
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 44, Issue 5 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club May 2020

Presidential Musings

As of these writing the WIARC has missed both a meeting and a Dinner meeting. Even though we are having City, State and Federal Guidelines placed on us, it has been smart for the Club to stay in place at home. There are a lot of us older members who are in the high-risk category including myself. The one surprising good thing about our hobby is we all have working radios at home and can now enjoy them any time we want to. I know I have been having fun with my new G90 QRP rig.

We still have 14 members from last year who have not paid their 2020 dues. This could be because of several good reasons like no meetings, no dinner meeting etc. If you really don't know if you have paid or not please contact K9VXD at gerstarnold@att.net and find out. Sadly if you do not pay, then we really must drop you from our membership. Note: If you have been without a paycheck because of the Coronavirus please let me know.

I'm sure most of you with your stay at home time have found some different avenues for your Ham Radio hobby. As for me I have been doing QRP and hope to go portable when we get out of lock down. Thanks to some who have been posting different things to read or do with your radio! New ideas can be a lot of fun now that we have the time.

NR9Q and N9JF have been beating this around, and I think it's worth trying. Welcome to the WIMSPRINT, Western Illinois Monthly Sprint. Purpose: Get WIARC members on the air. Great Idea guys! It's amazing what you can do if you just call CQ.

De David k9fhx, 73
Stimulus Money?



Last night you did the dishes, today you're folding laundry... Just how much did that new Rig cost?

See meeting cancelation notice

Page 13!

Because of health risk to everyone involved, please be informed that the testing of May 9 at Red Cross has been canceled.

Dave Scranton W9WE

On a related note (from [The ARRL Letter](#)):

Remotely Administered Amateur Exam Systems Showing Promise

Facing a growing demand for amateur radio exam sessions in a time of social distancing and stay-at-home orders, sponsors of some Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams have risen to the challenge and are developing systems to remotely proctor test sessions.

"Many of our VEs and VE Teams have been working on remotely proctored exam session ideas, employing both video and in-person components -- following social distancing protocols," ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said. "We have been receiving interesting and innovative suggestions, and we appreciate the dedication and ingenuity our examiners have shown."

The [Spalding County Amateur Radio Club](#) in Georgia is among those that have come up with plans to remotely administer amateur exams while complying with ARRL VEC testing standards during COVID-19 stay-home mandates and social distancing guidelines. Current systems leverage Zoom video-teleconferencing technology, the "Fill & Sign" feature of Adobe PDFs, reliable email, appropriate computer equipment and internet connection, and no volunteer examiners (VEs) present at individual remote test sites. The Georgia club collaborated and shared ideas with the Emergency Amateur Radio Club (EARC) in Hawaii, which has successfully conducted sessions since 2011 with its own remote testing system, initially with paper exams with a proctor on site and now with fillable PDFs, with no on-site proctor.

The Georgia club obtained ARRL VEC approval to administer video-supervised exams. "We have started with testing just one candidate at a time, but are planning to ramp up to multiple candidates -- probably two or three -- simultaneously," club member David Robinson, K4WVZ, told ARRL. "Before we do that, we want a few more single sessions under our belt and a few more Video VEs trained."

The club's procedures entail a pre-exam video interview with candidates to ensure they understand all the requirements and procedures. Following the exam, the VEs score the test and sign off on the paperwork, with the VE Team Leader submitting the application online and by mail, per ARRL VEC instructions.

New England Amateur Radio Inc ([NE1AR](#)), an affiliate of New England Sci-Tech, ([NESciTech](#)), has taken it one step further, Somma said. It got the approval of ARRL VEC to begin trials of what it describes as "completely online testing with strict rules and protocols for maintaining the integrity of the testing environment." NE1AR is limiting candidates to one exam per session, due to the current candidate backlog and the "difficulty of administering exams online." Candidates must agree to a list of protocols, which include a cell-phone camera scan of the entire room and exam area "to show that there are no materials or people [in the room] that could aid in taking the exam."

"We began a series of trials on April 1 under ARRL VEC review and have now been asked to help train more VE teams on the process," NE1AR President Bob Phinney, K5TEC, told ARRL. "We have now tested 12 applicants and are still working on

streamlining the process. We are working with the software developer of the exam delivery system to help them adapt the system for video-supervised testing."

With pressure continuing to build to provide testing compatible with COVID-19 guidelines and stay-home orders, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma has asked the amateur radio community to be patient. "Please remember that with the introduction of significant new processes such as these, that there should be proof of concept, establishment of protocols and procedures, and beta testing, before expanding to a larger audience," she said this week. Somma said video-supervised exam sessions require a different skillset than in-person exam administration, and not all teams will be equipped to deliver video exams right away.

"ARRL is pleased to be one of the leaders in providing an opportunity, although limited initially, for video-supervised exams in this time of social distancing and isolation required by the current health situation," Somma said. Read [more](#).

A recent article mentioned that weddings are being conducted remotely in some locations, so why not ham exams? -.ed

<https://www.engadget.com/new-york-video-conference-weddings-030731855.html>

DX Doin's de Larry

Hello DX fans. This is a good time to STAY AT HOME and work the stay at home special dx stations.

Stay healthy 73, Larry WB2UFO

4J0/4K0, AZERBAIJAN (Special Event). Members of the Federation of Radio-sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan (FRS) will activate two special event stations 4J0STAYHOME and 4K0STAYHOME during the COVID-19 crisis. Length of activity was not mentioned. QSL via DC9RI (DARC or direct).

CN20, MOROCCO (Special Event). Operators Mohammadia/CN8AM, Agadir/CN8ATM, El Kelâa des Sraghna/CN8AV, Rabat/CN8KD, Oujda/CN8MAA, Bejaâd/CN8MM, Casablanca/CN8PA, Marrakech/CN8QR, Kenitra/CN8SG, Agadir/CN8VO and Meknes/CN8WW will be using the COVID-19 Awareness special event callsign CN20SH (for StayHome) until April 30th. QSL via RW6HS.

DX0, THE PHILIPPINES. Members of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association will activate special event station DX0STAYHOME "for the duration of the community quarantine in the Philippines." Eddie, DU1EV, informs, "We encourage everyone to stay home and operate their amateur radio stations." QSL via DX1PAR.

EY, TAJIKISTAN. Nodir, EY8MM, informs OPDX that "after 10 years of being QRT, the EY Hams can now operate on the 50 MHz band again. Analog broadcasting on Ch1 has been stopped early 2020." He also informs that his EY8MM 6m station setup is fully operational. Nodir has already started EME activity and will be active in the upcoming Es season. SPECIAL QSL NOTE. Nodir states, "Please note that my QSL Manager K1BV is temporary not accepting QSL cards direct or by the Bureau. Please refrain from sending cards until further information is announced. I will upload QSOs to LoTW on regular basis." See about K1BV under "QSL INFO AND NEWS."

GB1, ENGLAND (Special Event). John, GI7SBF, will be active as GB1HSC (Health and Social Care) from Lisburn starting April 20th, and will run for 28 days. This is to show support for all the front-line staff during this difficult time. It's not just for the health workers, but also all of the other emergency services and the key workers who are keeping our countries going. He will be active on 20-10 meters and also UHF/VHF (he hopes to add 40m very soon) on both SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via his home callsign, direct, eQSL or LoTW.

GB1, NORTHERN IRELAND (Special Event). Stevie, MI0GTA, has activated special event station GB1SOS from Co Derry until May 11th. Activity is to thank all health care workers (Doctors, Nurses, and other Medical Professional workers) who are putting their lives at risk every day during this pandemic crisis. Operations will be on 20-10 meters using SSB (if conditions allow.) No 80/40m; no antenna for the lower bands there due to no room for those antennas. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

HG20, HUNGARY (Special Event/Award). The Hungarian Radioamateur Society (MRASZ) announces a special radio activity for the period during the COVAN-19 virus threat. Their aim is to raise awareness of the threat of the epidemic and to promote the importance of Staying-at-Home, in order to put an end to this emergency as soon as possible. During the activity, look for the following 5 stations, of which the last two letters add up the words STAY AT HOME: HG20ST, HG20AY, HG20AT, HG20HO and HG20ME. Each station must be contacted in two different, freely selectable modes in any of the shortwave amateur radio bands. Fulfilling this condition will be rewarded with a downloadable commemorative award! The activity has started on April 15th and is planned to end on May 15th at 2400 UTC. Confirmed contacts can be checked and award can be downloaded at: <http://www.mrasz.org>
Award rules are available at: <http://www.mrasz.org/stay-at-home/award-rules>

HZ, SAUDI ARABIA (6m News). The Saudi Amateur Radio Society (SARS) has announced that HZ radio amateurs can now use the 50-54MHz band with a maximum power of 50w. The first contacts took place on April 2nd.

SPECIAL STAY AT HOME STATIONS/ACTIVITIES (Updated/Corrections). Many more special event stations have hit the airwaves (or soon will be) to promote individuals to "STAY-AT-HOME" and raise awareness for the restrictions necessary to fight the spread the coronavirus. List also includes special event stations to thank all health and medical workers. Here is a checklist of stations announced to be active:

4J0STAYHOME (Azerbaijan)	OH8PYSYKOTONA (Finland)
4K0STAYHOME (Azerbaijan)	OH9PYSYKOTONA (Finland)
4MSTAYHOME (Venezuela)	OH0STAYHOME (Aland Island)
5B4STAYHOME (Cyprus)	OH1STAYHOME (Finland)
8A1HOME (Indonesia)	OH2STAYHOME (Finland)
8A1STAYHOME (Indonesia)	OH3STAYHOME (Finland)
8C2STAYHOME (Indonesia)	OH4STAYHOME (Finland)
9K9STAYHOME (Kuwait)	OH5STAYHOME (Finland)
A60SH/1 [SH=StayHome] (U.A.E.)	OH6STAYHOME (Finland)
A60SH/2 (United Arab Emirates)	OH7STAYHOME (Finland)
A60SH/3 (United Arab Emirates)	OH8STAYHOME (Finland)
A60SH/4 (United Arab Emirates)	OH9STAYHOME (Finland)

A60SH/5 (United Arab Emirates)	OO7STAYHOME (Belgium)
A60SH/6 (United Arab Emirates)	OP2STAYHOME (Belgium)
A60SH/7 (United Arab Emirates)	OP6STAYHOME (Belgium)
A60SH/8 (United Arab Emirates)	OQ4ANGELS (Belgium)
A60SH/9 (United Arab Emirates)	OR2STAYHOME (Belgium)
A60SH/10 (United Arab Emirates)	OR20STAYHOME (Belgium)
A60SH/11 (United Arab Emirates)	OR4STAYHOME (Belgium)
A60SH/12 (United Arab Emirates)	OR8STAYHOME (Belgium)
A60SH/13 (United Arab Emirates)	OS0STAYHOME (Belgium)
A60STAYHOME (United Arab Emirates)	OT2STAYHOME (Belgium)
A69STAYHOME (United Arab Emirates)	OT20STAYHOME (Belgium)
AX2020STAYHOME (Australia)	OT6STAYS SAFE (Belgium)
CN20SH (Morocco)	OT7STAYS SAFE (Belgium)
CQ8STAYHOME (Azores)	PC6STAYHOME (The Netherlands)
CR2STAYHOME (Azores)	PR2STAYHOME (Brazil)
CT1STAYHOME (Portugal)	R3STAYHOME (European Russia)
CV7STAYHOME (Uruguay)	SZ3STAYHOME (Greece)
DX0STAYHOME (Philippine)	TC1STAYHOME (Turkey)
E2STAYHOME (Thailand)	VC2STAYHOM (Canada)
E7STAYHOME (Bosnia & Herzegovina)	VC3STAYHOM (Canada)
GB1HSC [Health & Social Care] (England)	VE9HOME (Canada)
	VI2020STAYHOME (Australia)
GB4SAH [SAH=Stay-At-Home] (England)	W4IPC/STAYHOME (United States)
GB5NHS [NHS=National Health Service] (England)	XM2STAYHOM (Canada)
	YO19STAYHOME (Romania)
HZ1STAYHOME (Saudi Arabia)	YS1STAYHOM1 (El Salvador)
IX1HPN/STAYHOME (Italy)	YS1STAYHOM2 (El Salvador)
KC1KUG/STAYH (United States)	YS1STAYHOM3 (El Salvador)
OH0PYSYKOTONA (Finland; "Pysy kotona" means StayHome in Finnish)	YS1STAYHOM4 (El Salvador)
	YS1STAYHOM5 (El Salvador)
OH1PYSYKOTONA (Finland)	YS1STAYHOM6 (El Salvador)
OH2PYSYKOTONA (Finland)	Z30STAYHOME (North Macedonia)
OH3PYSYKOTONA (Finland)	Z39STAYHOME (North Macedonia)
OH4PYSYKOTONA (Finland)	Z60STAYHOME (Kosovo)
OH5PYSYKOTONA (Finland)	ZW5STAYHOME (Brazil)
OH6PYSYKOTONA (Finland)	ZW8THANKS (Brazil)
OH7PYSYKOTONA (Finland)	

QSL via operator's instructions or check to see if the QSL info is listed above under "QSL INFO AND NEWS". ADDED NOTE: If you missed the special bulletin OPDX.1459.1 (<http://papays.com/opdx1459.1.html>), the Finnish Amateur Radio League (SRAL) is providing a number of special awards during these Stay-At-Home "OH" operations (as well as other countries signing STAYHOME that qualified) which runs through July 8th. Complete details can be found in OPDX.1459.1 or on the SRAL Web page at:

<https://www.sral.fi/2020/04/07/finland-stay-home>

PRESS RELEASE (Update, dated April 16th)[edited]: FROM THE FINNISH AMATEUR RADIO LEAGUE (SRAL) -- TWENTY-FIVE (25) COUNTRIES ACTIVE IN STAYHOME PROGRAM: ADXG, Araucaria DX Group of Brazil has donated the winner's trophy to STAYHOME program's SHA award, with highest number of STAYHOME stations

contacted. Also the highest number up to three (3) less than achieved maximum will be awarded. www.qrz.com/db/OH2STAYHOME

This announcement was released in honor of Oms, PY5EG, being the first one to work all ten (10) STAYHOME prefixes from Finland from where more than 12,000 QSOs were already handed out. Youngest participants is 14-year-old Ville, OH1UDC, with more than 400 QSOs under his belt. <https://www.qrz.com/db/OH1UDC>

As many are lacking some prefixes, all of them will be activated this coming Saturday, April 18th, 1100-1400 UTC on SSB 14250-14270 kHz. This includes rare OH9STAYHOME prefix from Lapland (OH9BS) who is QRV thru list operation. Please contact the net control via email; sked@sral.fi.

SZ3, GREECE (Special Event). Members of the Association of Radio Amateurs of the Western Peloponnese (ERDYP) be active as SZ3STAYHOME in the area of Patras (KM08) to assist/aware everyone about war against Covid-19 and to Stay-Home and Stay-Safe during this health crisis. QSL via LoTW, e-QSL or QRZ.com. Online log at: http://www.hamlog.eu/Log_list_*SZ3STAYHOME Visit the ERDYP Web page at: <http://erdyp.gr/?p=1592>

W2, UNITED STATES (Special Event). Look for special event station W2H to be operating during its inaugural year in honor of "World PH Day 2020." On May 5th, W2H will operate on 80/40/20 meters using SSB, FT8/FT4 (normal frequencies), as well as other bands/modes as conditions permit. Check the QRZ.com page for a more detailed operating schedule.

WHAT IS WORLD PH DAY? Every year on May 5th, pulmonary hypertension organizations and groups around the world participate in World Pulmonary Hypertension Day activities to raise awareness of this frequently mis-diagnosed disease and celebrate the lives of people living with PH. World PH Day brings global attention to the importance of improving the quality of life and raising the life expectancy of the more than 25 million people living with PH worldwide.

W4, UNITED STATES (Special Event). Special event station W4M ("Whiskey 4 Moonshine") is now active until April 30th. Activity is to commemorate (not celebrate) the 100 year anniversary of the beginning of Prohibition by celebrating the Moonshine Heritage of Franklin County. Operations will be on 160/80/40/20/15/10 meters (depending upon volunteers preferences and equipment) using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. Their operations will take place primarily in Franklin and surrounding counties in Virginia. QSL via AF2T. For more details, visit their Web site at: <http://www.whiskey4moonshine.com>

XU, CAMBODIA. Chenxing, BG9XD, is now active as XU7AMG from Phnom Penh until June 14th. Activity will be on 80/40/20/15/10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via BG9XD direct.

ZW8, BRAZIL (Special Event). Operators Freddy/PY3YD, Joselito/PS8BR, Fernando/PS8CW, Raimundo/PS8DX, Jose/PS8ET, Milton/PS8HF, Nelson/PS8NF, Pirajah/PS8RF, Dalton/PS8TV and Andre/PT9AL are using the special event callsign ZW8THANKS as a tribute to health care professionals fighting COVID-19. Activity will be on all bands and modes including the satellites. QSL via direct, eQSL or LoTW.

Evolution of a Phonetic Alphabet

Do you operate voice modes? Welllll....yes...you probably do. Even if you don't, here are some suggestions and explanations as to why you might need "phonetics" -ed

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/best-spelling-alphabet>

For the astronomers out there:

Keeping up with the latest astronomy news in the stargazing app #StarWalk.

<https://starwalk.space/news/april-2020-comet-c-2019-y4-atlas>

Dave Scranton

From *The ARRL Contest Update for April 1, 2020*

A Time of Disruption for Multi-Multi Contesting

Whether by rule, law, decree, or "strong suggestion," gathering as a group has been essentially banned as part of the measures to control the COVID-19 pandemic. This means the halt of traditional multi-operator efforts, where radio operators travel to gather at a single location for a weekend of contesting. For the foreseeable future, traditional multi-multi stations may have to change to a focus on single-operator efforts.

Disruption forces adaptation, and with that comes opportunity to change methods and practices. Last weekend's CQ WW WPX Phone contest might be exemplary. As of this writing, NR6O and WW2DX are the only stations [reporting multi-multi efforts on 3830scores](#), and they did so by operating remotely. What's more, WW2DX may have captured a new record in the CQ WW WPX event with over 7,600 contacts and over 32 million points claimed.

WW2DX's all-remote effort is especially noteworthy. Reading their "soapbox" comments on 3830, we see that the team solved a number of hardware issues and, in the days before the contest, built a full-featured web-based contest logging program that worked well enough to support their operations for the entire weekend. None of their operators needed to travel to the location of the transmitters, yet they were able to work as a cohesive team.

Until restrictions on gatherings are relaxed, this is a winning model for multi-multi efforts. Perhaps this is also the model of future big-gun multi-multi stations.

One of the most important station requirements is a good, quiet location. Other components include big towers, many antennas, great radios, and impeccable engineering to get it to all play together. For the traditional major contests in the US, a Maine location near saltwater is a big advantage, but many of those areas are so remote as to be impractical for weekend on-site gatherings.

Those radio-friendly locations with limited access are made accessible via remote, last weekend a further confirmation that the contest operators don't need to be on-site to win and set new records. There isn't a need for an on-site building for humans, which means resources normally devoted to human habitation can instead go toward building the station. Without humans to feed, it's not so important that the nearest town isn't that near.

The cost and time commitment for operators to participate in a multi-multi contest weekend is reduced because travel to the station location is no longer necessary. The pool of potential operators is larger for that same reason. WW2DX had three teenagers remotely participating from North Carolina and Virginia, and they were *virtually* working alongside seasoned operators. Collectively, we're always looking for a way to get more young people into contesting -- this leveled-up playing field for multi-multi favors younger contesters, because they're already used to doing everything via the internet.

Hamvention QSO Party

The Dayton Hamvention for 2020 has been [cancelled](#). WWROF, in cooperation with the Hamvention organizers, wanted to create a fun way for people to celebrate the Hamvention experience over the air - the Hamvention QSO Party.

In memory of Ron, W8ILC, who became a silent key just two days after the Hamvention 2020 cancellation announcement. Ron had attended every Hamvention since the beginning.

This is a 12 hour fun event on Saturday of Hamvention May 16, 2020.

Object: To celebrate the Dayton Hamvention by working as many Amateur stations as possible during the QSO Party period.

Contest period: 8 AM to 8 PM EDST (1200 to 2400 UTC), May 16, 2020

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters CW and SSB - You can work the same station once per band mode (12 QSOs possible with same station).

Exchange: Signal report and first year you attended Hamvention. If you have never attended Hamvention send "2020".

Entry Categories: Only single operator entries - you may use assistance such as the cluster and the reverse beacon network (RBN). No self-spotting.

There are three power levels:

- QRP - no more than 5 watts
- Low Power - No more than 100 watts
- High Power - no more than 1500 watts.

Scoring: Score is number of QSOs + bonus points = final score. There are no multipliers.

Special bonus points:

W8BI, the club call of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA is the host of Hamvention) will be activated by DARA members from their home stations. You can add 10 points for each band mode QSO with W8BI (12 available). So you can earn 120 bonus points (this is like having 120 additional QSOs)

To Enter: Post your score at 3830scores.com within 5 days of the event (May 21, 2020). No logs are required.

Awards: An online certificate will be available to all stations that post a score before the deadline.

Questions: Contact Tim Duffy, K3LR, k3lr@k3lr.com

From *The ARRL Letter*:

New Volunteer Monitor Program is Up and Running

After kicking off on January 1, the new [Volunteer Monitor Program](#) has ramped up to operational status. A "soft rollout" of the program began on February 1, designed to familiarize Volunteer Monitors (VMs) with issues on the bands and to put into practice what to report -- and what to ignore, based on their training. The VMs will not only be looking for operating discrepancies, but for examples of good operating. The VM program has, at least for the moment, put Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, back in the center of amateur radio enforcement as the Volunteer Monitor Coordinator (VMC). He was brought aboard to get the program up and running, and ARRL will eventually take over the VMC function.

Hollingsworth is using a system called *VMTRAC* -- developed by a VM -- to measure the work of VMs and determine instances that qualify for good operator or discrepancy notices, referral to the FCC, or follow-up with FCC requests to the VM program. Hollingsworth reported that during March, the 165 active VMs logged upward of 2,300 hours of monitoring on HF, and nearly 2,000 hours on VHF-UHF and other frequencies.

"I am extremely pleased with the number of hours devoted to monitoring this early in the program," Hollingsworth said. No stone is being left unturned. Two VMs constantly monitor FT8 watering holes and have developed programs that alert them if a licensee is operating outside of privileges accorded to that license class or if a license has expired. "We have 30 open cases, five of which are good operator cases," Hollingsworth said. "Regarding open cases relating to rule violations, none have yet had to be referred to the FCC." He said he's experimented with letters, telephone calls, or emails to the subjects of discrepancy reports where they could be identified. While he's still waiting for replies to his written correspondence, he has received responses to his calls and

emails, and the violations have either stopped or were explained. "They were violations such as expired licenses, Technicians operating on General frequencies, unauthorized use of a call sign, and deliberate interference," he said.

One case "being groomed for FCC referral," he said, involves long-standing interference to a repeater in the Philadelphia area by someone using an unauthorized call sign. Hollingsworth said he worked with net control operators of nets on 75 and 40 meters that had been suffering serious interference, and so far the solutions are working.

"It is becoming apparent that if informal contact can be made by the VMC with a known offender, the problem can sometimes be stopped," Hollingsworth said. "We do not want to call upon the FCC unless absolutely necessary." Read [more](#).

Some anti-boredom stuff from NG9R and W9PQD

Bored, looking for something to do besides watching Netflix? Here are a few links to some reading that might appeal to you;

<http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/DocumentStore/20200331122728oXhxY0QQYg.PDF>

<https://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/>

<https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/history/amateur-ham-radio/history.php>

<https://wb3gck.com/page/1/>

<https://hackaday.io/projects?tag=ham%20radio>

I think you could spend months getting through all the issues of 73 magazine here;

<https://archive.org/details/73-magazine>

There are a lot of nets on 75 meters that many around here are active in.

The Breakfast Club is on every morning from 5:00 AM through 8:00 AM on 3.973 MHz, you will find several familiar calls if you listen in.

The North Central Phone Net is on 3.912 MHz at 7:00 AM local time Every day

The Illinois Phone net is on 3.857 at 4:49 PM local time Monday through Friday.

The Illinois Sideband net is held every day on 3.905 MHz and 6:00 PM local time.

The Illinois ARES state HF net is held the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month on 3.905 MHz at 4:30 PM local time. It also takes check-ins via EchoLink on node WB0VTM-L and the Illinois Link via Fusion, DMR, D-STAR and a couple of other digital voice modes.

WIARC member Joe Huie, K2PEY, winters in Florida and is on 20 meters every morning on or about 14.242 MHz. Joe is a student of propagation and would love to hear from you if you hear him on. When Joe returns home, he still gets on 20 meters every morning, then proceeds to lower bands to check propagation. I saw that AA9GL had a QSO with Joe this past week, give Joe a call if you hear him.

Bob, NB4C, a past WIARC President and current club member, is a resident in Florida and Bob would not mind hearing from hams in the Quincy area, especially if you worked for Harris. Bob is a member of this list and if you want to set up a schedule with him, I am sure he will respond here if you are interested.

Danny NG9R

For amazing radio tech reading go to AmericanRadioHistory.com for early broadcast and amateur radio magazines from the early 1900s on. More than you can ever all of it.

73, Olin Shuler W9PQD

Something else to help keep you occupied while we wait out the current pandemic;

In the past few years, the ARRL made QST available in a digital format to members. They recently added a new, digital only magazine, On the Air.

Starting with the current issues, ARRL members can now read QEX and NCJ online in digital formats.

More can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-magazines>

Danny NG9R

Welcome to the WIMSPRINT

What: Western Illinois Monthly Sprint

Purpose: Get WIARC members on the air

Eligible entrants: Any WIARC member

How: Operate and report a four-hour activity period of your choosing.

Proposed Rules:

During the first 20 days of the month, get on the air!

Pick any four-hour contiguous period of operation for your entry. Operate as much as you want, but select the period you want to “score”.

Each QSO, regardless of band or mode, is one point. The “exchange” is the location of the station contacted.

Multipliers: The total of states, provinces and DXCC countries contacted. (Later editions may use grids, counties or prefixes for multipliers; I’m open to suggestions!)

You may contact the same station on multiple bands and modes during your chosen 4-hour period.

Unlike “real contests”, you may verify the station’s QTH using web searches. You may also self-spot and include repeater QSOs. Like I said, the idea is to get on the air....

Scores due to n9jf@arrl.net at 0100z on the 22nd of the month. You score your log and send me the result, including bands and modes used and most interesting QSO. This way, I can get the results into the next newsletter.

Scores each month will be reported in *The Feedline* along with stories and details.

Results of the April 2020 WIMSPRINT

The proposed rules for this club activity were tossed out on the reflector a couple of weeks ago, and I’ve received three entries for April.

By the way, if you are not subscribed to the WIARC Reflector, you should be! <https://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/wiarc> If you want only one e-mail a day, subscribe to the Digest version.

From NR9Q: Here is what I came up with my 4-hour operation period. This was a lot of fun as I choose to try out a new mode that I had not been involved with before. FT4 is a very fast mode to operate and I would look forward to using something like this in a contest environment when I have a chance to. I have seen mention of contest being tried with this mode, with one scheduled in the UK coming up. I would need to see about getting this integrated with N1MM. This would not be to hard to get done. I have recently learned a fair amount about WSJT-X and getting it to all work with JTAlert and with logging software.

129 QSOs
DX: 18
States: 31
Provinces: 6
Total Mults: 55
Final Score: 7095

From K0CA:

There was one positive thing about Covid-19, not a positive test result, but the chance to operate in the MO QSO Party. In one 4-hour period, I worked 60 QSOs, with 6 multipliers (US, VE, DL, HA, OK, and F), for a score in WIMSPRINT of 360.

There was another 4-hour period in MO QSO Party where I had 109 Q's and 8 mult's (US, VE, SP, DL, OM, OK, HA and F) for a total WIMSPRINT score of 872.

My total for the MO QSO Party was 217 QSOs and a claimed score of 23,149.

From N9JF:

55 contacts @ 1 point = 55 points (almost all FT4 and FT8, one CW, mostly 40m with a few on 80 and one on 20)

DX: 6 (USA, VE, Spain, France, Azores, Italy)

States: 21 (OR, IL, NC, MA, LA, VA, NJ, VT, WV, TX, CT, NH, AZ, PA, AL, RI, UT, OH, NY, FL, OK)

Provinces: 1 (ON)

Total multipliers: 28

Score: 55 x28 = 1540 points

If you're still with us....

This month's issue has a lot of contributions from club members, and *I THANK YOU!*

In the interest of safety, and in line with expressed government guidelines and various restrictions from organizations, the May 2020 WIARC meeting *HAS BEEN CANCELED*. *Keep in touch with the club via the weekly net and the club reflector. We'll hope to be working our way back to "normal" in June!* -ed.

Western Il. Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 3132 Quincy, IL 62305-3132



At this writing, the May meeting at ARC has been canceled. Check into the Wednesday night nets to remain connected with the club!

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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D-STAR 446.89375/441.89375

ILLINOIS QSO PARTY

Newsletter input due by the 20th of the preceding month

Editor Jim Funk N9JF n9jf@arrl.net