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# THE FEEDLINE

Volume 46, Issue 1 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club January 2022

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Club Dues are Due! Pay at the January meeting or send to the treasurer at his home address: K9VXD 2603 Kings Pointe SW Quincy IL 62305

From the Shack of W9DP

Yes, it is me again. Since no one else seemed to want the office, you have to put up with me for another year.

The results of the election of officers should be in the meeting minutes from last month, but there were no changes to the executive committee; and I think one change on the repeater board. Ron, AA9GL chose not to run again and Scott, KD0DKE was voted on to the Repeater Board.

I want to emphasize my appreciation of those that served in the past year and thank them for serving. A couple of positions that are not voted on but are very important to the club are the Web master and newsletter editor. Both of these are behind-the-scenes types of jobs; a lot of times they are not even thought about until something goes wrong. Andy, KA0SNL, has not had the job of webmaster too long but has stepped up and made several changes with several more in the works. Jim, N9JF, has been editor of the club newsletter *The Feedline*, for several years in a row. Now Andy would be hard to replace, but I know he would not mind someone to help with some of the chores of keeping the club's presence on the web up to date and steadily improving. Jim would be quite willing to train someone to take over as newsletter editor. Helping with the web page would take someone with a basic knowledge of computers and web development. The newsletter only requires a volunteer with a computer with a word processing program and an email address. If you have any interest in serving the club in this way, please feel free to talk to Andy or Jim.

The past few weeks have seen a slight improvement in HF propagation on the higher bands, although it seems bands close up pretty early in the evening. Some evenings it is hard to find more than a couple of signals on 30, and once in a while even 40 meters is very quiet by 0300 UTC. Fifteen meters is open almost daily, and 12 and 10 meters are open more days than not. The part I dislike is that many times the only signals on the bands are on FT8. I do not have anything against FT8 (at least nothing too serious). When received signals on FT8 reach S9, the band will easily work for CW and SSB QSO's as well; someone just has to get on and make some noise.

The latest variant of COVID has created more changes to how we interact in public and I suspect we will see further restraints imposed before it gets any better. I know far more friends and family that have contracted COVID in the past couple of months than in the previous 20 months. Because of that, I am not sure whether we will continue to meet in person in the future; but at this time, there are no plans to stop meeting. That could change within a very short period of time. Right now, I have not

made any arrangements for a location to hold the January meeting, if you have any suggestions, I would welcome them. If more restrictions are placed on public gatherings, we will most likely go back to online meetings until things get better.

No matter what COVID changes to our meeting face to face, we still are part of a hobby that is known for socializing over distances. Get on the air and use your privileges.

Danny W9DP

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

The December meeting of the Western Illinois ARC was held on December 1, 2021 at Twin Oaks Club in Quincy. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President W9DP with the following members and guests present: K9VXD, W9DP, W9WE, N9UPG, W9GQK, WA9GBC, AA9GL, WB9WAJ, NR9Q, WB9EWM, KE0KCQ, KE0KCR, K9AJC, KB9FIN, AB9DU, KD9TTC, KD0DKE, KD9NET, KA0SNL, KD9TVM, N9JF and NB4C (via Zoom).

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as published in The Feedline on a motion by KB9FIN, seconded by AA9GL and carried.

Treasurer K9VXD reported expenditures for the past month of \$120 for postage (ILQP mailings) and income of \$0.53 interest. Dues for 2022 are payable. They may be mailed to the club POBox or brought to the January meeting.

A motion was made by WA9GBC to authorize the Treasurer to contribute \$50 each to Toys for Tots, Honor Flight, American Red Cross and Salvation Army. Seconded by AA9GL and carried.

Repeater Board (by WB9EWM): The repeater amplifier on the .03 machine needs to be replaced. The Repeater Board recommends purchasing a commercial-grade amplifier at a cost of approximately \$1388. There may also need to be a power supply purchased, and microphone to facilitate testing was recommended. The group will remove the remaining S-Com (sp?) controller and bond everything to a common ground. The group plans to inventory all repeater-related equipment in the near future and provide for a “knock-down option” in case the repeater is hung up due to equipment issues or piracy. License information and contact information for the Rpt Bd members needs to be posted at the site.

The Repeater Board recommends a detailed review of just exactly what we need to maintain in light of the fact that major changes are pending with the Channel 7 and Channel 10 tower sites. We need to know what needs to go where when a tower climb occurs so we get the work done that we need and don't miss the opportunity. The station ownership is currently “ham-friendly”; we just need to define what we need.

A motion was made by KB9FIN to authorize up to \$2000 for repeater-related equipment, seconded by KA0SNL and carried.

Station Committee: No information except that N9JF did access the station for a brief period in November, made a few contacts on 30, 20 and 15 meters and verified that

the beam turns and works. (When you drive past the ARC office and notice that the beam isn't pointed north....it's his fault...he forgot to turn it back....)

**Contest Committee:** Several major contests were held in November. December has the ARRL 160 and ARRL 10 contests. The ILQP logs are being processed. W9DP mentioned that sunspots have brought back at least some propagation on all bands up to 10 meters.

**VE report:** W9WE reported that three new licensees (2 Techs, 1 General) came out of the latest VE session. The next session will be in February.

**Applications for Membership:**

Newly-licensed hams KD9TTC, Steve McQueen, and KD9TVM, John Hamilton, were present at the meeting and introduced themselves. On a motion by KB9FIN, second by WB9EWM and voice vote, both were accepted into membership. Welcome, guys!!

**New Business:** WB9EWM mentioned that a thorough inventory of all club equipment at the Red Cross building needs to be done with the intention of finding a new home for items that are not, and will not be, of value to the club.

W9GQK mentioned that a program on the workings of the club's repeaters and possibly a tour (at least a visual one) of the repeater site would be valuable to members who are not currently aware of the details of the repeaters. WB9EWM agreed to put together a program on this topic.

WA9GBC asked about the possibility of internet at the repeater site.

W9DP will check with ARRL about the club's status as a Special Service Club.

**Election of officers:**

The Nominating Committee of N9JF, W9WE and WA9GBC put into nomination the following who had agreed to serve if elected:

President W9DP

Vice-president W9WE

Secretary N9JF

Treasurer K9VXD

Repeater Board (3-year term) KD0DKE

Repeater Board (3-year term) NR9Q

Nominations were solicited from the floor, and none were forth-coming. KB9FIN moved, seconded by WB9EWM that the nominations cease and that the slate presented by elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

W9DP thanked the outgoing/incoming officers and other non-elected members who help keep the club running. He mentioned that the privilege of putting together The Feedline could be claimed by someone new....

NCS stations: Jan 5: W9DP Jan 12: N9JF Jan 19: W9DP Jan 26: W9DP Feb 2: W9WE

The meeting was adjourned (on a motion by KB9FIN, seconded by WB9EWM and carried) at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted, N9JF Secretary

**ILQP Results for 2021 ARE POSTED!!**

(Emit huge sigh of relief.....)

The 2021 ILQP is officially “put to bed”, and the results are posted at <https://w9awe.org/ilqp/>. Click the 2021 tab for the results and commentary. Thanks once again to WA9GBC for his wizardry with Excel macros. They sure make the process a lot easier!

In Case You Missed It: (putting up the club antenna...thanks, WM4D for the pix!)





Don't forget: Dues are due....

## Repeater Info:

Today the WIARC sponsors three 2 Meter repeaters; (146.34/.94 MHz +123.0 Hz (FM), 147.63/.03 MHz +103.5 Hz (FM/Yaesu Fusion Digital Voice), 147.795/.195 Mhz (ICOM D-Star Digital Voice)), two 70 cm repeaters; (448.900/443.900 Mhz +103.5 (FM/Yaesu Fusion Digital Voice), 446.89375/441.89375 MHz (ICOM D-Star Digital Voice)

Repeater information is on <https://w9awe.org/repeaters>

Net control stations/alternate are flexible.

**Date. Control. Alternate**

Dec 1 W9DP 443.900

Dec 8 N9JF 146.940

Dec 15 W9DP 443.900

Dec 22 W9WE 146.940

Dec 29 W9DP 443.900

Jan 05 W9DP 146.940

Jan 12. N9JF 443.900

Jan 19. W9DP 146.940

Jan 26 W9DP 443.900

Feb 02 W9WE 146.940

We need to ask if more people would consider calling net. <https://w9awe.org/wednesday-net/> It's not hard and we need to expand our operations. Should be kicking up power on 147.030 repeater soon.

Here's what you read to call net:

### **ADAMS COUNTY ARES TRAINING NET PREAMBLE**

Attention all stations, attention all stations. This is (your call) calling a regular net session of the Adams County Emergency Training Net on repeater W9AWE/R on 147.63/.03. My name is (your name) and I am net control for this session. This net meets each Wednesday evening at 6:45 PM local time and is a directed net. This net is an ARES affiliated net and meets to encourage emergency preparedness and to exchange information among area amateurs.

I will begin by asking for stations with emergency or priority traffic and will take check-ins after that. When you check in, please give your name, location and if you have anything for the net.

Are there any stations with emergency or priority traffic? (handle all priority and emergency traffic)

Are there any stations with formal written traffic? (handle any remaining traffic)

Are there any stations wishing to check in?

(list stations as they check-in on page 2)

I will now close this session of the Adams County Emergency Training Net on 147.030 and will move to 146.940 (or 443.900) and take check-ins there. I would like to thank everyone for their participation. This net will meet next week at the same time and the same frequency. I am now closing this net and returning the frequency to normal use. (Your call) is now clear and moving to 146.940 (or 443.900).

Net Report:

Adams County ARES Training Net

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ NCS: \_\_\_\_\_

Check-ins:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

traffic handled \_\_\_\_\_

Please send net report to NG9R, [dpease@adams.net](mailto:dpease@adams.net) as soon after the net as possible

Alert: Gary, KD9LOQ, announced the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club in Carthage will be starting a net on Thursday evenings at 8:00

PM. It will be held on the Carthage repeater 147.105 with a tone of 103.5.

All are invited to take part.

On Tuesday mornings at 10am we meet for snacks and coffee at Panera Bread .

Everyone is welcome 😊. Sometimes you are only one. Sometimes 4 or 5.

Wanted to let you know. Dave Scranton W9WE

*From The ARRL Club News for Dec 21, 2021:*

## Radio Club Enjoys Rebirth Thanks in Part to POTA

Getting its start in the early 1970s, the Triple "A" Amateur Radio Association of Beaver County, Pennsylvania laid claim to the first licensed repeater in the third call area. WR3AAA was the repeater's call, and in those days, obtaining a repeater license was no small task. Still, the founding members pushed forward to realize their vision.

Like so many other amateur radio organizations, Triple "A" has found itself navigating the changing landscape of the hobby in recent years. Emerging technologies and lack of engagement made for some thin years where the membership roster was concerned.

It was true then, and it still is. Triple "A" is not an organization that shirks away from a good challenge.

This year, thanks in part to new leadership, we have a new mission:

Reacquaint with previous members and welcome new ones.

Encourage them to become active and involved, sharpen their operating skills, and enjoy the comradery this great hobby has to offer.

Thanks to a chance conversation regarding POTA (parks on the air), the club has taken a new and exciting turn! We enjoyed three successful POTA events this past summer. Held at Beaver County's own Raccoon Creek State Park, multiple stations plus multiple bands plus multiple modes equaled lots of fun. So much fun that several of the members now enjoy POTA activating and hunting on their own.

Okay....now a challenge:

WIARC has been going for over 80 years! Some of our members are ancient (speaking for myself), and others are brand new. Some of them are sparkling new hams!

How do we keep everybody interested and involved? We've been fortunate enough to continue meeting almost every month despite the COVID craziness. I think the mini-demo of key paddles at last month's meeting was well-received. Could we do something similar after each meeting? Short presentations on various topics followed by Q&A for those interested? Topics: digital modes, county hunting, park chasing, fox hunting, contesting, DXing, repeaters, you-suggest-a-topic!?! These would be short programs of probably no more than 15 minutes plus Q&A.

Taking a clue from the Triple A club (see above), who would be interested in having club activations of local parks? One "qualifying park" is Bob Bangert Park, right down the road from Twin Oaks. It used to be Sid Simpson State Park, and it's still listed that way on both WWFF and POTA sites...but...hey...it still qualifies. If you'd like to discuss this, please let me know! De N9JF

**SB DX @ ARL \$ARLD050 ARLD050 DX news**

**ZCZC AE50 QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 50 ARLD050  
From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT December 16, 2021 To all radio amateurs**

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

**THAILAND, HS.** Brad, VK2BY is QRV as HS0ZNR from the Nam Yuen district until January 21. QSL direct to home call. In addition, stations E24OYI, E25KAE, E25OKO, E29TGW, HS2UPR, HS2QJJ, E20NKB and E21EIC will be QRV as E20AX/p from Chang Island, IOTA AS-125, from December 18 to 20. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 meters, using CW, SSB, and FT8, with two or three stations active. QSL via E21EIC.

**NETHERLANDS, PA.** Special call PG44FF is QRV until early 2022 as part of various Flora and Fauna park activations. QSL via operator's instructions.

**TURKEY, TA.** Simon is temporarily QRV as TA4/G6JFY from Fethieye while waiting for his regular Turkey call sign. QSL via operator's instructions.

**INDONESIA, YB.** Special event stations 7B2C, 7B2E, 7B2T, 7B2H and 7B2O are QRV until the end of October 2022 to celebrate the Javanese-Hindu Ceto Temple that was built in 1475. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via operators' instructions.

Please see December QST, page 62, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details.

**NNNN  
/EX**



From The ARRL Contest Update for November 24, 2021

**CQ**

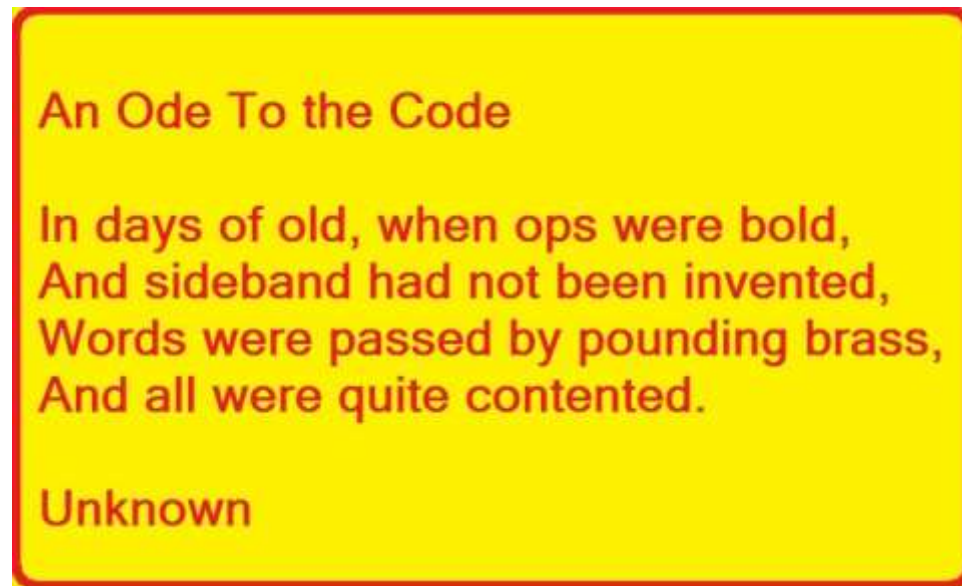
"Calling any station" is the general call when requesting a conversation with anyone. Like many other telegraph terms that originated on the landlines, CQ was brought over into radio and used as a general call to all ships by the Marconi Company. Other companies used "KA" until the London Convention of 1912, which adopted CQ as the international general call or "attention" signal.

But why the letters CQ? From the French, *sécurité* (which means "safety" or, as intended here, "pay attention"). The pronunciation of the first two syllables sounds like the English letters C and Q, which led to "CQ" becoming a call to attention for all stations.

**And...for those of you trying to be understood on CW:**

Ward, N0AX, shared: "Here's an 1844 quote sent by postal mail from Samuel Morse to his partner, Alfred Vail, regarding telegraphy: '... there is one defect in your writing [sending] which I wish you would pay particular attention to - Make a longer space between each letter, & a still longer space between each word, The letters and words are often confounded for want of this simple attention.' Even at the beginning, nearly 180 years ago, running characters together was a problem!"

**And from good ol' Facebook courtesy W6LEN:**



From Sam WC7Q

I'm posting this with a heavy heart. As much as I love the ham radio hobby, collecting gear, trying new modes, and everything else that comes with it ...

## **it is just taking up too much of my time.**

I am struggling

to keep up with the everyday basics of cleaning and maintaining my home,  
so something has to give.

## **I have decided to get rid of my gear.**

Below is a list of what's available.

Serious inquiries only, and please don't insult me with low offers,

I know the value of what I have here.

Thanks for reading and understanding ...

1. Vacuum cleaner
2. Dustpan and brush
3. Mop and bucket
4. Lawn Mower
5. Leaf blower
6. Laundry detergent
7. Iron
8. Broom

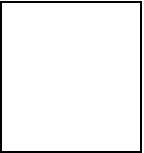
Merry Christmas

Sent to me by Bob W7JXR

To drive an electric car do you need a current license?

**Did I mention that Club Dues are Due??**

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



January meeting: Wednesday, January 5,  
2022.

Location TBA: Watch the club reflector and  
listen to the weekly net for updates! ZOOM  
session credentials available from  
[n9jf@arri.net](mailto:n9jf@arri.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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