

The SPARK GAP

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PRESIDENTS CORNER*by Gale, WD9HFT*

We would like to thank Jeff Cole, N9PPE and Charlie Betz, N0AKC, from REX Systems, for attending our meeting and previewing some technology items being developed in the Chippewa Valley. The slide show, proved to be very interesting and generated a very good discussion. If you have any ideas for guest speakers, let me know and we will try to arrange it.

CVARC MEETING MINUTES*by Ron, W9RJW***NEXT CLUB MEETING**

The next club meeting will be May 12, 2005 at 7:15 PM. at Connell's in the Airport. For those wanting to eat, we will be ordering at 6:15 PM.

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>.

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 lates in ARRL News happenings. It is published weekly and will keep you informed about what the ARRL is involved with.

ARRL News

Past ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director and Director Bill McGrannahan, N0ZL (ex-K0ORB), of Kansas City, Missouri, died April 24. He was 83.

AREA HAMFEST ACTIVITIES*by John, W9SWL***May**

7 - Superior, WI www.qsl.net/dmarc
 7 - Cedarburg, WI
 20-21 Antique Radio Show - Plymouth, MN
 20-22 - Dayton, OH

June

4 - Tailgate, St Paul, MN 146.76 3M - McKnight Road to Conway Rd 146.76
 5 - Hubertus, WI (MKE)
 30 - Clear Lake, SD

July

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

9 - Oak Creek, WI
 12 - Wheaton, IL
 16 - Brainard, 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. **May 2005:**

May CW Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, May 1
AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, May 2
MARAC County Hunter Contest, CW	0000Z, May 7 to 2400Z, May 8
Nevada QSO Party	0000Z, May 7 to 0600Z, May 8
US IPARC Annual Contest, CW	0000Z-2400Z, May 7
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 7 to 2400Z, May 8
Microwave Spring Sprint	0600-1300 local, May 7
Oregon QSO Party	1400Z, May 7 to 0200Z, May 8
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 7 to 0400Z, May 8
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z, May 7 to 1959Z, May 8
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 7 to 0500Z, May 8 and

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	1300Z-2400Z, May 8
US IPARC Annual Contest, SSB	0000Z-2400Z, May 8
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, May 11
US Counties QSO Party, SSB	0000Z, May 14 to 2400Z, May 15
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, CW/SSB	0800Z, May 14 to 2300Z, May 15
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 14 to 1200Z, May 15
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 14 to 1200Z, May 15
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party	1600Z, May 14 to 0400Z, May 15 and 1100Z-2400Z, May 15
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 14
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 14 to 0300Z, May 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, May 19
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, May 21
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 21 to 1200Z, May 22
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, PSK31	1300Z, May 21 to 1300Z, May 22
Manchester Mineira CW Contest	1500Z, May 21 to 2400Z, May 22
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1800Z, May 21 to 1800Z, May 22
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 28 to 2359Z, May 29
ARCI Hootowl Sprint	2000Z-2400Z, May 29
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 29 to 0300Z, May 30

ANTENNAS

by John, W9SWL (If you would like to know about a specific type of antenna - drop me a note)

Mobile Noise - Think you have a Noise Free Mobile. Take this test.

1. Use a good 25 ft piece of Coaxial Cable, one end connects to your HF mobile. The other end has a wire loop 12-16 inches in length and coiled into a circle not greater than 2 inches in diameter running from center conductor and connected to the shield creating a small loop antenna.
2. Connect the test cable to your HF radio, crank the vehicle, turn your HF radio on and tune to 7.3Mhz. Take the coax and loop around vehicle and search for noise

signals while a second person watches the radio S-Meter for Hot Spots. Identify these hot spots. The chances are that you will find several under the hood, in the passenger compartment, and under the lower chassis. Tune to other bands and see if the noise is higher in level or lower in level.

3. A major Hot Spot in FORD vehicles is on the right side of the front passenger kick panel. This is where the Engine Computer is located. It Spews out lots of RF Hash across the HF band 2-30Mhz. It is in a metal can, but has lots of antennas leaving the box going into the vehicle. There are similar boxes and mounting locations in other late model vehicles. You just have to sniff them out.

TECHNICAL TIDBITS

by John, W9SWL

Building the Mobile Grounding Straps

1. Strip the outer black jacket off. Pull the braid off the center conductor.
2. Fold each end of the braid back over itself for 1 inch. Flatten the braid out.
3. Using a 120-150 watt soldering iron, tin the end section of each end of the braid. Flow the solder well and repeat on the bottom side.
4. When the braid has cooled down, drill a hole large enough for your 1/4 inch drive self drilling sheet metal screws to go through. A Star Washer will also help to insure good contact.

ASK ELMER ??

by John, W9SWL

What is a "Choke Balun"?

A choke balun is designed to "divorce" your antenna from the feed line. If your feed line is coaxial cable then you don't want it to be part of your antenna. You want to be able to deliver all your power to the radiator itself, i.e. "the antenna". A choke balun does this admirably.

CVARC OFFICERS

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