
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 50, Issue 7 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club July 2026

Certified AI-Free Disorganized Thoughts from the Wandering Prez....

As this is being written, Melba and I are 15 days into our trip to Atlantic Canada. What started out as a determination to see Newfoundland and Labrador was met with the reality of time constraints. Sandwiched between the June meeting and Field Day, one cannot do justice to a 6000 mile trip. (If you prefer, 10000 kilometers....). Setting foot on those two Canadian land masses will have to wait for next year.

One learns a lot about what can go right, and wrong, when activating parks on a long trip. I won't go into too many details. Trying to cope with digital modes makes me appreciate CW more all the time. To this point, we have not had any major equipment failures. The only park activation "failure" occurred when the radio battery died due to not being adequately charged overnight. Some activations were better than others, but it was great having a significant following from the text group to nab me when I got on the air. A total of 59 parks have been activated so far on the trip in Indiana, Michigan, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Maine and Massachusetts. One highlight was pulling up to the Cape Enragee Lighthouse in Nova Scotia and finding HB9IIO already running the park!

From Fundy National Park on Nova Scotia on June 20, Danny, W9DP worked me on 20 meter CW for our "Operator to Operator" contact number 1000!

I think I need a travel agent. I booked one hotel in the wrong town. Every other town in Quebec has "river" in the name, and they are all in French. Duh. We arrived too late to catch a ferry ride, stayed overnight and were the first car to NOT make the ride the next morning. I booked a hotel stay for the wrong night. I drove on some roads that were probably not meant to be driven on. We "camped" one night in a Wal Mart parking lot. We were temporarily lost in at least three provinces. The Garmin GPS, more than once, confidently took us to parks that....weren't. Melba, bless her heart, not once muttered the phrase, "What an idiot!". We had adventures and kept moving....

We ate quite a bit of ice cream despite not seeing any "new birds"...just a lot of familiar ones that are not usually around home. Four moose put in appearances, fortunately not in the middle of the road. No porcupines or wolverines were seen. There are a lot of spruce trees in Nova Scotia, and a lot of

Scottish names on Cape Breton Island. We found a road that was worse than the Taylor Highway in Alaska.

Field Day will be over by the time you read this. Hopefully I will have seen a lot of you and much fun will have been experienced....

73, Jim N9JF

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the June 2026 WIARC Meeting

JUNE 2026 MEETING WIARC

Introductions/Attendance

W9WE (Dave), KB9GIY (Phil), KD9VUW (Shawn), KEDQJ (Bill), N0EMR (Rich), WB9EWM (John), KB9FIN (Dave), KD0DKE (Scott), WA9NGB (Tom), DB9DV (Bob), WA9GBC (Dave), K90HDL (Joe), KD9PPJ (Jack), N9JF (Jim), W9UFO (Ballarion), NB4C (Bob), KC0QMI (Dave)

Approval of May minutes

DAVE (KB9FIN) MOTION, JOHN (WB9EWM) 2nded.

Treasury Report -KB9GIY

CHECKING \$4231, CD \$15897, accepted report by John (WB9EWM), 2nded by KB9FIN (Dave).

Repeater Board KB9FIN, 443.9 Repeater Phil said it needed rebooted. Also said the .195 repeater is not currently doing digital mode so hope to repair it soon.

Station Committee WB9EWM or KB9FIN, nothing to report.

Contest Committee W9WE, I worked contest WPX CW worldwide.

Membership Committee Report KB9GIY, 60 paid members.

Old Business-None.

New Business-Membership Cards (Bill Ennis) might find a way to print more cards.

Field Day discussion-

-Like to set up Saturday Morning. Would like to have CW, Analog, and Digital.

-TIME/DAY: July 27th and July 28th. 8am Saturday until Noon on Sunday

-Motion \$150 for food/drink Saturday Motion made by Dave (KB9FIN), Jack KD9PPJ 2nd.

Applications for membership-None

Net Control Stations

6/3 DAVE W9WE
6/10 DANNY W9DP
6/17 DAVE W9WE
6/24 JOHN WB9EWM
7/1 DAVE W9WE
7/8 JACK KD9PPJ
7/15 DANNY W9DP
7/22 JOHN WB9EWM
7/29 JIM N9JF
8/5 DAVE W9WE

Adjourn- DAVE (W9WE), JOHN (WB9EWM)

Senator Ted Cruz Praises Amateur Radio Operators for Emergency Preparedness

Senator Ted Cruz, [in a strong pre-Memorial Day message](#) publicly highlighted the critical role that Amateur Radio Service volunteers play during disasters, praising and thanking ham radio operators who provide essential communications when storms and emergencies knock out power and cellular networks and communities are cut off. Sen. Cruz observed that in these emergencies it is ham radio operators who step forward, bringing with them the tools, expertise, and the commitment to reconnect people when it matters most. He noted this dedication was clearly demonstrated in 2017 when Hurricane Harvey's catastrophic flooding devastated communities across Texas and that it was demonstrated again more recently in the horrific Camp Mystic floods. He emphasized that as the Nation prepares for yet another summer storm season, ham radio's role remains just as vital as ever.

Stating that while future emergencies will come, Sen. Cruz pointed out that so would Amateur Radio — ready to respond, ready to serve, and to make a difference. He ended his statements, thanking ham radio for its courage and commitment, noting that Amateur Radio's work strengthens our communities.

Senator Cruz is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. His comments align with the ARRL's ongoing efforts to

strengthen and protect Amateur Radio's role in emergency preparedness and public service communications.

His comments also reflect growing Congressional recognition of the value Amateur Radio Operators bring to communities across the country. ARRL continues to advocate for legislation that protects and strengthens Amateur Radio's role in emergency preparedness and public service communications.

ARRL's nationwide grassroots campaign supporting the bipartisan [Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act](#) has generated more than 155,000 letters to members of Congress in support of H.R. 1094 and S. 459. The legislation seeks to ensure that Amateur Radio Operators can install and maintain effective outdoor antennas at residences where private land-use restrictions might otherwise prohibit them, helping communities maintain resilient emergency communications capabilities during disasters.

ARRL Legislative Committee Chairman and West Gulf Division Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, said the continued outreach effort has required "long hours on the ground and an uncountable number of personal meetings with Senators, Representatives, and their staffs" to raise awareness of the importance of Amateur Radio to our country.

"The most recent proof that those efforts have, and are, increasing Congressional support for Amateur Radio is evidenced by the decision of Chairman Cruz to publicly share his personal views on the value and importance of Amateur Radio to the Nation," Stratton said.

ARRL encourages Amateur Radio Operators to participate in our letter writing campaign, located at www.arrl.org/HOA, in support of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act and to share information about the public service role Amateur Radio plays in communities nationwide.

From Xenia to interstellar space

No reflection on amateur radio and the wonder of electromagnetic communication would be complete without a thought toward the Voyager spacecraft. Launched in 1977 — the same era that shaped a generation of today's operators — Voyager 1 is now more than 15.8 billion miles from Earth, deep in interstellar space, beyond the heliosphere, beyond the solar system itself. And yet we are still talking to it.

A radio signal sent from Earth today takes nearly 23.5 hours to reach Voyager 1. By November 15th of this year, the probe will cross a historic threshold: it will be a full light-day away — the first human-made object ever to reach that distance. A signal sent in the morning will arrive the following morning. A reply will not return until the day after that.

This is radio at its most humbling. The same fundamental principle — an oscillating electromagnetic field propagating through space — that lets a ham in Xenia, Ohio contact a counterpart in Tokyo is the very thing keeping humanity tethered to its most distant ambassador. The physics does not change. Only the distance grows.

Distance to Voyager 1: 15.8 billion miles

Signal travel time: 23.5 hours one-way

In continuous operation: 49 years

DX News Cheerfully Purloined from ARRL DX News

**QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 24 ARLD024 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington, CT June 18, 2026 To all radio amateurs**

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 web sites. Thanks to all

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA. Didier, F6BCW is QRV as FO/F6BCW from Tikehau Atoll, Tuamotu, until mid-July. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB.

I, ITALY. Franco, IZ5IUY will be QRV as IL7/IZ5IUY from Tremiti Island, IOTA EU-050, from June 20 to July 9. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using SSB, with 144 and 433 MHz possible.

Please see June QST, page 80, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

New Technician Question Pool Takes Effect July 1

On July 1, 2026, a new Element 2 Technician class question pool will take effect for license examinations. VECs and VEs must have new test designs available for use at exam sessions effective that date.



The newly revised pool, released in December 2025 (updated and re-released on February 19, 2026) by the Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC), must be in use starting July 1. There are 409 questions in this pool, down slightly from 412 in the previous pool. The pool also includes three diagrams used for some of the questions. View all current question pools on the NCVEC website at www.ncvec.org.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, advises that the [ExamTools](#) examination system will automatically switch to the new pool and exams on July 1. For ARRL-VEC VE teams using online exams at in-person sessions or for remote video-supervised sessions, no action is required.

“VE teams using paper exams must discard all older Technician tests and print new versions from ExamTools,” said Somma. “ARRL-supplied 2022 series Technician exam booklets and exams generated from the old pool are valid only through June 30; after that date, they are no longer valid.”

New editions of ARRL licensing publications for the 2026–2030 Technician pool, the 6th edition of The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, the 9th edition of ARRL Tech Q & A and 11th edition of Gordon West’s Technician Class study guide will be available starting this month, for exams taken on or after July 1, 2026.

How it all started....NPOTA... courtesy N4CD

10 Years Ago In 2016, the ARRL created the National Parks on the Air Program – probably the most significant addition to ham radio activity in decades...It took off like wildfire with ten thousand or more participating. It featured on line dashboards with current scores. There were about 700 parks – they added a few during the year - and most consisted of National Parks, National Monuments and Historic Sites, National Wildlife Areas. Not a whole lot. Only a handful in TX to get/run.

Folks went crazy. N4CD put 30,000 miles on the car headed to FL, to CA, OR, WY, SD, NH.....45 states in a year..... Ran over 250 parks that year. It was a great year..... Now 10 years later, POTA is even bigger. There are 300,000 registered users worldwide in the POTA database. Things have almost gotten out of hand with 17,4000 US park entities.....with PA and DE having 600 and 300 parks respectively. Only 200 in Texas. Worldwide there are over 35,000 parks. Some US folks (mainly in northeast) have worked over 14,000 different parks! Wow..... well, it's not too difficult to run up thousands of parks worked.....there are 20-30 every day – and hundreds on the air during weekends.

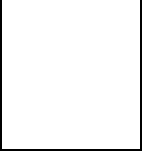
Folks go to parks for state QSO Parties 20 – maybe camping out a few days there. I don't think ARRL realized they were creating a program that would get tens of thousands of new hams busily 'on the air'. Manufacturers are smiling all the way to the bank.

Parks activity for current WIARC members as of June 22, 2026:

KB9LBE	54 ACTIVATIONS OF 22 PARKS	1061s PARKS WORKED
KW9Q	35 ACTIVATIONS OF 14 PARKS	728 PARKS WORKED
K9AJC	91 ACTIVATIONS OF 25 PARKS	4252 PARKS WORKED
W9US	37 ACTIVATIONS OF 12 PARKS	1405 PARKS WORKED
KB0V		213 PARKS WORKED
N9JF	1158 ACTIVATIONS OF 643 PARKS	1893 PARKS WORKED
WB2UFO		99 PARKS WORKED
KD9VUW	126 ACTIVATIONS OF 30 PARKS	547 PARKS WORKED
W9DP	18 ACTIVATIONS OF 13 PARKS	5260 PARKS WORKED
AA9GL		561 PARKS WORKED
NR9Q	36 ACTIVATIONS OF 17 PARKS	1374 PARKS WORKED
W9WE	1 ACTIVATION OF 1 PARK	817 PARKS WORKED
W9FGH	4 ACTIVATIONS OF 2 PARKS	63 PARKS WORKED
KA0SNL		157 PARKS WORKED
NU7J	218 ACTIVATIONS OF 158 PARKS	2634 PARKS WORKED
K9WAY		449 PARKS WORKED
KA9WAY		3 PARKS WORKED

KE0MHJ	3 ACTIVATIONS OF 3 PARKS	140 PARKS WORKED
WM4D	305 ACTIVATIONS OF 168 PARKS	854 PARKS WORKED
KB9GIY	66 ACTIVATIONS OF 12 PARKS	359 PARKS WORKED
KB9FIN	32 ACTIVATIONS OF 26 PARKS	1578 PARKS WORKED

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July meeting: Wednesday July 1, 7:00 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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