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# THE FEEDLINE

Volume 48, Issue 9 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club September 2024

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Yes, we're back in the ARC Building! Meeting is Wednesday, Sept 4 at 7 pm.

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the August WIARC meeting:

The August 7th, 2024, meeting of WIARC was called to order at 7:04 pm by Dave KB9FIN, Vice President, with the following members and guests present:

K9AJC, WD9UFO, Paula N., KD9VUW, W9WE, AD7OI, WA0VHI, WB9EWM, KB9GIY, KD0DKE, N9JF, KB9FIN, KD9PPJ with NB4C, K9VXD and W9US on Zoom.

Introductions were made...

**Treasurers Report:** Jack KD9PPJ made the motion to accept the \$56.00 check from the Hamfest, John WB9EWM 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all members in favor.

KD9PPJ made a motion to accept the bill for the Yeasu Fusion Dual Band Radio from WB9EWM, motion was seconded by WB9EWM for the amount of \$601.95. all were in favor, motion passed unanimously.

A donation of \$600.00 was given to the club, from the sale of equipment of Darrel Taylor, N9DT, who is now a Silent Key. The motion to accept the donation was made by KD9PPJ and seconded by Danny W9DP and was accepted unanimously by all of the members present.

KD9PPJ reported that the Clubs account had \$4978.00 in it at present and the CDs at Mercantile Bank and at US Bank were at \$5000.00 each respectfully.

A motion was made by WB9EWM to accept the Treasurers report and seconded by Alex WA0VHI, All were in favor

**Repeater Board:** John WB9EWM that he was out at the site and was measuring for grounding straps and the Radio station manager spoke with him about calling the electricians out to have them install grounding straps on all the equipment and cabinets. WB9EWM stated that everything was clean and organized and that we just needed to be good tenants for the radio station. Nothing else to report.

**Contest Committee:** Dave W9WE did not have much to report at this time and N9JF reminded everyone to start getting prepared for the Illinois QSO party this fall. You can find more information about upcoming contests and QSO parties at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php#16199>.

**Membership Committee:** Jim N9JF did not have anything at this time, Danny W9DP stated that Steven Hayes KA9MOT had already paid his dues and that he believed he moved back into Quincy. W9DP made the motion to accept KA9MOT as a member and Dave W9WE seconded, membership vote was unanimous.

Ballarion Stahr WD9UFO and Kevin Jacobsen AD7OI were present at the meeting requesting membership. Membership applications accepted and both made their introductions to the members present.

Dave KB9FIN made the motion to accept AD7OI and was seconded by WB9EWM. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim N9JF made the motion to accept WD9UFU and motion seconded by WB9EWM. Motion passed unanimously.

Please welcome WD9UFO and AD7OI to the club as our newest members.

**Club Station:** All the equipment back in place and hooked up. Computers not hooked up and WB9EWM is recommending that we purchase new Club computers. WB9EWM also recommended that the club purchase the RT Systems software to be able to program the new radio. Motion was made by WB9EWM to purchase the software up to \$65.00 in expenditures and it was seconded by W9WE. WB9EWM also stated the long wire is up for the club radios. He is also recommending that we find a new dual band antenna to place on the tower instead of what's up there right now. It has been scanned with a swr analyzer, but not actually used. A tuner will still be needed for the wire antenna. KB9FIN also mentioned that the club needed to get rid of the Kenwood and Icom radios and that they were not being used now and the radios needed to find a new home. Notice of the sale will be sent by email to all club members through the reflector email group, giving appropriate time of notice and mentioned in the upcoming newsletter.

**Old Business:** KD9PPJ spoke about trying to have something like a training meeting to introduce people to Amateur Radio. He also would like to see the club get a table at the Quincy Home show which happens in the spring to also get others acquainted with Amateur Radio. No knowledge of fees or anything but looks like it could be a great idea. Tabled for further discussion. WB9EWM had stated he had not forgotten about Gloria Macomber, AC0KV and getting up to LaRue, Missouri to assist with her antenna issues.

**New Business:** W9WE brought to all's attention that the ARRL is changing the testing format and that he and K9AJC have been working with the Ham Radio Crash Course VE team and learning the online process. These changes will go into effect for all in 2025. Any VE's interested in making the transition need to contact Dave W9WE. Dave, KB9FIN mentioned that the website needed to have changes and updates made on it. A list was being gathered of the needed changes and sent to Andy KA0SNL. KD9PPJ made a motion to change the bylaws to just be able to accept donations and or monies to the club without membership notification and membership vote. Discussion was made, W9DP stated that he thought that it would be best to keep it the way the bylaws state as of now. No further discussion was made. Tabled until a possible later date. KB9FIN brought up the bylaws and the online process of renewing membership. The bylaws state that new members need to be voted on in person at the meeting. No further discussion made. N9JF made mention that WB9EWM had stated that Ken WM4D had been in the hospital for several days and is now back at home recouping.

**NCS stations:** NCS were not discussed at the August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting but here are the NCS up to the September 4<sup>th</sup>, our next meeting date.

July 31 – August 21 – W9DP, August 28 – WB9EWM, September 4 – W9DP

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 pm. Motion to adjourn was made by WB9EWM and seconded by Ed W9US, motion passed by members present.

After the meeting presentation was made by Shawn KD9VUW about the electronic QSO cards.

Respectfully submitted by K9AJC.

## DX News and Notes Shamelessly Purloined from *ARRL DX NEWS*:

**QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 30 ARLD030 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT August 15, 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.

**TANZANIA, 5H. Uli, DO4UB will be QRV as 5H2MUA from Arusha beginning August 20. QSL via DO2HQS.**

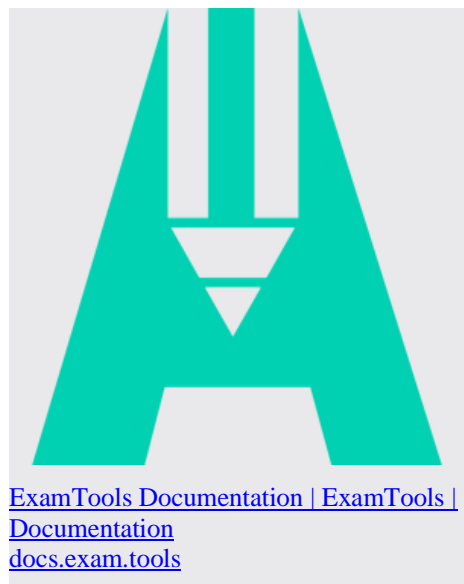
**TIMOR-LESTE, 4W. Alan, VK1AO will be QRV as 4W/VK1AO from Mount Ramelau, the highest summit of the country, from August 19 to September 4. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW and FT8. QSL via LoTW.**

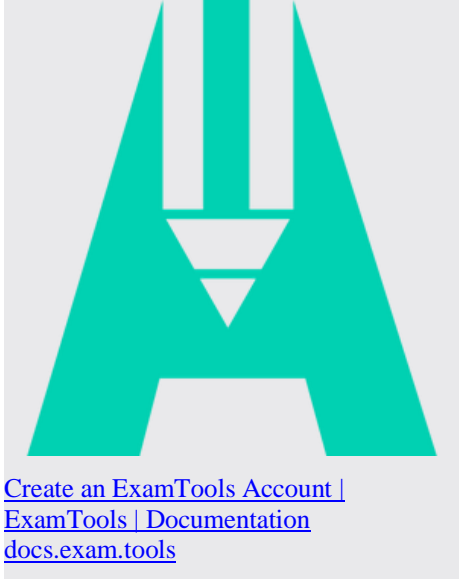
**FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Yann, F1SMB is QRV as FO/F1SMB until September 15 from Tahiti, IOTA OC-046, Fakarawa Island, IOTA OC-066, Tahaa Island, IOTA OC-067, and Moorea Island, IOTA OC-046. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.**

**GREECE, SV. Operators Kostas, SV8GGI and Vassilis, SV1SXZ will be QRV as J48KLH from Koghi Lighthouse on Salamina Island, IOTA EU-075, during the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. QSL via LoTW.**

Please see August QST, page 72, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

Changes coming in VE testing. VE's please note!





**Anyone who wants to work in this area as a VOLUNTEER EXAMINER. PLEASE REVIEW THIS INFORMATION. Establishment of an account is needed.**

**There is a practice sandbox application that requires you to register again to use it. Lots of reasons to start using this system now. Next year we will be transitioning to this program.**

**Allan K9AJC/ Dave W9WE have been working with Ham Radio Crash Course. We have already assisted with nearly 20 sessions in the last few weeks.**

**Here are the primary websites and their uses in the ExamTools Ecosystem**



**Dave  
73 W9WE**

A note from Danny, K7SS:

A radio pal, John Duce KK7MWI, works at Filson, a legendary 125 year old local outdoor clothing co. based in Seattle. He lives in a very noisy radio location so most of his operating is HF POTA or portable.

Filson caught wind of his adventures with radio and did a short piece with him about outdoor radio.

Think you will enjoy it.

We need to find him a home hilltop QTH. 😊😊😊

<https://www.filson.com/blog/profiles/the-wilderness-as-your-receiver-the-duality-of-ham-radio/>

73 K7SS

Upcoming Contests:

Here's a quick summary of week end activities.

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

Dave Scranton

W9WE

73

Yes, the ILQP is coming up! This is an event that *our club sponsors!* Please make plans to get on the air that day, make contacts and send it your log! I'll probably be back at the Adams/Brown county line at Siloam Springs to get some interest from the park chasers. There are lots of other county line spots within convenient driving distances from Quincy, and some of them are in parks. WIARC needs to once again be a factor in the club competition!

## **Announcing the 2024 Illinois QSO Party**

*Sponsored by the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club*

Date/Time: 1700 UTC October 20, 2024 to 0100 UTC October 21, 2024

Bands: 160 through 2 meters, excluding WARC bands (60, 30, 17 and 12 meters)

Exchange: IL stations give RS/T and county; others give RS/T and state, province or country

Scoring: Phone QSO: 1 point; CW/digital QSO 2 points. No repeater QSOs. All stations are limited to one transmitted signal at a time. (*But see new "Unlimited" category below*).

SO2R operation is permitted. Stations may be worked once per band and mode (phone and CW/digital) and once per band/mode/county for IL Mobile and Rover stations. Each Mobile or Rover vehicle is considered one station and must use only one call. Contacts with/by stations at the border of 2/3/4 counties count as 2/3/4 counties and 2/3/4 QSOs. IL stations multiply points by the sum of IL counties, US states, VE provinces and DXCC countries (maximum 5) worked. Canada, KH6 and KL7 do not count as DX entities. Additional DX contacts count for points but not multipliers. Non-IL stations multiply points by the number of IL counties worked.

#### **Entry Classes:**

**IL Fixed Station, High Power.** Permanent station location, single county, transmitter power exceeding 100 watts PEP. *(Note change...was 200 watts PEP)*

**IL Fixed Station, Low Power.** Permanent station location, single county, transmitter power not to exceed 100 watts PEP. *(Note change....was 200 watts PEP)*

**Illinois Portable:** Not a permanent station location; antennas erected for the purpose of the contest; may be on a county line or corner. (NOTE: County lines established by waterways *may not be activated* for ILQP).

**Illinois Mobile:** Station capable of motion while operating though may be stationary. *Entrants are encouraged to utilize a separate driver and choose operating procedures with safety uppermost in mind!* Mobile entrants may operate from *only one county at a time*. Simultaneous operation from multiple counties will result in reclassification as a "Rover".

**Illinois Rover:** Station operating from more than one non-permanent location. Single-county, county line and county corner operations are permitted. Any type of mobile or portable antennas may be used. Any power source may be used (auto, generator or commercial mains). Rover stations may operate when moving or stopped.

**Outside Illinois, High Power:** Any fixed, portable or mobile station operating from outside the state of Illinois with transmitter power exceeding 100 watts PEP *(Note change: was 200 watts)*

**Outside Illinois, Low Power:** Any fixed, portable or mobile station operating from outside the state of Illinois with a transmitter power not exceeding 100 watts PEP *(Note change: was 200 watts)*.

**QRP competition:** A QRP entrant shall certify that the operation was with transmitter power at all times not exceeding 5 watts by indicating QRP in the entry class in the Cabrillo file or checking the QRP box on the summary sheet.

**Unlimited:** *(New category) Stations wishing to employ multiple transmitted signals simultaneously at a single site may enter as "Unlimited". This class is created as an experiment to encourage groups to train new operators and allow several the opportunity to participate.*

**Spotting:** Spotting of stations worked, especially mobile and rover stations, is encouraged. *All categories of entrants are allowed to self-spot. (Change from previous years.)*

**Awards:**

Plaques will be awarded to the highest-scoring IL Fixed Station High Power, IL Fixed Station Low Power, IL Mobile, IL Rover, IL Portable, 2-County Line Portable, Outside IL High Power and Outside IL Low Power stations. Plaques will also be awarded, regardless of entry class or station location, to the stations making the highest number of raw phone QSOs, raw cw QSOs and raw mixed-mode QSOs.

Certificates will be awarded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place IL Fixed Stations High Power, the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place IL Fixed Stations Low Power, 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place IL Mobiles, 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place IL Rovers, the top IL and Outside IL QRP entrants, the top 3 IL single-county portables, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place IL 2-county portables, top 3 IL 3-county portables, top 3 IL 4-county portables and the highest-scoring (reporting at least 25 contacts) stations in each US State, VE province and DXCC country.

As certificates are delivered in electronic format via e-mail, all entrants are requested to provide a valid e-mail address in the Cabrillo file or on the summary sheet.

Illinois Club Competition: Illinois entrants are encouraged to include the name of their local club on their entries.

ILQP Outstanding Achievement Award: Non-IL stations working at least 200 contacts or 75 IL counties will receive a special certificate.

Logs: All entrants who use computerized logging are required to submit logs in electronic format. *Do NOT submit a computer-printed log from a logging program without also providing the electronic file (Cabrillo file), as the scoring and verification process starts by transferring all log data into a master Excel file.* Hand-written paper logs accompanied by an official ILQP summary sheet will be accepted for transcription by the ILQP committee. Those who submit paper logs absolve the committee of all responsibility for miscopied log information. (See below)

Electronic logs: Cabrillo format is preferred. Those entrants using a program that does not provide Cabrillo files for submission should contact the committee concerning acceptable formatting. Use of the fill-in Excel file available on the ILQP site <https://w9awe.org/ilqp/> under Sample\_Excel\_Log is encouraged for non-Cabrillo logs.

Electronic logs should be sent *as attachments* to [n9jf@arrl.net](mailto:n9jf@arrl.net).

Please do NOT send .adi nor .adif files!

When you attach your log file, check to see that it is the right file. Every year we get a few logs for CQWW, NYQP, and other contests.

Logs that do not comply with submission requirements will be classified as Check Logs and will not be eligible for awards.

Paper Logs; A paper log shall be hand-written and indicate, for each contact, the entrant's QTH, band, mode, UTC, and the call and location of the station worked. Paper log submissions must be accompanied by a completed ILQP Summary Sheet (can be downloaded from <https://w9awe.org/ilqp/> ILQP Summary Sheet, printed from the website or requested (with SASE) from the sponsor. Paper logs should be mailed to WIARC,

POBox 3132, Quincy IL 62305-3132. The committee is not responsible for transcription errors.

**Submission Deadline:** Logs sent by e-mail must be received by the sponsor, and paper logs postmarked by midnight Central Time November 21, 2024. A list of all logs received will be posted to the ILQP webpage. Electronic logs submitted will be acknowledged by return e-mail within 48 hours. Entrants assume responsibility for contacting the sponsor if they do not received confirmation or if their call is not included in the “logs received” listing on the website.

**Disqualification:** Participants are expected to follow good amateur practices, conform to the DX Code of Ethics and operate within their license privileges and in accordance with ILQP rules. Compelling evidence to the contrary may serve as grounds for disqualification. Decisions of the ILQP Committee shall be final.

Rules, summary sheet, and other information are available at <https://w9awe.org/ilqp/>.

You are invited to join the ILQP reflector at <http://mailman.gth.net/mailman/listinfo/ilqso>.

**Miscellaneous:**

**County Name Abbreviations:** Participants are reminded that a proper log record of a contact with an Illinois station in this event requires the name of the Illinois County where that station is located be entered as part of each QSO record. It is quite acceptable to enter either the complete and correctly spelled county name or the unique abbreviated form of the county name.

To facilitate the use of abbreviations, a list of recommended Illinois County name abbreviations is included every year as part of the ILQP Summary sheet (and in the list on the website). Each Illinois county has an established 4 letter abbreviation (Lee County excepted) shown in this list which has been in use in this event for many years. **PLEASE PRINT OUT THIS LIST OF OFFICIAL ABBREVIATIONS AHEAD OF TIME AND HAVE IT AT YOUR OPERATING POSITION!**

Unfortunately, logs are submitted every year with all manner of variation and corruption of these abbreviations. In the past the ILQP Committee has been very lenient in not busting QSO's due to the use of a non-standard abbreviation as long as there is some unambiguous clue in the abbreviation used as to the actual county name. In some cases, we even find that the wrong county name has been used. This often involves White (WHIT) and Whiteside (WTSD) counties as well as Mason (MASN) and Macon (MACN) counties. The ILQP Committee asks that each entrant review the list of county name abbreviations on the summary sheet and use only these abbreviations in their log entries and to make sure the correct abbreviation for a given county is used. As mentioned, there has been great leniency in the past for the use of highly corrupted, widely varying or totally incorrect abbreviations. However, as this event is now generating a master log each year of nearly 50,000 QSO's, manual intervention by committee members in the scoring process is becoming tedious and time consuming. And so, a word to the wise, in the future, this leniency will not be continued as a part of the scoring process.

**QSO Record Minimum Data:** Each entrant is asked to review their log file prior to submission to ensure that every QSO record (i.e. each line) includes the following



minimum data: operating frequency or band; operating mode; UTC date; UTC time; the call sign of your station; the RS(T) sent; the location of your station; the call sign of the station contacted; the RS(T) received; and the location of the station contacted. In addition, in a Cabrillo log file, each record should include the following data: 'QSO:' in the first field of each line. Please examine the sample excel spreadsheet generated Cabrillo file that is available for down load on the WIARC ILQP web page. Also please review the sample log file at the end of the document for help in determining compliance with the preferred format. Cabrillo File Header Information: Prior to submitting a log file, entrants should review the information contained in the header field of their Cabrillo file to make sure it is complete and accurate. In particular, make sure entry class, personal information, call sign, station location, and club affiliation are correctly shown. The header information is automatically pulled and used by the processing software. Please examine the sample excel spreadsheet generated Cabrillo file that is available for down load on the WIARC ILQP web page.

## Announcing the annual Get Your Park On Special Event!

Coincidental with (and in addition to) the Illinois QSO Party, World Wide Flora and Fauna holds its annual GYPO for celebration of Earth Science Week.

The event begins at 0000z on October 12, 2024 and continues until 2359z October 20, 2024. This period encompasses the bulk of the Illinois QSO Party period.

Look for GYPO participants during the week and during the ILQP. For extra fun and action, consider operating ILQP from a WWFF park!

Parting wisdom from NB4C:

THEORY is when you know everything, but nothing works.

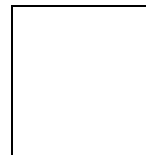
PRACTICE is when everything works but no one knows why.

IN OUR LAB, theory and practice are combined: Nothing works and nobody knows why!

*Yeah, that sounds like my kind of lab..... N9JF....*

By the way, listen for N9JF on our Montana/Idaho trip until about September 13. We hope to run a few parks along the way though it won't be anything like our 88-park trip in June. We'll have other passengers along on this one, and I'm not sure how much park activation they can tolerate.....

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



September meeting: Wednesday, Sept 4,  
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 – W9OAB**

**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**

**Editor Jim Funk N9JF**

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