
THE FEEDLINE

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March 2010

From the Desk of the President

March is here already. I am ready for warmer weather – how about you?

I want to remind everyone there will be a VE test session at the last Licensing Class March 9 starting at 7:00 pm at the Poepping, Stone, Bach and Associates building on 54th and Maine in Quincy. If you are interested in upgrading your ticket, please give Mike (NA9Q) a call to reserve a seat.

ARRL announced, that there are 30,000 new hams in the year 2009. (i.e., <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/01/06/11278>). That is an increase of almost 7.5% from the year before. This article got me curious, so I queried the FCC database to see how the Quincy area stacks-up. Within a radius of 70 miles from Quincy we have 1,079 licensed hams, which granted some of these folks may not be “Radio”-active! But within this same radius, for the year of 2009, 30 people were granted a technician license from the FCC. An additional 40 hams choose (and succeeded) to upgrade their existing ticket. So I concluded, there are at least 70 eager and active hams close by. The majority of these folks are not

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DX Notes & News by NA9Q

News for March: Cycle 24 may have been frustratingly slow to start but the last 30 days have seen solar flux levels and sunspot numbers not recorded in several years. In 2009, over 70% of the days were void of visible spots on the solar disk. Over the last 30 days there has been no day without at least one spot visible from Earth. Propagation on the HF bands has responded accordingly. The 20M band has been a buzz of activity most days, continuing into the evening hours. I have heard 4S7, VU, E5, ZL, and HS stations. It has been common to hear both European signals and South Pacific signals at the same time in the late afternoon on twenty. Activity on 15M 17M, 12M, and even 10M has also been on the upswing although they are still mainly daylight bands. Apparently the long awaited improved conditions brought out contesters and DXers this past weekend by the score for the ARRL DX CW Test. The very few minutes I had to listen on Friday night indicated that it was going to be an exciting weekend. I have heard reports that several contest stations had record scores and that some personal all time bests were also eclipsed. One old timer mused that perhaps the Palos Verde Sundancers have come out of retirement at long last. If you understand that statement, you are as old as I am. We can live in hope that cycle 24 will be a stunner.

General Activity: Look for several of the DX contest stations to continue on the air following the ARRL DX CW Test. And in a week or so, those hoping to score big in the ARRL DX Phone Test will be tuning up stations and antennas. It is a good time to pick up a few new band countries. Bahrain – EI3IO, Dave will be active through August 2011 and in will operate the ARRL

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members of the WIARC or the HARC. So what gives? Are we just boring or do these hams not know our club exist?? Well the drive behind our new formed Special Event Committee is to get our club out in the "public eye". The committee is laying out ground work for radio events throughout this year. We'll have more about these exciting plans later. But I want all of us club members to help give this committee ideas and support. After all, these events maybe the only time the public sees what we do!

Todd AB9QW

February WIARC meeting minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:33 P.M. Danny Pease (NG9R) moved to approve the minutes as read.

Bill Morrison (N9UPG) seconded and the motion was carried.

Ben Robinson (WM9DX) gave an annually treasury's report.

Danny Pease (NG9R) moved that the treasury's report be accepted.

Laura Housewright (KB9ZFG) seconded and the motion was carried.

Bill Morrison (N9UPG), the new chair of the repeater board, reports that we will be removing the .195 repeater of the air.

The motion was made that we put on the table the matter of the people using the repeater ask for our permission first.

Danny Pease (NG9R) and Todd Clevenger (AB9QW) will work on putting together a MOU and present it at the next monthly meeting.

Todd Clevenger (AB9QW) did sign the Red Cross Agreement.

There was a table discussion on if Ben Robinson (WM9DX) should create an annually budget.

No applications for new membership.

WIARC received a free ticket to the STAR Radio Club Ham Fest and the club gave it to Ed Adair (N9QJW)

Net Control stations

March 3 – Darell Taylor (N9DT)

March 10th- Bill Morrison (N9UPG)

March 17th –Mike Nowack (NA9Q)

March 24th – Danny Pease (NG9R)

April 7th – Ben Robinson (WM9DX)

February 23rd from 7 to 9 P.M. the Ham Radio

test in March as A92IO. QSL to home call. Cape Verde – Massimo IZ0PDV will be active through March 9 as D44AC and in the Phone Test as D44C. QSL D4C direct to the home call, D44AC goes direct.

Burundi - DL3KBQ, DL2RSI, DH2KI and DJ2VO will be operate as 9UXEV, 9U1RSI, 9U1KI and 9U1VO, respectively, from February 22 to March 6. QSL to home calls. Cuba – Look for special call T46A in the ARRL Phone Test. QSL to CO6LC.

Sable Island - The previously announced and postponed operation is now on for October. Murray/WA4DAN, Ron/AA4VK, Randy/N0TG and Rick/AI5P will operate home calls /CY0. QSL to their home call.

Bulgaria – Special event station LZ132GO will commemorate the 132nd anniversary of the countries' freedom from the Ottoman Empire during March. QSL to LZ1ZF.

Marion Island – DX Magazine's number 3 most wanted will be activated by Pierre, ZF1HF as ZS8M beginning the end of April. He will be on the island for the next year and will use wire antennas and possibly an amplifier depending on his weight limitations. This is a working assignment and so operating time will thus be limited. However he plans to move Marion well down the list by his departure in 2011.

Aves Island – Watch for a team from Venezuela to active YV0 in April dependent upon military transport. Look for YW0A.

Iraq – A multinational team of ops has a ten day permit to operate from Kurdistan beginning Aril 3rd. This will be a contest style operation to maximize results. Callsign YI9PSE, details at www.yi9pse.com. Donations are sought as well.

Notes for March – This month I want to address using Log Book of The World. ARRL opened LoTW several years ago and if you are not using it, I would sure ask yourself why not? It can save you lots of time and expense when chasing confirmations (QSL's) for DXCC and WAS. The use of the service is free to ARRL members and you only pay when you claim a credit for a QSO. And that cost is only about 25 cents or less each. When you consider the cost of a printed card, the postage to mail it overseas (98 cents) and the one or two IRC's you need to send to get

Classes will be having a pizza party and all members are allowed to join us.

Membership cards were given to those we had paid their dues for 2010.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 P.M

Respectfully submitted, Amber
Clevenger, KC9NYN filling in for W9NTG

2010 FCC Exam Dates

May 8th at 9:30 AM Registration deadline of May 6th

August 7th at 12:30 PM Registration deadline of August 5th

November 6th at 9:30 AM Registration deadline of Nov 4th

To register for these sessions, Contact Mike, NA9Q at mnowack@adams.net

DUES are DUE !!!

We have many past members with 2010 dues outstanding.

From The Treasury Department:

A quick reminder for everyone....Dues for 2010 are due by the March club meeting. They can be paid in person the night of the meeting or can be mailed to the following address:

WIARC

PO Box 3132

Quincy, IL 62305

Also, the club officers are working to update the club roster. If your member information has changed from our current roster, please e-mail me the new information at benem@adams.net or give me the information at our next club meeting and we will update.

Ben Robinson – WM9DX

Upcoming Events

Feb 26 – 28 CQWW 160 SSB contest

Mar 3 March WIARC club meeting

Mar 6 – 7 ARRL DX SSB contest

Mar 7 Sterling Rock Falls hamfest

Mar 15 NWS spotter class at JWCC

Mar 27-28 CQWW WPX SSB contest

April 7 April WIARC club meeting

April 18 Galva, IL hamfest

April 24 Godfrey, IL hamfest

a return (at \$2.10 each), LoTW is a real bargain. In fact for many the cost savings might well pay for your yearly ARRL membership. Also it provides a convenient way to view your total DXCC or WAS record. You can also file paperless applications on line for both awards, and in the future, look for other ARRL awards to be brought into LoTW.

LoTW can be a bit daunting to set up and requires a bit of patience in doing so but is easy to use once you get past the initial setup. Your files and records can be accessed using any of the common browsers (Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc). The only necessary item that you must provide is an electronic log in ADIF format. Many of the free or for fee electronic logbooks can export the log in that format. If you don't already keep an electronic log, maybe now is the time to start. Many other benefits come with an electronic log. Fast printing of QSL labels, searching the log for a long ago contact or searching for old 75M band countries when 5BDXCC beckons. If you need help getting started, the ARRL has a fine tutorial on line and there are several in the club already using LoTW. I would be glad to help as I am sure the other users would be as well. Logs can be uploaded directly to LoTW and within a few seconds you will know if you have a match from any of your QSO's. And therein lies a major issue. Both parties to the QSO must be LoTW users for the system to work. So the more users, the better the return on your efforts. Granted we will never see 100% participation but everyone should consider joining the program and encourage others to do the same, especially DX stations. Just think, complete a contact with some distant DX station, upload the log to LoTW and within minutes you have your QSL. That isn't a daydream, it can and does happen now.

Good hunting on the bands... and remember the first rule of DX; always listen, listen, listen before calling.

Thanks to the ARRL DX Bulletins, the OPDX Bulletin and the 425DXN Bulletin for some of the information above.

73, and good DX, Mike, NA9Q

QST DE KA9QPN

I would like to direct your attention to newly introduced Illinois HB5761. This bill amends the recently adopted anti-texting law to provide an exception for persons in possession of a current and valid Amateur Radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission.

The definition of 'mobile communications devices' is so broad in the law as written that it could be interpreted to take in just about any contraption which could be carried or mounted in a vehicle to convey information. I pointed this out in the News last month. The change is necessary to lessen our chances of being victimized by uninformed enforcement. To a police officer, a microphone in the hand is undistinguishable from a cell phone at fifty yards away through normally tinted windows.

NEITHER I NOR THE LEAGUE ADVOCATE MOBILE TEXTING OR DISTRACTED DRIVING.

You are urged to contact your State Representative asking him or her to join with Rep. John Bradley as a co-sponsor of this bill. When you do contact your representative, please remember that we aren't entitled to any preferential treatment. Emphasize that amateurs have a long history of being able to use their equipment without distraction, and the law as currently written places an unnecessary limit on our ability to provide supplementary emergency communications. Be clear, concise and do not demand or insist. Politely ask. Say please and thank you. I apologize if some of this sounds basic and patronizing, but you'd be amazed at some of the correspondence to legislators on which I'm copied.

Many thanks to those who have already responded.

Are ya READY???

The month of February saw snow in 49 of the 50 states of the USA...all at the same time! Maybe there was a stray flake atop Mauna Kea in Hawaii as well? The East Coast was paralyzed by three blizzards. Southwestern Oklahoma lost power for two weeks after an ice storm (I was there...it wasn't pretty). The West Coast, after surviving (sort of) wildfires last fall, now has mudslides.

A year ago, a large portion of the USA was under either "moderate" or "severe" drought. Now, a majority of the country is either "wet" or "very wet". Forecasts are for severe flooding in the Red River Valley in Minnesota and North Dakota, and significant flooding is likely on the Mississippi in our area.

Melba and I are in Alabama this week, and it is officially "tornado season", even though they have snow in the forecast for later this week!

The bottom line: disasters are all around. Many of them have the potential to take out normal lines of communication. See below (more to come):

Illinois Teams with Amateur Radio Operators to Create RACES Program

A newly forged partnership between Amateur Radio operators throughout the state of Illinois and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) will provide an additional layer of emergency communications during disasters. The agreement creates the State Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services ([RACES](#)) program. Under the agreement, IEMA Director Andrew Velasquez appointed ARRL Illinois Section Emergency Coordinator Brad Pioveson, W9FX, of Benton as the volunteer State RACES Officer. Pioveson will serve as the single point of contact between IEMA and the Illinois Amateur Radio community.

[State Communications Interoperability Plan](#),

An Improved 40 Meter Mobile Antenna

By Joe K2PEY

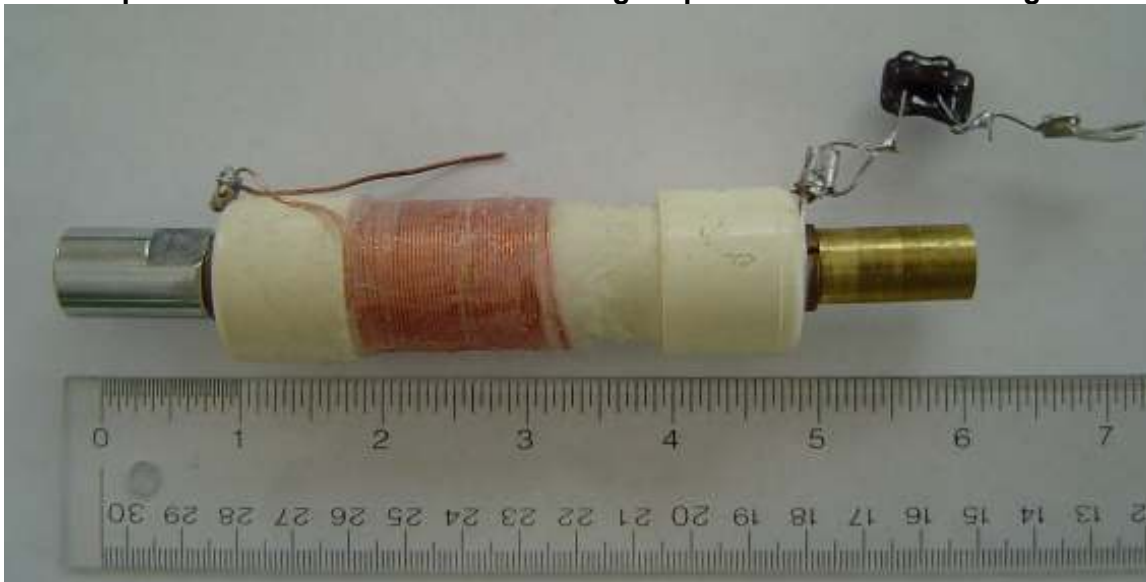
Part 1

For the past two years I have been fortunate enough to spend some of the winter in Florida, avoiding the ice, snow and cold of Quincy. In the past I was able to install temporary wire antennas at the winter locations to cover the HF bands. This year, however, we are staying in a condominium where local bylaws prohibit outside antennas. My solution has been to operate HF from my mobile rig in the car.

The antenna used has been a base loaded 48 inch whip which was described in a 2002 article, One Antenna for HF and VHF Mobile Operation, published in The ARRL Antenna Compendium, Vol. 7. Separate base loading networks were used for each HF band. The 40 meter design, although satisfactory in many situations, had a calculated efficiency of only 2.9% (-15.4 dB) and a 2 to 1 SWR bandwidth of 35 kHz. My objective in considering an improved design for 40 meters was to operate back to Illinois at night time and also around the state of Florida during the day. I wanted improved efficiency, wider bandwidth and still be able to operate from the mobile.

I had an unused 8½ foot (102.75 inches) whip purchased from Radio Shack many years ago. The decision was made to construct a new base loading network and mount the entire assembly on the roof of the vehicle in place of the existing 48 inch whip. All that would be required was the new network. I could be on the air with the “improved” 40 meter antenna in a very short time and within the bylaws of the condo association. How could they object to a simple antenna on the roof of my car?

The approach and design equations used were identical to those used in 2002, only for a 102.75 inch whip rather than one 48.375 inches long. A photo of the base loading network is shown below.



To be continued next month....

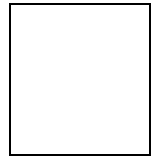
W9AWE – W90AB
The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
WIARC homepage: <http://www.w9awe.org> e-mail to w9awe@qsl.net
WIARC email reflector: wiarc@mailman.qth.net

Sponsors of
Voice repeater W9AWE/R on 147.630/.030 Quincy
Voice repeater W9AWE/R on 146.340/.940 Quincy
Voice repeater W9AWE/R on 448.900/443.900 Quincy
All voice repeaters use 103.5 sub-audible tone
APRS digi-peater W9AWE-1 on 144.390 Quincy
Digi-peater W9AWE-2 on 145.910 Quincy (ILQDX)

ILLINOIS QSO PARTY

Newsletter input due by the 20th of the preceding month
Editor Jim Funk N9JF
jfunk@fossnorthamerica.com or n9jf@arrl.net

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March meeting: Wednesday, March 3, 2010..
Blessing at 14th, 7:30 PM, conference room C in the
basement adjoining the cafeteria