

The SPARKGAP



Volume 8

August 2011

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NEXT MEETING

For our next meeting, September 6th 2011, we will be enjoying virtual tours of Joe and Sue Eides' ham shack and Bert and Judy Spangler's. We will meet at the Hallie Eagles Club as usual, and you are welcomed to join all who want to eat, ordering off their menu at 6:00 P.M. The meeting would then follow dinner at 7:00 P.M.

NETS/FREQS/TIMES

- Badger Weather Net 3.985 - 0600
- Badger Emergency Net 3.985 - Noon
- Wisconsin Side Band Net 3.985 - 1715/1730
- ARES/RACES 3.977.5 - Sun - 1800

HAM TRIVIA

Where were early radio antennas for automobile radios installed or located on cars?

AUGUST MINUTES

Our third house hopping event was held this month. The

club visited the stations of , Jim Linstedt, and John & Diane Case. Although it was kind of hot and sticky outside, the atmosphere inside was great. And it is always nice seeing what someone else's shack has in it for necessities and luxuries. I did not get to personally see Jim's shack this year because of timing, also I could not go down John and Diane's steps but the yard was great to look at and so was the restored car.

There was no business meeting.

DX NEWS

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

SAMOA, 5W. Lance, W7GJ is QRV as 5W0GJ until August 31 and is active using 6 meter EME. QSL to home call.

LESOTHO, 7P. Peter, EI7CC is QRV as 7P8PB while on holiday. QSL to home call.

MALAWI, 7Q. Harry, G0JMU is QRV as 7Q7HB from Club Makokola for three months. Activity is on 20, 17 and 15 meters using CW and RTTY. QSL via G0IAS.

CROATIA, 9A. Csaba, DH7KU is QRV as 9A/DH7KU from Ciovo, IOTA EU-016, until September 2. Activity is on 40 and 20 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

MADEIRA ISLANDS, CT3. Leonid, RW9JZ is QRV as CT9/RW9JZ until September 5. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

MOLDOVA, ER. Special event station ER20MD is QRV in celebration of the 20th anniversary of independence. QSL via ER1FF.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX. Special event station EX20ID is QRV until September 4 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of independence and to promote the national award sponsored by the Amateur Radio Union of Kyrgyzstan. QSL via operators' instructions.

FRANCE, F. Special event station TM11NOR is QRV until August 31 for the 1100th anniversary of the Duchy of Normandy. QSL to F5UBH.

DENMARK, OZ. Karl, DL2GF is QRV as OZ/DL2GF from Fanoe Island, IOTA EU-125, until September 3. Activity is on 40

to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Fred, PA0FAW will be QRV using special event call PA11WSF from September 1 to 25 during the World Statues Festival in Arnhem. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly CW and PSK31. QSL to home call.

CURACAO, PJ2. Anja, DH2AK and Torsten, DL1THM are QRV as PJ2/home calls until September 8. Activity is holiday style on 20 meters using SSB. QSL to home calls.

GREECE, SV. Steffen, DM3CW, is QRV as SV8/DM3CW and J48AL from Aegina Island, IOTA EU-075, while on holiday until August 30. Activity is on the HF bands using CW. QSL to home call.

CORSICA, TK. Lee, F5MUX is QRV as TK5UX until September 3. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly CW. QSL to home call.

UKRAINE, UR. Special event station EO20UR is QRV from Kiev and other sites until August 28 to celebrate 20 years of independence. QSL via UT7UR.

HONG KONG, VR. Hon, VR2OP has been active on 17 meters using CW around 1200 and 1400z. QSL direct to home call.
CAMBODIA, XU. Wim, XU7TZG is now QRV. QSL via ON7PP.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Hawaii QSO Party, QRP CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, ALARA Contest, SCC RTTY Championship, YO DX HF Contest, Kansas QSO Party, ARCI Welcome to QRP CW Contest, Ohio QSO Party and the SARL HF CW Contest are all scheduled for this weekend. Please see August QST, page 77 and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest Web Sites for details.

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UPCOMING EXAMS

10/15/2011

Sponsor: Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club
Date: Oct 15 2011
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Jonathan E. Case
 (715) 834-1540
Email: jecase@charter.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Grace Lutheran Church
 202 W Grand Ave
 Enter Off 2nd Avenue Entrance
 Eau Claire WI 54703-5327

11/05/2011

Sponsor: Dunn County Area Amateurs
Date: Nov 05 2011

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: James L. Guenther
 (715) 232-2625
Email: ka9zaj@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: University of Wisconsin-Stout
 121 10th Avenue at S Broadway
 UW Stout Millennium Hall
 Menomonie WI 54751

HAMFESTS

RV Radio Network 2011 Fall Rally

Start Date: 09/07/2011
End Date: 09/10/2011
Location: Happy Ours RV Park
 14627 South East Mail Road
 Gordon, WI 54838
Website: <http://www.rvradionetwork.com>
Sponsor: RV Radio Network
Type: ARRL Convention
Talk-In: 145.490- (PL 110.9)
Public Contact: Marshall Kiel , KF9SU
 7843 Dixie Road Tomah, WI 54660
 Phone: 608-374-5435
Email: kf9su@arrl.net

ECMARC Radio Rendezvous

Start Date: 09/10/2011
End Date: 09/10/2011
Location: Rush City High School
 51001 Fairfield Avenue
 Rush City, MN 55069
Website: <http://ecmarc.org>
Sponsor: East Central Minnesota ARC
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 145.330 -600 (PL 146.2)
Public Contact: John O'Brien , K0DEH
 Second & Field Avenue Rush City, MN 55069
 Phone: 320-358-4676
Email: lj@ecenet.com

AREA REPEATERS

Albertville (link)	442.800	110.9
Albertville	444.350	110.9
Chippewa Falls	147.375	110.9

Eau Claire	146.91	110.9
Eau Claire	147.24	110.9
Eau Claire	443.300	110.9
Holcombe	145.47	110.9
Holcombe (link)	147.345	136.5
Holcombe	444.525	110.9
Menomonie	146.61	110.9
Osseo	145.33	110.9
Osseo	444.200	110.9
Baldwin (WeCom)	145.250	110.9

TRIVIA ANSWER

Under the running board.

KB6NU COLUMN

It's Back to School Time...for Ham Radio, too!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

As I write this, it's about 85 degrees, and I'm sitting on the patio of a cottage overlooking Elk Lake in northern Michigan. This idyllic spot is about as far away from school as you can get. And yet, in less than a month, kids will be back in school, and if kids are going to be back in school, why not ham radio operators?

The fall is a good time to begin teaching a new group of Technicians. I favor the "Tech in a Day" or "Ham Cram" type of class. This type of class focuses on teaching students the answers to questions on the test rather than the material itself.

There's a lot of controversy about this, and many decry this method of teaching, but I think the best way to learn about ham radio is by actually doing it, and you can't do if you don't have a license. Besides, how much more instruction will students actually get in a more traditional eight-week or ten-week course, maybe 16 hours? Will those 16 hours make that much of a difference?

For the sake of argument, let's say that you've decided to offer a

one-day Tech class. Now what? Well, the first thing you have to do is to find a place to teach it. Possible sites include your local public library, a township hall, a community college, perhaps even your church.

Now that you have the place, you need to find some students. Your local emergency-management group would be a good place to start. Also, make sure a notice gets published in your amateur radio club's newsletter. Chances are most of the subscribers already have licenses, but they may have friends or relatives who would be interested. Also, make sure the class gets listed in the upcoming events section of local newspapers or magazines.

Once people start signing up, you should suggest that they either purchase a study guide or download my free study guide (www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual). Because I use my study guide when teaching the class, I always advise them to get a copy, but if you'll be using other materials, then your advice may differ.

I counsel the students to read through my study guide a few times and take some online practice tests before coming to class. That will make them familiar with the material, especially areas they may be weak in or have questions about. By bringing those questions to class, we can address those areas in a little more depth, which will, hopefully, give them the help they need to pass the test.

The class itself is six hours long, running from 9am to 3pm, at which time we give them the test. This is not a lot of time for the amount of material I have to cover, so I move along at a pretty brisk pace. I concentrate on giving them the answers, but with enough context to that it all makes sense.

OK, let's say your class was wildly successful, and you now have a group of newly-minted Techs. What do you do now?

Well, you might consider offering some short sessions on what ham radio operators do--Ham Radio 101, so to speak. The topics could include how to choose your first radio, the basics of FM repeater and net operation, and building your first antenna (say a 2m ground plane). They'll be more enthusiastic about these classes now that they actually have a license.

It might also be a good idea to schedule a General Class license course for sometime shortly after the Tech class. This will encourage them to upgrade while they are enthusiastic about the hobby.

I hope that this has encouraged you to offer some ham radio courses of your own. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com or phone me at 734-930-6564. Good luck, and let me know how your classes turn out.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION

K5B – Plano Balloon Festival

September 16, 2011 – September 18, 2011 – Celebrating the

31st annual Plano Balloon Festival, members of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) and area amateur radio operators will be QRV as K5B during the festival. Frequencies plus or minus QRM: 7.255, 14.255, 21.355 and on the club repeater, WD5ERD on 147.180 + PL 107.2 and via Echolink at K5PRK. QSL with SASE to K5PRK. **More information formation will be available on our website at www.k5prk.net/k5b.**

VANITY CALL SIGN

SB QST ARL ARLB019
ARLB019 Vanity Call Sign Fee to Go Up in September

On August 10, the FCC announced via a Final Rule in the Federal Register that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 90 cents, from \$13.30 to \$14.20. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making September 9, 2011, the first day the new fee is in effect. Earlier this year, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM), seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs.

"The Commission tries to keep the regulatory fee for Vanity call signs as minimal as possible," explained the FCC in its Final Rule. "Between FY 2007 and FY 2010, the regulatory fee for Vanity call signs increased from \$1.17 per year to \$1.33 per year, an increase of \$0.16 per year or \$1.60 over a ten-year license period. We do not believe this increase is inequitable, and the Commission will continue its efforts to keep this fee as minimal as possible. The fees that are collected from Vanity call signs are used to offset the cost of monitoring and researching new call sign requests to prevent the issuance of duplicate call signs."

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 14 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order. In FY 2011, the FCC expects to grant 14,600 vanity call signs, bringing in \$207,320 from the vanity call sign program, and looks to recover a total of \$336,599,048 in fees from all the Services that it regulates.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal five years ago. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program.

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BELVIDERE

Hamfest 2011 September 9 - 10

We are now less than a month away from the Belvidere, Illinois Hamfest and we need to get our motel requirements into Ron W9RLL so he can secure the excellent rooms and better yet the discounted price for this year.

The plan is to leave around 9:30 AM on Friday, September 9, have lunch in Madison and get into the motel between 3:30 and 4:00. Then off to check out the Fair Grounds, followed by dinner at the Machine Shed. Saturday morning will be Hamfest time. Then depart for home mid afternoon.

Gale

CVARC OFFICERS

President — Jame Linstedt	W9ZUC
President Elect — Steve Paulson	WAØ0AT
Past President — Ron "Skip" Krueger	W9JRW
Secretary — Joe Peloquin	KC9JFP
Treasurer — Sue Eide	K9SUE
News letter — Wendy Cohoon	KC9KGE

send newsletter info to: Wendy Cohoon @
weeareheere@aol.com or call 715-828-5844

Mailing Address

CVARC

5697 171st Street

Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Web: www.w9cva.org