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# THE FEEDLINE

Volume 45, Issue 2 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club February 2021

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## From the Desk of the President

The pendulum of what we should and should not do socially is still swinging back and forth, so the February meeting will be virtual again. With some restrictions being lifted, we will look at the possibility of meeting in person in March. We might even see if we can arrange a dinner meeting, I am pretty sure the people here in Camp Point would be willing to accommodate us if that is what the membership decides.

The Dayton Hamvention has been cancelled again, and it will take a while before the COVID vaccine is distributed widely enough for large gatherings to start up again. That said, we need to make the decision about our swapfest as well.

There is still VEC testing scheduled for Saturday February 6 in Quincy. Contact Dave, W9WE for more information.

Speaking of VE testing, the ruling that Amateur Radio operators will have to start paying for many dealings we have with the FCC will impact the fee collected at the exam session. Most of us will see \$35.00 every 10 years as very reasonable fee to be able to continue to keep our ham radio licenses, but it could have a far-reaching impact on getting new blood introduced to the hobby. It could easily cost a new ham over \$100 to get their license and upgrade to General, all in a very short space of time.

Something to think about....

The club web page will eventually have a new look, but it may take a while to make the switch. Thanks to Andy, KA0SNL for offering his expertise and hosting services. I will check and see if we will still be using Goto Meeting for the February meeting and will post a message on the club email reflector with the details.

Danny W9DP

Moved and Seconded: January 2021 minutes of the WIARC meeting.

The January 2021 meeting of the WIARC was called to order by President W9DP at 7:15 pm on Wednesday, January 5. The meeting was held by GoToMeeting, hosted by AB9QW.

Present were the following members and guests: W9DP, N9JF, AB9QW, KB9WFC, K9VXD, AB9DU, NB4C, W9WE, KD9NET, KE7RR, KB9FIN, KA0SNL, W9GQK,

Minutes of the December meeting were approved as printed in *The Feedline*. **MOTION KB9FIN SECOND NB4C CARRIED**

Treasurer's Report: income for 2020: \$1794.93 expenses for 2020: \$645.23 Net gain \$1149.70. Dues from 17 members so far. M KB9FIN S W9GQK carried

Repeater Board: has not met; no report; there are some items to address

Exec Comm will meet before the next meeting and will include an audit.

Old Business:

There was a discussion concerning a possible club logo. NB4C has submitted several possible designs for comment:

Go to

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dzqhx16fqs6ltw4/AABeEPN00adPOGu6ywA9xHTKa?dl=0>

and check at logo11

KA0SNL is working on a new website for the club and will coordinate with NA9Q with Mike's approval. Something will be available for consideration by next month's meeting.

W9WE reports that the next VE testing will be Feb 6 at Bethel Church at 12<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson.

A discussion followed concerning the FCC's proposed licensing fees and how the club might respond in terms of helping with these costs for new licensees.

New Business: none

Applications for membership: None

Net controls:

Feb 10 N9JF

Feb 17 W9DP

Feb 24 N9JF

Mar 3 W9DP

Motion to adjourn by KB9FIN second by W9GQK carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm

Respectfully submitted, N9JF Secretary

DX Stuff Gleefully Purloined from DX Bulletin 3 ARLD003:

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.

KENYA, 5Z. Wayne, 5Z4WH is QRV from Molo. He is generally active on 40, 20, 15 and 12 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via operator's instructions.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Michael, HB9WDF will be QRV as 8Q7AO from Vilamendhoo Island, IOTA AS-013, from January 25 to February 7. Activity will be holiday style and only on Satellite OQ-100. QSL via LoTW.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. Johnson is now QRV as CD0YJA and plans to be QRV from Hotu Matua, IOTA SA-001, when time permits. QSL direct to XR3UNION.

**ANTARCTICA.** Felix, DL5XL is QRV as DP1POL from the German research station Neumayer III until mid March while on work assignment. Activity is on various HF bands, and possibly Satellite QO-100, using CW and various digital modes. QSL via DL1ZBO.

**ANTARCTICA.** Ramon, LU3HRS is QRV as LU1ZG from Base Belgrano II while on work assignment. He is usually active on 20 meters using FT8 between 1900 and 2300z. QSL via LU4DXU.

**BULGARIA, LZ.** Special event station LZ190FT is QRV during all of 2021 to commemorate the 190th birthday of Bulgarian revolutionary Filip Totyu. QSL via LZ2VP.

**PERU, OA.** Special event calls OC200P, OC200E, OC200R and OC200U are QRV during 2021 to commemorate 200 years of Peru's republic. Only one of these calls will be active at a time. QSL to OA4O.

**GREENLAND, OX.** Nils, SM3UQK is QRV as OX/SE3A from Narsarsuaq Island, IOTA NA-018, while on work assignment. He is active in his spare time on 40 and 20 meters. QSL via SM3UQK.

**ARUBA, P4.** Mathias, DL4MM plans to be QRV as P4/DL4MM from January 23 to February 3. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4. He plans to be active as P44AA in the upcoming CQ World Wide 160-Meter CW contest. QSL to home call.

**UKRAINE, UR.** Special event stations EM150PLU, EN150PLU and EO150PLU are QRV during all of 2021 to celebrate the 150th birthday of the poet Lesya Ukrinka. QSL via operators' instructions.

**HONG KONG, VR.** Special event station VR2BLEE is active to commemorate the passing 47 years ago of martial arts movie star Bruce Lee. QSL via operators' instructions.

**ASCENSION ISLAND, ZD8.** Tev, TA1HZ is QRV as ZD8HZ during 2021 while on work assignment in Georgetown. Activity will be in his free time on 80 to 10 meters using mainly FT8. QSL via LoTW.

Please see January 2021 QST, page 75, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details. NNNN /EX

From ARRL Bulletin 2 ARLB002:

Effective on June 29, 2021, amateur radio licensees and candidates must provide the FCC with an email address on all applications. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as "defective."

On September 16, the FCC adopted a Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 19-212 on "Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services." The R&O was published on December 29 in the Federal Register. The FCC has already begun strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. Once an email address is provided, the FCC will email a link to an official electronic copy of the license grant. An official copy will also be available at

any time by accessing the licensee's password-protected Universal Licensing System (ULS) account.

The R&O is available online in PDF format at, <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-electronic-licensing-report-and-order>

Licensees can log into the ULS License Manager System with their FRN and password at any time and update anything in their FCC license record, including adding an email address. For questions or password issues, call the CORES/FRN Help Line, (877) 480-3201 (Monday - Friday, 1300 - 2300 UTC) or reset the password on the FCC website.

The only way to refrain from providing an email address on an application would be to submit a request to waive the new rule, providing justification for the request. (The FCC would not be obliged to grant such a request.)

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur radio station license "must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name." For a club or military recreation station license, the application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

Under new Section 97.23, each license must show the grantee's correct name, mailing address, and email address. "The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence," the amended rule will state. "Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address."

*I can tell you from experience that wallowing through the FCC website to do this is no picnic. Have a bottle of tranquilizers handy. Allow time for more than one attempt. -.ed*

Stuff from Contest-Guy and VE W9WE:

The cost of licensing will be going up soon. This is a great time to get motivated and upgrade.

Tech General Extra. Mid-year will be 35\$ more per step.

FCC testing next on 6 February at Bethel Church 1pm. See last month newsletter for complete information.

<http://www.w9awe.org/>

"I'm ready I'm ready I'm ready." Famous Spongebob quote

From ARRL Bulletin 41 ARLB041:

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed

**\$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications."**

**In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.**

**The R&O can be found online in PDF format at, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-184A1.pdf> .**

**This fall, ARRL filed comments in firm opposition to the FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees and urged its members to follow suit.**

**As the FCC noted in its R&O, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, "ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service." The fee proposal was 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."**

**Information on Ray Baum's Act can be found online in PDF format at, <https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ141/PLAW-115publ141.pdf> .**

**"After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the NPRM for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated," the FCC said in the R&O. "We adopt the proposal from the NPRM to assess no additional application fee for minor modifications or administrative updates, which also are highly automated."**

**The FCC said it received more than 197,000 personal license applications in 2019, which includes not only ham radio license applications but commercial radio operator licenses and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) licenses.**

**The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it has no authority to create an exemption "where none presently exists."**

**The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.**

**"[W]e are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public," the FCC said, but noted that specific exemptions provided under Section 8 of the so-called "Ray Baum's Act" requiring the FCC to assess the fees do not apply to amateur radio personal licenses. "Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules," the FCC**

noted. "As we have noted previously, '[w]hile the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service.'"

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. 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, which had been excluded previously. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

"While the Ray Baum's Act amended Section 9 and retained the regulatory fee exemption for amateur radio station licensees, Congress did not include a comparable exemption among the amendments it made to Section 8 of the Act," the FCC R&O explained.

The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance. The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the Federal Register announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, "once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated."

Always look 🗉 at Contest Calendar for the buzzzz.  
<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

Significant Operating Events during late January and February:

## The 2021 CQ World Wide 160-Meter Contest

**CW: 2200Z January 29 to 2200Z January 31**

**SSB: 2200Z February 26 to 2200Z February 28**

<https://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>

If you have any interest in "Top Band" at all, this is the place to be on those weekends! These are worldwide contests with a lot of DX activity. The downside (compared to ARRL 160) is that it's "everybody works everybody", so the DX stations are often working each other instead of digging into the muck for stateside stations. However, US states still serve as multipliers, so they WILL dig! Also, stateside, the multipliers are states and provinces, not ARRL/CRRL sections, so it's harder to rack up big multiplier totals. In addition, DX is 10 points, not 5 as in ARRL 160, so the East Coast has a big scoring advantage when they can run Europe. It's still a fun contest from the Midwest; you're just probably not going to win it....

**Clubs – Please share with your membership.**

The HamCation QSO Party has been organized to create a fun way for amateurs to celebrate the Orlando HamCation experience over the air. The QSO party will replicate the camaraderie and social experience of attending HamCation and provide a way to have fun on the radio since HamCation 2021 will not be held due to Covid-19.

The HamCation QSO Party will be a 12-hour QSO Party on the HamCation weekend of February 13, 2021 from 10:00 am EST Saturday to 10:00 pm EST Saturday. It will be a CW and SSB on-the-air operating event on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters, during which anyone can work anyone!

Categories will be High Power (more than 100W output), Low Power (100W output or less) and QRP (5W output or less). All participants will be single operators, as there is no multi-operator category.

Information exchanged during a QSO will be NAME, STATE/PROVINCE or COUNTRY and the outside temperature at your QTH. We are including temperature at your QTH as a way of highlighting Orlando's mild February weather.

There will be special event stations to heighten the fun and challenge of participating in the QSO party. Nine Special Event 1x1 stations will be active that will spell out "HAMCATION", such as K4H, W4A, K4M, etc.

**Scoring and Reporting:**

- Each QSO will count as 1 point. Stations may be worked once on each band and mode.
- All entrants will report their scores on [www.3830Scores.com](http://www.3830Scores.com).
- Submitting of logs is not required, nor will they be collected. Final results will be based on the information submitted to 3838Scores.com.
- Guests operating at a station must use their own call signs and submit their scores individually.
- A copy of the HamCation QSO Party rules may be found at: <https://www.hamcation.com/special-event-station>

**Plaques and Certificates:**

- ICOM-sponsored Plaques will be issued to the top winner in each Category.
- All Participants who work all nine of the 1x1 HamCation stations will be able to download an ICOM-sponsored certificate for this special achievement.
- All participants will be able to download an ICOM-sponsored certificate for their participation in this historic event.

# Hello!

This is a reminder that the 23rd Minnesota QSO Party (MNQP) is two weeks away. February 6th at 1400 UTC.

We hope you can join us again in the party!

Please refer to:

<https://www.w0aa.org/mn-qso-party/>

for all the latest information and tools available to maximize your enjoyment.

We will likely have all 87 Minnesota counties activated by various fixed and mobile stations.

73.

Mark WA0MHJ

*This is one QSO party that Melba encourages me to enter (other than ILQP). Their wild rice prize is delicious! -.ed*

Don't forget the State QSO Party Challenge! <http://stateqsoparty.com/>

Beginning in 2021, the State QSO Party Group is offering even more exciting awards/activity programs. It includes the State QSO Party Challenge, which is similar to the 2020 SQP Challenge competition AND the new Worked All QSO Parties WAQP) awards program.

The 2021 program kicks off with the Minnesota, Vermont and British Columbia parties the first weekend of February!

And.....last but not least: ARRL DX CW!!

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx> Lots of fun for the CW Dx-er!!

## Virtual Winterfest

The SLSRC Winterfest hamfest will be online this year. You can watch all the seminars online for free. Here is a link to their flyer Winterfest 2021 (slsrc.org) <<https://winterfest.slsrc.org/>>

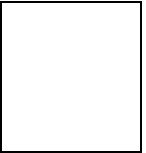
Danny W9DP

## ILLINOIS QSO PARTY REPORT

Results have been posted to the web, and AB9DU has worked his magic and is sending out certificates to the winners. Thanks, Bob!!



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



February meeting: Wednesday, February 3,  
2021..

Likely via GoToMeeting, but check the club  
reflector and listen to Wed night nets!

**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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