
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 46, Issue 10 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club October 2022

Notes from the shack of W9DP

I have made a huge mess of my shack, not that it was in presentable shape before I decided to install a bigger monitor. Who knew that going from a 22 inch to a 24 inch monitor would be such a big deal? I don't know about you, but it seems that what I believe to be a simple project turns into a huge nightmare more often as I get older.

Another chore I need to address is getting some kind of antenna system into operating condition as my antennas suffered greatly due to a recent storm. Maybe you do not have issues with your projects, but I suspect most of us have had a project or two that we wish we had left well enough alone. It is funny what kind of effect a small project can have on other working systems, but you never find out if you do not try.

Last month our tailgate session went over pretty well although I am not too sure anyone sold much of anything but it appeared everyone enjoyed the time sharing stories before the business meeting. The weather was about perfect and we had good attendance for the meeting.

The October meeting will be back at the Red Cross. I understand we will have a program on operating the Illinois QSO Party after the business meeting.

Speaking of the ILQP, you are planning to get on, aren't you? It's October 16 from 12:00 noon until 8:00 PM local time, 160 through 2 meters, excluding the WARC bands. The club station will be on the air, and anyone that cannot get on from home is welcome to be a part of the club station effort. With a large number of our club members within a 20 mile radius of Quincy, it should be easy for most of us to work each other on 2 meter simplex and any other bands you are capable of operating on. I really see no reason we could not have 30 entries from our club if everyone put out even the smallest effort.

Last month we agreed to help the Hannibal club with a hamfest they are looking into holding. We do not yet know when it will be held or what kind of help they will likely need, but it will take more than just showing up the day of the event. A large portion of the work of a hamfest is preparation, and that will include people committing to doing a particular job ahead of time. When asked to help, do not be afraid to commit your time weeks or even months ahead of time.

See you on October 5th at the Red Cross.
Danny W9DP

Moved and Seconded Minutes of the September 2022 WIARC Meeting

The September meeting of the WIARC was held at Upper Moorman Park in Quincy. It was called to order at 7 pm by President W9DP with the following members and guests present:

W9DP WA9GBC K9VXD N9JF K9AJC WB9EWM N0EMR K2PEY AB9DU W9US KB9FIN
W9GQK KD9VBJ WA0VHI KD9VQF OM Brian KD0DKE KM9DX WM4D KB9GIY W9WE
W9WJO plus NB4C on Zoom

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

Treasurer's Report: income: \$40 for memberships, about \$2 for interest, \$50 from N9JF, \$100 from SMC and \$200 from Clay County ARC for ILQP plaque sponsorship. No report of expenses for the month. Arnold is investigating changing some of the CD's to better interest rates. KB9FIN moved, WB9EWM seconded to approve, carried.

Station Committee: no report

Repeater Board: nothing to report

Contest Committee: ILQP coming up. Make your plans! Lots of QSO parties between now and our party. NB4C's group in Florida recently won the 4th district in phone WPX.

Test report: One new licensee last time, next testing in November

Applications for membership: none

Old Business: no additional

New Business: HARC contemplating having a hamfest. They would like "help", though we're not sure what that would entail. No date set. W9DP will convey that we will "help".

NCS stations:

Oct 5 W9DP Oct 12 WM4D Oct 19: WB9EWM October 26 W9DP Nov 2 W9WE

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm on a motion by KB9FIN seconded by WB9EWM and carried.

Respectfully submitted, N9JF Secretary

From our Section Manager, W9RY: *(please read... -.ed)*

Sometimes I get very frustrated as your Section Manager. I don't really like the term "Manager". I'd rather it be "leader". A good leader surrounds himself or herself with quality people who can provide the necessary inputs to achieve success. You, every one of you, are those quality people. A good leader also needs to step back occasionally and ask "Why isn't it working?"

So, why am I frustrated?

Recently a message went out to all the ARRL affiliated clubs in Illinois asking for input. The following was sent to the contact listed for each club:

It's tough to work in a vacuum.

The ARRL Illinois Section is about to do something about it...with your help. And the "your" doesn't mean just you.

We're planning to restructure the way annual Section meetings operate, both for ourselves and our counterparts around the nation in wrestling with basic issues of ARRL club operations in areas ranging from recruitment to programming to member retention, legal issues, finances, funding, and so much more. The Section Meeting --probably next fall-- will not include a hamfest so that the focus can be on helping our clubs operate more effectively.

That's where you come in.

We'd like you to join us now in helping provide issues, input, and ideas that will help form the programs, workshops and panels we envision as we develop the 2023 Section Meeting program.

We also need to gauge your personal interest in playing an active role in the planning process and that of your fellow officers and individual club members.

• Given a choice of topics dealing with club operations, what panel or presentation topics would be most beneficial you and your club (such as, but certainly not limited to developing dynamite programs that keep members coming back, snaring good speakers, effective ways to reach out to the community, using media to promote what you do to a wider audience, club legal, financial and insurance issues, applying for grants, etc.).

• What other areas would be fodder for panel discussions and presentations?

• What would be a reasonable fee if a light breakfast, lunch and dinner is included? Do we need a luncheon and/or dinner speaker?

• If the meeting was in Central Illinois, how many board members, committee chairs or others from your club might be expected to attend?

• Would you, your board or committee members be willing to serve as moderators, guides, registrars or play other official roles on the day or days of the event?"

• What other activities would be appropriate (such as a radio project workshop, club awards, manufacturer displays, tours?) Please respond with your thoughts by September 26th, 2022.

To date we have received 3 responses.

Remember I said I was frustrated? Then, someone much smarter than me said, "Maybe it's because nobody has asked for their opinion before." And, the light bulb went off. We were asking you to do something that hasn't been done before.

As a leader it's my responsibility to make mid-stream corrections to insure the section's success. I am, effective immediately, making that correction.

The Illinois ARRL Section is not my Section, it is yours. We, your Section cabinet, need your inputs that will bring success to all of us.

I know, some of you are probably reading this and saying, "Yeah, right, he can't really mean it." If I were in your shoes I'd probably think the same thing.

Rest assured, I do mean it. Your input is critical. Please tell us what you need and want. If for some reason your club didn't receive the email bring it up at your October club meeting and ask your members what they want. Let us know what the members say.

Once we have your responses we will compile them and send them out to you so you can tell us which are the most important for the Illinois Section clubs and members. We want to make sure that our Illinois Section Convention is what you need and want.

I'm asking you to poll your club members and send us their needs by November 1st. Send your member requests to our Affiliated Clubs Coordinator (ACC), Jim Hull, at: illinois.arrl.acc@gmail.com

I also learned a long time ago about everyone listening to their favorite radio station WIIFM or What's In It For Me.

For each club that responds, we will assign them a number. Then we will ask our Central Division Director K9LA, Carl Luetzelschwab, to pick several numbers. The winners will receive a \$50.00 ARRL gift certificate to use as they see fit.

I have sent a brief response to Tom just so he knows I read his letter. Please read the above and respond to me, and I'll send a club aggregate to him . N9JF

VE Team Report:

Upcoming EXAM SESSION
11/05/2022

Sponsor: Western Illinois Amateur Radio
Location: Bethel Assembly of God Church
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Information  w9we.lee@gmail.com

ARRL Radio Program for free up to 21 years old. Can subscribe as adults to use radio remotely. Please check your options.

<http://www.arrl.org/collegiate-amateur-radio>

Good hunting <https://pagso.org/>

66th PA QSO Party - October 8 & 9, 2022

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

New York QSO Party - October Oct 15 and 16, 2022 (1400z 15th to 0200z 16th)

Dave Scranton
W9WE

Park Activations Report

The two “parks programs”, Parks on the Air and Worldwide Flora and Fauna (POTA and WWFF) have generated a lot of activity on the air. In some cases, they have lured long-inactive hams into a new enthusiasm for the hobby. In others, they have sparked interest in non-hams to pursue a license or for previous Tech licensees to upgrade. Parks programs have even incentivized some to learn <gasp> CW <gasp>!

On any day of the week and at almost any time of the day or night, someone, somewhere, is “activating” a park, refuge, monument, forest or historic site. At this moment (9:38 CDST), I see “spots” for operations in Maryland, Colorado, Texas, Wyoming, Arizona, New Zealand, West Virginia, Oregon, Japan, California and Tasmania. Modes being used are CW, SSB, FT8 and JT65. Bands being used are 75, 40, 30, 20, and 17 meters.

If you want to “chase” a park, there is a park out there to be chased!

There are almost 10,000 USA parks in the POTA system and over 26,000 worldwide in the WWFF system. The WWFF system has over 6000 USA parks even though it was begun in Europe and still has a DX emphasis. The spotting page for WWFF is <https://wwff.co/dx-cluster/>, and the spotting page for POTA is <https://pota.app/#/>. Many parks are part of both systems. About 4500 parks have the same number in both systems.

While “chasing” is fun, the real excitement comes from being an “activator”. You can go into the field and “be DX” for a couple of hours, and you can do this any day of the week. Just find a registered park <https://pota.app/#/parklist> or https://wwff.co/wwff-data/wwff_directory.pdf, load up your station and go!!

During your activation, log each contact with call, date, time, band, mode and your call and park number. Create an .adi file of the log and submit it to both programs. If you are “registered” with POTA, you may upload your own logs. WWFF logs may be sent to ka9jac@arrl.net for 9th area hams. (Or you may send them to n9jf@arrl.net. I currently upload WWFF logs for the 1st and 5th call areas but am willing to do others if desired.) It’s important to send in your logs so that the hunters get QSO credit!

Much more information is available at <https://wwff.co/> or at <https://docs.pota.app/>.

So.....why am I bringing this up? Because several WIARC members are “park-active”, and we want more!

KM9DX has activated 11 parks so far, with 26 individual activations, and 2014 QSOs. Most of Drew’s park QSOs have been on digital modes with some SSB. He’s made over 1000 QSOs from Siloam Springs State Park!

K9AJC has done 24 activations so far from 16 different parks with 587 QSOs to show for his efforts, all on SSB.

KB9FIN has done 18 activations from 17 parks with 698 QSOs in the log, all on SSB and digital modes. Dave has “hunted” a total of 908 parks in the POTA system!

Since Drew doesn't drive (yet), WM4D has provided transportation and has personally activated 11 parks for 20 activations and 364 QSOs, primarily on digital modes.

NU7J has 69 activations from 51 parks (not counting the ones he's doing this week) with 1868 QSOs, primarily on CW. Tom has 2776 hunter QSOs from 1659 parks!

W9US has no activations so far, but Ed has hunted 171 parks!

N9JF has done a bit of activating and hunting and is making noise from some parks in Vermont this week....

There may be others within the club who are involved and I'm not aware of them. Let me know!

Check out the websites and join the fun!

From *The ARRL Letter for 8 September 2022*

Amateur Radio Makes the Connection to Save Lives in Wisconsin and Idaho

The following two rescue stories are great examples of why amateur radio is important. The first story occurred in Wisconsin and is told by ARRL member Scott Strecker, KG9IV. In his own words, Strecker shares how he was able to help a ham in distress. Thanks to the Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club in Wisconsin, an ARRL Affiliated Club, for this information.

"It was Friday, September 2, 2022, which meant I worked from my home office. I have the VHF radios on low to monitor them in the background. Recently, I got into the Allstar node with a hotspot. I use it to monitor the FM38 systems (Allstar 2495) in the southern [part] of Wisconsin.

At about 7:45 AM, I heard the Allstar node come up. An individual in distress was asking for assistance to get an ambulance to him. It was a ham in Brown Deer, Wisconsin. He had slipped on his bathroom floor and went down so hard he could not get up, but he happened to have his handheld with him (don't we all). He did not have access [to the] phone, and he lived alone.

[I called the] Brown Deer police call center. The dispatcher got the fire department rolling and then started asking me for more details. I had the dispatcher on speaker phone, and he could hear the hams' responses to the questions. Being on a handheld and [lying] prone, the signal was, at times, noisy. At that time, both the other ham and I used ITU phonetics to get the exact info out. All those times practicing on the ARES® nets made it second nature. The dispatcher was also able to understand the info without my having to repeat it.

It felt good to help out. I also realized it was due to my monitoring that I was able to hear his call. If you are not participating in the weekly local ARES net, I would encourage you to do so when you can."

In addition to Strecker's story, newly licensed amateur radio operators Shannon Vore, KK7GVG, and CJ Bouchard, KK7GNG, also shared a rescue story. On September 3, 2022, in the Rocky Mountains in northwest Idaho, they were out for a weekend of four-wheeling in their Jeep. The area is an extremely mountainous region with no towns, very few people, no facilities, and no cell phone coverage. The nearest airfield is Horse Haven Trail, an unimproved dirt strip that's severely eroded and covered with rocks and debris.

At about 4:30 PM, Vore and Bouchard were taking a break when an approaching truck notified them of an ATV accident involving two teenage girls. The accident scene was just a few miles away, and when they arrived it was clear the teenagers were critically injured. Bouchard was unable to contact several local repeaters, but was finally able to make contact using a simplex frequency (146.420 MHz) that's popular with the hams in Coeur d'Alene, 20 miles from the accident site.

While Bouchard and an off-duty Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) were administering medical aid to the teenagers, Vore took over radio operations. The call for emergency assistance was picked up by local amateur radio operator John Tappero, K7JNT, who immediately called 911 and asked that 146.420 MHz be used only for emergency traffic. For nearly 2 hours, Vore and Tappero provided relay between the 911 dispatcher, advising the condition of the injured and the approaching weather. Life Flight Network was unable to respond because of a severe thunderstorm immediately over the rescue site.

Two teams of EMT's were dispatched, but due to the mountains and the storm, they couldn't communicate with dispatch. Tappero continued to provide relay information for all parties until 6:00 PM, when the EMT's arrived. The teenagers were in stable condition and immediately transported to the nearest hospital. Today, they're in good condition and recovering.

"It took us about 2 days to wind down from the experience," said Vore. "We are both glad we had our amateur radio licenses and were able to help."

Bouchard said that they had been using radios on the General Mobile Radio System (GMRS), but have since upgraded their licenses for more operating privileges. "Because the area signals were not good, it was difficult to communicate," he continued. "So, we studied, took our exams, and are now looking forward to much more amateur radio opportunities."

Both Vore and Bouchard are now looking to join a local amateur radio club and become involved in the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Services® (ARES®).

--Thanks to ARRL Idaho Section Manager Dan Marler, K7REX, and Idaho Assistant Section Manager Ed Stuckey, AI7H, for their help with the Idaho rescue story.



Shannon Vore, KK7GVG, and CJ Bouchard, KK7GNG, used ham radio to respond to an accident in a remote area of Idaho. Bouchard used a simplex frequency on the 2-meter band to get help.

Congratulations to NB4C's club for the CQWPX competition!

Subject: [Members] CQ WPX SSB 2022 Results

In late March, 7 PCARS members entered the CQ WPX SSB Contest – the results are in and I would like to report that the PCARS team placed 1st in the #4 call area and #11 in North America! Total score was 2,369,718 points.

Bob, NB4C was nice enough to let us use his call (for the prefix) and that may have helped in our score. Nice job guys! 73/DX, Ryan, N0OJ

DX News Cheerfully Borrowed from ARRL DX News:

**ARLD037 DX news DX Bulletin 37 ARLD037 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT September 15, 2022 To all radio amateurs**

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by WB2REM, 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.

MALTA, 9H. Members of the Marconi Amateur Radio Circle will be QRV as 9H6QE from September 17 to October 14 in celebration of the life of Queen Elizabeth II. Activity is expected on 20 to 10 meters, and possibly other bands. QSL via 9H1MRC.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Bill, C91CCY has been active on 40 meters using SSB around 0400z. QSL via K3IRV.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS, FW. Jean, F4CIX intends to stay on Wallis Island, IOTA OC-054, for another two years and QRV as FW/F4CIX. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB, FT8, and FT4 mainly between 0630 and 0915z. QSL via LoTW.

NORTHERN IRELAND, GI. Pastor Brian, GI0RWO is QRV with special callsign GB0KC from Belfast to celebrate the new King Charles the Third, as well as remembering the passing and exemplary service of Queen Elizabeth II. QSL via operator's instructions.

DODECANESE, SV5. Sindre, LA6OP will be QRV as SV5/LA6OP from Rhodes, IOTA EU-001, from September 18 to October 9. Activity will be on 40 to 4 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

CHAD, TT. Nicolas, F8FQX is QRV as TT8SN from N'Djamena. Activity is currently on 10 and 6 meters. QSL via DL9USA.

BELIZE, V3. Patrick is newly licensed as V32PC and QRV from Belize City. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via IZ8CCW.

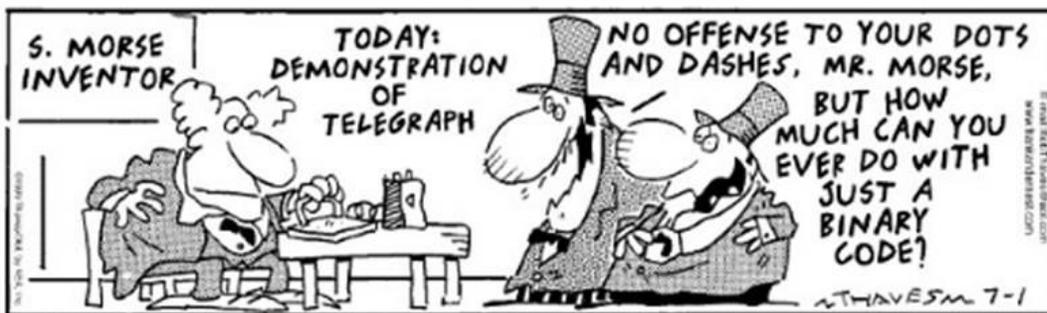
BERMUDA, VP9. Janusz, SP9FIH will be QRV as SP9FIH/VP9 from September 23 to October 2. Activity will be on 30, 17, 15, and 12 meters using SSB, RTTY, and FT8. QSL via Club Log.

CHAGOS ISLAND, VQ9. Steve, WB4GHY is QRV as VQ9SC from Diego Garcia, IOTA AF-004, until November 16. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 10 meters using mainly FT8 in DXpedition mode, and SSB. QSL direct to WB2REM.

SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Karen, EK6KB is a member of the South Sudan United Nations World Food Program in Juba and is now licensed as Z81K.

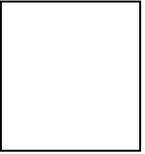
Please see September QST, page 72, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details. NNNN /EX

The scene at the September pre-meeting swap'n'gab:



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Western Il. Amateur Radio Club
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October meeting: Wednesday, October 5,
2022.

Adams County American Red Cross
Building, 24th and Koch's Lane, Quincy (west
½ block from intersection then north on
driveway)

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

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