
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 44, Issue 10 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club October 2020

From the President,

Well, we are making it into fall, and the weather is looking better. This has been allowing me to get some of my projects completed. I'm not caught up on what I wanted to get done before winter gets here, but there is still time. The wife and I did just finish siding our garage though; (this is one we have been wanting to get done). Hope all of your projects are coming together also.

As for club business, I think the meeting place for the club meeting last month went really well. There was plenty of space to spread out and be comfortable. The telephone call-in can still be worked for the meeting if needed; just give Jim (N9JF) a heads up that you are interested in doing this. I have found that everyone with this pandemic has varying beliefs and comfort levels with protocols that have been put out. If you want to come to the meeting and want to keep distance even more so, just bring your own chair when you come. A lot of us last time were just sitting spread out among the picnic tables. I will make sure to speak loud enough that everyone can hear and anyone else that is speaking will do likewise. The meeting was a success in my book, and we will be holding it in the upper Moorman Park again. More details and direction will be given if needed. The net does run just before the meeting, and plenty of people will be on air to give out the exact location (shelter house) of the meeting.

We will not be able to meet at this park for too much longer (unless we bring really warm clothes). If someone has an idea of where we could meet and conduct the winter meetings, please bring your suggestion to the club meeting. This place would need to have a little space and have decent cell phone reception for call-ins. I have not read the newest QST, but the cover looks like it could have an article on virtual meetings. I'm not sure if this would get any traction among club members. This could be a good discussion as a solution to the cold winter months. Comments on this might be needed. It's just one of many options.

I look forward to seeing all that can attend the next club meeting. Do remember we are planning on having a tailgate swap meet for your unwanted ham gear in the park prior to the meeting (about 6 pm). I have some things I will be bringing as well. I hope that this is a success and could be a new addition for club meetings in the warm months if members want to keep it going. Maybe it could be a theme for after Wednesday net on 147.030. I know Alden (WB9WAJ) found a power supply he needed last week.
73, Chris Schulz, NR9Q

Hurricanes, Fires and other Exciting Stuff

Bear in mind that various emergencies are involving amateur radio support for communications. Especially on 20 and 40 meter SSB, give out one more, "Is this frequency in use?" before cutting loose and assuming no one is using slot!!!

ILLINOIS QSO PARTY OCTOBER 18!!! (see more further down the newsletter...)

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the September 2020 WIARC meeting

The September 2020 meeting of the WIARC was called to order by President NR9Q at 7:04 pm on September 2, 2020 at the west shelter house in Upper Moorman Park. Present were NR9Q, NG9R, KA9VIM, K9VXD, W9WE, W9WEB, WA9GBC, W9GQK, KD9NET, AB9DU, KB9WFC, KB9YN and N9JF. In the absence of Secretary, W9EMR, notes were taken by N9JF. At 7:05, the conference line had not detected anyone calling in and the call was terminated. (Apologies to KB9FIN; I saw afterwards that he had attempted to connect; I don't know what happened.... – N9JF).

The Treasurer's Report was presented by K9VXD. The balance for the year is "positive". The only major expenditures were for 2019 Field Day expenses (replaced check written in 2020) and the club insurance. Income has been primarily from dues and contributions for ILQP plaques. A detailed report was provided to members present by K9VXD. The report was approved on a motion by W9GQK, second by KB9WFC and carried.

Trustee NG9R had nothing new to report.

Station Committee: AA9GL has been appointed to the committee to replace K9FHX. The club station antenna, currently housed by WA9GBC, cannot be erected at this time due to restrictions from the American Red Cross. We don't expect this situation to change unless there are major changes in policy/guidelines re Covid-19 from the county or the state. Access to the building and grounds, according to Catherine at ARC in Chicago is "mission-critical only". It was suggested that the names of Station Committee members be posted on the club website. NG9R will contact NA9Q to accomplish this.

Repeater Board: NR9Q and AA9GL worked on the 443.900 repeater, rearranging the hard line and allowing N9UPG's coax jumpers and adapters to be returned to him. The 443.900 repeater is still up and linked to Illinois-Link on C4FM. Both repeater sites have 24/7 backup power if needed.

VE Report from W9WE: A test session was held on August 22 with three candidates testing and all being successful: one new Tech, one General, one Extra.

Contest Committee: ILQP is coming up on October 18. Make your operating plans! Updated rules are on the club website. Some donations for 2020 plaques have been received from SMC and Clay County ARC. NG9R is keeping the planned activity map updated.

Old Business: The morning gathering on 147.030 proposed last month has been implemented. There have been groups at about 7 am and again a "going home bunch" plus a new group on weekdays at 9 am to basically shoot the breeze on any topic.

New Business: The Illinois-Link Sunday night net has moved to Wednesday nights at 8:30 pm on 443.9 C4FM.

There was a discussion regarding having a pre-meeting in October with individuals being encouraged to bring equipment for “show and tell” and a short “tail-gating” session. This will commence at 6 pm in Upper Moorman Park at one of the shelters.

NG9R spent a couple of minutes talking about the club reflector and its use and potential for sharing information. Anyone who is subscribed to the reflector can post to it or reply to a posting. Be aware that your post *must be in Plain Text or in Rich Text, not HTML and without attachments.*

Applications for membership: NG9R shared that NI9M, Dave Belville from Silvis IL has requested membership (remote/non-voting). He was accepted as a member on a motion by NG9R, second by KB9YN and voice vote.

Net Control Stations:

October 7: NG9R

October 14: NR9Q

October 21: NG9R

October 28: N9JF

November 4: NG9R

The October meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 7 at 7 pm and will be held in Upper Moorman Park at one of the shelters.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm on a motion by AB9DU, a second by W9GQK and voice vote.

Respectfully submitted, N9JF sub-secretary

ILLINOIS QSO PARTY OCTOBER 18!!!

Yes, ready or not, it's that time of year! Sunday, October 16, is the date for the Illinois QSO Party, beginning at noon local time (1700Z) and ending at 8 pm local time (0100Z).

The rules for 2020 have not changed. You may find them at <http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP%202020%20Rules.pdf> . I'd suggest you subscribe to the ILQP Reflector at <http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP%20Reflector.html> to keep abreast of all of the chatter and plans leading up to the even. Please let us know your plans, whether you are going to operate from home or do a mobile, rover or portable effort. Notifications can be made on the reflector or directly to n9jf@arrl.net or dpease@adams.net. Danny keeps the activity map up to date at <http://www.w9awe.org/2020%20ILQP%20Activity%20Map.pdf> .

Nothing is more exciting ILQP-wise than to find a county corner and set up a portable station. With a couple of dipoles or verticals and a hundred watts, you can be immensely popular for eight hours!

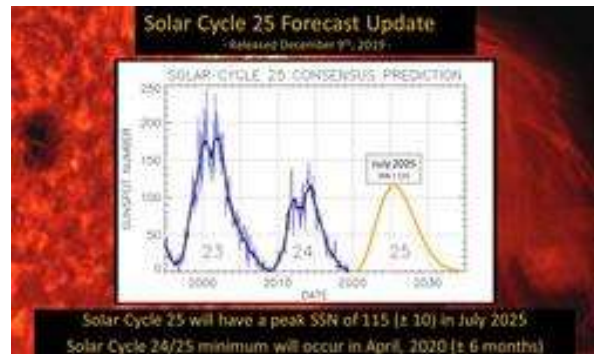
From *The ARRL Letter* for September 17, 2020:

Analysis Determines We Are in Solar Cycle 25

It's now official. The solar minimum between Solar Cycles 24 and 25 -- the period when the sun is least active -- occurred in December 2019, when the 13-month smoothed sunspot number fell to 1.8. This is according to the Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel, co-chaired by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). We are now in Solar Cycle 25, with peak sunspot activity expected in 2025, the panel said. The panel expressed high confidence that Solar Cycle 25 will break the trend of weakening solar activity seen over the past four cycles.

"We predict the decline in solar cycle amplitude, seen from Cycles 21 through 24, has come to an end," said Lisa Upton, panel co-chair and solar physicist with Space Systems Research Corporation. "There is no indication we are approaching a Maunder-type minimum in solar activity."

At 11 years, Solar Cycle 24 was of average length and had the fourth-smallest intensity since regular record-keeping began in 1755, with what is considered Solar Cycle 1. It was also the weakest cycle in a century. At solar maximum in April 2014, sunspots peaked at 114 for the cycle, well below the 179 average.



Solar Cycle 24's progression was unusual. The sun's northern hemisphere led the sunspot cycle, peaking more than 2 years ahead of the southern hemisphere sunspot peak. This resulted in fewer sunspots at solar maximum than if the two hemispheres were in phase.

For the past 8 months, activity on the sun has steadily increased, indicating that we have transitioned to Solar Cycle 25, [forecast](#) to be a fairly weak cycle -- about the same as Solar Cycle 24. Solar Cycle 25 is expected to peak in July 2025, with a predicted 115 sunspots.

"How quickly solar activity rises is an indicator on how strong the solar cycle will be," said Doug Biesecker, the NOAA-NASA panel co-chair and a solar physicist at NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center ([SWPC](#)). "Although we've seen a steady increase in sunspot activity this year, it is slow."

"While we are not predicting a particularly active Solar Cycle 25, violent eruptions from the sun can occur at any time," Biesecker added.

Before Solar Cycle 25 peaks in 2024, NOAA is slated to launch a new spacecraft dedicated to operational space weather forecasting. The Space Weather Follow-On L-1 observatory ([SWFO-L1](#)) will be equipped with instruments that sample the solar wind, provide imagery of coronal mass ejections, and monitor other extreme activity from the sun in finer detail than before. NOAA's next Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-U) is also scheduled to launch in 2024. GOES-U will carry three solar monitoring instruments, including the first [compact coronagraph](#), which will help detect

coronal mass ejections. Enhanced observations of the sun from these satellites will help improve space weather forecasting.

From ARRL DX News for September 17, 2020:

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.

BALEARIC ISLANDS, EA6. Philippe, EA4NF is QRV as EA6/EA4NF from Formentera Island, IOTA EU-004, until February 21. Activity is on the LEO Satellites. QSL via LoTW.

JAN MAYEN, JX. Erik, LA2US will be QRV as JX2US from Olonkinbyen from October 2020 to March 2021. Activity will be in his spare time on 160, 80, 40, 30, and 20 meters using CW and FT8 in DXpedition mode. QSL via LoTW.

BELGIUM, ON. Members of the Pajottenlandse Radio Amateur Club will be QRV with special call sign OT5ABI from September 19 to October 18 to raise awareness of the work being done by the NAH Liga for Acquired Brain Injury. QSL direct to ON6LC.

(Determined DXers should be subscribed to one or more DX bulletins as the items in this newsletter are somewhat out of date due to deadline constraints. -.ed)

(Did I mention that I'd like to have a new contributor of DX-related items due to WB2UFO's retirement from that position?? -.ed)

Member profile: NI9M.

(This is exactly the type of thing I'd like to get from WIARC members! Since Dave is a new member and supplied this to NG9R along with his membership application.... -.ed)

My name is Dave Belville. I am a 65-year-old retired Systems Engineer. I live in Silvis, IL which is a small city on the Mississippi River in the Quad Cities area. I think I am about 120 miles north of Quincy. I have family in the Macomb, Colchester, Rushville, and Astoria areas.

From a very early age, electronics was and still is my passion. I started in the hobby when I was 13 years old. My Ham Radio career was cut short by a tornado that destroyed my only antenna (a dipole) and when the tree that it hung from fell, it fell on the house and my meager shack (a small table in front of the window) was destroyed as well. I had earned the money to buy that equipment by delivering papers and collecting pop bottles. I had a Hallicrafters receiver and a 10-watt homebrew 40m transmitter that my cousin (I think his call was KD9BES) had helped me with. By the age of 16, I was working for an electronics retailer (Team Electronics) and was repairing audio equipment and televisions. I also did some equipment repair for local rock groups and had the privilege of meeting Bob Heil in 1974 at a concert. I was pretty proud of that. I also got to meet and have lunch with Doc Severinsen in Ames, IA while working with a sound engineer at an Orchestra Festival in 1971. The company I was working for did the audio for that festival and at 16 years old, I was an event technician for Boom Audio. Fast forward to 2015. I played in the ILQP for the first time. My call at that time was KD9VT and

I think I got third place for IL Fixed Low Power and had the highest Phone only score. I know I was mentioned in the analysis. I have participated a couple of times since but I prefer CW and there are too many ops that are better than me for me to do as well. I think I was around 10th place in 2017 when I did CW/Phone mixed. My preference is CW but I am going to mix in a little phone this year. I plan to operate as a rover in Knox, Mercer, Rock Island and Henry counties. I will be running low power (100 watts) using an Icom IC 7300 powered by a generator.

I am not the greatest CW operator but it is my favorite mode... the original digital mode. I have tried FT8 and PSK31 with mixed feelings. Not really fond of digital but in a contest, it may be the way to go. I am not really into DXing but have about 200 countries. Wallpaper is not important to me so I don't play in contests for recognition. I play in them because I enjoy them. I love QRP contests and spend a lot of time with my KX3. QRP/CW is my preferred mode. I do not have any commercial antennas. I love wire antennas and tend to build a lot of them. They may not be the best but I worked Japan with 750mW using a homebrew wire antenna.

Again, my call is NI9M now and I live at 620 Valley View Drive in Silvis, IL. I can be reached by email at davebelville@gmail.com. We have five children. Marie is a veterinarian assistant in Rock Island, IL, Mike is a software engineer in Minnesota, Heather is a professor at Western IL University, Tim is a software engineer/systems engineer in Rhode Island and Bobby works for Walmart. They are all very good kids. I wish I could say they are like me but luckily for them... they are not. We have four grandchildren.

Thank you for considering me for membership. If I am accepted, please let me know where to send my membership payment.

I hope I get the privilege of working you in the ILQP this year.

73 Dave Belville, NI9M Silvis, IL 61282

For those of you doing contesting (or any operating) on FT8/FT4:

Here are some good hints! <https://ww-digi.com/operating.htm>

Did you listen to the CW Sprint last weekend and go away with a headache? Here's an alternative if you would like to try CW in the slow lane....

SST: Slow Speed [Con]Test: All about the SST

[click here for the](#)  [PDF version](#)

The [CWops Club](#) (CWops) promotes the art of CW for those who wish to expand and improve their on-the-air experiences. [CWops' CW Academy](#) (CWA) program has produced thousands of successful graduates who have gone on to become every day CW operators. Hundreds of CWA grads have become CWops members after demonstrating their ability to understand and communicate in CW at speeds of 25 WPM and higher!

CWops' three weekly 25 to 40+ WPM CWT sprints are exciting, stimulating and a great way to improve CW copying ability, operating skills, and propagation knowledge. The CWTs create bonds of friendship among CW-loving operators around the world.

Now, for those just getting started in CW contesting and others who prefer a more leisurely pace, several members of both the K1USN radio Club and CWops are starting a weekly one-hour slow speed CW contest, the SST. Please join us! We're reviewing the results from our recent participation survey. Thanks to all who gave us your input! We very much appreciate it.

K1USN's new Slow Speed Test is designed to encourage and assist those who signed up for CWA to learn CW or to improve their CW skills but are not yet copying 25 WPM, and all others who feel like "taking it slow and easy" once per week both for their own pleasure and to help others out. CWops currently offers a total of nine "slow speed" CWT's per year just after the three CWA graduations where all are encouraged to slow down to 20 WPM. Many CWA grads make contacts in those sessions, enjoying a well-earned rush of accomplishment. The SST will expand those opportunities for success to 52 weeks per year!

All of us old enough to remember our Novice days recall the rush of adrenalin and the sweaty grip on our J-38 (or Radio Shack) keys during our first CW QSOs. This is what it must feel like for the new CW operators we want to encourage.

The weekly slow speed SST is also for operators who participate in regular CWT sessions, but only as S & P (Search and Pounce) entrants. The weekly 20 WPM or slower SSTs can build their confidence to find open frequencies and begin calling CQ, first in the SSTs and then in the more crowded and frenetic full speed CWTs. Successfully crossing that CQing threshold is another real accomplishment!

We hope many SST participants become sufficiently comfortable with CW contesting to enjoy the regular higher speed CWT sessions, other big CW contests, and smaller local and regional QSO parties, using N1MM+ (or other) computer loggers, spotting networks, call history files, live online scoring, etc. But we welcome everybody to join in the SSTs whether high speed CW contesting is your goal or not, including new ops making their first attempts at completing a CW QSO. In addition to SST's 20 WPM upper speed limit, we ask all to be patient, supportive, and willing to slow down further as necessary to assist another op in completing an SST QSO.

CWA recommends using electronic keyers and paddles, but if you are more comfortable with some other device, please feel free to join us in the SSTs using a straight key, cootie key, bug or paddles. Unlike high speed contests, where QSO rate is king and a CQing/"running" station expects only the required exchange and confirms a contact with simply "dit" or "R," the SST will encourage sending brief friendly greetings to the other Op. Friendliness is part of taking it slow and easy!

So please join us in the SSTs! All you need is an HF radio, an antenna, and the desire to become, and assist others to become, better CW operators!

**For more info or questions about our SST, please email us
at: k1usn.radioclub.sst@gmail.com**

- Suggested SST exchange: Each station sends a first name and state, province, or DX country
- Unlike the higher speed contests, where QSO rate is king and a CQing/"running" station expects only the required exchange and typically acknowledges a contact with simply "dit" or "R," the SST will encourage including brief friendly greetings to the other Op.
- Example Exchange:

K1RV sends:	CQ SST K1RV
N1DC replies with:	N1DC
K1RV replies with:	N1DC Pi MA
N1DC replies with:	GE Pi Rick MA
K1RV: replies with:	GL Rick TU K1RV SST

Suggested operating frequencies:

80 meters 3.532 - 3.539 40 meters 7.032 - 7.039 20 meters 14.032 - 14.039

Date and Time: 00:00-01:00 UTC Mondays *which is:* 20:00-21:00 EDT Sundays
(this is 8-9pm EDT)

From *The ARRL Contest Update* for September 2, 2020:

The August 2020 Midwest Derecho - by Mark Obermann, AG9A

On August 10, 2020, a severe weather phenomenon known as a derecho developed over the Midwest, forming near the border of South Dakota and Nebraska. It traveled 770 miles at an average speed of 55 mph over five states before eventually dissipating over eastern Indiana and Ohio. Derecho means straight in Spanish and describes the fast moving and long lasting high straight-line speed wind storms that can generate hurricane force winds and produce tornados within the thunderstorms. While uncommon, they are generally most prevalent in the northern hemisphere during the months of June, July and August.

Wide swaths of the Midwest were affected, but the most severe damage occurred in several different areas along its path. The highest estimated wind speeds reached 140 mph (equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane) and took place over Iowa. One of the amateur stations that sustained heavy damage was the contest station of Toni Radebaugh, N0NI, located near Rippey, Iowa. The weather forecast for that day included a 30 percent chance of rain with no mention of severe storms. The storm arrived at around 11 AM. In the roughly 30-40 minutes that followed, ten towers were either lost or severely damaged affecting a total of thirty-five HF Yagis. With area winds estimated in excess of 100 mph, many trees, including seventeen 100-year-old cedars on the west side of the towers (and just out of view in the photos) snapped and landed on multiple guy wires. This caused the towers to bend and break, bringing down the towers, antennas and other nearby towers that may have been in the way. The towers and antennas outside of the tree line were not affected, including a homebrew full-size 3-element 40 meter Yagi at 196', a real

testament to the robust design of the towers and antennas at Toni's station. Toni stated that he had not lost a tower in 43 years, but when he finally did, it was spectacular.

In addition to the tower damage, trees came down on the house and the surrounding corn fields were crushed by the winds resulting in a total loss of much of this year's crop.

Toni vows to rebuild a number of towers and antennas as that is his favorite thing to do in Amateur Radio. This time, they may not go up as high, and of course, they'll be spaced farther away from the remaining trees.



This was one of the four pictures shared. Pretty awful. It makes my antenna damage look trivial. -N9JF

From the Eastern Massachusetts (EMA) Section News:

The ARRL has proposed a new band plan for the high frequency bands. On many of the HF bands, the plan would allow greater bandwidth for automatically controlled digital stations like WinLink. It also would grant new data and phone privileges to Technician class licensees. A draft band plan can be found at:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ODV/Second%20Board%20Meeting%20July%202020/Doc%2025A%20Band%20Plan%20Final-1b.pdf>

This is a proposal only and does not reflect current FCC operating privileges which have not changed.

--- Phil, K9HI

From the ARRL Central Division newsletter:

Dear Central Division ARRL Member;

I have received a number of inquiries today about the FCC NPRM 20-270 which proposes to a \$50 fee for each amateur radio license application. The ARRL will be filing comments in opposition to application fees in the amateur radio service. Please read the details below from the ARRL.ORG website.

73, Kermit Carlson W9XA

From the ARRL Website;

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-to-reinstate-amateur-radio-service-fees>

08/28/2020

Amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio license application if the FCC adopts rules it proposed this week. Included in the FCC's fee proposal are applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees.

The FCC proposal is contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "Ray Baum's Act."

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its NPRM, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service that had been excluded by an earlier statute. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

"[A]pplications for personal licenses are mostly automated and do not have individualized staff costs for data input or review," the FCC said in its NPRM. "For these

automated processes — new/major modifications, renewal, and minor modifications — we propose a nominal application fee of \$50 due to automating the processes, routine ULS maintenance, and limited instances where staff input is required.”

The same \$50 fee would apply to all Amateur Service applications, including those for vanity call signs. “Although there is currently no fee for vanity call signs in the Amateur Radio Service, we find that such applications impose similar costs in aggregate on Commission resources as new applications and therefore propose a \$50 fee,” the FCC said.

The FCC is not proposing to charge for administrative updates, such as mailing address changes for amateur applications, and amateur radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees. “For administrative updates [and] modifications, which also are highly automated, we find that it is in the public interest to encourage licensees to update their [own] information without a charge,” the FCC said.

The FCC also proposes to assess a \$50 fee for individuals who want a printed copy of their license. “The Commission has proposed to eliminate these services — but to the extent the Commission does not do so, we propose a fee of \$50 to cover the costs of these services,” the FCC said.

The Ray Baum’s Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service. The FCC dropped assessment of fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

Deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the NPRM appears in the Federal Register. File comments by using the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. This docket is already open for accepting comments even though deadlines have not yet been set.

ARRL Central Division Director: Kermit A Carlson, W9XA w9xa@arrl.org

[And from the ARRL website:](#)

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB021
ARLB021 FCC Application Fee Proposal Proceeding is Open for Comments

ZCZC AG21
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 21 ARLB021
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT September 3, 2020
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB021
ARLB021 FCC Application Fee Proposal Proceeding is Open for Comments

Comments are being accepted on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

(NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which proposes application fees for radio amateurs. Formal deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the NPRM appears in the Federal Register.

Comments may be filed now, however, by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), located at, <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings> , and posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. The docket is already open for accepting comments, even though deadlines have not yet been set.

The NPRM can be found online in PDF format at, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-116A1.pdf> .

NNNN
/EX

This is one issue that affects each of us, so pay attention! Back in the “dinosaur days”, there was a license fee, but I don’t recall the amount; and of course, there was a fee for vanity calls (that varied) until fairly recently. N9JF

Upcoming contests:

The weekend of October 10-11 is a busy one with FIVE state QSO parties: Nevada, South Dakota, Arizona, New York and Pennsylvania. Past experience tells me that the PAQSO party is the one on which to concentrate if you are willing to spend a lot of time on forty meters. It tends to be more of a “local party” with what is usually a paucity of activity on the high bands but with all PA counties active. In Arizona, with less than a month to go, only six of the sixteen counties show planned activity. Nevada shows no activity list as of this writing nor does South Dakota. New York’s “planned activations” page takes one to the dreaded “404 Not Found” page. You might be able to submit plans, but nothing is posted yet to indicate who is going to be where. New York did receive over 300 logs last year which is pretty good.

Pennsylvania lists plans for 34 of the 67 PA counties so far and promises frequent updates. I will say that their rules page is “detailed”. I suspect it was written by attorneys. That is not a criticism....just an observation.... -edsf

The last weekend in October features the grand-daddy of the year’s SSB contests: CQWW SSB. Every *can* work everybody, but you’ll get some grumbles if you contact USA or VE stations except to work the needed CQ Zone. See rules at <https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>.

The WIMSPRINT

Don’t forget the WIARC Monthly Sprint! Pick any contiguous 4-hour operating segment from the 1st to the 20th of the month. Multiply the number of contacts by "the multiplier" for your final score. The multiplier for October is the number of different prefixes worked. Send your score (not your log) to n9jf@arrl.net by the end of the day on the 21st for inclusion in that month's newsletter. Include any highlights or operating details (bands and modes used, most interesting QSOs, best DX, etc.).

September WIMSPRINT results:

N9JF: 110 x 42 = 4620 (CW Sprint September 13, 20/40/80 meters). Two and a half hours and a developing migraine. It didn't take long to figure out that everyone else in that contest was better at it than I was!!

K0CA: 1 QSO x 1 prefix = 1 point. Promises to do better in October!

Borrowed from "AZQUOTES" via the Sept 2020 MARAC *Roadrunner*:

"I do not think that the radio waves I have discovered will have any practical application." -- Heinrich Hertz

Material wanted!

If you've read this far, you have enough interest in *The Feedline* to know that I need more material. Write something! Forward something! (provide source). I'm always open to "your stories": your history with amateur radio and how it may have interacted you're your work or other hobbies or activities.

Did I also mention that I'm looking for someone else to provide a DX column now that WB2UFO is no longer able to do that???

Thanks! N9JF

Western IL Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 3132 Quincy IL 62305-3132

October meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 in Upper Moorman Park, shelter to be determined (look for mobile antennas). Mini Swapmeet prior to the meeting at 6 pm!

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