
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 48, Issue 8 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club August 2024

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the July 2024 WIARC Meeting:

The July 3rd, 2024, meeting of WIARC was called to order at 7 pm by Ed W9US, President, with the following members and guests present: W9US, KB9FIN, K9AJC, WB9EWM, AA9GL, WA9GBC, KB9GIY, W9WE, AB9DU, KD9VUW, KD0HDL, KD0DKE, W9DP, WM4D, WA0VHI and NR9Q, NB4C AND N9JF via ZOOM. Introductions were made...

Ed W9US gave check in the amount of \$66 dollars to Dave KB9FIN to give to the Treasurer.

Treasurers Report: Jack KD9PPJ not present and no report given.

Repeater Board: John WB9EWM that all issues have been worked out and the antennas that are on the new tower are working as they should be. WB9EWM also stated that they needed to get to the repeater site and get equipment into the new cabinet. Nothing else to report.

Contest Committee: Dave W9WE stated that the 13 Colonies Special Event was going on through the 7th of July and Summer Thunder, 2m/70cm/440 and 6m, is currently going on until the end of July. Shawn KD9VUW gave a quick rundown of Field Day 2024 and was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift card to Tower of Pizza from W9US. Jim N9JF, reported that his Canada trip that possibly 1/3 of his contacts were first time activations. You can find more information about upcoming contests and QSO parties at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php#16199>.

Membership Committee: Jim, N9JF present over Zoom. There were no new applications for membership at this time.

Club Station: All the equipment needs to be put back in place and hooked up. WB9EWM is recommending that we get rid of the DSTAR radio and put in a Fusion Dual band Radio FT 500 or up to \$600 dollars. Motion was made by WB9EWM and second by KB9FIN, all members in favor of motion. Locks changed and done by WA0VHI.

New Business: Gloria Macomber, AC0KV spoke to WB9EWM about getting a group of members together and helping with getting a wire antenna up for her to use at her home in Luray, Missouri. At this time, we do not know what she has above her house and WB9EWM stated that he has all the materials to get an antenna up for her to get back on the air. At this time no date has been set to get this done.

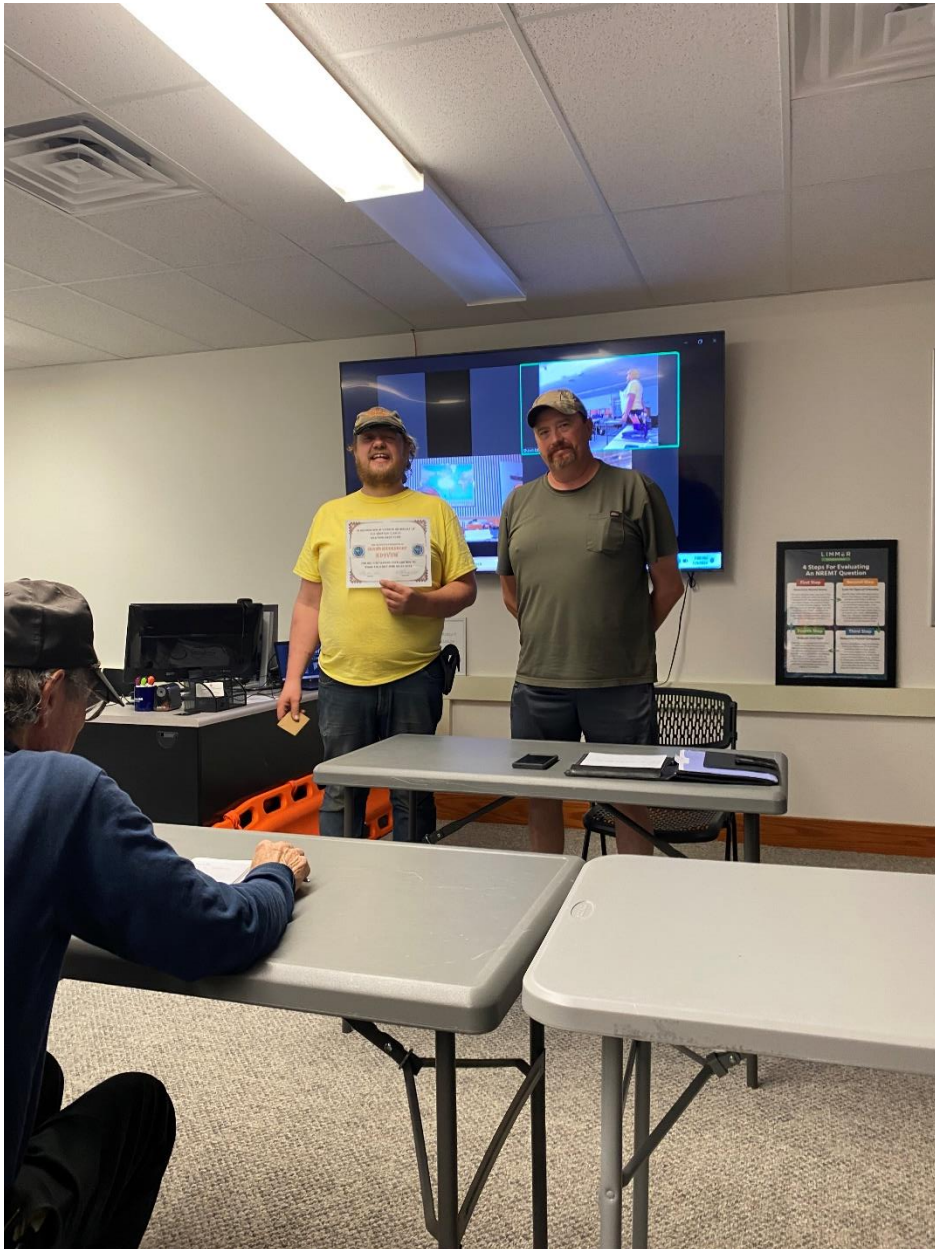
Old Business: None.

NCS stations: July 31 – KD9PPJ, August 7- W9WE, August 14 – KB9VUW, August 21 – W9DP, August 28 – WB9EWM, September 4 – W9DP

Before the meeting was adjourned, Chris NR9Q gave us all a quick tour of his living conditions and areas that he is working in while deployed over Zoom. His actual work site is about 45 minutes away from the living areas. They are laying communications cable/ fiber optics. He stated that he should be back home in October of this year

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40pm. Motion to adjourn was made by WB9EWM and seconded by NR9Q, motion passed by members present.

Respectfully submitted by K9AJC.



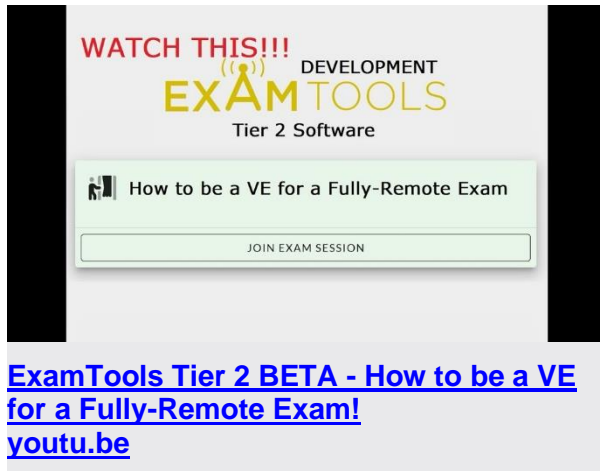
Shawn, KD9VUW, being presented with appreciation from W9US for his efforts regarding Field Day 2024.

Well done, Shawn!

VE News?

<https://youtu.be/BSH4baDNs48?si=YvVQP2j8TwGMmEsv>

Extra special features for all future tests.



[ExamTools Tier 2 BETA - How to be a VE for a Fully-Remote Exam! youtu.be](https://youtu.be/BSH4baDNs48?si=YvVQP2j8TwGMmEsv)

This will be implemented next year.

All VE's should start reviewing the new system for administrators of FCC tests.
W9WE

DX News Shamelessly Purloined from *ARRL DX News*

SB DX @ ARL \$ARLD026 ARLD026 DX news ZCZC AE26 QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 26 ARLD026

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT July 18, 2024 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.

MALTA, 9H. Bill, LA8FTA will be QRV as 9H/LA8FTA from Gozo Island, IOTA EU-023, from July 23 to August 1. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Christian, F4EBK is QRV as DU3/F4EBK from Luzon Island, IOTA OC 042, until January 2025. Activity is on 20, 15 and 10 meters typically around 0900 and then after 2100z. QSL via F4EUO.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Steve, ZL2KE will be QRV as E51KEE from Rarotonga, IOTA OC-013, and Aitutaki, IOTA OC-083, from July 20 to August 2. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via IK2DUW.

CANADA, VE. Pierre, VE3KTB will be QRV from Eureka Amateur Radio Club station VY0ERC located on Ellesmere Island, IOTA NA-008, from July 21 to August 7 while on work assignment. Activity will be in his spare on 20, 15, and 10 meters, and possibly 17 and 12 meters, using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via M0OXO.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. Jeff, W7BRS is QRV as VK2/W7BRS until August 1. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. This includes being an entry in the upcoming RSGB IOTA contest. QSL via M0URX.

Please see July QST, page 81, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

For Sale

**Mini PC Celeron N3350 (up to 2.4 GHz), runs on 12 VDC
Windows 10 Pro, 6 GB RAM, 256 GB SSD, WIFI and Bluetooth,
Gigabyte LAN, USB 3.0 and USB 2.0, dual monitor support up to 4K \$40.00**

**Inovato Quadra computer running Hamclock
Quadra computer with ham software already installed, stand, fan, USB hub and power supply.
Will need at least a 1080P TV or monitor for best results. \$35.00**

**15.6 inch portable FHD LCD monitor, 1920 X 1080P resolution,
uses 5 VDC via USB connector , HDMI, VGA and DP inputs,
folding cover/stand. Makes a great second monitor for a laptop. \$40.00**

Logitech K270 Wireless keyboard, never used. \$25.00

**Danny W9DP
w9dp@w9dp.us**

NU7J Back in Illinois....

Tom, NU7J and his son, Kennan, visited us for a few days in mid-July. We didn't have a lot of radio time, but we managed to go out in the POTA-mobile and activate a few parks, adding a couple of states to Tom's state list for activations.

It was a glorious day to be out in Missouri as we toured the Mississippi corridor from Hannibal south to Louisiana. Tom activated two parks in Illinois and six in Missouri and made a couple of hundred contacts.

Watch for his good signal when he gets back to Washington state!

Updated POTA stats for WIARC as of July 15:

W9DP	11 activations of 11 parks	2954 parks worked
NU7J	158 activations of 111 parks	2379 parks worked
W9US	19 activations of 8 parks	798 parks worked
NR9Q	29 activations of 10 parks	675 parks worked
AA9GL		181 parks worked
KB9FIN	31 activations of 25 parks	1267 parks worked
KM9DX	110 activations of 70 parks	650 parks worked
WM4D	204 activations of 108 parks	529 parks worked
WM9DX	24 activations of 21 parks	88 parks worked
N9JF	761 activations of 438 parks	1239 parks worked
K9AJC	47 activations of 24 parks	3135 parks worked
KW9Q	26 activations of 14 parks	617 parks worked
KO0KER		5 parks worked
WG0ATS	5 activations of 2 parks	153 parks worked
W9MDB		189 parks worked
NI9M	30 activations of 12 parks	73 parks worked
KB0V		133 parks worked
KA0SNL		130 parks worked
KD9TTB	24 activations of 14 parks	241 parks worked
KE0MHJ	2 activations of 2 parks	119 parks worked
WB2UFO		70 parks worked
W9WE	1 activation of 1 park	292 parks worked
KD9VUW	81 activations of 30 parks	444 parks worked

N9JF and KB9CES north of the border 2024

Melba and I enjoy traveling north of the border. We like just about every aspect of it except for the mosquitoes, and there are ways to mitigate that aggravation. The cooler temperatures in summer are nice, the Canadians are friendly and the roads in general are good. We had traveled just about every major highway in western Canada and Alaska on the last three trips (2017, 2019, 2023) but had never been to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, the territory capital. So....in 2024, it was time to tackle the road to Yellowknife!

Over the course of 31 days (June 3-July 3), we drove 8450 miles. Our route was basically north and northwest from home to Yellowknife (and beyond) and then back over slightly different roads. We literally drove as far as you can drive to the north and east of Yellowknife, ending our drive where the "ice road" continues in winter to the diamond mines in NWT. Near Fort Simpson, NWT, we drove as far as we could because the ferry to Wrigley was not in operation. The Honda performed as desired; we were thankful for good tires and plenty of clearance. We drove a lot of gravel roads, most of which were wide and well-maintained.

Besides "going there", the main emphases of the trip were scenery, birding, activating parks and just being together. We took lots of pictures; we'll probably never figure out where some of them were taken. We saw/heard 188 species of birds.

Radio-wise, I uploaded logs from 100 park activations of 88 individual parks, trails, refuges and historic sites with a total of about 3050 QSOs. Thirty-three of these sites had not been activated before for POTA. A few of the activations were “nail-biters” with only the minimum 10 contacts logged, but many had over 50 contacts. Most of them were “stop and operate” of an hour or less. In one case (Fort Simpson Territorial Park), we camped overnight and were able to put 110 contacts in the log.

Those of you familiar with POTA and WWFF know that getting spotted is a huge help in having a successful activation. I had some cell coverage in much of Canada and was able to either spot myself or notify my “faithful group” via text when I started to operate. That group consisted of W9DP, W9US, K9AJC, W9WE, WM4D, WI5D, N9MM, W6LEN and NU7J. Once the text went out, one or more of those guys usually showed up within a minute or two. NU7J deserted me for a few days to take a trip with his YL to Maui. Ya gotta do what ya gotta do....

The further north we went, the more difficult the propagation became. From some parks, many of the contacts came from northern Europe, Russia and Japan. I usually started on 20 meter CW and then went to either FT4 or FT8 on 20. I made very few contacts on 30 and 40 meters because it literally never got dark until we were back in the States. Seventeen and fifteen meters were sometimes useful. I was disappointed to never hear a single signal on six meters the whole time we were gone.

Field Day from Northwest Territories was not all that exciting. There were a lot of signals on 20 and 15 meters, but a lot of stations CQ'd in my face. I didn't work a single station in the Midwest. Out of a total of 32 contacts from Dory Point Territorial Park, 24 were made on CW and the remainder on FT4. I operated for about 2 hours and decided the book I was reading back at the hotel was more interesting.

The FT991a was used the entire time, usually at 100 watts on cw and from 25-70 watts on FT4/8. NU7J talked me into two brief SSB operations on 20 meters. There were a few glitches with the radio/key/computer/antenna combinations but nothing we couldn't solve. A few were “rookie mistakes”. Antennas consisted of a standard Hustler mast and resonators and a 17' telescoping vertical. I used a remote battery for powering the radio and charged it with in inverter from the car between stops. It ran down only once. “RF in the shack” was a bit of an issue. Toroids are your friends.

In addition to the birds, there were plenty of animals, though not as many as on our 2023 trip when we were further north and west. We saw many herds of wood buffalo, quite a few black bears, two badgers, several foxes and coyotes, one moose, muskrats, beavers, two elk and too many rabbits and squirrels to count. Mosquitoes were not an issue. Horseflies descended on us every time we stopped in NWT. I think they thought our black Passport was a buffalo?? But they never bit us!

For those contemplating travel across the border, you need a passport of course. Take a copy of your license if you intend to operate (though I've never been asked for it). Identify properly and frequently. At the border, expect the standard questions and answer them truthfully. Don't take firearms, pepper spray, drugs, or more than \$10,000 in cash. Canadians are friendly and welcome tourists. The exchange rate (73 cents US to a buck Canadian) was very favorable. Expect to pay more for gas. If you want to figure out what Canadian dollars per liter translates to in US dollars per gallon, go ahead. I just

bought fuel whenever I got down to three quarters of a tank and didn't bother to calculate the cost. There are many opportunities to explore cultural sites relating to various First Nation tribes as well as several European countries. Much of northern Canada has towns founded by fur traders and either French or British military settlements.

The personal account of our trip will eventually be put together, complete with pictures. It will be of limited interest to most but will be "available" if you want to wade through it....

Traveling buddy. I would NOT do this trip with anyone I didn't like. Melba is a trooper and was often the one to encourage me to find another park, or go to another band, or "listen a little longer and make sure you're not missing anyone." She kept a bird list for every state and province and kept notes for our final trip account. I can't say enough good about the woman!!

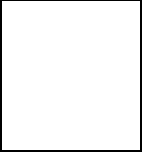
N9JF

This is what it looked like from Illinois (from CA-1164 Beaver Lake Provincial RA)

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
025452	Tx		1090 +	<N9JF/VE6> W9WE EM49
025500	-5	-0.1	1091 +	W9WE <N9JF/VE6> -05
025507	Tx		1090 +	<N9JF/VE6> W9WE R-05
025515	-7	-0.1	1093 +	W9WE <N9JF/VE6> -05
025522	Tx		1090 +	<N9JF/VE6> W9WE R-05
025530	-9	-0.1	1092 +	<W9WE> N9JF/VE6 RR73
025537	Tx		1090 +	N9JF/VE6 <W9WE> 73
025545	-4	-0.1	1094 +	WA8UET <N9JF/VE6> R+00
025552	Tx		1090 +	CQ W9WE EM49
025600	-7	-0.1	1094 +	<WA8UET> N9JF/VE6 73
025607	Tx		1090 +	CQ W9WE EM49
025615	-14	-0.1	1096 +	W9DP <N9JF/VE6> -02
025622	Tx		1090 +	CQ W9WE EM49
025630	-12	-0.1	1096 +	<W9DP> N9JF/VE6 RR73
025630	-9	0.6	1960 +	W9WE LZ1INP KN12
025637	Tx		1090 +	LZ1INP W9WE -09
025645	-8	0.6	1961 +	W9WE LZ1INP R-14
025652	Tx		1090 +	LZ1INP W9WE RR73

Erase Decode Enable Tx Halt Tx

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



August meeting: Wednesday Aug 7, 2024
7 pm. PROBABLY AT:
Adams County American Red Cross
Building, 24th and Koch's Lane, Quincy (west
½ block from intersection then north on
driveway)
**BUT STAY TUNED FOR LATER
INFORMATON!**

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
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