
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 45, Issue 10 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club October 2021

President's ramblings

We are rapidly approaching October, and the weather reflects it. While we still have pretty warm days, the nights are much cooler; and the hours of daylight are rapidly diminishing. Hopefully, HF propagation will improve. The sun appears to be waking up, and sunspot numbers are slowly increasing.

I failed to mention this at the appropriate time. Hopefully some of you were able to attend the Peoria Hamfest this year. Moving to a new venue often causes hamfests to struggle; and with the ongoing COVID concerns, it may have been a tough comeback for the Peoria club.

This is the October issue and many activities are popping up on our schedules. Please make a note that the Illinois QSO Party will be held Sunday, October 17. Please make sure you set time aside to get on the air that afternoon and evening to make some QSO's. Our club membership is slightly over 70 right now; there is no reason we could not get half of them on the air for the ILQP this year. Even if you can only work 2 meters, get on 2 meter simplex (usually 146.550) and work everyone you can. If 35 club members all worked each other on 2 meter simplex, it could add several thousand points to the club's total score in the club competition.

Plans are well underway by several groups to activate various counties, and you can see who is planning to operate from where and make sure you know all the necessary details by going to <https://w9awe.org/ilqp/>. Don't have a station? Check with other club members. Many of our members will help you get on the air, either supplying you with hardware, advice or inviting you to operate from their station as part of a multiple operator effort. Feeling ambitious? Feel free to operate Field Day style from a county line or corner, or even from your own back yard.

If you really want to experience the ILQP from a different perspective, operate mobile and hand out some of the rarer counties. Many counties may only be activated by a single station for a few minutes and possibly only on one mode and some of those are not that far from home.

Currently, the plan is to hold the October club meeting at Moorman Park again. If weather does not cooperate, we will have a backup plan; and it will be announced via the email reflector and on the repeater. See you Wednesday October 6 at 7:00 PM.

Danny W9DP

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the September 2021 WIARC meeting

Held in Upper Moorman Park; Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by President W9DP with the following members and guests present:

W9DP K9VXD W9WJO AA9GL NR9Q W9GQK KD9NET KB9FIN WA9GBC AA9CT
K2PEY KD0DKE KA9SNL W9WE KE0KCR KE0KCQ

A Zoom session was set up, but there were login issues. KB9WFC was apparently the only one to log in successfully. One guest came with NR9Q: Jordan Gutierrez (sp?).

Minutes of the August meeting were approved as printed in *The Feedline* on a motion by KB9FIN second by AA9GL and carried

Treasurer's Report from K9VXD: \$20 in dues income, \$50 expenses.

Approved on a motion by KB9FIN second by AA9GL and carried

Station Committee: Thanks to Chris NR9Q for the antenna climbing and install of new antenna. A motion was brought to the floor for discussion if we could reimburse the cost of his lunch, not to exceed 20.00 dollars. KB9FIN moved, and AA9GL 2nd the motion and passed by majority vote.

Tests were conducted on the new antenna by WB9EWM, and a table of results is included in *The Feedline*.

Repeater Board: WB9EWM was not able to attend. A minor problem with the 147.03 machine was reported as an excess hang time after the regular identification was given, causing anyone using during i.d. had to release transmission and let machine reset.

Contest Committee: ILQP: Please see: www.w9awe.org and go to the events and activities sections under the ILQP. Also please inform W9DP if you are planning to operate during the party. He will put your station on the activities map.

Old Business: Arnold still has information on 80-90 feet of Rohn tower. Contact him if you are interested.

New Business: : Librarian Katie Kraushaar, who is now the Community Engagement Librarian, from the Quincy Public Library has contacted us about amateur radio operations and licensing. Dave W9WE has agreed to contact her next week and discuss how we can serve the area community. Our goal is to provide education and access to the information necessary to cultivate interest in radio. We are expecting a report of the outcome in next meeting.

Applications for membership: none

Net Control Stations: Oct 6: N9JF, Oct 13: WB9EWM, Oct 20: open Oct 27: NR9Q Nov 3: open

Motion to adjourn at 7:37 pm. Carried.

(Minutes taken by W9WE in absence of Secretary N9JF; thanks, Dave!)

Aug 7, 2021 License Testing

We had four candidates, and all put another notch on their belts. The results made all of us proud of the effort put into further education, and license upgrades. I was too late to get this in the newsletter but will enter it next month.

1 Jon Anderson Technician KD9TFE

2 Matthew Campbell General KM9BUD

3 Malachi Campbell General KO0KER

4 Elijah Campbell Technician KD9TFF

Congratulations to all and thanks to the VE team for helping with another test session. 73
W9WE
Dave Scranton

A link to put in the newsletter...

Subject: [Members] Watch "VACUUM TUBE TECHNOLOGY (U.S. Signal Corps. Radio Electronics Training 1942) Rectifiers, "Valves" on YouTube

For hams who like vacuum tubes (which is probably most of us!), here is a short video (approx. 15 minutes) about vacuum-tube rectifiers, posted yesterday by the Computer History Archives Project (CHAP) on YouTube. The subject was originally produced by the US Army Signal Corps. in 1942. Link below.

https://youtu.be/r8x_cwKluhw

Good afternoon crew,

Does any one have a 2" aluminum mast or thicker wall fiberglass mast laying around. Would like to find at around 8-10ft long. Would need to support yagi's for 6m, 2m, and 70cm. This is not for permanent use and will be used for portable. If you have something here local please let me know. 73

Chris Schulz
NR9Q@hotmail.com

Notes from NR9Q:

It was really nice to see such a great turn out at the last meeting. The weather was really nice for having an outdoor meeting. Sure hope we can get more good weather before we have to consider other alternatives for meetings. If weather allows for an outdoor meeting here in October, I plan to bring in something for a short presentation. I will keep these things brief, but please ask questions if you have them or even inject new ideas. If you have something you would like to bring that would be of interest to club members, please do. Remember it may seem simple and widely known to you, or

veterans of the hobby, but we have new hams showing up to meetings. Hoping to just get someone's gears turning for a project or new avenue in the hobby.

The September club presentation was a lot of fun to display for the club. I brought in my new portable radio (Yaesu FT-991a) and most everything I would take out portable with me. Alex (KD9NET) was also able to bring in his portable rig, the Xiegu G90. Sure, glad he brought this in. As seeing it in physical form was nice. From only seeing it online I thought it was going to be larger, heavier radio. The speaker audio was loud and the display was really nice even being as small as it was. Alex and I tested the current being pulled between our two rigs (don't remember exactly), the G90 was just under a .5a and the FT-991a was just under 1.5a (at receive only).

As for the rest of the portable setup, this is what I was really want to show to the club. I built a linked dipole. This of course is not my creation and has been written about numerous times, I am sure. In short this is a multi-banded $\frac{1}{2} \lambda$ dipole. I brought the 60/40m version I built, but forgot the 20-10m version. Would have liked to remember this one as it had more links. To get from 10m to 20 meters all of the bullet connector links (photos below) just need plugged in to create the $\frac{1}{2} \lambda$ 20m dipole. Very nice to have resonant dipoles on all these bands and only one or two antennas up on the portable mast. No tuner needed. Will add a photo of the updated links on the dipole. This was done via a 3D printing. I guess that might end up being another toy for the hobby now.

We made some contacts before the September meeting with this setup, but wanted Doug (KW9Q) and his ham crew to see this simple antenna and play around with it on HF. They were unable to make the meeting. So, some days later Doug and his three boys (K00KER, KM9BUD, & KD9TFF) setup the portable station and got on HF. First contact they made was to Slovenia (S51DX) on 20m, then another good one on 17m (after disconnecting links on dipole) to Costa Rica (T12VVV). It sure looked like they were enjoying reaching these far-off stations. This was not our last encounter with the portable setup. We setup in a park and Doug and his kids made numerous contacts again with the portable station. This time I wanted to test more gear and see how the antenna would hold up. Brought my Honda generator (the quiet one) and a 500w Icom IC2Kl amp. The generator handled the amp and the links on the antenna were happy also.

Thanks so much Doug, Malachi, Matthew, & Elijah! This was so much fun and forward to more ham radio fun in the coming years (photo below).

73,
Chris, NR9Q





Mobile Contesting Tips from AD4EB

Jim, AD4EB, has been one of the premier mobile QSO party contesters in recent years, both in ILQP and in other parties. Check out his video!! After viewing this, I can understand why he consistently smokes me in the mobile category! Listening to him in last weekend's Texas QSO Party was like listening to a fine symphony. -ed

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cmd_pg-fuGQ

Trivia for the DXers in the group.

If you ever wondered why some of the DXCC countries are high on the "want list", this site might help explain: <https://itsthevibe.com/most-remote-islands/>

OPERATING TIP

How to Consistently Get Spotted by CW Skimmers and the Reverse Beacon Network

Bob, N6TV, provided these hints to [consistently get spotted](#) when CQing in his [presentation to the Spokane DX Association](#):

- Send everything at the same speed
- Use the words "CQ" or "Test" and send your call twice
- Use computer keying; consistent spacing is important
- The following words also count as "CQ": FD, SS, NA, UP



A view of the recent space launch courtesy NB4C.



Western parks report de N9JF: N9JF, KB9CES and “mode ops” Ringo (CW), Clyde (SSB) and Buzz (Digi) recently journeyed west and ran a few parks. The results of the trip were 18 parks activated, about 950 contacts and 70 counties “run”. A great deal of beautiful scenery was enjoyed by the group.

The picture above was taken at the entrance to Dixie National Forest in Utah next to the Red Rocks canyon site. Propagation was often a challenge due to surrounding mountains, but the hunters were numerous.

ILQP Plaques



Most of the plaques for the past two years have been distributed. Here is a picture of the one that will go to W9WE for his two-county portable operation. Kudos to W9DP's son-in-law, Jared, for the great workmanship!

DX info shamelessly borrowed from ARRL DX News:

TONGA, A3. Masa, JA0RQV is QRV as A35JP from Tongatapu Island, IOTA OC-049, until October 31. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL to home call.

JAN MAYEN, JX. Operators LA7GIA, RA9USU, DL5EBE, LB1QI and EA3HSO are QRV as JX0X from Kvalrossbukta, IOTA EU-022, until October 5. Activity is on the HF bands using all bands and modes and with four stations active. QSL direct to UA3DX.

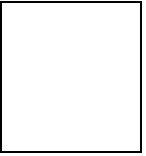
SEYCHELLES, S7. Fred, DH5FS is QRV as S79/DH5FS from La Digue and Praslin Islands, IOTA AF-024. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and FT8. QSL to home call.

POLAND, SP. Special event station 3Z20UR is QRV until October 15 to celebrate 20 years of the University of Rzeszow. QSL via SP8POP.

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4. Garry, 2M1DHG is QRV as ZC4GR until December 31. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via EB7DX.

Please see September QST, page 94, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details.

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October meeting: Wednesday, October 6
Location to be determined. Watch the club
reflector and listen to the Wednesday night
nets!

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

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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

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