
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 44, Issue 12 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club December 2020

Important Notice concerning the December meeting:

The December WIARC meeting will be virtual via GoToMeeting, once again hosted by AB9QW. A link to this meeting will be sent via e-mail to club reflector prior to the meeting time.

It's critically important that we have a quorum for this meeting in order to properly conduct business, including the election of officers for 2021. If you are a voting member and cannot access the GoToMeeting link, please contact N9JF at 217/617-9881 or n9jf@arrl.net , and we will make other arrangements for you to join.

If there are contests for any of the offices, the plan (currently) is to designate two individuals as "Election Judges" who can receive votes from members via e-mail during the meeting and report ballot results. If anyone has a better plan, please contact W9DP ASAP!

From the President:

Hope everyone is healthy and avoiding the virus that has been making its way back up in numbers. I was successful in avoiding it myself while I was traveling recently in the Madison, WI area. All team members have made it home with no positive cases. I even took an extra test just before coming home just to be sure. I spent a couple months working at a COVID test site over the summer as some may know. I mention this as after going through the test site they had set up in Madison, I was very impressed with their operation. I did want to make the meeting as it was virtual. Being I was traveling, this would have really worked out for me. Of course, by the time I texted Danny, it was over already. We had some issues that came up, and I was slightly delayed in getting back to the hotel. This happened a few times, but everything still went very well.

I was told that a committee was put together for nominating new officers for the club. Thanks to all that volunteered for this. This is where I should mention that I do not plan to stay on as president for 2021. This is something that I do plan to do again in the future. Just when I am not as busy at home and focused on career progression with the IL ANG; and also when not traveling as often. It's less than 6 years until retirement if I retire at that time.

Also huge thanks to the ones that do take the time to keep the club affairs in order. These include just keeping up with memberships, events, repeaters running, club

station, newsletter, club finances and many other tasks. As everyone knows by now Dave, K9FHX is now a silent key and was a very big supporter of the club. I know I was looking forward to hearing him on the Illinois-Link on C4FM once he got everything set back up again. He will be missed.

On a topic of radio operating (have to do it, as it is my favorite thing to talk about most of the time), I did spend some time lately reading and watching videos about building digital hotspots. There are so many things that can be done. Even running a single radio for a simplex hotspot or two cheap FM radios and rolling your own high power duplex digital voice repeater are possibilities. You can also build the simple around-your-house-only hotspot with only mw's output. If you have interest in this, just let me know. I am fairly easy to find most of the time. I also try to stay very active on the local repeater and simplex 146.520.

I also just started using the JS8 mode in the past 12 hours or so. I'm not an expert with only two QSO's under my belt, but I do really like it so far. The summarized description of this mode is that it uses the same FT8 digital encoding to create digital free text conversation. It works very well for weak signal work it appears, as does the FT8. You do not have to be fast on the keyboard to use this mode. You're allowed to type ahead while it is transmitting as well. Normal mode (most common) speeds along at 16wpm. Four different speeds are available; it just increases or decreases the bandwidth for the given speed (wpm). The current max appears to be 40wpm in turbo mode (yes, that is the name it was given). I have not seen it used so far. Two operators with strong signals could move to this mode if mentioned in QSO. I did read the manual, and it is very well done and easy to understand. I would recommend reading through it some, or you will do what I did the first time and just push the mode aside. Once you understand the layout of the user interface, it's very easy to use. Just let me know if you have any interest in using this mode.

Opinions follow: I myself think taking the time to learn about these new modes and technologies (if affordable) as they come out is a great way to keep the hobby from getting stale (seems to help me so far). Not saying every new mode, but at least the ones that appear to be gaining serious popularity and look to be sticking around for some time. I do hope that these new innovations in the hobby keep coming for decades to come so the hobby maintains the needed traction to stay a part of my life well into my retired years. My kids have not taken much interest, but I do see them inquire more when I am playing around with the digital hardware/software than I do if I am just using standard analog equipment (I still like this equipment). I have not won them over as of yet. We'll see what happens as time passes.

Maybe if there were a group of folks within the club that would like to experiment with these modes locally over 6m/2m/70cm a lot of fun could be had. Learning new things can seem daunting at first; but with a club or group of individuals, these tasks will seem a lot less complex. I just don't want anyone in the club on the fence to shy away from X due to thinking it is outside their capabilities. The internet with group conversations and screen sharing capabilities makes all of this very possible. I look forward to the conversations, questions and ideas that could come from individuals willing to explore new paths. Talk to you all on the air soon!

I start with intentions of doing something short and this happens. Thanks if you made it this far. Lol! 73 Chris Schulz NR9Q

Moved and Seconded Minutes of the November 2020 WIARC meeting

The November meeting of the WIARC was called to order via Go To Meeting at 7:25 pm by VP W9DP

Minutes of the October meeting were approved as printed in *The Feedline*.

In the absence of Treasurer K9VXD, no Treasurer's Report was received.

The .03 repeater appears to be down in power and will be checked.

N9JF reported that there have been 436 logs received, and processing will begin once the log deadline of November 19 has passed.

W9DP mentioned that CW Sweepstakes is coming up this weekend, followed in two weeks by Phone Sweepstakes and then by ARRL 160

OLD BUSINESS

There was a brief mention of an annual dinner meeting which will likely be held next April, location to be determined.

W9DP mentioned the need for a design for a club logo. KB9WFC will speak to his YL to see if she is interested in helping with this.

W9WE reported that VE testing will be held on Nov 7 at 1 pm at Bethel Church in Quincy. Any who wish to come and help are welcome to do so. There are currently five candidates for testing.

NCS: DEC 9 N9JF DEC 16 W9DP DEC 23 N9JF DEC 30 W9DP JAN 6 W9DP
Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm on a motion by AA9GL and second by N9JF; carried

In attendance:

W9DP KB9FIN AA9GL KB9CES N9JF AB9QW W9WE W9WEB KE0OAA
KB9WFC KA0SNL

Nominating Committee Report:

The committee has reached out to the membership and is submitting the following nominees for offices for 2021

President Danny Pease W9DP

Vice-President: David Scranton W9WE

Secretary: Jim Funk N9JF

Treasurer: Arnold Gerst K9VXD

Repeater Board (two vacancies): David Williams KB9FIN and John Myers WB9EWM

Other nominations will be taken from the floor during the December meeting. Provisions are being made for "balloting" should this become necessary.

For the committee: Jim N9JF

SB DX @ ARL \$ARLD048 ARLD048 DX news

**ZCZC AE48 QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 48 ARLD048 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT November 25, 2020 To all radio amateurs SB DX ARL ARLD048
ARLD048 DX news**

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by KD7WPJ, 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.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Marko, N5ZO and Oliver, W6NV are QRV as 8Q7ZO and 8Q7NV, respectively, until December 2. They will be active as 8Q7ZO in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL 8Q7ZO direct via OH0XX and 8Q7NV direct to home call.

CUBA, CO. Members of the Radio Club de Caibarien are QRV as T46W until December 29 to commemorate the first transmissions 100 years ago by the Cuban radio pioneer Manolin Alvarez. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

SPAIN, EA. Special event station EF42C will be QRV from November 28 to December 13 to celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the Spanish Constitution. QSL via EB5R.

JAN MAYEN, JX. Erik, LA2US is QRV as JX2US until the end of March, 2021. Activity is on 160 to 12 meters using CW and FT8 in DXpedition mode. QSL to home call.

FINLAND, OH. Members of the Market Reef DX Association will be QRV as OG1XMAS from November 29 to December 26. Activity will be on all bands and modes. QSL via LoTW.

ARUBA, P4. John, W2GD is QRV as P40W until December 1. Activity is on 30, 17 and 12 meters as time permits. This includes being an entry in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL via N2MM.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event stations PA20XMAS, PB20CLAUS and PD20SANTA will be QRV during December. QSL via LoTW.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and QCX CW Challenge are scheduled for December 1.

From *The ARRL Contest Update* for November 11, 2020:

(several of you made the trip up to K9CT's place, so this is interesting....)

Craig, K9CT, presented "[VHF Contesting](#)" to the Front Range 6 Meter Group. Normally, Craig talks about HF Contesting, so this is a treat. He describes the K9CT station in detail - how it was conceived, designed, engineered, and became what it is today -- and hints at what the future will hold. He also discusses in great detail how he uses information to maintain situational awareness to be able to point his antennas to where he will make contacts.

If you wondered why there were so many ILQP logs submitted in 2020:

2020 State QSO Challenge November Report

We have completed the final QSO party of the state QSO party season. Although there is still time for reports to be submitted, it is clear to see that the final statistics will be amazing.

Highlights to-date (11/01/2020):

- We easily broke the million QSO mark with 1,358,939 QSOs reported to 3830Scores.
- We have had 1,038 operators qualify for the SQP Challenge so far, participating in 2 or more QPs with at least 2 contacts in each. Almost half (49.2%) of the total number of operators who submitted reports to 3830Scores qualified for the SQP Challenge. The remainder are mostly hams who only participated in their own state's QSO party.
- That totals up to 2,110 operators who have submitted SQP reports to 3830.
- 94.6% (982) of the qualified operators attained a level.
- 97 participants attained the Diamond level (>50,000 points). There are 42 operators are above 100,000 points, once believed to be about the highest scored attainable.
- § 183 have now made Platinum (>10,000 points).
- § 114 have reached Gold (>5,000 points).
- § 322 are Silver (1,000+).
- § 266 are Bronze (100+).
- § Half of the qualified operators reached 3,000 or more points.
- Eleven operators have scored an aggregate of over a million contest points in the QPs that they have entered.
- Of the operators who have entered in 10 or more QPs, K5KG has the highest average number of QSOs per contest – 424.
 - o KI6RRN is second with 325 and K5CM has 296.
 - o Eight others have 200 or more.
 - o The average of all entrants is 255 QSOs per contest.
 - o The average of all qualified operators is 95 QSOs per contest.
 - o 69% of all qualified operators had 50 or more contacts per contest.
 - o A quarter of the operators who did not qualify recorded over 500 QSOs in one contest.
- 32 operators had “perfect attendance,” participating in all 46 SQPs. All 32 qualify for the Diamond award.
 - o 90% of all who participated in 40 or more QPs qualify for Diamond.

These numbers will be finalized after November 30.

Congratulations to all who participated. 73, Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ State QSO Party Challenge Administrator Here were some slides and a video that Stan produced:

Slideshow- <http://tiny.cc/stqspc>

Video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yAf3XrAEic>

Proposed \$50 fee for Amateur Licenses

ARRL has formally petitioned the FCC to forego the implementation of the proposed \$50 fee for amateur licenses. I'm sure there were many individual responses to this as well. Here is what I submitted:

Response to \$50 Amateur Radio Licensing Fee

From: Jim Funk N9JF 2742 N 230 Ave Liberty IL 62347 n9jf@arrl.net 217/617-9881

To Whom it may concern:

I would like to register my strong objections to the \$50 licensing fee being proposed for amateur radio licenses.

The amateur service is a VOLUNTEER service.

One of its primary purposes (stated and observed) is public service.

The Amateur Service provides an entry into other valuable technical services that benefit the public through technological development and advancement.

Many amateur radio licensees are young people (some as young as 7 or 8 years of age) who have been drawn to the service by their interest in technology, international goodwill, and public service.

Many other licensees are retirees whose contributions have been, and continue to be, monumental.

A licensing fee of \$50 for new, renewed and modified amateur radio licenses is burdensome, onerous, unnecessary and counterproductive. It flies in the face of maintaining and enhancing a voluntary public service that is dedicated to technological advancement and international goodwill.

Please abandon the plans for this licensing fee.

Best regards, Jim Funk N9JF

If you feel the same way, I hope you made your opinions known....

Upcoming Contests:

QSO parties are over for the year. I think the State QSO Party Challenge is going to be back, better than ever, in 2021. Stay tuned for details.

In the meantime, get geared up for two of my favorite contests, both of which occur during the month of December.

First up is the ARRL 160 Contest. It starts at 4 pm (2200Z) on Friday, December 4 and ends at 10 am (1600Z) on Sunday, December 6. That's a total of 42 hours; and no, you won't work a lot of stations on 160 meters during daylight. This is the Dracula Contest: sleep during the day and contest like crazy at night! Though there are two 160 meter events sponsored by CQ Magazine later in the winter, this one is my favorite. DX stations get no points for working each other, so all of them will be looking for US/VE stations. Multipliers are the 84 ARRL/CRRL sections plus DXCC countries. From the Midwest, with low power, you can work every single one of those 84 sections along with

some decent DX. This is one contest that does NOT favor the coasts, and a Midwest entrant can actually win the darned thing! (It happened....).

String out some wire, load your rain gutters, shunt feed your tower. Do something. Get on 160 for that contest, and you'll be pleasantly surprised at the results.

Did I mention that this is CW only? That might be another reason why I love it. Slow down as much as you like, and almost everyone will slow down enough to get you into the log.

Here are the rules: <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

The following weekend is the ARRL 10 meter contest. It runs for 24 hours, beginning at 0000Z on December 12 and ending at 2359Z on December 13. Both modes apply. One fun thing to try is to work meteor scatter contacts during the night-time hours as the contest dates coincide with the Geminid meteor shower.

But, you say, "It's 10 meters. When did I last hear anyone on that band?" Aha! Have you checked "the numbers" lately? The recent solar flux was ONE HUNDRED!! There will be lots of activity!

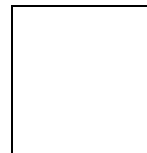
Here are the rules: <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

Have fun. See you on the bands!



Photo of the September meeting at Twin Oaks (courtesy KB9YN)

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



December meeting: Wednesday, December
2, 2020.

*This will be a virtual meeting held via
GoToMeeting hosted by AB9QW. Details will
be provided to all members via the club
reflector prior to the meeting.*

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

Voice repeater W9AWE/R on 147.630/.030 Quincy

Voice repeater W9AWE/R on 146.340/.940 Quincy

**Voice repeater W9AWE/R on 448.900/443.900 Quincy
147.03 and 448.9:103.5 sub-audible tone; 146.94 123.0**

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

n9jf@arri.net