
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 46, Issue 11 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club November 2022

Bits & Bobs from W9DP

I really do not like to let my mind wander; I am afraid it may not come back one day. That said, here are some bits & bobs from things that cross my mind when I am not able to keep it focused on what I am supposed to be doing.

Illinois QSO was a lot of fun, mostly good propagation, great weather and a lot of activity. Since I never heard from anyone else wanting to operate at the club station, I chose to stay at home and operate from there. I know of at least 9 club members that were on; at least 5 of them were portable or mobile. The only ones I worked were K9AJC, N9JF and N9UPG. I heard WB9EWM and KB0V but did not catch either one. Somehow I totally missed W9WE and WA0VHI on the Pike and Calhoun border.

I was pleasantly surprised at the number of fairly new hams that were on and some of them from a few of the “rarer” counties. I enjoyed a short run on 20 meter SSB and ran into a Kansas ham that was operating the ILQP mobile and was in Camp Point when I worked him. NR0P was running stations on 20 SSB from Bailey Park (not a POTA park); and when I ran across him, I was pretty sure he was close as my S-meter was showing the strongest signal I had ever seen on it. We exchanged a few words, enough to find out he came from the other side of Kansas City to operate the ILQP and that he was headed for Brown County next. Unfortunately, I could not hear him once he left Adams County. I wonder if anyone else worked him in other counties?

I have to say, I do not know how those that do work 80 or more counties do it. You have to do a lot of hopping between bands and modes and keep a very close eye on the cluster for those mobiles moving around. My hat is off to those that chose to operate mobile. Besides the expense, the dedication and aggravation puts you in a class all of your own. If you did get on, please send your log to n9jf@arrl.net; or if you logged on paper, you can bring it to the November club meeting or mail it to the club PO box. I expect we will hear some ILQP stories at the meeting in November.

In the past week I have had some online interaction with a couple of hams, one a fairly new ham, Shawn, KD9VUW, and the other new to the area, Jack KD9PPJ. I have heard both on the local repeaters. When you hear them on make sure you greet them. Both have been invited to the November club meeting.

Speaking of repeaters, many of you know the 147.030 repeater was off the air for the net on meeting night in September. It was quickly fixed but by removing 147.195 hardware and taking it off the air. The repeater board will be offering a suggestion that will allow us to purchase new hardware at a reduced cost. To hear more about the repeater board proposal, make sure you are at the November club meeting.

At the November meeting I will be appointing a nominating committee for the selection of officers for 2023. Please consider serving in this capacity, either being on the nominating committee or serving as a club officer. At the December meeting we will be voting on officers for the new year.

The November meeting will be Wednesday November 2, 7:00 PM at the Red Cross, 3000 N. 23rd street in Quincy. I have not heard of a potential program yet, but there will be some kind of a program after the meeting.

Danny W9DP

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the October 2022 WIARC Meeting

The October 2022 meeting of the Western Illinois ARC was held Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at the American Red Cross building in Quincy. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President W9DP with the following members and guests present:

W9DP, K9VXD, W9WE, K9AJC, KA9VIM, WA9GBC, N9JF, W9US, KB9FIN, WB9EWM, KB9GIY, WA0VHI, Dave (guest)

Minutes of the September 2022 meeting were approved as printed in *The Feedline* on a motion by WB9EWM seconded by KB9FIN and carried on a voice vote:

Treasurer's Report by K9VXD. \$350 from ILQP plaque contributions. Expenses 117.65 postage (ILQP). Net for year 1510 income 2312 expense Net 801 deficit

Report was approved on a motion by KB9FIN seconded by WB9EWM and carried on a voice vote.

Station Committee Report: Some of us are locked out of the room. Need to get new cards.

Repeater Board Report: WB9EWM; 147.03 has a problem (not working tonight); Checking with DStar group on Facebook to see if anyone is interested in purchasing our equipment. Have some cleanup to do at the repeater site. Don't know yet when move will be completed from the WGEM tower site.

Contest Committee Report: deferred until the evening's program

VE Team Report: Test Nov 5, have two interested currently, HARC testing October 12.

Old Business: Memorials will be sent to Honor Flight for Dave Gill and Mont Robertson. W9DP brought a sample club T-shirt to show. Several color options are available.

New Business:

Applications for Membership: N0EMR and KB9GIY. KB9FIN moved, WB9EWM seconded to approve their memberships effective immediately but apply their dues to 2023. Carried.

WB9EWM requests a program on Raspberry Pi....

NCS stations: Oct 12 Oct 19 Oct 26 W9DP Nov 2 W9WE Nov 9 N9JF Nov 16
WB9EWM Nov 23 W9DP Nov 30 WB9EWM Dec 7 W9WE

A motion to adjourn was made by KB9FIN seconded by WB9EWN and carried on a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm Respectfully submitted, Jim Funk N9JF
Secretary

Following the meeting, a short program on the Illinois QSO Party was presented by N9JF.

VE Team Report

Congrats 🍷🎈🎉 to our new technicians, who tested at Hannibal on 10-12-2022. Thanks WM4D Ken, & K0CA Cliff for helping as VE's. Since Ed N0WNV Turner was not able to officiate. Also we will be testing here in Quincy again on Saturday November 5.

Testing next on 11/05/2022

Sponsor: Western Illinois Amateur Radio

Location: Bethel Assembly of God Church 839 S 12th Quincy IL

Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Team Liaison, Dave Scranton, W9WE, at [210-325-7923](tel:210-325-7923) or w9we.lee@gmail.com

KD9VWR Brian R Garrett 1858 E 603rd Lane, Quincy IL 62305 USA

KD9VWS Jeremy M Allen 2615 Wild Horse Quincy IL 62305 USA

WB9EWM John, WA0VHI Alex, and myself, all went to Pike/Calhoun county line for ILQP. It was excellent weather and many QSO's were made. I always take too much RFI. About 7:00 pm I retired a little early. 73 W9WE



(Dave, you could always submit this picture for competition in the "messy shack category 😊)
N9JF

N9JF/M ILQP Report

I always marvel at the accounts of mobile contest operators who “have it all together and don’t forget where they put it”. I haven’t accomplished either; but for some reason, Melba and I keep trying....year after year after year.... I’m not sure how many years this makes for us. I guess I could go back and check the previous years’ results, but I don’t really have time right now. I think we go back to about 1976 or 1977, though there were intervening years. Instead of being mobile I operated from home a few times. One year, WY0L and I just got the TA33+ in the air after the contest started. Another year, I lost the last couple of hours due to a fire call. I did at least four or five portable operations: one from the far southern reaches of the state on a 4-county corner, one from the corner that K9AJC inhabited this year and at least three from the ADAM/BROW/PIKE corner in the middle of a corn field.

But mobiling is “different”. Once you leave home, you don’t have a lot of opportunities to fix stuff that goes bananas; and something usually does, for us. This year was no exception. If you really don’t want to hear excuses for poor performance, please stop reading right here and jump to the next article....

Our route is usually decided upon within the last 72 hours before the contest and takes into account the counties that are not planned for any other operation. This means there is no “dry run” of the route, not that we are likely to drive 400 miles an extra time “just for fun”. On ILQP afternoon, we found that the line noise on much of the route was the worst I have ever experienced. There are more power lines every year. I wonder if some of the new ones (whatever they are carrying from whence and to whence) are worse than the old ones? In addition, the road conditions in many cases were awful. Those were the situations about which we could do very little. Moving on....

Usually as a mobile operator, I drive and send right-handed with the Vibroplex paddles. During ILQP, I have to log as well and tune the radio. To avoid giving my spouse heart palpitations, I let her drive and I operate from the passenger seat. The paddles stay in the same spot, which means I switch the leads and send left-handed instead. This is not a big problem. However, the speaker (no headphones available) faces my left (mostly deaf) ear. The side tone from the radio approximates the pitch of the tires on the highway. Therefore, on the noisier roads, I can hear almost nothing of what I am sending. I leave the speed at 23 wpm and am often “sending blind”. I can only imagine just how bad it sounds at times to the poor souls I am attempting to contact.

Add to this the fact that one of the mag mounts on the van apparently had an intermittent ground connection, which caused the radio to abruptly fold back to no power (often in mid-exchange). I would answer someone, send their call and then be unable to send my county until the tuner recovered or the ground reconnected. This resulted in many confused and frustrated callers and in my screaming at the radio (fortunately on CW no one was bothered by this except Melba, and she is very tolerant and is used to my screaming....). This, for some reason, occurred only on 40 meters, even though 20 and 15 were on the same mast. I’m still trying to figure out that one. The other mast held the resonator for 80 meters. It was working like a champ, but there was no one answering me on 80 meters early in the contest. After a couple of hours of screaming, I finally got smart(er) and moved the 40 meter resonator to the 80 meter mast (removing 80). Things picked up after that.

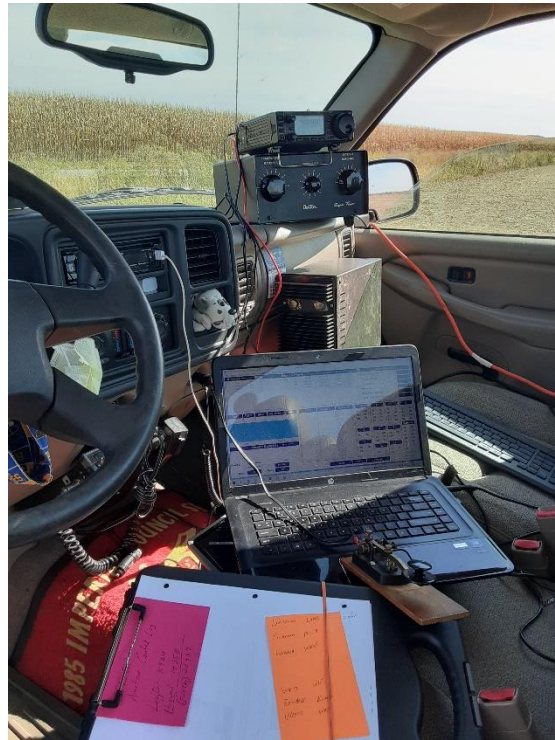
We had planned to operate from 18 counties. Three of them required us to stop just over the line (MRCR, MASN and BROW). Doing this meant we simply could not get to the end of the planned route. The last one, CALH, was well-covered by W9WE, WA0VHI and WB9EWM; but GREE and JERS got hung out to dry.

In general, I thought the band conditions were very good on 20 and 40 meters. Most of the time, I kept CQing and the calls just kept coming. I didn't do very much on SSB. Some brief forays there produced few contacts though some new counties for multipliers. I was disappointed not to get my five DX multipliers (again). The usual DL's did not show up in my pileups. OM2VL was always there; I think I missed him in only two counties. There will be some really big scores.

As always, I'm in awe of the results from AD4EB and driver Melody and from KJ9C, who operated solo, no driver. Pretty amazing performance from Mel! It was quite a surprise to realize that NR0P had come from Kansas to help us out!

By next month, we should have a pretty good idea of the results. Logs are due on November 16. If you operated, even a little, please send me your electronic log or bring your paper log to the meeting.N9JF

Here are a couple of pictures K9ZA sent of his ILQP mobile setup: (note the straight key!!)



Parks Report

Several WIARC members are active in the Parks on the Air program and/or World Wide Flora and Fauna (POTA and WWFF). I enjoyed getting together with WM4D, KM9DX, and WM9DX and WM4D at Siloam Springs one evening where Drew was raking in the contacts on FT8. He took time out of his run to work me on all bands from 2 meters down to 80 meters, "park to park".

Here are some statistics for members and current accomplishments in the POTA program:

K9AJC: 29 activations, 20 parks, 812 activator contacts, 1363 parks hunted
KM9DX: 29 activations, 11 parks, 2128 activator contacts, 133 parks hunted
WM4D: 28 activations, 11 parks, 525 activator contacts, 73 parks hunted
KB9FIN: 19 activations, 18 parks, 721 activator contacts, 1552 parks hunted
KB0V: 55 parks hunted
AA9GL: 83 parks hunted
W9US: 171 parks hunted
N9JF: 351 activations, 210 parks, 18103 activator contacts, 807 parks hunted

I'm sure I'm missing someone, so let me know if you're active in these programs!

DX News Cheerfully Stolen from *ARRL DX News*:

(used without expressed permission but with love...)

SB DX @ ARL \$ARLD042 ARLD042 DX news

ZCZC AE42 QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 42 ARLD042 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT October 20, 2022 To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by N2HX, 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.

MALAWI, 7Q. Don, K6ZO is QRV as 7Q6M until November 29. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters. He plans to be active in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL to home call.

QATAR, A7. Special event stations A722FWC, A71FIFA, A72FIFA, A73FIFA, A74FIFA, A75FIFA, A76FIFA, A77FIFA, and A78FIFA are QRV from various locations in Qatar until December 18 during the FIFA Football World Championship. QSL via operators' instructions.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Jean-Louis, ZS6AAG is QRV as C96JLH from Nametil while working for Doctors Without Borders. Activity is in his spare time. He has been active on Satellite QO-100, but also on 20 meters using FT8. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

SAINT BARTHELEMY, FJ. Phil, K2LIO is now QRV as FJ4WEB. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

GUINEA BISSAU, J5. Carlos, CT2GQA is QRV as J5JUA and is active until the end of 2022. Activity is mostly using FT8, and as a mobile station. He may also use J5GQA. QSL to home call.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. A large group of operators will be QRV as P29RO from Loloata Island, IOTA OC-240, from October 25 to November 10. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via DL4SVA.

SINT MAARTEN, PJ7. Ed, N2HX is QRV as PJ7PL until December 9. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. This includes being active in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB and CW contests. QSL to home call.

SUDAN, ST. Nader, ST2NH has been active using FT8 on 20 meters just after 0100z. QSL via EA7FTR.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Randy, K5ZD will be QRV as V47T from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, from October 23 to November 1. This includes being a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via LoTW.

NAMIBIA, V5. Gunter, DK2WH is QRV as V51WH. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters. During contests he will be active as V55Y. QSL via operator's instructions.

FALKLAND ISLANDS. Garry, ZC4GR is QRV as VP8DLB from Port Stanley and is here until December. He is active on 40 to 10 meters using FT8. QSL via EB7DX

ALBANIA, ZA. Dragan, 4O4A is QRV as ZA/4O4A. QSL via YU4YY.

Please see October QST, page 70, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details. NNNN /EX

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) reorganization effective January 1, 2023.

The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) have announced a realignment of their Field Organization resulting in the addition of a new section and name changes to several others effective January 1, 2023. This will result in the changes to ARRL contests that use ARRL/RAC sections as multipliers, including Field Day, ARRL November Sweepstakes, and 160-Meter contests.

The RAC Field Organization will be reorganized into the following sections effective January 1, 2023:

- Newfoundland and Labrador (NL)
- Nova Scotia (NS)
- Prince Edward Island (PE)
- New Brunswick (NB) - the Maritime Section (MAR) will be abolished.
- Quebec (QC)
- Ontario East (ONE)
- Golden Horseshoe (GH) - currently called Greater Toronto Area (GTA).
- Ontario South (ONS)
- Ontario North (ONN)

- Manitoba (MB)
- Saskatchewan (SK)
- Alberta (AB)
- British Columbia (BC)
- Territories (TER) - Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut will be combined into one section.

Note that this change is forthcoming and will not impact the 2022 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW/SSB) or 160-Meter Contests.

Please direct any questions to Dave Goodwin, VE3KG, Regulatory Affairs Officer, RAC, by email at regulatory@rac.ca.

(The following article was shared by solo-ILQP-mobile KJ9C):

Secrets of Contesting and The Flow State:

From time-to-time, we've convinced ourselves that contesting adds to our youth, and cognitive skills, and we simply could not excel at contesting if we weren't "young". And that reasoning has sometimes worked to convince our significant others that we really really do need to fly to that far-off Indian Ocean island next week for CQ WW SSB: "its guaranteed that high speed talking for 48 hours will lengthen the period before dementia sets in" (an N6TJ quote).

Now, we can attest that there's some truth to these arguments. Simply stated, when we are immersed in a radio contest, we most probably can be in a Flow State. This state of mind often is referred to by athletes as being "in the zone".

A recent article by Richard Huskey, PhD, Department of Communications (!!!), University of California, Davis, reveals that he has spent the last 10 years studying the flow state and the changes it creates in the brain - how you can find it, and benefit from it. Being in a flow state requires that you put forth effort and drive the outcome. Certainly our contesting efforts would qualify.

Quoting Dr. Huskey: "One of the key attributes of the flow state, from which it derives many of its psychological benefits, is that while you're engaged in your activity, you're focused exclusively on it. The flow state occurs only when you're doing something that you're highly skilled at... and when you're doing it in a way that challenges that high skill level. Despite exerting themselves considerably, people in flow hardly notice their efforts. Time speeds up"

"Psychologists have learned a lot in recent years about what the brain looks like when in the flow state. Scientists have found strong evidence that when a person enters the flow state, activity decreases in the medial prefrontal cortex, an area of the brain associated with thinking about oneself. This evidence supports psychologists' description of flow as a state of externally focused attention."

"We also have uncovered evidence that, during flow, the brain reconfigures itself so it requires less energy -- kind of a "battery-saver mode". That may explain why flow activities feel effortless and time flies while you are doing them".

Dr. Huskey reports that many benefits from being in flow have been observed or self-reported:

" Higher Skill --- Spending time in the flow state appears to make you better at the activity

Mood Boost --- Being in flow just feels good. If you're having a crummy day, getting into flow for a spell can lift your spirits

Mental Health --- Flow is associated with lower risk for anxiety and depression

General Happiness --- People who often go into flow report greater life satisfaction"

Dr. Huskey adds : Find the sweet spot. Once you've decided on the activity that will be your conduit to the flow state, make a conscious decision to push yourself to the next level so that you're at that sweet spot between skill and challenge. If it's a game, seek out an opponent who's just a little better than you"....

And he summarizes his writings with words that are surely music to every contender's ears: "There's no such thing as spending too much time in the flow state. Frequently experiencing flow could make you happier, healthier, more productive and more skilled at your favorite tasks."

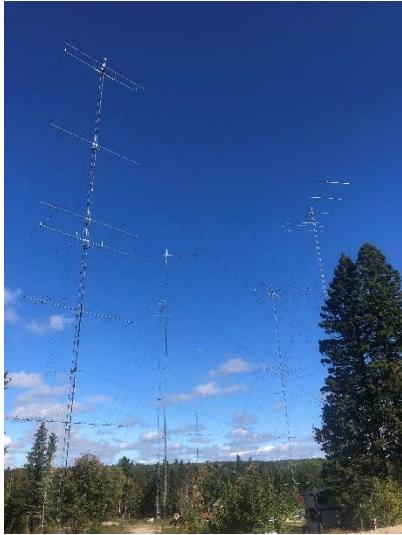
Vy 73, Jim Neiger N6TJ

More Park Stuff...and other observations from the road de N9JF:

KB9CES and I recently returned from a tour of New England. By "tour", I mean we drove 4500 miles in 20 days and ate quite a bit of seafood. There are worse ways to spend 3 weeks than to eat one's way across the Northeast. Along the way, we activated 44 parks, forests and refuges in six states and made a couple of thousand contacts.

The "bucket list" portion of the trip was to drive the northernmost 3 hours of US 1. This highway begins at Fort Kent, Maine and ends in Key West, Florida. I'd driven most of it previously, and I wanted to "finish the job". US 2 goes across New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine; and on the map, it's a "crooked as a dog's hind leg". That's exactly the way it drives; it follows creeks and is one curve after another. Once one gets to Bangor, Maine, there is a Highway 11 that goes straight north. At least it looks straight on the map. However, it's one steep hill after another; all of the curves are up and down.

Driving along, I'm always looking for interesting antenna arrays. As we approached Jonesboro, Maine on US 1, there was a dandy collection on the horizon. I took a few pictures when we got close. Going to qrz.com and looking for hams in Jonesboro, I found the obvious subject: W1/LU1ESD. His QRZ profile doesn't say much, but it has some really good pictures if you are interested.



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



**November meeting: Wednesday, November
2, 2022 7 pm Adams County American Red
Cross Building, 24th and Koch's Lane,
Quincy (west 1/2 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 n9jf@arrl.net