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# THE FEEDLINE

Volume 49, Issue 4 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club April 2025

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April meeting: Wednesday, April 2, 2025, usual spot, American Red Cross building, 24<sup>th</sup> and Kochs Lane, Quincy (west ½ block from intersection then north on driveway)

**NOTICE: DUES!!!**

Dues are payable for 2025. Members who have not paid by the April meeting will be dropped from the rolls and will not be eligible for the fantastic prizes available to continuing members (there aren't any, but I thought this might get your attention....).

Members who have not paid as of this writing (March 20) will receive an e-mail from me shortly. If you think you HAVE paid, let me know. If you have NOT paid, please either pay through the website, bring a check (no cash, please....gets confusing) to the April meeting or mail your check to PO Box 3132 Quincy IL 62305-3132. We don't want to lose you!!!

**Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the March 2025 WIARC Meeting**

The March 6th 2025 meeting of WIARC was called to order at 7pm by Allan Cermak K9AJC, President with the following members and guests present: K9AJC, WA0VHI, KD9VUW, WA9GBC, KD9PPJ, W9WE, KD0HDL, N9JF, KB9GIY, WB9EWM, WM4D, KB9FIN, AA9GL, W9US, Angel Smith, and Ron

Introductions were made...

John WB9EWM made motion to accept February minutes, seconded by Dave KB9FIN . The motion was accepted by membership present.

Treasurers Report: Jack KD9PPJ reported we have a \$5000 CD that matures on 3-6-24. The second CD of \$8543 matures 4-11-25. He proposed we roll both CDs together to make things simple and easy to keep track of. The checking is currently at \$2793. He paid John WB9EWM \$107.95 for the dual band antenna. KB9FIN made a motion to consolidate the CDs WB9EWM seconded the motion. The motion was passed by membership present. WB9EWM made a motion to accept the treasurer's report KD9VUW seconded. The motion was passed by membership present.

**Repeater Board:** John WB9EWM reported there were no known issues with the repeaters currently. He said the repeater board would work on inventory when the weather was nicer.

**Membership Committee:** Jim N9JF reported that there were 53 paid up members. There are several members from 2024 that had not paid their dues yet that he will be reaching out to in the next few weeks. Jack KD9PPJ reported KC0JIM paid \$5 for a non-voting membership.

**Club Station:** John WB9EWM reported the new dual band antenna has replaced the old one on the tower. Unfortunately, when doing some testing, he found some issues with the heliax going to the tower. John WB9EWM and Ed W9US suggested replacing it with a continuous run of LMR400 that could be provided by John. This idea was approved by unanimous affirmation. W9US also brought up that there was some damage to the off center fed dipole and suggested repairing it at the same time. W9US made a motion that he would repair the damage which was seconded by KB9FIN. The motion was passed by the membership present. WB9EWM made a motion to sell the old antenna seconded by Jack KD9PPJ. The motion passed by the membership present.

**Contest Committee:** Jim N9JF brought up that it was QSO party season again. Dave mentioned rookie roundup was coming up. If anyone is looking for a contest to participate in go to [www.contestcalendar.com](http://www.contestcalendar.com). Jim said the 2024 ILQP certificates are all sent out, but the plaques still need to be done.

**Old Business:** Dave KB9FIN brought up the discussion of updating our computers at the club station. John WB9EWM mentioned that Andy KA0SNL rebuilds computers and sell them. Allan K9AJC said he would reach out and see what he has available or recommends. Allan asked if anyone would take the lead for field day which will be at the red cross building this year. John WB9EWM said the station committee will make sure the equipment is ready and operational.

**New Business:**

**VE TESTING:** Dave W9WE reported that he and Allan have been doing lots of online VE testing including people from Hawaii and Alaska.

**Net Control:**

March 12<sup>th</sup>- K9AJC

March 19<sup>th</sup>- WB9EWM

March 26<sup>th</sup>- KD9VUW

April 2<sup>nd</sup> –W9WE

April 9<sup>th</sup>- W9WE

April 16<sup>th</sup>- N9JF

April 23<sup>rd</sup>- KD9PPJ

April 30<sup>th</sup>- KD9VUW

May 7<sup>th</sup>- KD0HDL

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45pm. Motion to adjourn was made by W9US and seconded by KB9FIN. The motion was passed by members present.

Respectfully submitted, Alex Rankin, Secretary

Info from W6JFL to HARC members regarding pending legislation:

Members,

You may or may not have heard about a bill in Congress (introduced in the House on February 6, 2025) cited as H.R.1094, The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. Details here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1094/text>. The purpose of the bill is to prevent HOA's and other bodies like them from regulating (or denying) hams from erecting antennas. Although I believe there are not many folks in our club that affected by HOA's, I feel it is important that we support others in the ham community that are.

Therefore, I humbly request you take some time to write your congressmen/women and ask for their support of the bill.

Don, KD0HHN has crafted a letter that you can (and should) edit and submit. Page three of the attachment includes a list of Senators and Representatives for the local area. If you live in an outlying area, please verify your Representative. (Also, DON'T send page three with your letter!) The letter is attached. Thank you all for your support!

73, -Joe-

Date

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Address

Washington, D.C,

Dear Senator or Representative:

I am writing to you today as a constituent of your (district/state), a licensed Amateur Radio operator, and as a member of the Hannibal Amateur Radio club of Hannibal, MO to ask for your support for H.R.-1094 -"The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act", and request that you become a co-sponsor, and supporter of this legislation.

For over 40 years, both the FCC and Congress have repeatedly acknowledged the strong "Federal Interest" in effective Amateur Radio communications, especially in times of emergencies or disasters. In spite of this, the FCC found that municipalities and Homeowner Associations often unreasonably restricted Amateur Radio antennas in residential areas. In 1996, Congress provided guidance to the FCC by directing them to develop regulations that preempted all land use restrictions applicable to exterior

communication facilities that impaired the ability of citizens to receive television broadcast signals, receive wireless internet signals, among other things.

What this Act will do is extend this preemption to private land use restrictions to cover the operating, installing or maintaining effective outdoor amateur station antenna structures. In addition, the act allows for some commonsense restrictions, such as antennas be installed in compliance with manufactures specs, maintaining it in a structurally safe condition, removal of the antenna if the property ceases to be under the control of a licensed amateur. It also prohibits the addition of a restriction for an antenna, if said restriction was not part of the original records when the property was purchased. It also allows for automatic approval of applications if the person, or agency which approves said applications, if they delay approval for more than 45 days. The act will also allow for certain types of antennas that will not need approval for use, including antennas 1 meter or less in diameter, flagpole antennas, wire antennas, and vertical antennas not exceeding 43 feet in height above ground. Lastly, the act gives amateur radio operators a private right of action in disputed claims and places the burden of proof on any claims on the party bringing the action.

In summation, we as amateur radio operators, as well as constituents, feel that this act is not only in the best interest of amateur radio operators, but also in the interest of all citizens of this country and local, state and federal governments, considering the role that amateur radio plays in getting the word out in times of disasters or emergencies. By signing on as a co-sponsor, and showing your support for this act, you would be showing not only your constituents, but all licensed amateur radio operators in this country that you support us and believe in what we do. In closing, I would like to thank you for taking the time to consider this request, and we hope to see your name added to this bill as a co-sponsor.

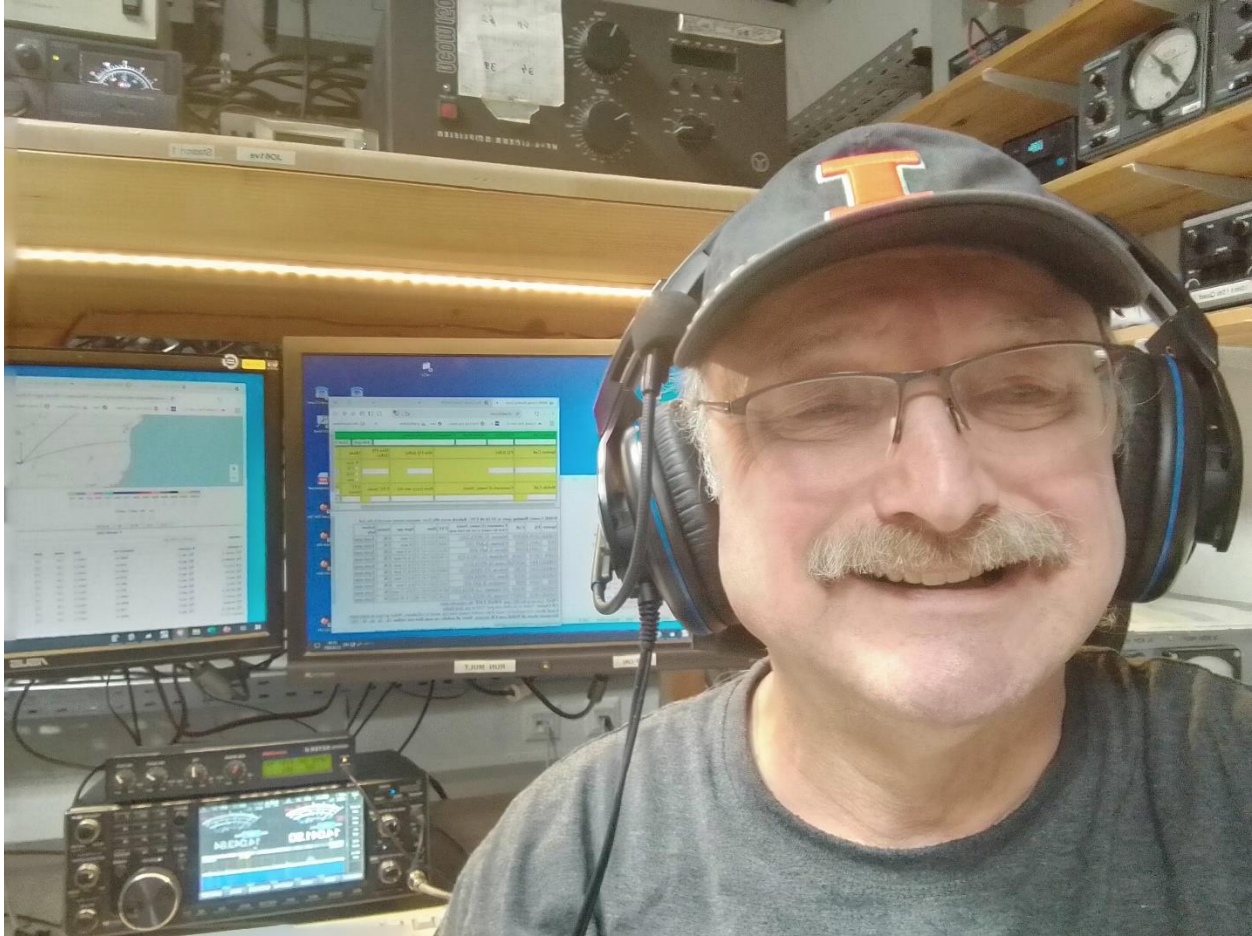
Sincerely,

Ya just never know....

I was running a park in Macon County, Illinois on the way back from Indianapolis (Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park) when I was called (on 20 CW) by DL3DXX. Dietmar has been a frequent caller both when I'm running parks and running counties. His question to me, while I was at that park, was, "Any chance for Christian?" "I'll check with the YL". Well, Melba's response, as usual, was, "Why not?"

Though I had run Sangchris State Park earlier this year, it wasn't that far out of the way. I e-mailed Dietmar and told him able what time we'd be there. The contact from Sangchris went off without a hitch. Later, I received an e-mail (with the picture below) telling me that the contact was his last county of the "whole ball of wax" (all 3077) on 20 CW!

Who knew Christian County Illinois was that rare???



## For Sale

JPC-12 portable vertical antenna. 40 - 6 meters. Soft case. Ground spike and ribbon cable radials. \$75.00

<https://bit.ly/3Ri2Tw2>

Two Chins 20 aH LIPO-4 batteries that have less than 10 charge/discharge cycles. \$45.00 each

<http://bit.ly/4iqems9>

Danny W9DP

[w9dp@w9dp.us](mailto:w9dp@w9dp.us)

## Park Opportunities

In early April, amateur radio operators will have several opportunities to participate in Parks on the Air (POTA) events. The third annual Georgia Parks on the Air will be held April 5 - 6, 2025, hosted by the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL). Last year,

51 out of 52 parks were activated with over 400 hunters and nearly 12,000 QSOs. More information and updated rules are available at 2025 Georgia State Parks on the Air (POTA) - NFARL. On April 12 from 1300 to 2259 UTC (8:00 AM - 5:59 PM CDT), the Jackson County Amateur Radio Association in Mississippi will host the third annual Mississippi State Parks on the Air. Modes of operation include SSB, CW and FT8/4 or any other legal mode. Any ham radio band that is legal in POTA may be used. Also, VHF/UHF simplex on 2 meters and 70 centimeters is acceptable. Visit MSPOTA (Mississippi Parks On The Air) – Jackson County Amateur Radio Association for additional information. Finally, beginning Saturday, April 12: 8:00 AM CDT (1300 UTC) through Sunday, April 13: 7:59 PM CDT (12:59 UTC), the Lake Area Amateur Radio Klub in Colony, Texas, will activate Texas state parks in honor of member Tom King, WK5DX (SK). For rules and frequencies, go to TX State Parks on The Air - About.

DX News cheerfully purloined from *ARRL DX News*:

QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 12 ARLD012 From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT March 20, 2025 To all radio amateurs

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

RODRIGUES ISLAND, 3B9. Operators David, OK6DJ, Palo, OK1CRM, and Ruda, OK2ZA, and Milan, OK7GU will be QRV as 3B9DJ from March 24 to April 5. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via OQRS.

NEPAL, 9N. Robert, 9N7AA is QRV from Kathmandu and has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 0100z, and then CW afterwards. QSL via LoTW.

COMOROS, D6. Elvira, IV3FSG is QRV as D68Z until April 1. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and digital. QSL via IK2DUW.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Jean-Luc, F1ULQ will be QRV as TO1Q beginning March 24 and here for a couple of weeks. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL to home call.

ST. BARTHELEMY, FJ. Janusz, SP9FIH will be QRV as FJ/SP9FIH from March 24 to April 4. He will be active as TO1P in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX WPX SSB contest. QSL to home call.

**ITALY, I. Members of ARI Sondrio will be QRV with special event station II2AUT from March 27 to April 10 in commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day. QSL via IK2WAD.**

**EGYPT, SU. Said, SU1SK has been active on 30 meters using FT8 around 0400z. QSL via N200.**

**MALI, TZ. Jeff, K1MMB is QRV as TZ4AM. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via KX4R.**

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2. Bud, AA3B will be QRV as V26K from Antigua, IOTA NA-100, from March 25 to April 2. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly CW. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL to home call.**

**MICRONESIA, V6. Richard, WE9G is QRV as V6WG from Kosrae Island, IOTA OC-059, until April 1. QSL to home call.**

**VANUATU, YJ. Chris, VK2YUS will be QRV as YJ0CA from Port Vila, IOTA OC-035, from March 24 to April 3. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB from 2100 to 1000z. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL direct to home call.**

**Please see March 2025 QST, page 72, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.**

## **Park Roving with N9JF**

**A couple of weeks prior, N9JF mentioned that there was a new KFF park on the Illinois River and asked if I wanted to go with him to activate it. I had been thinking I was overdue for a road trip, so I agreed. The new KFF entity, KFF-6924 (not yet a POTA park) Rice Lake, right next to KFF/US-4108 Banner Marsh along the Illinois River, very close to Banner, IL.**

**We decided to go Monday March 3 and run a few parks along the river. We both started from home at 7:00AM local time and it was just over a 1.5 hour drive to where we started. The drive up was cloudy and slightly damp, but by the time I got out to set the antenna up, the light rain had stopped and the clouds were moving out. I started in Banner Marsh and Jim started in Rice Lake.**

**I had a different radio (FT-991A), battery (Redodo 50 AH), antenna (Gabil GRA-7350T) and logging software (N3FJP) than I had ever used for previous activations, so it took me a few minutes more than normal to get set up so Jim was up and running a bit before I was. So far, I have used only vertical antennas to activate parks and it was a good thing as there were no antenna supports at 2 of the 3 parks I activated. It took several attempts to get the SWR set on the new antenna, and I was not sure how loud I was going to be (the Gabil antenna is only a bit over 8 feet long), so I started out working a few Park to Park contacts to get a feel for activity and band conditions.**

After several contacts I felt comfortable with the logging process using N3FJP and settled down to calling CQ, and things went very well for well a couple of hours. When I got the pileup worked down Jim and I ran the bands with each other and headed south.

Next we stopped at KFF/US-0284 Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge, near Dickson Mounds. Jim set up in one side of the highway and I on the other, maybe a half mile between us, if that. This time I used an antenna I had used several times before, a 17 foot telescoping whip. I should have tried it while at Banner Marsh, to do a comparison with the Gabil antenna, but it did not cross my mind until after we were on the road south. I did not notice any interference from Jim and I am pretty sure we were both on 20 meters at least a good part of the time we were there (Jim was only CW and digital and I was only SSB). I did somewhat better this time and did not have any kind of a dry spell in the hour and a half I was there.

By then the sun was shining brightly and the temperature was quite comfortable sitting inside the car in the sun (no trees or no shade in the parking area I operated from). Just about the time I ran out of stations, Jim showed up and was ready for a lunch break.

We crossed the river to Havana and had lunch and proceeded on to KFF-6576/US-10100 Anderson Lake. Jim and I had activated KFF-6576 before and we were familiar with where to go. Anderson Lake has a campground that runs between the highway and the lakefront, narrow but long. It is also very close to the bluff to our west, but that did not seem to be much of an obstacle. We were able to set up from opposite ends of the park and again, operate with no noticeable interference. Again, I was having pretty good luck and the stations were rolling in at a decent rate. The campground has a lot of trees, but without any leaves, the sun was warming the car enough I had to roll the windows down. After another hour and a half, I ran out of stations on 20 SSB and was ready to start the drive back home.

I was gone a total of 8.5 hours, operated for about 4 hours and made just over 300 QSO's total. It was a pretty good day, at least it was until I got home and started in on my logs. I think I had to have the guys on the POTA site delete my log for US-4108 three times and US-0284 once before I finally got everything corrected.

I had quite a few stations work me multiple times and was fortunate enough to have SM3NRY chase me down in all three parks (as well as a couple of other stateside stations). Propagation was very good to certain areas all day. I worked several VE3 from each park, multiple 8's in MI and OH and several FL stations, all with strong signals. I was able to average 72 QSO's per hour for the day and I was very happy with that.

I want to thank N9JF for inviting me to tag along and for pushing for us all to send in logs to both POTA and WWFF. I want to strongly encourage those in the club that have activated any POTA parks at all, to send those logs in to WWFF as well. Most POTA parks are also WWFF parks and you have already got the hardest part done, you might as well get credit for both groups, it will not cost you anything but a few minutes of your time and N9JF has volunteered to do much of what it takes to send your logs in to WWFF.

Danny W9DP



...and....park roving with W9DP

Thanks, Danny, for your analysis of our trek north! Activating a park with a partner in crime adds a couple of challenges but is a lot more fun.

I had asked Norm, N9MM, to consider adding Rice Lake to the WWFF park list. The criteria for adding WWFF parks are a bit different from those for POTA. WWFF parks have a minimum size requirement (though those have been reduced) and must be wildlife related. There were quite a few historic sites that were “grandfathered in” from the NPOTA days, but no new references are being added that have nothing to do with “flora and fauna”. Rice Lake seemed to me to meet the requirements, and Norm agreed. Rice Lake was added to the list only three days prior to our activation.

My operating conditions were the same as usual: The FT991a at about 50 watts powered by a remote battery (I’m still not sure what size...strangely...but it hasn’t failed me), and the 17’ extendable vertical on a mag mount on the Honda Passport. I operated primarily CW with a bit of FT4/8. My logging software is a program designed by KG5OWB called “ParkLogger”. I’ve been very happy with it.

At Rice Lake, I began on 20 meter CW and then went to 15 meter CW, FT4 and FT8 followed by a bit of CW on 10 meters. I had hoped that by starting fairly early in the day, prior to 9 am, we would grab some Europeans on 20 meters, and this was the case. Eight of the CW contacts on 20 were from Europe, and 15 meters yielded a total of 15 DXCC countries. Conditions on 20 were a real challenge with signals from Europe so weak that I had to pull calls out a letter at a time. It helps to know the “usual suspects”, but even that wasn’t foolproof. My goal for the park was to exceed the WWFF standard of 44 contacts. Danny’s rate on SSB was quite a bit better than mine on the other modes; but at about 70 contacts, I’d had enough fun. The park was “officially activated”. We ‘ran the bands’ between us and then headed for Emiquon NWR.

The Europeans had pretty much vanished into the gloom by the time we got to Emiquon; but after a few dozen contacts on 20, mostly digital, I went to 17 meters and found a few. The beauty of cell coverage was that it was easy to spot myself and get a quick following regardless of band and mode. I rattled off 57 contacts while Danny was working his pileup on SSB.

Disappointingly, the Pizza Hut in Havana was closed. Hope it’s not permanent... sigh....

At Anderson Lake, the usual Europeans were back: OH1MM, ON3UA, ON4VT, OH1XT, OH1PA, SM3NRY on 20 CW. After that, 20 meter digital was hot enough to finish out the activation with 53 contacts. I spent some time just listening to Danny work his SSB pileup. Fun!

Danny had enough excitement by now and headed home. I decided to stop at Sanganois State Fish and Wildlife Area north of Browning. This reference has portions in both Fulton County and across the river in Cass County. Both are listed as park #4152. The Fulton County site is accessed down a bumpy sand road that contributed a massive amount of “goo” to the frame of the Passport. It took 15 minutes to wash it the next evening... As far as the activation was concerned, most of it took place on 15 meter digital modes with 49 in the log, including both Europe and Japan.

My "WWFF Count" so far in 2025 is 40 activated parks (all to the 44 QSO level) and a total of 2234 contacts. I've also made a few contacts from POTA-only references.

Thanks, Danny, for helping with the run up north!

73, Jim N9JF

Updated POTA stats for WIARC as of March 20, 2025: (current WIARC members)

W9DP	15 activations of 13 parks	4046 parks worked
NU7J	164 activations of 116 parks	2413 parks worked
W9US	23 activations of 10 parks	958 parks worked
NR9Q	31 activations of 12 parks	745 parks worked
AA9GL		246 parks worked
KB9FIN	32 activations of 26 parks	1336 parks worked
KM9DX	119 activations of 76 parks	708 parks worked
WM4D	214 activations of 113 parks	559 parks worked
WM9DX	29 activations of 26 parks	108 parks worked
N9JF	869 activations of 485 parks	1414 parks worked
K9AJC	56 activations of 24 parks	3579 parks worked
KW9Q	30 activations of 14 parks	652 parks worked
W9MDB		191 parks worked
KB0V		186 parks worked
KA0SNL		134 parks worked
KD9TTB	24 activations of 14 parks	244 parks worked
KE0MHJ	2 activations of 2 parks	122 parks worked
KA9MOT		10 parks worked
WB2UFO		94 parks worked
W9WE	1 activation of 1 park	459 parks worked

<b>KD9VUW</b>	<b>102 activations of 30 parks</b>	<b>513 parks worked</b>
<b>KB9GIY</b>	<b>8 activations of 4 parks</b>	<b>123 parks worked</b>
<b>KD9TVM</b>		<b>5 parks worked</b>
<b>NA9DM</b>		<b>9 parks worked</b>

## **Hey, Park People!!**

There's another park program out there!



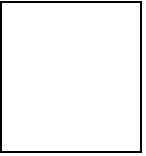
**WWFF.US**

Follow the link! New website constructed and maintained by N9MM contains links to reference link updates, upload managers, the KFF Marathon Challenge, Get Your Park On events and a handy KFF/POTA cross-reference.

If you are “running parks”, you really should be uploading qualified logs (most of them are) to both POTA and World Wide Flora and Fauna (WWFF). WWFF has been around a lot longer, has many more European participants and emphasizes references with particular importance to wildlife.

It's easy! Just send the same .adi file you have already created for POTA and send it to one of the upload managers. I have recently passed along my uploading responsibilities to N3KAE for the 5<sup>th</sup> call area. However, I still have uploading privileges and will continue to upload my own logs plus those of any WIARC member. I've submitted logs for WM4D, W9DP, W9AWE, and NR9Q in the past. Phil, KB9GIY and Dave, KB9FIN recently became the newest dual-activators with several uploaded to WWFF. Who's next?

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



April meeting: Wednesday April 2, 2025 7pm  
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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