
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 44, Issue 11 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club November 2020

Important: (If you don't read anything else, read this!):

At this writing, it is unlikely there will be an in-person meeting in November.

However, we are planning a ZOOM call to allow remote access. Watch the club reflector and listen to the Wednesday night nets for information! It's important for as many members as possible to check into the ZOOM meeting! There will be a website provided on the club reflector with a clickable link and a passcode you will need to enter. There MAY also be a call-in number listed. Any computer or smart phone should be able to access the link. You may join with or without video.

President's Page:

Hope everyone is staying healthy. As for what little news I have been able to catch lately, it sounds like the COVID numbers are really going up in a lot of different locations. Even close to causing capacity issues at the hospitals again. After speaking with Jim (N9JF) the other night, it looks like with the help of Danny (W9DP) they both have come up with a solution to the November meeting. I am sure this will be mentioned in more detail here in the Feedline. What I have been told, this will be a virtual meeting using ZOOM. I know this will be quite different, but has been successful for many other clubs from what I have read online and has been mentioned in recent QST articles. So I hope if any of you are available you will give this a try. I will try to make this meeting if we get in at a decent time. As I am writing this, I am on another job up in Wisconsin. We have been putting in the hours so far on the front end of this job. Should taper off a little as we progress with the project here. So I hope to give this meeting a try myself.

With this meeting does come the establishment of a nominating committee for the elections in December. We would also usually be talking about a dinner meeting arrangement. That as we know is more bad news again. I believe I did hear someone mention the idea of doing something outdoors once the weather gets warmer next year. Let's just all hope things take a turn for the better.

Danny, congratulations on the new callsign. Wonder how many times you try to use your old one still. 73

Chris Schulz

Moved and Seconded (minutes of the October WIARC meeting):

The October meeting of the WIARC was called to order at 7 pm on October 7, 2020 by President Chris Schulz with 22 members and guests present. Due to inaccessibility of the American Red Cross building, the meeting was held in one of the shelters in Upper Moorman Park.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed in The Feedline. The Treasurer's Report was presented and approved by motion, second and voice vote.

There was a report of no actions taken or issues noted by Trustee NG9R.

The Repeater Board reported no issues in addition to last month's report concerning moving the 440 antenna to restore 443.9 to operation.

The Station Committee reported that the Red Cross facilities are still not available.

VE Coordinator W9WE reported that there will be a test session at 1 pm on November 7 at Bethel Assembly of God. There are currently four candidates for testing.

N9JF reported that ILQP plans are moving along well with NG9R maintaining the Planned Activities map. Four southeastern IL counties are not "claimed" yet but probably will be by a mobile from Indiana. All club members are urged to be on the air for the party on October 18.

N9JF reported that the "Get Your Park On" special event will be held October 10-18 with many parks being activated throughout the country to celebrate Earth Sciences Week. N9JF will be operating with special 1x1 callsign N9G.

There were no applications for membership.

Illinois ARRL Section Manager Thom Beebe, W9RY from Marion IL was introduced. He addressed some current issues impacting the ham radio community including the proposed change in licensing fees and the use of Win-Link to facilitate communication within the ham radio community.

A group continues to gather at about 9 a.m. on each weekday morning on the 147.030 repeater. Stop by and contribute to the conversation!

The question of where to meet in November was discussed briefly. A decision will need to be made (by the Exec Committee?) fairly soon as it's unlikely the weather will permit meeting in Upper Moorman Park by then.

Officers will be elected at the December meeting. A Nominating Committee will be appointed at the November meeting. Anyone desiring to run for an office should make that known to the Nominating Committee.

NG9R reported that the Elmer Committee has four members and that they will be notified by e-mail of any needs for assistance from other members.

Net control stations: Oct 14: NG9R Oct 21: NG9R Oct 28: N9JF Nov 4: NG9R Nov 11: N9JF Nov 18: NG9R Nov 25 NR9Q Dec 2 NR9Q.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, N9JF

In attendance: NR9Q, KD0DKE, K9VXD, WA9GBC, KD9NET, KB9YN, WB9EWM, NX9L, KB9WFC, W9WE, W9WEB, KA9VIM, NG9R, W9RY, W9GQK, KB9FIN, AA9GL, N9JF plus NA9Q, NB4C and N9BZ on conference call.

Amateur Radio License Examination Opportunities In Quincy, IL.

Our team operates under authorization by the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

The WIARC (Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club) Team :

Currently, test session dates for 2020 are Nov 7th at 1:00 PM with a registration* deadline of November 5th.

* A reservation for any test sessions may be made by text or email to the WIARC VE Team Liaison, Dave Scranton, W9WE, at 210-325-7923 or w9we.lee@gmail.com

At this time it is planned for November 7, at 1:00 pm. Located inside Bethel Assembly of God Church at 839 S 12th Street in Quincy, IL. Parking and entry is on the north side. Change in any session is always possible due to unforeseen circumstances. Please contact me, recheck the ARRL page often for the latest information or notice of a change in time or location for a session.

Candidates must bring the following items to the session: two forms of identification, one of which must be a government issued photo ID (driver's License); the 2020 test fee of \$15.00 (exact cash or check, cash preferred); two soft lead pencils; a ball point pen; the original and a photocopy of any currently held FCC amateur radio service license; the original and a photocopy of any current (CSCE) Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination. In addition, a candidate may bring and use a non-programmable calculator (optional, permitted if candidate desires to use it).

*NOTE: Although walk-in candidates will be accepted at each session on a space available basis, reservations are strongly advised.

W9WE Dave Scranton

From NB4C:

You'll note my mention of Al Hernandex, K3VN...one of our club members. He travels/traveled extensively for Harris, as an EMI/EMC engineer...he is probably still working....a Senior Scientist...he always took a radio with him, around the world. He was also on several dxpeditions, as a team member, with the "big guys".

I had an amplifier and a beam that he used on a South Georgia dxpedition.

What's it take to run a DXPedition?

If you are an ARRL member, then you got these video clips via the latest ARRL eLetter. If you are not an ARRL member, here they are.

These are videos of the January 1997 Heard Island DXPedition, VK0IR. **Our own AI Hernandez, K3VN, was a member of the group.** You'll first catch a view of him at 4:27 of the second video clip...getting ready to depart dry land.

You can download the first video clip, and it will automatically feed into the next session(s)...it's over 4 hours of videos...

- [Part 1: Preparation \(22:28\)](#)
- [Part 2: Outbound \(28:11\)](#)
- [Part 3: Landing/Setup \(52:38\)](#)
- [Part 4: Operations \(43:45\)](#)
- [Part 5: Environment \(52:14\)](#)
- [Part 6: Departure \(38:21\)](#)

Enjoy... Bob NB4C

Tired of waiting for QSL cards? There might be a solution!

Are you on Logbook of The World (LoTW)? ZL2IFB, Gary Hinson, has written a 'simple step-by-step instructions' called "LoTW New User Guide, Get going with Logbook of The World". The 33 page instructions includes lots of graphics and photos to help get you get on LoTW. Check it out at https://www.g4ifb.com/LoTW_New_User_Guide.pdf. Copied with permission from The Weekly DX.

From the *NCCC Jug*:

Living in the Midwest, we have our share of "excitement" and hazards. One can always worry about tornadoes, blizzards, earthquakes (well...New Madrid is overdue...). We don't usually think too much about wildfires. As a former (volunteer) firefighter, I can tell you that we are not immune from wildfires in Illinois. Right now, I'd like to see a good soaking rain to lessen the chances of a cornfield evaporating and taking farm buildings with it!

We do not, however, face the likelihood of this happening that is present in other parts of the country. Here is the latest issue of the *NCCC Jug* with several articles that give one a rather scary picture. Included is K6XX's account of losing his entire house in short order.

<http://nccc.cc/jug/2020/09sep2020.pdf>

DX Stuff from *ARRL DX News*:

(Much of the DX news in the latest issue concerns activity in CQWW SSB, which will have already occurred by the time this newsletter hits the web...)

MOROCCO, CN. Special event station 5E1EC is QRV to honor the memory of Boumeahdi El Moujahid, CN8EC. QSL via RW6HS.

BELGIUM, ON. Members of the Oostkust Radioclub are QRV with special event call OR39CLM until November 13 to commemorate the liberation of the city Knokke-Heist by Canadian forces on November 1, 1944. Activity is on various HF bands and modes. QSL via ON6HC.

BELIZE, V3. Jim, W2JHP is QRV as V31TA from Turneffe Atoll, IOTA NA-123, until November 8. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using SSB and some digital modes. QSL direct to EA5GL. In addition, Marc, V31MA will be QRV as V3A in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest on all bands. QSL via M0OXO.

**Please see October 2020 QST, page 69, and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM Contest websites for details.
NNNN /EX**

Finding your ham neighbors Try this out: <https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map/wn3r>

W9DP 2020 ILQP thoughts

Since I spent a bit of time working with promoting the ILQP online, I was looking forward to getting to work some of those I had been have email conversations with over the past several weeks. My original intentions were to operate the club call from the club station; but since the Red Cross frowns on unnecessary people in the building until the COVID thing has ran its course, I stayed at home.

My antenna is a very low 80 meter dipole, at max of 20 feet above ground and the average height around 12 feet, I knew I would not be working a lot on 20 and not even many of 40. Little did I know how poor 20 and 40 were going to be at the start of the event! To muddy the waters even more, I had only had my new call a week and had used it very little except on the repeater several times a day (and was stumbling getting it right then). I was able to run the amplifier, although I tend to keep it down to about 600 watts so I don't damage coax or the antenna tuner on 20 and 40 meters. Running the amp helped some on being heard but did nothing on hearing stations.

My original plan was to get home after church, eat lunch and head to the shack and get started by 1:00 PM. That should have been pretty straight forward except we had a few seconds power outage during church and the chicken Gay had in the oven was only half cooked when we got home. No problem, I got on a bit earlier than I planned and would have lunch when it was ready. In the shack, computer booted up, radio on, logging software running, I put out a call on 146.550 to see if any locals were on (I did manage to work W9GQK and that was it).

Back to HF, I put the headphones on and was greeted with S5 rain static and heard no stations at all! I checked 20 and it was even worse. After a few minutes of searching, I did find a single station in Florida calling CQ Illinois and was able to make the contact, but did not hear any other stations working the ILQP and very few other stations were even being heard at all. I tried calling CQ for several minutes with no

contacts, so I headed back to 40 meters. After tuning most of the phone segment and not hearing any ILQP activity, I looked at the DX spotting network and saw several Illinois station being spotted, but 40 was just too long to hear them. I did work a few US stations outside of Illinois on phone on 40 before Gay told me lunch was ready, so it did not bother me in the least to take an early break, hoping conditions would be better after I had lunch.

I took about 50 minutes to eat and have a little conversation with my wife and headed back to the shack. Conditions were slightly better. I was able to work a couple of Illinois stations at the very northern and southern edges of the state. I picked a clear frequency and called CQ, which generated a few contacts, but then no one was responding. I tuned around the band and found a couple more stations to work, including one of the four county operations down south, then went to CW. I did a little better there, at least for a few minutes and then I ran out of stations calling CQ Illinois or ILQP.

I seldom ever call CQ on CW in a contest, my confidence in my CW is not that strong and I did not want to have to ask for several repeats on every QSO, so once I worked all I could hear on CW, I went back to 40 phone. I tried calling CQ again, worked a station or two and ran out of activity, so back to search and pounce to grind out a couple of more QSO's. I finally had enough and decided I would at least check 75 meters and there were a couple of Illinois stations on 75 before 3:30. I worked those I could hear, then tried calling CQ again, with poor results. Off to 80 meter CW and was able to work a few more stations in Illinois, including W9WE on the PIKE/CALH line. I worked what I could hear, moved back to 40 meter phone, worked a couple more, caught a few more on 40 CW and went back to 75 meters.

Things were starting to pick up, so I worked the new ones I could hear and then went to calling CQ, with some limited success. After a few minutes with no contacts, I went back to 80 CW and found more stations, including a few mobiles running around central Illinois, including N9JF/M. After working what I could, I needed to get up and move some muscles, so I took another break and went upstairs for 15 minutes before I headed back down for the remainder of the evening. I spent the rest of the evening on 75/80 meters, mostly chasing mobiles on CW, picking up new multipliers every few minutes. AD4EB/M had some huge pileups on him as he was running through some of the southern counties and it sounded like a DX contest! If you heard stations running close to 40 wpm CW Sunday evening, it was likely AD4EB or K9PG. Those two really crank up the speed. I missed KJ9C/R and probably a couple other mobiles, but I worked most of the others at least once if not multiple times. My last pass through 75 meter phone before I pulled the plug netted me KD9NET on the PIKE/CALH line with W9WE and WB9EWM.

My few tries I called CQ did not raise many QSO's but I did work maybe 30 stations total as a result of calling CQ. My score was dismal, but since I got through the entire contest without giving my old call sign even once (that I was aware of), nothing broke and I enjoyed myself. I counted that as a win!

If you were not able to get on, you missed a fun time, even if the early conditions were poor. I found plenty of stations that I had made email contacts with or have worked before. The ILQP is a kind of a ham radio reunion, a good time to hear and talk to many friends and make some new ones.

N9JF 2020 ILQP Thoughts

My ILQP saga began a week earlier. The WWFF organization sponsored a “Get Your Park On” special event from October 10-18 to celebrate Earth Week, and I applied for the 1x1 callsign N9G. During the week, I “activated” 16 different parks and refuges in Illinois, making a bit over 1200 contacts in 19 different DXCC countries. Twenty meters was pretty good to Europe most mornings, and the pileups were a real rush.

During the week, I had the opportunity to try some different antenna configurations on the “radio van”. By changing antennas and checking the Reverse Beacon Network, I was able to determine that a long (10-11’) mast under individual Hustler resonators was a real killer compared to the three resonators on a short mast that I’ve been using regularly. Of course, one can’t DRIVE with that mast on the van; but the difference in signal strengths was eye-opening.

Hoping to create a useful compromise, I put together three resonators (40/30/20) mounted horizontally on a 5-foot mast on a 4-magnet mount on the rear roof of the van. I’ve never had a 4-magnet mount come off while in motion. I did not “guy” the mast.

On a trial run on Saturday afternoon, I got about ten miles from home, and the mast flipped off. One of the resonators smashed the back glass of the van. Oops.

I pulled off the highway, picked up the pieces, drove home and began constructing a makeshift rear window covering for the van. And yes, I put the antennas back on the van. And yes, I guyed the mast this time. As it turned out, the magnets did not fail. There was a quick-disconnect at the base of the mast, and the pin sheared. Oops.

On to Sunday....

As usual, I planned to “fill in the holes on the map” as much as possible. This required starting from home and going south to Jersey and Greene counties, then north through Scott, Morgan, Cass, Mason and then north of Peoria to Stark and Marshall counties. While we also drove through Pike, Calhoun, Schuyler, Fulton and Peoria, I didn’t worry too much about those as I knew others had them covered. I’d originally planned to spend time in Menard as well, but I heard WA9AQN early and knew he would provide that one to anyone who was paying attention.

I drove to Pittsfield. Melba had eight hours of driving ahead of her. We changed seats. I have a ground wire attached to the key paddles so I don’t get “bitten” when I key the radio. The wire is too short to allow me to move the paddles to the lap board holding the computer. Okay, I’ll send left-handed for the next eight hours. I can do this....

Right off, forty meters proved to be a problem. No amount of adjusting or changing forty meter resonators seemed to provide a consistent solution. Some sort of intermittent issue made me “deaf”, and nobody responded on that band. Sometimes I could do OK when we were sitting still, but even that didn’t work consistently. There was something about the longer mast that was failing on forty even though it seemed to be fine on twenty meters. I still don’t know what was causing the problem.

Twenty meters was “ok” but didn’t last too long. I did manage to work a few Europeans in the early afternoon (though only 3 DXCC countries), and some West Coast stations made it into the log. It was nice to see K4XU and NU7J! Going to forty was just frustrating. I could hear Illinois stations calling CQ, but few of them heard me. On eighty, the only station who seemed to be around was K0PC/M whom I worked in a couple of counties. As the day progressed, eighty got better and better. Here I was using a different mast on a different mag mount, and eighty gave me no issues all day. I even worked DL3DXX on that band right at the end of the contest.

I heard some of the other mobiles and portables but did not work many of them. The pileups were just too big. AD4EB sounded like a Bouvet DX-pedition. I haven’t looked at his log yet, but his contact total must be spectacular. K0PC was also doing well, as was N9C. I heard KJ9C calling in a pileup once and never even heard K9WX. The bands just got too long too soon to work most other Illinois stations, especially the mobiles and rovers. I caught W9AIU/P a couple of times and never worked any other county corner operation. I tried working N9C on a 3-county corner and K9IR on a 4-county corner but never made it through the pileups for either one. I heard KD9NET calling CQ from Pike and Calhoun on 40 meter phone but never landed him. He sounded like he was having fun.

In order to maximize the time in the counties that were our “responsibility”, we pulled off the road in Jersey, Morgan and Mason. More time in those would have been nice, but it’s a long way up to Stark and Marshall. I wasn’t sure how long it would take to get to those, and we were going to be the “only game in town” in those two as well.

It gets really dark out on the road after about 6:30 pm in October. We found a place to park near a grain elevator in Stark in the town of Speer; and about half a mile east, we parked in a cemetery drive in Marshall to finish the day. The pileups on eighty meters were pretty intimidating at times. With forty not working at all by this time and no one remaining on twenty, I spent the last two and a quarter hours on eighty meters.

Melba did her usual great job of driving for the eight hours. At 8 pm, I switched off the radio and we traded seats. We were three hours from home. By 8:10 pm, I had 138 e-mails (with logs) in my In Box. Monday was going to be a long day.

The final “damage” was about 400 contacts and 60-some thousand points. That’s not very impressive. It seems I always have to have some excuse, and the 40 meter resonator fiasco certainly qualified. Maybe I’m just getting too old for this? The good news was that the plastic on the back glass stayed in place, and we didn’t get a lot of rain during the drive.

ILQP from W9WE and company

Well we have another year to go in the logbook. It wasn't as pretty as I had hoped for. WB9EWM John M. and KD9NET Alex R. also went down to the Pike/Calh county line, and we did our best to contact as many as we could.

The bands were just not working that first hour and I did very poorly trying an 80 meter vertical up 21 feet to the base. The top was about 40 feet. I switched to a G5RV for 80 meters and began to log a few. It seems that you could not hear or that you could not

be heard. I am not sure of my score so I won't worry you. My apologies to anyone who was trying to work us on that little blue county line. We just could not hear you. I am working on an end fed 80 meter, 119 ft of 14 stranded wire, coated. I want to start testing now for next year... Alex and John seemed to have a great time. Hopefully some more will participate next year to keep all the counties active. 73, Dave W9WE

An ILQP comment from the West Coast from WIARC member K4XU:

ILQP is fun unless all the mobiles go chasing IL mults on 40m when 40 is DEAD for us out here. Not until 21Z can we even hope to make ourselves heard back there. And starting about 23Z, they do the same with 80m.

It's 01Z now (6PM local) and there is not a peep on 80m, not even K9CT. Very frustrating.

It's hard to know how to address this, but I feel Dick's pain. Most stations just find a higher rate (and more multipliers) by moving to the low bands as soon as the sun gets in your eyes in the western sky. Maybe next year we'll have sunspots and 15 meters?? -.ed

NA9Q antenna party

NR9Q and N9JF jogged up the road to join some Quad Cities hams in helping NA9Q get back on the air. (And, no, I wasn't holding the camera at an odd angle....)

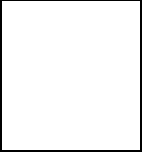


October WIMSPRINT:

K0CA: 19 QSOs, 11 prefixes for score of 209.

N9JF (as N9G): 150 QSOs, 87 prefixes for score of 13,050 (at Emiquon NWR)

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



November meeting: Wednesday, November
4, 2020

Location to be determined.

Remote access by ZOOM. Watch the club
reflector for details and listen to the
Wednesday night net!!

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

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147.03 and 448.9:103.5 sub-audible tone; 146.94 123.0

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ILLINOIS QSO PARTY

Newsletter input due by the 20th of the preceding month

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