

The SPARK GAP

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PRESIDENTS CORNER

by Gale, WD9HFT

I am on the road again – see you at the next meeting.

CVARC MEETING MINUTES

By Ron, W9RJW

At the March 18th meeting it was announced that CVARC has been officially recognized as a formal affiliate of the ARRL. They are generating a handsome "Charter" to symbolize the importance of becoming an ARRL affiliated club. They have suggested we might wish to coordinate a "Charter Party" with our Division Director or Section Manager or both. We may all wish to consider this possibility as it would also give us a good opportunity for PR (news releases with photos) and to spread the word in the "Valley".

Given this new status, a new application for the ARRL sponsored insurance has been submitted. The formal adoption of the CVARC Bylaws has been set for the April meeting. Several Hamfests were discussed and there is limited space remaining for attending Dayton. Contact Gale Sorum or Ron Anderson if you are interested. A 45 foot tower may be offered to the CVARC as a result of a property sale in the future. Stay tuned we might need to act relatively quickly. Section and Contributing Editors are being sought for the Newsletter. Contact John Ingersoll. The April meeting will be held at John Balow's Muscle Car business in Lake Hallie and mobile installations will be the "Hands On" special interest subject. No dinner is planned for that meeting given the change in location. A Fox Hunt will replace the regular May meeting. It has been planned for Saturday May 22 in Eau Claire. "THE FOX", (Previously known as John Ingersoll, W9SWL) will be the object of our attention that day. Check the website for updates.

Ron Krueger, W9JRW
Secretary

NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next club meeting will be April 22, 2004 at 6:30 PM. at KB9VCO's QTH at 11353 20th Ave – Hallie, WI. This will be a Mobile Radio Clinic. See Club Happenings.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

The CVARC now has 30 members. The club Application for Membership and Interest Sheet are both posted on the web for download.

The April 22, 2004 meeting will be a Mobile Antenna Clinic. It will be held at KB9VCO's QTH at 11353 20th Ave – Hallie, WI. There will be no dinner at the Airport. The meeting will start at 6:30PM. The meeting will concentrate on reviewing different mobile installations with a discussion as to problems and issues encountered and how they were resolved.

The May meeting will be held on Saturday, May 22. It will be a Fox Hunt. The boundaries for the hunt are Hwy 53, Hwy 12, and Hwy 124. This provides for a closed loop in the city proper. The hunt will run between 0900 – 1100 AM. Ready your skills in radio direction finding and map reading. (Review the Elmer column on Fox Hunts later in this issue).

Information and maps for both of these events can be found on the club web page.

AMATEUR RELATED NEWS BITES

by John, W9SWL

AMSAT - AO40 - Updates on AO-40 are available on the AMSAT-DL Web site:
<http://www.amsat-dl.org/journal/adlj-p3d.htm> .

ARRL News

SB SPCL ARL ARLX001
ARLX001 W1AW/90 Operates Through 2004

The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial station at ARRL Headquarters, W1AW, will sign with a special designator - /90 - through the rest of 2004. The call sign reflects the 90th anniversary of the League's founding by Maxim and Clarence Tuska in 1914. Operation as W1AW/90 will begin April 3.

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, said he will encourage guest operators to use as many modes as possible, including RTTY, PSK31, Satellite and Hellschreiber. "Plus, we're going to try for SSTV WAS," he added. "It'll be tough, but we can do it."

Special QSL cards will be available for W1AW/90 contacts, and Carcia noted that self-addressed, stamped return envelopes should accompany all QSL requests. All contacts with W1AW/90 will also be uploaded to Logbook of The World.

AREA HAMFEST ACTIVITIES

by John, W9SWL

April

- 2-3 - AES Superfest, Milwaukee, WI
- 18 - Madison Area Rptr Assoc - Stoughton, WI
- 24 - Moose Lodge, Fairbault, MN

May

- 1 - Superior, WI Fairgrounds - 4700 S Tower Ave 9-2
- 1 - Cedarburg, WI
- 14-16 - Dayton Hamvention - Dayton, OH

CONTEST BUZZ

by John, W9SWL

ARRL Contest Calendar can be found here:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html> a more complete list follows.

April 2004

SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 1
Kids Roundup	1400Z, Apr 3 to 2200Z, Apr 4
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 3 to 1500Z, Apr 4
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 3 to 1600Z, Apr 4
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 3 to 0500Z, Apr 4 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 4
QCWA QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 3 to 1800Z, Apr 4
RSGB RoPoCo 1	0700Z-0900Z, Apr 4
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local -2300 local , Apr 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 6
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 10 to 1300Z, Apr 11
ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 10 to 2400Z, Apr 11
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1500Z-1859Z, Apr 10
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 10 to 0359Z, Apr 11 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 11
CIS DX Contest, SSB	1900Z, Apr 10 to 1900Z, Apr 11
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Apr 11
SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Apr 11
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local -2300 local , Apr 13
Holyland DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 17
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 17
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0859Z, Apr 17
YU DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 17 to 1200Z, Apr 18

GACW CW DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 17 to 1200Z, Apr 18
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1500Z-1859Z, Apr 17
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 17 to 0400Z, Apr 18
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 17 to 1800Z, Apr 18
World Amateur Radio Day Party	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 18
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local -2300 local , Apr 21
Harry Angel Memorial Sprint	1100Z-1246Z, Apr 23
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 24 to 1200Z, Apr 25
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 24 to 1300Z, Apr 25
QRP to the Field	1500Z-2400Z, Apr 24
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 24 to 0159Z, Apr 25 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 25
Kentucky QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 24 to 0400Z, Apr 25
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 24 to 1700Z, Apr 25
EUCW/FISTS QRS Party	0001Z, Apr 25 to 2359Z, May 1

BOAT ANCHOR DOCK

by John, W9SWL

Do you have an old radio? Does it work? Do you need help in getting it on the air? These are all valid questions when dealing with Vintage Radio gear. This is the first in a four-part article to discuss many aspects in dealing with Vintage Radio gear. Sources used are varied and many. **Part 1.**

Should I fix it myself, or hire someone to do it?

You don't need advanced electronics knowledge to fix most old radios. Tube-powered radios are simple in comparison to modern electronics. Most were built to conventional designs, and they use replacement parts that are still readily available. Fixing old radios can be an enjoyable hobby in itself, and you might even learn something about one of our century's key technologies. On the other hand, working on any electrical equipment can pose a danger of **serious** electric shock. And botched repairs can make a problem worse, if you're not careful. If you've never done such work, and you're not interested in learning how, it's best not to start poking around blindly.

What skills do I need?

For the most common repairs, you need to be able to read and to do simple soldering. **IMPORTANT SAFETY WARNING:** You also need to know how to work safely around electricity. Old radios carry high-voltage current that can cause injury or death. The repair books explain how to do this work safely. Never stick your hands (or anything else) inside an old radio if you don't know what

you're doing.

Do I need to get a schematic diagram before I start?

Not necessarily. Many radios can be repaired using the general techniques and information given in the repair books. Some problems do require specific information, however, and the schematic may include other useful facts, such as the date of manufacture. Schematics for US and Canadian radios typically cost a few dollars and can be ordered.

TECHNICAL TIDBITS – this month a feature

What I Do With [APRS](#)©

By Doug, KB9ZWL

First and foremost I have **FUN!** With just a Computer and various software applications, an Internet connection, TNC, and a Radio there are limitless things that you can do with APRS. I operate an I-Gate. An I-Gate passes signals from RF to the Internet and back. My I-Gate Consists of a Kenwood TR-9000 2-Meter radio connected to a 2-meter Ringo ranger Antenna at 11 AGL, Dell Optiplex 350 MHz 128 Ram Computer. The tnc is [AGW Packet Engine](#) software. APRS software is [UI-View32v1.99](#) with [Precision Mapping v6.0](#) mapping software. The interface between the computer and radio is a [Signalink](#) model SI-1+. With all or various combinations of the above hardware and software is all that I use for APRS. My I-Gate is a 24/7 as long as I have power and ISP connection.

With APRS I track Balloons, airplanes and Cars, Trucks and Satellites and a lot of other things, Just using my Computer and the [APRS-IS Servers](#) on the Internet with UI-View32 and PMap6.

I am partial to UI-View32 I think it's the best and most [Supported](#) software that \$16 can buy and with the \$60 Precision Mapping software you can track down to street level any where in the USA. Sorry about the Commercial but I'm hooked on these programs.

With [UI-Vew32 add-ons](#) there are a lot of neat and interesting things you can do. With [UI-View32 Map Software](#) especially with UI-Terra which allows you to make maps from Terraserver. You can make both aerial photograph maps (DOQ) and topographic maps (DRG) of the USA you also use these as underlay in UI-View Pmap6 Server.

Using APRS-IS [JavAPRSFilters](#) you select the type of traffic or info you want sent to you. So if I want to see if there are any and only APRS equipped Balloons I just enter the symbol command for Balloons and all I will see on my UI-View Map Are Balloons. I have Fun by inputting all sorts of different [APRS Display Symbols \(icons\)](#) then see what I get on my maps, and then zooming in to see where they are and who created them.

[Here](#) is what some of the symbols used by UI-View look like.

Using APRS-IS and UI-View32v.199 and PMapv.6 I track Balloon Flights its very interesting to see how high and how far they go! Here is some Ham Balloon Groups I track [ANSR](#) , [EOSS](#) and [NSTAR](#). [Here are some pictures](#) taken from the NSTAR balloon, this flight was 20 March 04.

I would recommend if you have computer, radio and TNC and internet connection get some type of APRS Software and see if there something you would interested in. Be it Skywarn, EOC's, Emergency Services, Homeland Security, or any type of disaster APRS can and does play a very significant roll. **OR Just Have FUN!**

ASK ELMER ??

by John, W9SWL

What is a Fox Hunt?? This is not something you do with a gun and no one gets hurt, but it is a lot of fun and work. Hams use RDF, "[Radio direction finding](#)", to track jamming stations and stolen equipment, to locate lost individuals, but more often, they use it just for fun. Hams have done hidden transmitter hunting for many years and it is a growing activity. This activity can be done on foot or in a vehicle, depending on the area the search needs to cover. It's a map-and-compass sport similar to orienteering, with either one or many "fox" transmitters to find in a given period of time. All you need is a radio, a directional antenna, a map and compass, and patience's. Sound interesting? Would you like to try it? Let's pick a date at the next meeting and give it a try. To learn more about this sport, view this reference:

<http://members.aol.com/homingin/>

CVARC OFFICERS

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Secretary – Ron Krueger (W9JRW)

Treasurer – Ron Anderson (W9RMA)

Past President – John Ingersoll (W9SWL)

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