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# THE FEEDLINE

Volume 45, Issue 12 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club December 2021

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## Static from the Shack of the Prez....

December brings the end of the year and time to finish plans for next year. December means election of officers for next year. The nominating committee has been working to get a slate of candidates for next year, thank you guys!

Looking back over the past year, while it seems like it did not amount to much, our club did manage to hold in person meetings every month. We did manage to get the club station tribander down and the new Mosely beam up in its place. Thanks to all that helped in any way, and there were many of you. I also want to recognize the many hours put in by N9JF editing the newsletters. I also appreciated the help with calling the Wednesday night net and the many that have helped behind the scenes in many ways most are not aware of. What I am leading into is: it takes more than the officers to make the club what it is; it takes all of the members to make things happen. This never is more apparent to me than when the nominating committee is looking for candidates to fill positions each year. Too often the same people are the ones filling those positions. A new face or even an old timer that has not served before are a breath of fresh air. Even if the nominating committee has a candidate for each position, nominations are accepted from the floor the night of the election. There is still time for some new blood to step up for next year. None of these positions are a one-man show. There are many club members willing to help with specific projects when the time comes. I really hope there are nominations from the floor; that lets others know there is still interest in keeping the club moving along.

With a little luck, we may see our activities return to a more normal schedule. I sure hope so anyway. I would really like to get the club station put back to work again. Christening the new beam with a multi-op contest effort sounds like a worthwhile endeavor, and I hope we can do that soon.

In spite of COVID, the club membership has not suffered and has actually grown over the past 2 years. It's a trend that I would like to see continue. Invite any ham you know to attend a meeting with you. Better yet, take a new ham under your wing and provide a little old-fashioned Elmering, invite them over to your station, show them the ropes, get them on the air. What, you don't get on the air yourself? That is easy to remedy, check into a few nets a week. There are a couple of VHF nets held each week locally and a very large number of nets on HF. Find one that piques your interest and jump in! We also need to look further into what it takes to entice a younger group into Amateur Radio. We all know we are not the future of ham radio.

There are a plenty of opportunities for the entire membership, not just the few that seem to do most of the work.

The December meeting will again be held at the Twin Oaks, Wednesday December 1 at 7:00 PM. I hope to see you there! Danny W9DP

## Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the November 2021 WIARC Meeting

The November 2021 meeting of the WIARC was held Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at Twin Oaks Club in Quincy. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President W9DP with the following members present:

W9DP, K9VXD, W9GQK, K9AJC, WA9GBC, KB9FIN, KA0SNL, W9WE, KD0DKE, WB9WAJ, ADB9DU, N9JF, and via ZOOM: NB4C and KB0V

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as printed in *The Feedline* on a motion by KB9FIN, second by W9GQK and a voice vote.

*Note: After the meeting, KB0V texted a correction to the minutes: The new member voted in at the October meeting was incorrectly shown as NOVLQ; should be N0YLQ.*

**Treasurer's Report:** K9VXD reported interest income of forty-nine cents for the month. In order to keep the savings account active, he transferred \$100 from checking to savings. Expenses for the month were \$200 for our liability insurance and \$67 for post office box rental. The report was approved on a motion by KB9FIN, a second by K9AJC and voice vote.

**Repeater Board:** W9WE reported for the committee: The group met and placed the .03 repeater in FM mode only (FUSION is disabled) and did various tests. The output from the duplexer was only 13 watts. It was discovered that the intermod panel was defective, and it was removed. The output from the power amplifier is now 28 watts with 22 watts through the duplexer. The amp has issues and will need further trouble-shooting. SWR at 147.03 was 1.17: 1. Receiver sensitivity was -118DbM. Committee will be doing further work.

**Club Station Committee:** No report. Station still not accessible.

**Contest Committee:** ILQP: 387 logs received so far; several big scores and category records. Plaques sent out for previous years were nicely-done and well-received (including the one sent to OM2VL). Upcoming contests: ARRL SS (CW and phone), CQWW CW, ARRL 160 and 10m.

W9DP reported no movement yet on possible club shirts.

**New Business:** Nominating Committee of N9JF, W9WE and WA9GBC will solicit nominations for the following offices to be filled by election at the December meeting: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Repeater Board positions (WB9EWM and NR9Q terms expiring).

W9WE reported there will be a test session for licensing on Saturday, November 6 at Bethel Church at 1 pm. HARC will have a test session on November 20 at 12 noon at the Ralls County Ambulance building in New London.

An updated club roster has been sent to KA0SNL for updating on the website.

W9DP mentioned that long-time WIARC member W9LEM, Larry Moorman of Mount Sterling passed away a couple of weeks ago. The Executive Committee will follow up with a memorial per the family's wishes.

WB9WAJ expressed thanks to club members helping him deal with antenna issues.

NCS Stations: Dec 1: W9DP Dec 8: N9JF Dec 15: W9WE Dec 22: W9WE Dec 29: W9DP  
Jan 5: W9DP

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm on a motion by KB9FIN, seconded by K9AJC and voice vote.

Respectfully submitted, N9JF Secretary

### Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has determined that the following individuals are willing to run for offices for the 2022 year. Other nominations will be accepted from the floor, and the election will be held at the December meeting:

President	W9DP
Vice President	W9WE
Secretary	N9JF
Treasurer	K9VXD
Repeater Board (3-year term)	KD0DKE
Repeater Board (3-year term)	NR9Q

Anyone wishing to run for an office should make this known at the meeting, and you can likely get someone to nominate you!

For the committee (N9JF, W9WE, WA9GBC) N9JF

### 2022 FCC LICENSE EXAM SESSIONS LISTED ON ARRL WIARC

Location: Bethel Assembly of God Church

839 S 12th St

Parking North side

Please Pre-register, \$15.00 upon testing

cash preferred, checks accepted

Quincy IL 62301-5201

02/05/2022 | Quincy IL 62301-5201

Sponsor: Western Illinois Amt Radio

**Location: Bethel Assembly of God Church**

**Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)**

**05/07/2022 | Quincy IL 62301-5201**

**Sponsor: Western Illinois Amt Radio**

**Location: Bethel Assembly of God Church**

**Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)**

**08/06/2022 | Quincy IL 62301-5201**

**Sponsor: Western Illinois Amt Radio**

**Location: Bethel Assembly of God Church**

**Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)**

**11/05/2022 | Quincy IL 62301-5201**

**Sponsor: Western Illinois Amt Radio**

**Location: Bethel Assembly of God Church**

**Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)**

## **November 6 Test Session Report**

**We have three new amateur radio licenses. We congratulate the hard work:**

**KD9TTC      Technician Class   Johnathan Hamann   Quincy, IL**

**KD9TTB      Technician Class   Kurt Wilde   Hamilton, IL**

**KF0HDF      General Class   Benjamin Engleman   Canton, MO**

**Note: I want to remind everyone that we can hold a test session anytime we want and are not required by law to announce every session. If enough interest in tests, we will make it available.**

**[w9we.lee@gmail.com](mailto:w9we.lee@gmail.com)**

## **W9LEM SK**

**Long-time WIARC member Larry Moorman, W9LEM, became a Silent Key on October 22. Our condolences go to Larry's family in this difficult time.**

And you think YOU have a tough time putting up antennas???

## DXpeditioner Says Operating from Crozet is Limited by Nature

The recent announcement of a pending 3-month DXpedition to activate Crozet Island (FT5W) in 2022 - 2023 has generated enthusiasm within the DX community. Right on the heels of the announcement, the Northern California DX Foundation ([NCDXF](#)) pledged \$20,000 to support the DXpedition. The point person for the planned event, Thierry Mazel, F6CUK, wants to temper any overblown expectations, as demand will be extremely high for the third most-wanted DXCC entity -- right behind North Korea and Bouvet Island. Thierry says nature-related factors, including climate, will dictate the manner in which the DXpedition takes place.

"The wind blows almost constantly at 70 kilometers per hour (43 MPH), with gusts that can reach 150 kilometers per hour (93 MPH) within a few minutes," Thierry and co-planner Paul Granger, F6EXV, said in a recent news release. "There are no real seasons on Crozet, so these conditions apply all year long, even if, during the austral summer, nicer days can be expected."



Added to the possibility of gale or hurricane-force winds, the "fairly hard" volcanic rock that covers the archipelago and "very strict rules" in place to protect fauna and flora, will severely restrict the sorts of antennas that might be deployed. "For bird protection, antennas, guy wires, and anything that could be an obstacle are forbidden," Thierry and Granger said. Just securing guy lines for a four-square would require more than 30 concrete blocks, [because] digging holes is not permitted. The original idea to erect four-square arrays for 40 and 20 meters was refused, they said. The French Austral Islands are United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage sites and declared as protected areas.

"The only possibility that the administration allowed, was to have an [antenna] attachment point to an existing building and have wire antennas from there," Thierry and Granger said. "No beam! This is clearly stated in the permit we received."

As if those weren't enough roadblocks, any equipment brought onto the island must be thoroughly cleaned to prevent the introduction of pollen, seeds, or non-native organisms.

DXpedition planners are pondering the "best solution for the best antenna possible."

The last ham radio activity from Crozet was in 2009 by Florentin Bard, F4DYW, who operated as FT5WQ. Contrary to earlier accounts, the DXpedition has not announced its call sign, which will not be made public in advance. The solo DXpedition in 2022 - 2023 is anticipated to cost as much as \$58,000.

The Twitter account is @crozet2022, and a website is expected to be online soon. When it's up and running, it will include details of how donated funds will be applied. Thierry has pledged that all contributions will be refunded if the operation does not take place.

## OPERATING TIPS

(From *The ARRL Contest Update for November 10, 2021....with commentary from N9JF*)

John "Bee" Bartscherer, N1GNV, shared 10 contesting tips for the new contester and those with lower power stations trying to compete with the "big gun" stations.

***By “compete”, that doesn’t necessarily mean “beat everyone else”. It might mean beating your last year’s score. N9JF***

John writes:

"I'm at best a casual contester. My modest station includes a 100 W HF rig and a wire antenna up about 30 feet. Squarely in 'peanut whistle' territory, for sure, compared to many others. But I do enjoy getting on the air and working stations all over the US and the world. With just a bit of effort, you can often get your Worked All States, or DXCC Award, in a single weekend. If you're new to HF, or contesting, here are 10 tips for you.

***Don’t minimize the potential of 100 watts and a wire! Contests have been “won” using those! In domestic contests, a low dipole can be “loud” in the target areas! N9JF***

1. **Read the contest rules.** Understand what bands you can use, what your entry category will be, and what the 'exchange' is. Simply, that's the information you will give to the other station and he/she will give to you. Note that by tradition, in a contest everyone has a 59 or 599 signal.

***Few things irritate other participants like being called by someone who cannot understand what is needed for the “contest exchange”. As he says, “Read the rules”. It also helps to check to make sure you don’t start working the contest the DAY AFTER it was held. Ask me how I know....N9JF***

2. **Get with the program.** Specifically, a logging program. There are quite a few options out there. My personal choice is the [N1MM Logger](#). It's free and has an amazing array of features. It's updated regularly and has an extremely active online support community. Most current logging software will interface with just about any modern HF radio.

***N1MM+ is as good as any, in my book. The point is to find a program and get used to using it BEFORE THE CONTEST STARTS! N9JF***

3. **More Butt-in-Chair Operating-Time = more contacts.** Turn off distractions like texting, Facebook, email, TV, broadcast radio, etc. Concentrate. But don't forget to take breaks. For 5 minutes every hour, get up, stretch, get some fresh air and a glass of water or a cup of coffee.

***If you are “serious” about a contest, you shouldn’t have time to do Facebook. Consider single-op-two-radio operation! (SO2R) N9JF***

4. **Set an achievable goal.** Face it. If you're not an experienced contester with a 'big gun' station (yet!) you're not going to win. But you can certainly try to beat your score in last year's contest. Try to work DXCC in a weekend, or outscore your buddy across town.

***We used to create teams within WIARC for one of the major DX contests, with pizza for the winning team. Great fun! Set a reasonable goal and go for it! N9JF***

5. **Study propagation forecasts** and get a sense of what bands are likely to be open to areas you want to work, and at what times. This will help you come up with a basic plan. But remember that band openings can occur at any time, so if you're operating in a category that allows it, keep an eye on the DX cluster because those openings can often be brief but intense.

***Remember that if you’re using the DX Cluster, you’re in the “assisted” category. This is not a problem (unless there IS no such category in that contest), but be sure to mark your entry appropriately. N9JF***

6. **Don't waste time in pileups** early in the contest, especially if you have a 'little pistol' station like mine. Sure, give those rare ones a call or two, you may get lucky. You're competing with guys running plenty of power into big antennas. Go back to them later in the contest, after they've worked all the 'big guns.' Often enough they'll be begging for contacts and you'll work them easily.

***Generally good advice. However, in some cases, if multipliers are limited (like in Sweepstakes) and you know that the station you’re hearing is about as loud as he’s going to get over the course of the weekend, it might pay to hammer it out with the masses for awhile. There are tricks that will help get that elusive station.... N9JF***

7. **Work those mults!** Most contests include 'multipliers' in their scoring system. Basically, your score is calculated like this: You get a set number of points for each contact. Then, depending on the contest, you get an additional mult for each new country, state, county, etc. that you work. Multiply your QSO points by the number of mults to calculate your total score. Working more mults makes a much bigger difference in your score than another contact in the same country or state. Again, read the rules for the contest you're operating in.

***Maximizing score is simple math, but the strategy is not so simple. In a contest with a large number of available multipliers (think CQWW DX), you may benefit more from working half a dozen Germans than from slugging it out to get that Saudi Arabian mult. N1MM+ for example, tells you at any time how many contacts a new mult is worth. N9JF***

8. **Know those knobs!** Try to familiarize yourself with the controls on your radio. Just about every rig has an attenuator, a pre-amp, an RF gain control, and a noise blanker. Most also include an IF shift or pass-band tuning adjustment. An old trick that QRP (very low power) operators use is to turn OFF the pre-amp and turn ON some attenuation. That may seem counterintuitive, but now if a station is loud to you, the chances are much better that you're also loud to them. Let their big antennas and high power do the 'heavy lifting.' Similarly, turning down your RF gain can knock down a nearby (in frequency) high-power station so that you can work a weaker station.

***Cutting back the RF gain to the point that you can just barely copy the weaker stations will allow you to co-exist with some very strong stations nearby. You may be able to pull out a rare multiplier that is audible to you but is being ignored by most due to their being very close to a "big gun's frequency". N9JF***

9. **Use standard phonetics.** My call is N1GNV. Years ago, I enjoyed having a small vegetable garden. It was kind of fun to announce my call as 'No One Grows Nicer Vegetables' on the local repeater or among ham radio friends. In a contest, however, that only causes confusion and mistakes -- and is considered poor practice. November One Golf November Victor is what the other guy is expecting to hear. In noisy or otherwise difficult conditions, I might say "Golf November Victor, Germany Norway Victoria" but that's about it.

***Very good advice....cool the weird, cute phonetics in a contest. Field Day "isn't a contest" (W 9 All Wet and Excited) N9JF***

10. **Listen before you call.** Make sure you've got the other station's call and exchange. You can even pre-enter it in your logging software. Listen to his pattern. Does he say 'QRZ?' after each contact? You want to make sure you're transmitting when he's listening. Work him (making sure he's got YOUR call correct!), hit enter, and he's in your log. Move on to the next one.

***Absolutely! Copy his exchange when he's making prior contacts. Don't make him repeat the exchange if you don't have to, but be sure you have it! And BE SURE he has your call correct, otherwise you will get the dreaded "NIL" (Not In Log) during the log checking process. N9JF***

Finally -- this is a hobby. It's supposed to be FUN!! Enjoy the contest, and I hope to work you on all the bands."

DX Stuff Shamelessly Borrowed from *ARRL DX News for Nov 18, 2021:*

SB DX @ ARL \$ARLD046 ARLD046 DX news ZCZC AE46 QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 46 ARLD046

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT November 18, 2021 To all radio amateurs



This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by AA3B, 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.

**MAURITIUS, 3B8.** Operators G0CKV, KX7M, M0CFW, M0SDV and W6NV will be QRV as 3B8/home calls, and 3B8HA, from November 22 to December 1. Activity will be on the HF bands. They will be active as 3B8M in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL 3B8M and 3B8HA via M0OXO, and all others via operators' instructions.

**UGANDA, 5X.** John Paul, KN6NNF is QRV as 5X3Z from Kubamitwe. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using FT8. QSL via LoTW.

**SOMALIA, 6O.** Ali, EP3CQ is QRV as 6O1OO from Mogadishu until the first week in December while on work assignment. Activity is mostly on 40, 30 and 20 meters using FT8 and FT4, but also CW and SSB. QSL direct to home call.

**BAHAMAS, C6.** Brian, ND3F will be QRV as C6AQQ from New Providence Island, IOTA NA-001, from November 24 to December 7. Activity is on the HF bands. He plans to be active in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry. QSL via EA5GL.

**SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.** Lee, DS4NMJ is QRV as DT8A as part of a scientific team on the King Se-Jong Korean Antarctic Base on King George Island, IOTA AN-010, until December 31. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via DS5TOS.

**BONAIRE, PJ4.** Operators K4BAI and KU8E will be QRV as PJ4/home calls from November 24 to December 1. Activity will be on the HF bands. They will be active as PJ4A in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL all calls to K4BAI.

**MALI, TZ.** Ulmar, DK1CE is QRV as TZ1CE from Bamako until December 8. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, possibly SSB, and FT8. QSL to home call.

**ANTARCTICA.** Sebastian, SQ1SGB is QRV as VP8/SQ1SGB while working on the Halley Via Base until the end of January 2022. Activity is in his spare time on 40 meters using SSB. QSL via EB7DX.

**INDIA, VU.** Special event station AU2JCB will be QRV from November 19 to December 14 to commemorate Jagadish Chandra Bose's birthday. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB, with FM on 10 meters and 6 meters. QSL direct to VU2DSI.

Please see November QST, page 79, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details.

NNNN  
/EX

## November Sweepstakes report from N9JF

The ARRL SS is one of my favorite contests. I'm not sure how many of them I have under my (expanding) belt, but it's several dozen, beginning in the late 60's. The somewhat complicated exchange has a good back-story that I have detailed here before. If you need to hear it again, e-mail me....

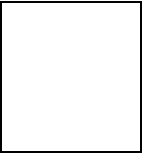
This year, I knew that the CW weekend was going to be a busy one, and that I wouldn't even be home for the phone weekend. The conventional wisdom is that contacts missed during the first 12 hours of the contest can't be made up. I usually operate straight through from the start (2100z) for at least 10 or 11 hours. Given that I had an earlier obligation on Saturday afternoon (and started late) and that I had speaking engagements on Sunday morning (and therefore had to be "awake") the 10 or 11 straight didn't happen. Instead, I spent a few hours, went to bed, and got back on the air late on Sunday afternoon. SS is a bit like eating potato chips; you just "want one more"! I finally decided that 514 was enough and pulled the plug, missing several of the 84 sections: Maritimes, Newfoundland/Labrador, Northern Territories, Saskatchewan....and Mississippi.....

For the phone weekend, we were in Massachusetts. I helped KC1PR with a couple of antenna issues and played with his station for a couple of hours that evening. It was definitely a low-key operation, culminating with 50 contacts, mostly on 40 meters.

Somehow, I managed not to break anything on either weekend. This is unlike the last time WY0L and I went to Nebraska for CW SS. See picture below.



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



December meeting: Wednesday, December 1

Twin Oaks Club on Bonansinga Drive 7 pm

Also by ZOOM. E-mail [n9jf@arrl.net](mailto:n9jf@arrl.net) for login

**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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