

# The SPARK GAP

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## PRESIDENTS CORNER

by Gale, WD9HFT

The main point for the Sep meeting will be the Farm Days event that the club will be supporting, the Club Bylaws, and the October Fox Hunt. I hope everyone can make it to this meeting. I hope everyone had a good summer.

## CVARC MEETING MINUTES

by Ron, W9RJW

The August 19 meeting was an antenna building party at John, KB9VCO. Those members in attendance produced 8 - 440MHz antennas for DF use. Pictures and plans of this event are posted on the web page. The event started at 1830 and ended at 2100. Each member had a chance to work on all parts of the project. Plans are posted on the web – try your hand at building one – you won't be disappointed.



## NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next club meeting will be Sep 16, 2004. This club meeting will discuss the October Fox Hunt, Chippewa Farm Days, and the Bylaws for the club. Your attendance is requested. If you have any comments on the Bylaws – please forward them to any of the club officers via mail or email.

## CLUB HAPPENINGS

The CVARC now has 35 members. Please welcome James Staats, KI9H. The club Application for Membership and Interest Sheet are both posted on the web for download. Please also review the Bylaws on line so they can be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

Are you interested in going to **Grayslake, IL Hamfest on Sept 17-18**? This is an overnight event and will cost about \$100-150 for shared travel, lodging, and your meals. Buying anything at the event is extra ☺. If you are interested in going, and/or driving please contact Gale, WD9HFT and let him know. We need to get this information set to know who is going.

The next Fox Hunt is on the board for October 16. It will be on 440 MHz. Four(4) of the antennas build at the August meeting are still up for sale. Cost is \$5. Contact Gale, WD9HFT if you are interested.

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.

## AMATEUR RELATED NEWS BITES

by John, W9SWL

### ARRL News

Because the complete text of the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 04-140 failed to make it into the Federal Register until August 17, interested parties now will have until September 15 to comment. Released in April, the so-called "omnibus NPRM" seeks comments on a wide range of proposed Amateur Service (Part 97) rules changes as well as certain changes to Parts 1 and 2 of the FCC's rules. It does not deal with Amateur Radio license restructuring or the Morse code examination requirement for HF privileges.

Among other things, the NPRM&O recommends adoption of the ARRL's "Novice reformatting" plan and proposes eliminating FCC rules prohibiting manufacture or marketing of Amateur Radio Service power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz.

Interested parties may comment on the NPRM via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Click on "Submit a filing." To view filed comments, click on "Search for filed comments." In both cases, enter "04-

140" (without the quotation marks) in the "Proceeding" field.

**AREA HAMFEST ACTIVITIES**

by John, W9SWL

**Sep**

- 9-11 Dakota Division Convention
- 11 - Winona Swapfest 8-9-12 FREE Eagles Club 210 E 4th Str (146.64)
- 11 - Rush City, MN
- 18-19 - Chicago FM Club; Lake County Fairgrounds; Grayslake, IL

**Oct**

- 3 - West Liberty, IA
- 23 - St. Paul, MN TwinCity FM Club

**CONTEST BUZZ**

by John, W9SWL

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

- All Asian DX Contest, 0000Z, Sep 4 to 2400Z,
- Russian RTTY WW Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Sep 4
- Wake-Up! QRP Sprint 0400Z-0600Z, Sep 4
- IARU Region 1 Field Day, 1300Z, Sep 4 to 1259Z,
- RSGB SSB Field Day 1300Z, Sep 4 to 1300Z,
- AGCW Straight Key Party 1300Z-1600Z, Sep 4
- DARC 10-Meter Digital 1100Z-1700Z, Sep 5
- MI QRP Labor Day CW 2300Z, Sep 6 to 0300Z,
- ARS Spartan Sprint 0100Z-0300Z, Sep 7
- YLRL Howdy Days 1400Z, Sep 8 to 0200Z,
- WAE DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Sep 11 to 2359Z,
- CIS DX Contest, RTTY 1200Z, Sep 11 to 1200Z,
- Swiss HTC QRP Sprint 1300Z-1900Z, Sep 11
- ARRL September VHF 1800Z, Sep 11 to 0300Z,
- North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 12
- Tennessee QSO Party 1800Z, Sep 12 to 0100Z,
- ARCI End of Summer 2000Z-2400Z, Sep 12
- ARRL 10 GHz and Up 0600 local -2400 local , 0600 local -2400 local ,
- SARL VHF/UHF Contest 1000Z, Sep 18 to 1000Z,

- Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW 1200Z, Sep 18 to 1200Z, Sep 19
- Collegiate QSO Party 1200Z, Sep 18 to 0400Z, Sep 19
- Med. Islands Award Contest 1200Z, Sep 18 to 1200Z, Sep 19
- South Carolina QSO Party 1300Z, Sep 18 to 2100Z, Sep 19
- QRP Afield 1500Z, Sep 18 to 0300Z, Sep 19
- Washington State Salmon Run 1600Z, Sep 18 to 0700Z, Sep 19 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 19
- QCWA QSO Party 1800Z, Sep 18 to 1800Z, Sep 19
- North American Sprint, SSB 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 19
- 144 MHz Fall Sprint 1900 local -2300 local , Sep 20
- CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Sep 25 to 2400Z, Sep 26
- Tesla Cup, Phone 0000Z-2400Z, Sep 25
- Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB 1200Z, Sep 25 to 1200Z, Sep 26
- Arkansas QSO Party 1400Z, Sep 25 to 0600Z, Sep 26 and 1800Z, Sep 26 to 0200Z, Sep 27
- Texas QSO Party 1400Z, Sep 25 to 0200Z, Sep 26 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 26
- AGCW VHF/UHF Contest 1600Z-1900Z, Sep 25 and 1900Z-2100Z, Sep 25
- Alabama QSO Party 1800Z-2400Z, Sep 25
- Tesla Cup, CW 0000Z-2400Z, Sep 26
- UBA ON Contest, 6m 0600Z, Sep 26 to 1000Z, Sep 6
- Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint 0000Z-0400Z, Sep 27
- 222 MHz Fall Sprint 1900 local -2300 local , Sep 28

**BOAT ANCHOR DOCK**

by John, W9SWL

Who is this man and what part did he play in the world of Radio?? Hint – the year was 1904.



## **TECHNICAL TIDBITS**

by John, W9SWL

The following is a basic list of tools every ham should have:

**A pair of long nose pliers**-- for bending the leads on components and holding nuts while you tightens bolts.

**A pair of cutting pliers**-- what you are looking for are "flush cutting" pliers rather than the traditional "dikes" or "diagonal cutting pliers." These are used for cutting wire and trimming leads on the soldered side of a circuit board, and "dikes" just won't get close enough to the board.

**Screwdrivers**-- you will need two large screwdrivers, one with a straight tip for slotted screws, the other with a phillips head; and a set of miniature drivers. The mini drivers (often called "jeweler's drivers") can be bought as separate sets for straight and phillips, or as a combination set.

**Hobby knife**-- for example, a "Stanley" knife, with a razor-sharp blade, for stripping wires and trimming things.

**Multimeter**-- for checking voltages, resistances, continuity, and current. A digital multimeter with an "audible continuity feature" is great, but you can get by with an inexpensive VOM (Volt-Ohm-Milliameter).

**Magnifier**-- for examining circuit board traces and solder connections. If you can, you should solder under magnification using a magnifying work lamp, but you can start with a hand magnifier or loupe.

**Clip leads**-- wires with alligator clips on the ends for making temporary connections.

**Sheet Metal Nibbling Tool**-- for making large or odd shaped openings in sheet metal, for example aluminum panels for mounting controls. Much faster and easier than filing.

## **ASK ELMER ??**

by John, W9SWL

### **What is a Mentor?**

A Mentor is any person that uses his knowledge about a particular subject to help someone else increase their knowledge in that same subject area. The CVARC is proud to be listed as an ARRL Mentor Organization.



## **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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