

The SPARK GAP

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PRESIDENTS CORNER

by Gale, WD9HFT

First of all I would like to thank all of those who braved the seasonal Wisconsin weather to attend our first meeting. It was very gratifying to have a turn out of nearly 20 people on such a cold night. The focus of our first meeting was to explain where we were coming from, what has been done and what we have as expectations for the future of CVARC. Feedback from the first meeting was very positive and each comment has been taken to heart. Because several of those in attendance have a distance to come or are pressed for time to get to the 6:00 PM schedule that we had for the first meeting we will revise the schedule to plan on ordering off the menu at 6:30 and start the club meeting in the area of 7:15 PM. Connell's at the airport worked out quite well and at least for the next several months we plan on having our meetings at that location. Please note that you are more than welcome to arrive for the 7:15 meeting time but if we want to continue to use the facility we have to have 5 to 10 people order off the menu or we have to pay a rental fee. We don't see this as a problem as 95% of the attendees for the first meeting came in time to enjoy a meal and the camaraderie prior to our meeting. A show of hands indicated that the group agreed to have the option of coming early or later just for the meeting. For those of you who have to get up early the next morning, and know how a meeting can extend it self beyond the planned closing, we must be out of the room by 9:00PM as that is when they close so a meeting won't run beyond that time.

The next meeting will make available the constitution and the bylaws, as they exist. A short discussion will follow and members can take them home for review. Adoption and/or modification will be done at a later meeting. We will also discuss a protocol for the business meeting as our intention is to keep that area of the club activity as short and direct as possible (about 30 minutes); we don't want it cutting into the good stuff! We will be setting up several special interest groups (SIG) prior to the next meeting so watch the web page for details. Thanks again to all of those who have signed on as charter members of the CVARC. See you at the next meeting.

CVARC MEETING MINUTES

by Ron, W9RJW

Meeting Jan 22, 2004 - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Gale Sorum. The CVARC founders were introduced by President Gale Sorum, followed by each person present introducing themselves by name and call sign. Nineteen individuals were in attendance (10 members and 9 potential members). Quorum established. The following information was discussed with the group. Purpose: Promote Amateur Radio and have fun doing it. Hands on approach to the hobby. Learn and enjoy by doing. Promote the camaraderie of members. The club is not the end item, just the vehicle. We are **NOT** in competition with any club/organization but we are not ashamed to succeed at what we are attempting to do. We want to be entrepreneurial in nature; populated with free thinkers who are willing to express their opinions.

Organization update: A Constitution has been formed and established. Bylaws/Policies drafted and ready for member review(at their leisure). Adoption at a later meeting. Wisconsin Incorporation as a non-profit corporation. Federal EIN applied for. Ready to finish /submit application for IRS recognition as a tax-exempt organization. ARRL Affiliation applied for. ARRL Liability Insurance applied for. FCC club called received (KC9FIB). FCC Vanity called applied for (W9CVA). Newsletter established. Web site up and running. (18 members before this January 22, 2004 meeting). Future Plans: Meetings proposed to be held on third Thursday of the month location to be determined. Special Interest Groups to be created as needed to meet member needs – check the newsletter/web for updates. Four new members registered after the meeting.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next club meeting will be February 19, 2004 at 7:15 PM. at Connell's in the Airport. For those wanting to eat, we will be ordering at 6:30 PM. Topics – will be Constitution/Bylaws, SIG: Hamfesting and ELMERing.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

The CVARC has received its papers of Incorporation from the Department of Financial Institutions on Jan 2, 2004. The club Application for Membership and Interest Sheet are both posted on the web for download.

Anyone interested in submitting news line for the paper, please send me your information for inclusion. What you know can also benefit others – lets share the knowledge. If you would like to write one of the major newsletter topics, they are also available.

AMATEUR RELATED NEWS BITES

by John, W9SWL

ARRL News

ARLB003 ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access – see the website for details.

ARLB071 FCC announces new Universal Licensing System interface

The FCC on December 14 will unveil a new on-line filing interface for its Universal Licensing System (ULS), on the web at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>, which includes the Amateur Service.

To implement the changes, the ULS on-line filing system will be down from 12 AM EST Saturday, December 13, until 10 AM EST Sunday, December 14.

Among other features, the ULS's new look will include easier-to-read on-screen forms that guide users through filing and simplify such routine tasks as applying for license renewal, address change or vanity call sign. The FCC says the introduction of its new system, called "ULS

License Manager," concludes phase one of an ongoing ULS overhaul by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

ULS License Manager will be compatible with most major Web browsers and computer platforms and no longer will require downloading Java and Java Script files. An FCC staffer involved with implementing ULS License Manager notes that all features may not be in place when the system debuts.

The ULS will require all filers to log into the system using an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) no longer will be accepted for log-in purposes, the FCC said.

Once the new system is up and running, all licenses and applications in the ULS database will be converted to the new ULS License Manager filing environment.

There's also a new paper version of FCC Form 605, dated December 2003. One change is that Form 605 no longer requests a date of birth and will only accept an

FRN and CORES password. There are no Amateur Service-related changes to any Form 605 schedules.

The FCC says Amateur Service applicants may continue to use the March 2001 (or later) edition of Form 605, although it encourages use of the newest version. The new FCC Form 605 now is available via the FCC Web site at, <http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>.

To assist with any ULS issues after the changeover, the Technical Support Hotline staff will be available Sunday, December 14, from 10 AM until 6 PM EST. Normal hours are weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time. Technical Support is available via the FCC Web site at, <http://esupport.fcc.gov>, or telephone 877-480-3201 (TTY 202-414-1255).

ULS licensing support and forms information is available weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 5:30 PM Eastern Time via e-mail at ulshelp@fcc.gov, or telephone 888-CALLFCC (225-5322), Option 2 (users also may call 717-338-2888).

NCI – No Code International

Sent: Monday, January 05, 2004 6:54 PM
Subject: NCI Petition for Rulemaking to FCC

From: Carl R. Stevenson - WK3C

Subject: *NCI's Petition for Rulemaking to eliminate Morse testing NEEDS your support!*

The ARRL Board of Directors will be considering the ARRL's position on the Morse code test issue at their January 2004 Board meeting.

They recently ran a "survey" on the ARRL website and the "votes" for "keep code testing" outnumbered the "eliminate code testing" votes by about 2:1. I suspect that FISTS and others have "stuffed the ballot box" on this web "survey" in an effort to influence ARRL policy.

However, "two can play that game" - it is VERY important that you contact your ARRL Division Director and Vice-director by e-mail and let them know that you want Morse testing requirements removed from the FCC rules for ALL classes of amateur license.

If enough NCI members contact their ARRL officials and make their views known, we CAN make a difference in ARRL's policies and position on this issue.

See <http://www.arrl.org/divisions/> for contact information for your ARRL Division Director and Vice-director. Also, please copy Dave Sumner, ARRL CEO, and the other ARRL officers – see <http://www.arrl.org/officers.html> for contact info for them. Make your opposition to continued code test requirements clear, but PLEASE don't "flame"

the ARRL folks - that will just cause them to ignore you and feel that those who support the elimination of code testing are "not the kind of folks we want as hams." Be polite and factual, but let them know your position, how it

may/may not affect your decision to become / remain a member of the ARRL, etc.

PLEASE DO THIS ASAP - time is of the essence.

73, Carl R. Stevenson - wk3c Executive Director,
No Code International

AREA HAMFEST ACTIVITIES

by John, W9SWL

February (1 - MN QSO Party)

- 7 - Hiawatha ARA, Negaunee, MI (near Marquette)
- 7 - Grand Forks, ND - KC0JPP contact
- 12 - Golden Valley, MN Ham Jam 1830-2100

17 - Red Cedar Auction, American Legion, Eau Claire, WI 6PM

- 21 - Rapid City, SD
- 28 - St Cloud ARC - St. Cloud, MN

March (14 - WI QSO Party 10 am)

- 13 - West Fargo, ND
- 21 - Tri-County ARC, Jefferson, WI
- 27 - Mid-Winter Madness, Buffalo, MN
- 28 - North Shore Radio Club; Grayslake, IL 8-12

CONTEST BUZZ

by John, W9SWL

- Feb 1 - MN QSO Party
- Feb 14-15 - CQ WW RTTY WPX
- Feb 21-22 - CQ WW 160-Meter Contest--Phone
- Mar 14 - WI QSO Party

BOAT ANCHOR DOCK

by John, W9SWL

Some radio gear may be old and used but not useless. It may not have all the bells and whistles, but it will get your station on the air and let people know you are a ham. It will also do it at a reasonable price. As long as you can tune the radio, hear other stations, and have good tone/audio for CW/SSB, no one will ever know what rig you are running. More times than not, when you tell someone that you are running an older rig, they will start to ask more about it and comment how nice it sounds. They may also say "they use to have one of those rigs and really liked it." Learn to be a good operator of a radio before you get buried in menus and features you may never use. New is not always better, but it is definitely more costly.

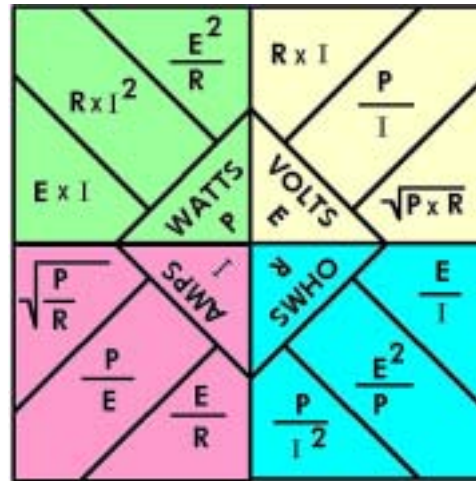
TECHNICAL TIDBITS

by John, W9SWL

This column is designed to offer hints and tips dealing with projects, tools, kits, and anything else as relates to Amateur Radio. I hope to provide those things that you will find useful. This issue contains the basics with an Ohms Law Chart and ways to calculate PEIR.

OHM'S LAW for DC Circuits

- POWER = WATTS = "P"
- ELECTROMOTIVE FORCE = VOLTS = "E"
- CURRENT = AMPERES = "I"
- RESISTANCE = OHMS = "R"



ASK ELMER ??

by John, W9SWL

Do you have all the answers??? Neither does anyone else. But most of us have questions. If you have a question about some aspect of ham radio, drop a note with your name and call, and I will post it here to see if we can get an answer for you. If you never ask the question, you will never learn. I always try to use the "10 Minute Rule". If you can't figure something out in 10 minutes, go ask someone. Your time is valuable and spinning your wheels just builds frustration – not knowledge. Lets all help each other become better hams.

CVARC OFFICERS

- President – Gale Sorum (WD9HFT)
- Vice President – John Balow (KB9VCO)
- Secretary – Ron Krueger (W9JRW)
- Treasurer – Ron Anderson (W9RMA)
- Past President – John Ingersoll (W9SWL)

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