former CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF. The ARRL Board has appointed a committee to spearhead the search for a new CEO. That panel will screen suitable CEO candidates, presenting three to the Board for consideration.

Yukon's VY1JA Plans to Be Back for 2020 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW

ARRL November Sweepstakes stalwart J. Allen, VY1JA, in Canada's Yukon Territory, may not be off the air quite yet. Allen announced his retirement from ham radio last November, but now says he plans to keep a small station on the air "for as long as possible," leaving one antenna tower in place. Allen told ARRL earlier this month that there's a "strong likelihood" he'll return for the 2020 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW in the Low Power category, using his own call sign.



For the past few years, the remotely operated VY1AAA, using equipment and antennas located at VY1JA, has been among the precious few stations handing out the Northern Territories multiplier in Sweepstakes. Gerry Hull, W1VE/VE1RM, told ARRL that the remote equipment and high-power amplifier have now been removed, along with the radio gear and antennas from Allen's larger station, which will be sold. Allen, who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, says his current medication has stabilized his condition, but he's been looking ahead to the day when his wife, Ann, would face the task of dismantling and disposing of his station equipment and antennas.

"Because I am concerned about what I will be like in a few years or so, I wanted to sell out the station completely so that Ann would not have a big problem on her hands removing poles, towers, cables, gear, and so on," he explained.

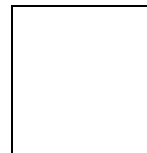
Allen thanked Hull; Cary Rubenfeld, VE4EA; Chuck Cullian, K0RF, and Tyson Schulz, VY1SLZ, for their assistance. Rubenfeld is handling the sale of Allen's gear, while Schulz has pledged to assist in dismantling and disposing of Allen's scaled-down station when the time comes. Cullian has provided a transceiver for Allen, who no longer had an operational radio on site.

"It means that, for as long as I remain functional, I intend to keep VY1JA on the air, and especially to be there for as many ARRL Sweepstakes as possible," Allen said.

Hull said he and others involved with the VY1AAA remote operations have been looking for a new home for the VY1AAA remote gear and radio.

It's certainly good to know that J feels well enough to consider being on for SS in 2020. We'll see how things progress. We wish J and Ann all the best! -.ed

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March meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 2020..
Adams County American Red Cross
Building, 24th and Koch's Lane, Quincy (west
½ block from intersection then north on
driveway)

W9AWE – W90AB

The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

WIARC homepage: <http://www.w9awe.org> e-mail to w9awe@qsl.net

WIARC email reflector: wiarc@mailman.qth.net

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ILLINOIS QSO PARTY

Newsletter input due by the 20th of the preceding month

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