

The SPARK GAP

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PRESIDENTS CORNER*by Gale, WD9HFT***CVARC MEETING MINUTES***by Ron, W9RJW***NEXT CLUB MEETING**

The next club meeting will be April 21, 2005 at 7:15 PM. at Connell's in the Airport. For those wanting to eat, we will be ordering at 6:15 PM. Topics – Guest speaker from REX Systems and 2005 club dues.

CLUB HAPPENINGS**CVARC Tailgate Swapfest.**

July 9, 2005 8-12AM in the Eagles Club parking lot – Lake Hallie. Cost \$5 for Sellers and Buyers. Bring your gear and make some money. FREE COFFEE. Children 12 and Under FREE with paid Adult admission. For additional information see the EVENTS page on <http://www.W9CVA.org>.

Mobile installations abound in the club. Ron Krueger, W9JRW, has completed his HF installation and now has his sights on a new Icom 756 Pro III (rumor has it). Gale Sorum, WD9HFT, continues to modify his Lincoln Aviator, in preparation for the debut of his new Icom 706Mk2G+HF/2/440. Joe Eide, KB9R, has received his new RED Ford truck and has installed his new Icom 706Mk2G+2/440+HF antennas. No word at this writing if the Screwdriver is going to be attached. John Ingersoll, W9SWL, has installed his Glass Mount 2/440 antenna and is having an HF mount fashioned by Ron, W9RMA, creator of "Mounts by Ron". Need a mount, call Ron.

Have you made any changes in your station, let us know, drop me a line and share your news.

AMATEUR RELATED NEWS BITES*by John, W9SWL*

Always check the Newsline page on W9CVA.org for the latest in ARRL News happenings. It is published weekly and will keep you informed about what the ARRL is involved with.

ARRL News**AREA HAMFEST ACTIVITIES***by John, W9SWL***April**

1-2 - Milwaukee, WI AES Superfest
 16 - Faribault, MN 146.79 (100)
 16 - Souix Falls, SD
 16 - West Fargo, ND 147.255 (82.5)
 16 - Grayslake, IL 147.345 (102.7)
 17 - Stoughton, WI Madison Area Hamfest 0800-1300 147.75
 23 - Des Moines, IA 146.94 (114.8)

May

7 - Superior, WI
 7 - Cedarburg, WI
 20-22 - Dayton, OH
 20-21 Antique Radio Show - Plymouth, MN

June

4 - Tailgate, St Paul, MN 146.76 3M

July

9 - CVARC Tailgate Swapfest 8-12 Eagles in Hallie.

9 - Oak Creek, WI

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 2005:**

SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 2 to 1500Z, Apr 3
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 2 to 1600Z, Apr 3
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 2 to 0500Z, Apr 3 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 3
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 2 to 1800Z, Apr 3
RSGB RoPoCo	0700Z-0900Z, Apr 3
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 4
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Apr 4
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Apr 5
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, CW	1400Z, Apr 6 to 0200Z, Apr 8

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SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 7	1700Z, Apr 24
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 9 to 1300Z, Apr 10	EUCW/FISTS QRS Party 0001Z, Apr 24 to 2359Z, Apr 30
ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 9 to 2400Z, Apr 10	SBMS 2 GHz and Up WW Club Contest 0600 local, Apr 30 to 2400 local, May 1
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1500Z-1859Z, Apr 9	
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 9 to 0359Z, Apr 10 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 10	
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Apr 10	
SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Apr 10	
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 12	
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, SSB	1400Z, Apr 13 to 0200Z, Apr 15	
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Apr 13	
Holyland DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 16	
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 16	
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0859Z, Apr 16	
YU DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 16 to 1200Z, Apr 17	
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1500Z-1859Z, Apr 16	
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 16 to 0400Z, Apr 17	
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 16 to 1800Z, Apr 17	
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 20	
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Apr 21	
DX Colombia International Contest	0000Z, Apr 23 to 2400Z, Apr 24	
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 23 to 1200Z, Apr 24	
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 23 to 1300Z, Apr 24	
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 23 to 0159Z, Apr 24 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 24	
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 23 to	

ANTENNAS

by John, W9SWL (If you would like to know about a specific type of antenna - drop me a note)
Mobile antennas for HF are available in many different styles. These include Screwdrivers (multiband remote controlled operation-high priced), mono-band antennas (requires changing antennas/coils to operate on different bands - cheap), Tapped (multiband antenna requires changing a coil tap for band changing-moderate pricing). Each antenna has its own advantages and different mounting requirements. A lot of fun can be had talking to others while traveling down the highway. NOTE: Use caution when mobile. This type of operation can divert your attention away from the road.

TECHNICAL TIDBITS

by John, W9SWL
To verify the best operation of you antenna and radio, verify the output power of your radio into a dummy load and then check that against your antenna. You may find that the lowest SWR reading does not guarantee the highest power out. Tweak your antenna matching to give you the same power out seen on the dummy load. You can also cross check this with an Field Strength meter, to measure the RF Field around your antenna. The higher the reading, the more signal you are sending out. (I think this is the whole idea in the first place).

ASK ELMER ??

by John, W9SWL
Where can I go to take my Ham Test?
Testing is held in Eau Claire 4 times a year. The next testing session will be April 16, 2005. Testing runs from 9-11:30AM at Grace Lutheran church. For additional information: <http://www.ECARC.org>.

CVARC OFFICERS

President - Gale Sorum (WD9HFT)
Vice President - Bert Spangler (W9ZZI)
Secretary - Ron Krueger (W9JRW)
Treasurer - Ron Anderson (W9RMA)
Past President - John Ingersoll (W9SWL)

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