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# THE FEEDLINE

Volume 45, Issue 8 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club August 2021

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From the shack of W9DP

The recent passing of a couple of close ham friends reminds me that we do not know how much longer we have on this earth. Use your time wisely.

In case you had not heard, the Peoria Superfest, that was supposed to be at a new location in Pekin, has had to find a new venue as the place they had planned in Pekin was damaged in a storm and will not be repaired in time. I also see that the Hamfest in Quad Cities is on again this year; hopefully the resurgence of the COVID variant will not cause them abort their plans for this year, too.

Interesting weather so far this summer... nothing terribly hot but a few warm days and a few cooler days. Pretty nice as far as I am concerned. Nice weather makes for great opportunities to plan activities outside. On that note, we will plan to have the August meeting outside in Moorman Park, at whichever shelter house is available. If the weather does not cooperate, WA9GBC has reserved the room at Twin Oaks again as a backup plan.

Anyone who has been on 6 or 10 meters knows the summer Sporadic E season has been pretty good so far. There have been a large number of European stations worked on 6 meters. Even a few West Coast have made the trip across the Atlantic for new countries on a band that is a little tough to chase DX on. Even more notable, there have been TWO double hop Sporadic E openings on 2 meters, something pretty much unheard of in even by old VHF operators. Sporadic E is fascinating and still is a mystery to those that try to understand propagation, but most all of us are glad it happens when the summer F propagation is not always the best.

Enjoy the summer, it will be winding down before you know it.

Danny W9DP

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the July 2021 WARC Meeting

The July 2021 meeting of the Western Illinois ARC was held at Twin Oaks Club at 2707 Bonansinga Drive in Quincy on Wednesday, July 7. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President W9DP.

The following were in attendance: K9VXD, W9WE, WB9EWM, WA9GBC, K9AJC, W9EMR, W9DP, AA9GL, KB9FIN, KD0DKE, KA0SNL, N9JF, KD9NET, AB9DU, NA9Q (on ZOOM) and visitor KE0KCQ.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Darell Taylor, N9DT, who was recently deceased.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved on a motion by WB9EWM, seconded by KB9FIN and carried.

The Treasurer's Report indicated a total of \$50 received and no expenses since the June meeting. The report was approved on a motion by KB9FIN, seconded by WB9EWM and carried.

The Repeater Board report was given by WB9EWM. Difficulty in restoring the D-STAR repeater has resulted from lack of reliable internet at the repeater site. No climber has been available recently for the KHQA tower to restore an antenna and provide a reliable path for the signal. WB9EWM is going to work with KHQA personnel to check for connectivity on an open port on the PC at the site. The question was posed as to how many club members have D-STAR equipment. WB9EWM will also follow up with WGEM employees to assess our status on their tower as that tower may be in line for replacement.

The Station Committee report was given by W9DP. Per K9VXD, Red Cross is gradually letting some personnel other than blood services into the building, and it is likely we would be able to enter, on a case by case basis, to do maintenance on equipment but not for daily access. It is also likely that we could do tower work as long as we do not enter the building. The Station Committee will work with NR9Q to schedule a work day to take down the old tribander and install the new one.

Contest Committee report: A total of four WIARC members made contacts on Field Day; these logs will be compiled for our club's entry. Several members made contacts in the Thirteen Colonies activity last weekend. The IARU Radiosport contest is coming up this weekend.

#### **Old Business:**

A discussion was held regarding the possible club logo designs. Several club members have voted on-line for one or more favorites, most of which were created by NB4C (Thanks, Bob!!!). A motion was made by WB9EWM, seconded by KB9FIN and carried, to approve "design 13" as the new club logo for use on QSL cards, patches and other purposes.

#### **New Business:**

A discussion was held regarding establishing a policy for contributions to memorials for club members and members' immediate families who are deceased. A motion was made by WB9EWM, seconded by KB9FIN and carried, that a \$75 donation be given for members and \$50 for members' immediate family with the Executive Committee selecting the entity to receive the donation.

N9DT has been the club's "registered agent" with the State of Illinois. N9JF will serve as the new registered agent. W9EMR will notify the state of the change.

#### **Applications for membership:**

Kenny Franklin KE0KCQ

**Rocky Shrum KE0KCR**

**These individuals were accepted as members on a motion by AA9GL, a second by KB9FIN and carried**

**W9WE mentioned that Steve, AI4QR was a visitor at the club's pre-meeting tail-gate session, along with Richard, WA2WGY.**

**WB9EWM mentioned that another area ham, Eldon Launer, WA9ACW, was also recently deceased.**

**Thanks was expressed to WA9GBC for securing the meeting site for tonight and for Twin Oaks for providing the facility.**

**NCS Stations: Aug 11: WB9EWM; Aug 18: W9EMR; Aug 25: N9JF Sep 1: W9DP  
On a motion by KB9FIN, seconded by WB9EWM and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted, N9JF Secretary**

## **VE Testing Info**

**The WIARC Team offers examination sessions a minimum of four times a year, in February, May, August and November. Examination dates are published at the beginning of each calendar year. Additional test sessions may be scheduled as required, often in coordination with the clubs' annual introductory licensing classes or when other club activities make it desirable.**

**Candidates must bring the following items: two forms of identification, one of which must be a government issued photo ID (driver's License); the 2021 test fee of \$15.00 (exact cash or check); 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. In addition, a candidate may bring and use a non-programmable calculator (optional, permitted if candidate desires to use it).**

**Note: Effective 2021, candidates must be pre-registered in the FCC CORES system and possess an FRN number which must be entered on the application that will be filled out at the test session. Also, candidates must enter a valid email address on the application form as the FCC is now moving to a paperless system and requires all those individuals doing business with them to be capable of receiving email from FCC.**

**At this time it is planned that the 2021 test sessions will be held at the Bethel Assembly of God Church at 12th and Jefferson, Quincy. However, a change in location for any session is always possible due to unforeseen circumstances. Please recheck this page often for the latest information.**

**Test session dates for 2021 are:**

**August 7th at 1:00 PM with a registration\* deadline of August 6th**

**November 6th at 1:00 PM with a registration\* deadline of November 5th**

**For additional information, or to register for a scheduled test session, call Dave Scranton, W9WE, our team liaison at 210-325-7923.**

**David L Scranton**

**Remembering N9DT....**

**“If you need me, you know I’ll do it.”**

**That was Darell, N9DT. “It” might have been parking cars in the hamfest (lots of times), bringing coffee and donuts to Field Day, providing ground crew at an antenna party, or taking a club office. I don’t know how many times Darell was roped into being a club officer, but it was a bunch. He never sought an office; but he was available if needed, and he always did a good job. Darell was a motivator, because, like my Dad, he never asked anyone to do a job he wasn’t willing to do himself if he were physically able.**

**I first got acquainted with Darell in 1987 when I joined WIARC. His trademark ball cap and sometimes shaggy hair usually stuck up above the rest of the crowd. Darell wasn’t hard to find! His voice wasn’t loud, but it was distinctive. When he spoke, he was worth hearing. We spent a lot of time operating side-by-side on Field Day, a few VHF contests, some special events and other contests at the club station or at my house.**

**Darell didn’t do a lot of CW, but he would often call me when I was mobile, either during ILQP or when I was just out “running counties”. Hearing him was always a pleasure.**

**Too soon, Darell is away from us. Please keep Karen and his family in your prayers as they make this major adjustment.**

**R.I.P., OM. 73. SK de N9JF**

**Miscellaneous stuff from the shack and brain of W9WE:**

**N9DT SK. How quickly 15 years went by since we were introduced to Darell. A great friend.**

**Please remember Karen N9KFT in your prayers. I remember all the laughs we had and friendship through the years. Picnics 🍷 and contest 📻.**

**July 7, 2021**

**Steve AI4QR, and his father WA2WGY visit Quincy. It was a pleasant visit with someone I had followed for years. Steve has been a big help since his CW podcasts are accessible any where I worked. I have used code generator and antenna modeling helps through years of radio studies. Below are some places to visit on his website or Facebook etc.**

I just wanted you to also benefit from his work. Thanks again Steve for your visit to Quincy.

I took a few pictures of the tailgate swap fest at Twin Oaks Club. A big round of applause 🙌 Twin Oaks Quincy. Some of the people who visited were new to me. I tried to get to know everyone and exchange ideas 💡 and equipment.

Morse practice antenna modeling here: <https://www.morseresource.com/AI4QR> page. <http://www.ai4qr.com/> Lots to see on QRZ page <https://www.qrz.com/db/ai4qr/>



AI4QR Steve WA2WGY Richard



N9JF Jim W9DP Danny



**WB9EWM John    W9AAW Bruce**



**AA9GL Ron    W9GQK Steve**

I've been looking into SDR and want to share this QRZ page. Take a minute and review this information about software defined radio.

<https://www.qrz.com/db/W8KFJ/>

This winlink vara fm page explaining much more can be done than just using a repeater. Many technicians could use some of their frequency to operate these types of communication. <https://www.winlink.org/tags/vara>

Below is a report:: Hardware SCS modems running PACTOR 2,3 and 4 were evaluated as were sound card modes WINMOR, ARDOP and VARA across a variety of channel models and across a range of signal to noise conditions for HF. VARA testing included a new VARA 500 500Hz mode. VARA FM and AX.25/FX.25 packet were simulated for a VHF channel. Just Sayin :)

[https://winlink.org/sites/default/files/a winlink digital mode performance comparison based on the ionis sim hf vhf channel simulator - july 5 2020 0.pdf](https://winlink.org/sites/default/files/a%20winlink%20digital%20mode%20performance%20comparison%20based%20on%20the%20ionis%20sim%20hf%20vhf%20channel%20simulator%20-%20july%205%202020%200.pdf)

I personally think 😞 I will be getting a SDR radio of some type in near future. Still reading the reviews and watching YouTube, lot's information.

73

Dave Scranton  
W9WE

DX info cheerfully and shamelessly borrowed from *ARRL DX News*:

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by EA4R, W6PQL, 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.

**SENEGAL, 6W.** Dani, EA4ATI is QRV with his temporary call sign 6W1/EA4ATI and here for about three months. He is active on 80 to 10 meters using mainly SSB. QSL via EA4R.

**AZORES, CU.** Jim, W6PQL will be QRV as CT8/W6PQL from Pico Island, IOTA EU-175, from July 25 to September 4. Activity will be on 40 to 15 meters using SSB and FT8, and EME and FT8 tropo on 2 meters. QSL direct to home call.

**PANAMA, HP.** Special event stations 3F200AT and 3F200NG are QRV until November 30 to celebrate Panama's Bicentennial anniversary of Independence. QSL via LoTW.

**BRAZIL, PY.** Mor, PT7ZT is QRV with special call ZV32ZT until August 13 to celebrate the XXXII Olympics. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes. QSL direct to home call.

**INDONESIA, YB.** Special event station 8B53BG is QRV to celebrate the 53rd anniversary of the Organisasi Amatir Radio Indonesia and ORARI Lokal Bogor. The length of the activity is unknown. QSL via operators' instructions.

Please see July QST, page 73, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

## Six Meters

If you spend much time on the “Magic Band”, you could write this as easily as I. If not, you really should find a way to try firing up something between 50 and 54 Mhz. I understand that in the really high sunspot years, F2 propagation provided some spectacular international opening on six. That has not been the case in recent years, unfortunately. However, good ol’ “sporadic E” can make six come alive at any time; and the best bet for this is the months of May through July.

Sporadic E isn’t thoroughly understood, but you don’t have to be able to explain it to enjoy it. The phenomenon can be experienced on bands from 20 meters to even 2 meters (and perhaps above that), but it’s most likely to be helpful on 10 and 6 meters. A possible source of the propagation is “floating clouds” of highly-reflective ionization that is very effective at sending received radio waves back to earth. Signals can be received from a few hundred miles out to over a thousand miles, and it’s possible to get “double-hop” or even “triple-hop” sporadic E in some circumstances.

It’s called “sporadic” because the propagation moves around, sometimes quickly. You may not be hearing anyone at all one minute; and five minutes later, you seemingly can work every station in Dallas, Atlanta or Cleveland. In another five minutes, those stations might disappear to be replaced by a pileup from Tampa or Denver.

How do you know if the band is open? For many years, there have been beacon stations on CW that can be heard between 50.000 and 50.100 Mhz. These stations will usually send their Maidenhead Grid along with their callsign. More recently, the advent of the immensely-popular FT8 mode has provided an indicator of band openings. There are so many people on FT8 right now that if the band is open, there will be signals on 50.313, the “standard frequency” for FT8 operation.

Where do you find other modes? Most CW operation is just below or just above 50.100 Mhz., and most SSB is upward from 50.125 Mhz. There is also FM operation on six; but having never operated the mode on that band, the common operating frequency listed, 52.525 Mhz., is my suggestion.

It’s unfortunate that other modes seem largely to have been abandoned on six in favor of FT8. I guess it’s not surprising that a computerized digital mode would be more popular than CW, but to hear loud FT8 cramming the 50.313 region and not a single CW or SSB signal...well...it’s a bit sad. Now that FT4 is available (50.318) and twice as fast as FT8, I don’t expect this trend to change. If you can’t beat it, enjoy it!

What’s possible on six with a decent antenna and a hundred watts? I don’t spend a lot of time on the band. In fact, I’ve managed to miss most of the best band openings in the last couple of years and have yet to complete a contact with Europe. On the other hand, I’ve had a lot of fun working counties! The CW and SSB contacts have been accumulated over many years; but the digital work has been over the last two years. To date, I’ve worked, on digital modes on six, 436 counties in 46 states. It’s not surprising that I’ve had trouble working Alaska and Hawaii, but Minnesota? Nebraska? I guess I’ll have to work harder on this.... See you on the “Magic Band”!



## SMC Fest upcoming!

"Registration is now open for SMC Fest, the annual meeting of the [Society of Midwest Contesters](#). The 2021 event will be held Saturday, August 28 at the Chicago Marriott Naperville. The \$53 registration fee includes the full program along with lunch. Like many other ham radio clubs, SMC held the 2020 SMC Fest in a virtual format and saw a record number of registrations. And while everyone enjoyed the opportunity to meet virtually last year, everyone is looking forward to the chance to return to an in-person meeting format. A block of rooms is reserved for Friday night with an additional, smaller block held for Saturday night for those who want to stay the extra night. You may [make your hotel reservation online](#) using the link provided on the SMC Fest web page or you may call the hotel (800-228-9290 or 630-505-4900) and request the room rate for the Society of Midwest Contesters." (Tim, K9WX)



[I don't think I'll make it this year, but SMC Fest is always a great opportunity to meet other contesters and get a lot of great ideas and inspiration! -.ed]

From the *[ARRL Contest Update](#)*:

"The [Missouri QSO Party](#) is aligning with Missouri's Bicentennial this year, with the event to be held July 31-August 1, 2021. Typically, the event is held in April. Check the [website](#) for the counties that are known to be active."

"Sleep deprivation has real consequences. According to [an article in Neuroscience News](#), just three sleepless nights can lead to an "increase in anger, frustration, and anxiety." There were effects from as little as one sleepless night. Make sure you budget in some recovery time after a 48 hour B-I-C. (N4HY via Twitter)

For those that are suffering from fatigue, stimulating the vagus nerve can help. Using a commercially available device already used in the treatment of migraines and cluster headaches, researchers delivered an electrical current through the skin to cervical vagus nerves in the neck. Compared to a control group, those that received the stimulation "performed better at tasks testing focus and multi-tasking. They also reported less fatigue and higher energy" according to this [article from IEEE Spectrum](#)."

[I can attest to some of the effects of sleep deprivation. In college, I went without sleep for about 60 hours in order to finish a class assignment. By 3 a.m. the second morning, I was seeing people who weren't there. Not fun... -.ed]

## Most 2021 Field Day Participants Entered in Class D



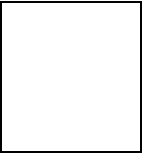
In the second ARRL Field Day (FD) with rule waivers in place, some 4,815 entries were received at ARRL Headquarters by July 13 -- the majority in Class D (Home Stations). Last year saw more than 10,213 entries and 18,886 participants. Before the pandemic, in 2019, 3,113 entries were submitted, with 36,420 total participants.

"It appears that larger groups were more the norm in pre-pandemic times, as expected," ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, observed. "From the discussions I've been having with participants, even though some groups gathered in

larger numbers this year, many participants chose either to gather in smaller groups or to operate solo from home as Class D or Class E stations. Although I don't think we'll see the number of entries that we did last year, we're close in terms of the number of participants."

With about 2 weeks to go until the entry submission deadline, the tally of participants reported is 16,166. They made just north of 1 million total contacts.

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



August meeting: Wednesday, August 4,  
2021. 7 pm  
Upper Moorman Park shelter, as available,  
with Twin Oaks as a backup in case of bad  
weather. Stay tuned....

**W9AWE – W90AB**

**The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

WIARC homepage: <http://www.w9awe.org> e-mail to [w9awe@qsl.net](mailto:w9awe@qsl.net)

WIARC email reflector: [wiarc@mailman.qth.net](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month**

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