
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 50, Issue 5 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club May 2026

Ramblings from the “Old Man”

Long, long ago, the standard greeting on the ham bands, on CW, became “OM”. This was probably because most hams were originally guys (don’t hit me too hard for that one, ladies, but I think it’s probably true). “OM” was a safe way to begin, and I recall being mildly amused, at age 16, being addressed as “OM” in just about every QSO.

There were indeed some well-known ladies in the ham circles. Actually, there was a family friend in our neighborhood, a really good friend of my Mom’s, who was W9TFL. She used the phonetics “Tall Fair Lady” on the air. I don’t ever recall seeing her “shack” as she may not have been active by the time I was licensed. Both she and her husband were hams.

With over 60 years on the air, I have a lot of memories of the “old timers” whose calls graced my log book. I really should go back to “Book 1” and look up some of those calls. It probably won’t happen today, but.....

It’s unfortunate that I didn’t become a club member until 1987, because I know there were many hams in the Quincy area with whom I had QSOs but never met face to face.

I don’t think we can afford to minimize the effect that those face-to-face contacts have on our lives. While our meetings are valuable, the “meeting after” at the Tower is a great time to connect in a more meaningful way. I’d encourage any of you who have an extra hour or two on Wednesday evenings to join us when you can.

This issue will contain some self-serving mention of the N9JF on-air activities since I didn’t receive a whole lot from other people, its two days past when I usually get this laid to rest, and...well...I don’t mind talking about myself....

Please note below the proposed changes to club by-laws. Very important. These were emailed to the membership, as per by-laws, more than 10 days prior to the meeting. Each of these will be voted upon, individually, at the May meeting.

Send more stuff..... 73, Jim N9JF

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the April 2026 WIARC meeting

The April 2026 meeting of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President N9JF at 7 pm on Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Introductions were made with the following members in attendance:

N9JF, KB9GIY, KD9VUW, WA9GBC, WB9EWM, KB9FIN, KD0HDL, AB9DU, W9FGH, KC0QMI, W9WE, KD0DKE and NB4C via Microsoft Teams.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in The Feedline on a motion by WB9EWM, seconded by WA9GBC and passed by the membership.

Treasurer's Report by KB9GIY included a checking balance of \$4793, increased by \$110 from last month with monies from dues received.

The Repeater Board report was given by WB9EWM who reported no issues at present.

The Station Committee report was given by KB9FIN. He, W9US, WB9EWM and NR9Q installed the new 2/440 antenna and the new run of coax on Saturday, March 28.

The Contest Committee report was given by W9WE, who reported on several upcoming QSO parties. Dave did well in last fall's PAQP, scoring second in Illinois and 34th in the USA.

The Membership Committee report given by KB9GIY indicates 57 paid members, 13 of whom paid since the March meeting.

There were no applications for membership.

Under Old Business, W9WE reported that 18 attended the dinner meeting at Sprouts. N9JF reminded those in attendance of the upcoming Missouri QSO Party and the possibility of operating from area parks that weekend. A discussion was again held regarding bylaws changes. The proposed changes will be published to the membership prior to the May meeting for a vote at the meeting. Field Day is upcoming at the end of June. Detailed plans will be discussed at the May meeting.

The was no New Business introduced.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm on a motion by WB9EWM seconded by W9WE and approved by the membership.

Following adjournment, a program on the beginnings of commercial radio broadcasting was presented by W9FGH. The second part of John's program will be given at the May meeting.

Minutes haphazardly taken and reconstructed by N9JF in absence of the secretary, and submitted in good faith....

Proposed changes to WIARC Bylaws April 2026:

Article IV Section 2

ANNUAL MEETING: *Delete entire Section 2.*

Rationale: No reason to specify such a special meeting.

Article IV Section 4

QUORUM: *Eight (was ten) members in good standing....*

Article V Section 6

INSTALLATIONS: The incoming officers shall be installed at the *regular meeting of the club in January* (was "at the annual meeting in January")

Article 6 B Executive Committee

The Committee shall be composed of all the elected officers of the club, the immediate past President of the Club and the Club Trustee. The Club President shall be the Chairperson of this Committee. (Adds Club Trustee to Exec Committee.)

Article VII Section 5

Note: the part about not accepting any donation, gift or contribution other than membership dues can be taken care of by annually taking a vote at the January meeting to accept such monies!

Article XII Sections 2 and 3 already list the Station Trustee as a member of the repeater board and the schedule for election and term.

Dx News cheerfully purloined from *ARRL DX News*:

QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 15 ARLD015 From ARRL Headquarters Newington, CT April 16, 2026 To all radio amateurs SB DX ARL ARLD015 ARLD015 DX news

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 websites. Thanks to all.

TIMOR LESTE, 4W. Darren, VK4MAP, is active holiday-style as 4W6DA from Timor Leste, IOTA OC-148. He also expects to be QRV as 4W6DA/P from Atauro Island, IOTA OC-232. Activity is primarily on 10 meters SSB.

JAMAICA, 6Y. 6Y5CB was active recently on 15 meters SSB.

GUYANA, 8R. Aldir, PY1SAD, is QRV as 8R1TM until May 10. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and digital modes. He will also be an entry in the CQ MM DX Contest.

COMOROS, D6. Ivan, D60DX, is active until May 1. Activity has been on 15 and 20 meters CW.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX. Serge, EX0M, is QRV on 17 meters CW and looking for North American stations.

GREENLAND, OX. Bo, OZ1DJJ, is active as OX3LX from Aasiaat Island, IOTA NA-134, until April 25. He operates in his spare time.

**ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Janusz, SP9FIH, is active as V4/SP9FIH from Nevis until April
CAMBODIA, XU. Thomas, DL7BO, is active as XU7O on 160 to 6 meters using FT8.**

LAOS, XW. Vincent, XW4KV, is QRV on 15 meters FT8. Logs are uploaded to LoTW and Club Log.

IRAQ, YI. Yousif, formerly YI1YJK, now operates as YI1CW on various HF bands and the QO-100 satellite.

**Please see April QST, page 77, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.
NNNN
/EX**

QSO Parties

QSO party season is in full swing. It starts with Minnesota in February (who ever thought THAT was a good plan???) and ends with our party in October (always a good plan!)

Coming up the first weekend in May are the Indiana Party, the 7-Land Party and the New England Party. There will be a LOT of activity on that weekend!

I want to mention the Indiana Party in particular, because it starts first, 1500z on Saturday May 2. The other two begin on the 2nd but continue on Sunday. Indiana ends at 0300z on the 3rd. There will be a lot of park activations in conjunction with the QSO parties, as more and more operators have figured out that they can ‘milk’ both activities for contacts simultaneously. I, for one, will be doing this! It’s always been a desire of mine to help out the Indiana folks with their event when possible since they have been go good about supporting us. This particular weekend does NOT coincide with the Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count, which takes first place on my list unless there is a family emergency.

I’ll be operating from four parks in Indiana on May 2 in four different counties. I’ll probably be CW only. The contest permits self-spotting, so watch the POTA site, the WWFF site and W6RK (county hunters) for my spots if you’re interested.

N9JF

Other Park Stuff:

Herein included N9JF park stories....skip if not interested....

The trip south.

We have two daughters living in Tennessee whom we had not visited recently. Therefore, a trip was planned to Tennessee in mid-April. Along with family stuff, I managed to activate some parks. My goal for this year has been to activate parks that

are both POTA and WWFF sites and to do so with at least 44 contacts per park, the WWFF standard. So far in 2026, 54 parks have “made the grade”. Those now include Bledsoe Creek SP near Gallatin TN and Stones River Battlefield and Murfree Springs Natural Area in Murfreesboro. None of those were ‘new’ for me but they were new for 2026.

Any park activation includes a certain amount of strategy. Decide when and where to go, find the park, find a parking spot that is either shady (in hot weather) or in the sun (in cold weather) but with the sun not reflecting from the laptop screen. Try to be out of the way and not intrusive. Put the antenna on the car (AFTER CHECKING OVERHEAD FOR WIRES!!!). Check for cell coverage. If you don’t have any, change strategy a bit to figure out how to get spotted. Select a frequency and be sure it’s clear. Send a text to the “followers” (I have a list of about 10 on a text thread) of the park number and frequency. Send spots to POTA, WWFF, and W6RK. Open the log program and enter file name and relevant information.

If the frequency is still clear, start calling CQ and hope for the best.....

I usually start on 20 meters because “that’s where the action is”. This usually results in 15-20 contacts in fairly short order, depending upon the day and time of day. Recently, 20 has been fickle. Signals may be loud but scarce. When the answers slow down, if I have cell coverage, I’ll check the POTA spots for other activators and see how many of them I can put into the log for “park-to-park” contacts. This, on a good day, can add 6-10 more log entries. After this, I usually go to digital modes, 20 FT4 and FT8.

If all goes well, I can usually knock out a 44+ activation in under an hour. If not, I will usually try either 30 or 40 meters next, CW and digital. Some days are easy; others are tooth-pullers.

The Tennessee activations went relatively well.

Next, our granddaughter Anna was running at Ole Miss during the weekend. I had never activated a park in either Mississippi or Louisiana....so....here we go! On the way down, we visited a couple of parks in Mississippi.

After the meet, it was time to tour the Vicksburg MS National Battlefield. We had been to Vicksburg several years ago but not radio-actively. Driving the 16 mile loop in the park and touring the visitor center is always a sobering event as one remembers the horrors and suffering of the Civil War. We were able to locate the marker for the Illinois 99th Regiment of which my great-great-grandfather was a member. We have never been able to determine with certainty whether he died at Vicksburg or in Andersonville Prison, but he did not return home to his family.

After Mississippi, we ventured into Louisiana to a couple of wildlife refuges and state parks and then wandered home through Arkansas.

A total of 14 parks went into the activated column during the trip.

Next....the trip north.

I'd been down with bronchitis for about a week after we got home. On Monday the 20th I finally felt like getting back out, and I left home with no clear destination (one of the perks of being retired). I had recently heard from WM4D about his experiences up in Henderson County and decided to head that way for adventure.

The Henderson County State Fish and Wildlife area has a nice parking lot with bathrooms, a shelter, picnic tables and a grill. I usually just activate from within the car, but it was such a nice day that I decided to drag everything over to the shelter and mount the antenna on the grill!



The weather was gorgeous, there were few people around (fishermen complaining that the fish were not biting) and the birds were singing. What could possibly go wrong?

Propagation stunk. I finally did manage to get 44 contacts, but it took a loooooong time. At least the birds were singing. Perhaps the mount on the grill wasn't a great idea? It's worked before....

Sooo....on to the next one, Delabar State park near Oquawka. Henderson County IL, by the way, is fairly "rare", so the calls from county hunters really helped to pad the log. It's also an extremely long county, south to north.

At Delabar, not only did I find a good parking spot, the shelter had AC power!! I could charge both the radio battery and the laptop, eliminating those worries and limitations. This time, I set up on a table but left the antenna on the car. Again, propagation was a challenge, though at the end a flurry of 30 meter contacts bailed me out. The sun was going down, and I noticed that the air temperature and the contact totals were about the same. I'm glad Melba reminded me to "wear something with long sleeves"!

I'd recommend either of these sites to any of you who are running parks and don't mind a bit of a drive. There are three other parks close by that I didn't get o on this trip, and one can run several others on the way up in Illinois, Iowa or Missouri.

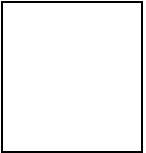
Parks activity for current WIARC members as of 16 April 2026:

KB9LBE	49 ACTIVATIONS OF 22 PARKS	1002 PARKS WORKED
KW9Q	35 ACTIVATIONS OF 14 PARKS	720 PARKS WORKED
K9AJC	85 ACTIVATIONS OF 25 PARKS	4181 PARKS WORKED
W9US	30 ACTIVATIONS OF 12 PARKS	1100 PARKS WORKED
KB0V		313 PARKS WORKED
N9JF	1074 ACTIVATIONS OF 578 PARKS	1798 PARKS WORKED
WB2UFO		98 PARKS WORKED
KD9VUW	126 ACTIVATIONS OF 30 PARKS	545 PARKS WORKED
W9DP	18 ACTIVATIONS OF 13 PARKS	5068 PARKS WORKED
AA9GL		502 PARKS WORKED
NR9Q	31 ACTIVATIONS OF 12 PARKS	909 PARKS WORKED
W9WE	1 ACTIVATION OF 1 PARK	734 PARKS WORKED
W9FGH	2 ACTIVATIONS OF 1 PARK	34 PARKS WORKED
KA0SNL		156 PARKS WORKED
NU7J	218 ACTIVATIONS OF 158 PARKS	2599 PARKS WORKED
K9WAY		430 PARKS WORKED
KA9WAY		3 PARKS WORKED

KE0MHJ	3 ACTIVATIONS OF 3 PARKS	141 PARKS WORKED
WM4D	296 ACTIVATIONS OF 159 PARKS	825 PARKS WORKED
KB9GIY	58 ACTIVATIONS OF 11 PARKS	347 PARKS WORKED

"Milestones": KB9LBE 1000 parks worked; W9US 1100 parks worked; NR9Q 900 parks worked; W9DP 900+ contacts with N9JF

Western Il. Amateur Radio Club
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November meeting: Wednesday, May 6 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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