

# The SPARK GAP

147.375 T-110 444.350

Volume 2 Number 11

Nov. 2005

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## PRESIDENTS CORNER

by Gale, WD9HFT

I don't often endorse causes very often however if you take a look at the last article in the newsletter I think you will agree that it is a worthy cause. We have watch on TV all of the displaced people and have felt some empathy for the folks in the areas that have been affected by all of the storms. So if you have the chance to give a toy or donation please do so.

## CVARC MEETING MINUTES

by Ron, W9JRW

The September meeting of the CVARC had eight members in attendance as there were several scheduling conflicts. The development of a photo and text directory of Club members was discuss by Joe KB9R and Skip W9JRW. All members will be receiving a letter explaining the process. The Directory will then be distributed to all members. The pictures will be in color and this should be a really sharp publication. Future club projects were discuss and include such things as 1. switch based attenuators (Fox Hunt use etc.) 2. field strength meter construction, 3. antenna tuning bridges, and 4. digital connection box. Different methods of dealing with projects were discussed during the meeting. The membership will be contacted for their interests. New business included the potential of changing the day of the week our meetings are help along with which week of the month. This consideration is being generated out of

problems in scheduling the Airport Location as a meeting place in addition to schedule conflicts preventing several members from attending meetings on an ongoing basis. Ron W9RMA is in charge of liquidating John Ingersoll's W9SWL (SK) radio equipment. Several other club members are helping and the club will receive 10% of the proceeds. A draft policy will be written for the members to consider. This should help in the appropriate use of valuable equipment and help assure that the family receives appropriate compensation for the items

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next meeting will be Dec 6, 2005 at 6 PM for dinner and 7 PM for the meeting. Will be held at Connell's II at the Eau Claire Airport.

## CLUB HAPPENINGS

### Fox Hunt:

by Joe KB9R



The foxhunt was a success last Saturday with beautiful weather to boot. KB9EUP (Sue) & KB9R (Joe) were acting as the fox during this 2-meter event. The fox was found by 2/3rds of

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the participating teams with our illustrious president WD9HFT with his copilot KA9KCX arriving first on location. Signals were modulated with club and member's history gleaned from notes taken from the upcoming club directory. A good time was had by all. We couldn't help reminiscing about the great memories we have of our friend John Ingersoll who had acted as fox for so many hunts.

## Directory Update

by Joe KB9R

Our club directory is moving along with several members having been interviewed. We have a ways to go, but it will be worth the effort. There have been many interesting stories told and more to come that will be enjoyed I'm certain. If you have not been contacted, you can expect a call in the near future to make an appointment to visit. Thanks for all the support!

## New Ham Makes First Contact

by Ron – W9JRW



While on vacation this summer Ron (Skip) Krueger W9JRW, XYL Lynne, and 11-year-old grandson, Gage, visited Lynne's Uncles Robert and Bennie. Her Uncle Bob is W0RSS of Tucson, Arizona and her Uncle Bennie lives in

Santa Barbara. While in Santa Barbara the family (Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, etc.) celebrated a birthday at the Santa Barbara beach. One of the relatives, Barbara, N6BOA made her first HF contact of any significant distance from the mobile rig of W9JRW, Skip. Her first HF QSO was with a ham in San Diego during Field Day, just after getting her extra class. She said this wasn't any distance to talk about.

So, Skip took her out to his pickup truck and within a few minutes Barb was talking to Louisiana (a much more significant distance). Skip explained this was probably do to that 4/80 HiQ mounted above his pickup truck. Barb is shown here (in the middle) celebrating with her sisters after her QSO. Where is Skip you might ask...behind the camera, naturally.

## CONTEST BUZZ

ARRL Contest Calendar can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html> a more complete list follows. November 2005

### **November**

5 - 7 Arri November Sweepstakes(CW)  
12-13 ARRL EME 50 Mh – 1296 Mhz  
19 – 21 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)

## Time Change:

How many people remembered to change batteries in their smoke alarms when they changed their clocks on October 30<sup>th</sup>?

Another thought is it may be a good time to check batteries in your test equipment to make sure they aren't dead and leaking acid.

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## ARRL Christmas Toy Drive

Newington, Conn., October 25, 2005 - The American Radio Relay League, the national association for Amateur Radio, is coming to the aid of children in the coastal areas of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana this season by conducting a nation-wide toy drive. With over 150,000 ARRL members and 670,000 hams in the country overall, it could make quite a difference. Toys are already arriving at the Memphis, TN collection center.

Over the past weeks, we have all heard of the devastation left by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many ham radio operators actually heard it first hand through volunteer service or on their radios. Thousands of families are without a place to live and will be homeless over the coming Holiday Season. For a child living out of a tent, or car, FEMA trailer or someone else's home, the 2005 holiday season will be anything but jolly. But hams from all across the country are coming to their rescue again through the American Radio Relay League's program.

Between now and December 10, ham radio operators throughout the United States are collecting new toys for children and sending them with a card showing their radio call sign to:

**ARRL Toy Drive / Salvation Army  
1775 Moriah Woods Blvd - Suite 12  
Memphis, TN 38117-7125**

*-more-*

ARRL Toy Drive -2-

"As The Salvation Army continues to provide assistance to the victims of the largest natural disaster in modern US history, we are excited to partner with the ARRL in providing toys for children affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita this holiday season," said Mark Jones, Salvation Army PR Director. The Salvation Army will be handling the distribution end of the program.

The Jackson, MS Salvation Army facility will be coordinating distribution throughout the Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana coastal areas because it still has the facilities to manage a large toy drive. The toys will be collected at the ARRL warehouse in Memphis, TN and brought to the Salvation Army for distribution to the coastal locations whose own facilities are no longer capable of managing such a project.

"Last year, hams from all over the country brought smiles to children during the holidays. We made a lot of friends, and we did a lot of good. No one expected that we would need to do it again, but Katrina's destruction has changed the plans of a lot of people. I hope you will help in this effort to bring a smile to children hurt by this disaster." --ARRL Pres. Jim Haynie.

Unwrapped toys for boys and girls of ages 1 to 14 are being gathered and shipped by amateur radio operators to the Memphis, TN facility between now and early December for distribution over the holidays. Non-hams are also encouraged to join in this effort to provide for the thousands of children suddenly homeless due to the series of hurricanes. Those members wishing to donate money instead of toys can send a check to:

*Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club*

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ARRL -Toy Drive  
225 Main Street  
Newington, CT 06111

The ARRL is asking all hams to make the coming Holiday Season a little bit brighter for a child by participating in this toy drive. Purchase a new toy and ship it to the ARRL Toy Drive/Salvation Army address. Maybe it's not a new home to live in, but knowing that someone "out there" remembers you is a start for these children.

More information can be found at  
[www.arrl.org/pio](http://www.arrl.org/pio)

## **CVARC OFFICERS**

President – Gale Sorum (WD9HFT)  
Vice President – Bert Spangler (W9ZZ)  
Secretary – Ron Krueger (W9JRW)  
Treasurer – Ron Anderson (W9RMA)  
Past President – Joe Eide (KB9R)

## **Mailing Address**

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