
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 44, Issue 7 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club July 2020

Presidential Musings de K9FHX

This is pretty difficult for me to write because The Western IL Amateur Radio Club means a lot to me. This great club holds a lot of my childhood memories from the days when my father W9SSP (Chuck) was a member and I was a preteen. I'm moving to Greenwood In. in order to be closer to some of my family. I have a Daughter and a Son plus grandchildren and great-grandchildren all within a few miles of my new home. I fully intend to keep my membership with W9AWE but I can no longer serve as an officer in the club being so far away. It has been a very great honor for to have held the presidency of WIARC for the last 3 years, and I want to thank all the members who have stepped up to help out in many areas. Without these great members we would not have much of a club and I would have not had any success.

I'm thinking about July 15th would be a good and proper time for me to be replaced. I'm hoping that our vice president would be able to take over then. I believe Chris is very good for the club, and I would be happy to asset him or anyone in any way. I plain on keeping my membership and plus I hope to work some club members when I get my station set up.

My new email, k9fhx2@gmail.com

[309-236-7592](tel:309-236-7592)

337 Stoneybrook Grove Drive

Greenwood Ind. 46142

Much DX,

David, k9fhx, 73

Note from the editor: Dave, you have been a great influence within WIARC. While we understand your reasons for moving, we will miss you greatly!

I've taken the occasion to quote from the club Constitution regarding vacancy of office. It would appear that since Dave's announcement is effective July 15, we would probably want to act to fill the office of club President at our August meeting. Let's hope we might be able to meet in person by then!! De N9JF

Section 7. VACANCY OF OFFICE. Vacancies occurring for any reason shall be filled by nomination and election at the next regular meeting. Notice of such election shall be given at the previous regular meeting and sent by US Mail or by electronic means to each member in good standing at least five days before the date specified for such election. The term of the replacement officer shall end at the time the original officers' term would have ended.

Moved and Seconded

The June meeting of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club was called order by NG9R at 7 PM by conference call set up by N9JF with the following members present: KE7RR, NG9R, KB9YN, W9EMR, K9VXD, NR9Q, KB9FIN, W9WE, KB9CES, N9JF, W9WEB, NB4C, AB9DU, N9BZ, and WA9GBC.

Treas. K9VXD explained a year to date financial statement for the club showing \$1232.14 income and \$1071.11 expenses. \$880 2020 dues were paid, \$100 for 2021 and \$20 for 2022. KB9YN moved that the report be accepted, AB9DU seconded, it was voted upon and passed unanimously.

K9VXD also reported he had received new member applications from Brad Florea, KD9OOK, Tom Ague, KB9LDE, and Rodney Walton, K0AGN. KB9FIN moved that all 3 be accepted into membership, KB9YN seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion began with regard to the August Hamfest. KB9YN suggested that if it were to be held, he wants help in the same positions as last year. N9JF suggested it not be held because of too many unknowns involving the Covid-19 pandemic. Additional discussion followed. KB9YN moved and N9JF seconded that the 2020 edition of the Hamfest not be held. The motion passed with no opposition. The Paloma Community Center and the ARRL will be notified of the cancellation.

NG9R reported that for field day this year, the club will not meet as a group but class D stations are allowed to work each other for points because of the Covid 19 pandemic. A class D station is a home station with the home station power and antennas. N9JF will meet with K0CA of the Hannibal club to discuss whether any type of club competition or combined scoring will be done.

NR9Q and NG9R reported that the poor performance on the 443.900 repeater was an antenna problem that had been fixed by disconnecting its antenna and substituting the one from the 441.89375 D-star repeater. The repeater board will be working on the situation.

<u>Net control stations:</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Net Control</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
	June 10	N9JF	94
	June 17	NG9R	443
	June 24	W9EMR	94
	July 1	NG9R	443
	July 8	N9JF	94
	July 15	NG9R	443
	July 22	W9EMR	94
	July 29	N9JF	443
	August 5	NG9R	94

The meeting adjourned on motion by AB9DU, properly seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
W9EMR, Secretary

ARRL VE Testing

From W9WE:

Planning to test again in few months. Depending on government mandates. Please review and pass along to others.

I don't know if you're interested in getting online testing. If so look 👁👁 at these. These people are already set up for testing online. I don't want to reinvent the wheel. So I am not planning on starting online option . Looks like plenty of test available. 73 W9WE

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions>

Dave Scranton

DX and such:

Greetings to all the DX'ers in the Western Illinois ARC and Hannibal MO ARC. I'm pinch-hitting again this month for Larry WB2UFO, who is recovering from surgery at Mayo's. As I've mentioned before, there's lots of good DX news available free on the Internet, thanks to the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin and 425 DX News. Much of the news of June and July DX activity which I'll mention in this bulletin comes from these sources.

5X, Uganda. M0KRI is planning to be on the air as 5X1RI from late July to mid-August.

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. Look for A60CH by the Emirates ARS. QSL via EA7FTR.

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. Additional operations by Emirates ARS include 12 stations with the suffix NMT during the COVID-19 pandemic.

AT2, INDIA. Look for special events stations AT0II and AT2SON through August 18, to spread awareness and show gratitude for COVID-19 warriors during the pandemic.

CO200, CUBA. Special event station CO2ooSMP will be on the air until June 30th, Members of the SMP Club will be on HF, using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via CO2AME direct.

DXCC NEWS. The 2019 DXCC Yearbook is now available for download. The yearbook includes the 2019 Annual List and Clinton B. DeSoto Challenge top scorers for 2019. To view and/or download, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/DXCCYearbook/2019%20YEABOOK%20COMPLETE.pdf>

FT8DMC ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITY. Several special event stations will be active between July 1-31, celebrating the 3rd anniversary of the "FT8 Digital Mode Club." See the OPDX Bulletin for a list of the stations which will be active.

G, ENGLAND. GB100RS will be operating from England between June 28 and August 8. They will then move to Northern Ireland August 9 to September 5, and later to Wales and Scotland.

HB, Switzerland. A special event station HB15SOTA plans to be on the air from May 8, 2020 through May 8, 2021.

HD8, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS. For you IOTA chasers, members of the "DX Friends Team" plan to cooperate as HD8R from San Cristobal Island (SA-004)

KG4, GUANTANAMO BAY. Miguel, W1SRR will be deployed in Guantanamo Bay sometime in mid June for a year. He will be active as KG4MA.

V4, ST. KITTS Listen for V47JA by W5JON between June 11 and July 2.

VK, Australia. Look for VI110WIA from June 1 to December 31, 2020, celebrating the oldest Amateur Radio Society.

VP8, FALKLAND ISLAND. VP8HDM/A plans to operate between June 20-21 and 27-28.

VU, INDIA. Utsav VU3ZIG will sign AT2SON through August 18.

ZS, SOUTH AFRICA. Listen for ZS1820S for the rest of 2020, put on by the Port Elizabeth ARS.

ARRL FIELD DAY. June 27-28. It's not DX news, but take a break from chasing DX and chase all the Field Day stations on the air this weekend. See the information about the C

73 and good DX,
Cliff K0CA

Temporary Rule Waivers Announced for 2020 ARRL Field Day

05/28/2020

With one month to go before 2020 ARRL Field Day, June 27 – 28, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) has adopted two temporary rule waivers for the event:

1) For Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.

Field Day rule 4.6 defines Class D stations as "Home stations," including stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations ordinarily may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E, and F Field Day stations, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows Class D stations to count contacts with other Class D stations for QSO credit.

2) In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions).

Ordinarily, club names are only published in the results for Class A and Class F entries, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows participants from any Class to optionally include a single club name with their submitted results following Field Day.

For example, if Podunk Hollow Radio Club members Becky, W1BXY, and Hiram, W1AW, both participate in 2020 Field Day — Hiram from his Class D home station, and Becky from her Class C mobile station — both can include the radio club's name when reporting their individual results. The published results listing will include individual scores for Hiram and Becky, plus a combined score for all entries identified as Podunk Hollow Radio Club.

The temporary rule waivers were adopted by the PSC on May 27, 2020.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar, with over 36,000 participants in 2019, including entries from 3,113 radio clubs and emergency operations centers. In most years, Field Day is also the largest annual demonstration of ham radio, because many radio clubs organize their participation in public places such as parks and schools.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many radio clubs have made decisions to cancel their group participation in ARRL Field Day this year due to public health recommendations and/or requirements, or to significantly modify their participation for safe social distancing practices. The temporary rule waivers allow greater flexibility in recognizing the value of individual and club participation regardless of entry class.

ARRL is contacting logging program developers about the temporary rule waivers so developers can release updated versions of their software prior to Field Day weekend. Participants are reminded that the preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the web applet. The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions for submitting entries after the event. Entries must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

The ARRL Field Day web page includes a series of articles with ideas and advice for adapting participation this year.

HARC/MARC Field Day 2020

As you all know, there will be no mass gathering of the two clubs for Field Day 2020 on the last rainy weekend in June (June 27 and 28). Field Day will, however, "occur". The event is still scheduled. See <http://www.arrl.org/field-day#rules>. Field Day is not (<ahem>) a contest. However, it has rules, points and bonuses. If nobody shows up, nobody has fun. Therefore, we want to help people "show up"!

Pursuant to that objective, K0CA and I have put our (virtual, socially-distanced) heads together and come up with the following suggestions and incentives:

- 1) Get on the air during the 27-hour Field Day period. Pick your favorite bands and modes and operating styles. Make contacts. Keep a log of some sort. There are many logging programs that do a good job of helping you document your FD activity, but *all you have to turn in is a "dupe sheet" showing a list of the stations worked on each band and mode*. The Rules page has all sorts of resources including a logging form.

- 2) Create an entry form and submit it to ARRL http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/4_01-2020%20Now%20what.pdf . If you have questions or issues doing this, contact n9jf@arrl.net or k0ca@arrl.net , and we will help you.
- 3) You will enter one of the designated categories listed in the Rules. You will also find a place to list your club. If you belong to both HARC and WIARC, you will need to choose one. Be sure to list the club name as follows: either HANNIBAL MO ARC or WESTERN IL ARC. *If the name doesn't match one of these, it won't count!* (But it's not <ahem> a contest....)
- 4) We will recognize the highest score from either club in the final published results in each of the designated categories with a certificate, and the club with the highest aggregate score will receive bragging rights (and probably nothing else, though we are open to suggestions....)

Congratulations, NM0S!

David Cripe, NM0S, is the new president of the QRP-Amateur Radio Club International ([QRP-ARCI](#)). He succeeds Preston Douglas, WJ2V, who had served as the club's president for more than 3 years

The Magic Band and ARRL VHF at N9JF

Six meters has been termed the “magic band” by various users of the spectrum over the years. In the far past, six was the “troublesome band” due to its proximity to one of the VHF TV channels (3?), and woe to the amateur who enthusiastically operated on 50-54 Mhz and incurred the wrath of local TV viewers.

For a variety of reasons, TVI isn't much of an issue on 6 now, though years ago I did turn on the touch lamp in my parents' bedroom if I operated on 6 and ran the amplifier. Our youngest daughter also complained that I came through the stereo in her bedroom; I think she may have exaggerated.

At any rate, one may call and listen on six for hours (days?) and never hear a peep out of anyone. Then....boom. There is something to be said for calling CQ on a “dead band” because if everyone is just listening, nobody works anybody. However, six is often truly “dead” unless you find a station close enough to work line-of-sight or ground wave. The excitement of F2 layer propagation is unlikely with the current solar flux numbers. In between, however, six meters offers some intriguing possibilities.

One of these is meteor scatter. Meteor “burns” generally are short-lived; but if you are quick and paying attention, you can complete a contest QSO on six with a meteor trail intermediary. Auroral propagation is another possibility. The presence of any aurora hard to predict. Watch the K index on WWV and check for aurora any time this number exceeds 4 or 5. There is also the opportunity to work stations within a couple of hundred miles on “tropo”.

The most usual type of “magic” on six meters, however, is sporadic E propagation. Small “E clouds” form in the ionosphere and are very refractive. The

propagation is termed “sporadic” because it moves around a lot and comes and goes with little notice. “Now you see it....now you don’t!” That’s the “magic” It’s most common from May until late summer in the Northern Hemisphere and usually occurs during daylight hours. Signals may be totally absent one minute and S9 or better the next. You may not hear anyone now, but leave the room for five minutes and come back to contact every zip code in New Jersey. (Ok, that’s a bit of an exaggeration, but not too much.....). Sometimes the ionized clouds align to provide double-hop or even triple-hop propagation on six, which makes communication of several thousand miles possible.

During the week, sporadic E openings may occur with few benefitting from them; but if they show up on a contest weekend, there is plenty to celebrate!

The weekend of June 14-15 was the latest ARRL VHF contest. I made no attempt to operate on any band except six meters, and I really didn’t put in a full-time effort. My recent operating style has been to try to work new counties (for 3rd time USACA), and I thought this would be a good chance to pick up a few.

Right off the bat, I had trouble getting my two logging programs to play nicely together. I use N1MM+ for general contest logging, and I use WSJT-X on FT8 and FT4. First of all, when I made an FT8 contact, N1MM+ complained that I was attempting to make a digital contact in a non-digital sub-band. (I wasn’t). Then with WSJT-X running, I couldn’t get N1MM+ to change to anything but CW. I wound up hand-entering the digital contacts into N1MM+ as “CW” on 50.313 Mhz and editing the log after the contest. I very nearly quit in disgust a couple of times but decided I would at least keep trying.

The FT modes can be really boring; on the other hand, there were times when there were no signals on CW or SSB, and FT8 was showing a lot of activity. I worked FT8 when I couldn’t find anything happening on other modes. There were a few times when I went to FT4 (50.318 Mhz) and found a few stations to work. FT4 is a LOT faster....nearly as fast as CW or SSB, but just not many were trying it. When the FT modes were getting crowded, it was time to move to CW or SSB. I had some nice runs on CW and some crazy ones on SSB.

On Saturday evening, our granddaughter, Keely came to visit. Keely just turned ten. She was on the air for “Kids’ Day” a couple of years ago, so she knew how to handle the microphone. We made up a script for her to call CQ, and I logged while she did the talking. We had an amazing hour of working stations all over the East Coast on SSB. She has a good “radio voice” and didn’t drop her voice or get too far from or too close to the microphone, did a good job of following the script or quick modifications thereof, and was very “coachable”. I think I may have a natural down the road....

About 90% of the stations I worked over the weekend were in the eastern USA and Canada. One that threw me gave grid GN37. I don’t think I ever worked a “G*” grid before! VO1FOG (love that callsign!) is in Coleys Point South, Newfoundland about 20 miles west of St. John’s. You could drive there...if you took the ferry from North Sydney, NS to Channel-Port aux Basques, NF. That’s probably not on our route this summer, but it would be fun!

Once in awhile, an Es cloud would pop up and provide an opening to the west. Especially late in the contest, I worked a few stations in Arizona, Utah, Idaho and Colorado and one each in Washington and northern California. I was surprised to hear

not a single station in Texas until the last hour and only a few in Florida. On the other hand, I imagine I may have contacted every county in New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island (hey...only five of them....). My log total for the weekend was 521 contacts and 112 grids, all on six meters. It won't "win anything", but it was a lot of fun!

The last several days, six has been open either to Europe or to Japan. If you have six meter capability, this is the time to get on the air! 73, Jim N9JF

June WIMSPRINT results

The WIMSPRINT rules were unchanged from last month except that multipliers were Maidenhead Grids. This will be the case in July as well to reflect the summer VHF/UHF activity. However, HF contacts also qualify for your score. You may use web resources to determine the grids of the stations contacted if necessary.

JUNE:

K0CA: 5 contacts, 5 grids for 25 points

N9JF: 209 contacts (one of the better 4-hour periods in ARRL VHF), 40 grids: 8360 points

NU7J: "Is zero too small?" "You reported it; I'll include it!"

NG9R: 551 points on 6 meters (29 QSOs in 19 grids on June 14)

KR9L: (op Keely) 20 contacts, 18 grids for 360 points (see below)

June 2020 Kids' Day at KR9L

It's been some time since the Liberty Radio Explorers call has been heard on the air, so it was time to make some noise on "Kids' Day". Keely was a willing victim (see ARRL VHF above....), and she put in a couple of hours following a script and improvising a little when necessary. It was fairly low-key, as the idea is to get the kid on the air, not wear them out and not scare them off. I think we accomplished those things and put a few calls in the KR9L logbook.

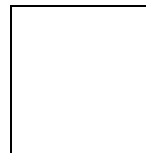
We "jumped the gun" a little. Kids' Day didn't officially begin until 1800Z on Saturday, but Keely needed to leave in the early afternoon. We began at about 1500Z instead. It isn't exactly a "contest".... The only "kid" who responded (from his dad's station) was seven-year-old Reni at XE1CQ. He didn't have much to say, but he did provide his name phonetically. Keely is getting the hang of phonetics, but she has trouble remembering that "Lima" goes with Peru, not with Illinois or with beans, when it comes to pronouncing it. Oh well...

She made a total of 20 contacts in Mexico, Canada and about a dozen states. The most interesting (to me) was VA3YKT, who spent 57 years teaching Aboriginal children in the Yukon. We traded a few stories about Yukon roads!

Keely is bummed that she is going to miss Field Day due to vacation. Things are rough all over.

Prior to Kids' Day, I tried raising the open-wire dipole to a more respectable height. I discovered 1) string breaks and 2) 30 minutes on a tower is now my limit!

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



July meeting: Wednesday July 1, 2020..

Place and time to be determined. Watch the club reflector and check the Wednesday night nets on 147.030/146.940/443.9 for information.

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

Sponsors of

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D-STAR repeater W9AWE on 147.795/.195

D-STAR 446.89375/441.89375

ILLINOIS QSO PARTY

Newsletter input due by the 20th of the preceding month

Editor Jim Funk N9JF

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