
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 46, Issue 3 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club March 2022

From the Desk of the President

The weather may not look like it, but spring is drawing near. While we may suffer more cold and snow, the temperatures are trending slightly warmer. Spring brings chances of severe weather. Keep your eyes and ears open, and be ready to respond accordingly, no matter where you might be.

Spring also brings changes in radio propagation, some for the better and some, not so much. Sporadic E will be making a return soon bringing a lot of short skip on the higher bands, including 6 meters. Warmer weather also brings better tropospheric ducting conditions on the VHF and UHF bands. Thunderstorms mean noisier band conditions and the threat of lightning, so remember to disconnect those antennas and radios when not in use.

On a more somber note, we recently had two more club members become Silent Key: Mont Robertson, W9EMR and Rocky Shrum, KE0KCR. Memorial gifts from the club are being arranged. If anyone knows of a preference of a place to send a memorial gift on behalf of Mont, please share it with us. Please keep the families of the deceased in your thoughts and prayers.

After a suggestion at the last meeting that we consider moving the March meeting date to avoid any conflict with Ash Wednesday services, I arranged to meet in the large conference room at the Quincy Public Library on March 9th. The meeting will still start at 7:00 PM but we must finish by 7:45 and be out of the building by 8:00 PM.

I am also fishing for program ideas. One idea suggested was an overview on the ARRL National Traffic System and on the Amateur Radio Emergency Service organization. Does anyone else want to learn about either of these volunteer groups? Feel free to make suggestions. This is your club, and your input is needed to keep it beneficial to all.

A reminder: dues for 2022 were due the first of the year; and if not submitted by the March club meeting night, you will be considered in arrears. Please send your dues directly to Arnold Gerst, 2603 Kings Pointe SW, Quincy, IL 62305. If you have already mailed your dues to the club PO Box, that is fine. They will get processed, just maybe not quite as quickly as those sent directly to Arnold. Dues can also be paid at any meeting that we meet in person.

Danny W9DP

Moved and Seconded; Minutes of the February 2022 WIARC Meeting

The February 2022 meeting of the Western IL ARC was held by Zoom due to (initially) COVID concerns and (ultimately) due to weather and road conditions. It was hosted by W9DP and called to order by W9DP at 7 pm on February 2, 2022.

Present were: W9DP, N9JF, KB9FIN, W9GQK, KE7RR, N9BZ, WB9WAJ, K9AJC, KB9WFC, WB9EWM, W9WE, KF0HTI, KA0SNL

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

No treasurer's report due to absence of Treasurer.

Repeater Board report: WB9EWM: installed new transmitter and power supply, checked output: improved; need to discuss disposal of unused equipment; further bonding and grounding pending and consolidation of equipment pending site changes;

Station Committee report: No changes, no access to station.

Contest Committee report:

Upcoming QSO parties

VE session: Feb 9 postponed; can reschedule if needed

Old Business: hats/shirts in progress; needed improvement. We need "official copy" of club license to post at repeater site. W9DP will follow up.

New Business: K9LA newsletter references grant money for ??;

WB9EWM will construct a survey for members regarding use of D-Star; possibility raised of moving the .94 repeater to one of the county towers when the Channel 10 tower comes down.

Applications for membership:

KF0HTI, motion by WB9EWM, seconded by KB9FIN carried

NCS stations:

Feb 9 N9JF Feb 16 WB9EWM Feb 23 WB9EWM Mar 2 W9WE Mar 9 W9GQK
Mar 16 WB9EWM Mar 23 N9JF Mar 30 W9DP Apr 6 W9WE

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm on a motion by WB9EWM, seconded by KB9FIN and carried.

Respectfully submitted, N9JF Secretary

**QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 6 ARLD006 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT February 10, 2022 To all radio amateurs**

SB DX ARL ARLD006 ARLD006 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by AD8J, 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.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Karel, OK2WM and Vlad, OK2WX will be QRV as 8Q7WM and 8Q7WX, respectively, from February 13 to March 8. They will be QRV on 160, 80 and 40 meters using mainly CW. QSL to home calls.

CHINA, BY. Members of Chinese Radio Amateurs Club station BY1CRA are QRV with special event station BY1CRA/WO22 during the 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics. QSL via operators' instructions.

ANTARCTICA. Sergiy, UT9UX is QRV as EM1U from Base Vernadsky on Galindez Island in the Biscoe Islands, IOTA AN-006, until mid April. Activity is on various HF bands. QSL via UT7UA.

SAUDI ARABIA, HZ. Members of the Saudi Amateur Radio Society are QRV as 7Z3FD, 8Z3FD, and HZ3FD to celebrate Saudi Founding Day. QSL via ClubLog.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Amir, 4X6TT is QRV as S79/4X6TT from Mahe Island, IOTA AF-024. Activity is on the HF bands, with particular interest given to 30, 17, and 12 meters. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via N4GNR.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Bill, W3UL is QRV as V47UM from Nevis, IOTA NA-014. Activity is on the HF bands. He will be active part time in the CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest. This also includes being active in the upcoming ARRL International DX CW contest. QSL to home call.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. JT, KD7ADI is QRV as V7/KD7ADI. Activity of late is in his spare time on 40 and 20 meters using FT8. QSL via LoTW.

KOSOVO, Z6. Rene, DL2JRM is QRV as Z66BCC from Gjilan and will be active in the CQ World Wide WPX RTTY contest. QSL to home call.

SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ is QRV as Z81D while on work assignment with the UN-WFP. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 meters, including 60 meters, using SSB and FT8. If time allows, he may try to be active on 160 meters. QSL via OM3JW.

ALBANIA, ZA. Fred, OE8NDR is QRV as ZA/OE8NDR and has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 0930 to 1000z. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

An interesting read from the desk of ON4UN (SK)

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/Eth-operating-EN-ARRL-CORR-JAN-2011.pdf>

Some New Rules Going into Effect this Year for ARRL Field Day

02/09/2022

After taking a few detours over the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, *ARRL Field Day* <<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>> rules are being updated on a permanent basis starting this summer. ARRL conducted a Field Day community survey with invitations propagated far and wide, and direct emails sent to more than 15,000 individuals and ARRL-affiliated clubs. After sorting through, reviewing, and discussing the survey results, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee recommended a number of rule changes for ARRL Field Day, which will take place this year over the June 25-26 weekend.

Starting this year, the maximum PEP output for a transmitter used by anyone submitting a Field Day log will be 100 W. The power multiplier of 2 will remain in place, and the high-power category will be removed from the rules. Until this year, the maximum low-power limit had been 150 W for most ARRL-sponsored operating events. The power multiplier will remain at 5 for QRP participants running a maximum of 5 W or less. As previously announced, 100 W is now the low-power category limit for all ARRL and IARU HF Contests, effective January 1, 2022.

A couple of changes instituted initially as accommodations for the COVID-19 pandemic will remain. Class D (Home) stations will continue to be able to earn points for contacts with other Class D stations. *The club aggregate scoring change initiated in 2020 as a temporary measure will become part of the permanent rules. In the aggregate scoring plan, the scores of individual stations are combined under the score of a single club.*

Another change, involving Rule 7.3.2 Media Publicity, has been modified. Rules to date have offered 100 bonus points for attempting to obtain publicity and demonstrating same. With the ease of posting via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and various other media websites, Field Day participants will now be required to obtain publicity, not just *try* to do so. Any combination of bona fide media hits would qualify for the bonus points. For example, posting the details of your upcoming or ongoing Field Day activity, or your Field Day results, on a club or news media site, on Facebook, or via Twitter and Instagram would meet the bonus criteria. Photos and videos are encouraged as part of media posts.

It's not too early to be thinking about Field Day! (Sunburn, bug bites, sweaty palms...doesn't sound that bad at the moment...). What can we do in 2022 that will be fun, innovative and educational? .-ed

Research on Ancient Massive Solar Storms Suggests a Need to Prepare for the Next Ones (From *The ARRL Letter* for Feb 3, 2022)

Numerous powerful X-class solar flares occurred last fall as Solar Cycle 25 activity picked up. Jon Jones, N0JK, covered the event in his *QST* column, "The World Above 50 MHz," in the February issue, and he pointed out, "More powerful flares than these have taken place, such as the Carrington Event of 1859, during which aurora was seen in the South Pacific and in Cuba, and it sparked electrical fires."

Similar events took place in the 20th century, but, as Jones notes, scientists are researching spectacular solar storms that took place as early as 7176 BC and in 5259 BC. The huge solar flare some 9,200 years ago has convinced researchers that we are not ready for the next one, and our modern technology would take a major hit.

"Also worrisome is that Earth may have narrowly dodged a 'Carrington-level event' in 2012," Jones said. Daniel Baker of the University of Colorado -- speaking at a NOAA Space Weather Workshop -- said, "If it had hit, we would still be picking up the pieces."

Jones said his reading has led him to conclude that these solar superstorms occur more frequently than people think. "As more ice cores and tree rings are sampled, scientists are finding there have been more of these [major solar storms]," he said.

In his February column, Jones cited a 2013 Royal Academy of Engineering [report](#) that discussed the risks of a Carrington-level event.

"An extreme space weather event, or solar superstorm, is one of a number of potentially high-impact, but low-probability natural hazards," said Paul Cannon, a Royal Academy of Engineering fellow and chair of the study working group that developed the report. "Extreme space weather [can have] impacts on engineered systems and infrastructure."

Cannon said the hazard and risks of extreme space weather on the electricity grid, satellites, and air passenger safety had not previously been critically assessed. His group's report attempts to address that omission.

The *Live Science* article, "Ancient solar storm smashed Earth at the wrong part of the sun's cycle -- and scientists are concerned," cites a study, "[Cosmogenic radionuclides reveal an extreme solar particle storm near a solar minimum 9125 years BP.](#)" Study co-author Raimund Muscheler, a geology researcher at Lund University in Sweden, said, "These enormous storms are currently not sufficiently included in risk assessments. It is of the utmost importance to analyze what these events could mean for today's technology and how we can protect ourselves."

"A Carrington Event taking place today could destroy orbiting satellites, disrupt GPS, and damage undersea cables and internet infrastructure on the ground," Jones said in his *QST* column. "An event in 775 AD was believed to have been 100 times stronger than the Carrington Event."

...and if you have been watching the news....

SpaceX launched 49 Starlink satellites into low Earth orbit last week, with plans to eventually bring them up to higher altitudes. But due to a geomagnetic storm on Friday, up to 40 of the 49 satellites are falling out of their intended orbit.

On Friday, the sun's surface erupted with outbursts of charged particles called "coronal mass ejections." Those particles made it harder for the satellites, which were planned to provide internet access, to maintain their orbits. In a [statement](#) on Tuesday, SpaceX said "the escalation speed and severity of the storm caused atmospheric drag to increase up to 50 percent higher than during previous launches."

The geomagnetic storm itself "was by no means a big event"—it happened at "just the wrong time," Bill Murtagh, the program coordinator at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Space Weather Prediction Center told *Space.com*. "That is a drag," he added.

That had to be expensive.... (.ed)

From *The ARRL Contest Update for February 16, 2022:*

Announcing the ARRL International DIGITAL DX Contest

The inaugural ARRL International Digital Contest makes its debut the first weekend of June (June 4-5, 2022). Participants can use any digital mode, with the exception of RTTY, that supports the required four-digit grid square exchange. All HF bands from 160 through 10 meters (WARC bands excluded), plus 6 meters are allowed. Rules and more information are available at www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest.

New Rules in effect for all ARRL HF Contests in June

Starting with the ARRL International Digital Contest, in all categories that allow assistance (Unlimited), the use of online and other non-amateur radio platforms including but not limited to social media, live video streaming, and internet chat rooms will be allowed. In all Unlimited and Multioperator categories, the prohibition of self-spotting, and asking another station to spot you, will also be removed.

New Features added to WA7BMN Contest Calendar

Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, has added a new feature to his [Contest Calendar](#) website. The site now includes a 5-Week Calendar. It's a list of contests similar to the 12-Month Calendar but designed to show only those contests in the current week (Monday-Sunday), plus the following four weeks. Contests that are held every week are listed in a separate section to make it easier to view the weekend contests.

The Five-Week Calendar is accessible via a direct link at www.contestcalendar.com/fivewkcal.html.

2021 California QSO Party video

These guys really know how to do portable operations! It's worth spending 15 minutes of your time viewing the pictures and the results and perhaps put some faces to callsigns. (Note long-time WIARC member K4XU in the K6M (Modoc) group photo.)

You can also try your hand at copying K6MR's CW pileup!

youtu.be/sK-OebMFn7I.

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



March meeting, Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Note date change

**We will be meeting in the
large conference room of the Quincy Public
Library at 7:00 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**

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ILLINOIS QSO PARTY

**Newsletter input due by the 20th of the preceding month
Editor Jim Funk N9JF
n9jf@arrl.net**