
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 49, Issue 9 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club September 2025

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the August 2025 WIARC Meeting

The August 6th WIARC meeting was brought to order at 7pm by president Dave Williams with the following members and guests present:

KB9FIN, W9WE, KD9VUW, KB9GIY, KE9PQJ, N9JF, WB9EWM, WA9GBC, KD9PPJ, WA0VHI, KE0OAA, Tom Shrum, and via Zoom W9US, NB4C, and WD9UFO introductions were made...

WB9EWM made a motion to accept the minutes as posted in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by WA9GBC, the motion passed by membership present.

Treasurers Report: Jack KD9PPJ reported that we currently have \$4478.24 in checking and that no changes were made to the CD. Jim N9JF turned in a \$10 receipt for the Secretary of State NFP filing a \$60 receipt for Jennings Business Services for the Annual IRS filing and \$250 to the estate of Michael Black for several radios for the club station. KD9PPJ made a motion to reimburse Jim N9JF for the 3 receipts. WB9EWM seconded the motion, which was passed by the membership present.

Jim shared a text from the widow of Michael Black expressing her thanks for all the help of the club members that assisted in sorting and selling his equipment.

KD9PPJ brought up that there was a hold on the club accounts due to a paperwork issue with the nonprofit status of the club. This issue has been resolved thanks to Jack and Jim's efforts. A motion was made by John WB9EWM to accept the treasures report, seconded by Shawn KD9VUW. The motion was passed by membership present.

Repeater Committee/Club Station: KB9FIN reported that the club bought a Kenwood 590 and a Ten-tec Omni VII from the estate of Michael Black. Jim mentioned these radios can be used at the club station and brought up the possibility of using them as loaner radios for new hams. John WB9EWM mentioned that we need to schedule with Ed W9US to fix the dual band antenna. John didn't have anything to report on the repeater.

Contest Committee: Dave W9WE brought up a digital ft4 ft8 contest coming up on the 30th and 31st of this month. Jim N9JF reminded everyone that the IL QSO party is coming up on October 19th.

New Business: KB9FIN brought up the possibility of a club dinner. Several suggestions that were brought up included reserving a room at a restaurant, a tailgate swap fest and potluck at a park or using the church hall in Plainville.

Michael Black's wife offered to give the club his old QSL cards. Jim N9JF said he could pick them up and bring them to the next meeting. KE9PQJ Bill brought up some concerns of ostracizing new members who may not have their calls yet, which prompted

some discussion. Tom Shrum, a visitor, introduced himself as being interested in getting his amateur radio license and that his dad was a ham. Jack KD9PPJ mentioned the possibility of having an Elmer list for helping new hams. Several members mentioned that there had been one in the past, and that it should be revived.

Net Control:

August 13th- W9WE

August 20th- WB9EWM

August 27th- KD9PPJ

September 3rd- W9WE

September 10th- W9WE

September 17TH- WB9EWM

September 24th- W9WE

October 1st- W9WE

John WB9EWM made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Shawn KD9VUW. The motion passed by membership present. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted by Alex Rankin, Secretary

Update on Net Controls

Aug 13th-W9DP

Aug 20th-WB9EWM

Aug 27th-KD9PPJ

Sept 03rd-W9WE

Sept 10th-W9DP

Sept. 17th-WB9EWM

Sept. 24th-W9DP

Oct. 1st-W9WE

Dave Scranton

W9WE

NOTE NOTE NOTE

If you read through the August minutes, you caught these items. If not, please read this!!

- 1) Dinner meeting possibilities. A questionnaire was sent to all members via the club reflector. If you didn't get it, you are not subscribed to the reflector. If you want to be, send an email to w9dp@w9dp.us and Danny will invite you to subscribe.
- 1b) Several have already shared their thoughts on a possible club dinner. The compilation of these feedback missives will be summarized at the September meeting. If you have thoughts, share them!
- 2) An "Elmer Corps" was at one time listed on the club website. It would be good to reinstitute this! Details at the September meeting.....

News from your Illinois ARRL Section Manager:

We have just completed the Illinois Frozen Prairie exercise on August 9. As is typical, it seems that even though our Section Emergency Coordinator was on the planning calls, when it came time for the exercise, we were ignored. So instead of interfacing with the state agencies and the National Guard, ARES held their own exercise.

The intent of the ARES exercise was to move emergency traffic from the southern part of the state to the northern part via 2 meter simplex as well as contacting NC9IL in Springfield via HF. This is the second time for this type of exercise.

Now let me address the good, bad and ugly starting with the ugly.

Thanks to the sun's activity, propagation was horrible! I did manage to work NC9IL on 7227 kHz early in the exercise but it was very rough. As the day went on, it was impossible. Trying 3905 kHz was no better.

Now for the good.

We had active participation from amateurs in the southern part of the state. Traffic originated just over the state line in Paducah, Kentucky and quickly was passed through relaying stations to Effingham.

Then the bad.

While the operators in northern Illinois waited for the traffic, it stalled.

It could not be passed via simplex because we have a void of operators through the central part of the state. It did make it to Pontiac by using repeaters (not the simplex that was planned) and then it didn't go any further.

When I look at the distribution of amateur operators in Illinois, there are plenty of operators throughout central Illinois. I'm sure many have 2 meter capability but they don't seem to participate in the exercises. This does not bode well if we ever have a severe or catastrophic event.

Some of you have heard my presentation on earthquakes. There are several fault lines that impact southern Illinois. Those who live in the southern part of the state know there will be another major earthquake. It's not a matter of if, but rather when. We also have a state that is prone to flooding and tornadoes.

When it happens, it is imperative we have paths of communication from the south to the north and north to the south. As we just experienced, HF may not be usable. That means VHF/UHF will need to be used and to do that we will need trained operators to handle emergency communications.

I hope our next exercise will be successful because we have participation throughout the state. Let's train like we fight and fight like we train.

There are still rumors I'm hearing. The latest is they are doing away with the General and there will only be the Technician and Extra licenses. IT IS FALSE! If you hear a rumor, contact me before you spread it. I'll let you know if it's true or false.

Did you know ARRL Field Services is 100. Your Section Cabinet as well as the District Emergency Coordinators (DEC's) and the Emergency Coordinators (EC's) are all part of Field Services.

Stay tuned for events in 2026.

ARRL Illinois Section
Section Manager: Thomas H Beebe, W9RY
w9ry@arri.org

Sorry to hear this: Dick was a very responsive ARRL director -- .ed

Former ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isley, W9GIG, Passes Away



George "Dick" Isely, W9GIG,
Silent Key | 1939 – 2025

Former longtime ARRL Central Division Director George "Dick" Isely, W9GIG, has become a Silent Key. He passed away on July 26, 2025 at the age of 86. Isely served on the ARRL Board of Directors from 2001 – 2016, when he was named an ARRL Honorary Vice President upon his retirement. He was an ARRL and an AMSAT Life Member and was a member of the ARRL Maxim Society at the Ambassador level.

According to a [2016 story when he retired from the board](#), Isely served as a member of the ARRL Executive Committee as well as on the Board's Administration and Finance and Membership Services committees. He chaired the CEO Search Committee after former ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, announced his retirement in 2015.

Isley also served as ARRL Foundation vice president from 2008 – 2016. While on the board, he was involved in legislative affairs. He also volunteered as an incoming QSL bureau card sorter.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, worked with Isley on many projects over the years. "He was always a hard and dedicated volunteer for the League, including as a donor. His leadership was valuable in helping us in many ways. He served his Division, the League, and amateur radio in an outstanding manner," said Roderick.

Isely is a graduate of the University of Missouri and a retired US Navy and American Airlines pilot. Isely helped organize the National Frequency Coordinators' Council and served 4 years as a director.

An obituary with more about his life [may be found at this link](#).

Items Shamelessly Purloined from ARRL DX News

**QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 33 ARLD033 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT August 14, 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.

GUYANA, 8R. Aldir, PY1SAD, is QRV as 8R1TM until September 23. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. This includes some Satellite activity as well. QSL to home call.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. In celebration of Malaysia's national holiday, special event stations 9M25MA, 9M25MB, 9M25MC, 9M25MD, 9M25MJ, 9M25MK, 9M25MM, 9M25MN, 9M25MP, 9M25MR, 9M25MT, and 9M25MW are QRV until September 30. QSL via operators' instructions.

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6. In celebration of Malaysia's national holiday, special event stations 9M25MS and 9M25MQ are QRV from Sabah and Sarawak, respectively. QSL via operators' instructions.

BAHRAIN, A9. Members of the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society celebrate the IARU centenary with special call sign A9100IARU, and the 75th anniversary of IARU Region 1 with special call sign A975IARU. They are active 6 to 10 days each month. QSL via EC6DX.

ANTARCTICA. Alex, DL2ALY, is currently QRV as DP0GVN from the Neumayer III station, IOTA AN-16. QSL via DL4BBH.

CAMEROON, TJ. Darek, SP3GDH is QRV as TJ1GD while here working on humanitarian missions. He has been active in his spare time on 40 to 10 meters using FT8. This includes some activity on Satellite QO-100. QSL via SP3EOL.

BENIN, TY. Antonio, IK7WUL plans to be QRV as TY2AA from August 18 to September 7. Activity will be in his spare time on 20 meters using SSB. QSL via I8KHC.

SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ is back in Juba and QRV as Z81D mostly during his weekends. Activity is on various HF bands using SSB and FT8. QSL via OM3JW.

SOUTH AFRICA, ZS. Special event stations ZS100SARL, ZS6SRL, and ZS9HQ are QRV until the end of 2025 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the South African Radio League. QSL via bureau.

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

**NNNN
/EX**

A couple of tidbits from W9DP:

Electronic QSL

I suspect most of us that are very active on the bands have received a QSL via email. Maybe you questioned what to do about it or if it was spam, or is it some kind of phishing attempt? Maybe you have wondered if it was good to use for any awards. I will share what little I have learned about email QSLs, often called eQSL (not to be confused with the QSL service eQSL).

I started receiving QSL's via email about the same time I started chasing POTA activators. Having never experienced receiving or sending QSL's via email, I had some questions as well. First, I checked to see if it was for a contact I had actually made (it was). Next, I wondered, is this the new wave of QSLing? I mean, printed QSL cards and postage can add up to a fair amount of expense if you send and receive very many QSL's. I did a very little bit of research and confirmed a QSL received via email was not acceptable for any ARRL awards. I did not check with any other electronic QSL services about acceptance of email QSL's so there may be some that accept these eQSL via email for awards.

I came to the conclusion that using email for sending and receiving QSL's was not anything I wanted to do but if you want to just have QSL cards to look at, it makes sense from a cost standpoint. Any cards you want to hang on the wall you can print out on your home printer.

Almost all the email QSL's I have received have been through one or another of multiple pay services available that have taken advantage of the growing trend and offer a QSL service. Basically, you supply them a file with your QSL design artwork and they use it to send out via email to those you want to send QSL's to. This is not a totally new concept as other businesses have done pretty much the same type of thing using paper QSL's, you provide them the QSL design and they print the cards with the QSO data and mailed them out for you, for a fee of course. This new venture simply removes the printing and mailing cards via snail mail.

You do not need to subscribe to a service if you want to exchange QSL's via email. You can simply create your own QSL card file and send them to whoever you want to QSL with via email, middleman not needed. Just remember, the cards you send or receive may not be accepted for any awards, but there may be some place they are accepted. While it may not be for everyone, email QSL cards are gaining in popularity. To each his own. W9DP

---ed note: Electronic QSLs are NOT, and have not been accepted for credit for MARAC awards. HOWEVER (and it is a whopper of a "however"), the new MARAC awards require ONLY LOG DATA, no paper QSLs whatsoever. (See last month's Feedline).

500 watt transceiver

Some of you may have noticed the announcement about the latest radio from Flex Radio, the Aurora. The Aurora is basically a 500 watt Flex 8400 or 8600 all contained in a very lightweight package, 18 pounds!

The real icing on the cake is the radio runs on 80 to 264 VAC and only uses 675 watts from your outlet. That is under 6 amps at 120 volts! The radio is able to do this due to newer technology that improves transmitter efficiency to 80%. Learn more about this design [here](#);

Tony, K1KP on the FlexRadio Aurora 500W HF radio

The new Aurora has all the functions of the latest Flex radios, accepts the same accessories and comes with GPS and 500 watt tuner.

I have to imagine this radio will find it's way on many vacation and DX-pedition trips. You can learn more at Aurora AU-510M – FlexRadio

W9DP

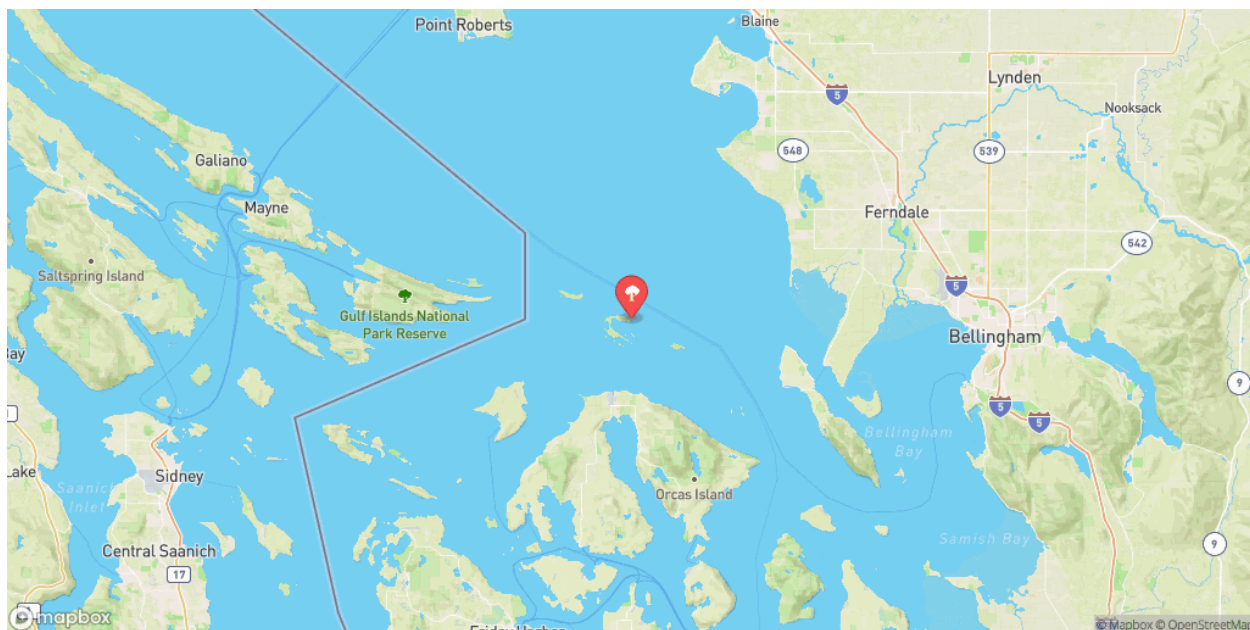
Route 66 Celebration....anyone interested?

Celebrating its 26th anniversary, the Route 66 special event will be on the air September 6 - 14, 2025, from 0001Z September 6 through 2359Z September 14. The event commemorates the history of the "Mother Road," connecting east and west areas of the US from Illinois to California. This year, there will be 22 stations participating with their 1x1 callsigns, W6A - W6V. Each station has its own schedule and is on the air as operators are available and bands allow. Not all stations will be on the air 24/7. A certificate and decal are available but operators must work at least one station before either item can be requested and it may take up to 10 weeks to process. The Route 66 special event is hosted by the [Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club – W6JBT.org](http://CitrusBeltAmateurRadioClub.com).

NU7J POTA Expedition to Sucia Island – US-3279

This summer, I had a very enjoyable and successful day activating Sucia Island State Park, in my home state of Washington. Sucia Island is in the northern part of Puget Sound, very close to Canadian waters and the Canadian Gulf Islands. Sucia is one of over 100 islands within the San Juan islands. Ferry service is only available to four of the larger, inhabited San Juan islands. Upon discovering that "San Juan Cruises" operates day tours to Sucia Island from Bellingham, I invited my xyl Elaine and somewhat sheepishly scheduled the tour on our anniversary (July 20). Warning to POTA activators: Such a risky maneuver can only be accomplished safely after decades of marriage to an understanding and supportive wife.

US-3279 Sucia Island – WA Marine State Park



Sucia Island is classified as a Washington State Marine Park, and has nice camping facilities for boaters who venture there. The designator for Sucia Island State Park is US-3279 (and KFF-3279).

I wasn't sure what to expect but I was fortunate to find a perfect operating site with a picnic table, shade and a lovely view within several hundred yards of the boat dock. The chosen site was on a narrow part of the island, with saltwater 20 feet to the front and back. I kept my eyes peeled as the boat approached the island and scoped out a picnic table in the shade using binoculars. We only had 2 hours on the island, so it was very important that I not waste time finding a site and setting up the station. My radio gear consisted of an FT-891, 20AH battery, paddle, two EFHW wire antennas, a 32 foot telescoping spider pole, small tuner, note pad and pencil. Most everything fit into a small backpack and a tool bag.

The weather was outstanding and the scenery spectacular. More importantly, the band conditions were good. Elaine kept busy by attending the ranger talk and hiking the trails.

Fortunately, I had phone service and was able to spot myself on the POTA site after hurriedly setting up the station. US-3279 had not been activated on CW, which helped attract POTA hunters. I was happy to get W9DP and N9JF in the log, amongst the 80 contacts in the log when it was all said and done.

Most of my contacts were made on 20M CW. After the action slowed down, I moved to 17M and made a contact on SSB and a number of last-minute contacts on 17M CW. A large group of friendly, curious hikers wandered by my operating site, wondering what on earth I was up to. After a brief explanation I gave a demonstration by making a SSB contact with a very strong and readable PJ2 YL on 17M Phone. The hikers were amazed and impressed. After a few minutes of chit chat with the hikers I was able to get back to

business. I made a few last-minute contacts before taking down the antenna and quickly stuffing the equipment into the backpack and tool bag.

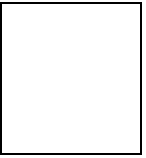
I walked as quickly as possible and made it back to the boat dock just in time, relieved to find out that I was not in the dog house with Elaine or the Captain. Elaine shared the ranger talk with me as I nodded my head, remembering the pileup and dreaming up the next POTA expedition. The boat pulled out of the harbor, heading back to civilization. We spotted a group of Orca whales on the return trip. When we got back to Bellingham, I took Elaine to a nice restaurant for our Anniversary dinner, as any good POTA activator would.

73 to WIARC members, and thanks for hunting!

Tom, NU7J nu7j@arri.net Stanwood, WA



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



**September meeting: Wednesday Sept 3, 2025
7 pm
Adams County American Red Cross
Building, 24th 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
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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