
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 45, Issue 6 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club June 2021

From the Shack of the President

Shack may be a bit misleading as I am actually in my recliner in our living room, but that is where I have been doing much of my operation the past few weeks. Using a rig remotely can mean more than simply operating your home station from another location; in my case, I prefer to not have to go to the basement every time I want to check the bands.

As I type this, I am watching/listening to Contest University. You may or may not be into contesting, but there is a lot to learn from top operators, whether it be DXers, traffic handlers, weak signal buffs or testers, that can improve your enjoyment and effectiveness as a radio operator.

Kudos to the WIARC VE team, I hear they had another successful test session in May, one of those being one of my grandchildren, Arron Clevenger, KD9SRE. Last month we welcomed Drew, KD9QGE into the WIARC. Drew is the son of Ben, WM9DX and grandson of Ken, WM4D. It is quite refreshing to see young people getting into ham radio. We all know the average age of licensed amateurs has been steadily climbing for many years. Most of us are old and set in our ways; but we all know we are not the future of the hobby, and in spite of our not liking new modes or using the internet, it is where the hobby is going. If we don't support it, we are dooming our hobby to die.

At the May meeting we decided to hold a tailgate flea market before the July meeting starting at 5:00 PM. The current plan is to hold the tailgate and club meeting at one of the parks in Quincy, and we need a place with plenty of parking for those attending. We also intend to invite all the local area hams, so the amount of space required will be even more than usual. Speaking of inviting other local hams, be sure to spread the word on the air and to those that attend the Hannibal club meetings. Please deliver this invitation to their attention at their next club meeting.

At the minute we will plan to have the June meeting at Moorman Park in Quincy, weather permitting. As a backup, I asked WA9GBC is we can reserve the room at the Twin Oaks again.

If you run into a new call sign on the air, invite them to our club meetings and remind them they may be eligible for free membership for the first year.

See you at the June meeting.

Danny W9DP

Club Website

If you have not already done so, please check out the new WIARC website at <https://w9awe.org/> KA0SNL is doing a great job and would appreciate feedback and suggestions. Thanks, Andy!

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the May 2021 WIARC Meeting

The May 2021 meeting of the Western IL ARC was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at Twin Oaks Club. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President W9DP with the following members present: W9DP, N9JF, WA9GBC, K9VXD, KD0DKE, W9EMR, ND9U, W9WE, W9WEB, N9DT, W9GQK, WB9EWM, KB9FIN, AB9DU (in person) and NB4C, KC9FSQ and K9AJC (by ZOOM). Also present were visitors N4UPX and KD9QGE.

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

The Treasurer's Report was given by K9VXD. Income to date for 2021 consisted of 1152.33 (member dues and interest) and expenses of 176.40 for a net positive of 838.93. On a motion by WB9EWM and a second by KB9FIN, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

No Repeater Board meeting was held this month. One is planned before the next club meeting.

The club station continues to be unavailable due to American Red Cross building restrictions.

The only Contest Committee item was upcoming ARRL Field Day. Discussion with HARC suggests we operate from individual stations in 2021 as ARRL is once again allowing for aggregate scoring.

VE Test report: W9WE reported that the test session upcoming on May 8 has at least 7 candidates and an adequate number of VE's, though others are invited to assist if they are available and willing. The test session will be at 1 pm at Bethel Assembly of God in Quincy.

The new club web page still has work to be done but is looking good. Members were encouraged to check out the web site.

W9DP asked if any members were interested in attending the virtual Hamvention or Contest University. Registrations for both are now open and are free with several door prizes being offered.

A discussion of a possible club social event was held. Possibilities are an outdoor event (pot luck or catered) or an indoor event at Twin Oaks (catered). Further discussion will be held at the June meeting. This meeting may be held at an outdoor venue, probably Upper Moorman Park, with Twin Oaks as a backup in case of inclement weather or other issues.

A club tailgate/swapfest event was discussed. A tentative date was set for the July 7 regular club meeting night, beginning at 5 pm, probably at Upper Moorman Park.

W9EMR mentioned that the family of former President K9FHX was holding a memorial service for Dave at the Elks Club in Quincy on Saturday, May 15, from 1-3 pm. All who knew Dave are invited.

Newly-licensed amateur Drew Robinson, KD9QGE, was introduced and was nominated for membership by WM4D, seconded by N9DT and elected to membership by the group.

Net control stations: June 9: N9DT; June 16: WB9EWM; June 23: N9JF June 30: N9DT; July 7: W9DP

On a motion by WB9EWM and second by KB9FIN, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, N9JF Secretary

De W9WE to the Club:

Just wanted to say that we had a great test session and thanks to the VE's for the great help and effort. Special thanks to N9JDW Shane for driving up from Pittsfield for his first ever VE Test administration job. He was a great help and is hoping to get more interest in the Pike County IL area. Great Job! We also had many of our old faithful operators helping as usual: KB9FIN Dave, N9JDW Shane, W9GQK Steve, WA9GBC Dave, and W9WE Dave were on deck to administer the FCC tests.

We had several upgrades and first-time license grants. Here is a list of promotions in grade for the May 8 2021 test.

Dr. Suzanne Alt Woodlawn IL KD9SRD General
Aaron Clevenger Camp Point IL KD9SRE Technician
Michael DeVine Hannibal MO KF0FOW Technician
Jeffery Christensen Nauvoo IL KB7GOA General
Douglas Campbell Carthage IL KD9RQW General
Deborah Staudte Fort Madison IA KA0RRX General

We also want to thank the Bethel Assembly of God Church for the use of their facilities. Maybe soon we will be back to normal and be allowed into our club station at the Red Cross.

ILARES Info de W9WE

The ILARES is open to anyone who wants to join and you would be a great asset. If we ever have to really use our radios to contact statewide resources. Be prepared ! Also take a look at the Tactical Call ID message .. we had several who did not ID correctly for FCC rules at the Bridge the Gap. Just a few omissions at the end of transmission. Let's be professional in our communications. Be sure to end each interchange with your call sign.

Extra Class Upgrade Training <https://ilares.org/extra-class-upgrade-training/>

The K9MCE Macoupin County Club will be hosting Extra Class Upgrade sessions at the Macoupin County Sheriffs Department Administrative Office (2nd Floor).

Classes will be held both in person and also via Zoom sessions (which will be recorded) each Monday evening beginning May 17- June 28 from 7:00PM to 9:00 PM with the exception of Memorial Day This will give us a total of 6 classes of 2-hour sessions. NOTE: NO Memorial Day Class will be scheduled.
ARRL Illinois Section <https://ilares.org/>

For more complete information see <https://ilares.org/extra-class-upgrade-sessions/>

TACTICAL CALLS Information on ID your station.. Good read.
<https://harriscountyares.org/training/NET/NET-105.pdf>

73 Dave Scranton W9WE

Dear ARRL Central Division Member

Very few changes to the FCC regulations have given rise to as many questions to the ARRL as has the recent re-write of the FCC's RF Exposure rules. A new Frequently Asked Questions about the new changes to the FCC RF Exposure rules is available. The FAQ was created by Mr. Ed Hare, W1RFI, Laboratory Manager for the ARRL with the help of the members of the ARRL RF Safety Committee.

The ARRL RF Exposure FAQ can be found at;
<http://central.arrl.org/docs/RFX%20FAQ%20V1.3.pdf>

I hope that this FAQ will help answer many of the questions about the recent changes. The HQ team is working on an update to all of the information available on the ARRL.org website. If you have questions or suggestions for inclusion on this topic please email tis@arrl.org and your email will be answered by a member of the ARRL Laboratory staff.

73, Kermit Carlson W9XA

RF Exposure Calculator

Okay, so we have to recalculate? Here's something to help:

http://www.lakewashingtonhamclub.org/resources/rf-exposure-calculator/?fbclid=IwAR3Gi-5uCDM5t346la7iViSVnmO6BV05MpbPq_9METI6NRacX4vD9MIQ2H4

From ARRL Bulletin 15 ARLB015

ARLB015 First-Time Exam Applicants Must Obtain FCC Registration Number before Taking Exam

Beginning May 20, 2021, all amateur examination applicants will be required to provide an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) before taking an amateur exam. This is necessary due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system.

Amateur candidates who already have an FCC license, whether for amateur radio or in another service, already have an FRN and can use the same number. All prospective new FCC licensees, however, will be required to obtain an FRN before the examination and provide that number to the volunteer examiners on the Form 605 license application. An FCC instructional video provides step-by-step instructions on how to obtain an FRN through the FCC's COMmission REGistration System (CORES).

The video is available at, <https://www.fcc.gov/rofrn> .

The FRN is required for all new applicants to take an amateur exam and is used afterward by the applicant to download the license document from the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS), upgrade the license, apply for a vanity call sign, and to submit administrative updates (such as address and email changes) and renewal applications.

Starting on June 29, all applications filed with the FCC must include an email address for FCC correspondence. After receipt of the initial announcement that all future applications would require an email address, the ARRL out of concern for the privacy of its Members, requested that Amateur email addresses not be made public. This week the FCC agreed, stating in an email to the ARRL counsel that it will continue to “mask” Amateurs’ email addresses from public view in the Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will use the email address supplied by Amateurs to correspond with applicants, including to send a link to the official electronic copy of the license when an application is granted.

The FCC is transitioning to fully electronic correspondence and no longer mails hard-copy licenses. Amateurs are able to view, download, and print their official license grant using the ULS. When a license is first granted, each applicant will receive an email with a direct link to the license. Although the link expires in 30 days, the license itself will remain available in the ULS and may be downloaded at any time by signing into the licensee’s account using their FCC Registration Number (FRN) and password.

DX Stuff shamelessly borrowed from the latest ARRL DX Bulletin:

SB DX @ ARL \$ARLD019 ARLD019 DX news ZCZC AE19 QST de W1AW
DX Bulletin 19 ARLD019 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT May 13, 2021
To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by LU4AAO, 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.
(Note: many items have been deleted from this bulletin by the editor as the operations are to end prior to publication of *The Feedline*).

AUSTRIA, OE. Special event station OE60VHSC is QRV until June 7 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Very High Speed Club. QSL via operators' instructions.

DENMARK, OZ. Special event station OZ60VHSC is QRV until June 7 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Very High Speed Club. QSL via OZ1JHM.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event stations PA60VHSC and PH60VHSC are QRV until June 7 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Very High Speed Club. QSL via PA5V and PA0INA, respectively.

TURKEY, TA. Special event station TC568FA is QRV until June 28 to commemorate the anniversary of the Fall of Constantinople on May 29, 1453. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via bureau.

BENIN, TY. Ian, ZS6JSI is QRV as TY5AB. Activity has been on 20 meters using FT8. QSL to home call.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Special event station VI50SG is QRV until December 31 to commemorate the 50 years of the St. George Amateur Radio Society. QSL via bureau.

VENEZUELA, YV. Special event station YW200BC is QRV during 2021 to commemorate the Battle of Carabobo 200 years ago, which paved the way for Venezuela's independence. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via YV4KW.

MACEDONIA, Z3. Special event station Z360VHSC is QRV until June 7 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Very High Speed Club. QSL via operators' instructions.

Please see May QST, page 71, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details. NNNN /EX

Summer "Get Your Park On" event June 20-21

For those of you who chase parks, note that a summer "Get Your Park On" event is being planned for June 20-21, 2021 (UTC). There will be multiple stations signing 1 x 1 calls, many of whom will have suffixes of "G", "Y", "P" or "O". There will be special recognition for those who work combinations of stations to spell "GYPO". More later via the club reflector. De N9JF aka N9G

Food for thought from *QST "Letters from our Members"*

I hope you're all ARRL members! ARRL, despite its faults, is THE national organization for amateur radio and the premier watchdog for the well-being of the hobby in the U.S.A. QST Magazine has been in our house since the mid-60's. In fact, I think I subscribed before I was licensed.

I always read the "Letters from our Members" page. There are three such letters in the June 2021 issue, and they are all thought-provoking.

Letter #1 came from an ILQP regular, K4SBZ, who “resets to zero” every January 1. This means that he starts over on Worked All States and DX Century Club each year. There are other details in the letter. For those of you who have those awards, do you ever “reset” I think we did this as a club a few years back, and it would be fun to do it again.

Letter #2 was from a ham of 34 years who remarked that the enthusiasm for ham radio has never been greater. Do we see this locally? It appears there are a lot of new hams in the area. Has isolation and COVID helped this resurgence? If so, how can we capitalize on it as a ham community?

Letter #3 came from a fairly new ham in northern Illinois and had a rather surprising title: ‘The Excitement of Operating FT8’. I’ve heard a lot about FT8 being about as exciting as watching paint dry. I’ve never felt that way myself, and perhaps it’s time someone had the fortitude to express his honest opinion of the mode. I know several club members have had a lot of experience on FT8. Maybe it’s time we had another demonstration like the one WA9GBC gave a couple of years ago on Field Day. Dave, what do you say??

And by the way, if you have NOT been on FT8, you are missing a lot of activity. I recently saw that, by one measure (Club Log uploads), FT8 is accounting for 68% of all on the air activity. I thought it was an April Fool spoof. Apparently not. There is an article to that effect in June *QST Magazine*. I do know that a huge percentage of my Logbook of the World confirmations are for FT8 contacts. Recently, 85% of the 6 meter contacts (worldwide) have been on FT8!

Speaking of Field Day....

With social-distancing/mask/etc restrictions all over the map in the country, ARRL has again modified the usual Field Day rules to allow for compilation of club members’ scores and is not encouraging group operations. However....there may be some interest in getting together in a smaller group this year at a so-far-undetermined location. *If you are interested in being a part of such an operation and are willing to drive half an hour from Quincy, please communicate with n9jf@arrl.net, and we’ll talk....* If I hear nothing, I’ll assume it was a bad idea!

Contests and Ham Radio

WIARC has a “Contest Committee” that reports each month. A certain amount of discussion at each meeting has something to do with “contesting”. Some articles in *The Feedline* reference contesting. Why?

With a good group of fairly new hams as part of the club membership, it might be a good time to answer some questions rather than just have their eyes glass over.

Questions like,

“What the heck is a radio contest?”

“Of what value are radio contests?”

“If I cared, how could I get involved?”

“How can I improve my radio contesting skills?”

Warning: It might take more than one issue of *The Feedline* to address this...

So...let’s get started....

A “contest”, in general, intimates that there is competition, a sponsor, a venue, participants, a set of rules and possibly recognition. Ham radio contests are no exception. Most such contests involve on-the-air activity by licensed amateurs (or non-licensed working alongside), during a prescribed period of time, on prescribed frequency bands and modes and with certain entry categories designated by the sponsoring organization or individuals. Most require that a log of some sort be submitted within a prescribed time period, and the sponsors will receive such logs, score them, adjudicate the results and issue appropriate recognition in a reasonable amount of time.

Okay, that’s pretty straight-forward. So....why? Some of the ham bands can be rather crowded, especially on weekends; and most ham radio contests are on weekends. It’s not hard to find hams who view contests the way I view squirrels. (“Get out of my yard!”) What justification is there for hundreds of hams to spend hours over the weekend yelling, “59 Illinois”? Especially when Uncle George is trying to talk to his brother in Virginia “on schedule”, and he can’t find a clear frequency?

Here are some arguments FOR contesting:

Contesting keeps the bands active. “Use it or lose it.” We’ve heard that, and it means we have to show activity on the ham bands; or someone is going to make the argument that the frequencies are “under-utilized”. When that happens, there are strong influencers who look for ways to make these frequency allocations available to paying customers. It has happened more than once. Remember the 11 meter ham band? Nope, I don’t either....but it existed, as did the 5 meter band and a portion of the 1.25 meter band that we no longer have. Frequency segments are like farm land...sort of. They aren’t making any more of it.

Contesting incentivizes station improvements. The better your station, the better you are going to score in a competition. This isn’t just a consideration during contests. During a communications crisis, when ham radio shines as the “last best hope”, the better-equipped and performing stations are going to have the most to offer. In the middle of a post-tornado crisis is not the time to find out that your dipole is inoperable or that you don’t know how to find the microphone for your HF rig. (Or for that matter, that you can’t program your 2-meter rig to operate on the local repeater....oooops....). Not only do contesters improve their home stations; they also often are skilled in setting up temporary stations under less-than-ideal conditions.

Contesters are great networkers. Any of the contest clubs around the country are valuable sources of information and encouragement regarding station improvements.

Contesting, if you are determined to do well, incentivizes improvement in operating technique. The same sorts of skills that score well in a contest are also going to excel during emergency communications. Emphasis on clarity, brevity and efficiency are paramount in both.

Now....if you cared.....

There are literally contests every weekend of the year and a lot of days in between. If you really want to dabble in contesting, there is no waiting necessary! Some are 48-hour-long marathons, and others last only an hour or two. Some are spread over all of the HF bands (except for the 30, 17 and 12 meter bands), while others involve only a single band or perhaps just VHF and/or UHF bands. Some are multi-mode while others

are phone-only, CW-only or digital only. If you have a radio, you can find a contest to operate.

If you think I'm kidding, here is a link to the WA7BNM Contest Calendar:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

If you're just getting started, an alternative is to find someone else with a decent station and get invited to be a guest-operator. This strategy has taken a bit of a beating during COVID, but it's still an option under some circumstances. Being a guest op at a good station, along with experienced operators, is a fantastic learning experience for a new contester. A great place to start is one of the state QSO parties. They usually don't last more than one day, and there is ample activity to keep one busy and interested. They don't require a "super station" to be competitive.

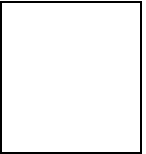
As we emerge (we *ARE* going to emerge) from COVID and get access to the club station, we can start doing some multi-operator efforts from there in contests if there is interest. Another argument for multi-ops is that working together in this situation translates to greater efficiency during emergencies.

Next month, we'll talk about how to improve your contesting skills.... De N9JF

Tired of being "locked down"? Just how tired are you?

[One Group's Post-Pandemic Travel Plan: Get as Far Away as Possible - WSJ](#)

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



**June meeting: Wednesday, June 2, 2021
7 pm
Likely at a shelter in Upper Moorman Park or
at Twin Oaks on Bonansinga Drive in Quincy
but watch the club reflector and check the
Wednesday night nets for info**

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@arri.net