
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 45, Issue 4 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club April 2021

(Notes from the editor: As usual, lots of variety below. If you are bored, check out some of the links to other articles. If you're still bored, send some articles for The Feedline!!)

Musings from the dungeon of W9DP

Last month's meeting was fairly well attended, I think people were ready to get out. We even had several at the meeting after the meeting at Tower of Pizza. Unfortunately, the Zoom part of the meeting was not a great experience for those attending remotely; hopefully it will work correctly for the April meeting.

Did any of you attend the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo? I did and while there were several issues early on, they seemed to work out most of the bugs later in the day. I participated in the one held last fall and it went pretty much as planned; but this time the organizers tried going with a different software interface, and there were issues that were a bit frustrating when things first got underway. The On Demand replay of almost all presentations is working and available to registered attendees for 30 days after the event. Several presenters offered their presentations on YouTube with no strings attached. I took in a few live and a few more when they became available On Demand. Not anything like going to a hamfest but still a treat to hear so many different speakers talk about a variety of ham radio related topics.

Speaking of hamfests, Peoria Amateur Radio Club has announced the 2021 Superfest, and it is being held at a new location: Avanti's Dome in Peoria. I have many memories over the years of attending the Superfest at Exposition Gardens, but I think it was time for a change. Hopefully the change will bring out more attendees and vendors.

In other news, the \$35.00 Amateur Radio license fee has been made official, but it is not yet in effect and may be this summer before it is in effect. This will be assessed to anyone taking an exam or applying for a vanity call sign. At some time, VE teams will have to increase the testing fee to reflect that money going to the FCC, so if you have plans to upgrade or change call signs, do it as soon as possible to avoid the new fee.

After many months of not knowing the end fate of Amateur Radio access to the 3400 MHz band, it has been determined that the US will still have access to that band, but it will change from 3456 to 3400 MHz. This means anyone with equipment will likely have to modify their equipment to reflect the new frequency, but the silver lining is this is the same frequency allocation used by other hams around much of the world. This probably is only a windfall to those doing EME on 3400. Very few if any, of the hams that use 3456 had to worry about making contacts more than a few miles away, much less with other countries.

I am hearing that another member of my family may be getting their ham license; more when the process is further along.

The April meeting will be Wednesday April 7, 7:00 PM at the Twin Oaks Club, 2707 Bonasinga Drive in Quincy. We will try to have it available online as well, details to follow.
Danny W9DP

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the March 2021 WIARC meeting

The March 2021 meeting of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 by President W9DP. The meeting was held in the Quincy Mall Community Room.

In attendance were W9DP, N9JF, K5HGH, KA0SNL, W9WE, KD9NET, W9GQK, WA9GBC, N9DT, KB9UNQ, KB9WFC, KB9FIN, KD0DKE, WB9EWM, AB9DU plus remote attendees NA9Q, K9VXD, W9EMR and K9AJC.

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

Treasurer K9VXD was present on the Zoom call but had no updated financial information. That information will be e-mailed to the membership when it is available.

Repeater Board has not met. There are some pending issues with equipment once the sites can be accessed by the board.

There was no report from the Station Committee as the club station at the American Red Cross building is not yet accessible.

Contest committee: Some members were active in recent contests: ARRL DX CW, NAQP RTTY, CQ 160 SSB and the North and South Carolina QSO parties.

W9WE reported on the recent VE test session. Ten candidates were tested with nine receiving new Technician Class licenses and one upgrading to Amateur Extra.

Applications for membership have been received from the following: (all resulting from the latest VE session and therefore eligible for free membership for 2020)

KD9RQW, KD9RQX, KD9RQY, K9AJC

KB9FIN moved that all four be accepted into membership. Second by WB9EWM. Motion carried.

WB9EWM suggested that a membership application be made available on the club web page.

KA0SNL reported on the progress being made to transfer the web page and domain to his responsibility. He is working with John Nowack to accomplish this and anticipates it will be done within the next week or so. There will be new forms and upload capabilities and will possibly include on-line payment of dues. Once the new website is up and running, Andy wants member feedback.

A club social dinner was discussed with plans being tabled until summer when we can either have a potluck or have something catered.

W9DP reminded the group that dues are due. They can be sent to K9VXD directly at:

K9VXD, Arnold Gerst, 2603 Kings Pointe SW, Quincy IL 62305
Members not paying this month will be dropped from the rolls.

The group was reminded of the QSO Today on-line program with registration being taken currently, and of the Four States QRP conference upcoming.

W9DP will send information, especially to new members, regarding how to get reflector traffic. WB9EWM suggested a handout be created to give to new members and or visitors.

NCS stations:

April 14: N9DT April 21: WB9EWM April 28: W9DP May 5: N9JF

WA9GBC will try to reserve the meeting room at Twin Oaks Club for our April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm on a motion by AB9DU and second by KB9FIN and voice vote.

Respectfully submitted, N9JF Secretary

To all Central Division ARRL Members:

Contrary to what you may have heard or read, the collection of application fees for the amateur radio service and certain other services will NOT begin on April 19, 2021.

Although April 19, 2021 is the date the rules in the FCC Report and Order adopted last December generally take effect – i.e., one month after the R&O was published in the March 19, 2021 Federal Register – certain parts of those rules, including collection of the application fees for the amateur radio service, will NOT begin on that date.

The effective date for new amateur radio fees has not yet been established. The FCC explicitly states in the published Notice that the fees will not take effect until:

- * the requisite notice has been provided to Congress; AND
- * the FCC's information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated; AND
- * the Commission publishes [FUTURE] notice(s) in the Federal Register announcing the effective date of such rules.

The League's counsel for FCC matters estimates that the effective start date for collecting the fees will be some time this summer, but regardless of the exact timing we will have advance notice.

73, Kermit Carlson W9XA

Miscellaneous tidbits from W9WE:

Adams County EMA is switching to Active 911 mobile application. Will not be using I Am Responding.

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.. many of you are outside radio range, but you can check your county EMA for details on your joining their operations. Adams County opportunities. Emergency Management Agency | Adams County, IL
John Simon Director 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

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

Spotter Reference Material

<https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr/Skywarn/SpotterGuide-2011.pdf>

<https://www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter>

Interactive Cloud chart.. Lots to learn! NWS JetStream - NWS Cloud Chart (weather.gov)
<https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/cloudchart#myModalm6>

Met Education Site, Student Access <https://www.meted.ucar.edu/index.php>

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

YouTube favs ::

<https://youtube.com/c/DavidCasler>

<https://youtube.com/c/MrCarlsonsLab>

<https://youtube.com/user/w2aew>

<https://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo>

Mailman is a subscription which you have to sign up for. Free to get. I now am receiving WIARC, FISTS,ILQSO, and others.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/?issue=2021-03-11>

Latest ARRL Newsletter

<https://ilares.org/sm-newsletter-feb-2021/>

Illinois Amateur Radio Emergency Service

ARES HF net 1st & 3rd Sunday,

Sunday, @ 4:30PM, John Zelz, W9ZE ??calling the districts. W9DP Danny calling district 6. ARES HF net on 3905 MHz and EchoLink on node# 824404.

<https://www.cgwpx.com/>

Upcoming events for ssb or cw. Single op challenge. GOTA.

- We invite U.S. Amateurs to participate in the 2021 Unassisted Challenge. The Challenge is open to Amateurs in the lower 48 States who enter the 2021 CQ WPX SSB and/or CW contests in the single-op category but do NOT use spotting assistance. Even though CQ WPX no longer recognizes separate unassisted categories, we feel the need to continue having such categories.

Morse podcast of famous quotes <https://www.morseresource.com/podcasts.php>

<http://www.rufzxp.net/> Practice call signs

<http://www.dxatlas.com/Download.asp> Morse Runner 1.67 is win10 compatible

This should be a must for all amateur radio operators. This is a great program. NWS SPOTTING CLASS. Just in case you need to check in or report conditions.

<https://www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter>

W9WE Dave Scranton

Video content from Contest University

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=contest+university

Some stuff from NU7J on the Left Coast:

<https://www.commacademy.org/>

Jim, feel free to share this with your club. I've not attended this before but have heard it's very good. This year it's on line and free, so this is a unique opportunity, open to all.

73 and travel safely,

Tom

Thoughts from N9JF/4:

Part of what we did on our recent vacation was to run a few parks in Virginia. At one of them, I had the biggest SSB pileup I've ever experienced. Some thoughts from KX9X in a recent [ARRL Contest Letter](#) are relevant:

Sean, KX9X, covers "[Your First Pileup: Techniques for Success](#)" on the DX Engineering Blog. Learn why you should work the loudest stations first, and why phonetics use is essential.

Back in the day...

We don't live in the past, or at least we can't afford to do so most of the time. Occasionally, it's nice to go back and see "how things were". We have several fairly new hams in the membership, and I thought it might be amusing to some of you to have a glimpse of the hobby from 50-60 years ago.

In the 60's, just about every ham began as a Novice Class licensee. There was a five words-per-minute CW test (both sending and receiving) that had to be passed before your General Class (or higher) examiner could send off for your written test. If you passed the written test, there was a six to ten week wait to receive your license. That was an excruciating interval for a 16-year-old to endure! My license arrived on Lincoln's birthday in 1965, and I was officially WN9OBP.

The Novice license allowed one to operate crystal-controlled with up to 75 watts, CW only, on segments of the 80, 40 and 15 meter bands and on AM phone on a piece of 2 meters. Typically one would have to tune a good portion of the band after calling CQ to see if anyone was responding. You might call CQ on 7151 khz and find someone coming back to you on 7192 khz....if he called long enough to attract your attention! Foreign broadcast was rampant in that portion of 40 meters. One of the crystals I (foolishly) chose was almost smack-dab on top of Radio Moscow. All transmissions had to be logged, including unanswered CQs. The first page of my first logbook includes three contacts, 12 unsuccessful calls and 13 unanswered CQs. (This was after the first couple of days of completely fruitless efforts after which Dad helped me determine that, in assembling the transmitter, I had soldered the output directly to ground. I never claimed to be good at this....).

During my 3 months as a Novice, I learned a lot. I discovered that a multi-band antenna will radiate harmonics from a Knight-Kit T60 transmitter, and that the second harmonic of 3738 khz will land you outside of the ham bands and get you an Advisory Notice from the FCC monitoring station in Omaha NE. I learned that the ARRL handbook contained a lot of good information, including how to build a low-pass filter so that Omaha didn't come calling a second time. I found that not every call sign started with "K" or "W" when HK4ALE called me my first morning on 80 meter CW. Since most Novices didn't have many different crystals, I ran into some of the same people more than once. WN8OKQ, Frank, in Detroit is in my log several times. The joys of an unstable receiver that would shift whenever someone slammed a door in the house became part of the challenge of completing a QSO.

My brother Dave, with whom I shared a room, finally gave up trying to sleep at 4 a.m. and got his license as well. He was the "tech" and I was the "operator" for the most part. To this day, he hovers, waiting for me to break something so he can fix it. I seldom disappoint him.

For even more history, see the next article...

Waaaay back in the day....

This came from NB4C: "Back when the thought of a new logo/patch for WIARC got going, and people were wondering what the origin of the first Western Illinois Radio Club patch was, I thought that a friend of mine in Quincy might have some info...his father was a founding member of WIARC....Francis Wentura, W9AEX.

My friend didn't have anything to offer, and said that he didn't have anything left of his father's radio "stuff"...but would let me know if he ran across anything.

Anyway...I got a telephone call from him yesterday, and he said he had run into a "treasure trove" of his dad's old radio items...his QSL cards, some old radios, and he hoped to find his old logs. I can recall Francis showing me his logbook entry of Dec. 7, 1941, when the US Government shut down all amateur radio activity. I know he annotated his logs with many happenings of the times.

Question to you becomes....do you think the club would be interested in these "historical" items. It would be a shame to see them just tossed out into the junk, but also can appreciate that there may not be space to "archive" the items."

Now, from N9JF....:

My 56 years in ham radio isn't much compared to some of the true OTs (Old Timers). One of the first hams I met was Francis Wentura, W9AEX. Francis was one of the locals who tolerated a wet-behind-the-ears kid joining their conversations on 75 meter AM phone. He first shows up in my log on July 24, 1965 on 3930 khz AM phone. I recall visiting his shack early in my ham career and drooling (carefully) over the equipment. He was a fantastic CW operator.

In the early days, callsigns had no letter preceding the number, and Francis was "9AEX". I'm not sure when he picked up the "W" on the front of the callsign.

NB4C e-mailed me a few weeks ago and mentioned that he had spoken to Francis' son, Dick, who had uncovered some long-forgotten items from the W9AEX history trove. I visited Dick early March and came away with a box of QSL cards.

One of them was from W4OT in Florida. It was actually a card sent by W4OT's widow after the OM had passed, and included a note thanking Francis and his wife for the notes they had sent during her husband's illness.

Another card was from W0CWT in Missouri. He mentions that he was originally W9CWT (there was no "0" call area) and licensed in 1912 (!!). The card was for a QSO in 1965 when the operator was 88 years old.

I'm just getting started.... One call that I recognize is from K8RYU from a contact on 160 meters in 1961. I just worked K8RYU last weekend! And yes, it's the same guy.

Other comments: "Thanks for being my first Illinois on 80m CW" –WA6TWS (1964) "Please QSL to confirm your county."--WA8FRH (1963) "You're my 5th CW contact" – K7VBP (1964) From 13-year-old WB2FQG: "Nice QSO...had to go to bed!" (1964) From

Joe Havermale, who at the time was WN9HZZ, and whom I think was later WA9NRO?, a QSL for an 80 meter CW contact in 1964. One from W6ETB in Utah (I'm thinking there was no "7" call area then??) with no date on the card but postmarked April 12, 1930.

It looks like postcard postage went from three to four cents between 1962 and 1963...but I digress...

The card to 9AEX from 1BBJ in Vermont (1927) was a genuine "penny postcard"!

"After 35 years, another QSO!" – W3UGV (1962)

A card from W5IGW/0 aboard the M/V Charlotte Ann, a towboat near Gasconade MO on the Missouri River.

From W6JF (!!): "Longest and best QSO in a long time." (1964) (licensed in 1908??)

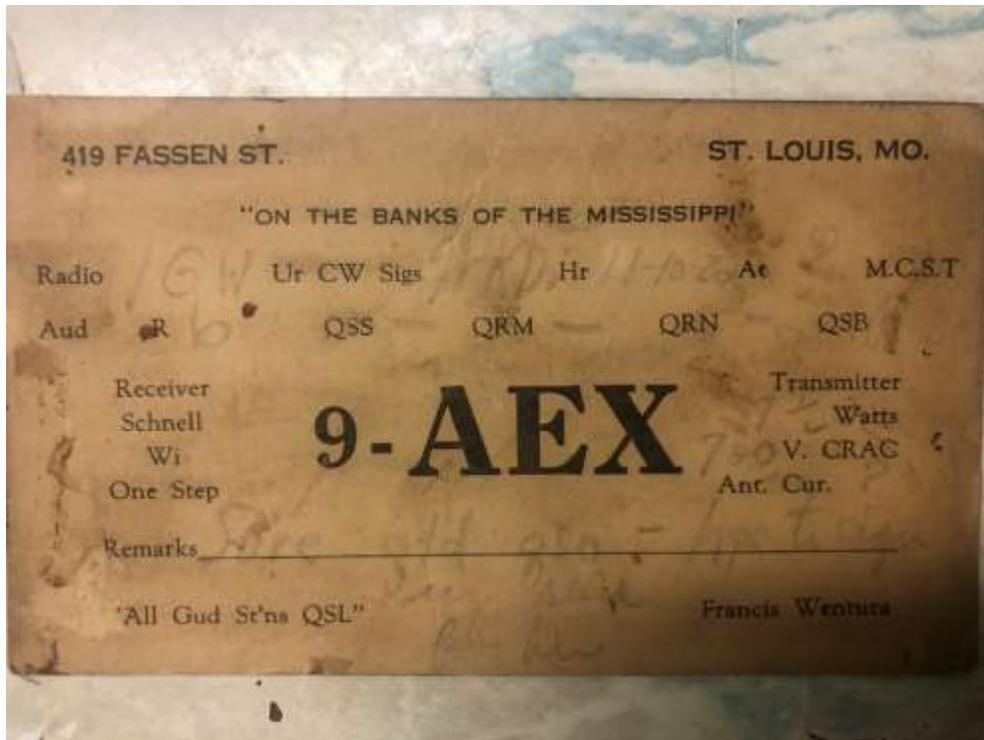
"Glad to have you as my first W9 contact!" – VE7BLX (1963)

Interesting card from the ARRL Asst to the Communications Manager, dated 1926: "Dear OM. Your entry card for the International Tests has been received and the necessary log and message sheets will be forwarded to you shortly before the start of the contest."

Note on the card from K9LLX (1963): "Back in 1939, I worked as a bus boy at the New China Café"

From WA6HIY (1964): "Been hamming since 1913 off and on."

Here is a real doozy: This is one of Francis' cards from 1926 with his "9-AEX" original callsign. Most of the other writing is too faded to read, but note the remark, "All Gud St'ns QSL" The old-timer's saying was, "A QSL is the final courtesy of a QSO". That, however, was before postage was over fifty cents....



There are several "SWL cards" as well. Yes, that used to be a thing. In fact, some of the Eastern European countries used to require a certain number of SWL cards to be submitted before one could apply for an operating license.

As time permits, I'll continue to pore over the old "9AEX cards" and report what I find. -- .ed.

Upcoming Operating Events:

Mississippi and Louisiana QSO parties: April 3 1400z to April 4 0200z.

JIDX CW Contest: April 10 0700z to April 11 1300z. This one used to be a lot of fun....when we had sunspots. You might try and see what kind of JA activity can be detected....

QSO Parties on the weekend of the 10th and 11th: New Mexico, North Dakota, Nebraska and Georgia. The Georgia party will be pretty busy. The others...who knows???

Michigan QSO Party: April 17 and 18. Why do they require a serial number?? 😞.

Florida QSO Party: April 24 and 25 (A really good one!)

Note that the Missouri QSO Party has MOVED. It's no longer in April. July 31 and August 1, 2021....

You can find the full contest calendar at:
<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

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



April meeting: Wednesday, April 7, 2021
Twin Oaks Club 2707 Bonasinga Drive,
Quincy 7 pm.

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

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 20th of the preceding month

Editor Jim Funk N9JF

n9jf@arrl.net