
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 45, Issue 9 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club September 2021

From the Presidential Palace and Laboratory

It is hard to believe it is time for the September newsletter already. Summer is still here, but it won't be here forever. Get your outside projects wrapped up as the weather will change one day. That said, there has been some antenna work going on recently. A few club members are working on getting WB9WAJ back on 75 meters, and a pretty large group helped with the assembly and installation of the club's new HF beam. I want to thank everyone that took the time to help; it was definitely a group effort. I understand there should be a few pictures of the process elsewhere in the newsletter. Now if we can just get in to operate the club station this fall and winter....

I received a couple of NTS messages that I brought to the Wednesday evening 2 meter net and was able to pass one of them during the net. The best thing about it was that it was for a 9 year old, recently licensed ham, Elijah, KD9TFF. Elijah's older brother, Matthew, KM9BUD, also checked in to the net and even better, Elijah, Matthew and their Dad (KW9Q) and older brother Malachi, KO0KER, all showed up to help with the antenna work at the Red Cross! It was very encouraging for me to meet these new hams! In FCC news, it appears the FCC will not implement the fee for Amateur Radio license transactions until 2022, but it is still coming.

I understand the Peoria Hamfest is still scheduled to be held September 18 and 19, in spite of having to find another location after the air-filled dome in Pekin was damaged in a storm earlier this year. You can find more about it at http://www.w9uvi.org/?page_id=5440

The current plan is to hold the September club meeting in Moorman Park again, weather permitting. We will have a backup plan in case we cannot meet in the park. See you September 1.

Danny W9DP

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the August 2021 WIARC Meeting

The meeting was held at one of the shelters in Upper Moorman Park and was called to order at 7 pm by President W9DP.

In attendance: K9VXD, W9DP, N9JF, W9GQK, W9WE K9AJC, WB9EWM, AB9DU, KB9FIN, WM4D, KE0KQC, KE0KCR, KD9QGE, NR9Q, KD9NET, WB9WAJ, K2PEY, WA9GBCKD0DKE plus ZOOM: NB4C, W9WEB, KC9FSQ,

Minutes of Jul 2021 meeting were approved as printed in *The Feedline* on a motion by WB9EWM, seconded by KB9FIN and carried.

Treasurer's Report; \$20 more in dues, \$75 expense for memorial for N9DT; net income of \$954 year to date: motion by WB9EWM, seconded by KB9FIN to approve, carried.

Station Committee: NR9Q looking for a time (and decent wx) to do tower work

Repeater Board: WB9EWM; new owners of WGEM have been "asking around" for a copy of our agreement with them for tower space usage; N9JF will check Secy materials

Contest Committee; Plaques for last 2 years of ILQP are being mailed, "non-edible-edibles" mailed overseas.

VE Report: Test session Saturday, August 7, 2021 at 1 pm at Bethel Church, 12th and Jefferson, Quincy.

WB9EWM announced that a licensing class will be held in Elvaston Aug 5; W9WE mentioned that W9FE had given 8 2-hour sessions on the Extra exam materials.

Old Business; none

New Business; none

Applications for Membership: none

NCS: Sep 8 WM4D

15 WB9EWM

22 NR9Q

29 W9DP

Oct 6 N9JF

Arnold has access to 80' of tower if anyone is interested

WB9WAJ needs assistance with a 75 meter antenna (preferably a vertical)

Ex Comm will decide on a memorial for K9FHX

Adjournment at 7:25 pm on a motion by KB9FIN, seconded by AB9DU and carried.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Funk N9JF Secretary

The sympathy of the WIARC members goes to the family of J.W. Scranton, the father of W9WE, who passed away on August 13, 2021. A memorial has been given in the name of WIARC to the Illinois Veterans' Home, Hammond Hall Activity Fund.

A prominent member of the Hannibal Amateur Radio Club, J.D. Sinclair, W0AJD, passed away on August 4, 2021. Our sympathies go to his wife, Bonnie and the family. JD was very active on the air and with the HARC and a big contributor to the Lighthouse Days operations by HARC/WOMTL.

The Beam is UP!!!

A great assemblage of local hams combined to put together the new Mosley beam on Friday, August 20 and Saturday, August 21. Once it was ready and tested, NR9Q climbed the tower on Saturday, and the old tribander was removed from the tower; and the new antenna was put in its place. The testing done on the antenna indicated that it is properly constructed and ready to go! Now if we could just get into the club station....

While Chris was the lynchpin for the operation, doing all of the work on the tower, we had a really good group to help with the other tasks; and everyone's assistance was greatly appreciated! WM4D took pictures at ground level, and NR9Q took quite a few from the birds-eye view. Some of them are on Dropbox at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vz3a4hb7p1hsuyf/AACzJTNGvczycDmUURVIHp0Ha?dl=0>
and more will be added.

If you have trouble with the link, let Chris know and we'll try to figure out the problem.

In Case you wondered.... (from the ARRL Section Manager's newsletter):

There is still no definitive word, other than sometime this fall the \$35 license fee will become effective. It's come a long way since I paid my \$4 fee for my General. We have seen increases, then zero cost and now a fee again. Although I wish it would have stayed at zero, I'm not going to complain about paying \$35 more to enjoy the hobby. It is still a lot different than it was at one time.

[Later information has indicated that the fee collection will probably not begin until sometime in 2022. -ed]

In 1912, licensing first began and required a code speed of 5 words per minute. Then in 1917, all amateur radio was suspended due to World War One. Amateurs got their privileges back in 1919.

In 1922 Amateur Radio call signs began to be government assigned. Previously, hams made up their own call signs and we had two classes of license.

In 1934 the Federal Communications Commission was established. Prior to that, amateur radio testing was done by the Commerce Department. When the FCC was established the code speed went to 13 words per minute. It was mandated amateurs keep logs and if you wanted to operate mobile or portable you had to receive written permission from the FCC and the license was good for three years.

In 1940 US amateurs were required to submit finger prints, a photo and proof of citizenship to the FCC before they could be licensed. They were also prohibited from contacting other countries.

US Amateurs lost 80 meter privileges in 1941 when the army took over 80 meters and from 1942 until 1945 all US amateur activity was suspended during the war. After the war amateur licenses were extended from 3 to 5 years.

In 1951 the FCC created the Novice, Technician and Extra class licenses to join the Advanced (formerly class A), General (formally Class B) and Conditional (formerly class C) licenses. Licenses were still good for 5 years except the Novice which was 1 year and non-renewable. Novices were limited to 75 watts input with crystal frequency control of CW on portions of the HF bands. The technician license only had UHF privileges until 1955 when they received 6 meter privileges and then in 1959, 2 meters privileges.

The license fees enacted on January 1, 1964 were:

New or renewed license: \$4

Modified license: \$2

Special call sign: \$20

Novice licenses were free.

They were changed on August 1, 1970 to:

New or renewed license: \$9

Modified license: \$4

Special call sign: \$25

Novice licenses remained free.

Then effective March 1, 1975, the FCC lowered the above fees for amateur licenses to the following:

New or renewed license: \$4

Modified license: \$3

Duplicate license: \$2

Special call sign: \$25

Novice licenses remained free.

Finally, effective January 1, 1977, FCC dropped all fees for amateur licenses. From then until now, all US amateur licenses have been free.

In order to clarify the above fees here is the explanation:

A "new or renewed license" included the fee for taking the tests, pass or fail, for a new license or a license upgrade. A "modified" license meant a change of address or name, but not a license upgrade.

Going back to the history, in 1982 President Reagan signed into law a bill that allows the FCC to authorize licensed hams to create and administer amateur radio license tests and the VEC's were established.

In 1984 amateur licenses went from five years to 10 years and we were no longer required to test at FCC field offices. Volunteer examiners administered the tests.

In 1991 the No-code Tech license class was created.

Beginning in 1995 vanity call signs introduced. *[Actually, there was a sort of "vanity program" that began in the mid-70s. It applied only to Amateur Extra Class licensees who had held that class for at least a year. That's how I went from WA9OBP to N9JF... -ed]*

Then in 1999 the FCC proposed major changes to amateur rules, cutting license classes from six down to three with a single five wpm code test for the two highest classes – General and Extra (new Novice and Advanced class licenses were eliminated).

More license changes happened on April 15, 2000 when the code speed for General and Extra license was reduced to five wpm and the FCC stopped issuing the Novice, Technician Plus or Advanced class licenses. If you held a Novice or Advanced class license you could continue renew it. The Technician Plus licenses became converted to Technician.

Finally in December the FCC eliminated the Morse Code testing requirements for all license classes.

I have not included every event that has happened between 1912 and 2021. The complete history can be found on the net. I do need to acknowledge Tom Hashem, KA1F for his work and the Eastern Massachusetts ARRL. It is where I gleaned much of this information.

DX News cheerfully and shamelessly appropriated from ARRL DX News:

QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 33 ARLD033 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT August 19, 2021 To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by IK2DUW, 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.

UGANDA, 5X. Elvira, IV3FSG is QRV as 5X3R until September 2. Activity is in her spare time on 80 to 10 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via IK2DUW.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Paco, EA7KNT will be QRV as D4SAL from Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, from August 23 to September 5. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via operator's instructions.

ST. LUCIA, J6. Bill, K9HZ will be QRV as J68HZ from August 21 to November 8. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

BRAZIL, PY. Mor, PT7ZT is QRV as ZW16ZT until September 5 in celebration of the XVI Paralympic Games held in Tokyo. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes. QSL direct to home call.

Please see August QST, page 71, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details NNNN /EX

There were a LOT of DX announcements for activity during the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend that last weekend of August. Hope you worked some of them! We had a blast participating in this many years ago from the Mark Twain Lighthouse in Hannibal as W0MTL. -.ed

If you still “need Bouvet”, despair not: (from *ARRL Letter*):

Bouvet Island DXpeditions Are in Planning Stages for 2021, 2022, and 2023

Parallel planning is under way by three entities for DXpeditions to Bouvet Island in 2021, 2022, and 2023. The remote volcanic, glacial sub-Antarctic island in the South Atlantic is the second-most-wanted DXCC entity, according to Club Log. In June, the Intrepid-DX Group canceled its 3Y0J DXpedition, planned for 2023, after the RV *Braveheart* was put up for sale. Not long after, the Intrepid-DX Group revived its plans and was seeking a suitable vessel.



On August 8, a DXpedition [using the 3Y0J call sign](#) announced the signing of a contract with the expedition vessel *Marama*, a 101-foot sailing ketch with "a proven track record and experienced polar crew." Co-leaders for the November 2022 effort are Ken Opskar, LA7GIA; Rune Øye, LA7THA, and Erwann Merrien, LB1QI. Opskar, who holds the 3Y0J license, split from the Intrepid-DX Group DXpedition effort he headed with co-leader Paul Ewing, N6PSE.

In a brief announcement on August 3, Ewing had said that a Bouvet DXpedition team under "revised leadership" had found "a suitable/affordable vessel willing to take us to Bouvet," and was negotiating the terms of that charter contract. Ewing's co-leaders would be David Jorgensen, WD5COV, and Kevin Rowett, K6TD. The Intrepid-DX Group now must secure a new license and landing permission from the Norwegian Polar Institute.

Meanwhile, Polish radio amateur Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, says planning continues for a second expedition on Bouvet Island in late 2021, using the call sign [3Y0I](#). "As you probably know, our first attempt to reach the island of Bouvet in March 2019 failed," Grzyb says on the DXpedition's website. "We were so close -- just 63 nautical miles off the shore of Bouvet Island."

The reconstituted 3Y0J group under the LA7GIA/LA7THA/LB1QI triumvirate said in its August 8 announcement that it planned to begin fundraising "immediately." It would field a team of 12 operators for a 20-day stay "around Bouvet." They would set up at Cape Fie at the southeastern part of the island, which they called "the only feasible part where a DXpedition can safely set up camp on rocky ground; we will not set [up] camp on the glacier."

The Summer North American QSO Parties:

NAQPs are a lot of fun! They are “everybody works everybody” events held six times a year. All entrants must run low power, stations can be worked on all six non-WARC bands (except no RTTY on 160), and multipliers are states, provinces and North American DXCC entities. They are a great way to rack up states for multi-band Worked All States or to chase counties on different bands. Single-ops are limited to 10 hours of the 12 so you don’t kill an entire weekend.

One of the features of NAQPs is the intense competition each year between three of the main contesting clubs: Society of Midwest Contesters, Potomac Valley ARC and the Northern California Contest Club. There are “teams” formed within each of the clubs to encourage more participation and to help competitors keep “BIC” (Butt in Chair) for a few extra points.

I usually try to get on for at least a few hours in each of these, partly to help out SMC’s club effort and partly to try to chase down a few more band/mode/counties. A perusal of the log after the contest almost always results in a few more additions to the spreadsheet!

I’m not a very skilled RTTY operator! It usually takes me about an hour to figure out (again....) how to get the radio and software working together so that I don’t come across as a total loser on the air. My July 2021 effort in the RTTY version of NAQP resulted in only about 110 contacts. Nothing “broke”...I’m just not very good at this 😞.

For the CW contest in August, I decided to combine NAQP with Parks on the Air and operated from Fall Creek Overlook State Natural Area (KFF-4122). It was a hot afternoon, but I found a shady spot and duked it out for about 4 ½ hours, logging around 225 contacts as “Pogo” (my NAQP and Sprint “name” for the last 30 years).

For the SSB contest August 21, I again activated a park. This time, it was Bob Bangert Park (which used to be Sid Simpson State Park). I spent two hours after we finished the tower work at ARC. That was about all the time I could handle in a phone contest, on a hot afternoon, with no particular incentives. I made about 75 contacts, all on 20 and 40 meters. Unfortunately, 15 and 10 meters showed absolutely no activity at the time I was in the park. I had a lot more trouble with “Pogo” on SSB than on CW. I guess I haven’t done enough NAQPs and Sprints recently?

The N9JF-mobile at Bob Bangert Park for NAQP SSB:



From *The ARRL Contest Update for August 18, 2021*:

OPERATING TIP Have A Contest Operating Plan

Be a "conscious contester" for bigger scores. If you're in it to do the best you can, make a plan for the times that you operate during the contest period. Make your plan in 30 minute or 1-hour intervals, taking into account past instances of this contest, the current sun spot cycle, and other factors such as past 3830scores.com reports (e.g. "took advantage of a late night opening to Asia on 20 meters") to help you decide what bands to be on, where to point your beam, and where to look for needed multipliers. Plan to gather more information during the contest to help you make decisions.

Think of it this way: If you had to write down instructions for someone that was operating your station on how to operate in the contest, those directions would be the plan. Write the plan down. Consult it during the contest. Take notes as necessary to modify it for the next time. Plan to have fun.

[I used to write down operating plans prior to major contests and to make notes after the events as to what worked, what didn't, what to change next time. Perhaps I took things too seriously, but there is a fair amount of "wallpaper" in the shack indicating that something worked.... -ed]

Operating Events in September

Lots of opportunities to make contacts in September. Here is a bit of variety:

Russian RTTY WW Contest: Sept 4 0000z – 2359z Want to get your "Worked All Oblasts" award on RTTY? <https://www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/93>

Colorado and Tennessee QSO Parties Sept 4 and 5
<http://ppraa.org/coqp>
<https://tnqp.org/rules/>

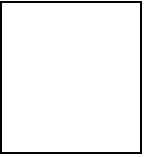
Ohio State Parks on the Air Sept 11
<http://ospota.org/>

North American Sprint, CW
<http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf>

The weekend of September 18 will be CRAZY with Washington, Iowa, Texas, New Hampshire and New Jersey QSO Parties, Wisconsin Parks on the Air and the North American Sprint, RTTY. If you don't like contests, that would be a good weekend to read a book or stay on the WARC bands....

The weekend of September 25 is the 48-hour CQWW RTTY contest (and the Maine QSO Party).
It's time to get busy making your plans for 2021 ILQP! October 17 is the big day!

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



September meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 Likely at a shelter in Upper Moorman Park with alternatives available. Watch the club reflector and listen to the Wednesday night net for latest information.

W9AWE – W90AB

The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

WIARC homepage: <http://www.w9awe.org> e-mail to w9awe@qsl.net

WIARC email reflector: wiarc@mailman.qth.net

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@arrl.net