



The SPARK GAP

147.375  T-110.9  444.350

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June 2004

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PRESIDENTS CORNER

by Gale, WD9HFT

Plan to join us at the next meeting to help plan the club projects for the rest of 2004.

CVARC MEETING MINUTES

by Ron, W9RJW

NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next club meeting will be June 17, 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:

Hamvention Review
Fox & Rabbit Review
Tower Project #0604
Field Day Plans
Farm Technology Communications
CVARC 30" X 84" Banner
Business Card Sized QSL Cards
'A' sized CVARC information sheet
Field Day cooperation with ECARC @ EC Expo Center

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 **Fox Hunt** was held on May 22 from 0900-1100. We had 13 participants – W9SWL was the Rabbit. Those taking part were John Ingersoll - W9SWL (The Rabbit); Joe Eide- KB9R; Sue Eide - KB9EUP (Photographer); Dustin Teigen - Guest; Jim Mercer - W5JLM; John Balow - KB9VCO; Gale Sorum - WD9HFT; Marvel Newton - KC9AYY; Dan Martinson - N9QWI; Roland Newton - KC0IEA; Bert Spangler - W9ZZI; Ron Krueger - W9JRW; Ron Anderson - W9RMA.

The Winners
(The Rabbit)
1st Place
Marvel (KC9AYY)+Roland (KC0IEA)+Dan (N9QWI)
Time: 21 Minutes 08 seconds
2nd Place
Joe (KB9R)+Dustin Teigen
Time: 22 Minutes 13 Seconds

3rd Place
Jim (W5JLM)
Time: 35 Minutes 48 seconds

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

Chippewa County EC – Ron Anderson, W9RMA

A couple of months ago the Chippewa Falls Police Department requested the assistance of the CVARC to help with doing siren tests to make sure that all of the sirens are operating correctly, that is that they are rotating and sounding.

I would like to request members to contact me if they would like to participate in this exercise each month. It happens on the first Monday of each month at 11 A.M.

I am looking for more volunteers to help with this exercise because not everyone can make it every time. Requirements are simple. A radio or cell phone will work. Contact me and I will assign a location for you to go too. There are basically 7 positions and the eighth one is taken care of by the city.

You can contact me at 723-1729 or via 147.375/444.350

I am also looking for more volunteers to help with weather watch and the weather net. Again the Chippewa Falls Police Department has requested the help of the CVARC.

I have four positions at the moment, however I could also use some positions further to the west and southwest of Chippewa Falls. If you can be of help please contact me.

For all of those that have been out on the weather watch and the sirens check, a comment from Lt Liddell:

“dispatcher on Sunday night was very impressed. Thanks for getting your people out and notifying us. She said all our people were busy on calls and the information you provided was terrific.

***Thanks
Lt. John Liddell”***

Ron Anderson –
Chippewa County Emergency Coordinator

AMATEUR RELATED NEWS BITES

by John, W9SWL

The State of Wisconsin proclaims June 26, 2004 as Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Day

ARRL News

ARRL Bulletin 19 ARLB019
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT May 28, 2004
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB019

ARRL019 FCC extends reply comment deadline in BPL proceeding

The FCC has extended the deadline to file reply comments (comments on filed comments) in its broadband over power line (BPL) Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), ET Docket 04-37, to Tuesday, June 22.

AREA HAMFEST ACTIVITIES

by John, W9SWL

June

5 - TwinsLan Tailgate Swap 7-1, 3M Campus St. Paul , MN

11-12 Iowa State Convension

July

10 - Ozaukee Radio Club, Oak Creek, WI \$5

Aug

7 - Delta County ARS, Escanaba, MI

7 - Brainard, MN 9AM 147.225

8 - Amana, IA

8 - Cedar Valley ARC, Cedar Rapids, IA

14 - Baraboo, WI - 7-12, Sauk Cty Fairgrounds, I90/94 Exit 92 (Hwy 12) E on Hwy 33 \$5

28 - St. Cloud Armory 9-2, St. Cloud, MN

CONTEST BUZZ

by John, W9SWL

ARRL Contest Calendar can be found here:

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

JUNE 2004

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Major Six Club Contest | 2300Z, Jun 4 to 0200Z, Jun 7 |
| VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, CW | 0800Z-1400Z, Jun 5 |
| IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW | 1500Z, Jun 5 to 1500Z, Jun 6 |
| RSGB National Field Day | 1500Z, Jun 5 to 1500Z, Jun 6 |
| QRP TAC Sprint | 1800Z-2359Z, Jun 5 |
| ARS Spartan Sprint | 0100Z-0300Z, Jun 8 |
| ANARTS WW RTTY Contest | 0000Z, Jun 12 to 2400Z, |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Asia-Pacific Summer Sprint, SSB | Jun 13 1100Z-1300Z, Jun 12 |
| ARRL June VHF QSO Party | 1800Z, Jun 12 to 0300Z, Jun 13 |
| SARL Kid's Day | 0700Z-0900Z, Jun 16 |
| All Asian DX Contest, CW | 0000Z, Jun 19 to 2400Z, Jun 20 |
| SMIRK Contest | 0000Z, Jun 19 to 2400Z, Jun 20 |
| West Virginia QSO Party | 1600Z, Jun 19 to 0200Z, Jun 20 |
| AGCW VHF/UHF Contest | 1600Z-1900Z, Jun 19 and 1900Z-2100Z, Jun 19 |
| Kid's Day Contest | 1800Z-2400Z, Jun 19 |
| UK DX Contest, CW | 1400Z, Jun 25 to 1400Z, Jun 26 |
| Marconi Memorial HF Contest | 1400Z, Jun 26 to 1400Z, Jun 27 |
| ARRL Field Day | 1800Z, Jun 26 to 2100Z, Jun 27 |
| ARCI Milliwatt Field Day | 1800Z, Jun 26 to 2100Z, Jun 27 |
| His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB | 1800Z, Jun 26 to 1800Z, Jun 27 |

BOAT ANCHOR DOCK

by John, W9SWL

Part 3: This is the third in a four-part article to discuss many aspects in dealing with Vintage Radio gear.

What tools and equipment do I need?

The one tool you can't do without is a small, pencil-type soldering iron, available at stores such as Radio Shack. You may already have the other gear you'll need—a couple of screwdrivers (Phillips and normal head) in different sizes, a small adjustable wrench, pliers (regular and needle nose), wire cutter, and a small knife for stripping insulation from wire.

The most useful piece of equipment is a multi-tester, a small device that measures voltage, resistance, etc. You can get one for around \$25 at Radio Shack and many other sources.

Many people have asked me whether they'll need a tube tester. The answer is no, in ordinary situations. Instead of using testers, most technicians use diagnostic techniques such as measuring the voltages at a tube's pins and substituting a "known good" tube of the same type. The cheaper (emission type) testers don't give very useful information even when working perfectly. The more expensive (transconductance type) testers give better information, but they still can't predict absolutely how a given tube will perform in a given circuit. Furthermore, most available testers are themselves pretty old, and they will need repair, or at least calibration, before you can have any faith in their results. If you do frequent repair work, the next most useful item is probably a signal generator, a device that can

generate audio and RF (radio frequency) signals at various frequencies. By injecting a known signal into various stages of the radio's circuit, you can zero in on the source of a problem. For instance, if you inject an audio signal into the audio output stage and no sound comes out of the speaker, you know there's a problem in that part of the radio.

The same is true of other equipment such as oscilloscopes. If you have one, it can be handy on occasion, but if you don't, there's often another way to skin the cat. It's amazing what a skilled repair person can do just by looking, listening, substituting components, and making measurements with the multi-tester.

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TECHNICAL TIDBITS

by John, W9SWL

"ARE YOU "ON FREQUENCY"?" - Here is a simple procedure to perform on most modern dual VFO transceivers. **Most have a tolerance of + or - 10ppm.**

1. Turn on your transceiver and let it warm up for one hour to let the reference crystal stabilize at its normal operating temperature. (If you set it promptly, you can check the drift)
2. Set your readout to: 10.000 MHz (WWV) on both the A and B VFO.
3. Set VFO A to: 10.001.00 MHz LSB.
4. Set VFO B to: 9.999.00 MHz USB.
5. "Toggle" back and forth between VFO A and VFO B.
6. Listen carefully to hear if the audio frequency tones sound alike.
7. If they are equal your dial readout is calibrated properly.
8. If one is higher or lower (in pitch) than the other, then your frequency calibration is off a bit and the reference oscillator needs to be adjusted.
9. Your manual will give instructions under "adjusting the reference oscillator" or "display calibration procedure". Adjust the oscillator trimmer or variable inductor carefully, while switching between the A and B VFOs until the audio tone from VFO A and VFO B are equal.
10. DO NOT ATTEMPT ANY INTERNAL ADJUSTMENTS UNLESS YOU HAVE A MANUAL AND KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING! If you need help, ask for technical assistance from a qualified fellow ham operator or a commercial service technician. (from an article by Ed Ewell, K7DXV)

ASK ELMER ??

by John, W9SWL

CVARC OFFICERS

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