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# THE FEEDLINE

Volume 45, Issue 3 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club March 2021

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## Musings from the President's shack

Well, winter may not be over, but our next meeting is March 3. Usually we are at least thinking about spring by then, but it is hard to say what we will see in March.

Thankfully, the COVID numbers in Adams county have dropped significantly in recent weeks, and restrictions are loosening up a bit. Hopefully, it won't be too long and we will be back to meeting at the Red Cross, but not quite yet. While I have not gotten confirmation back yet, I "think" we will be meeting in the community room in the Quincy Mall for March, watch the club email reflector for details.

Hopefully the cold and snow did not keep you from getting on the air in the past few weeks. Propagation has not m been stellar, but there are days where it is much better than it has been in recent months. There is still plenty to do on the band. Contests go on, DX is still active, and many of us are hoping to get some antenna work done as the weather improves.

Last month we decided to hold off holding our swapfest again. Things are still a little iffy about what will be going on this summer. I am sure there will be another tailgate session, and this time we will open it up to other area hams. If you know of a place we might do this that is safe, available and very low cost (free is best), speak up.

We should soon be hearing from KA0SNL about progress on the club's website, I know Andy has talked to NA9Q, and they are working on a date to make the transfer. I want to thank NA9Q and KA9EYT for the years of service they have supplied to the club for free. I am also very thankful for KA0SNL stepping up and not only agreeing to take over as webmaster but to host it for the club as well.

There still a diverse group meeting on 147.030 most days for an hour or so around 9:00 AM and several other times of the day as well. The club is not repeater poor; we need to make more use of them.

WIARC member K2PEY is on about every weekday morning at 8:00 AM our time on 14.242, I am sure Joe would like to hear from you. Also, Bob, NB4C, is always interested in hearing from hams in the Quincy area, I am sure Bob would be glad to set up a schedule if you sent a message to the club email reflector asking him for a QSO. There are plenty of opportunities to get on HF. There are several traffic nets each week on 75 meters, the Illinois Sideband net meets every day at 6:00 PM local time, and the Breakfast Club is on the air every morning from 6 until 8:00 AM. If you have 2 meter SSB capabilities, there is a new 2 meter sideband net out of Kansas City on Friday evening at 7:30 local time on 144.250. There are also several hams on 6 meters trying out the latest digital mode by K1ST, FST4. FST4 is more of a QSO mode than FT8 or FT4 and works very well digging signals out of the noise.

The recent VE exam session was well-attended. I hear that everyone that tested was successful, and we may be seeing some new hams joining the club. Thank you to W9WE and the rest of the exam team for making this happen.

A last reminder, dues for 2021 were due January 1<sup>st</sup>. You have until after the club meeting in March to pay for 2021 before you are considered in arrears and dropped from the club membership roll. You can pay your dues at the meeting or mail them to Arnold, K9VXD at the address on QRZ.com

Danny W9DP

## Moved and Seconded: Meetings of the February WIARC meeting

The February WIARC meeting was held via GoTo Meeting due to COVID restrictions. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm on Wednesday, February 3, by President W9DP.

The following were present on line or via phone: W9DP, N9JF, W7GQK, WB9EWM, AB9QW, W9EMR, AA9GL, KB9WFC, NB4C, KC9FSQ, KB9FIN, KE7RR, KD9NET, K9VXD, W9WE

Minutes of the January meeting were accepted on a motion by W9GQK, seconded by WB9EWM, carried.

Treasurer's Report: no further bank info since the audit. Have 73 members on the "list" and with 39 paid up so for 2021. Individuals not paid by the March meeting night may be removed from the membership list.

Repeater Board has not met therefore no report.

Executive Committee has met, done an audit of the 2020 books.

No Station Committee report.

Old Business: Club logo: NB4C has made several submissions and a couple of others from other individuals. W9DP suggested anyone interested send further ideas.

Applications for Membership: KD9PCH. Alan J. Cermak WB9EWM moved, NB4C second, carried.

Discussion of a 2021 swapfest. Suggestion that we NOT have an August swapfest but perhaps have a local event and invite HARC to attend. Motion WB9EWM, W9GQK second, carried.

Regarding the March WIARC meeting: KC9FSQ will check to see if we can meet at the Quincy Public Library meeting room on March 3.

NCS stations:

MAR 3 W9DP MAR 10 N9JF MAR 17 W9DP MAR 24 WB9EWM MAR 31 N9JF  
APR 7 OPEN

Thanks to AB9QW for making the meeting available.

Motion to adjourn by K9VXD, second by WB9EWM carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted, N9JF Secretary

Amateur Radio Emergency Service / Storm spotter links  
From: W9WE

Interest in these areas is up and running.  
Start studying now and be ready for emergency  
deployment.. Adams County opportunities:

[Emergency Management Agency | Adams County.](#)

[IL John Simon](#) Director

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222 N 52nd St **Telephone:**217-277-2005 Quincy, IL 62305 **Fax:** 217-277-2009

Send a request to the address below to be considered for  
volunteer status in Adams County

Email: [ema@co.adams.il.us](mailto:ema@co.adams.il.us)

<https://www.qsl.net/ares-il/ARES-IL.html>

[Spotter Reference Material \(weather.gov\)](#)

[Educational Material - Storm Spotter Resources \(weather.gov\)](#)

[basicspotterguide.pdf \(weather.gov\)](#)

Interactive Cloud chart.. Lots to learn!

[NWS JetStream - NWS Cloud Chart \(weather.gov\)](#)

Nuggets from NR9Q:

Did not know if there are any people in the club that might want to practice CW, but I found info that I would like to pass along. I will post two links below. The first one is a YouTube video that explains what it is. The second link is the link to the website that has the code practice. In a few words what I found interesting about it, is that this is real QSO's to other people over the internet. Just in case you are not ready to get on the air with your skill level. On the about page of the second link they sell the really small board that allows you to plug you key into you USB port. I thought this was a neat idea for

around \$25. The website is also broken up into channels and can support multiple individuals on one channel. Hope this helps someone that want to learn. 73

**Chris Schulz**  
**NR9Q**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f376DCaM1Ps&feature=youtu.be>

<https://hamradio.solutions/vband/>

I wonder if we got permission from this group if we could use some of this material for a virtual program. The document could be provided to the club via a Dropbox link. With hopes that we'll picked topics could turn into club members working on collaboration projects. The projects would start with things the most hams already have. Working into cheap and open source projects. Has to be something that is inexpensive and would garner interest from the group. Just an idea I wanted to spit out and see where it went. The above link is just one of many places we could pull for virtual program ideas.

If not for virtual program ideas I could see if something like this could be used for newsletter content. Crediting the authors of course.

<http://www.bay-net.org/resources.html>

It's a long time until Field Day, but.....

**2/10/21**

The COVID-19 pandemic-modified ARRL Field Day rules from 2020 will continue this June with the addition of a power limit imposed on Class D (Home Stations) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants. The news from the ARRL Board's Programs and Services Committee comes as many clubs and groups are starting preparations for Field Day in earnest. Field Day 2021 will take place June 26 – 27.

“This early decision should alleviate any hesitancy that radio clubs and individual Field Day participants may have with their planning for the event,” said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE.

**For Field Day 2021:**

**Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.**

**An aggregate club score will be published — just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.**

**ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar. Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.**

“With the greater flexibility afforded by the rules waivers, individuals and groups will still be able to participate in Field Day, while still staying within any public health recommendations and/or requirements,” Bourque said.

The preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the web applet. The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions on how to submit entries, which must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

The ARRL Field Day web page contains for complete rules and entry forms, as well as any updated information as it becomes available.

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ARRL Central Division  
Director: Kermit A Carlson, W9XA  
[w9xa@arrl.org](mailto:w9xa@arrl.org)

From *The ARRL Contest Update* for Feb 3, 2021:

### State QSO Parties

QSO parties are popular events appealing to a wide spectrum of amateurs, from the most casual operators to those out to "win it all" in their category. There are [state QSO parties for nearly every state](#), with California's [CQP](#) proclaiming itself the largest. In addition to, or sometimes instead of their own state-specific events, some states team up for a regional event: the [New England QSO Party](#) covers Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, and the [7QP](#) covers the traditional geographic area of the seventh call area. Some state QSO parties don't even call themselves the state QSO party: [Washington's Salmon Run](#) is a state QSO party in all but the name.

For most QSO parties, stations *inside* the state give out a signal report and county. Stations *outside* the state supply signal report, and their state. QSO party rules specify what is and is not a multiplier, and there may be special "bonus" stations, and special multiplier stations. Make sure both you and your logging program are up to date with the current QSO party rules if you're at all serious about this.

Participants that are beyond casual usually have the list of the state's counties printed out, because counties will be logged using abbreviations. For those that don't live here in Washington, it's a common mistake to mix-up WAH and WHA for WAHAKIUM and WHATCOM counties. Having a county list at hand makes it much easier.

CQing: The call district number in a US call sign doesn't mean the station is actually located in that area, so there's a general "protocol" for calling CQ that's different for in-state versus out-of-state stations. In-state stations calling CQ in a QSO party usually use a message including the event, like "CQ Vermont QSO Party" (CW: "CQ VQP"), while out-of-state stations in a QSO party use a directed

message including the state, e.g. "CQ Vermont" (CQ: "CQ VT"). A specific QSO party's rules may have specific suggestions for CQing.

For those that enter multiple QSO parties over the year, there's the [State QSO Party Challenge](#) in which "each call sign's cumulative score is calculated by totaling up his/her number of reported contacts and multiplying by the number of State QSO Parties (SQP) entered year-to-date. The use of the number of SQPs entered as a multiplier is to encourage radio amateurs to enter more state/province QSO parties."

From W9WE:

We had a great test session on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February. 10 total: 9 new Techs and one upgrade to Extra. I want to thank the VE team for their help in running the test. Also thanks to Bethel Assembly of God here in Quincy for allowing us to use the building.

New calls you may hear on the air: (Don't hesitate to jump in and say hello if you hear them on the repeaters)

Shane Allen N9JDW Extra Pittsfield  
Douglas Campbell KD9RQW Tech Carthage  
Tracy Moore KD9RQX Tech Quincy  
Kenny Hempen KF0DRU Tech Keokuk  
Gene L. Geist KD9RQY Tech Bethalto  
Henry Dienst KF0DRV Tech Kahoka  
Greg Dowdall KD9RRB Tech Hamilton  
Keaton Beal KD9RQV Tech Lexington  
Jared Cantrell KD9RRA Tech Quincy  
Gerald T. Schmitz KD9RQZ Tech Meredosia

From *The ARRL DX News*:

SB DX @ ARL \$ARLD007 ARLD007 DX news

ZCZC AE07 QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 7 ARLD007 From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT February 18, 2021 To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD007 ARLD007 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by F6AJA, 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.

MONACO, 3A. Mireille, F4FRL and Patrice, F5RBB will be QRV as home calls/3A from February 24 to March 2. Activity will be on 40 and 20 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

CROATIA, 9A. Members of the Croatian Flora Fauna ARC are QRV with special event call 9A10FF during all of 2021 to celebrate the club's 10th anniversary. QSL via 9A2MF.

ZAMBIA, 9J. Brad, 9J2RS is currently QRV on 20, 17 and 15 meters. QSL direct.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Bruno, CS7AMN is QRV as C91BVA from Maputo. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

PUERTO RICO, KP4. A group of operators are QRV as NP4DX on 80 to 10 meters using CW. This includes being a Multi/Single/Low Power entry in the ARRL International DX CW contest. This activity will also count for the WLOTA as LH-2802. QSL via M0OXO.

BENIN, TY. Johannes, ZS6JSI is QRV as ZS6JSI/TY until June 2021. Activity is mobile on 80, 40 and 20 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Members of the Pride Radio Group are QRV as VI2021PRIDE until March 7 during Sydney Mardi Gras. QSL direct to VK3FUR.

ROMANIA, YO. Members of the Sport Club Pandurii Tirgu-Jiu are QRV with special call YP145B from Tirgu-Jiu until March 3 to celebrate the 145th anniversary of the birth of the great sculptor Constantin Brancusi. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL direct to YO7CKQ.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Bruce, K0BJ will be QRV as ZF2BJ from Savannah, Grand Cayman, IOTA NA-016, from February 20 to March 5. Activity will be on the HF bands with a focus on the newer bands and CW. QSL to home call.

Please see February 2021 QST, page 73, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details. NNNN/EX

From HARC:

Hello all,

The St.Louis office of the National Weather Service has announced their schedule for the 2021 storm spotter classes. Due to COVID, these will be on line classes. You will need to preregister for a class, only preregister for one class. The schedule is as follows: Monday, Feb 22 from 7 - 8:15 PM; Tuesday, March 2 7-8:15 PM, Saturday, March 6 10-11:15 AM; Wednesday March 10, 7-8:15 PM and Saturday, March 20 2-3:15 pm. You can register by going to [www.weather.gov/lx/virtualspotter2021](http://www.weather.gov/lx/virtualspotter2021). You will need either a laptop or desktop computer to view the class, and a cell phone if you want to participate in the polling.

73 From Don at Hannibal W0KEM Club

**[Virtual Storm Spotter Classes - Registration is Now Open!](#)**

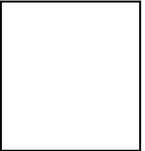
Do you have an interest in weather and helping your community? Well we have a great opportunity for you!

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in St. Louis is offering FREE virtual spotter classes to prepare for the heart of severe weather season.

[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

Donald Vary, KD0HHN Emergency Coordinator - Marion County MO  
District Assistant Emergency Coordinator -District B **ARES®** Missouri Section  
**Amateur Radio Emergency Service®** Central Area Digital Station PH# 573-221-8205  
email: [kd0hnh@hotmail.com](mailto:kd0hnh@hotmail.com)

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



March meeting: Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

Location to be determined! Watch your e-mail and listen to the weekly net!

**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**

**Editor Jim Funk N9JF**

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