
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 50, Issue 2 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club February 2026

Note: This document was created totally without the aid of Artificial Intelligence, but with a healthy dose of human ignorance...

Ramblings from Cheap Executive

I enjoyed the meeting last month and hope others did as well. It was great having some new faces along with the regulars.

Going through the meeting minutes (below), I'm reminded that it doesn't take very long to hippity-hop through a month, and there are things I need to address before the next meeting. I want to thank Dave and Jac for investigating possibilities for a club dinner. I think they have something set up for mid-March. Stay tuned for details! Thanks to Dave W9WE for volunteering to help with a review of the club bylaws, to Dave and Andy for volunteering to learn the ILQP log processing procedure and to Bill KE9DQJ for volunteering to help with the Membership Committee.

If you can attend our monthly meetings, I hope you will. I know it takes some effort to show up, but the club is strengthened when people show up. If you can't attend in person, I hope you'll take advantage of Shawn's arrangements to make the meeting available on Microsoft Teams. It's not exactly like being there, but we won't ignore you!

Watch for announcements of upcoming social events. Be a part of club on-the-air activities whenever you can. Check into the Wednesday night nets. Use the club repeaters. I know they are not as busy as they once were, but it's important that they are maintained and that they are used. It's hard to imagine at the moment, but we will be in the middle of storm watch season in a couple of months!

Spend some time maintaining your station, whether it's at home or in a vehicle. Consider getting checked out with the club station. We really do have stuff that works!

See you at the meeting!
73, Jim N9JF

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the January 2026 WIARC meeting:

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1/7/2026 AT 7PM BY JIM FUNK

INTRODUCTIONS WERE MADE.

JIM ASKED TO APPROVE THE JAN 2026 NEWLETTER. 2ND BY JODI ALL IN

TREASURER REPORT JAN 2026 WAS 15580 CD+4309 CHECKING, JAN 2025 WAS 13543 CD+2705 CHECKING=16,248, JULY 2024=9300 CHECKING AND 6300 CD=15,600. IT WAS MENTIONED THAT THE CLUB FOUND A SAVINGS ACCOUNT OF ROUGHLY \$5000 AND THAT ACCOUNT WAS CLOSED AND ADDED TO CHECKING AFTER JAN 2025.

DAVE SAID A REPEATER WAS REPAIRED. COST TO REPAIR WAS \$93

STATION COMMITTEE: NOTHING GOING ON, SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN STATION. IT WAS MENTIONED THERE IS A CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO DO. (CHECKLIST NEEDS TO BE ADDED). IF YOU NEED TO USE THE CLUB STATION ASK (JIM FUNK, DAVES SCRANTON, SHAWN, DAVE).

BACKGROUND CHECK IS REQUIRED TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE ARC BUILDING AS PART OF AN OFFICIAL ARC VOLUNTEER.

CONTEST COMMITTEE: NORTH AMERICA CW. HAVE NOT STARTED UP QSO PARTIES; 1ST ONE IS IN MINNOSOTA. THERE ARE SOME PARKS ON THE AIR OPPORTUNITY. IL QSO PARTY : THE RESULTS ARE POSTED. DANNY HAS LIST FOR PLAQUES. JIM WANTED TO KNOW IF ANYONE WANTS TO LEARN THE LOGGING REQUIRED FOR QSL PARTY. DAVE HAS A WHOLE BUNCH OF MACROS SETUP AND ABOUT 3 PAGES WORTH OF INSTRUCTIONS.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: A VOLUNTEER FOR THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. QUESTION WAS ASKED WHAT THE REQUIREMENTS AND IT WAS DISCUSSED JUST KEEPING UP WITH THE MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION AND WHO HAS PAYED DUES. WE THINK WE MAY HAVE A VOLUNTEER FOR THAT.

OLD BUSINESS:

FLYER MUDDY RIVER NEWS WAS PAID AND POSTED ON THEIR FACEBOOK PAGE. WE ARE UNSURE HOW SUCCESSFUL THIS WILL BE WAS PROBABLY WORTH THE \$75 AND WE ALSO HAVE A FLYER NOW WE CAN TACK IN BUSINESSES. TWO POTENTIAL MEMBERS WERE AT THE MEETING. ONE OF THEM SAID THEY SAW THE AD ON MUDDY RIVER NEWS AND THE OTHER ONE SAID THEY LOOKED AT THE WEBSITE AND LIKED THE POTA INFORMATION ON THERE.

IT WAS MENTIONED THAT MAYBE HAVING MORE FREQUENT SOCIAL EVENTS OR DIFFERENT EVENTS. IT SEEMS LIKE DURING THOSE TIMES WHEN WE HAVE A MEAL AND EVERYTHING THE CLUB SEEMS TO GROW. GROUP OF HAMS GET TOGETHER FOR BREAKFAST. NEED AT LEAST ONE MEETING WHERE THE WOMEN ARE INVITED? QUESTION ABOUT GETTING HAMBURGERS AND HOTDOGS, AND MAYBE ARRANGE IT WITH FIELD DAY.

CLUB DINNER AT SPROUTS (NO DATE WAS GIVEN). ORDER OFF THE MENU. TWO VOLUNTEERS WERE GOING TO TRY AND GET DATES FOR A CLUB DINNER AND WILL INTRODUCE IT AT THE NEXT MEETING.

BYLAWS AND CONSTITUTION-WAS WANTING TO KNOW IF ANYONE WANTED TO VOLUNTEER TO REVIEW THE CONSTITUTION AND COME UP WITH CHANGES. DAVE WILL HAVE A COMMITTEE TO DO THIS.

Net Control:

January 14th- KD9PPJ Jack
January 21st- KD9VUW Shawn
January 28th- WB9EWM John
February 4 W9WE. DAVE
February 11. W9DP. DANNY
February 18. KD9VUW. SHAWN
February 25. KD9VUW. SHAWN
March. 04 W9WE DAVE

Motion to adjourn KB9FIN, Adjourn

Normally we go to Tower of Pizza immediately after meeting.

Post Meeting Presentation: Video Presentation on Vacuum Tubes

Submitted by Jac KD9PPJ, Secretary

Gleanings from *The ARRL Contest Update*:

Any resolution to become more proficient with CW should include some of the weekly [CW Ops Tests](#), also known as CWT. The multiple 60-minute sessions happen during the week on Wednesday and Thursday, with different sessions favoring propagation to different areas. Just choose the ones that work for you. The exchange is first name and CWops member number; for non-members, first name and “state, province, or DX Country prefix.” Your frequent participation can even earn you a certificate or medal.

It's not too early to start thinking about “Dayton”....

This year's Dayton, Ohio, contesting activities at the Hope Hotel, coincident with the [Dayton Hamvention](#), are shaping up. Wednesday, May 13, through Saturday, May 16, the [Contest Super Suite](#) will host free pizza parties for “Contesters and DXers” from 7 PM to about 1 AM each night. The suite is sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club (MRRRC), Frankford Radio Club (FRC), North Coast Contesters (NCC), and Kansas City DX Club (KCDXC). The pizza is sponsored by Dayton Contest University, the Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC), Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), and Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC), and Contest University on Wednesday through Saturday nights, respectively.

Thursday, May 14, the day before Hamvention opens, [Contest University](#) will be held at the [Hope Hotel](#), located near the Wright Patterson AFB, 7 AM to 5 PM. This is a full day of sessions on all aspects of contesting, and attendees also have time to make personal connections with others and the “professors.”

Friday evening, May 15, the annual [Top Band Dinner](#) will be held at the Hope Hotel. In its 34th year, the speaker will be Jeff Briggs, K1ZM. Social hour starts at 6 PM, dinner at 7 PM.

Saturday evening, May 16, the annual [Dayton Contest Dinner](#) will feature Mark Haynes, M0DXR, and Robert Kasca, S53R, as speakers. Doors open at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM. The dinner is MCed by John Dorr, K1AR, and features the announcement of the 2026 CQ Contest Hall of Fame inductees.

VE info:

Interested in testing or upgrade !!!!!!! Or Becoming a VE?
Please read all this information

There are several ways to get this going your way.

You can get accreditation with all the 14 groups but I would not suggest. HRCC Ham Radio Crash Course, and GLAARG a Los Angeles club are enough for me.

If you have any questions let me know. Once you have your exam tools account you can usually be checked in as a guest and observe a couple of test sessions to get used to it.
w9we

DX News Cheerfully Purloined from ARRL DX News:

QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 2 ARLD002 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington, CT January 15, 2026 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.

GUINEA, 3X. Herman, YB3GIH, is QRV as 3X/YB3GIH from Boffa while on work assignment. Activity of late has been on 20 meters using SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via YB3GIH on QRZ.com.

KENYA, 5Z. Michael, OZ6ABL, is QRV as 5Z4/OZ6ABL from Watamu until February 28. Activity is holiday style on 80 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL to home call.

MALAWI, 7Q. Chris, ZS6RI, is QRV as 7Q5C from Karonga while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time. QSL via LoTW.

GUYANA, 8R. Aldir, PY1SAD, is QRV as 8R1TM until February 23. Activity is on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes during the week between 2300 and 0300z, and full-time on weekends. This includes being active on various FM and analog Satellites. QSL via LoTW.

CROATIA, 9A. Special call signs 9A44FF and 9A44FF/p are active during all of 2026 to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Croatian Flora Fauna radio club. QSL via operators' instructions.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Philippe, F1DUZ, will be QRV as FG4KH from January 20 to February 10. Activity will be on 80 through 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Bernhard, DL2GAC, will be QRV as H44MS from Manakwai Village on Malaita Island, IOTA OC-047, from January 18 to April 15. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

DESECHEO ISLAND, KP5. A group of operators are QRV using remote control as KP5/NP3VI until February 14. Activity is on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via M0OXO.

SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS. Gabriel, LU1WGB, is QRV as LU1WGB/Z from the Joint Antarctic Base Orcadas on Laurie Island, IOTA AN-008, until February 22. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using FT8. QSL to home call.

BENIN, TY. Gerard, F5NVF, is QRV as TY5GG until April 6. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via LoTW.

MALI, TZ. Jeff, TZ4AM is QRV from Bamako and plans to be active until February 28 as local conditions permit. Activity is on 40 through 6 meters using mostly CW and some SSB. QSL via KX4R.

INDONESIA, YB. Dave, PB2X, is QRV as YB5/PB2X from Sumatra, IOTA OC-143, until February 5. Activity is on 80 through 10 meters, including 30, 17, and 12 meters, using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

Please see January 2026 QST, page 90, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details. NNNN /EX

New 60 meter frequencies....if you're not confused yet, stand by....

The new 60-meter frequencies approved by the FCC in December will become available to amateurs as of February 13, 2026, along with new power restrictions on those frequencies. It's a bit confusing, as different rules apply to different segments of the band. The changes result from the FCC's action to approve a worldwide 60-meter amateur allocation made by the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2015 (WRC-15). See <https://tinyurl.com/mt8p8jpa>.

As of February 13, FCC-licensed amateur operators holding General Class or higher licenses may operate on a secondary basis anywhere between 5351.5 and 5366.5 kHz, subject to a maximum bandwidth of 2.8 kHz and maximum transmit power of 9.15 watts ERP (effective radiated power). For the purpose of computing ERP, the transmitter PEP (peak envelope power) is multiplied by the antenna gain relative to a half-wave dipole antenna. A half-wave dipole is presumed to have a gain of 1 (0 dBd). Amateurs using other antennas must maintain in their station records either the antenna manufacturer's data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain.

Here's the confusing part: The existing 60-meter channels centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz remain as secondary amateur allocations with maximum power of 100 watts ERP. However, the old channel at 5358.5 kHz is eliminated as it is now part of the new 5351.5-5366.5 kHz subband and subject to the lower power limit.

For all 60-meter transmissions, emission bandwidth is limited to 2.8 kHz or less and amateurs must not cause harmful interference to, and must accept interference from, stations authorized by the United States (NTIA and FCC) and other nations in the fixed service; and all other nations in the mobile service (except aeronautical mobile). Data or RTTY emissions in particular must be limited in transmission length so as not to cause

harmful interference. Digital mode operators must be familiar with offsets in order to stay within the authorized frequencies.

The new FCC rules take effect on February 13, which is 30 days after publication in the January 14 edition of the [Federal Register](#). See also [ARRL News](#) for related background.

Happenings on (and off) the air de N9JF:

There is never a dull moment when I'm trying to get on the air.

A week or so ago, I determined to run a couple of parks down in Jersey and Calhoun counties. On the way, I stopped in Scott County to give a contact to Ric, WO4O. I crossed the Florence bridge (which somehow has managed not to be hit by a barge recently) and pulled off at a convenient driveway. "This will only take a minute...I won't even turn off the car...." I hopped out, stuck the 20 meter Hustler on the car, turned on the FT991a and sent "QRL?" on 14056.5.

The display on the dash went nuts.

I turned off the car, gave Ric a contact and stuck around a few minutes to see if anyone else needed Scott County (apparently no one else did), turned off the radio, took the antenna off the car and started the engine again.

Weird warnings. Lots of weird warnings.... Nasty flashing lights. Put the car in Drive. The "D" light flashes. Car lurches. Car won't shift out of second gear. Top speed about 35 mph at 4000 rpm. Yes, I got home OK.

It was suggested to me that I might be able to unhook the battery for a few minutes and get the computer to clear the errors. I considered that on Monday morning before I figured I'd have to take the car to the dealership. Have you ever tried to GET to the battery on a Honda Passport????

Plan B: Take the car to Quincy.

On the way out of the drive, the errors went away and the car drove normally.

Note to self: Don't have the car turned on while transmitting with 100 watts.

The good news: I wasn't in Northwest Territories.....

More N9JF sagas.....

I've been running a lot of FT8 and FT4 from parks in the past few months with the FT991a and the old Dell Windows 10 laptop. It was working just fine.

A few days ago, I brought the 991a into the shack and tried to get it to work with the HP (Windows 11) laptop. No amount of gyrations, combinations and voodoo would get the radio and laptop to communicate. I finally could get WSJT-X to decode, but nothing went back the other way to transmit.

Now I decided to “punt” and put the 991a back in touch with the Windows 10 laptop. Guess what? Now it wouldn’t work with Windows 10.

I spent hours on the phone with brother Dave, WY0L, trying different combination in WSJT-X and with Windows settings.

Along the way, we tried getting my Xiegu X6100 to work with FT modes. The Windows 11 laptop gave no joy, but we got it to work with Windows 10! I would have given up, but Dave pushed ahead. This is the relationship we’ve had within ham radio for 60 years: I break stuff and he fixes it.

I suppose we will eventually get things working again with the FT991a, but that will have to wait a few days.

W1AW/9

John, W9KXQ, communicated with me a few weeks ago, wondering if I would be interested in the ARRL 250 celebration by helping put W1AW/9 on the air. Sounds like fun! I signed up for a couple of 4-hour sessions on 30 meter CW. The first was from 0000z to 0400z on Wednesday, January 21 (Tuesday evening local time). I fired up the FTDX1200 in the shack, set up N1MM for logging, brewed a cup of coffee and settled down for some fun.

Did anyone happen to check the solar numbers that evening? I didn’t. At first.

I spotted myself on DX Summit and called CQ. A couple of stations called. They sounded weird. Weak. Watery. Then nobody called for a long time. I spotted myself again. Not much action. This isn’t much fun. I checked the solar numbers. A=143, K=8. Yikes!!

After an hour and 45 minutes and 16 contacts, I bailed. My apologies to anyone determined to get a 30 meter contact with W1AW/9. I’ll be trying again on the 27th....

N9JF

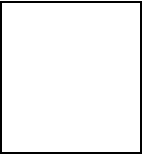
Parkie Stuff

Here are the club stats for POTA as of January 21, 2026:

W9DP	18 activations of 13 parks	4848 parks worked
NU7J	215 activations of 156 parks	2578 parks worked
W9US	30 activations of 12 parks	1090 parks worked
NR9Q	31 activations of 12 parks	792 parks worked
AA9GL		412 parks worked
KB9FIN	32 activations of 26 parks	1470 parks worked

KM9DX	172 activations of 119 parks	905 parks worked
WM4D	290 activations of 158 parks	798 parks worked
WM9DX	63 activations of 59 parks	288 parks worked
N9JF	1016 activations of 556 parks	1654 parks worked
K9AJC	84 activations of 25 parks	4054 parks worked
KW9Q	35 activations of 14 parks	714 parks worked
KB0V		204 parks worked
KA0SNL		153 parks worked
KE0MHJ	3 activations of 3 parks	128 parks worked
WB2UFO		97 parks worked
W9WE	1 activation of 1 park	671 parks worked
KD9VUW	126 activations of 30 parks	544 parks worked
KB9GIY	49 activations of 11 parks	254 parks worked
KD9TVM		5 parks worked
K9WAY		236 parks worked
NA9DM		14 parks worked
KB9LBE	40 activations of 20 parks	870 parks worked
W9FGH	2 activations of 1 park	34 parks worked

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



**November meeting: Wednesday, November
7..
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**

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Analog repeater W9AWE/R on 147.630/.030 Tone Rx and Tx 103.5
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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
Editor Jim Funk N9JF
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