THE FEEDLINE

Volume 47, Issue 3 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club March 2023

Musings from the shack of WM4D

It's almost Spring already. Thankfully, we have had a mild winter. Soon enough it will be time to get outside and work on our antennas. I have several projects on the table including installation of a new six meter beam. Winter does not mean you have to stay at home and inside though. On Friday, January 27th, Chris NR9Q activated 5 parks in Missouri and Iowa. That same day, myself and Drew KM9DX, activated 10 parks in Missouri and Illinois on the way to the Collinsville, IL Hamfest. Our traveler, Jim N9JF, activated a number of parks on a recent trip to Texas.

Should you be reading this before our March 1 meeting, our program that evening will be a display of a number of radios and a few portable antenna systems. Owners will be able to answer your questions. This will be a chance for you to view some of the radios you may have only seen in a catalog. Later this spring, we are discussing having a Saturday get together at a local park with some of these same radios and portable antennas where you can have a chance to actually operate.

In DX news, this winter has seen 2 of the top 3 most wanted DXCC entities on the air. The Bouvet [#2 most wanted] dxpedition was able to land on the island and set up a bare bones operation. Due to harsh weather and sea conditions they were unable to get their diesel generator, gain antennas, and other equipment on shore. They did get smaller gasoline generators on the island and set up wire antennas. They made less than 20,000 qso's. Their original goal was 200,000. Many are upset they invested \$715,000 in this effort. On the other hand you must admire what they accomplished under the harsh circumstances. Terrain on Bouvet blocked their signal to North America and copying them here was difficult. I needed this one and was unable to make contact.

On the other hand there is the solo operation "FT8WW" by Theirry Mazel F6CUK on the #3 most wanted entity, Crozet. Admittedly, Crozet does not have the harsh operating conditions as does Bouvet. The difficulty in operating from Crozet is getting there and getting permission to operate. Thierry has to stop all transmissions 5 hours a day while scientific measurements are made. The islands are an administrative district of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands. It has been designated a "National Conservation Area". Theirry arrived on the islands in December and is unable to leave until a supply ship arrives in March. Initially, he was only allowed to operate for 3 weeks even though he was stuck there until he was able to leave. His permit expired, he reapplied several times, and was eventually able to receive an extension until March. Listen for FT8WW.

Kerguelan Island [also French] is #11 on the DXCC most wanted list. When Thierry leaves Crozet in March, his ship will actually make a stop at Kerguelan. Theirry reports he is not allowed to even leave the ship. So, this is just a glimpse into why some of these remote islands are so difficult to operate from. Government and politics. So, what's the #1 most wanted? That would be North Korea. Over the years there have been

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two or three "demonstration" operations allowed from North Korea but no "dxpedition style" operations have been permitted. Also in that part of the world is the #6 most wanted Pratas Island. The Pratas Islands are under the jurisdiction of Taiwan and are closer to the Chinese mainland than Taiwan itself. It has become a "flashpoint" of contention and permission to operate from the islands seems improbable at the moment. Thus, it's not just about nice radios and good antennas. Politics and Governments restrict a number of locations around the world from Amateur Radio.

That's my 2 cents worth for this issue. Hopefully, we can organize a park operation for all to attend in the Spring.

Ken, WM4D

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the February 2023 WIARC meeting. (Minutes courtesy of NR9Q in absence of the Secretary. Thanks!)

The February 2023 meeting of the Western Illinois ARC was held on February 1, 2023 at the American Red Cross office in Quincy. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President WM4D with the following members and guests present: WM4D, NR9Q, W9DP, W9US, KB9FIN, WA9AGC, AA9GL, W9WE, K9AJC, KD9VUW, KM9DX, KD9VWR, KD9VQF, KB9GIY, KA0SNL, N9BZ, WB9EWM, W9GQK, KE0MHJ, KE0OAA, (Zoom – NB4C, N9JF, NA9Q)

Minutes of the January 2023 meeting were approved as printed in <u>The Feedline</u> on a motion by KB9FIN seconded by WB9EWM and carried.

Treasurer's Report by K9VXD: Reported \$178 for CD interest for 2022. Treasurer's report approved on a motion by KB9FIN seconded by WA9GBC motion carried

Repeater Board report: Long SQL tail reported on 443.900 repeater. WB9EWM stated this would be looked into.

Station Committee report: Still working through access issue to station. WM4D reported that Red Cross personnel were planning to show up at a meeting to take care of access issues. Some members may need to go through Red Cross training again.

Contest Committee report: No report

VEC report: Next testing session will be on 4 Feb. W9WE has all the VE's needed for this test session. (W9WE, WA9GBC, WM4D, KB9FIN)

Old Business:

 Auditing Committee; WM4D, W9DP, W9WE, N9JF, & K9VXD met on 25 Jan 2023 to audit 2022 financial records. N9JF motioned to accept records as recorded. No corrections to these records were needed.

New Business:

Application for Membership: KD9VWR & KD9VQF both members membership applications were accepted. Approved on a motion by KB9FIN, seconded by WB9EWM motion carried.

NCS: Feb 8 KD9PPJ, Feb 15 WB9EWM, Feb 22 WM4D, Mar 1 W9DP, Mar 8 WM4D, Mar 15 W9WE, Mar 22 NR9Q, Mar 29 WB9EWM, Apr 5 W9DP

Motion to adjourn meeting by KB9FIN, seconded by WB9EWM, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 715 pm local. Program by W9WE followed meeting. Program on 5G Spectrum (short version).

NR9Q – started conversation about future programs after meetings. More of a focus exposure to radios and putting a station together. With possibilities of additional time that could be spent outside of meetings on various topics. Meeting at the Red Cross could be an option, but would need to be coordinated with Red Cross to use main meeting room. It was suggested to do a showing of various radios at next club meeting. To include radios that the club already owns.

Additionally, NR9Q, WM4D, and W9US will be working to start a WIARC Facebook Group page. This type of page would allow for more communication amongst club members. A sharing of ideas, answering question, or posting useful information. Current page type does not really allow for this and was suggested that a group type page is what would be needed.

You are an ARRL member, aren't you?

There are many reasons to be a member of the ARRL. Maybe you simply want the magazine, QST. Some do not realize there is much more to joining the ARRL than getting the magazine. The ARRL is our advocate in many legal arenas. The ARRL is the largest Ham Radio organization on the US and a very substantial part of your membership fees are used for legal issues, at the national, state and local levels.

Being an ARRL member provides many optional benefits, email address forwarding, several special interest group email lists, outgoing QSL service, a large number of technical books and Amateur Radio accessories are sold by the ARRL. Our club uses the ARRL VEC to conduct out VEC sessions. The ARRL provides and administrates many ham radio awards and organizes several contests and operating events throughout the year.

You can check out the many advantages of being an ARRL member at http://www.arrl.org/member-benefits. Our club is an ARRL affiliated club and an ARRL Special Services Club. That brings our club several benefits as well, many we have never taken advantage of. http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-benefits.

To maintain our affiliation, we need to have over 50% of our club members be ARRL members as well, something that has not been an issue but still needs to be

brought up every so often. I would really like to see 100% of our membership be ARRL members well.

Did you know that as an ARRL affiliated club, part of your dues will be sent back to the local club, at no extra? Fill out your application, write a check to the ARRL and give the application and payment to our treasurer, K9VXD, and he will send it in and the ARRL will send the club their commission. It is currently \$15.00 for new members and \$5.00 for renewals. If even half of the club membership did this, it could bring in a very nice total for our club each year.

Danny W9DP

DUES!

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2023, you need to get that down my the March meeting or be dropped from the club membership list.

DX information shamelessly borrowed from <u>ARRL DX News:</u>

QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 7 ARLD007 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT February 16, 2023 To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by W2GD, The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

TIMOR-LESTE, 4W. Satoshi, JH2EUV is QRV as 4W/JH2EUV until March 3. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using FT8. QSL to home call.

CHINA, BY. Look for BD1KV to be either a Multi/2 or Multi/Multi entry in the ARRL International DX CW contest. QSL direct to home call.

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. Livio, IZ3BUR is QRV as J52EC. Activity is on 15 and 10 meters using mostly SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL direct to home call.

BANABA ISLAND, T33. Norbert, DF6FK and Judith, DL2ZAD will soon be QRV as T33BB and T33BA, respectively, until March 1. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW and SSB with two stations. QSL to DF6FK.

COSTA RICA, TI. Nathan, N4YDU is QRV as TI5/N4YDU from Guanacaste. Activity is on the HF bands. He will be active as TI7W in the ARRL International DX CW contest. QSL direct to home call.

MICRONESIA, V6. John, V63JB is QRV from Ulithi Atoll, IOTA OC-078. He is a staff member at a local school here. Activity is currently on 30 meters using FT8 but hopes to expand to 20 meters, and use SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

MYANMAR, XZ. Akio, JE2QIZ is QRV as XZ2B from Yangon. He is active in his spare time on 15, 12, 10, and 6 meters using CW. QSL via JH3SIF.

INDONESIA, YB. Jozef, ON6HX is QRV as YB9/ON6HX from Lombok Island, IOTA OC-150, until March 8. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using all modes. QSL direct to home call.

Please see February QST, page 69, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details.

Bouvet...in case you missed it (and most of us did....)

Bouvet Island DXpedition Wraps Up

The 3Y0J activation of Bouvet Island has finished. The team concluded operations at 3:00 UTC on February 14, 2023, with around 19,000 contacts logged.

The team has boarded the S/V Marama and began their journey to Cape Town, South Africa. They expect to arrive by February 23.

Photos uploaded to social media by Steve Haas, N2AJ, the team's Media Officer, show the harsh reality of the operating environment. The crew operated in tents, with radios and equipment stacked on buckets.

Team Co-Leader Kenneth Opskar, LA7GIA, took to Facebook to tell a bit of their story. His post highlights the physical and technical challenges the team faced. "Pileup was difficult as our signals were weak. We had good reception and very often we called 3 to 5 times to log a QSO. Many DXers called but couldn't hear us, "how frustrating," he



Bouvet Island shrinks from view as S/V Marama takes the crew toward South Africa. 3Y0J Bouvet Island DXpedition, photo.

wrote "We focused on fewer bands to maximize [all time new ones], and looking at the stats, we achieved 19,000 QSOs and 50% unique calls. And many dupes! Many are satisfied, but some are also disappointed by the performance of either the team or the DQRMers."

In response to some posts on social media questioning the methods and tactics the team used, Opskar continued, "As for Bouvet, there is no guarantee at all, whether you use two helicopters or zodiac! [We wanted] to make more contacts, but safety was and will always be more important than trying to push our limits in a risky environment."

The effort was one of the most expensive DXpeditions of all time. The team raised \$715,000 through donations and sponsorships, with each operator contributing a large sum to participate. The original plan was to operate for 22 days on the island. They had set a goal of 200,000 QSOs and hoped to operate up to 12 stations at once, across modes and bands.

As Opskar referenced, getting the equipment onto the island by boat proved to be a logistical challenge. "During the second day we got some supplies in a risky zodiac operation in high swell. We lost several objects in the surf and punctured the zodiac. The

conditions on the beach were terrible. Due to the coming storm, we evacuated back to [the] Marama on day 4. Despite this, we decided to scale down [the] DXpedition... We could not fight against Bouvet, but [we] had to adjust to the weather and go ashore when Bouvet allowed us," the post said.

Without the planned kit, the team was largely limited to two radios at once. The only location on the island that was safe to set up camp had a large terrain feature in the direct path toward the east coast of the United States. With antennas limited to wire dipoles, power limited to the transceivers' rated output, and a massive rock in the short path to much of North America, operations were hindered.

Bouvet Island has long been number two on Club Log's DXCC Most Wanted list, right behind North Korea. Previous excursions to the remote island have also faced operational challenges. Antarctic weather, dangerous ice, and rough terrain prevent it from being an easy activation.

DX news via NB4C:

Here is the latest CY0S DXpedition update:

A very busy time for the CY0S DXpedition team. DX Engineering, one of our major sponsors, was able to locate and ship a Cushcraft A3WS 12-17 meter Yagi. We received the A3WS this past week and assembly and testing will begin this week. After a period of testing, the Hygain LJ- 203-BA, Hygain LJ-153-BA and the Hygain LJ-105 CA monoband Yagi's were disassembled and placed in their respective ski bags. The Yagi antennas were only disassembled enough to be able to fit in the long bags. Once the Cushcraft A3WS is assembled and checked out, it too will be placed in its own ski bag.

The CY0S team has been working closely with both Sable Aviation and Vision Air Services on the plans for the flights to Sable Island on the morning of March 20. The team member assignments were made for each aircraft. Five of the team members will fly to Sable on the Sable Aviation Britten Norman Islander and three team members will fly on the Vision Air Services Sikorsky helicopter. The team lost some of its payload capacity due to requirement of wearing immersion suits and the need to add one extra bench seat to the Islander. We now have an absolute payload capacity limit of 2930 lbs (this includes the weight of the operators) and we are over that weight limitation. We are identifying areas where we can reduce weight. The team had previously committed to eating lightweight freeze dried meals for the duration of the DXpedition.

The CY0S team has now reached the 60% level of our fundraising goal of \$37,500. The total cost of the DXpedition is estimated at \$75,000. Both Sable Aviation and Vision Air Services added fuel surcharges due to the continued high cost of fuel. Donations are very much appreciated and can be made from our website @ www.cy0s.com

The team has been in contact with Jason, the Operations Manager for Parks Canada - Sable Island. Jason has advised we may need some flexibility on the departure date from the island. The DXpedition is currently scheduled to conclude on March 29. Due to the operational requirements of the Sable Station, the CY0S team may need to depart the island on March 28, or we may be extended to March 30.

The team continues to prepare for the weather conditions on Sable in March. The

average temperature in March is 2 C with winds of 20-30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. These are the averages. I personally have experienced winds exceeding 60 knots and the Visitor Quarters structure would shudder in the strong winds. We may be forced to lower antennas if strong winds occur.

73, Murray WA4DAN 2023 Sable Island CY0S DXpedition Team Leader

Virtual Hamfest – is it for you?

Because of COVID, conventional hamfests shut down for quite a while, opening the door for some different type of venue for hams to enjoy. Whether you want to admit it or not, our hobby is changing and anyone that has frequented hamfests over the past several years knows hamfests are not what they were 20 or 30 years ago. When I was first licensed, my only reason to go to hamfests was to look at and maybe buy needed items to add to my station. As I acquired more stuff, it was more about selling my unneeded and unused items to finance other purchases. Seldom did I even think about attending a seminar at a hamfest. As I grew older (and still needing to sell "stuff"), I went and sat in the flea market area of hamfests, taking more pleasure in meeting and talking to hams face to face than actually selling stuff. The hamfest was a great place to put a face to a call sign; the flea market areas were shrinking, and even the number of dealers attending hamfests has diminished greatly.

On top of the internet now being the first place most look to buy new and even used equipment, it has allowed aging hams that may struggle with physical problems to keep up with the latest in technology and even chatting with hams that you may not be able to catch on the air. It made sense to use the internet to hold a virtual hamfest and COVID made that happen.

The host of the QSO Today podcast, Eric, 4X1UG, took the plunge and spent many months of work organizing not only the technical side but the line up of speakers, vendors and advertising of a completely online ham radio expo. His first event was free of charge to those that preregistered, with a small fee for those that attended last minute. There were dozens of seminars by speakers many of us recognize. Some were ham radio dealers, some were ham radio manufacturers, some were recognized as one of the top in their field of expertise, some were young hams getting started and some had more than one speaker on a specific topic. Besides the many speakers, Eric lined up dealers and manufacturers to display their offerings and live chats so you could ask questions and try to make deals. One thing missing was being able to push buttons and twist knobs. There were also many chat rooms. Some were about specific topic while some were just like being at a coffee shop swapping stories with others. Many of the chat rooms were frequented by seminar speakers, giving you even more of a chance to learn about that radio, amplifier, tuner, antenna, etc. Eric's first event in 2020 attracted 15,000 attendees and continues to grow.

While Eric's first event was not without many technical issues, it was still pretty much a success, at least enough that he has held two a year and I believe is going to do two again this year and each one has been better than the one prior. While they are no longer free, I feel they are really worth the money and have attended all of them so far and am looking forward to the next one March 25 and 26.

If you want a sample of what kind of topics are covered by the speakers at the QSO Today virtual Ham Expo, check out their YouTube channel. Many of their past speakers presentations are available for viewing for free https://www.youtube.com/@qsotodayvirtualhamexpo. Want to learn more about what you can expect from a virtual hamfest? Check out the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo home page https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/ You can learn more about Eric by checking out some of his QSO Today podcasts at https://www.qsotoday.com/ and available on many podcasts apps. Danny W9DP

Adams County EMA and the amateur community.

One function we as an amateur radio community have long served is support to local agencies, among them the Adams County Emergency Management Agency. This can take many forms, but the primary one is as communicators and communications support staff. Like many other groups, Adams County EMA "took a hit" during COVID, with meetings and training being impacted and the size of the volunteer group being reduced through attrition, age, disinterest, distractions and other goings-on.

The result is that many who used to interface with the agency.... don't any longer. I've been as guilty as anyone about putting the EMA on the back burner. I tend to find myself, on meeting nights, either off on a drive somewhere or comfortably perched in my recliner. (I love my recliner....) I did, however, respond tonight to the meeting announcement and attended both the Search and Rescue and Communications meetings. The SAR session was well-attended. The Comms session...not so much. Naturally, the discussion turned to recruiting.

The logical source of new members for the group is the ham community. We like playing with radios, right? Not all of the Comms activities are on the air. Other functions involve equipment testing, antenna work and logistics and the support for other EMA groups like Search and Rescue.

We have several brand new hams in our club, and I think some of you would enjoy this opportunity to use what you've learned while studying for your licenses. I'll have more to say about this next month. If you think you might be interested, our next EMA Comms meeting is Thursday, March 16 at 6:30 pm at the EMA Shed off of 52nd Street.

VOTA!

VOTA (Volunteers On The Air) has begun. Each state will have a two week period where they will operate as portable W1AW. In Illinois our two weeks to operate as W1AW/9 are the week of June 28 and the week of December 6. The W1AW/9 coordinator for the June week is K9CT and I will coordinate the December week. Depending on how many operators wish to participate, we can operate all bands/all modes except on 2200, 630, 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters. There will be no VOTA operations on those bands.

This is a great opportunity for new hams wanting to get their Worked All States award. There will not be any QSL cards but all the contacts will be logged on Logbook of the World (LoTW).

If you can spare a few hours during one of the two weeks please contact either K9CT (k9ct@arrl.net) or me (w9ry@arrl.org). I can tell you from experience, getting on the air as W1AW will be a pileup experience you won't soon forget and who knows, you might also pick up a couple of those DX entities you need.

All Illinois amateurs, Technician through Extra, are welcome to participate on their allotted frequencies and although we would appreciate you being an ARRL member, it is not required. This is your opportunity to operate using the call sign of ARRL founder Hiram Percy Maxim.

When we have sunspot activity (and we do.....)

A major solar flare erupted from the sun Saturday (Feb. 11), spawning a radio blackout for parts of Earth and setting the stage for more flares to come.

The huge <u>solar flare</u>, which registered as a powerful X1.1-class event on the scale used for such sun storms, peaked at 10:48 a.m. EST (1548 GMT) on Saturday, according to the U.S. Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) operated by NOAA. It originated from an area of the <u>sun</u> called Active Region 3217 and created a temporary radio blackout over South America, the center reported. NASA's <u>Solar Dynamics Observatory</u> captured stunning <u>video of the solar flare</u>.

"More flares are expected from this region as it moves across the sun creating occasional degradation of high frequency (3-30 MHz) communication," SWPC officials wrote (opens in new tab) in an alert.

The State QSO Party Challenge

With the state QSO party season kicking off this weekend with the Vermont, Minnesota, and British Columbia QSO parties, Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ, would like to remind us of the State QSO Party Challenge. The challenge is open to any radio amateurs who participate in any of the approved US state and Canadian Province QSO parties. Participants must submit their scores to 3830scores.com to be included in the challenge. More details are available at the State QSO Party website.

Photo of the January 15 "Falcon Heavy" launch from NB4C's back yard



For Sale or trade

Icom IC-756 Pro II \$650

TailTwister rotor and control box \$450

Ham II rotor and control box \$250

Alpha 76CA amplifier \$1300

Kenwood TS-9130 2 meter all mode \$200

Kenwood TS660 10 watt quad band transceiver (15, 12, 10 and 6 meters) \$150

Bird 1 KW dummy load \$225

Bird 43 wattmeter \$225

Cushcraft D3W WARC band rotatable trap dipole \$250

M2 2 meter horizontal loop \$60

Raspberry assortment

PI 1, 2B, 3B with PI-TNC and Atomic PI computers - offers

Mini computer

Celeron J3010, Win 10 Pro, 4 GB RAM, 256 GB SSD \$100

Danny W9DP w9dp@w9dp.us

Another "snippet" from NB4C:

A radio clip that was on CBS Sunday morning...at some time. I don't think it was yesterday.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ineRc-XCG4Q



Ham radio operators keep classic communication style alive
Michael Schlesinger joined the members of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club whose members keep the classic hobby of ham radio alive in Wisconsin.

www.youtube.com

At time 1:24, you'll see my first receiver, a Hallicrafters SX-71. A REAL boat anchor. I matched that with a Heathkit DX-35 and a dipole, in 1956. Bob

Parks on the Air Update for WIARC

Despite the winter weather, several club members have been active in the POTA program, both as activators and hunters. Here are the current stats (as of Feb 17):

W9DP	1 activation of 1 park	457 parks worked
NU7J	88 activations of 63 parks,	1930 parks worked
W9US	4 activations of 4 parks	219 parks worked
NR9Q	14 activations of 7 parks	379 parks worked
AA9GL		88 parks worked
KB9FIN	19 activations of 18 parks	1010 parks worked
KM9DX	49 activations of 25 parks	203 parks worked
WM4D	49 activations of 25 parks	124 parks worked
N9JF	37 activations of 218 parks	880 parks worked
K9AJC	31 activations of 20 parks	1699 parks worked
KW9Q	12 activations of 7 parks	418 parks worked
KO0KER		5 parks worked
WG0ATS	4 activations of 2 parks	131 parks worked
W9MDB		180 parks worked
NI9M		19 parks worked
KB0V		65 parks worked
KA0SNL		4 parks worked
KD9TTB		51 parks worked

I always get a special kick out of having someone from the club call me when I'm activating! Join the fun! -N9JF

I "made" <u>QST Magazine!</u>

February QST, page 59, in the article, "Desert Portable" by W8GG: "My first contact was with Jim, N9JF, in Illinois on 18 Mhz."

Gregg was portable in southern California, and this might have been his first ever contact with his vanity callsign? This was on the 25th of September of last year, and I was at a park in Penobscot County, Maine.

My 15 seconds of fame....

73, Jim N9JF

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

March meeting, Wednesday March 1, 2023 7pm 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

Analog repeater W9AWE/R on 147.630/.030 Tone Rx and Tx 103.5 Analog repeater W9AWE/R on 146.340/.940 Tone Rx and Tx 123.0 Analog and Fusion repeater W9AWE/R on 448.900/443.900 Tone Rx and Tx 103.5 Analog and Fusion repeater W9AWE on 147.795/147.195 Tone Rx and Tx 103.5

All repeaters are located on the north side of Quincy IL ILLINOIS QSO PARTY

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