
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 45, Issue 11 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club November 2021

From the Laboratory of the President

As I write this, the Illinois QSO Party is still pretty clear in my mind. Propagation was pretty good, 40 treated us very well, the participation level was very high, which all led to a lot of QSO's. Pileups on the mobile stations was almost non-stop; some mobiles were even hard to work due to the unruly pileups. I did hear and work a few club members. If you were on at all, please submit your log to N9JF. If you need help sending a log in, let me know and I will help if I can.

HF propagation is improving, not in huge steps, but it is improving. Hopefully you can take advantage of it and get on the air more often. I, for one, am looking forward to 15 and even 10 meters being open all around the world most of the day.

At last month's meeting, we voted in three new members, WB9BUU, KB0V and N0YLQ. We also had a past member rejoin, AA9CT. If you hear them on the air, please welcome them to the club.

The COVID numbers locally have declined sharply, I am hoping that they continue down and that we are allowed to start meeting in the Red Cross again, as well as having access to the club station. Until that happens, we will continue to meet elsewhere. I have not yet secured a location for the November meeting, but hopefully it will be back at Twin Oaks. If it is, please consider purchasing something while you are there, we are being provided with a meeting space at no cost to the club. The least we can do is spend a few dollars while we are there.

I will be looking for people to serve on a Nominating Committee at the November meeting, elections will be held at the December meeting. Please, if you are asked to serve, either on the Nomination Committee or to fill one of the positions that we will be voting on, give it a long hard thought before you make your decision. Those that have served throughout the years really would prefer others would step up and take a turn. It is not hard and does not involve all that much time. The key to being a successful officer or leader is having other people willing and able to help. Just because you may be in charge of something does not mean you have to do it yourself; it just means you need to see that it gets done and that it works best when many people help out.

A position that is not voted on but is as important as any other in the club is editing the newsletter. N9JF has been doing a fantastic job, but as he pointed out a couple of years ago, he would be happy to help someone else take on the task. It is not a hard job, the editor is not expected to create the content, simply assemble it into a document that is readable and see that it is posted to the club web page each month. No printing or mailing is involved, and anyone with email and even a slight knowledge of Microsoft Word can do the job. Since I was the newsletter for a few years before N9JF, I can tell you the hardest part of the job is reminding people to get content to the editor in time each month. I know N9JF would be quite willing to help with the transition and

answer any questions as they pop up. Please, please ask yourself, why shouldn't I take on the newsletter editor task?

CU at the meeting November 3rd.
Danny W9DP

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the October 2021 WIARC Meeting

The October 2021 meeting of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at Twin Oaks Club in Quincy. The meeting was called to order by President W9DP at 7 pm with the following members present:

W9DP, K9VXD, W9EMR, WB9WAJ, KB9FIN, W9GQK, KD0DKE, WA9GBC, AA9GL, W9WE, W9WEB, KB9WDC, WB9EWM, N9JF, AB9DU, NB4C, W9WJO, KD9NET AND AA9CT plus KB0V on Zoom.

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

Treasurer K9VXD reported \$20 in dues income since the last meeting, interest income of 52 cents....and expenses of \$160 for ILQP plaque engraving and mailing and \$20 miscellaneous expenses. Total income for the year to date is \$2501.53, expenses \$548.40 with a net of \$1953.13. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by KB9FIN, seconded by WB9EWM and carried.

The was no Repeater Board report or Station Committee Report.

Contest Committee: Illinois QSO Party is Sunday, October 17. W9DP encouraged as many members as possible to get on the air and represent the club.

VE Report (W9WE): Next local test session is Saturday, November 7 at 1 pm at Bethel Church in Quincy. In the meantime, KW9Q's group will hold a test session at the Elvaston Community Church on October 21 at 7:30 pm.

Old Business: K9VXD reported that the club's liability insurance policy payment (\$200 annually) is due October 23. This item is already part of the club budget and will be paid by the treasurer.

Applications for membership: The following were accepted into membership on a motion by WB9EWM, seconded by KB9FIN and carried:

WB9BUU

KB0V

NOVLQ

New Business: none

Net Control Stations: Nov 3 W9DP Nov 10 N9JF Nov 17 WB9EWM Nov 24
WM4D Dec 1 W9DP

Member NB4C was attending from Florida and shared some insight on his ham experiences from that part of the country as well as some of his history from the Quincy area.

W9WE reported that communication from Katie Kraushaar from the Quincy Public Library indicated some interest in getting amateur radio materials for public use as well as permission to use a room at the library for meeting should we desire to do so. This room might also be available for license classes.

WB9EWM volunteered to check with ARRL and see what packages of reference materials might be available for donation to the library. A discussion was also held regarding reaching out to area educational institutions with ham radio resource materials.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm on a motion by KB9FIN, seconded by WB9EWM and carried.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Funk N9JF Secretary

From the recent *ARRL DX News*:

SB DX ARL ARLD042 ARLD042 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by W2GD, 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.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Operators Jan-Francois, F4AHV, Gerard, F5NVF, Luc, F5RAV and Abdel, M0NPT will be QRV as C5C from Kololi from October 24 to November 19. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, and Satellite activity on QO-100. QSL via F5RAV.

BAHAMAS, C6. Richard, NN2T will be QRV as C6AHB from Bimini Island, IOTA NA-048, from October 27 to November 3. This includes being active in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL to home call.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Members of the DARC local association Wolfsburg and possibly others will be QRV as special event station DR00EBIS until the end of 2021 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the railway station Oebisfelde. Activity will be on various HF bands and Satellites using CW, SSB, RTTY and various digital modes. QSL via bureau.

MARTINIQUE, FM. Miguel, EA1BP will be QRV as FM/EA1BP from October 27 to November 5. This includes being active as TO7O in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL to home call.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. Members of the Tifariti Gang/DX Friends will be QRV as HD8R from October 26 to November 7. Activity will be with four active stations on 160 to 6 meters, including 60 meters, using CW, SSB, various digital modes, and on Low-Earth orbit Satellites. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest as either a Multi/2 or Multi/Multi entry. QSL via EA5RM.

SARDINIA, IS0. Richard, OM2TW is QRV as IS0/OM2TW until November 1. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via OM2FY.

JAPAN, JA. Members of the radio club in the city of Tama are QRV as 8N1TAMA until the end of June 2022 to mark their city's 50th anniversary. Activity is on 160 meters to 70 centimeters using CW, SSB and FM. QSL via bureau.

ARGENTINA, LU. Special event station L21RCA is QRV until the end of 2021 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Radio Club Argentina. QSL via LU4AA.

BELGIUM, ON. Special event stations ON75AF, ON75BAF and ON75BFS are QRV until the end of 2021 to draw attention to the 75th anniversary of the Belgian Air Force. QSL via operators' instructions.

SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS, PJ5. John, W5JON will be QRV as PJ5/W5JON from St. Eustatius, IOTA NA-145, from October 24 to November 1. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL direct to home call.

ARUBA, P4. John, W2GD will be QRV as P40W from October 25 to November 1. Activity will be on all bands as time permits. This includes being active in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via LoTW.

BERMUDA, VP9. Jeff, N6CQ will be QRV as VP9/N6GQ from October 27 to November 1. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. He plans to be active as VP9I in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via operator's instructions.

Please see October QST, page 75, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details.

We had a QSO Party! Did you notice?

ILQP “came off last weekend”, mostly without any problems. This is a group effort that requires a lot of planning and “cheerleading” in the weeks leading up to “our weekend”. The weather was perfect. Here are some accounts from a few participants.

ILQP 2021 de W9DP

I used the club call W9OAB from my home station this year and I think it will be busted in several logs. I don't know why, but many people came back to W9AOB and had to be corrected. Last year I had received my new call just a few days prior to ILQP and this year I used the club call, so I had to stay focused to make sure I gave the correct call. I know that even on CW, a few wanted to confirm they had copied the call correctly. I don't know if we need to use the call more often so it becomes familiar to others or if it was just my poor enunciation or poor sending on CW (except I did almost no sending by hand). At any rate, conditions were pretty good, 40 was very short early on, something

we have not had the past couple of years during the ILQP. I was a couple of hours late getting started and things were in full swing. I worked N9UPG in Quincy during the first few minutes I was on, then ran across Alex, KD9NET. I heard WB9EWM shortly after that, both on the Pike/Calhoun county line, about 35 miles from me. I also worked one of our newest members, KB0V, in Hancock county shortly after that. I made a couple of attempts at running on 40 meter SSB, but had limited success. Going to 40 CW brought me a whole list of completely different counties than what I worked on 40 SSB. After working the easy stations of 40 SSB and CW, I went back digging for the weaker stations and was rewarded with several QRP, portable or mobile stations that were all new multipliers. After a couple of passes through 40 meters and a couple of breaks, I went to 75 meter SSB but found very little activity, so I tried 20 and never heard a single station calling for Illinois. I tried calling CQ but gave it up as a lost cause after several minutes. I never tried 20 CW and really should have. After another short break, I went back for a quick pass through 40 meters and saw the band was getting long, but I was still hearing many Illinois stations. I finally went to 75 meters and while there was very little ILQP activity, it was obvious the band was in good shape. I checked CW and that was where the action was, I did not find many new multipliers on 80 but lots of stations to work.

I am very thankful for those that chose to operate portable or mobile. Without them, at least half of the Illinois counties would not get activated. I have operated both portable and mobile, and it is often frustrating in the amount of resources that are spent for less than stellar results. We all know it is not cheap to fill our gas tanks, but we still have a handful of out of state operators that drive to Illinois, some even spending the night, then driving through a large portion of the state giving out counties. This year the mobiles were in high demand and had quite a pileup each time I ran across one. As a matter of fact, the pileups were often a little unruly and callers were much stronger than the mobile, making it very hard to hear who the mobile was coming back to.

W9OAB (op W9DP)

Newsorthy news by W9WE

The ILQP is again in the rear-view mirror, and I am exhausted. My wife, W9WEB has been recovering from cataract and lens replacement this week. Both eyes. All is going well, just lots of extra things to do as caregiver.

The challenge of finding a place to set up the equipment with the 2 inches of rain just before we started was overcome. Thanks to Mike Webb of Pleasant Hill, we were able to have trees for antenna set up, and exactly on the Pike, Calhoun County line. This was probably the strongest signals we have heard on the contest for several years. I don't know what the numbers for propagation were but seemed much better. WB9EWM John, KD9NET Alex, and I were able to spread out maybe a couple hundred yards this time. If it had been drier, we could have doubled that distance.

I worked all CW, and they were on Phone. Total QSO's for the day were over 500, so we are excited that this year our total contribution was better. And that's all I have to say about that!

I wanted to let everyone know that I was able to contact Katie Kraushaar of the Quincy Public Library. The library has offered us a couple of options to use the

building for teaching ham radio classes or to have our regular monthly meetings. Starting in February the classrooms will be available on one day per month for the purpose of running a new license or upgrade class. Please consider if we as a club are ready to take this responsibility and teach these classes again. We will discuss more in detail at the next meeting.

73, Dave W9WE

ILQP Report from "The Man", AD4EB: (I am in awe of this guy... -ed)

This was the 7th time we operated mobile in the ILQP, and we ended up with our highest number of contacts and total score. Melody drove the same route as last year, covering all the planned 23 counties (307 miles), and stayed on schedule for just about the entire time.

Activity was much higher than any of the previous years, and the pileups were just massive towards the end of the contest. I had a difficult time keeping up rate during the last 2 hours for two reasons. First, propagation was superb for both short and long skip causing everybody to be super loud making call hard to decipher. And second, it seemed most everyone was tuned right on my frequency and not spread out hardly at all. It was the toughest and most exhausting pileup conditions I've ever experienced as mobile in these QSO parties. Guess this is actually a compliment for the WIARC and all the Illinois cw operators, you guys put on an incredibly popular QSO party this year! Ended up working 279 unique calls (was 253 last year, and 209 the year before).

I knew 15m was open because Laci OM2VL moved me there for my only 15m QSO. But I was so busy on 20m and 40m that I never found the time to try and get something going there. Best rate for 1 hour was 195.

The 12 most worked stations include:

K9RS (35)
AC4G (29)
K9CT (28)
OM2VL (23)
K9NW (22)
W8PI (22)
KA6BIM (21)
DL3DXX (20)
K9RN (19)
NS2N (19)
K8MR (18)
W6OAT (18)

Congratulations to these stations, and thanks to everyone who took the time to work us in the contest. I apologize to those stations I could hear calling, but had to move in to the next county to stay on schedule. Sure wish we had had more time.

Thanks to those that helped put together this excellent QSO Party. And thanks

again to Melody for driving and navigating me down thru Illinois for the 2021 ILQP.

73 - Jim (AD4EB) and Melody (KI4HVY)

And from another mobile who ventured in from out-of-state!

Jim,

We had a great time. The activity level was super. The weather could not have been better. Thanks for a really nice QSO Party event.

We have been targeting the ILQP for quite a while. This year all the elements came together and so off we went. We ran from noon to 4:00 PM and made it back home in the daylight and had a bit of supper at our favorite pub. Wonderful day.

For the files, here is a copy of our ILQP QSO card (Note: We are carefully covering our WI plates!!)



MJ, WO9B

ILQP from N9G (N9JF)

The week prior to ILQP weekend was “Get Your Park On” celebrating worldwide Earth Science Week. Coordinated by N9MM, fourteen park activators reserved 1x1 calls for the event. As in the past, I grabbed N9G for October 9-18. My reason for keeping it for the QSO party that I figured that after sending “N9G” for a week, it would be a challenge to go back to N9JF for Sunday. I caught myself sending “N9JF” only once, but who knows how many times I sent it by accident....

I always manage to incorporate some additional challenges into the ILQP mobile operation. When running parks, I do so from the driver's seat; when doing ILQP, Melba drives and I sit in the passenger seat with a laptop on a board on my lap. The key paddles are pretty firmly tied in place. Rather than move them to the board, I just switched the keyer leads and sent left-handed for the entire eight hours. Other than the fact that my hand was tired, it worked ok.

Someday, I really have to get some repairs done to the IC746Pro. It fits perfectly in the van, and it has tens of thousands of miles in that spot, but there are some issues. The headphone jack does not work, so I was limited to those stations I could hear through the speaker. In addition, the dial lights are out. The last hour, I was using a flashlight to check my frequency. Other than that.....

I checked on 15 meters early in the afternoon. A good bit of noise on the FT8 frequency (21074) indicated that the band "was open". I called CQ several times, and the only station that responded was KY7M in AZ. Lee was LOUD....but he was also the whole story. I never heard another signal on 15 CW. Not to worry....20 meters was really good, and 40 meters had both long and short skip. I worked NU7J in Seattle at 1744z on 40 cw. DX signals were good on 20 meters with DL3DXX, OM2VL, HA8IB, DK2OY, F5NKX, HA9RE, 9A3YT and SP5SA all getting into the log in the first two counties.

Unfortunately, propagation on 20 did not last very late into the afternoon. By the time we hit county # 5 (MNRD), no EU made it into the log. Eighty meters was fairly productive from the very beginning; the key was to work somebody that would put a "spot" on the W6RK page. At the point, the roof would fall in with massive pileups. I've never before been so overwhelmed with pileups on CW (see AD4EB's comments). When everybody called zero-beat on my frequency, not only could I not sort out callers, when I responded, no one could hear me over those who continued to call. Not cool. If the alternative was fewer callers, I guess we'll take it.

Had we not taken time out for a couple of "fluid-level adjustments", the average rate would have exceeded a hundred an hour, something I've never done in ILQP. At 789 total, we were close. However, this pales in comparison to AD4EB's rate, not that this surprised me.

Unfortunately, the size of the pileups in several counties caused us to stay longer than we should have. I just can't leave a pileup. As a result, we were a mile from the Henderson County line when the clock ticked over 0100z. Oops. If we didn't get all 102 on the air, I'm responsible.

For all the things that didn't quite go right, it could have been a LOT worse! When we finished the route and drove back to Monmouth to get a sandwich, I noticed that the mast on the rear of the van was sitting "cattywampus". Further investigation showed that the base was just sitting in the mag mount, and the mast was in place only because I had guyed it with monofilament. That was a close one....

Now for the logs, of which we have received 325 as of this moment....
73 Jim N9JF (not N9G for another year)

(As an aside, I activate 19 parks during the prior week and made about a thousand Qs. I'm tired...)

I think NR9Q still needs this:

Good afternoon crew,

Does anyone 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
217-440-9681

A reminder from W9DP regarding station evaluation:

I may have sent this once before, but after talking to one of the club members last night, I thought it may be worth sharing again.

<http://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator>

It is pretty straightforward and we all are required to do this calculation now.

Once you've evaluated your station:

There is a lot of operating fun to be had during the month of November! The last weekend of the month is CQWW, the granddaddy CW DX contest of the year. Before that, check out this announcement of ARRL Sweepstakes (from *The ARRL Contest Newsletter*):

Enjoy Two Weekends of Fun During the ARRL November Sweepstakes

The [ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) (SS) weekends loom large on the amateur radio contest horizon. The CW weekend is November 6 - 8, while the phone weekend is November 20 - 22. Both events begin on Saturday at 2100 UTC and conclude on Monday at 0259 UTC.

The SS offers operating categories for every preference. The goal for many seasoned SS operators is to complete a "clean sweep" by contacting all 84 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) [Sections](#). Canada's Prince Edward Island

province joined the list last year. Most SS operators try to run up the contact and multiplier counts and stay in the chair for the full 24 (out of 30) allowable hours.

The competition can be fierce, and the pileups can be huge. In 2020, ARRL received 1,445 logs for the CW event and 2,046 for the phone event.

Some Sections are harder to contact than others. Northern Territories (NT) is always a challenge, but there's a slim chance that snagging NT could be easier this year.

Gerry Hull, W1VE (also VE1RM), is hoping to operate as VY1AAA for both weekends, using "J" Allen's, VY1JA, Yukon Territory station remotely from the US. Now in his mid-70s, Allen essentially retired from ham radio a few years ago due to health issues, but he's bounced back this year with renewed enthusiasm and working to get a station and antennas ready for Hull to operate. At this point, he's sorting through a backyard scrap pile that includes tower sections he had up in the past. He wants to get 80 - 100 feet assembled and clamped to a sturdy utility pole. Hull says Allen is committed to the task.



The VY1JA tower boneyard. [Photo courtesy of J Allen, VY1JA]

"VY1JA is now in re-construction," Allen says on his [QRZ.com](https://www.qrz.com) profile. "There is only a small chance that it will be done and on the air for SS CW this year. If so, signals may be weaker than in the past, with only a 100 W Omni VII and wire antennas. Plans for building an amp failed, and antenna work has taken far longer than expected."

Hull said if Allen does manage to erect the antenna support tower, VY1AAA will have inverted V antennas for 20 and 40 meters, which Hull considers "the money bands from

Yukon on CW."

"So, hoping for good weather and good health for J, and then we might have VY1AAA on for the masses for SS CW," he said. Hull said if the CW weekend is successful, he'll consider also operating in the phone event.

Other difficult Sections to contact include Delaware, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Pacific, and North Dakota. (Alaska, Hawaii and other US territories in the ARRL Pacific Section, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands count as W/VE stations, not as DX, for the SS.)

Contesters, especially the less experienced, often want to know how to handle duplicate contacts (dupes). It's almost a given that this will happen in SS. While some operators still set up a "hot key" to send "WKD B4" on CW when encountering a dupe, current best practice is to work the apparent dupe, log it, and move on. While dupes don't earn any points, they also don't mean you'll incur a NIL (not-in-log) penalty if the apparent dupe did not log the initial contact for one reason or another.

The SS exchange is patterned on traffic-handling terminology. For both the CW and phone events, stations exchange a sequential serial number (no leading zeros are required), an operating category (precedence), call sign, the last two digits of the year first licensed (check), and ARRL/RAC Section.



Most areas of the US change from Daylight Saving Time to Standard Time at 2 AM local time on November 7, by moving clocks back 1 hour. UTC is not affected.

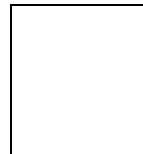
Logs are due within 7 days after the event is over. Certificates will be awarded in the top operator CW and Phone scores in each category in each ARRL/RAC Section and Division, and plaques will be awarded to the Overall and Division winners. Icom America is the principal awards sponsor.

An operating guide that relates some of the history and evolution of these North American contests is available under "Operating Guidelines".

The possibility of VY1AAA getting back on the air is exciting, and a bit surprising. I know we were concerned about VY1JA's health when we visited J and Ann in July of 2019. If he is able to reconstruct the station, that is extremely good news!
-ed



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



November meeting: Wednesday, November
3, 2021 7 pm
Tentative location: Twin Oaks Club
2707 Bonansinga Drive

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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ILLINOIS QSO PARTY

Newsletter input due by the 20th of the preceding month
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