
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 48, Issue 6 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club June 2024

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the last WIARC meeting:

The May 1, 2024, meeting of WIARC was called to order at 7 pm by President W9US with the following members and guests present:

W9US, KB9FIN, KB9GIY, WB9EWM, KB9WDC, W9WE, W9WEB, N9JF, KD9VUW, W6JFL, KD0HDL, W9DP, KD0DKE, WA9GBC, WA0VHI, K9AJC and KB0V via ZOOM.

Introductions made...

Ed W9US brought up the minutes from the April meeting, seeking a motion to approve, but a question was brought up by Dave KB9FIN about the newsletter not being sent out by email to the members, Jim N9JF stated that he would ensure that the newsletter would go to the Group IO list in the future, then Dave KB9FIN made a motion to approve and second by WB9EWM and approved by members present.

Treasurers Report: KD9PPJ not present.

Repeater Board: John WB9EWM reported that as of the last meeting the 146.940 repeater had been moved to the new site and there were some problems with it, so John and Dave KB9FIN went out and tested the repeater SWR and did a Db test, and then found several coaxial lines not being used and located one line with a SWR of 1.3, so a jumper was made and found that the antenna being used for the repeater is at approximately 350 foot. The duplexer is not the best with a 3Db loss, and John found a 6 can duplexer on QRZ for sale for \$500 dollars. John is recommending that we look at replacement of the duplexer at some point, understanding that it is a large sum of money. While cleaning the other repeater site at KHQA, he discovered another DX1X repeater, so we now have 3 of them. It is now stored with the others at the Red Cross. The Channel 7 site is re-furbishing floors and paint so the possibility that the repeaters may not be up due to the maintenance. Spoke more about other antennas taken down and placed inside that were no longer being used and about access control to the repeaters. Possible running a coax outside to be able to just drive up and make the changes without going inside the building.

Duplexers will be discussed later after more research has been made.

Contest Committee: Dave W9WE spoke about upcoming contests and the New England QSO party in which he placed and received a certificate for 8th place in Illinois using all CW for the contest. You can find more information about upcoming contests and QSO parties at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php#16199>.

Membership Committee: Jim, N9JF reported that the paid membership stands at 60 and there are still others that he needs to check with. Some have already acknowledged that they haven't paid and need to get money into the club. Last year the membership number was 69 members.

Club Station: Everything cleaned out but Dave KB9FIN stated that he received an email from the Red Cross stating that we can move our equipment back in the room after May 11, 2024. Dave suggested that we do that as soon as possible after this date. He stated that he also spoke to them about Field Day, and they said that they could not guarantee entrance to the building till after July 1, 2024. Ed W9US stated that the June meeting will have to be held at the Old Ellington School site at 30th and Lindell Avenue, then back to the Red Cross for the July meeting. Field day was spoke about briefly, John suggested the possibility of getting the portable tower from Adams County and setting it up at the Ellington School site, Ed offered his area up north on the river and Dave suggested a POTA/ Field Day site set up. Checking on pavilion price to possibly rent the Siloam Springs pavilion. Field Day is the 22/23 of June 2024.

Old Business: Hamfest, Joe W6JFL, reported on Payment to the American Legion in Palmyra and the cost of the rental of the building, the cost of some of the prizes and the soft drinks, water, and snacks. (\$600 for the main room, \$250 for the testing area, \$100 for the extra day, and \$350 deposit which is refundable after cleaning up of the hall is completed and inspected by American Legion personnel.) Pam KB9WDC stated that they received a \$25 donation from Hy-Vee and Panera donated cup lids and stirrers. Cash box and tills have been taken care of. Joe also stated that he would be there on Friday at about 2PM for set up.

Tickets were available at the meeting for purchase.

New Business: Jim N9JF brought up that Jack KD9PPJ has been doing a lot of work as the new Treasurer straightening out the bank accounts and Jim stated that he did get a copy of the incorporation from the Secretary of State and Jim is in contact with his tax representative about getting caught up with the filings. One E.I.N number has been established and will be used with all future filing of the club.

Joe W6JFL brought up the Big Muddy podcast interview that Jack KD9PPJ set up and said that it went very well. He and Al N9MAF went, and a good time was had by all.

Dave W9WE brought up the Bridge the Gap run, on the 11 of May 2024 and that the Administration is need of assistance from volunteer Amateur radio operators.

NCS stations: May 8 – W9WE, May 15 – K9AJC, May 22 – WB9EWM, May 29 – W9US, June 5 – W9WE, June 12 – W9DP, June 19 – WB9EWM, June 26 – W9US, July 3 – W9DP

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:39pm. Motion to adjourn was made by WB9EWM and seconded by KB9FIN, motion passed by members present.

Respectfully submitted by K9AJC.

June has been designated as Amateur Radio Month in Illinois, and “all residents are encouraged to join with Governor J.B. Pritzker in this admirable observance.”

(I was sent a lovely copy of the proclamation and am not smart enough to paste it here in it's original glory..... N9JF)



Membership update:

My copy of the membership list includes 68 members paid for 2024. There may have been a few more come into the POBox in the last couple of weeks as I e-mailed 12 members from 2023 who had not paid as of the May meeting.

N9JF, Membership Committee Chair

Age-appropriate humor and cw practice

https://youtu.be/8SKlykmc3j0?si=aQq1u4_b-aisEwqV

Updated band allocation maps.

https://www.icomamerica.com/lineup/amateur/Band_Plan_Map/

Dave Scranton

(From *The ARRL Letter for May 9, 2024*):

ARRL Volunteers Obtain Ham Exemption to Pennsylvania Handsfree Law

ARRL volunteers in Pennsylvania have successfully protected the legal right to use amateur radio while operating mobile within the state. A handsfree distracted driving bill had worked its way through the legislature over the past several years, and ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bob Famiglio, K3RF, successfully advocated for an exemption for licensed radio amateurs. "The bill survived until just before the latest vote, which stripped out our exemption but left in exemptions for commercial drivers, including truck drivers, bus drivers, and public transportation [drivers]," he wrote in a message to ARRL members in Pennsylvania.

In April, the exemption was stripped from the bill, sending Pennsylvania hams into a state of worry. ARRL members in the state rallied, contacting their state legislators to explain the benefit that licensed operators provide to the state. The bill also was going to remove the ability for first responders, such as volunteer firefighters, to use radios in their personally owned vehicles. "Hundreds of emails then went out to legislators and such and back to me. We also helped our volunteer emergency responders who were in the same boat as us with radio use from their personal cars. Many members are also emergency responders as well, and they picked up on this too," said Famiglio.

This week, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives voted in favor of accepting the bill with the exemption. The senate passed it last summer. The bill is now on its way to Governor Josh Shapiro's desk, where he is expected to sign it. Mobile use of amateur radio will continue in Pennsylvania, thanks to ARRL advocacy and government relations carried out by member-volunteers.

Where do we stand in Illinois, Missouri and Iowa with "hands-free" and radios? – N9JF

Park Stuff

There have been quite a few changes to the park programs in the past few months. Many WIARC members have been in the mix as chasers and activators. The updated stats as of May 7 are included in a separate article.

Two programs continue. I won't go into WHY there are two programs in this article as the reasons are complex, convoluted and somewhat political; and I don't know all the details well enough to list them usefully.

The facts are that Worldwide Flora and Fauna (WWFF) has been around for quite a few years. Parks on the Air (POTA) is an offshoot of WWFF that came to be after the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) program was such a success in 2016. Summits on the Air (SOTA) has nothing directly to do with any of these, nor does Islands on the Air (IOTA) nor Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLS), though many times the activations for those programs also produce logs for WWFF or POTA. Confused yet?

And we won't even get into the proposed WPLOTA...WalMart Parking Lots on the Air. Kidding...I'm kidding....

Recent developments have included POTA changing the numbers for all of their parks. Whoopee.... I decided to just roll with it and let others worry about the “why’s” and argue about the wisdom of doing so. I have enough to do without getting into those discussions. Both WWFF and POTA have added parks. The two organizations do not have the same criteria for adding parks. WWFF usually requires a minimum size of about a thousand acres, and the park must have something to do with “flora and fauna”. General Custer’s boyhood home on a third of an acre doesn’t cut it. POTA has created several “new parks” out of existing ones. WWFF doesn’t do “two-fers”, etc. WWFF allows contacts from private in-holdings whereas POTA does not. You can read all about the differences and similarities if you want to.

Let’s get on with the “real stuff”: activations and hunting.

K9AJC can tell you about his experience with “officials” at one of the new parks in Hannibal who park in front of (and hide) a “don’t go here” sign and then rag on you because you went there.

WM4D can tell you about his experience of going to a park (US-10699) and finding it “closed”...except that it wasn’t; someone tried coming into it from the other direction and couldn’t get there and decided to put a “park closed” banner across the entrance. What??

There are several new “parks” within the Tri-State Area. In Hannibal, there are three news ones and a “find”. The “find” is a portion (one of 87 tracts) of US-7680 that is almost across the road from a “new” one, US-11067. US-7680 is also KFF-5781 (WWFF). The other “new ones” in the Hannibal area are US-11068 and US-10903. Two of these are really easy to access (see K9AJC’s experience above), but the last one is apparently a foot-only job.

US-11066 is also close by; I’ve not been to that one yet. This is one where the “official information” says you can’t activate it from the car...but you can.... Another one like that is US-10788 at East Hannibal, where a small parking lot IS part of the site, according to the site manager from IDR. “Officially”, according to POTA, it’s not...except that one of the lower-level guys at POTA (per phone call) said he would have no problem with someone using that spot for activation. That park is part of KFF-4150 (for WWFF), which has two other portions, one of which isn’t even listed for POTA. US-10786 (Buckhorn) is part of KFF-1023. US-10787 is part of KFF-4106 (WWFF), as is the “new” POTA park, US-11351.

Confused yet?

Ken thinks a 15-park “rove” would be possible locally. One would have to plan it carefully and get several included during the “after-0000z time” and then find a few that one could activate after dark (safely) and then hit it really hard during the daylight hours following. One strategy would be to travel with other operators and use UHF/VHF for a few contacts to avoid getting “skunked” at a park or having to spend a lot of time. With normal propagation, getting 10 Qs at most parks would not be that tough; but I can tell you that from north of 60 degrees latitude, one appreciates the second op, two meters and 70 cm! You have to have several bands and modes in your arsenal. Some have done 20-park roves, but they included two-fers, three-fers, and other foolishness.

Send me your park stories.

On a related note, if all goes well, KB9CES and I will be in Canada during much of the month of June, and yes, we'll be running parks. By my calculations, there are about 40 parks between the Canadian border and Yellowknife, NWT. We'll hit some of them and hope the bands are not trashed by aurora!

Updated POTA stats for WIARC as of May 7:

W9DP	9 activations of 9 parks	2667 parks worked
NU7J	150 activations of 103 parks	2342 parks worked
W9US	19 activations of 8 parks	736 parks worked
NR9Q	29 activations of 10 parks	675 parks worked
AA9GL		173 parks worked
KB9FIN	30 activations of 25 parks	1244 parks worked
KM9DX	105 activations of 68 parks	575 parks worked
WM4D	181 activations of 101 parks	516 parks worked
WM9DX	24 activations of 21 parks	80 parks worked
N9JF	658 activations of 359 parks	1168 parks worked
K9AJC	47 activations of 24 parks	3060 parks worked
KW9Q	26 activations of 14 parks	614 parks worked
KOOKER		5 parks worked
WG0ATS	5 activations of 2 parks	153 parks worked
W9MDB		189 parks worked
NI9M	30 activations of 12 parks	71 parks worked
KB0V		114 parks worked
KA0SNL		108 parks worked
KD9TTB	24 activations of 14 parks	239 parks worked
KE0MHJ	2 activations of 2 parks	119 parks worked
WB2UFO		66 parks worked
W9WE		108 parks worked
KD9VUW	72 activations of 29 parks	429 parks worked

Field Day!

Ready or not, here it comes! ARRL Field Day will be held June 22 and 23.

Here is a link to the festivities. Our club, as best I know, will NOT be operating from the Red Cross building this year. Come to the June meeting to hear about the latest plans! Will it be a public demonstration or a "clandestine military operation"? (K4XU's terminology from many years ago....)

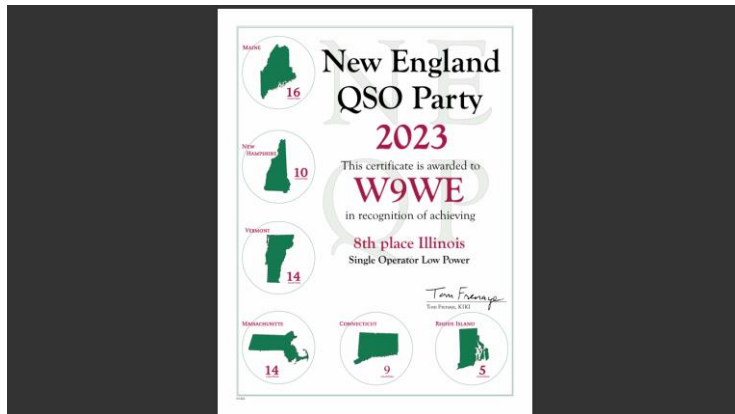
2024 ARRL Field Day is June 22-23

[Rules and Resources](#) | [Facebook Group](#) | [T-shirts & Gear](#) | [Join ARRL](#)

ARRL Field Day is always held on the 4th full weekend in June.

Jump to the [Field Day Rules](#) Page. Other Field Day resources are available below.

Congratulations, Dave!!



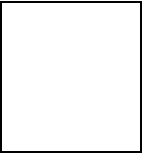
I'm not sure what they're doing, but it looks dangerous...



Well that's redundant..



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



June meeting: Wednesday June 5, 2024

EMA ANNEX 30TH AND LINDELL
PARKING ON STREET AND ON NORTH SIDE
OF BUILDING!

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@arri.net