
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 44, Issue 9 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club September 2020

Da Prez Page (until he gives me another title for it.... .ed)

As some of you may know, as of last meeting we have elected a new President, myself (Chris, NR9Q) and Vice President (Danny, NG9R) to carry out the rest of this year's term. This will be the first time I have served in this position since I first joined the club back around 2009 if memory serves me right. As for Danny, I know he has served in many different positions in the club over the years. I will of course look to that experience as I start to try to keep on top of the business that is conducted in the club month to month. Along with Jim (N9JF) that has already been of great help to me at the last meeting. A big thanks to those guys for their help.

So here we are. Most of the summer has already passed us by, but that brings us to my favorite season: FALL! Temperatures are already looking better. As we all know, this has been a weird year that will largely remain in history books later on. This has also made it difficult to meet up and conduct business as usual. Besides the meetings, this has held up one big thing that has been on my mind that I am usually very involved with: tower climbing. We own a new antenna that the club purchased quite some time back. I have not forgotten about this, but the delay has lent me more time to get other things done on my list. This topic will probably stay as a quick mention at meetings until we get this put up in the air. Right now, the Red Cross does not really want us gathering onsite, I would assume. As soon as we can work to get an okay from the Red Cross and a team willing to gather, we will get this job off our list of business to handle.

As I will be making these writings for the newsletter, I will try to keep them informative. I would like to talk more on projects I have been working in radio. These would be easy topics for me to cover if I were as active as in the past. I do still have a GoBox I would like to get finished up before ILQP. This project still needs more parts and planning at the moment. I really hope more club members can get on this year and help activate more counties. One mention has been made by me in the past to try Rover this year. I think this would be a fun new experience for me. I have a new unused 25ft fiberglass mast that would be good for this and a stack of parts to build a linked dipole. I hope to find some time and motivation to start this soon. At the moment I have numerous things I have to work on with the Illinois Air Guard. That has still been keeping me very busy during this pandemic (more so than I had expected). I will write about this project if it starts to come together and may even add some pictures.

Hope there is not a word limit (sorry Jim). I do hope to hear more club voices on the repeaters throughout the month. I just got done with a job in Peoria replacing fiber connectors and tried repeaters all the way up and got nothing. I would like to think that someone would have picked up a random mobile coming through on our system. I do try to check in from time to time, so give me a call. 73, Chris Schulz, NR9Q

(nope...no word limit...that's the beauty of the web distribution! -.ed)

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the August WIARC meeting

(severely-edited version from N9JF)

The August WIARC meeting was held (in-person) at Twin Oaks Club in Quincy on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Vice-president NR9Q at 7 pm in the absence of President K9FHX who has moved to Indiana. A quorum of

members was present in-person, and at least six members called in on the conference line.

The club's new tri-bander is still in storage. Plans are being made to get it on the tower when the weather is a little cooler.

W9WE reported that VE testing will occur on August 22. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

ILQP plaques from 2019 are being produced and will be mailed ASAP.

In addition to committee reports, the major item of business was election of officers, first to replace K9FHX. NR9Q was nominated for the office of President. There were no other nominations. NR9Q was elected by acclamation. This created a vacancy in the office of Vice-President. NG9R was nominated for Vice-president. There were no other nominations. NG9R was elected by acclamation. These two officers will fill the remaining terms vacated, and the regular election of officers for 2021 will occur at the December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm. The next meeting will be held on September 2 with the location to be determined.

Net controls for the next month:

Sep 2nd, NG9R alt 146.94

Sep 9th, N9JF alt 443.90

Sep 16th, NR9Q alt 146.94

Sep 23rd, W9EMR alt 443.90

Sep 30th, N9DT alt 146.94

Oct 7th, NG9R alt 443.90

DX Info stolen from various sources by N9JF

SB DX ARL ARLD033 ARLD033 DX news

“This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.”

MEXICO, 6E. Ramon, XE1KK will be using special call sign 6E6E until December 31. He plans to use it in the CQWW DX SSB Contest in October and possibly in other contests. Most of his activity outside of the contests will be on FT8/FT4 on 160 to 6 meters. QSL via LoTW only.

GHANA, 9G. Matteo, IZ4YGS will be active as 9G5GS from Sanzule, until September 15. Activity will be limited to his spare time on 160 to 10 meters using mostly FT8 (F/H) and SSB. He will also be active through the QO-100 geostationary satellite, USB mode. He will update daily to ClubLog. QSL via LoTW, IZ4YGS direct or eQSL.

CHILE, CB33. Members of the Radio Club Eternautas (CE3ETR) are now active as CB33M until October 13. Activity is to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the August 2010 landslide in a mine in the north part of Chile where 33 miners were trapped for 3 months until their rescue was carried out. Operations will be on 80 meters through 70 cm using CW, SSB and digital modes FT8/FT4, JS8, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. QSL via PO BOX 12096, Santiago, Chile.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Makoto, JI5RPT will be active as JD1BLY from Chichijima Island (AS-031) from October 3 to 6. The schedule may change depending on the status of COVID-19. Activity will be on 630 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and the digital modes (No 6 meter EME). He will focus on the 630 meter band, 160 meter SSB, the RS-44 satellite and FT8 on the HF bands. 630 meter activity will be mainly on JT9. QSL via his home call sign.

HONG KONG, VR. Members of Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society (HARTS) will be active with special call sign VR2HK9O in celebration of the 90th anniversary of their Society. Operations have been on 20 meter SSB. QSL via VR2HK direct or by the Bureau.

CAMBODIA, XU7. Tad, JA1DFK will be active as XU7AKU and XU7AKV from Phnom Penh. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using mostly CW and SSB. QSL via JA1DXA or ClubLog's OQRS.

DENMARK, OZ. OZ200EM is on the air until the end of the year, honoring the memory of Hans Christian Orsted, who discovered the principle of electromagnetism 200 years ago. QSL via OZ1ACB.

CHATHAM ISLANDS, ZL7. Stuart, ZL3STU has moved to Canterbury on the Chatham Islands (OC-038) and now uses the call sign ZL7STU on 80 to 6 meter using SSB and FT8. QSL for both calls via M0OXO.

BONAIRE, PJ4. PJ4TEN is a special event station during October for the 10th anniversary of 10-10-10, the date the Netherlands Antilles was dissolved and Bonaire became a special municipality of the Netherlands and a new DXCC entity. QSL via M0URX direct, OQRS, or LoTW.

GREECE, SV. SV1AHH and SV1GGF will be QRV as SX1AFM from September 1 to 30, celebrating the 70 years of the Hellenic Air Force History Museum. They will be on 80 to 6 using all modes. QSL via qrz.com information.

TESTING OPPORTUNITY

ARRL VEC is open testing for upgrades or that first license. August 22, 2020 at 1 pm. Location is Bethel church 🏠 At 12th & Jefferson in Quincy, IL.

QUESTIONS?

w9we.lee@gmail.com 210-325-7923 Leave a message. New #'s are usually blocked.
W9WE Dave

FEATURED

Mission Statement for the ARRL Illinois Section

The ARRL is a global community that welcomes all amateur radio operators.

As your Illinois Section Manager I believe each of us has the power of ideas to change perceptions and attitudes and ultimately make our hobby better.

My goal is to build the fastest growing, most rewarding section and use our successes to inspire and implement solutions that will benefit all.

To that end, I will make it a priority for both individuals and clubs in our Section to recruit new members—especially from the growing number of technologically competent youths that represent a potentially new generation of amateur radio operators— who in many cases can be introduced to amateur radio through coordination between ARRL-affiliated Illinois radio clubs and local school districts. We will also be reaching out to those who may have let their ARRL membership lapse and to newly licensed hams unaware of the benefits of ARRL membership.

Thomas Beebe W9RY

NET SCHEDULE

The regular ARES statewide net meets the first and third Sunday's of each month on 3.905 Mhz LSB at 4:30pm local time. If necessary, the alternate frequency is 7.230 mhz LSB.

Starting on September 9, the Digital Voice Net will move to Wednesday evenings at 8:00 pm Central time. You can check in using the Illinois-Link Talk Group, #31171.

The Illinois Link Talk Group is connected to WIRES X Room 21565, DMR Talkgroup 31171, NXDN 31171,P25 31171,YSF Reflector Illinois Link 83132 , and on Dstar XLX, DCS, AND XRF 334G and Allstar 42810

Operating Activities in September (and beyond....)

It's impossible (well...impractical...) to list them all. If you want to see the full list, go to contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html. Here is a sample that might be of interest:

Sept 2 2300Z to Sept 4 2300Z

Dust off your straight keys! G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest

<https://www.fistsna.org/operating.html>

Sept 5 0000Z to Sept 6 2359Z

All-Asian DX Contest Phone (some prop on 15 and 20...you never know...)

https://www.iarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2020AA_rule.htm

Sept 5 1300z to Sept 6 0400Z
Colorado QSO Party (decent activity, quite a few counties)
<http://ppraa.org/coqp>

Sept 6 1800Z to Sept 7 0300Z
Tennessee QSO Party (good activity, good 40 meter distance from IL....)
<http://tnqp.org/rules/>

Sept 12 0000Z to Sept 13 2359Z
WAE DX Contest, SSB (lots of activity...see rules for the QTC thingie....)
<http://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/referat-conteste/worked-all-europe-dx-contest/en/>

Sept 12 0000Z to Sept 12 2359Z
Russian RTTY WW Contest (for the RTTY buffs out there)
<http://www.grz.ru/contest/detail/93>

Sept 12 1400Z-2200Z
Ohio State Parks on the Air (fun domestic activity)
<http://ospota.org/>

Sept 12 1400Z-Sept 13 0200Z and Sept 13 1400Z-2000Z
Texas QSO Party (lots of activity, 254 counties to work!)
<http://www.txqp.net/>

Sept 12 1500Z to Sept 13 0300Z
Alabama QSO Party (if you run out of TXQP stations to work...)
<http://www.alabamagsoparty.org/>

Sept 12 1800Z to Sept 14 0300Z
ARRL September VHF Contest (hope 6 meters opens!)
<http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

Sept 19 1400Z to Sept 20 0200Z
Iowa QSO Party (show our neighbors to the NW some respect!)
<http://www.w0yl.com/IAQP>

Sept 19 1600Z to 2300Z
Wisconsin Parks on the Air (there are a LOT of parks in Wisconsin!)
http://wipota.com/files/WIPOTA_contest_rules.pdf

Sept 19 1600Z to Sept 20 0700Z and Sept 20 1600Z to 2400Z
Washington State Salmon Run (lots of activity and you can win salmon!)
<http://www.wwdx.org/salmonrun/salmon-run-rules/>

October 18 1700Z to October 19 0100Z
ILLINOIS QSO PARTY!!!!
<http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP%202019%20Rules.pdf>
(These are the rules for 2019; no changes for 2020....)

How to win a state QSO party from out of state. De N9JF

If you've read this far in the September issue, it's possible you might be interested in state QSO parties. Most states have one, though in many cases they may co-op with other states for a regional party instead of, or in addition to, their own. Examples are 7QP and NEQP.

Some QSO parties are so poorly-attended that they might as well die a natural death. A special effort has been made in 2020 to give extra incentives for operating in, and reporting, state QSO parties; it will be interesting to see if this helped any of those on life support. Others are well-organized and extremely active. In most cases (California might be the exception), the life-blood of the QSO party is the mobile and portable operations. Most QSO parties allow activity on all non-WARC HF bands and some VHF and UHF. This is a "read-the-rules thing"; don't go to 80 meters in the Florida party and expect to find a lot of activity (there isn't any).

W9WE sent me the announcement of the Ohio QSO Party for this month's newsletter. However, it will be "over and done with" before this hits the web; and I neglected to say anything about it in the August issue. It is a very high-activity party and deserves our attention. Since I managed to win the out-of-state plaque in OQP not once, but twice, I thought I'd toss out some hints.....

- 1) **Pick your battles.** Based upon previous levels of activity, your available time, your goals and the likelihood of success, choose a contest that fits your situation.
- 2) **Gear up.** Be sure your station is optimized for the contest. If you are trying to work the California party, you'd better have antennas for the high bands. If you're going to do battle in Ohio or Pennsylvania, be sure your dipoles for the low bands are ready to go. Set up two radios if you can.
- 3) **Read the rules.** Few things are more discouraging than to get ready to send in your log and find out that you overlooked a rule that makes your log ineligible, kept you from using additional "tools" or that you missed part of the contest. (In one instance, I missed the *entire contest* by showing up a week late....) Be sure you know if there are differences in scoring for contacts on certain bands or modes so you can maximize your score. Some parties provide for multipliers on more than one mode.
- 4) **Clear your schedule.** You can have fun if you only operate half of the allotted time, but you are NOT going to win!
- 5) **Check activity plans.** Be sure you know which stations are going to be active in the target state, especially the routes of the announced mobiles. Catching or missing a few of those can make a huge difference in your score.
- 6) **Set your goals.** Based upon your previous experience and likely propagation, plan to reach certain point/multiplier totals at certain times. If it's not happening, try to figure out how you can step up your game.

- 7) **Keep your butt in the chair (BIC)! Time off is time lost and points lost. All you have to do is take a couple of breaks at the wrong times to lose contacts, especially with mobiles as they change counties.**
- 8) **Follow the mobiles. Not only do you need to know where they will be, you need to know approximately *when*, and you must keep track of which multipliers you still need. Learn the favorite frequencies of the active mobiles so you can find them quickly (before the pileup descends).**
- 9) **Use available tools. If you can legally use spotting sites, keep a window open so you can catch multipliers quickly. If you are using assistance, also spot stations you find.**
- 10) **Send in your log! If you don't, you're for sure not going to win anything!**

From ARLP033 Propagation de K7RA:

K9LA recently posted a survey of various solar cycle 25 predictions. Read it at http://k9la.us/Aug20_Cycle_25_Predictions.pdf . He also did a presentation at <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/> on the same subject. The material from that event will be up for a limited time, so catch it before it is gone on September 9. And Carl's Basic Concepts resource is always good for a review at http://k9la.us/html/basic_concepts.html .

Personally I like the prediction that promises a repeat of the epic Cycle 19 of the late 1950s. I was a small child then, but my father had a low-band FM 2-way radio mounted in his company car, probably operating somewhere between 30-40 MHz judging from my hazy memory of the length of the bumper mounted whip antenna.

We were in Reedley, California in the San Joaquin Valley, and he sold agricultural chemicals to farmers. He would use the radio to contact the office in Fresno, but at the peak of Cycle 19 local communications were often interrupted by skip from Texas and various states in the Midwest.

From correspondence I've received from readers, I know there were many new teen aged hams at that time, and many just assumed that the fantastic propagation of the day was normal. Many were disappointed by Cycle 20, which was when I got my Novice ticket.

So I think we are due for another big cycle, although this is purely emotional, and I try to avoid the Gambler's Fallacy. That is the name of the logical fallacy in which when observing a random series of events such as when spinning a roulette wheel, if we keep seeing the ball land on red over and over, then we are due for black to come up. But with independent random events, one result cannot predict the next.

July WIMSPRINT (a month late...)

N9JF (during IARU Radiosport) 20 and 40 meter CW; 2356Z July 12 – 0353Z July 13: 142 contacts in 96 grids: 13,692 points

August WIMSPRINT

WIMSPRINT reports have been scarce, to put it kindly. If there is no interest, I'll save the space for something else!

K0CA for August: 2 FT8 contacts in two grids for 4 points. Cliff might win it!

Update from K0CA: 14 Qs x 14 grids = 196 points!

**N9JF for August (Aug 1 2300Z to Aug 2 0259Z): 296 contacts, all CW (NAQP): 64 grids
Score: 18,944**

September WIMSPRINT

Just to complicate things, scoring for September will be QSOs x PREFIXES.....

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

**September meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 7pm
Location to be determined. Watch the club reflector and listen to Wednesday night nets 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**

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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
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