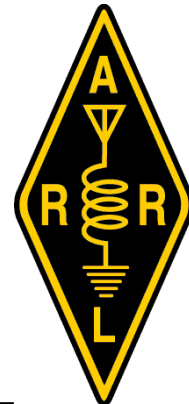




THE BULLTHISTLE BUGLE



“BLOWING OUR OWN HORN” since 1965 VOL. 48 March 2012

Chenango County, NY

“We are ARRL affiliated”

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The President's Corner K2DAR



Official Publication of the Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. Owner and operator of memorial amateur radio station W2RME/ R on 146.085T/146.685R MHZ, PL 110.9.

A History Lesson

Reprinted from the ARRL Operating Manual of 1988

The Origin of "73"

The traditional expression "73" goes right back to the beginning of the landline telegraph days. It is found in some of the earliest editions of the numerical codes, each with a different definition, but each with the same idea in mind. It indicated that the end, or signature was coming up. But there are no data to prove that any of these were used.

The first authentic use of "73" is in the publication *The National Telegraphic Review and Operators' Guide*, first published in April 1857. At that time, "73" meant "My love to you!" Succeeding issues of this publication continued to use this definition of the term. Curiously enough, some of the other numerals used then had the same definition as they have now, but within a short, the use of "73" began.

In the National Telegraph convention, the numeral was changed from the Valentine-type sentiment to the vague sign of fraternalism. Here 73 was a greeting, a friendly "word" between operators and it was so used on all wires.

In 1859 the Western Union Company set up the standard "92 Code." A list of numerals from one to 92 was compiled to indicate a series of prepared phrases for use by the operators on the wires. Here, in the 92 Code, 73 changes from a fraternal sign to a very flowery "accept my compliments," which was in keeping with the florid language of the era.

Over the years from 1859 to 1900, the many manuals of telegraphy show variations of this meaning. Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor* shows it merely as "compliments." The *Twentieth Century Manual of Railway and Commercial Telegraphy* defines it two ways, one listing as "my compliments to you;" but in the glossary of abbreviations it is merely "compliments." By 1908 however, a later edition of the Dodge Manual gives us to-

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Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association Minutes of Meeting February 2nd, 2012

The February 2nd, 2012 meeting of CVARA was called to order by Pres. Ray Darling (K2DAR) at the Norwich EMO.

Introduction of members: Dispensed of.

In attendance were (17): N2CHD (Chuck), WB2IAG (Ron), W2RRS (Rich), N2BRD (Steve), KC2WVX (Ed), N2YP (John), KC2VOT (Chris), N2GVB (Tony), KC2SFU (Tom), M2MK (Mike), KC2TNB (Steve), KC2VOU (Jon), K2DAR (Ray), N2ZMX (Dave), WA2QQF (John), N2SPI (Richard), KC2OFS (John)

Approval of Minutes: Changes: W2RRS and Tony N2GVB will also be working on the special event station for Chenango Memorial Hospital
Motion to accept by N2CHD 2nd by N2BRD.
Voted & carried.

Treasurer's Report: Given by N2CHD.
Motion to accept by N2YP 2nd by KC2VOT. Voted & carried.

Correspondence: K2DAR- Club patch order placed and we received a proof.

Report Of Committees:

ARES (K2DAR)- Meeting Sat 1/4/2011 at Norwich EOC.

Awards (N2BRD)- Hospital agreed to pay for printing and postage for Chenango Memorial Special Event Station.

Bugle (K2DAR)- Bugle is always looking for submissions. Submit to Tom AD2TM.

Education (K2DAR)- Stan (N2SW) and Ray (K2DAR) have offered to teach a Technician Course in March. Details still to come. Tentatively will be 1 night a week for 4 weeks with a V.E. Session at the end.

Field Day (KC2SFU)- New Field Day Packet is out. It will allow us to start planning. If you would like to change what you contribute to Field Day please

let Tom KC2SFU know. Date is June 23rd-24th.

VE Team (K2DAR)- 6 requests for a 2nd VE Session. Session will be on March 10th at 0900 hrs. This will be a different session then what is offered as part of the Technician class

Old Business: Club Jacket (N2BRD)- orders by N2BRD and W2RRS will be placed next week. Motion to issue one check for Jackets which members have paid for. Motion by N2YP 2nd by KC2WVX. Voted & carried.

Emergency Communication Jackets (N2GVB)- Only 6 were ordered of the 11 needed for pricing. N2GVB will check if they are still able to be made at this pricing.

Raffle (N2YP)- Is going well. We have a display board for ham fests and other events where we sell tickets.

Election of Officers- No further nominations. Motion to have 1 Ballot cast by President for previously nominated positions. Motion by N2YP 2nd by WA2QQF. Voted & carried. Positions will take effect April 5th, 2012.

New Business: Baseball Hall of Fame Special Event Station(WA2QQF)- Article in paper about our Senator trying to get a coin struck for the 75th Baseball Hall of Fame and seeing if we can do a joint special event with the Otsego County club. K2DAR suggests that we contact and possibly work with all area clubs.

CVARA 50th Anniversary (K2DAR)- Our 50th Anniversary will be in 2015. CVARA was started in 1965. June VHF QSO Party Gathering (KC2SFU)- Tom would like to get the club together for more events and would like to set this up. This would be at the repeater site the second weekend of June. June 9-10. If interested let KC2SFU know. Motion to allow KC2SFU to use W2RME for event Motion by N2YP 2nd by N2CHD. Voted & carried.

Field Day Invites (KC2WVX)- Would like to look into inviting other area clubs/ members to our Field Days Event this year.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2011—2012

Feb 2 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM
02/25/2012 ARAST Winterfest Horse-
heads,
Mar 1 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM
April 5 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM
04/14/2012 Drumlins ARC Hamfest
May 3 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM
June 7 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM
06/09/2012 Skyline ARC's Summer Ham-
fest
23—24 ARRL Field Day
July 5 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM
07/14/2012 RADIOCOM 2012 Frank-
fort, NY
07/21/2012 Batavia Hamfest
August 2 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM
08/11/2012 Rome Radio Club Hamfest
September 6 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM
9/29/2012 ARAST Elmira International
Hamfest / Computerfest

October 4 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM
November 1 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM
December 1 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM

*Do not forget that every Wednesday nite
at 7:30 local on the W2RME/R
146.085/146.685 The CARES net meets.*

**If you know of, or hear about any
activities that should be listed here,
Please pass them on to the editor.**



Permanent committees

ARES/RACES: **K2DAR**
AWARDS: **N2GVB**
BUGLE: **AD2TM** Chairman
COMMUNITY SERVICE;
NEW Ham development
FIELD DAY: **KC2SFU** Chairman
MEMBERSHIP: **K2FRD** Chairman
PACKET: **K2DAR**hairman

PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS:

TECHNICAL: **WA2IZB**
VE TEAM: **K2DAR, WN2WNC**
TEMPORARY COMMITTEE
HAM OF THE YEAR: **K2DAR**
TOWER:

Ed's note-At publication time the members of these committees were unknown to the Editor This list will be published in future editions of this publication.

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day's definition of "best regards" with a backward look at the older meaning in another part of the work where it also lists it as "compliments."

"Best regards" has remained ever since as the "put-it-down-in-black-and-white" meaning of 73 but it has acquired overtones of much warmer meaning. Today, amateurs use it more in the manner that James Reid had intended that it be used – a "friendly word between operators."

73 de K2DAR



..... Tip of the Month: Operating Habits

While there are no "Perfect" operators out there, there are a few tips that could help one become more proficient. This month I will touch on just a few.

1. "73's" - This actually means "Best Wishes!" A "73" in telegraphy simply means "Best Wishes or Regards." To add the "s" after, while speaking, is incorrect! Also, many of the "Q" signals are misused on voice communications. Actually, these number-grams and "Q" signals were developed for telegraphy anyway, so there is no need to use them while in the voice mode at all!!

1

1. "For "I.D." - Here's a common one. "This is

K2DAR for I.D." is absurd!

There is no, and should be no use for the term!!

Do not use it!!

1. Constant Identifying - One only needs to identify at the beginning and at the end of each QSO or a period not to exceed 10 minutes, and then only needs to give his call according to the FCC. So don't "over" identify!

- 4) Listen! - Listen on the frequency to see where and who the local station or DX is listening for. Too many hams call "Blind" before they know who is on and where he's QSX. Don't be a "LID" – Listen first !!

73's from K2DAR for I.D. !!!!



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Announcements: Next meeting is Thursday March 1st at 19:00hrs at the Norwich EOC.

N2SPI mentioned a net on 2 meter SSB at 144.205 MHz daily at 08:00. If problems contact KC2SPI or KC2SFU.

Elections: Election Results as followed:

President- Ed Lewis (KC2WVX)
Vice President- Tom Monday (KC2SFU)
Secretary- John Rudolph (N2YP)
Treasurer- Chuck Davenport (N2CHD)

Congratulations to our officers for the up-

coming 2012 year!

Motion to dismiss meeting made by KC2WVX and Seconded by N2CHD. Voted & carried.

Meeting adjourned at 20:21hrs.

Evening Program: There was no Evening Program this month.

Submitted by: John Rudolph (N2YP)

CQ Cq CQ DX de AD2TM

Okay so you have your license and your new Whizbang 1500 Transceiver, which covers all bands from DC to daylight! This thing has more bells and whistles than the latest offerings from Boeing. It will allow you to operate in any mode you so desire, at any power level up to the legal limit. You fire up your Whizbaag and decide to work some DX on 20 meters. You ask yourself this question, "Is 20 meters the right band? Are there any DXpeditions active? How do I know if a station I hear is a rare one or just another normal station?"

This article will try to answer some of these questions. It is not meant as an all inclusive, definitive guide to working DX. It is merely a guide to some of the tools that are available to you.

What does the term DX mean anyway? The short answer is DX = Distance. If you are working the microwave bands this can be a few hundred miles. As the wavelengths get longer the length of the skip zone gets longer, so the further away a station can be that you make contact with.

If you have internet access, and a spare computer, here are a couple of very useful tools that will give you up to the minute DX spots from all around the world. You can tailor it to reject spots; DX stations that other people have heard and the frequency and sometimes the mode they heard them on; from places other than your own country or state. Reject spots by mode or band. It is fairly easy to set up and use: VE7CC-1 CC Cluster, which can be found at: <http://ve7cc.net/> This site also has a telnet port that will give you the same information. There are other "DXclusters" that will also allow telnet access. Another type of DXcluster is DX Summit, <http://www.dxsummit.fi/DxSpots.aspx?count=50&range=3>. This web site has spots for all bands, modes. Not much missing from here. Even if your interests are 50MHz and up. Everyone can find something here.

Also if you are a Ham Radio Deluxe user, you already know that there is a module in that suite that also allows one to receive DX spots.

If you are interested in knowing what DXpeditions are currently active or will be active or maybe were active, here is a place to find this information: <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html> It is a very well laid out site and very useful.

Of course you can just "troll" the bands. Just run the bands from one end to the other and sometimes you will find some juicy stuff. But you hear a call sign that you have no idea where in the world it is. You might find it at QRZ.com, or it may not be listed there or you may not have an idea where such and such country is. The Radio Amateurs Atlas has a listing of all prefixes that are active as well as maps of the world with CQ zones listed. It is available from the ARRL.

Again these are not the only tools. You may find some that work better for you than these. If you find other tools more to your liking, drop me an email with a link and a very short description and I will publish in a future edition of this newsletter

From a practical standpoint, something that does work for DXpeditions, do not try to work them in the first day or two. Wait until the dust settles a bit and then jump in and quite often you will get them on the first call or two. Also do not be afraid to try a different mode than just CW or SSB. I have worked many DX stations on RTTY and PSJ31

The main thing is to have fun at what you are doing

73 es GUD DX de AD2TM

CVARA CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ray Darling K2DAR

Vice Pres: Tom Monday, KC2SFU

Treasurer: Charles Davenport, N2CHD

Secretary: Kevin Burns KC2WRF

Trustees: Ray Darling, K2DAR, Jim Leahy, K2JL Bob Root WA2TDO

Tom, AD2TM, editor of the Bugle is ALWAYS looking for submissions

Your views, comments, and articles will gladly be published. Send your articles to.....

Thomas Mathewson
680 Plymouth N.Norwich Rd
Norwich, N.Y. 13815

Internet...ad2tm@arrl.net

We encourage promoting our organization and welcoming new members to join our group. We hope we can continue to grow and maintain a successful club. Your continued support can make this happen.

Visit the club WEB site at: <http://www.cvara.net>

Deadline for the April 2012 Bugle is March 15th



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