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# THE FEEDLINE

Volume 49, Issue 8 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club August 2025

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## Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the July 2025 WIARC meeting

The July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Western IL Amateur Radio Club was brought to order at 7pm by acting president Dave Scranton W9WE with the following members and guests present:

W9WE, KD9PPJ, WA9GBC, KD0HDL, K9WAY, KB9GIY, KB9FIN, WB9EWM, Angel Smith, Bill Ennis introductions were made...

KB9FIN made a motion to accept the minutes as posted in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by K9WAY, the motion passed by membership present.

Treasurers Report: Jack KD9PPJ reported that we received thank you cards from the ALS association and the Red Cross for the donations we made. Jack bought some envelopes and pens for \$11.32 and asked for reimbursement. KB9FIN made a motion to reimburse him seconded by K9WAY motion passed by members present. KB9FIN brought the receipts for the purchase of the mice, keyboards and monitors for the computers for the amount of \$107.98 and \$239.98. KA9RHP reached out to the club to let us know he has equipment for sale. Dave KB9FIN made a motion to accept the report, seconded by K9WAY the motion was passed by members present.

Repeater Committee/Club Station: John WB9EWM had nothing to report. W9WE said he needs to work with the new logging software to figure out how it works. There was some discussion on the new software and how the different accounts are enabled. WA9GBC brought up that we should initiate a procedure or committee to set up the accounts and take care of the computers so that everyone is coordinated and on the same page. Also, to make sure all the passwords and important information is recorded.

Field Day: Dave W9WE talked about field day. He had a long night of working CW and FT4/8. He said the club made about 800 contacts total. Dave brought up that the ILQP is just around the corner and we should start thinking about it.

Membership: Jack KD9PPJ made a motion to accept Bill Ennis's application for membership. WB9EWM seconded the motion, which was passed by membership present.

New Business: Dave W9WE asked for nominations from the floor for a president replacement. WB9EWM nominated KB9FIN and made a motion to elect him by acclimation. K9WAY seconded the motion and the motion passed by membership.

Phil KB9GIY has volunteered to run for treasurer when Jack KD9PPJ leaves office. Jack says he will work with Phil to get things transferred over and get him up to speed.

WA9GBC suggested that we should consider having a club dinner.

Jack KD9PPJ made an apology to the club for the heated exchange a few months ago.

VE Testing: Hannibal will have testing at about 7:30-8pm on July 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be testing in Quincy in August.

Net Control:

July 16th- WB9EWM

July 30th-KD0HDL

August 6th- W9WE

August 13th- W9WE

August 20th- WB9EWM

August 27th- KD9PPJ

September 3<sup>rd</sup>- W9WE

John WB9EWM made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ed K9WAY. The motion passed by membership present. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Alex Rankin, Secretary

The "New MARAC"

MARAC sponsors the US Counties Award which can be earned in increments of 500 counties.

The rules for this award are at: <http://marac.org/documents/usa-ca-rules.pdf>

This award requires log data only to earn.

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out:

<http://countyhunter.com/whatis.htm>

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can find information on these awards and the rules at: <http://marac.org/awards.pdf>

There is a lot more information at [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com) . Please check it out.

Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at [www.CHNewsonline.com](http://www.CHNewsonline.com) De N4CD, Bob Voss, Editor (email: [telegraphy@verizon.net](mailto:telegraphy@verizon.net) )

*This will be good news to those who like chasing County Hunting Awards but find trying to collect QSL cards for all of those contacts to be a royal pain. Getting all of those cards for the 3077 counties the first time was quite a chore. Later awards required only log data. Now that MARAC has assumed the program from CQ Magazine, log data is the name of the game!*

*Article Borrowed from the most recent ARRL Letter:*

*Always a relevant warning made more so by the recent death of contestator and park activator N4NT0!*

**Safety Stand-Down: Look Up and Live**

**By Sierra Harrop, W5DX**

**ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager**

Electricity is a killer. About 150 people die each year at work from contact with electricity, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International. Half of those are from contact with power lines. That data is just workplace deaths, so recreational and public service volunteering aren't even accounted for.

In a recent article, ARRL New Mexico Section Manager Bill Mader, K8TE, [shared safety concerns and processes that can be implemented](#) at ARRL Field Day sites. I'd like to share a simple phrase that may enhance your situational awareness: Look up and live.

"Look up and live" was drilled into me and every other television news employee who worked with electronic news gathering vehicles that had a pneumatic mast or satellite dish. It was the title of [an industry-standard safety video published by the National Press Photographers Association](#).

In TV news, where I spent the first two decades of my professional career, there was always a deadline and often a tremendous sense of urgency at the scene of breaking news to get a live shot up first. Before the days of bonded cellular internet streaming, we used radio – microwave and satellite – to take viewers to the scene.

No matter the pressure from news managers, safety was paramount. When we approached a scene, we made sure to park the live truck at least 10 feet away from overhead wires to comply with regulations. My personal minimum was two truck-lengths from any lines, ideally a whole mast-length. If I had a 58-foot mast, I'd try to park at least 58 feet away from the nearest power line.



In this 2011 photo, photojournalist Colleen Welcher prepares the camera for the author to go live from a breaking news scene in Wichita Falls, Texas. Notice the van parked on the lawn of a church to keep the mast away from power lines which are just out of frame. [Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo]

Identifying overhead lines was ritualistic: As I arrived, I got out of the vehicle, walked 20 feet away, looked up and walked around the entire perimeter of the truck while deliberately searching for overhead lines and obstructions. This additional 45-second process could feel like an eternity when news was unfolding dramatically for me to capture and report – but I couldn't go live if I was dead.

In pursuit of our amateur radio hobby, we should apply even more diligence. There's no pressure to get on for a ham radio activation. Take your time, walk around, be diligent. Look up and live.

Portable masts, vertical antennas, wire antennas slung up into a tree – anything you put up can become energized if it contacts an overhead wire. Do not take chances. Even what appears to be a phone or fiber line could be carrying lethal voltages. Do not become the path to ground.

One additional tip that I hope never applies to a radio amateur: Should a vehicle you're in become energized by a fallen line or a mast erected into power lines, do not leave it unless it is on fire. Call for help via phone or ham radio. Yell at any bystanders to not approach your vehicle. Electricity spreads out from a path to ground in concentric rings of decreasing voltage. Being in contact with different voltages is what will kill you. If a fire requires you to exit, carefully jump clear of the vehicle so as to not contact the vehicle and ground simultaneously. Be mindful of your movements: "Bunny hop" with your feet together or shuffle your feet on the ground in small increments without lifting either of them. Do not provide a path between the different potentials by walking normally or by falling and catching yourself with your hands.

Please be careful when erecting portable gear within the wires environment. Remember: Look up and live.

*NO OPERATION, be it POTA, Field Day, county hunting or name-your-passion, is so urgent that you can afford not to LOOK UP! N9JF*

DX News joyfully purloined from ARRL  
DX News

QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 29 ARLD029 From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT July 17, 2025 To all radio amateurs

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

GHANA, 9G. Patrick, HB9HZZ, is QRV as 9G5HZ from Accra. Activity is mostly on 20 meters using VarAC, with some FT8 and Winlink. QSL via LoTW.

SINGAPORE, 9V. Eric, KH6WI, is QRV as 9V1EO for the next two years. Activity is on Satellite QO-100 using FT8 and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

**ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Pete, G0TLE will be QRV as V47EM from July 19 to August 3. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. This includes being an entry in the upcoming RSGB IOTA contest. QSL to home call.**

**Please see July QST, page 77, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.**

**Field Day 2025: Thanks to the American Red Cross for providing our operating venue. We were visited by some of the Red Cross blood staff!**



**A big THANKS to those who helped set up, tear down and operate during the weekend.**

## Exam Sessions:

08/09/2025 | [Quincy IL 62301-5201](#)

**Sponsor:** Western Illinois Amt Radio

**Location:** Bethel Assembly of God Church

**Time:** 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

10/08/2025 | [Hannibal MO 63401](#)

**Sponsor:** Hannibal ARC Inc

**Location:** Marion County Ambulance District

**Time:** 8:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

11/08/2025 | [Quincy IL 62301-5201](#)

**Sponsor:** Western Illinois Amt Radio

**Location:** Bethel Assembly of God Church

**Time:** 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

You Can test almost any time of day or night. Here's a quick link .

## Park Stuff:

W9US and YL journeyed to Mackinaw Island and spent some time on the air. NU7J and YL came to Illinois and ran some parks with N9JF. (See article below)

Updated POTA stats for WIARC as of July 23, 2025: (current WIARC members)

W9DP	15 activations of 13 parks	4343 parks worked
NU7J	178 activations of 129 parks	2453 parks worked
W9US	25 activations of 12 parks	953 parks worked
NR9Q	31 activations of 12 parks	758 parks worked
AA9GL		280 parks worked
KB9FIN	32 activations of 26 parks	1379 parks worked
KM9DX	151 activations of 106 parks	829 parks worked
WM4D	229 activations of 123 parks	625 parks worked

<b>WM9DX</b>	<b>53 activations of 49 parks</b>	<b>236 parks worked</b>
<b>N9JF</b>	<b>969 activations of 527 parks</b>	<b>1553 parks worked</b>
<b>K9AJC</b>	<b>58 activations of 24 parks</b>	<b>3685 parks worked</b>
<b>KW9Q</b>	<b>32 activations of 14 parks</b>	<b>676 parks worked</b>
<b>KB0V</b>		<b>194 parks worked</b>
<b>KA0SNL</b>		<b>134 parks worked</b>
<b>KE0MHJ</b>	<b>2 activations of 2 parks</b>	<b>125 parks worked</b>
<b>WB2UFO</b>		<b>95 parks worked</b>
<b>W9WE</b>	<b>1 activation of 1 park</b>	<b>580 parks worked</b>
<b>KD9VUW</b>	<b>116 activations of 30 parks</b>	<b>531 parks worked</b>
<b>KB9GIY</b>	<b>26 activations of 6 parks</b>	<b>152 parks worked</b>
<b>KD9TVM</b>		<b>5 parks worked</b>

## **NU7J and N9JF in western Illinois, July 2025**

Tom and Elaine flew into St. Louis in early July so as to join a family gathering on July 4. Prior to the gathering, Tom helped operate a bit at our WIARC Field Day on Sunday. I'm sure it wasn't as exciting as his DXpedition experience in the Solomon Islands, but it provided a bit of action late in the FD period.

After this, we found a few parks that Tom had not run on previous visits to Illinois. I'd already activated most of these during 2025, so I had no particular goals in mind. We merely wanted to achieve "official activations" at each site. The one "new park" was a brand new POTA park, Rip Rap Landing in Calhoun County, US-12365. This was already part of WWFF park "Mississippi River State Fish and Wildlife Area",

When we pulled into Rip Rap Landing, we immediately noticed a vehicle with antennas and someone sitting at a table alongside, Yep, headphones and a microphone.....another activator! It was KA9GWM, Larry from Hannibal who had also been lured to the newly-designated park! We worked each other on a couple of bands, and Larry was ready to leave,

Tom and I set up about a hundred feet apart, he with a hundred watts and the vertical on the car and me with 5 watts and a mag mount attached to a handy HUGE iron contraption on the river's edge. We both operated on CW, Tom on 20 meters and me on 17. It didn't take long for both of us to get 20-30 contacts. It also didn't take long for me to cook in the sun!!



From there, we went down into Jersey County, hitting Copperhead Hollow and then Pere Marquette State Park. At Copperhead Hollow, we operated in very close proximity to each other, but I tried mounting my vertical in a horizontal plane. It looked a bit odd but worked:



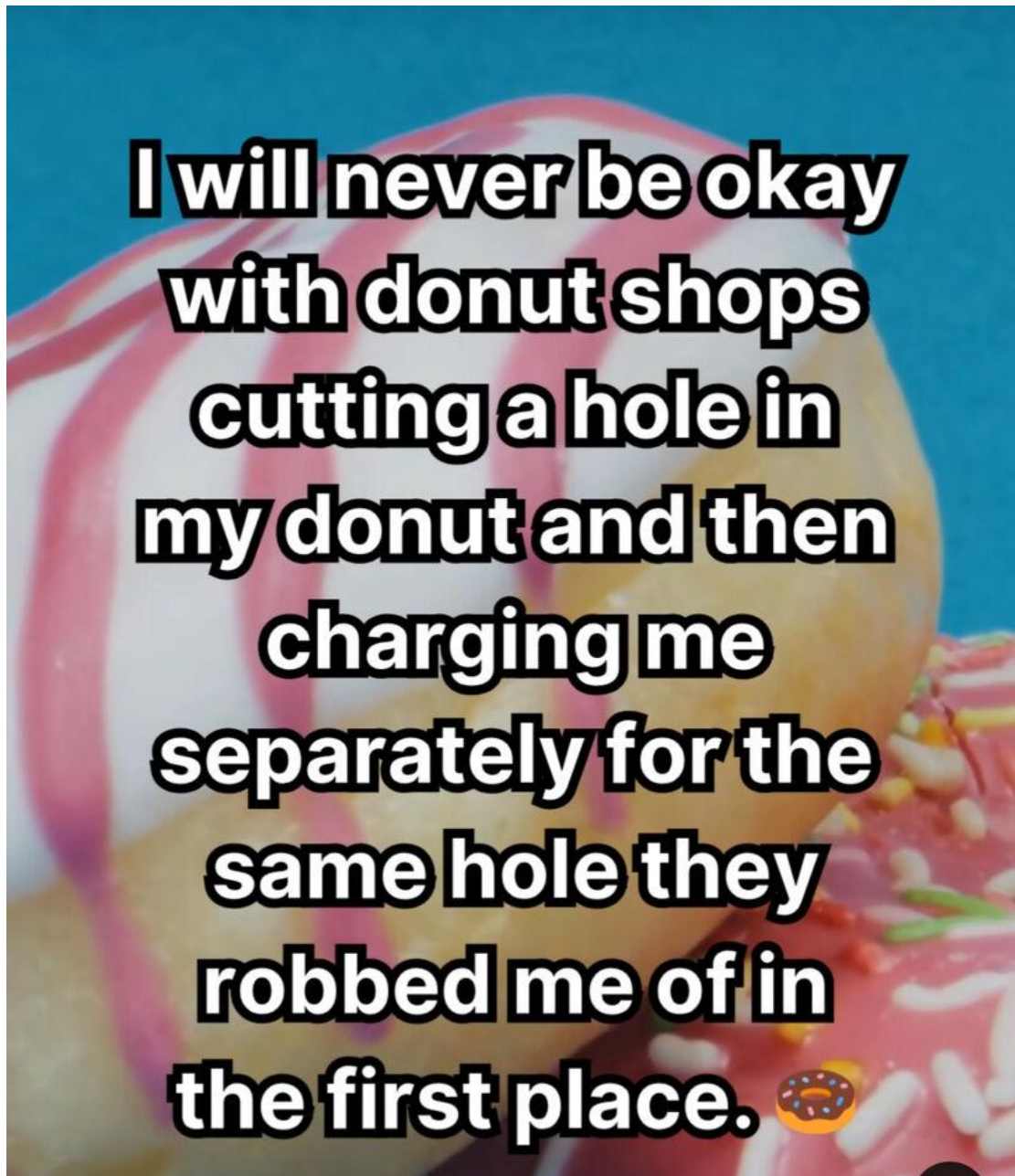
The tip of the 17' vertical was only about 6 inches off the ground, but it worked! We had no interference problems between our two stations on 20 and 17 meters.

I found a little bit of shade here..and no...I'm not asleep!!

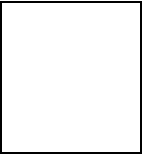




Here is the latest gem from NB4C: Thanks, Bob!



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



**August meeting: Wednesday August 6, 2025  
7 pm  
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  
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