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# THE FEEDLINE

Volume 48, Issue 1 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club January 2024

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## Minutes December 2023

The December 2023 meeting of the Western Illinois ARC was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Ed Cozart, W9US. Introductions were made; there were 19 attending in person and 2 via Zoom. Motion by WB9EWM (KB9FIN) to accept the November minutes as printed in the newsletter, motion passed.

Treasurer's report was presented by Arnold, K9VXD. Arnold reported we again had interest income and that club income had exceeded expenditures for the year through October. Arnold also mentioned that George Gross, KD9KB had passed away and a memorial will be sent. Arnold also mentioned that the club's liability insurance carrier has to be changed this year as the one we have been using in the past no longer supports insuring radio clubs. The ARRL has a new suggested carrier we need to look into.

Repeater board, no report.

Club station- the items donated by K2PEY have still not yet been acted on by the executive committee and that needed to be done soon.

Contest- N9JF reported that the ILQP logs have been scored and our club came in 4<sup>th</sup> in the local club competition. Jim reported that 359 logs had been received.

Old business, Andy, KA0SNL, reported the latest version of the club constitution had been posted to the club web page.

Danny, W9DP, reported that the changeover from the old mailman.qth.net email list would be completed by the end of the year and urged those that have not joined the new [wiaarc@groups.io](mailto:wiaarc@groups.io) to do so very soon. Anyone not joining themselves will have to be added manually and the old list would no longer function after the first of the year.

There were no applications for new membership.

New business – K9VXD asked for direction on making the usual donations to local charities again this year. Motion by Danny W9DP (KD9VUW) to send \$25.00 each to the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Toys for Tots and Honor Flight. Motion passed.

Election of 2024 officers followed. WB9EWM, KD9PPJ and N9JF served on the committee. WB9EWM reported the nominating committee had a slate of officers consisting of Ed Cozart, W9US for President, Dave Williams, KB9FIN for Vice-President, Alan Cermak, K9AJC for Secretary and Jack Wilson, KD9PPJ for Treasurer. Chris Schults, NR9Q and Phil Wilis, KB9GIY for open repeater board members. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion by WM4D (WM9DX) that nominations be closed and the nominating committee's presented slate of officers be voted on by acclamation. Motion passed unanimously.

Net Control Stations for January – Jan. 3 – K9AJC, Jan. 10 KD9PPJ, Jan. 17 W9WE, Jan. 24 W9DP, Jan. 31 K9AJC, Feb. 7 W9DP.

Respectfully submitted, Danny W9DP

*DX info stealthily purloined from ARRL DX News*

QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 50 ARLD050 from ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT December 14, 2023 To all radio amateurs

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

**FINLAND, OH.** Special event station OF9X is QRV until December 31. Activity is on all bands using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via OH2BH.

**GUATEMALA, TG.** Steve, K4IM is QRV as TG9AWS. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using mainly FT8 but plans to soon be active using CW and SSB as well. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via N2OO.

**FALKLAND ISLANDS, VP5.** Special event station VP8FLY will be QRV from December 19 to 31 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Falkland Islands Government Aviation Service. QSL direct to VP8LP.

**VIET NAM, XV.** Roman, RN5M is QRV as XV9MA from Mui ne. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 6 meters. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via LY5M.

**LAOS, XW.** Vincent, F4BKV is QRV as XW4KV until mid-2024. Activity is mostly on 15 and 10 meters using FT8. QSL to home call.

**ROMANIA, YO.** Special event station YR8XMAS is QRV until January 10, 2024. QSL via operators' instructions.

**ST. HELENA, ZD7.** Chris, HB9FIY and his wife Agata will be QRV as ZD7CA and ZD7AA, respectively, from December 16 to January 14, 2024. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via EA5GL.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, NAQCC CW Sprint, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 CW and Mini-Test 80 CW are on tap for December 18 to 20.

Please see December QST, page 65, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

## Parks on the Air Update for WIARC

Sunspots have made the higher bands more useful, summer travel encouraged park activations, and the stats for the members of WIARC have changed considerably. You may want to consider activating from inside your vehicle for the next couple of months!

Here are the updated totals as of December 18:

<b>W9DP</b>	<b>6 activations of 6 parks</b>	<b>2224 parks worked</b>
<b>NU7J</b>	<b>143 activations of 97 parks,</b>	<b>2294 parks worked</b>
<b>W9US</b>	<b>17 activations of 7 parks</b>	<b>595 parks worked</b>
<b>NR9Q</b>	<b>29 activations of 10 parks</b>	<b>650 parks worked</b>
<b>AA9GL</b>		<b>132 parks worked</b>
<b>KB9FIN</b>	<b>26 activations of 21 parks</b>	<b>1159 parks worked</b>
<b>KM9DX</b>	<b>99 activations of 63 parks</b>	<b>526 parks worked</b>
<b>WM4D</b>	<b>147 activations of 83 parks</b>	<b>409 parks worked</b>
<b>WM9DX</b>	<b>24 activations of 21 parks</b>	<b>79 parks worked</b>
<b>N9JF</b>	<b>599 activations of 343 parks</b>	<b>1060 parks worked</b>
<b>K9AJC</b>	<b>44 activations of 22 parks</b>	<b>2567 parks worked</b>
<b>KW9Q</b>	<b>26 activations of 14 parks</b>	<b>578 parks worked</b>
<b>KO0KER</b>		<b>5 parks worked</b>
<b>WG0ATS</b>	<b>5 activations of 2 parks</b>	<b>149 parks worked</b>
<b>W9MDB</b>		<b>187 parks worked</b>
<b>NI9M</b>	<b>24 activations of 8 parks</b>	<b>60 parks worked</b>
<b>KB0V</b>		<b>91 parks worked</b>
<b>KA0SNL</b>		<b>6 parks worked</b>
<b>KD9TTB</b>	<b>24 activations of 14 parks</b>	<b>234 parks worked</b>
<b>KE0MHJ</b>	<b>2 activations of 2 parks</b>	<b>104 parks worked</b>
<b>WB2UFO</b>		<b>63 parks worked</b>
<b>W9WE</b>		<b>73 parks worked</b>
<b>KD9VUW</b>	<b>55 activations of 25 parks</b>	<b>384 parks worked</b>

## **H44WA Dxpediton to Guadalcanal Island, Solomon Islands – November, 2023 (report from WIARC member NU7J)**

For three weeks In November, six members of the Western Washington DX Club went on a DX-pedition to Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. H44WA Team members included N7QT, N7JP, WA7CPA, N9ADG, KC7EFP, and myself (NU7J). Most of the team members had operated together in one or more previous DX-peditions (most recently T88WA, Palau, a year earlier). This was my first DX-pedition so I had a lot to learn.

Guadalcanal was selected because it was in the Pacific, relatively high in demand (#76 most wanted according to ClubLog), and because of its WWII historical significance. N7QT travelled to Guadalcanal in advance on a scouting mission to check noise levels at the hoped-for operating site, and to coordinate with our future hosts at Ginger Beach Retreat. The 20-acre site turned out to be ideal for our purposes. The site was 20 acres of beachfront, miles from the nearest power line. There were 4 bungalows and a very large covered pavilion for the operating position, eating area, storage area, etc.

After a day of rest, antenna work began. The goal was to erect as many antennas as possible before sunset. We set up 3 stations with K3S radios, bandpass filters, identical networked laptops with N1MM logging software, amplifiers and a wide range of antennas for all bands from 6 – 160M. Vertical Dipole Arrays were placed at water's edge for 10, 12, 15, 17, and 20M, aimed at NA or EU. Two dedicated CrankIRs were placed closer to the operating position for 30 and 40M. Two Quarter wave verticals with large radial fields were installed in big open fields for 60/80 and for 160M. A reversible Beverage On Ground (BOG) was stretched out to the beach in the direction of NA or EU, for the low bands. A 6 – 20M Buddi-Hex rounded out the antenna farm. All of the antennas performed well, and the band conditions were excellent most of the time.

We managed to get all of the antennas up in one day except for the two low band antennas and receive antenna. The team decided to begin operations the following day and to install the 80 and 160M antennas as time allowed later in the week. Staff members at Ginger Beach retreat were very helpful to the team. Several strong, young, Solomon Islanders helped us with the most physically demanding antenna work, such as filling and moving sand bags, laying ground radials, etc. They even built a temporary structure to protect the generator from rain. What we most appreciated was that our local helpers made themselves available 24X7 to transport gasoline to the generator and to fill the generator every 4 to 6 hours.

The US Dollar went a long way in the Solomon Islands. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that we would not be charged additionally for the gasoline, or for transportation or any of the other services provided by our friendly and helpful hosts at Ginger Beach Retreat. Our hosts threw a 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Jack N7JP, and they also threw a party for the team and staff on our final night in Guadalcanal. They gave us T-shirts and necklaces to commemorate our time in Guadalcanal. They provided meals and snacks and did their best to accommodate our needs. Our hosts even took us out fishing on a boat, then cleaned and cooked the fish for dinner upon our return. In short, there wasn't anything we asked for that they didn't provide.

The biggest sacrifice was that we turned off their generator to reduce the noise floor. The entire staff and extended family members who lived at Ginger Beach were

without power for the 2 weeks we operated! In exchange, we split the cost of the newly purchased generator, and we installed a new wifi system and extended their wifi coverage to include the bungalows and beach area. It was a win-win situation; and when we left, they were genuinely sad to see us go!

We operated in teams of two, on 4-hour shifts. The third station was available for any unassigned operator, and was used more often than not. At times one operator would operate 2 stations at once on FT8. This worked especially well during the dark and tiresome late night shifts on the low bands.

I knew the pileups would be large, but at times they were much larger than I imagined and were very difficult to manage. At first, I was overwhelmed; but after a few days of practice, I gained some confidence and improved my skills well enough to minimize further embarrassment. Hint: The most important lesson I learned was to set the CW filters wide open, even when there are hundreds of callers. It seems counterintuitive at first but it works best to allow your ears and brain to do the work. That keeps the callers guessing where you're listening, so they don't all pile up on top of each other. I enjoyed finding the weaker stations calling in the clear, up or down from the main pileup freq. The lessons learned from the business end of the pileup will be very helpful for hunting DX.

Thanks to location and local noise abatement measures, the only noise heard at H44WA was atmospheric. On the higher bands the noise level was S0, and very weak signals could be heard clearly. 10 and 12M were amazing all day and most night time hours as well. We managed to make around 1400 contacts on 160M, mostly NA and EU. Eighty and 160 contacts are a lot of work, but I know our nighttime efforts were greatly appreciated by the low band aficionados. We did our best to track the gray line on the low bands, but sometimes the high bands were too good to pass up; and sometimes we just didn't have enough operators available at the critical gray line hour.

When it was all said and done, the H44WA team had racked up close to 60K contacts, which met or exceeded our expectations. The contacts were spread fairly evenly among NA, EU and AS, and evenly among all 3 modes (CW, SSB, and FT8). Thanks to the sponsors listed on the H44WA website, including DX Engineering who provided 2000 feet of high quality LMR400 and RG8X coax and connectors.

It was especially fun to work familiar call signs, and it was a real morale booster to receive thanks from stations worked. A highlight for me was to work N9JF on a few bands, and surprise Jim with a QSO on the dark side (...gulp...FT8!) I hope we were successful at handing out an ATNO or band fills to many hams all around the world. There were some hardships that will go unmentioned, but suffice it to say I'm glad to be home and glad that we were able to be good will ambassadors for the ham radio community. Thanks for working us, and see you in the pileups!  
73 and Good Dxing, Tom, NU7J



H44WA operating position with nice beach view. The sight and sound of the waves occasionally put me to sleep in the middle of a pileup!



H44WA team: NU7J, N9ADG, WA7CPA, N7QT, N7JP, KC7EFP





**H44WA VDAs on beach overlooking Iron Bottom Sound, sight of major WWII Naval Battle**



**Guadalcanal is the largest of 900 islands, 300 miles south of the equator. The Solomon Islands stretches over 900 miles in the Coral Sea. Our operating site is on the north coast, straight across from Iron Bottom Sound. The 12KM drive from Honiara takes approx. 2 hours drive time because of potholes! On Guadalcanal, even the potholes have potholes.**



**Guadalcanal American Memorial, on a high point overlooking Honiara. The Memorial honors those Americans and its allies who lost their lives during the Guadalcanal Campaign of World War II (August 7, 1942 to February 9, 1943). The memorial consists of a 4-foot square, 24-foot tall pylon on which is inscribed:**

**This memorial has been erected by the United States of America in humble tribute to its sons and its allies who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the liberation of the Solomon Islands 1942-1943**

**The Solomon Islanders have not forgotten. They are very friendly to Americans.**





**One of many aircraft at Vilu War Museum (Bring Mosquito Repellent!) There are lots of war relics scattered around the island, and many sunken ships and planes in “Iron Bottom Sound”. A popular dive site nearby has an underwater B17 just off shore.**

#### **H44WA operations site**



***Get your Park ON! Winter Chill* will occur December 30-31 in celebrating the advent of Winter. The event is open to all WWFF Activators and Hunters and is sponsored by the U.S. (KFF) affiliate of World Wide Flora and Fauna (WWFF).**

**The GYPO Winter Chill (GYPO WC) will be an international event inviting all Activators through the world to participate. Hunters everywhere are invited to search out and contact Activators everywhere, making this truly a worldwide, DX event.**

***Get Your Park ON! Winter Chill* will start December 30 at 0000 UTC and run through December 31 at 2359 UTC.**

**This event will include *Get Your Park ON! Winter Chill* Special Event Stations (GYPO SES). These stations will be active from KFF parks throughout the weekend operating with 1x1 callsigns, e.g., N5G. Hunters are encouraged to work as many of these Special Event Stations as possible, with special recognition given to those working five or more or working all for a Clean Sweep.**

**A complete list of the Special Event Stations will be provided at the start of GYPO Winter Chill. Their operating plans and schedules will be posted on their individual QRZ pages.**

**More information on rules, web sites, awards, etc. can be found on [wwff.us](http://wwff.us).**

### **Cross-Training (this is from N9ADG)**

I'm writing this while on the way back from an 18-day DXpedition as part of team H44WA. A DXpedition is similar to a marathon contest, in that the goal is to get as many unique band and mode contacts in the log as possible. Even in the final hours of the operation, callers were clamoring to get in the log, especially to fill open band and mode slots. Pileups were available approximately 22 hours a day; there were lulls during the local midday hours due to the equatorial latitude. It was great practice for contests, using all of the same tools as in a contest situation: computer logging with *N1MM Logger+*, K3 radios, and antennas. It was also an opportunity to learn best practices with other operators and discover obscure but useful radio or logger functions. Consider traveling to a DX location and operating for a weekend or a week to improve your skills and have a ton of fun. You might even find a rental QTH to make it an arrive-and-operate-style operation.

...and another one from N9ADG:

### **Operating Tip**

When calling a running station, the goal is to obtain a contact as quickly as possible. The contact should look like this:

Running station: CQ TEST N9ADG N9ADG TEST

Calling station: W7XYZ

Running station: W7XYZ 599 WA

Calling station: 599 ID



Running station: TU N9ADG TEST

And that's it. Don't add anything else. Specifically, don't call the running station with their call sign. Don't bother with 'DE' in front of your call sign when calling. Don't send any call signs with the exchange. Don't send 599 twice. These guidelines, to omit all information except that which is absolutely required, can also apply in any pileup situation.

Copied from Facebook POTA page, used with permission from author John Lawrence:

**Dead run! Went to do an activation using FT-8 for a change. Spent three days at the house setting up the IC 706MKIIG with the digi-rig, and GridTracker with WSJT-X. WORKED LIKE A CHAMP!**

**Got to the park, and everything fell apart.**

**First, no audio to or from the DigiRig.**

**Evidently DigiRig didn't like the USB on the back edge of the notebook, it wanted the one on the side.**

**Then I forgot how to change the grid for WSJT-X. 30 minutes into that brain-dead maneuver of mine i remembered how.**

**Finally everything was set up, so i got myself spotted on the POTA website.**

**Then the standing wave was out in left-field.**

**The LDG was lying, or the WRC didn't like the ground-plane, lack of moisture in the soil, WHO KNOWS??**

**After messing with the WRC til my feet were cold, i decided I would start the car and warm up, and eat my sack lunch. I could always re-spot after lunch, right?**

**NO!!**

**The stupid car battery chose that moment to croak!**

**So I packed everything up to could get out of there, and was getting ready to call Triple A to bring a battery, or jump start my car**

**In a moment of pure inspiration I thought I'd jump it off my LiFePo battery.**

**Alas, the wife had removed the cables from the car. DRAT!!**

**In another moment of divine inspiration, I decided I could remove the inline glass fuses from the Icom power cable and use the little fuse-holder contacts to act as jumper cables.**

**Smashed the little fuse contacts to fit snugly on the battery cable-clamp-bolts, and Viola!!!**

**It started and I drove it to my tire shop to have a new battery installed.**

**Just wanted to share this so everyone that reads it knows that all things are possible when you HamHarder!!**

## ARRL RF Safety Committee Develops New Guidelines to Communicate RF Safety

Radio amateurs now have a new tool from ARRL to help answer questions about their stations. Neighbors of amateur radio operators are sometimes concerned about transmissions and radio frequency exposure from amateur stations.

The [ARRL RF Safety Committee](#), with their international counterparts at the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS), and the Swedish Society of Radio Amateurs (SSA), has developed a new set of guidelines to help amateurs interact with and talk to their neighbors about RF exposure.

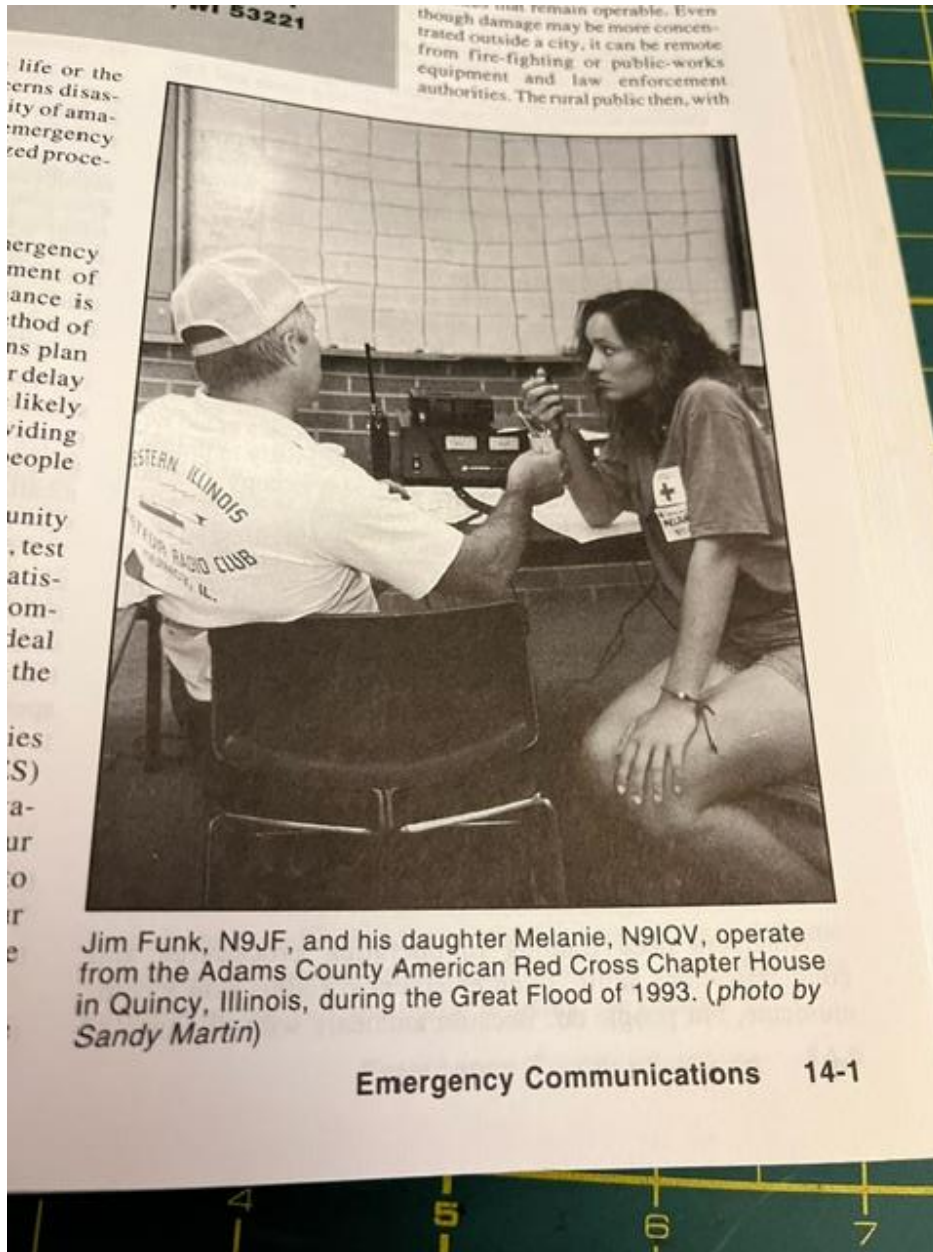
Chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee Greg Lapin, N9GL, said the new informational PDF found on the ARRL RF Exposure page, [Helping Amateurs Interact with Neighbors Asking About Radio Transmissions](#), was developed after a year of discussions about RF safety.

"Neighbors may be alarmed by some of the misinformation about RF safety that is available from a variety of sources. By following the exposure regulations from the Federal Communications Commission, we can be confident that our families and neighbors are safe," Lapin said.

Lapin added that RF exposure regulations are based on decades of trustworthy research. He also encouraged all amateur radio operators to perform exposure assessments for their stations to make sure they meet those regulations.



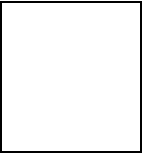
Before you go...here is a "blast from the past" sent to me by a guy I worked from a park recently.



Jim Funk, N9JF, and his daughter Melanie, N9IQV, operate from the Adams County American Red Cross Chapter House in Quincy, Illinois, during the Great Flood of 1993. (photo by Sandy Martin)

Emergency Communications 14-1

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



January meeting: Wednesday, January 3,  
2024  
Adams County American Red Cross  
Building, 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:w9awe@qsl.net)  
WIARC email reflector: [wiarc@mailman.qth.net](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month  
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