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# THE FEEDLINE

Volume 34, Issue 8    The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club

August 2010

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## From the Desk of the President

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who participated in this summer's Club's Events. Despite the changes in weather, we had a great turn-out for both the Heritage Days and Adams County Fair events. Check the Club's Web site for photos and updates.

Although we have been without a club radio station for some time, we are in the preliminary planning stages of proposing a new station to be located in the local Red Cross building here in Quincy, Illinois! Not only could we have a beautiful club station, but the Red Cross would have access to trained emergency communication individuals – the WIARC members! At the August Club meeting we will ask for members interested in designing the club station to be part of the new "Club Station" Committee.

The club ICOM 746PRO transceiver developed a power problem and has been shipped to ICOM service center in Michigan. The typical turn-around time for repair is 3 weeks. Also, the club HAM III antenna rotor is slipping

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## DX News and Notes for August,

I am writing this month's column a bit early as we will not have internet service again for at least two or three days. Keeping up with things via email and an occasional look at the internet has been quite a problem. It will be good to get back home and to normal everyday activities. As I write this we are sitting in Watson Lake, YT, Canada as we have now turned the RV for home and are working our way slowly in that direction. It is nearly 10:30 PM here and the sun is still high in the northwestern sky. The days are finally getting shorter, sunset will be sometime around midnight. Sunrise will be around 4AM.

This month's news on the DX front includes the following on-going or planned operations:

**9J – ZAMBIA, JF1OKX, is active as 9J2KK from Lusaka through September 30. Activity is on 80 through 6 meters with emphasis on PSK31, RTTY, WSJT and SSTV with some SSB and CW thrown in. QSL to JK1NSR.**

**IS0 - SARDINIA, I2MOV, is active as IS0/I2MOV through the end of September. Activity will be exclusively CW on 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct.**

**J2 - DJIBOUTI, F5IRO, will be active for the coming two years as J28RO. Activity will be mostly limited to his Fridays and Saturdays. Operation will be CW, SSB and digital modes. Look around 1200-1300 UTC and QSL to F8DFP via bureau or direct.**

**SU - EGYPT. SU/HA3JB will be active between September and November 2010. Activity is planned for CW, RTTY, PSK31**

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during rotation. Danny NG9R will be over seeing the repair.

Coming events – Swap Fest on Saturday August 7 at the Eagles Alps, which is located at 3737 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Quincy. Illinois QSO Party will be held on Sunday October 6.

Thanks & 73,  
Todd AB9QW

## **MINUTES for 7 July, 2010**

Todd, AB9QW, called the meeting to order at 733pm.

Minutes as published in last issue of Feedline were approved, moved by Sue, KB9ZEJ, seconded by Laura, KB9ZFG. (Sec. gratefully thanked them for excusing him from reading)

Treasurer's report by Ben, WM9DX, check balance \$788.19, savings \$11,256.97, CD \$11,608.10. Motion to approve by Bill, N9UPG, seconded by Danny, NG9R. Motion passed...with no objections. Although, Darell, N9DT, asked for details about the rental price at the Fair. He was satisfied with Ben's explanation.  
(Darell, if that's not so I'll revise the minutes.)

### **Old business:**

Repeater committee report from Bill, N9UPG, no meeting. Ch7 tower had no antenna work done. Bill will attempt more frequent contact with climber.

Swap/ham fest report from NG9R....Contact Danny if you can help. Discussion on set-up & operations, i.e. needs & duties. It's a big event for the club year! Pitch in if you can.

Todd, AB9QW, reported on 3 July event at Camp Point where he and Danny had the club station operating. Todd also reported the club will operate 17 July at Golden Days.

Danny, NG9R, and Chris, KC9OJQ, discussed the 'power pole clamp-on beam support' that Chris is building. It will be used at Golden Days and the Adams Co. Fair, 29 July - 4 Aug.

and maybe SSB. QSL via his home callsign direct only with SAE.

S7 - SEYCHELLES. S79DB will be on the air between August 3-14th. Activity will be sporadic as this will be a vacation visit. Look on 40-10 meters, CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via his home callsign EA4DB.

XU - CAMBODIA. ON4JW, is active as XU7AJW from Sihanouk Ville until August 14th. Bands/modes details were not given in advance but look on 80 and 20 meters SSB. QSL via his manager ON7PP.

PJ7 – Sint Maartin. If you have not already heard, there will be a change in administrative status for this island now paired with Saba and St. Eustasius Islands. As a result, Sint Maartin will very likely become a new entity as did St. Bartholomey a couple of years ago. The magic date is 10 Oct 2010 and there is a team of operators planning to be there for the celebration. Operation will be 24/7 for 10 days with plans for 4 stations on the air for the entire period 10 day operation. W8GEX and K9CT are the team leaders and W3HNK will handle QSL duties.

OJ0 - MARKET REEF. Members of the Scandinavian Amateur Radio Teleprinter Group (SARTG) will activate the special callsign OJ0SARTG during the SARTG WW-RTTY Contest (August 21-22nd) as a Multi-Single entry. Look for activity the day before and after the contest on CW, SSB and RTTY with operators signing OJ0/homecall. QSL OJ0SARTG via SM7BHM, direct or by the Bureau.

9X - RWANDA. DL2RUM, will be in Kigali for business and he hopes to receive his license on Wednesday, July 21st. Tom's callsign will be 9X0TL. This is not a dedicated DXpedition, so activity will be limited to his spare time. He will be there until the end of August or the beginning of September. Look for him on 80-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via DL2RUM.

Instead of writing a note about DX this month I would like to deviate a bit and write a few words about our attempt to again operate

At the Fair the club operation is 4 - 10 pm everyday. Members are needed to operate the club station. By reserving space the club is given two passes. Todd suggested that the club buy 2 more passes since the admission price is not cheap. Bob, AB9DU, moved and was seconded by Danny, NG9R, to purchase an additional 2 passes for club operators. The amount is \$40. Motion passed with the usual 'No' vote from Darell, N9DT.

Danny, NG9R, reported the Field Day operation resulted in 600 + contacts. During FD the ICOM 746 power output failed and needs repair. There was discussion on how, where, and how much to spend to make the repairs. Motion made by Bob, AB9DU, and seconded by Ben, WM9DX, to allocate a max of \$500 for repairs plus shipping. Motion passed. Todd will arrange for shipping and repairs.

#### **New business:**

Todd, AB9QW, reported that the American Red Cross is very enthusiastic about the club using their location/facilities. It seems the ARC wants an emergency station that is independent of the cell net. Todd, AB9QW, will form a committee at the next club meeting in Aug. to organize the agreement/operation/responsibilities of the 2 groups.

Darell, N9DT, asked about the location of the club 2M XCVR. Todd replied that it was used at PSBA for the annual license class.

There was discussion on the heliax removed from vet home which will be held for further discussion.

Todd 's drawing for free food was held.

#### **Schedule for Wed. net control stations:**

11 Aug W9NGT  
18 Aug AB9QW  
25 Aug N9UPG  
1 Sep N9DT

We adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted by (and where corrections should be directed to)

Ed W9NTG

Field Day 2010 from the Yukon Territory. We had tried this last year but on that trip north we made no real attempt to bring a decent antenna or make plans to be at a good location for the event. Things just kind of happened. In 2009 we ended up in a narrow mountain valley campground near Teslin, YT without any tall trees to hang antennas from. As a result we used a ground mounted vertical and a Hustler mobile antenna mounted on the back of the RV. Operating was a real challenge as it was extremely hard to make other stations hear us using the FT100D at 100 watts.

This year we brought along a 80-10M G5RV and a 40M dipole as well as a wrist rocket and plenty of ropes to make it possible to hang them as high as the trees would allow where ever we were. As Field Day approached we found ourselves near Whitehorse, YT and decided to try a camp ground in a park near there at Takhini Hot Springs. Nice high mountain top location. We spoke to the campground managers the Friday before FD and got clearance to use several of the many trees scattered around the grounds to support antennas. The only restriction was that our activities could not affect other campers there.

So back we went early Saturday morning and it took a couple of hours to get everything set up and the antennas up. Many of the pine trees around the selected site were well over 70 feet so height was not a problem. Once the event started it became evident other issues were going to keep this from being an easy task. As with last year, the problem was making our station heard. Those stations we did work were mainly in the northwestern US; W6, W7 and W0's with a few VE6 and VE7's thrown in.

The 40 20 and 15 Meter bands were open but the physical separation of our location from the rest of the US really seemed to be the issue. We could hear many stations from around the US but could not overcome the signals from

## Treasurer's Report

As of 7/20/2010:

Checking \$469.12  
Savings \$11256.97  
Town and Country CD \$11608.10

Net Worth \$23334.19

[Several calls for accounts of personal experiences with ham radio issues have netted limited responses...so...you are stuck with mine again this month....ed.]

## Extreme Propagation

Those of us who have been on the HF bands for several years probably all have stories to tell about contacts that exhibited propagation that was "out-of-the-ordinary". Even when there were lots of sunspots and communication over paths of thousands of miles was "ordinary and expected" a good portion of the day, once in awhile something happens that makes one sit back and say, "Whoa!"

One such incident occurred to me back in the late 90's, the last time we had "good" sunspot numbers. I was playing around in the shack late one evening, around 9 or 9:30 p.m. local time and decided to call CQ on 15 meter CW. I was using full break-in, so I could hear signals between my characters being sent. There were a few Russian stations on the band, so I pointed the TH6 north in hopes of snagging one of them.

As I sent the characters, I heard what sounded like another station on the frequency. I quit sending, and so did the other station. I sent a "dit"...and I heard a "dit" a couple of tenths of a second later.

Propagation was apparently so good that night on 15 meters that I was hearing my signal as it "came back around" after circling the earth! (cont to right)

other stations who would also be calling. Overcoming that separation in a contest where everyone else operated from within an area with a radius smaller than the distance from our location to the center of activity was the problem. Frustrating to say the least. Many times we were able to finally work a station after calling several times but only if no other station was calling. We were always the weak signal. Even QRP stations covered our signal.

We still had fun but in the end the results were not much different from 2009 despite the better location and better antennas. Now I know why over the years it has been rare to hear stations from the NWT section or from AK in the usual crowded bands on Field Day. It may not be so much the rare location as much as the effects of operating from that distant location.

Next month I'll return to DX issues and notes with a topic related to DX. See you then. Remember, work 'em first, worry later. Thanks for information in this article go to the ARRL DX Bulletin and the OP DX Bulletin. - Mike NA9Q

(cont from left) After recovering from that surprise, I continued to call CQ. After just a couple of calls, I was called by a fellow in Nepal. It was my first (and to date, my only) contact with that country. His signal was a solid 599. Yes, if you look at the azimuth projection map, Nepal is straight over the North Pole (or South Pole, if you prefer) from us. We had about a ten minute QSO. He was a British Army officer and was just checking the bands before going to work for the day.

I was using a barefoot TS930s with a hundred watts. The next night at the same time, I decided to see what I could accomplish with the '930 set at 5 watts output. I called CQ again, and *the same guy in Nepal called me* and gave me a 559 report.

When the bands are *really good* there is just no telling what you might snag! de N9JF

Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club

W9AWE – W9OAB - Quincy, Illinois

Annual Ham Radio and  
Computer



# SWAPFEST 2010

Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 8:00AM - 2:00PM

The Western Illinois ARC *Swapfest 2010* will be held at the Eagles Alps grounds (3737 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street) located 4.5 miles north of downtown Quincy with easy access from US Highway 24.

Admission is \$5.00 per person at the gate.

Advance tickets are \$4.00, children under 12 are free.

All prepaid advanced tickets will be held at the gate and entered in the main prize drawings if not claimed.

ARRL VEC testing for all license classes at 12:30PM

Reservations advised as walk-in testing space will be limited.

Cut off for reservations is 8 PM Aug 12<sup>th</sup>. Testing is off-site.

Contact NG9R at (217) 430-2046 or [ng9r@arrl.net](mailto:ng9r@arrl.net) for info.



Commercial Vendors Include D&L Antennas as well as an ARRL table.

Outdoor Tailgating Space is FREE with paid admission.

Indoor Flea Market space is available: Contact: N9JF at (217) 336-4191 or [n9jf@arrl.net](mailto:n9jf@arrl.net)

Talk-In on 147.03 (+)/103.5 Hz. Plenty of convenient parking. Food and drinks available on the grounds.

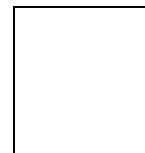
<http://www.w9awe.org/Swapfest2010.pdf>

**W9AWE – W90AB**  
**The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**  
WIARC homepage: <http://www.w9awe.org> e-mail to [w9awe@qsl.net](mailto:w9awe@qsl.net)  
WIARC email reflector: [wiarc@mailman.qth.net](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month**  
**Editor Jim Funk N9JF**  
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August meeting: Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>  
Blessing at 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, conference room F in the  
basement adjoining the cafeteria

**Quincy Swapfest Saturday August 7**  
**Gates open at 8:00 AM**  
**Flea market, food, VE testing, prizes**  
**See flyer inside**