

CVARS



Website: cvars.org

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CVARS 2 Meter Contest For January 2005

Time for a contest. Not just any ole ordinary contest but one specifically directed at CVARS members! This is a great chance for all hams, especially those with a Technician License, to grab a certificate plus it'll be fun and easy for everyone.

The "USA" Award

Rules: This contest will run the entire month of January. Members may use any 2 meter repeater or simplex. You need contact only three (3) people! Make contact with one ham which has a "U" in his or her call sign. Make another contact with someone different who has an "S" in their callsign and make a contact with someone with an "A" in their call. Simply email or snail mail the three complete callsigns with the date you made contact to me to receive the "CVARS USA Award certificate". Simple and fun...just the way a contest should be conducted. No QSL cards need to be exchanged. The certificates for anyone completing the three contacts will be awarded at the next CVARS regular meeting date.

Send contact information to: Bob Willey, 1716 W, Mellen, Centralia, WA 98531 or e-mail me at kd7own@arrl.net. If you have questions, call me during the day at the Centralia Police Department, 330-7680 or at home at 736-9633. Come on! This should be fun and easy!

Important Date In History

An important anniversary has just passed. On November 22, 1906, delegates attending the Berlin Radiotelegraphic Conference voted to use SOS as the letters for the international signal of distress!

Contesting Etiquette

The following contesting etiquette suggestions were printed in the December Contester's Rate Sheet and written by Carl, K9LA..

1. If 'contest free zones' are listed in the rules, obey them (regardless of what everyone else is doing). Similarly, obey any band plans that are on the books.
2. Check the frequency (for more than a millisecond) before CQing.
3. If the station you want to work is operating split, check his listening frequency before calling. If there's a QSO on that frequency, don't call. The excuse that 'I'll make it quick, so that shouldn't disrupt anything' needs to be multiplied by the number of other contesters thinking the same thing.
4. Measure or have a friend monitor the bandwidth of your transmitted signal when it's in the 'contest mode'. If it's significantly wider than what's generally accepted, fix it. Contests are not an excuse to have poor or excessively wide audio. This applies to key clicks on CW, too. What mucks this up is the performance of our receiver under crowded band conditions with strong signals – it may really be that the non-contester's receiver is the problem, and that needs to be stated politely (admittedly a delicate situation).
5. Speaking of polite, always be polite if you get into a delicate situation.
6. Strike up a conversation with the 'enemy' and ask if he/she would like to join in a multi-op contest operation from you QTH. Hey, it doesn't hurt to ask!
7. Encourage contesting etiquette among fellow contesters.
8. Give your call often – even if you have a good run going. This will prevent comments such as 'what's your call?' and will probably prevent dupes. Top contesters identify often. In a similar vein, don't call someone blindly not knowing his call. Put his

frequency in memory and come back later – maybe you'll luck out and hear him give his call.

9. Always send in a log, no matter how many QSO's you made. It helps the log checkers with their job.
10. Understand how to put your rig on the same frequency as the station you're calling. This applies mostly to CW. Enlist the aid of a local to make sure you got it right.
11. Always abide by the rules specific to the contest you're operating in. This one shouldn't need to be mentioned, but unfortunately there is a very small minority of contesters who believe winning is more important than playing fair.
12. Use standard phonetics as much as possible and enunciate clearly so that your call is understood without someone having to ask. Although this applies mostly to those contesters whose primary language is not English, it can happen to any of us. A good example is my call in a phone contest. Many times the response to K9LA is 'the kilo lima alpha station?' The nine in K9LA is not hard and gets lost between the K and the L and A. I usually place extra emphasis on the nine to make sure it gets through. – 73's Carl K9LA

While many do not work contests on a regular basis, the winter months are where the big ones happen. Any ham working contests will find it more enjoyable when using proper 'contest etiquette'. - Bob KD7OWN

You Might Be From The Northwest If:

1. You know the state flower (Mildew)
2. You use the statement "sun break" and know what it means.
3. You know more than 10 ways to order coffee.
4. You stand on a deserted corner in the rain waiting for the "walk" signal.
5. You consider that if it has no snow or has not recently erupted, it is not a real mountain.
6. You consider swimming an indoor sport.
7. You never go camping without a poncho and waterproof matches.
8. You cannot wait for a day with "showers and sun breaks".
9. You have no concept of humidity without precipitation.
10. You can point to at least two volcanoes, even if you cannot see them through the clouds.
11. You put your shorts on when the temperature gets above 50 but still wear your hiking boots and parka.
12. You switch to your sandals when it gets about 60 but keep the socks on.
13. You have actually used your mountain bike on a real mountain.
14. You think people who use umbrellas are wimps or tourists.
15. You buy sunglasses every year because you cannot find the old ones from last year.

16. You measure distance in hours.
17. You often switch from "heat" to "a/c" in the same day.
18. You use a down comforter in July.
19. You design your kid's Halloween costume to fit under a raincoat.
20. You immediately knew the view out Frasier's window was fake.
21. You know all the important seasons: Almost Winter, Winter, Still Raining (spring), Road Construction (summer), Deer and Elk season (fall).

■ Thanks to Jill, KD7RTJ

Popcorn Up For Grabs

For his outstanding work with the Jamboree On The Air project last fall, the Scouts gave Kim Aiken, AC7YY an 18 pack of microwave popcorn which he has generously donated to the club for auction. This is "Trails End" butter light popcorn and sounds really yummy. We will be auctioning it off at the January CVARS club meeting so bring those hundred dollar bills you got in your Christmas stocking and buy some popcorn!

SKYWARN Spotters Class

Toby Vice, KD7JPK, attended the December 8th



Skywarn spotters training in the Morton area. Toby reports that it was a good class and he learned a lot on weather and what to look for as a spotter. NOAA is hunting for people to call in the weather, especially in the outlying areas so they will know if their forecasts were correct. Toby learned a couple of ways to read the weather and, while he says it did not make them pros by any means, the training did teach observers how to call in what is happening in their local areas. He reports the training was fun and is looking forward to using some of the training.

SKYWARN is a national network of volunteer severe weather spotters. The spotters are trained by local National Weather Service Forecast Offices on how to spot severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail and flooding. In some parts of the country, spotters also report snowfall and ice accumulation.

- One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."

For PSK enthusiasts, DigiPan 2.0 is now available for download at <http://www.digipan.net>. DigPan 2.0 now simultaneously decodes all signals in the IF passband and stations calling CQ are highlighted automatically. (Thanks, Skip KH6TY via the December Contester's Rate Sheet)

Welcome To Wal-Mart

Two elderly WalMart greeters were sitting on a bench during a break. One turns to the other asking, "Slim, I'm 83 years old and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you are about my age. How do you feel?" "I feel just like a new born babe." says Slim. "No teeth, no hair, and I think I just wet my pants!"

Now Here Is A Cool Idea!

Steve Wolfcale, N9WAT, from Park Ridge, Illinois wanted a unique ring for his Nokia cell phone, so he figured out a way to have it ring in Morse Code! When his phone rings now, it says "CQ...CQ...N9WAT...N9WAT,,,de...Nokia,,,Nokia,,,K." To read more about how to do this, check the K9YA website and click on the May 2004 sample newsletter.

K9YA CW Web Magazine

For you 'brass pounders' out there, this is a pretty neat website dedicated to CW. K9YA is the webmaster and has put together a really nice webpage. You can subscribe to his e-mail newsletter for free and the website has three sample past newsletters to read. Lots of photos and good ideas. Check it out on the internet at <http://www.k9ya.org/>.



ARES Tips For The Month

Maintain your radios, accessories, lighting, and other gear in a "state of readiness". Keep your batteries charged, your generator serviced, and enough fresh fuel safely stored to keep it running at least 24 hours. Always keep the fuel tank in your vehicle at least 1/2 full.

Participate in daily and weekly nets, drills, and training. Get to know your EC, AEC, and other members of your ARES team. Keep familiar with your local and regional emergency plan. Be prepared. A natural disaster is not the time to fix a problem. Amateur radio operators are professionals. When the disaster is over, I hope others can say "those hams were great!"

Also-the Washington State Emergency Net will move it's Monday night session up to 1800 hrs local starting Dec. 13th. The Saturday session will remain at 0900 hrs local. The change is due to band conditions and to keep the schedule consistent with the other nets.

Theology...Kid Style!

- Dear God...I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had to have 3 stitches and a shot!. Janet.

- Dear God...Is it true my father won't get to Heaven if he uses his golf words in the house? Anita
- Dear God...Please send Dennis Clark to a different summer camp this year. Peter
- Dear God...It is great the way you always get the stars in the right place. Why can't you do that with the moon? Jeff
- Dear God...I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday night. That was really cool! Thomas
- Dear God...I am doing the best I can. Really. Frank
- Dear God...Did you draw the lines around the countries? If you don't, who does? Nathan



Code Class Begins January 3, 2005

Terry Neumann, KQ7K, will be conducting a code class starting Sunday, January 3rd. The class will meet each Sunday in January from 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM at the Centralia Police Department training room located at 118 W. Maple Street in Centralia (City Hall building at Maple and Pearl across from The Chronicle).

This class is designed to get you through your 5 word per minute code test necessary for advancement to General and Extra class licenses. Terry is a great teacher and his classes are a great way to get the code down solid. Come one, come all. We'll have lots of fun. Let Terry know if you want to participate by e-mailing him at terryandlynn@comcast.net or call him at 807-6189.

For Sale...For Sale...For Sale!

Kim Aiken, AC7YY, has the following items for sale: Kenwood HF Station.....\$500.....includes TS-430S Transceiver (160-10 meter transmit; 150kHz to 30 MHz receive) with options of a CW filter, AM filter and FM module. AT-230 – manual antenna tuner, PS-30 power supply, SP-120 speaker and a Kenwood handmic. Kim also has a Kenwood Deskmic, MC-60A for \$90. You can email Kim at ac7yy@amsat.org or call him at 880-5512. Hurry and call on this great deal!

A Little Late...but worth it

In a small Alabama town there was a "Nativity Scene" that showed great skill and talent had gone into creating it. But one small feature bothered me: the three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets. Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, I left. At a "Quik Stop" on the edge of town, I asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets.

She exploded into a rage, yelling at me, "You darn Yankees never read your Bibles!"

I assured her that I did, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the Bible. She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and riffled through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage.

Sticking it in my face she said, "See, it says right here, 'The three wise men came from afar'"

And yet another.....

A lonely frog phoned the Psychic Hotline and asked what his future held. His personal psychic advisor told him, "You are going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you."

The frog was thrilled. "That is great! Will I meet her at a party?" he croaked.

"Nooooo", said the psychic, "in biology class."

"CQ Gang" Contest

Check out CQ's 60th anniversary contest running from January-March at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/CQ60>.

ARRL VEC Test Fee Increases To \$14

Starting January 1, 2005, the fee charged all applicants at ARRL VEC – coordinated Amateur Radio test sessions will increase from \$12 to \$14 for the year 2005. This fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or upgrading his or her operating privileges.

What does the \$14 test fee cover? Per the FCC, the test fee allows examinees one attempt to pass or fail each of the four examination elements. The FCC does not restrict the order the examination elements are taken. They may be taken out of sequence, in any order.

Only if an examination element is being retaken after a failed test would a second test fee be charged. Applicants failing an exam at ARRL sessions where examiners permit retesting on the same exam element also, or those seeking grandfather-credit upgrades without being required to take an exam, must also submit a fee of \$14. For more information, go to the ARRL website at www.arrl.org.

January Activity On The Bands

Jan 1: ARRL Straight Key Night-send code on a straight key at a speed you can handle! – (0000-2400 UTC January 1, 2005

Jan 2: Kid's day (phone) – 1800-2400 UTC

Jan 8: ARRL RTTY Roundup – 1800Z Jan 8-2400Z Jan 9.

Jan 15-16: North American QSO Party (Phone) – 1800Z Jan 15th – 0600 Z Jan 16th

2005's Very First Meeting!

2005's first CVARS meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 5th at 7:30 PM at the First Baptist Church, 1866 S. Market in Chehalis as usual. What is unusual is that we will be meeting in a larger downstairs meeting room. Johnny Jackson and Steve Pack have arranged for the use of a

larger room that should fit our growing needs a little better. Look for the signs and come on downstairs!

Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ, our new Vice-President has scheduled a fun meeting of discussions and information. We'll discuss some fun projects members have built, talk about a few of the special ideas and projects lined up for 2005 and pick your brains for new directions as we enter the new year. Got a new project you're working on? Just had a new QSL card made up? Want to see something different for this year's meeting presentations? Bring your ideas / projects to the meeting and show them off. Be early and bring money for door prizes! See you there.

And Then He Voted...

While looking at a house, my brother asked the real estate agent which direction was north because, he explained, he didn't want the sun waking him up every morning. The agent asked, "Does the sun rise in the north?" When another person jumped in and explained that the sun rises in the east (and has for some time) he said "oh, I don't keep up with that stuff."

And then he voted....

I used to work in technical support for a 24x7 call center. One day I got a call from an InDUHvidual who asked what hours the call center was open. I told him, "The number you dialed is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week." He responded, "Is that Eastern or Pacific time?" Wanting to end the call quickly, I said, "Pacific".

And then he voted....

I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area, so I went to the lost luggage office and told the woman there that my bags never showed up. She smiled and told me not to worry because they were trained professionals and I was in good hands. "Now," she asked me, "has your plane arrived yet?"

And then she voted...

\$\$\$\$ - Dues - \$\$\$\$

Yup. They're due. \$15. See Guido Pack-treasurer.

Southernisms

He fell out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down.

It's so dry, the trees are bribing the dogs.

Remember: y'all is singular. All y'all is plural. All y'all's is plural possessive. (right Mike?)

If you hear a Southerner exclaim, "Hey, y'all, watch this!" ...RUN. These are likely the last words he will ever say, or worse still, that you will ever hear.

Busy as a moth in a mitten!

Most Southerners do not use turn signals; they ignore those who do. In fact, if you see a signal blinking on a car with a Southern license plate, you may rest assured that it was already turned on when the car was purchased.

One last warning but probably the most important one to remember...Be advised that in the South, "He needed killin'" is a valid defense.