

The SPARK GAP

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PRESIDENTS CORNER

by Gale, WD9HFT

Hope to see everyone at the FOX Hunt.

CVARC MEETING MINUTES

by Ron, W9RJW

No formal meeting was held. The meeting was a Mobile Antenna Clinic. The CVARC Club Insurance policy has been applied for and the money has been paid.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next club meeting/event will be May 22, 2004 from 09:00 – 11:00 AM. This will be a 2-hour Fox Hunt. See additional information “Club Happenings”.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

The CVARC now has 32 members. The club Application for Membership and Interest Sheet are both posted on the web for download.

The April 22, 2004 meeting was a Mobile Antenna Clinic. It will be held at KB9VCO's QTH at 11353 20th Ave – Hallie, WI. The meeting reviewed different mobile installations with a discussion as to problems and issues encountered and resolutions. (More pic's on the web).



W9GDW – “Never a wind-loading problem”



KB9R – “Bigger and Uglier is Better”

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. Freq - 146.48**. All stations please check in on the 147.375 repeater at 0850. The Fox will broadcast 100 mW signal starting at 0900. The FOX will have a range of about 1.5 miles. When you find the FOX – write down the time and information on the transmitter. All stations please meet at McDonalds on Hwy 53 after the event. Information and maps for the Fox Hunt can be found on the club web page. Ready your skills in radio direction finding and map reading.

AMATEUR RELATED NEWS BITES

by John, W9SWL

New Chippewa County Emergency Coordinator

As of May 1, 2004, Ron Anderson, W9RMA, of the CVARC, will be the Emergency Coordinator for Chippewa County.

If anyone who has questions about ARES/RACES they can contact me at 715-723-1729 or e-mail to W9RMA@charter.net

I am presently working on the Chippewa Falls Siren Test with Lt. John Liddell of the Chippewa Falls Police Department. Chippewa Falls Siren tests are conducted on 1st Monday of the Month at 10 a.m. Tests are conducted monthly through-out the year.

I am asking for six to seven volunteers to help with this each month, if possible.

The CFPD has also requested for our help with weather spotting. Four volunteers to go out in their vehicle to 4 locations that have been chosen for spotting W and SW of the city.

Please contact me as soon as possible if you are willing to volunteer. As you know we are already into the tornado season.

Ron Anderson, W9RMA
Emergency Coordinator - Chippewa County

The First NEW CHARACTER in 60 years

The addition of di-dah-dah-di-dah-dit as "@", the first new Morse character in "at least 60 years. This change was made to help with the listing of email addresses in the sending of Radiogram information and when used by hams to give this information during QSO's.

ARRL News

FCC ADOPTS RULE CHANGES FOR IMPROVED RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS TO FACILITATE HOMELAND SECURITY EFFORTS April 15, 2004 Washington, D.C. -

In an effort to increase homeland security and improve the efficiency of commercial shipping operations, the Federal Communication Commission today adopted a Third Report and Order (Order) that allows for the operation of improved radio frequency identification (RFID) systems for use in conjunction with commercial shipping containers.

This action is expected to result in lower shipping costs and improved security at ports, rail yards and warehouses in commercial and industrial settings by enabling the contents of containers to be rapidly inventoried. These improvements will also help system users determine whether tampering with their contents has occurred during shipping.

RFID systems use radio signals to identify items. Uses of RFID include electronic toll collection such as the E-Z Pass system and anti-theft tags. An RFID system consists of a tag mounted on the item to be identified and a device that receives information transmitted from the tag.

The Commission's rules permit RFID systems to be operated on a number of frequency bands, subject to limitations on their maximum signal level and transmission duration. These limitations constrain the range and information transfer rates of RFIDs.

The Order increases the maximum signal level permitted for RFID systems operating in the 433.5-434.5 MHz band to facilitate more reliable transmissions with greater range than the rules previously allowed. The 433 MHz band is available for unlicensed operation in

many countries around the world, thus enabling manufactures to produce a single model of a device for use in both the United States and other countries.

The Order also increases the maximum permitted transmission duration for these RFID systems from one second to 60 seconds, resulting in a sixty-fold increase in the amount of data that can be transmitted, thus facilitating the scanning of the contents of an entire shipping container. To minimize the risk of interference to authorized communication services, operation of RFID systems with higher power and longer transmission duration is limited to commercial shipping containers in commercial and industrial areas.

Action by the Commission April 15, 2004, by Third Report and Order (FCC 04-98). Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin, and Adelstein. Statement by Chairman Powell.

AREA HAMFEST ACTIVITIES

by John, W9SWL

May

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

June

- 5 - TwinsLan Tailgate Swap 7-1, St. Paul Tech College, MN
- 11-12 Iowa State Convention

CONTEST BUZZ

by John, W9SWL

ARRL Contest Calendar can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html> a more complete list follows.

MAY 2004

US IPARC Annual Contest, CW	0000Z-2400Z, May 1
MARAC County Hunters Contest, CW	0000Z, May 1 to 2400Z, May 2
UBA Welcome to European Union Contest	0000Z-2400Z, May 1
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 1 to 2359Z, May 2
2 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local , May 1 to 2400 local , May 2
Microwave Spring Sprint	0600 local -1300 local , May 1
AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
Indiana QSO Party	1500Z, May 1 to 0300Z, May 2
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z, May 1 to 1959Z, May 2
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 1 to 0500Z, May 2 and
	1300Z-2400Z, May 2

US IPARC Annual Contest, SSB	0000Z-2400Z, May 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 4
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 8 to 1200Z, May 9
Oregon QSO Party	1500Z, May 8 to 0300Z, May 9
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party	1600Z, May 8 to 2400Z, May 9
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 8
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 8 to 0300Z, May 9
Portuguese Navy Day HF Contest	0800Z, May 15 to 2300Z, May 16
Manchester Mineira CW Contest	1500Z, May 15 to 2400Z, May 16
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1800Z, May 15 to 1800Z, May 16
ARCI Newcomer's Run	1800Z-2000Z, May 15
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, May 22
AGCW Activity Week	0000Z, May 24 to 2400Z, May 28
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 29 to 2359Z, May 30
Great Lakes QSO Party	0000Z, May 29 to 2359Z, May 30
ARCI Hootowl Sprint	2000 local -2400 local, May 30
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 31 to 0300Z, Jun 1

BOAT ANCHOR DOCK

by John, W9SWL

Part 2: This is the second in a four part article to discuss many aspects in dealing with Vintage Radio gear. Sources used are varied and many.

Where can I find someone to fix my radio?

You might find someone simply by checking in the Yellow Pages or phoning around to local electronics repair shops. You can also try contacting the nearest radio collectors club for a tip. A listing of clubs throughout North America is available on the [Antique Radio Classified](#) website. The print version of ARC magazine also carries many ads for repair shops and other services.

Is there a book that I can read?

Yes! Some excellent radio-repair books are listed on my page [Books for Radio Collectors](#). Your public library may have these, or they can be ordered from your local bookstore or [Antique Radio Classified](#). There are many other out-of-print books that may be available through used-book sources. If you get a good repair book, you can basically skip the rest of this page—the book will cover much the same ground in more detail.

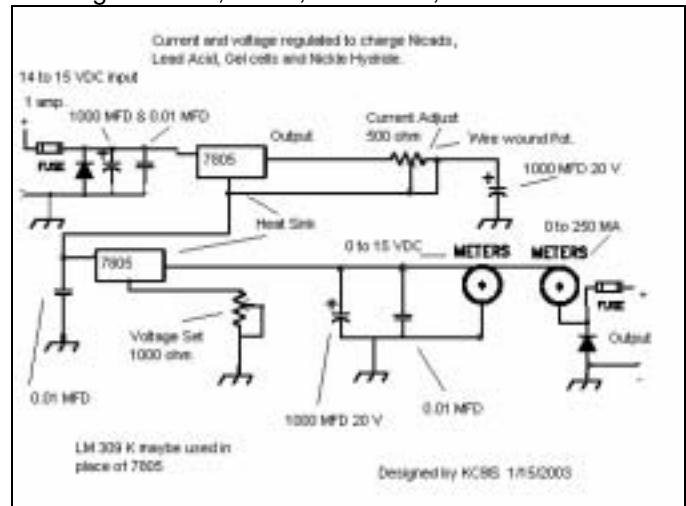
Are parts still available?

Yes. Commonly needed electronic components are readily available.

TECHNICAL TIDBITS

by John, W9SWL

Here is a charger circuit, current and voltage regulated, to charge NiCads, NiMH, Lead Acid, and Gel Cels.



ASK ELMER ??

by John, W9SWL

Elmer is feeling like the Maytag repairman. How about some questions for our friend Elmer.

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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