



The SPARK GAP

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Amateur License Testing and Renewal

15-Jan-2005
Sponsor: EAU CLAIRE ARC
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Location: GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
202 W Grand Ave
ENTER OFF 2ND AVENUE ENTRANCE

HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2005

PRESIDENTS CORNER

by Gale, WD9HFT

Our club has had a very good year, but there is still much to do. Lets all plan to make 2005 a great year for the club by getting involved in the club events. No one can attend or take part in all events, so pick a few that interest you and join in. Remember also that there is always the Sat. morning coffee at the Hardee's on North Hastings at Eddy Lane. This runs from 8-10 AM. This is always a good way to catch-up on club happenings and meet the hams you may have only talked to on the radio. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

CVARC MEETING MINUTES

by Ron, W9RJW

There was no formal meeting in December. I hope everyone had a great holiday season.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next club meeting will be January 20, 2005 at 7 PM. at Connell's in the Airport. For those wanting to eat, we will be ordering at 6:15 PM. Topics – will be Elections, 2005 Projects, 2005 Fox Hunts.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Did you get new gear for Xmas? How about sending me some pictures of your gear or ham shack for posting on the web site or putting here in the newsletter? This will also provide others with some ideas for setting up their station.

AMATEUR RELATED NEWS BITES

by John, W9SWL

NEW CLUB – Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters

If you like to contest and try different things in the thin air above HF these hams would like to meet you. For more information, contact Dave Aho, N9TTX. 818 Revere St, Eau Claire, WI 54703. The club has no dues but does have a web site at <http://www.cvvhf.org>. (There is a link on the W9CVA site). They also can be found on 147.545 FM simplex.

ARRL News

Plenty of operating activities planned for the first weekend of 2005

Straight Key Night 2005 a Chance to Revisit an Earlier Era (Dec 27, 2004) -- Dust off that straight key that's been sitting on the ham shack closet shelf and get ready for Straight Key Night 2005 (SKN). The ARRL-sponsored 24-hour operating event takes place every New Year's Day (UTC), which means it begins New Year's Eve in US time zones. It's an opportunity to operate at a slower pace, maybe using vintage equipment, and recall the way many of today's master CW operators got their start. It's also a chance for CW newcomers to venture out on a more level playing field.

Another great operating activity this weekend is Kid's Day. This will be the first Kid's Day of 2005

Reminder: First 2005 Kid's Day is Sunday, January 2
The first [Kid's Day](#) in 2005 will be Sunday, January 2 (the second will be *Saturday*, June 18). Kid's Day will run from 1800 to 2400 UTC. Suggested frequencies are 14.270-14.300, 21.350-21.400 and 28.380-28.400 MHz plus 2 meter repeaters (with the permission of the repeater's sponsor). There's no limit on operating time, and the recommended exchange is name, age, location and favorite color. Intended to encourage young people to get acquainted with Amateur Radio. All participants are eligible for certificates. To coincide with ARRL's Kid's Day, [AMSAT-NA](#) will sponsor its own event for youngsters on the Echo satellite (AO-51) from approximately 1600 UTC on January 2 until 0345 UTC on January 3. Note the change in uplink frequency for the event to 145.880 MHz FM voice, 67 Hz tone; downlink is 435.300 MHz FM voice.

AREA HAMFEST ACTIVITIES

by John, W9SWL

January

7 - St Paul RC Auction - at St Thomas College
8 - West Allis, WI - warc.org
11 - Hamjam - Twin Cities 7pm

February

- 5 - Nauganee, MI
 15 - Red Cedar Repeater Auction, Eau Claire, WI
 26 - St Cloud, MN

March

- 19 - Buffalo, MN - Mid Winter Madness
 20 - Jefferson, WI www.cmdline.com/trac

CONTEST BUZZ

by John, W9SWL

ARRL Contest Calendar can be found here:

<http://www.arri.org/contests/calendar.html> a more complete list follows. January 2005:

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jan 1 to 1500Z, Jan 2
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Jan 1 and 1900Z-2100Z, Jan 1
WQF QRP Party	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 7
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 8
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 8 to 2400Z, Jan 9
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 8 to 0600Z, Jan 9
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z-2300Z, Jan 8 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 9
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0530Z-0730Z, Jan 9
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 9
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0800Z-1000Z, Jan 9
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 9
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jan 9
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest	0000Z, Jan 15 to 2400Z, Jan 16
LZ Open Contest	1200Z-2000Z, Jan 15
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 15 to 2359Z, Jan 16
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 15 to 1200Z, Jan 16
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 15 to 0600Z, Jan 16
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 22 to 1200Z, Jan 23
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 22 to 0400Z, Jan 24
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0000Z, Jan 29 to 2359Z, Jan 30
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 29 to 1800Z, Jan 30
UK DX Contest, RTTY	1200Z, Jan 29 to 1200Z, Jan 30
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 29 to 1300Z,

ANTENNAS

by John, W9SWL

This will be a new column for 2005. Each issue will have some antenna related information. If you would like to know about a specific type of antenna - drop me a note.

TECHNICAL TIDBITS

by John, W9SWL

Some of the most common connectors:

Standard Coaxial Connectors: N type, UHF type.
 Miniature Coaxial Connectors: BNC, TNC, F type, Mini UHF, FME, Euro, Twin BNC. Sub-Miniature Coaxial Connectors: SMA, SMB, SMC. Micro-Miniature Coaxial Connectors: MCX, MMCX. Other Products: Flexible Coaxial Cable Assemblies.

ASK ELMER ??

by John, W9SWL

What are Boat Anchors?

Big....Heavy....Old....Fun !

"Boat Anchor" is a fond term for vintage tube-type ham radio and communications equipment. Manufacturers like Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, National, Johnson, RME, Heath, and Collins, made this gear through the mid 1960's. Also included is tube-type military radio gear, homebrew gear, station accessories like microphones and keys, and test equipment from the same era.

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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