THE FEEDLINE

Volume 47, Issue 6 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club June 2023

Editor's Note: There is a LOT of stuff in this issue. At the end is a collection of pictures of the equipment offered for bid (see Minutes).

Mental Wanderings from the Chief Executive (He didn't give me a title this time...big mistake! (2))

WOW...!! If you missed it, we certainly had a lively and informative club meeting on May 3rd. We had an amazing turnout and there were more members at the "meeting after the meeting" at Tower, than we usually have at the meeting. Changes to our by-laws were proposed and disposition of donated equipment to the club was discussed. This would be a good time to summarize and clarify some of those points.

Dues: We are NOT changing our dues structure but rewording our existing by-law in that regard. A long time ago, and in a land far away, there was a "Novice" class of license which did not have privileges on 2 meters. Thus the wording regarding the higher class licensee within a household. That is no longer valid. A committee has been appointed to review this and propose a rewording to reflect current license privileges.

Loans and Donations: The current by-law requires a two thirds majority vote to accept the loan of equipment and a majority vote to accept an equipment donation. It was suggested this is a bit excessive and perhaps the Executive Committee and Station Committee could make those decisions. It was said this would be easier and less time consuming. A committee has been appointed to review this policy and recommend any changes [or not] to the membership.

Disposition of Donations: What do we do with stuff we accept for donation? Well, this has not been specifically addressed in the by-laws. A clear policy needs to be in place going forward. The proposal from several members suggested the station committee can decide what the club will keep and actually use. The remaining equipment will be offered for sale or auction to the club and then liquidated in an appropriate manner. A committee has been appointed to provide some guidance [propose a by-law] on how this will be handled.

Note: for the nit pickers: "by-law" and "bylaw" are both correct.

Now for "updates" on upcoming events.

June 3-4. There will be a **Parks on the Air Plaque Event** this weekend. Myself and other club members will be out that weekend operating portable stations. I will be in the main campground at Siloam Springs site #5 along with, I hope, KM9DX. Jim N9JF may also be at Siloam Springs, perhaps in the Hickory Hill Campground. Ed W9US will be camping at Weinberg King State Park outside of Augusta and participating in the POTA event. Stop by and say hello. If you bring your own logbook, I'll hand you a mic. Bring your own USB memory stick and you can

try FT8 and FT4 and I'll transfer your log [in adif format] to your usb memory device. It's an easy way to try something new. If it rains, I may still have something set up under a tarp at my station.... not sure, it's only water. If it's lightning, that's different.

June 24-25. This is ARRL Field Day. We will operate W9AWE from the Red Cross building. Since our club sets up before the start of the event we may operate for 24 hours beginning 1800z on Saturday. We will have the club station up and running and another station out in the same area we hold our club meeting. While some club stations are "in it to win it" we have historically taken a more relaxed and "fun" approach. This is incredibly fun, and an excellent opportunity to jump in and try your hand at contest style operating. I am going to "try" some cw. You do not have to operate. Last year we had a number of people just show up, socialize, and had a great time just being around other hams. It is not uncommon for snacks and drinks to show up especially Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Dave W9WE stayed the entire 24 hours last year and I have volunteered for this year. Note: I will be sleeping in my small camper located in the parking lot.

October 14th Club Dinner: We have not had a club dinner in several years due to Covid and the fire at The Patio Restaurant. The October dinner will be at Sprouts on 12th Street. The cost is \$20 a person, including tax and tip, and will be served family style. Menu will be announced in the July Newsletter **This is open to all members, their family, and guests.** There will be a 30 minute program from Bob Mitchel AD9DU, with projected images, on his trip to Israel and Egypt. This will be exceptionally interesting. Bob is an experienced and dynamic speaker. It's a date night.

We will need your money and head count for the dinner by October 9th. Sprouts needs a hard count by then and we want to avoid [if possible] collecting any money at the event. We do have a club meeting on October 4th and this will be an excellent chance, and an ideal time, to let us know about your plans for the dinner. Checks can be made out to the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club and, of course, we will accept your cash.

The annual dinner may quite possibly move to a non contest weekend in Spring 2024. That tidbit is just for future reference. To Be Determined.... Remember "indecision is the key to flexibility". That was humor.... Do not take it seriously. .

Some personal notes:

- I would like to send out a huge "Thank You" to Jim Funk N9JF, Chris Schulz NR9Q, and Arnold Gerst K9VXD for all the hours and hard work they have put into updating our Club Roster. Hopefully, the updated roster will be posted on our website in the near future. As I am writing this in mid May so it may have already been done.
- **POTA**: Jim Funk will probably bring you up to speed on club POTA activity. On my last two activations, I took a bold step forward.. Although I only made 12-14 contacts on each activation, they were all CW. I called CQ POTA and handled the response. I have in the past responded to POTA CW CQ's but sending CQ is a different animal. While

embarrassing, this was great practice and I plan to continue using cw more often. I am trying to get in shape to make some CW contacts during field day. Although I should be back when you read this, I plan to activate 1 to 5 parks in Kansas and Colorado toward the end of May.

Well, that brings you up to date on most everything that is going on. Have Fun out there and I hope to see you either in the park or on Field Day.

73's

Ken, WM4D

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the May 2023 WIARC meeting:

The May 2023 meeting of the Western Illinois ARC was held Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at the American Red Cross building in Quincy. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President WM4D with the following members and guests present: NR9Q, KB9FIN, K9AJC, WM4D, K9VXD, WB2UFO, W9US, KB9GIY, N9JF, W9MDB, KD9TVM, KD0HDL, N0EMR, WB9EWM, W9WE, WA9GBC, W9GQK, KD9VUW, W9DP, NB4C (ZOOM) NA9Q (ZOOM), AB9DU, KD0DKE, W6JFL, KD9WHU, KE0OAA, KD9VWR

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed in <u>*The Feedline*</u> on a motion by KB9FIN seconded by NR9Q and carried.

Treasurer's Report from K9VXD:

Dues received since April meeting: \$70, Interest \$2.31 total \$72.31 income. Total expenses \$88 (rental of PO Box)

Treasurer's Report accepted on a motion by WB2UFO, seconded by KB9FIN and carried.

Station Report de WA9GBC:

All working ok; Dave has been working a lot of stations on FT8 with the K3 and offered to tutor club members wishing to come in and try the mode.

Repeater Board de WB9EWM:

NR9Q has disconnected his gateway, no change to interference problems. A discussion of the possible source of the interference ensued.

Contest Committee de W9WE:

Florida QSO Party was last weekend. Dave worked over 40 of the 62 FL counties. This weekend features a bunch of QSO parties, all of which can be combined into one log and submitted to each group.

The "POTA Plaque Event" ("not a contest....") is the weekend of June 3 and 4. Several club members are planning to be at Siloam Springs (or other parks) that weekend, and others are invited to visit/participate.

The Heil headset has been repaired and is back in the club room. Cost for repair was \$84.

WM4D and W9WE have cleaned out the back room of the ARC shed (ARC was needing to have this done) and disposed of some items deemed obsolete. Scrap sold netted \$98.70. The generator needs to be checked out as it has not been run for a long time. KD0DKE says it was run dry last time so there should not be old fuel in the lines.

NCS stations: May 10: W9WE May 17: W9DP May 24: WB9EWM May 31: KD9PPJ June 7: W9DP June 14 KD9PPJ June 21 WM4D June 28 KD9TVM July 5 W9DP

Some equipment has been donated to the club by the family of W9TRR. He had recently moved to assisted living but is now SK.

A motion to accept this equipment was made by KB9FIN, seconded by W9WE and carried.

Pictures and a listing of this equipment are included below.

Currently, according to the by-laws, equipment given to the club has to be accepted by a vote of a majority of the membership present at a meeting, and equipment loaned has to be accepted by 2/3 of the membership present.

A proposed change to the by-laws would change this to allow either donated or loaned equipment to be accepted on action by the Executive Committee plus one member of the Station Committee.

These changes will go to a committee then to be voted upon at a future meeting.

Another handout was given regarding a clarification/change to by-laws concerning dues. Some thought needs to be given to clarification regarding family members in the same household and former members who are now inactive and moved to assisted living.

WB9EWM, W9US and KD9PPJ will assist the President with a proposed rewrite of the bylaws items.

A motion was made by WB9EWM, seconded by KB9FIN and carried to offer the equipment in question (from W9TRR) to club members by sealed bid to be brought to the June WIARC meeting. Some items are "bundled" (details below). Bids are for each item (or bundled item) individually. Items are offered "as is". If you buy it, you take it. Items not purchased by club members will be offered outside the club. WA9GBC will work with WM4D on decisions concerning "pairing" the items.

Important note: Executive Committee has decided that the bids will be accepted (and opened) at the JULY meeting, not June. This will allow interested parties to examine the equipment at the June meeting or at Field Day.

KD9PPJ brought up about a "simplex net" to test capability of direct (or relayed) communications. Quite a bit of favorable opinions.

WB9EWM reports that KB9WDB Frank Chatten is now SK

W6JFL reports that HARC Field Day will be at New London Ambulance base. Hamfest is one year out (4/20/24) at Palmyra American Legion. He made several comments regarding needing volunteers to help with the hamfest.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm on a motion by KB9FIN seconded by WB9EWM and carried.

Respectfully submitted, N9JF Secretary

DX News Cheerfully and Shamelessly Purloined from <u>ARRL DX News</u>:

ZCZC AE20 QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 20 ARLD020 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT May 18, 2023 To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by AB2E, W2GD, The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Vincent, HB9VCJ will be QRV as 8Q7VJ from Lhaviyani Atoll, IOTA AS-013, from May 20 to June 4. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

QATAR, A7. Anton, RN1B is QRV as A71/RN1B and is here for several weeks. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via RW3RN.

ARMENIA, EK. Abie, AB1F is QRV as EK/AB1F from Stepanavan, Lori Marz. Activity is on 20, 15, and 10 meters, and possibly on 80 and 40 meters using SSB. QSL via LoTW.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Didier, F6BCW is QRV as FO/F6BCW from Huahine Island, IOTA OC-067, until October 25. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via F6EXV.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. Bob, N7XR is QRV as V7/N7XR from Kwajalein, IOTA OC-028, and is here until the end of June. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

ANGUILLA, VP2E. Rich, KE1B and Anna, W6NN will be QRV as VP2EAQ and VP2EAR, respectively, from May 25 to June 1. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. This includes being an entry as VP2EAQ in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX CW contest. QSL via LoTW.

SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ is QRV as Z81D from Juba. Activity is in his spare time on 40 to 6 meters, and possibly 80 and 60 meters, using SSB and FT8. QSL via OM3JW.

Please see May QST, page 73, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details. NNNN /EX

Speaking of DX.... WIARC member NU7J is headed for H44!

https://www.dx-world.net/h44wa-solomon-islands/

W9AWE Net Report 4/19/2023 W9WE NCS

147.03 / PRIMARY KD9VUW SHAWN KA9WTK JOHN W9GQK STEVE KB9MUV GERRY KE0OAA JODY KD0DKE SCOTT K9AJC ALLAN KD9LOQ GARY

147.195 / ALTERNATE KD9VUW KA9WTK KE0OAA KB9MUV K9AJC KD9LOQ W9GQK KD0DKE

A short POTA story de WM4D:

Jim, N9JF, asked me to write a brief story on my trip across Kansas stopping at a couple of parks and here it is.

On a recent family trip across country to Colorado I had plans to stop at a few parks along the way for a POTA activation. Route 36 across northern Kansas was chosen as several parks were just off the route and would not cause significant delay. Also, traveling with my wife, several Quilt shops were on the route so those would also be stopping points.

Looking at the map on pota.app two parks were chosen, K-9180 Hollenberg Pony Express Station Historic Site and K-2349, Prairie Dog State Park, both in Kansas. Although neither of these parks were difficult to get to I noticed there had been very little POTA activity from either of these sites. K-9180 had only 9 activations in 11 attempts with a total of only 316 contacts. The park contact leader is AB00 with 111 contacts and second place was NY9R with 48. So, at K-9180 I attached my 17' whip to my truck door, in a stiff prairie breeze, and running a Yaesu 891 with 30 watts SSB made 61 contacts in 24 minutes. I could have easily made more but we had to get down the road. This quick activation moved me into 2nd place for the contact total at K-9180.

We spent the next night in Norton, Kansas and Prairie Dog State Park K-2349, was just 10 minutes out of town on our route. The next morning we packed up after breakfast and headed straight to park K-2349. This park had only 6 previous activations with a total of 175 contacts. The leader KD0IRW had 95 qsos. At this park I made 39 contacts in 20 minutes before hitting the road which surprisingly moved me into second place at this location. The previous 2nd place holder was WY7AA.

As of this writing I am in Estes Park Colorado. I will camp and activate Rocky Mountain National Park K-0059 before heading home. Stopping at these places can be incredibly fun. My wife certainly enjoyed seeing all the little Prairie Dogs at that particular park.

Apparently there are many parks out there, on a road less traveled, which have seen hardly any activations. I have my eye on one I want to activate outside Torrington Wyoming K-6110, Rawhide Wildlife Management Area, that has only been activated "once" with 33 contacts. It does not appear hard to get to, at least on the map. If I can get set up there that will no doubt be a pileup for sure. So, get out there, have fun, discover America and enjoy ham radio along the way

Ken, WM4D

RF Exposure Testing. Yes. YOU!

In the May 2023 QST, Greg Lapin, N9GL, wrote an article (on pages 64-66) titled "FCC Exposure Rules Soon to Affect Every US Radio Amateur."

As of May 3, 2023 (that's today!), all transmitters operating in the US are expected to comply with the exposure rules.

To evaluate your station's RF exposure, go to <u>http://arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator</u>. Detailed instructions for each parameter are also at that site.

ARRL Central Division Director: Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA k9la@arrl.org

Comments: (de N9JF) This evaluation isn't difficult. You can fairly quickly determine a "worst case" with your station, depending upon the bands and modes you operate and the power you are using. Evaluate some of these "worst case" scenarios and save the results.

Are you still licensed???

Our Section Managers in Wisconsin (Jason KC9FXE), in Illinois (Thom W9RY) and in Indiana (Bob AK9R) mentioned that some members were not being notified of the expiration of their membership and the expiration of their license.

One issue to check is two important items in your account. First, log-in at arrl.org. Then on the right side of that page, click on CUSTOMIZE FEEDS under 'Your Feeds'.

Then on the left side of that page, scroll down to COMMUNICATION. Click on 'Opt In/Out'.

Make sure "Notification of ARRL membership expiration" and "Notification of license expiration" are checked. You'll have to click on 'Edit' in the upper right corner to make changes.

While you're there, check the other options that you would like to receive. Central Division Director: Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA <u>k9la@arrl.org</u>

Parks on the Air Update for WIARC

There has been a lot of park activity within the membership in the last month. By the time we meet again, WM4D and KM9DX should have a couple of new activated states, and the June 3-4 POTA weekend will be in the books.

Here are the updated totals as of May 18: W9DP 1 activation of 1 park 1119 parks worked NU7J 90 activations of 63 parks, 1960 parks worked (He's figuring out how to chase parks while spoon-feeding a grandkid!) W9US 15 activations of 7 parks 366 parks worked (Racking up over a 1000 SSB contacts at Siloam Springs!) NR9Q 22 activations of 8 parks 516 parks worked (Fast becoming "Mr Sid Simpson" with over a thousand SSB Qs) AA9GL 93 parks worked KB9FIN 19 activations of 18 parks 1034 parks worked KM9DX 50 activations of 25 parks 217 parks worked (Still the #1 activator at Siloam Springs...yes, I know, it's not a contest...) WM4D 52 activations of 30 parks 183 parks worked N9JF 424 activations of 230 parks 922 parks worked K9AJC 34 activations of 20 parks 1871 parks worked KW9Q 26 activations of 14 parks 490 parks worked **KO0KER** 5 parks worked WG0ATS 5 activations of 2 parks 143 parks worked W9MDB 181 parks worked NI9M 11 activations of 6 parks 34 parks worked KB0V 73 parks worked **KA0SNL** 5 parks worked KD9TTB 7 activations of 4 parks 105 parks worked **KE0MHJ** 2 activations of 2 parks 101 parks worked WB2UFO 60 parks worked

I may be missing some of the newer members. Please let me know!!

Fall Creek Overlook is open! Sid Simpson/Bob Bangert is accessible from the south end.

GU4YOX in CQ 160 CW 2023

Those of you who have operated on 160 meters (and perhaps those who have not) will enjoy the recent article in the <u>National Contest Journal</u> detailing GU4YOX's recent operation from the island of Jersey in the CQ 160 CW contest. Anyone who is an ARRL member can read this for free.

https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=c b9a602a-2ac3-4118-be65-472c66e5f9e9

Imagine taking a ton of supplies and equipment and stringing out a mile and a half of radials plus half a mile of receiving antennas in a "Field Day style" setup.....in the middle of the winter!

DL6RAI SK

If you've done any contesting in the last 20 years (or more) you almost certainly have DL6RAI in your log (maybe under a different DX callsign).

Word was received yesterday that Ben died from a tower fall at a contest station in Aruba.

Be careful, those of you who are still climbing!!! de N9JF

How Prepared Are We?

The Boy Scout's motto is, "Always Be Prepared". At least, that's what I read in the copy of the manual my Dad had. I was never a Boy Scout. We lived too far from Quincy, and 4-H was the "thing" for our family and for the neighbors. Nevertheless, I admired scouting and read a lot about it.

Emergency preparedness is one of the biggest justifications for our existence as members of the radio amateur service. We pride ourselves in being ready at moment's notice to assist the community, and its organizations, whether it be in time of flood, fire, storm, earthquake or any other type of natural or manmade disaster. When stuff happens, ham radio is there. You've seen the brochures and the T-shirts. You might even have one.

How prepared are we?

I'm going to engage in a bit of self-flagellation for a moment. If what I have to say applies to you, let the shoe fit. If it doesn't, you may happily pat yourself on the back and continue doing what you're doing.

I volunteered to help Adams County Emergency Services at the Bridge the Gap event this year as I have done several times in the past. Pretty much at the last minute, the night before, I located three Baofeng handhelds in the shack, buried under a bunch of other stuff I had thrown there over time, located a couple of chargers, put them together on the kitchen counter, and decided I was ready to go on Saturday morning. I grabbed the whole pile on my way out the door, drove to Front and Hampshire, and presented myself at the UCP (Unified Command Post).

"We're running on the EMA Repeater on 147.360/.960." OK, fine. I can get the Baofeng into "Frequency Mode" after a few tries. Now, how do I set the 600 khz offset for transmit? It's been a year since I used the radio. Absolutely clueless.

I see KD9VWR carrying a Baofeng. "Any chance you can help me with this?" "No problem, mon..." Brian is my new Elmer hero....

My point: If you haven't used a radio in a year, and if you're over 70, you MIGHT not remember everything about it you need to know.... I remember when KB9FIN got his IC706, saying, "Every time I operate this radio, I have to look at the manual!". Every new radio out there is menu-driven with multiple layers of push-button steps. Can you operate EVERY radio you own? On more than one mode? On more than one band? Or do you, on site, become one more frustration for the guy who is trying to coordinate communications? Do have extra batteries for HTs? How about a charger in your gobag? Do you have an external antenna you could hook to an HT in your car? Do you have an adapter to go from the HT to a PL259? Could you find it in a hurry?

I carry the manual for my FT991a, and I have the IC746Pro manual on my laptop. I still haven't figured out more than about 10% of the things the 991a can do. In the past month, I've forgotten (and re-remembered) how to set the tone squelch, the offset, the VOX, the break-in. I'm planning to take this radio to Alaska; and if I don't get my head in the game soon, it's going to be a frustrating trip, radio-wise.

What about your home station? QST (or maybe it was CQ?) used to run a monthly "messy shack" picture. I never entered the contest, but I could have. "Mess" doesn't necessarily equal "ineffective"...but in my case, it probably does. I haven't used the home station in months. Why? The FT991a (in the car) and the FTDX1200 (in the shack) use the same type of power cable. I ordered (I thought) an extra one. What came was another cable for the ICOM. (I have only five of those now....). Yes, I need to order another cable! I have towers all over the yard. A grand total of two antennas are intact, one for 6 meters (I haven't worked anyone on six because... hellloooo....no power cable in the shack). The other antenna is an open-wire dipole. All of the other antennas are down, damaged or compromised. Twenty years ago, I was climbing. Now I'm not. Old age is not for cowards. But I digress....

Does your primary HF rig cover 60 meters? Do you know HOW to get it to that band? It may not be as simple as punching a button or turning a switch.

Do you have portable antennas? Do they work? If someone gave you a length of coax, three insulators and a hundred feet of wire, how long would it take you to construct a 40 meter dipole?

In an emergency, standardization is key. Do you know how to construct a standard radiogram for sending in the National Traffic System? Do you know how to FIND an NTS net? How about "handling instructions"? Net protocol?

With the abundance of digital modes available, could you make an assessment of the best mode to use to distribute information between agency locations? Would you be able to actually operate that mode on your radio(s)? Do you have a portable laptop or tablet that supports these modes? Does it "talk to" your radio(s)?

Not all preparation is electronic. If you were called out on an emergency right now, how long would it take you to find appropriate clothing, food and water for a 48hour deployment, any medications you might need, maps, flashlight, fuel your vehicle and report for duty? Do you have a CURRENT passport? Any ID's for Red Cross, Emergency Management or other agencies? Do you know where they are?

How prepared are you physically and emotionally to respond? Are you in as good a physical condition as you can be? Do you have a realistic assessment of your physical abilities? Can you function without your usual support structure for several days at a time?

Are you over-extended? I find myself wanting to do a lot of things, all of which are "good" but some of which are mutually exclusive. Right now, I'm looking at four different things I "should do" on the 24th of June. Only two of them are going to happen...for me. I can't do everything I used to do. Many of us can't. That doesn't mean we can't do anything; it just means we have to be realistic and prioritize. Trying to be prepared for everything might mean we're really not prepared for anything.

My point in all of this is not to complain and moan but to challenge us to take a hard look at our level of preparedness. Maybe we can do just a little better than we currently are doing? Field Day is coming up. It might be a good time to assess just how ready we are to support agencies in the field with communications. 73, Jim N9JF



Fun at the April meeting (for those who missed it):

Following pictures are of equipment from the W9TRR estate



Each picture below is a "unit item" to be bid upon. (Ignore the Dell computer in the background....)

Important note: Executive Committee has decided that the bids will be accepted (and opened) at the JULY meeting, not June. This will allow interested parties to examine the equipment at the June meeting or at Field Day.





















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

June meeting: Wednesday June 7, 2023 7 pm 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: <u>http://www.w9awe.org</u> e-mail to <u>w9awe@qsl.net</u> WIARC email reflector: <u>wiarc@mailman.qth.net</u>

> > **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