
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 47, Issue 12 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club December 2023

Dues for 2024 are payable now (and due before March 31, 2024). Please pay at the December meeting or mail to the club PO Box.

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the November 2023 WARC Meeting

President Ed Cozart, W9US, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Everyone introduced themselves and there were 17 in attendance.

Motion by WB9EWM (K9AJC) to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter, motion passed.

Treasurer Arnold Gerst, K9VXD, presented the Treasurer's report. Motion by KD9VUW (WB9EWM) to accept the Treasurer's report as given, motion passed.

Station Committee – W9DP reported that more equipment had been donated to the club by Joe Huie, K2PEY. The executive committee and the station committee need to assess what is there and what the disposition will be.

Contest - N9JF reported that he has received 320 logs from the 2023 ILQP so far and all logs received had been entered into the master database. Jim also noted that club member NU7J will be part of a DX-pedition to H44WA, scheduled to start on November 12, 2023.

Club membership – N9JF reported he has not yet assessed how to best recruit new club members.

Old Business – Joe, W6JFL, gave an update on the joint hamfest the Western Illinois ARC will be helping put on the Hannibal Amateur Radio Club. Planning is well under way and the date has been approved by the ARRL. on May 4th, 2024 at the Palmyra, MO American Legion.

New Business - Danny, W9DP, requested to be reimbursed \$35.00 for the renewal fee for the club station license, W9AWE. Motion by KD9VUW (KB9FIN) to reimburse W9DP, motion passed. Also under new business, President W9US asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee to select a slate of officers for the 2024 year. Jim, N9JF, and John, WB9EWM and Jack, KD9PPJ (chair) agreed to serve.

President W9US thanked Bob and Sue Mitchell, AB9DU and KB9ZEF, for the program they provided at the club dinner in October.

Net Control Stations for the remainder of the year;

December 6, KD9VUW, December 13 WB9EWM, December 20 KD9PPJ, December 27 W9US and January 3 K9AJC.

Motion to adjourn by WB9EWM (KD9VUW), motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Danny W9DP

A couple of tidbits from ARRL Illinois Section Manager: Thomas H Beebe, W9RY
w9ry@arrl.org

Have you noticed lately that our amateur bands are having a lot more noise? Some things we have control over. Others we don't. Just recently I tracked down a disruptive noise here at my QTH that was coming from a sealing machine in my kitchen. It was so strong it almost blanked out signals. The machine had been in my kitchen for several years without any problems. Now it is unplugged.

After that experience I started looking around at some of the things causing the noise. Here are a few I've discovered:

- Power Distribution Systems (Line Noise)
- Cable TV Systems Line Amplifier connections on the poles
- Shortwave Broadcasts
- Over-the-Horizon Radar Systems in the U.S., China, Australia and Russia.

In the US, each AN/TPS-71 radar transmitter station also operates a co-located ionosonde transmitter (a special radar for examining the ionosphere) that sweeps slightly faster and stops just below 20 MHz. These diagonal traces are informally called sweepers. (Typically the frequency coverage is 0.5–23 MHz or 1–40 MHz, though normally sweeps are confined to approximately 1.6–12 MHz.)

- Short Range HF Radar Systems
- Small radar sets used by Homeland Security transmit over the entire upper HF band. Their signals are about 150 kHz wide and vary randomly in sweep rate, frequency, and timing.
- Flat Screen Television Sets
- Plasma Screen TV Sets
- LED Lights
- Wall-Wart USB power supplies
- Heat Pumps
- Washing Machines
- Electric Golf Carts
- Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS)
- Security Cameras

These are not all of the things, but just a brief list of some of the noise makers. I also don't want to infer that each appliance listed is bad. Some cause noise, many do not. Hopefully by looking at the list above it will get you started on thinking where your noise is coming from on our bands.

1. THE TUNE UP

On March 16, 2024, we will have an exercise open to all Amateurs and those interested in Amateur Radio throughout the State of Illinois. The activity will be held between 1200 and 1600 hours local. We propose ARES members reach out to Clubs and license class leadership, socialize the event, and invite folks to participate. Should the opportunity arise, public discussion of the exercise should point out that we are getting ready to support the April 8 eclipse, if requested by our Served Agencies. We will be working with surrounding States to encourage them to join us.

The following are suggestions for the exercise:

1. Whenever possible, stations should set up at parks, community centers, EMA/County offices for the purpose of gathering folks together and community outreach.
2. Operation should be "POTA" like, simple – no need for "Field Day" complexity.
3. Effort should be made to allow multiple/guest operation.
4. CW should be used when possible. Voice and Data operation is planned as well. Should March 16 be snowed out throughout the state, March 23 is the alternate date. For more information, contact the Section Emergency Coordinator, Robert Littler, W9DSR.

More will be discussed at the ARES DEC/EC calls on the first Wednesday of each month at 2000 local.

*Since he mentions "POTA"....WIARC should put a massive number of parks on the air that day!!
Mark your calendars!*

DX News and Notes deftly purloined from [ARRL DX News](#)

ZCZC AE46 QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 46 ARLD046 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT November 16, 2023 To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by AA3B, VU2WB, W2GD, The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

RODRIGUES ISLAND, 3B9. Kazu, M0CFW will be QRV as 3B9/M0CFW from November 19 to December 1. Activity is on the HF bands. He will be active as 3B9KW in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL to home call.

MALAWI, 7Q. Don, K6ZO is QRV as 7Q6M from Embangweni and is here for six months while on work assignment in a hospital. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands and 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and EME. QSL via LoTW.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. Jorge, CE0YHF, will be QRV from November 18 to December 10 while working at a hospital on Pascua Island, IOTA SA-001. Activity is in his spare time on 30 to 6 meters using some CW and SSB, but mostly FT8. QSL direct to home call.

ANTARCTICA. Special event station L36Z marks the 36th anniversary of the Argentine Antarctic Base Esperanza. Activity is on the HF bands using PSK31 and FT8. QSL via LU4DXU.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Operators G4IKRN, G3WPH, G4IRN and G4PVM will be QRV as S79/home calls beginning November 21. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest with a yet to be determined call sign. QSL via operators' instructions.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Bob, WX4G will be QRV as V47RB from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, from November 20 to December 1. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. This includes being active as V48A in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest as a Single Op/Single Band on 40 meters entry. QSL to home call.

NAMIBIA, V5. Gunter, DK2WH is QRV as V51WH from Omaruru until the end of April 2024. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including 60 meters. QSL to home call.

Please see November QST, page 82 and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

VE report from W9WE

EXAM SESSION

02/10/2024

Sponsor: Western Illinois Amt Radio

Date: Feb 10 2024

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

Contact: David L. Scranton

(210) 325-7923

Email: w9we.lee@gmail.com

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Bethel Assembly of God Church

839 S 12th St

Parking North side

Pre-register \$15.00

Quincy IL 62301-5201

Website: <https://w9awe.org/>

05/04/2024 – Hannibal/Quincy Hamfest

Hannibal/Quincy Hamfest

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

Testing starts 9:00/10:00/11:00

Three tests an hour apart

Start Date: 05/04/2024

End Date: 05/04/2024

Location: Palmyra American Legion

600 Short Street

Palmyra, MO 63461
Website: <http://www.w0kem.com>
Sponsor: Hannibal Amateur Radio Club/Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 146.625 (-600) tone 103.5
Public Contact: Donald Vary , KD0HHN
4000 McMasters Ave. Hannibal, MO 63401
Phone: 573-719-9002
Email: kd0hnn@hotmail.com

05/04/2024 – Hannibal/Quincy Hamfest
Location: Palmyra, MO
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Hannibal Amateur Radio Club/Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.w0kem.com>

EXAM SESSION

08/10/2024
Sponsor: Western Illinois Amt Radio
Date: Aug 10 2024
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: David L. Scranton
(210) 325-7923
Email: w9we.lee@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Bethel Assembly of God Church
839 S 12th St
Parking North side
Pre-register \$15.00
Quincy IL 62301-5201
Website: <https://w9awe.org/>

EXAM SESSION

11/09/2024
Sponsor: Western Illinois Amt Radio
Date: Nov 09 2024
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: David L. Scranton
(210) 325-7923
Email: w9we.lee@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Bethel Assembly of God Church
839 S 12th St
Parking North side
Pre-register \$15.00
Quincy IL 62301-5201
Website: <https://w9awe.org/>

NJF Grand Canyon Expedition 2023

There are those who undertake great adventures requiring boldness, stamina, planning and grit.

There are others who go along to drive and play radio. Ringo the RF Duck and I are in the latter category.

Darren, (ex-N9MTX), his son Devon and friend Keegan were determined to hike the Grand Canyon “rim-to-rim” (North Rim to South Rim). I was invited along to help with driving and happily accepted. This I can do. The hiking, not so much.

We departed home on Saturday after the boys finished marching in the Veterans’ Day parade in Quincy and made our way over the next two days to Page AZ and then to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon at the Kaibab Trailhead. After one more careful adjustment of their packs, the guys were off down the trail.



Then it was time to dig out the station, assemble everything in and on the Honda and play radio at the North Rim!



I had attempted to activate Grand Canyon National Park on two other occasions with dismal results. I think these were prior to the establishment of the current spotting sites, or maybe I just didn't go at it right. At any rate, my two prior attempts had netted a total of eight (😞) contacts. I was determined to remedy that situation.

By some miracle of modern technology, there was cell coverage on the North Rim! I put out a quick text to my "bunch" (W9DP, NU7J, W9WE, WM4D, W6LEN and N9MM) as to my whereabouts, and Danny was the first one in the log on 20 meter CW with Tom and Jess quickly following. A bit over an hour later, there were 65 contacts in the log on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters; and I felt better.

Just outside the park was a portion of the Kaibab National Forest. This particular location just happened to also be a "two-fer" with the Arizona Trail National Historic Trail. Danny was once again the first in the log of forty-six contacts, all on 20 meter CW. I didn't stick around long (40 minutes) because I had a lot of ground to cover and wasn't sure where I was going to spend the night.



North and west of the national forest, I located Pipe Spring National Monument. The sun was going down and I lingered just long enough to put 26 contacts in the log. Danny must have been camped by the radio as he was first in line again!

It was now dark and I had no plans for camping. It turned out that I could have pulled off at any one of numerous places along the highway and successfully “boondocked”; however, I was tired and not really wanting too much of a challenge. As I pulled into Kanab, Utah, my unvoiced plea was, “Lord, give me a sign.” He did. “La Quinta”. Ah....why not? Sixty-four bucks (AAA) was a nice surprise. I could camp another time....

My target the next morning was a charming location named Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park. What a beautiful drive it was north of Kanab to get to the park! I don’t know when I have ever been so fascinated with the roadside geology. I should have taken pictures, but I was a bit busy driving. At any rate, I arrived at the park.

The sands are indeed “coral pink”, and the park is beautiful and apparently very popular. Though it was a weekday, there were many family groups enjoying the hiking. Several were out on the dunes with their “boogie boards” zooming down the tall sand dunes.

It cost me ten bucks to get into the park for “day use”, and I decided I might as well see if I could get the cost down to a dime per QSO. I had at least SOME cell coverage. NU7J was one of the first to find me; he spotted me, and the contacts came pretty quickly. It

took only 30 minutes to get the first 50 on 20 cw after which I migrated to 17, 15, 12 and 10 and even did some digital operating. The parking lot was comfortable, the scenery was fascinating, and the contacts just kept coming. When I hit 103, I decided it was time to find another spot.



US 89 goes from Kanab, Utah to the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. I set my sights on that “runnable site”. However, along the way, I found “House Valley Rock Road” going south to the Paria Canyon Wilderness Area. What could go wrong? I turned the Honda south....

This summer, Melba and I had decided that the Taylor Highway from Chicken to Eagle Alaska was the worst road we had ever driven. It has now lost that distinction. House Valley Rock Road is worse. I was immediately confronted by a sign that said, “Impassable when Wet”. It wasn’t wet. But I believe them. The ruts, potholes and washboarding were epic. It was windy. Sand was blowing everywhere. I dodged tumbleweeds. I kept meeting Jeeps. The drivers’ faces looked determined...and a bit pale....

This particular BLM land has two designations for WWFF (one in Utah and one in Arizona) but only one for POTA. I ran it in both states for a total of 93 contacts. Danny, Norm, Tom and Jess were in the log within the first 4 minutes. The Utah segment was run only on 20 and the Arizona only on the higher bands.

As I was crossing the border into Arizona, I saw a sign to the Stateline Campground. It was midday and I didn't need a campground. However, checking the list, I discovered that the campground is a POTA site (?!?!). So....why not? When I pulled in, I also discovered it was the terminus of the Arizona Scenic Trail! Woohoo. Thirty-three contacts later, I was headed south, hoping to eventually find a "real" road.... Admittedly, the road was better in Arizona than it was in Utah.

I had a campground reservation on the South Rim for Tuesday night, but it was well after dark when I arrived. I quickly set up the station and prepared for a long evening of banging out contacts....

Nothing worked. I had a terrible "RF in the shack" issue. The PC screen kept flashing on and off. The radio locked up. My CW keying was intermittent. I felt like a LID. What the heck?? I suffered through a couple of dozen contacts, shut everything off and bedded down in the back of the van to a fitful rest plagued by questions....

The next morning in the Visitor Center parking lot, things were a bit better but still flaky. Danny and Tom asked, "OK, what did you change?" Um....nothing? But the more I thought about it, the topic of mag mount position kept bothering me. While in the BLM site, I'd rotated the mag mount a bit to keep the 17' vertical from blowing off the car!! (And, no, I wasn't driving with it on the car!) Before leaving the national park for one more activation, I restored it to its former location. Voila! Problems solved. Bad ground?

At any rate, I drove out of the park and then south toward Flagstaff, stopping at the Wupatki National Monument. I had very little time to spare as the guys were headed up to the South Rim and would need to be picked up. Nine minutes on 17 meter CW got 15 contacts into the log. Expedition over. Success! Total for the trip was a bit over 500 contacts in 10 activations for POTA and 8 for WWFF. The battery held out like a champ. Except for the mag mount issue, everything worked.

The guys survived the hike. Keegan: "The last four and a half miles was the hardest thing I've done in my life!" I believe you, Keegan!

2023 Illinois QSO Party Portable Recap- K9ZA

A successful Portable operation depends on what the individual determines to be a success. You need to be prepared for something that feels a little like Field Day and a little like mobile. Results will definitely not be the same as being in your cozy home QTH. The approach I have taken has been to find a county(ies) under-represented in past events and activate at least one if not three.

The first task is to find a site that is accessible, on public land or where permission may be obtained, and at or within a 300' range of the actual county line with no "wet" boundary lines. I begin by reviewing past results to identify possible counties. Next, a Gazetteer Illinois Atlas is consulted to find possible spots. Google maps further assists in finding potential sites. Then finally I take a field trip to assess the finalists in person. After all this the best possible place is finalized.

Next task is to assemble the station components prior to the QSO Party weekend. I have a portable station pretty much dedicated for that purpose with only the Icom 706 used in the shack as a secondary rig. Each time before going out every item is checked to make sure it is there and working. Extra parts, connectors and cables are brought also just in case (these days you cannot just run down to a Radio Shack to pick up a coax plug or roll of solder.) Make sure you bring some basic tools along because it would not be pleasant to be 20 miles away from a WalMart and really need a crescent wrench. The worst thing that can happen is to nearly ready to fire up the station and need something.

Every year curious folks come by. This year my place was a small area at a T intersection of county roads. Gravel beneath the grass led me to believe the areas is periodically used to store gravel and rock when county road work is done. A farmer in a combine did not stop to talk, he simply did a 360 around me to make sure I was not a national threat and make sure I knew that he knew I was there. Other years I have had interesting political discussions and was once thought to be out Coyote hunting. These are great opportunities to tell folks a little about what we geeky hams do for fun.

I had hoped to have the first contact logged by 1pm but technical issues cropped up. All in all, everything was ultimately the result of operator error. Once the computer, Winlink, and radio were all talking with each other the madness began. I opened on 10 meter hoping to get a couple dx contacts but things just did not work out. After two agonizing contacts I moved to 40 meters for some search and pounce. The third station worked ended up being an unannounced fixed station in the county I drove two hours to activate! This has happened three years now. Wouldn't you know. I just chuckled and hoped to find him on another band later.

Stations that were on 7MHz were sought and then it was time to move to 14MHz. Some stations made it into the log and then I was able to wiggle into an "open" frequency. My qso rate skyrocketed and its possible someone spotted me. I was feeling fat and sassy until qsb set in. Stations started coming in and without strong filtering it was time to move on. Back to 40 meters just in time for the band to really be strong. Attempts to find a frequency to cq were fruitless so back to search and pounce. Rates remained low because many Illinois stations just could not hear me through the qrm. It seemed that the Chicago-land big stations hammered me from the north, and a few big stations from my home Metro-east St. Louis area got me from the south. Only thing to do was to take a short walk, nibble on some snacks, then press forward as best possible.

Sunset came and by the time I noticed, things were totally dark out in there in the country. You don't know darkness until you are away from light pollution. Time remained but it was time to qrt because; 1) my tinitus was ringing after listening to all that cw, 2) the supply of Coke Zero had run out, and 3) I had body waste needs that a McDonalds drink cup could not handle. The drive home seemed longer than the trip going out but a truck stop sandwich helped. My goal to make at least 100 q's without any personal injuries was attained. No equipment failure occurred even though I tried for a while to transmit into an antenna that was not connected. One more accomplishment was to finally feel comfortable using Amateur Contest Log for cw.

Next year I will not be as focused on non-activated counties and stay closer to home. Hopefully the additional operating time and log program proficiency will allow me to reach 150 q's, with a stretch goal of 200. See you on the bands. 73, Carl



Another ILQP story:

Portable 2-County lines of Alexander and Union. First time doing a portable setup. Had a few learning curves. Had a lot of fun. Thanks for all the Q's 73 WY9S Christopher

This was the first time doing a portable setup for IL QSO Party. I started planning about 6 months ago after doing a POTA activation with our club. It got me thinking of finding a county close to my QTH but in need of activating. Plan was to try a 2-county line spot. But after driving to a couple locations that I thought that would work out, still coming up with nothing. So I decided on a spot that would work but only single county. The spot was in a park so maybe the POTA spots would help the QSO count. The week leading up to the event, making lists and organizing equipment to take got me thinking again about a 2-county line spot. Back on the Google Maps, found a county line spot again. Tried Apple Maps at the same couple spots. Narrowed it down to this spot or back to single county spot. So the morning of ILQSO party, I got up a little earlier to drive out and check this spot out. All else fails I got a backup. Arrived at the location on the Alexander and Union county line. Perfect. Started to set up the push-up pole, roll out coax, ground radials, power cord, generator, laptops and radio. Did a quick check on the SWR on the antennas. Good to go. Started up radio did some testing on the air. Found audio and power out was low. Adjusted audio and radio settings. Finally got it. This was also the first time using this radio for SSB. Previous only used for FT-8 and digital modes. Little learning curve. Contest started got bugs worked out. Started making contacts.

Overall plan was to do better than my previous ILQP scores, so goal was 400 q's and 100 multi, score of 40,000. The time finally came when I hit that point and my score just kept climbing. More QSOs coming in and multi slowed way down. At the end of the day I was very happy with the 616 q's, 101 multi, raw score of 62,832.

Setup used was

Rig: Yaesu FT-710 100 watts

Push-up pole and homemade drive over base

Antennas: Chameleon EMCOMM III base and 40m dipole. Alpha Delta 4-position antenna switch. Lmr-400 coax.

Samplex 35amp power supply

Generac 2500watt generator

N1MM logger+ software

Heil Proheadset

Ford transit connect van

Original antenna setup was going to be 80m, 40m and 20m dipoles on a crank-up tower. But couple weeks before contest I was talking with a Elmer of mine. He recommended spending time on the higher bands due to sun spot/ sun cycle activity. The 3 dipoles chosen wouldn't work on 15m and 10m, so I changed up antennas and went with Chameleon multi band and 40m dipole on push-up pole. This worked out well, but on 20m I think the dipole might of worked better than the long wire.

At the end of the day I was very pleased in the outcome. Now the waiting game to see where I finished in the rankings. Since I had all the stuff loaded up to play radio, on Monday I activated 2 new POTA parks near me that just got added: K-10135 and K-for all the q's

Thanks, 73, WY9S

More ILQP Stuff ~~NØBEL~~ portable setup:



H44WA update:

If you worked them, or if you didn't, here were some of the H44WA antennas in use on the beach on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands:





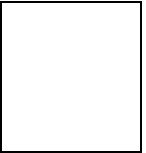
A timeless tidbit courtesy of NB4C

Two of the greatest qualities
to have in life are:



PATIENCE
and **WISDOM**

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



December meeting: Wednesday, December
6, 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: <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

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