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# THE FEEDLINE

Volume 46, Issue 2 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club February 2022

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## President's Musings

It is cold outside! Today it started at -1 and wind chill as low as -23, according to the NWS. I really feel sorry for those that have to be out in these temperatures. I hear N9JF I returning from Florida, I think maybe he should have spent a few more days down there, it will be quite a change when he gets home.

Speaking of cold and being outside in general, I understand couple of WIARC members were recognized by the Adam County EMA for their service during the first year of the pandemic. Jim Funk, N9JF, and Dave Scranton, W9WE, were recognized for their many hours of volunteer work helping with COVID testing. I know most, if not all, of their time was spent outside, directing traffic and handling paperwork and they worked in all kinds of weather. I am sure several others were involved; I just noticed that Jim and Dave were WIARC members mentioned.

Winter is a great time to get on the air and propagation has been better than recent years. In spite of most activity being on FT8, there are still plenty of QSO's to be had using SSB and CW. Seventeen and 15 meters are open daily now, and it is not unusual to find activity on 12 meters many days. This is just the start of the upswing of the new solar cycle; things will slowly improve for a few years.

Last weekend was the ARRL January VHF contest, and there was a fair amount of local activity, even if the majority of it was on FT8. I missed it, but I hear there was plenty of Sporadic E on 6 meters on Saturday. Last Saturday was also the January edition of the NAQP CW and the bands were busy with plenty of non-FT8 activity for it.

I have been staying in for the past several weeks. COVID made an appearance at our house. I am still on the mend; but it was not a serious case and I did not want to expose anyone else. The new positive tests are at an all-time high, and hospital beds are in short supply in area hospitals. It may be prudent of us to not meet in person the next couple of months; look for that decision to be made soon.

The February meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 2, place still to be determined. If we do not meet in person, we will again use Zoom to conduct our business meeting.

Stay warm and get on the air!

Danny W9DP

## Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the January 22 WIARC Meeting

The January 2022 meeting of the Western Illinois ARC was called held at Twin Oaks Club in Quincy on January 5, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Vice-President W9WE in the absence of W9DP.

The following were present: W9WE, K9VXD, KB9FIN, WB9EWM, WA9GBC, KD0DKE, KB9TVM, W9GQK, W9EMR, KD9NET and N9JF AND via Zoom: NB4C, N9QJW, K9AJC and visitor N9QJW.

Minutes of the December 2021 meeting were approved as printed in *The Feedline* on a motion by WB9EWM, seconded by KB9FIN and carried.

Treasurer's Report: K9VXD reported that 51 of the approximately 80 members on last year's roster have renewed so are. DUES ARE DUE. Individuals who have not paid dues by April 1, 2022 will be dropped from the roster.

Expenditures approved for repeater equipment at the December meeting have been paid to the total of \$1841.46.

Interest income from CD's for 2021 was received in the amount of \$166. Two CD's are rolling over shortly. Total income for 2021 was \$1493.49, total expenditures \$1135.20 for a net gain (January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2022: \$358.29.

The treasurer's report was approved on a motion by KB9FIN, seconded by WB9EWM and carried on voice vote.

Repeater Board report by WB9EWM: Repeater Board members WB9EWM, NR9Q and KD0DKE met at the channel 7 site on December 27. They removed the Quintron unit, receiver and S-Comm unit leaving the Fusion repeater and duplexer. SWR was checked and satisfactory on all feedlines. New equipment will be installed at the .03 site. There is a problem with one of the cavities in the duplexer and it was temporarily taken out of line. The committee will install a new PA, power supply and cables. Contact info will be provided to personnel at both Channel 7 and Channel 10. We need copies of the club FCC license to post at the repeater site. KB9FIN moved, seconded by W9EMR and carried that at least two copies be procured. The committee is trying to consolidate and clean up equipment as much as possible at the .03 site as channels 7 and 10 are going to both be located at the .03 site in the future.

The Channel 10 tower is going to be taken down. We will need to retrieve our .94 antenna when this happens. There was discussion about the possibility of moving .94 to the Adams County tower rather than to have all of the operating repeaters on the Channel 7 tower.

The Repeater Board is recommending that the club's D-Star equipment (which is not currently in service) be sold. This action is pending discussion and decision by the club membership. Members are encouraged to share opinions with the Repeater Board ASAP.

W9GQK reported that what appears to be malicious interference has been occurring on both the .03 and .94 repeaters. Attempts will be made to DF the source.

**Club Station: no report**

**Contest Committee: Upcoming contests in January include ARRL RTTY Roundup, NAQP (both CW and SSB), and CQ 160 CW.**

**Old Business: none**

**Applications for Membership: none**

**New Business: The upcoming VE schedule is on the club website.**

**K9VXD is suggesting that Treasurer records ongoing be digitized as storing paper copies is getting to be an issue.**

**WB9EWM moved, seconded by KB9FIN and carried that the practice of issuing membership cards be resumed. NB4C mentioned that the club in Florida does issue such cards but that only about 20% of the membership request them. WA9GBC showed the cards that are issued for Twin Oaks Club.**

**NCS stations:**

**Feb 2 W9WE Feb 9 N9JF Feb 16 WB9EWM Feb 23 WB9EWM Mar 2 W9WE**

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm on a motion by KB9FIN, seconded by WB9EWM and carried.**

**Following adjournment, WB9EWM presented a program on repeater basics.**

**Respectfully submitted, N9JF Secretary**

**Wednesday night net**

**The Adams County Training Net meets each Wednesday night at 6:45 pm local on the 147.030 repeater followed by a session either on 146.940 or on 443.900. The purpose is to encourage emergency preparedness and to exchange information between area amateurs. But...you know this if you have participated, because those purposes are stated each week in the preamble to the net session!**

**For the net to occur, someone needs to be “net control”. It’s easy! There is a standard preamble included on the club website at <https://w9awe.org/wednesday-net/> . Once you’ve made that announcement, it’s just a matter of asking for check-ins and acknowledging each station who responds.**

**We need more stations to step up and serve as Net Control stations! It’s not that the regulars don’t want to do it, but we need more with the knowledge and confidence to serve when needed. If a real emergency occurred, you might be the one who is available to help!**

**After each net session, a report needs to be sent to W9DP. ([dpease@adams.net](mailto:dpease@adams.net)). Here is a sample from W9WE. It’s helpful because Dave has included both the calls and names of some of the usual checkins.**

## 19 January 2022 Training Net Roster

Frequency. 147.03

K9VXD Arnold  
KE0MHJ Rex  
WM4D Ken  
KB9MUV Gary  
W9EMR Mont  
KD9QGE Drew  
K9AJC Allen  
KD9LOQ Gary  
KD9TTB Kurt  
N9BZ Darrel  
KB9FIN Dave  
KE7RR Joe

Frequency 146.94

K9VXD Arnold  
KE0MHJ Rex  
WM4D Ken  
KB9MUV Gary  
W9EMR Mont  
KD9QGE Drew  
K9AJC Allen  
KD9LOQ Gary  
N9BZ Darrel  
KB9FIN Dave  
KE7RR Joe

Thanks for checking in on such a cold 🥶 night.

Dave Scranton  
W9WE 73

Morse Code learning hints and helps: (from W9WE)

<https://morsepower.blogspot.com/2016/08/introducing-morsepower-blog-about-morse.html?m=1>

<https://archive.org/details/cwcom>

<https://www.qrzcq.com/call/G3MS>

I've been working on this old version and have been working G3MS online. Code over internet. Gerry is a great code operator. Take a look 🙏.

I am working on hook ☐ up of my keys. If you're not connected to in program you can still practice on key. Please don't connect and just practice you may be

interfering. My antenna was covered by ice ❄️ so I got on with Gerry in England twice this week. I understand you don't have to be licensed to use this program.

Please verify that is correct as you read the information. You can also listen only to practice words or news feeds. 73

Try this out. . . SK Dave Scranton W9WE

From the *ARRL DX News* for January 13, 2022:

**DX Bulletin 2 ARLD002 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT January 13, 2022**  
To all radio amateurs SB DX ARL ARLD002 ARLD002 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by LU5AG, VE7KW, 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.** Ray, F5UKV will be QRV as 3B8HH beginning around January 20. Activity will be on 80 to 2 meters, and possibly 160 meters, using CW and some SSB. Once his station is completely installed, he will also use PSK and RTTY. QSL via bureau.

**GUADELOUPE, FG.** Operators Pascal, F1MNO, Pierre, F1TCV, Michel, F5LRL, Didier, F6BCW and Keith, VE7KW will be QRV as TO6S from Les Saintes, IOTA NA-114, from January 20 to February 1. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FT4 with two stations active. QSL via F6KJS.

**SEYCHELLES, S7.** Beverly, S79BMK is a new operator and QRV from Mahe Island, IOTA AF-024. She is active on the HF bands.

**SWEDEN, SM.** Members of the Skoevde Amateur Radio Club are QRV with special call SK50EI during 2022 to celebrate the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. QSL via bureau.

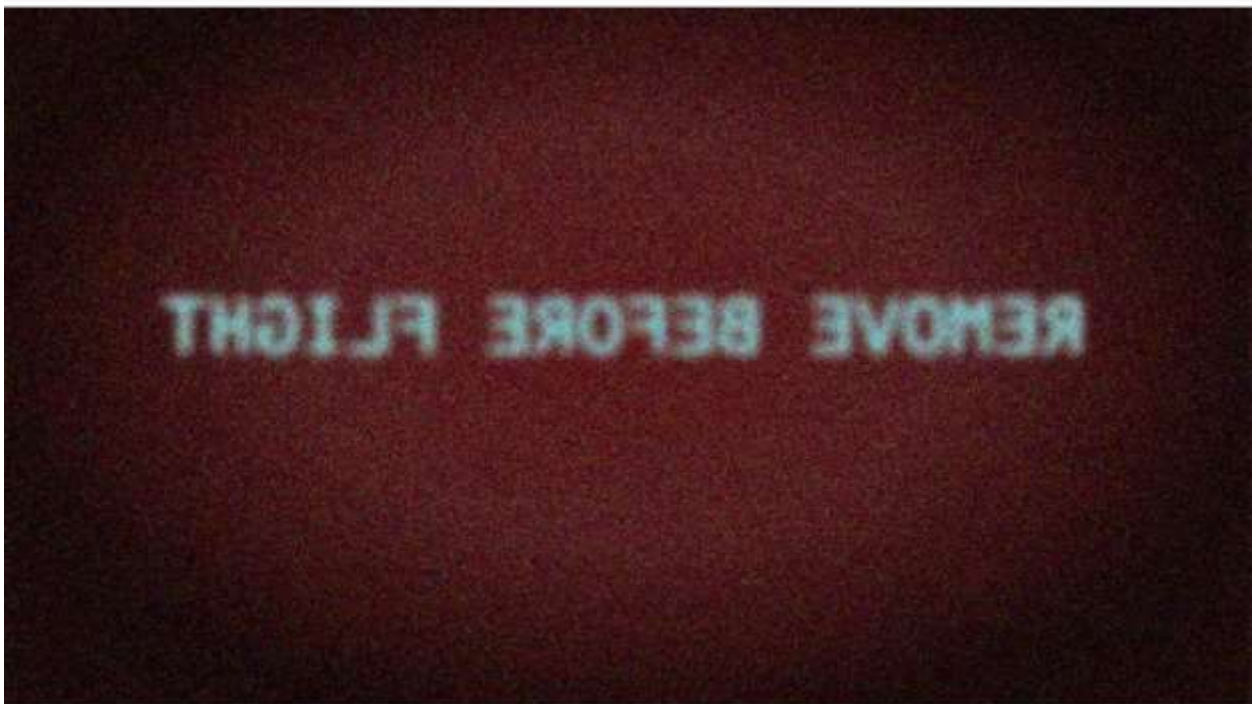
**TURKEY, TA.** Members of the Turkish Amateur Radio Association are QRV with special call sign TC60TRAC during all of 2022 to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary. QSL via the bureau.

**MEXICO, XE.** Zalo, XE3N is QRV as 6F6F during all of 2022 to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Playa del Carmen City, Quintana Roo. QSL via EA5GL.

**VIET NAM, XV.** Eddy, XV1X has been QRV on 40 meters using FT8 beginning around 1100z. QSL via QRZ.com.

Please see January QST, page 76, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details.

# Today, James Webb telescope switched on camera to acquire 1st image from deep space



From NU7J:

**Speaking of Field Day...**

**I recently stumbled across this photo on the internet. The photo is from the 1946 Field Day. The photo shows a ham from my home town (Clinton, IL) participating in Field Day at a local state park. (Weldon Springs State Park, the same park that the club operated Field Day from when I was growing up in Clinton in the late 70's).**

**I wonder if they actually made any contacts.**

Where's the coax? Where's the solar panels? Where's the logging computer? Did someone forget to bring the straight key and microphone? Most importantly, what did they do when it rained? It looks like the receiver and transmitter were being used as a bug zapper in between contacts. 73, Tom NU7J



And....speaking of NU7J:

Tom (and Elaine) have been roaming in Death Valley for a few days in January. That sounds a bit macabre, but it must beat being in Seattle with the rain and snow they've been experiencing! Tom has activated Death Valley (CA) several times on various bands and both CW and SSB, and we've made contact more than once. If you needed Inyo County, California, this was a golden opportunity to check that one off the list!

From there, they plan to go to Joshua Tree National Monument and then...???... I think they are enjoying retirement!



And...speaking of parks....

N9JF and KB9CES recently returned from a couple of weeks in Florida and Alabama. (Don't ask me why we "returned"...I have no logical answer....). At any rate, whilst there, we activated a number of parks in both states. A highlight of the trip was a "POTA Meet and Greet" held at Colt Creek State Park on Saturday, January 15. More than 40 hams and spouses attended, and "a good time was had by all." No one who was hunting parks that day should have missed K-1848!

Many of you have met "Ringo the RF Duck", my official CW op. At the Meet and Greet, Ringo was able to connect with his alter ego, Ringo, KF4RB, for a "Ringo Squared" picture:



There were some nice pileups on the N9JF activations during that period:

Bon Secour NWR (AL) 120 Qs, Gulf State Park (AL) 92, Econfina State Park (FL) 67, J. N. Ding Darling NWR (329). The activation at St. Marks NWR was an afterthought as the main purpose for the visit was to locate (on try #7!) "Pinky the Flamingo" who apparently was blown in four years ago by Hurricane Michael. Yes, we found the flamingo!



From the *ARRL Contest Update* for January 19, 2022:

Stan, K4SBZ, announced that the [State QSO Party](#) website has been updated to include the following items:

- 2022 Rules for SQP Challenge and Worked All QSP Parties (WAQP)
- 2022 SQP Calendar
- 2021 Challenge Results
- 2021 WAQP Results
- Updated 2022 WAQP Submission Form

Additionally, the [Quebec QSO Party](#) has been added to the approved list of QSO parties.-  
- Thanks to Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ

The following item is included, not as an “endorsement” but for information for those who might be interested:



Dear Jim,

Our next **QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo** will be held live from **March 12-13**, and then on-demand for 30 days afterwards. We promise an amazing learning and networking experience to help you improve your amateur radio knowledge and get exposed to new ideas, equipment, and practical techniques. No need to travel - participate from your home or office! Information can be found at <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>.

### **Here are 5 reasons why you must attend:**

**Listen, engage with 60+ internationally recognized ham radio luminaries.** Our speakers are experts and deeply know their material. Most importantly, they've worked hard to make sure that you'll understand the material and can apply it immediately to your projects.

**So, so many different topics - everybody will find something of high value.** There's content for everyone whether a newly licensed ham looking for next steps to using that license or a 30+ year experienced ham looking for new

projects. Some of the more interesting presentations include: *Core HF Communication Concepts: Fundamentals of Shortwave Propagation*; *Deep Dive of An FPGA DVB-S2 Implementation*; *Fun With The NanoVNA*; and *Helically Wound Vertical for 160M*.

[Click Here for Presentation List](#)

**Watch as many presentations as you want!** A big limitation of in-person events is that you can't watch many of the presentations (you can only be in one room at a time). At the Expo, return anytime within 30 days to view any speakers and presentations you missed as well as explore exhibitor offerings.

**Check out our live [Kumospace](#) video lounges for attendees to interact with each other and exhibitors.** At the Expo we'll debut exciting but proven technology to further improve the live video interaction experience with exhibitors and fellow operators. You'll find this is a great way to meet up with friends, talk to vendors, and network on specific subject areas.

**Take advantage of our calendar technology to efficiently organize your time.** Once our presentations are scheduled, you can download speaker times in your local time zone directly to your Google or Outlook calendar. You'll then have a complete schedule of sessions to join to maximize your time during the Live period with speakers that are the most important.

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio®, is a QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Partner. FlexRadio is the Expo's Platinum Sponsor, Elecraft is our Gold sponsor as of this time.

**Early Bird Tickets will go on sale February 1st, 2022**, and are just \$10 (through March 6) and then \$13.50 to the end of the on-demand period. Tickets include entry for the Live 2 day period and the 30 day on-demand period. Save on gas, lodging, and transit time to attend the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo on March 12th and 13th. For more information, go to <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>, or click on the blue button below.

**Save the dates: March 12-13, 2022 on your calendar!**

Upcoming contests in February:

Minnesota QSO Party Feb 5 <https://www.w0aa.org/mnqp-rules/>

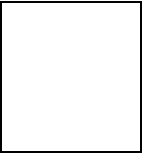
ARRL School Club Roundup Feb 14-18 <http://www.arri.org/school-club-roundup>

ARRL International DX Test CW Feb 19-20 <http://www.arri.org/arri-dx>

CQ 160 SSB Test Feb 25-27 <http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>

...and about a bazillion others.... See <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html> for all the fun.

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



February meeting Wednesday February 2,  
2022

Location to be determined, and may be by  
Zoom only! Watch the club reflector and  
listen to the Wednesday night 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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