
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 50, Issue 11 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club November 2026

Certified AI-Free Ramblings from the Old Guy

Sitting here on the 15th of October, I realize that it's not quite time to put together the newsletter. However, I look at the calendar for the next week:

10/16: Four beds to deliver

10/17: Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build day

10/18: Morning speaking engagement, ILLINOIS QSO PARTY in the afternoon

<deep breath....>

LOGS BEGIN ARRIVING BEFORE I GET HOME FROM SILOAM SPRINGS

10/18: Log collection and processing begins

10/19: 5 am Bible Study, 10 am NM9C memorial service, 7:30 pm choir practice

10/20: Leave for a six-day trip to Atlanta

Yeah, I'd better get started on the newsletter....

Now, if you've stayed with me through half a page of nonsense, "curious me" has a question: "Does anyone read this?"

Each month at the meeting, we approve the minutes "as printed in *The Feedline.*" It takes about three seconds to get a motion and a second and a vote to do this. But I wonder...did anyone READ the minutes? Did anyone READ the entire (gasp!) newsletter?

So...I'd like to ask a favor of you, dear readers.... If you read this, would you please send an e-mail to n9jf@arrl.net and say simply, "Yep" and sign your call. Thanks!

Moving on.....

We engaged in a fun experiment for the October meeting by having it outside at Bob Bangert Park. The gathering began about 5 pm with some visiting, some bartering and some park activations. KB9GIY got a POTA activation with contacts on VHF/UHF bands alone. It was nice to see K9QY and NA9Q!

I found a small item I couldn't live without and spent all of the cash in my billfold. (it wasn't much...). We moved to the south shelter a bit before 7 pm and held the business meeting. W9WE brought the club generator for power, and KD9VUW set up the equipment for the Microsoft Teams link. Thanks, guys!!

The mosquitoes were pretty ferocious. It was a short meeting.

So....if you were there....was it a good idea? Terrible? Do it again? Suggestions? It really was a lovely evening....except for the mosquitoes....

Getting back to ILQP for a minute....I hope many of you were able to get on the air, and that both of the club calls showed up in a lot of logs. I'm going to involve some "new blood" in the log checking this year because more than just two people (WA9GBC and yours truly) need to know the procedure. If we were to go back to doing the checking and scoring the way I did it ten years ago, I think that would be the end of the contest. It was a lot of work, and I don't think anyone else is crazy enough to process the logs manually in the way I was doing them. Thanks, W9WE, KA0SNL and KC0QMI for stepping into this adventure with me!

See you at the meeting in November! 73, Jim N9JF

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the October 2026 WIARC Meeting

CMT0 7pm; Introductions

Phil KB9GIY, Shawn KD9VUW, Scott KD0DKE, John WB9EWM, Ken WM4D, Dave WA9GBC, Richard N0EMR, Jim N9JF, Dave KC0QMI, Dave KB9FIN, Dave W9WE, Jack KD9PPJ, NA9Q, ANDY KA0SNL, Joe KD0HDL

-Approval of April meeting minutes: MOTION JOHN (WB9EWM), DAVE (1) (KB9FIN)

-Treasurer's Report – KB9GIY

\$4259 CHECKING, CD 16,041. Interest \$144 rate 3.6%, PLAQUE SPONSERSHIP \$50 CD renewal 12 months. 64 people paid dues.

Motion to approve Treasurer Report, JOHN (WB9EWM), Dave (W9WE) 2ND

-Repeater Board Report -WB9EWM, nothing to report and no issues that we are aware of.

-Station Committee Report – Dave KB9FIN.

Nothing to report. W9OAB and W9AWE as bonus stations for ILQP. Throwing it out there as possibility on 40M if the beam isn't fixed yet.

-Contest Committee Report – W9WE: -Dave said California QSO last weekend, PENN QSO Party this coming weekend, then, October 18th IL QSO Party.

Old Business: None to report

New Business: Dave says Land of Lakes did a 3 times match so Dave W9WE already sent in \$500 to RedCross for a donation. Motion Club KB9FIN, 2nd WB9EWM to reimburse Dave for \$500.

-Membership Committee -- Nothing to report

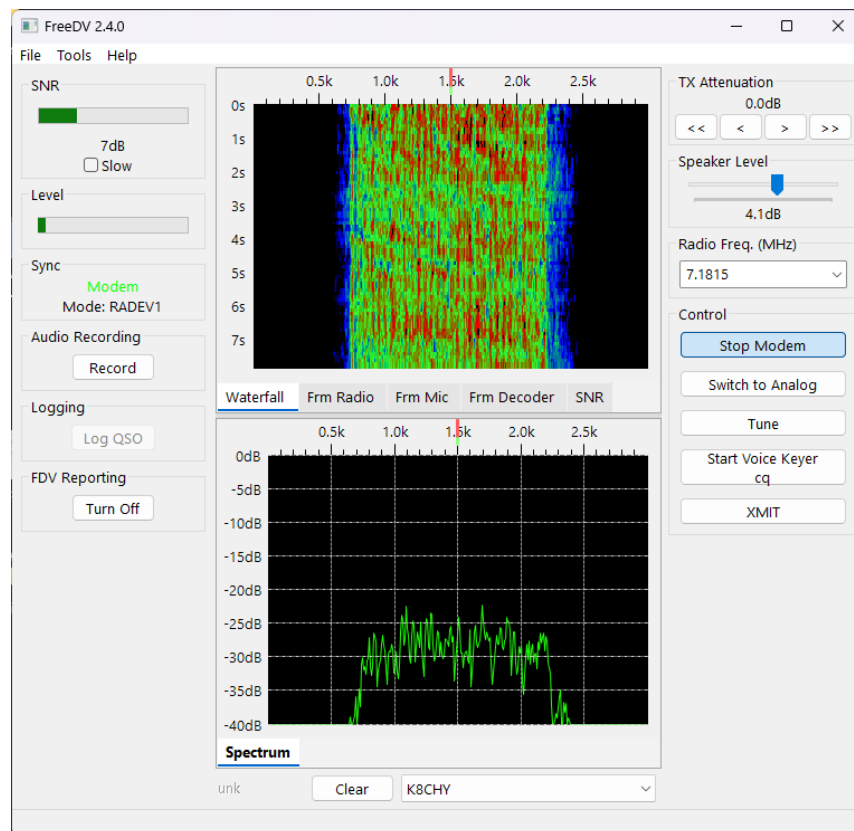
Adjourn. Dave (KBFIN)/Club/John (WB9EWM)

To the best of my ability I have created this document.
Sign WIARC secretary Jackie Wilson KD9PPJ 10/07/2026.

Will RADE Be the Next SSB?

It's been a half century since single sideband (SSB) supplanted amplitude modulation (AM) as the most popular voice mode on HF, due largely to its spectrum efficiency, occupying roughly half the bandwidth of an AM signal. Now, there's a new digital voice mode from FreeDV called Radio Autoencoder, or RADE, that occupies half the bandwidth of an SSB signal and reportedly provides more natural-sounding speech. According to Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), which funded research that advanced RADE's development, "FreeDV RADE combines machine learning with classical digital signal processing (DSP) and can operate at signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) as low as -2 dB. Its design also addresses spectrum use, speech quality, and power efficiency, all important considerations for voice communications over HF."

Most significantly, ARDC reports that manufacturers are beginning to integrate the mode directly into their radios, starting with a module that can be [downloaded](#) and installed on certain FlexRadio models. Users of other transceivers may run the mode through computers connected to their radios. More details are available from [FreeDV](#) and on the [ARDC website](#).



Caption: The FreeDV RADE digital voice signal occupies only 1.5 kHz, half the bandwidth of an SSB signal. [Image from [FreeDV.org](#)]

LST 325 Revisited

Over 1000 “Landing Ship-Tank” units were built during World War II, many of them at inland locations. The idea was to produce a naval vessel that could carry tanks, jeeps, supplies and troops and drop them in shallow-water locations quickly and securely. They made thousands (tens of thousands?) of journeys during the war. Some of them made many trips. Some made only one....one way.

In the years following, a group of individuals decided to try to find an “LST” that could be used as a floating museum. They searched the world and finally found....one. It was in bad condition. It had been sent to Greece during “Lend-Lease” and was used by the Greeks during the Greek Civil War. (Did you know there was a Greek Civil War? I think I slept through that one during my childhood [1947-1953]). The one remaining LST was “limped” back across the Atlantic, home-based in Evansville Indiana and restored to service.

It now tours the USA, around the Gulf of Mexico and up inland rivers, docking in many locations where it can be seen by those interested in the historic nature of the ship and those like it. A crew, primarily of veterans, serves to pilot and maintain the vessel and provide interpretation to visitors.

LST-325 has docked at Hannibal MO a couple of times. On one of those occasions, members of the Hannibal ARC were able to operate from the radio room as K0S. It was quite an experience! Back in September, our son-in-law mentioned that LST-325 was docking at Hendersonville TN, and he was planning to go on board. We decided to join him. When it was in Hannibal, I simply went to the radio room and didn’t see much of the rest of the ship. This time, we did the full tour. Walking through the sleeping quarters of the troops was a sobering experience. It was very crowded. They had limited knowledge as to where they were headed. It would be dangerous, and some of them would not be going home.

When we got to the door to the radio room, it was shut. “Bob the radio guy” was at lunch. We decided to wait. Bob finally came back and graciously gave the three of us a personal tour of the “shack”. “Everything works except for the HF transmitter. It needs a tube I’m having trouble finding.”

Bob’s call is N9XAW. You can find his profile on qrz.com.

“ Currently I am a volunteer on USS LST 325 Museum ship. I keep the WWII radios in operating condition and enjoy making contacts from the ship's radio room. Call Sign WW2LST. We are a dying breed of radio technicians. Most modern hams have never seen a vacuum tube and I fear when I can no longer serve no one will step up to keep those wonderful radios operating and repaired. “

Great job, Bob, and thank you for your service!



Miscellaneous DX noted whilst running parks

FT8 and FT4 might be “mindless and boring” (according to some), but I find the fact that “it works” to be fascinating, even though it isn’t as much fun as CW.. While running parks lately, I have seen some really cool DX pop up on the waterfall: TT, TJ, C5, 9T and other unusual African countries. If you see one of these, try calling. They might just hear you!

Brother Dave, WY0L, recently reported: #156 American Samoa #157 The Gambia.

I owe him the ice cream I promised when he hit 150 countries.....

DX Items Cheerfully Purloined from *ARRL DX News*

QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 41 ARLD041 From ARRL Headquarters

Newington, CT October 15, 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.

3DA0, ESWATINI. Morten will be QRV as 3DA0GY from October 15 to November 2, including the Worked All Germany Contest. Activity will be on HF bands using various modes.

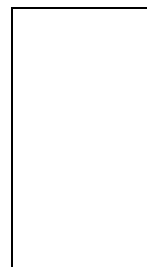
C5, THE GAMBIA. C5R is QRV through November 4. Activity will be on HF bands using various modes.

H44, SOLOMON ISLANDS. H44MS is QRV from IOTA OC-047 through November 20. Activity will be on HF bands using various modes.

JD1/O, OGASAWARA. Koutarou, JP1IHD, and Takashi, JR6HYO, will be QRV from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, from October 17 to November 2. Activity will be on HF using various modes.

Please see October QST, page 94, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

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



**November meeting: Wednesday, November
4, 2026 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
Editor Jim Funk N9JF
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