



THE BULL THISTLE BUGLE



“BLOWING OUR OWN HORN” since 1965

Chenango County, NY

“We are ARRL affiliated”

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 Tone 110.9, to the late Duncan “Dunc” Copley.

Published
Monthly by
the HAMS
of CVARA



*The President's
Corner de KD2HKB*



VOL. 58 October 2022

Wow! What a difference a month can make. Last month when putting my thoughts down... I was sweating like no tomorrow. This months thoughts are being written on a stereotypical cool & rainy fall day.

I don't know about you all, but this month has been quite fun for me. Not everything was radio related exactly, but I very much enjoyed our presentation on 3d printing and look forward to other presentations that are "in the works". Believe it or not... I also enjoyed working in the Grange Hall, partly as a Grange member & partly as a radio club member, to build a set of shelves. This will greatly benefit both the radio club and the Grange by offering more efficient use of storage space.

Coming up this next month we have a lot to look forward to as well... I believe our SET should be happening at some point as well at the end of October, we have Halloween... No, I really don't care about the holiday, but I do look forward to the Pumpkin Patrol! I know there will be many overpasses to cover, so if you're available October 30th and or 31st... please let us know!

One other thing I would like to remind our members of... Election of officers is coming up in a few short months. PLEASE consider volunteering. None of the positions are overly difficult and guaranteed you will have plenty of support in the club.

73,

Matt KD2HKB

CVARA Meeting Minutes for September 1, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting held at the Grange Hall in Norwich and via zoom video conference. Called to order at 7:05pm by President Matt Jenne. 13 members present.

PRIOR MONTH MINUTES:

No corrections raised. **Motion made to accept prior month minutes as printed in the last issue of The Bugle by Jon Englert (W2BDN), 2nd by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM). PASSED**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Financial report presented by Treasurer Emily Goehner. No corrections raised. **Motion made to accept Treasurer's Report by Tom Robson (KD2NJI), 2nd by David Gerowe (K2DHG). PASSED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **ARES/RACES:** Tom Monday reported that this month's training will be a tour of the Chenango County Emergency Communications Center at the Sheriff's Dept. Attendees are asked to be there by 8:45 so that we can go in as a group at 9am. Tom acknowledged the great turnout at the Unadilla Motocross event and thanked everyone for their participation. General Discussion regarding the state's request for more camera coverage and the cost of adding more cameras.

- **V.E. Team:** Matt Jenne reported that a VE session was held on schedule but there were no attendees. The October session will be held on the final day of the classes.

- **Youth and Education:** Jon Englert reported that the President of the Rotary Club had asked about CVARA giving a presentation at the October 18th Rotary meeting. The committee will prepare a presentation "*Introduction to Ham Radio*" and provide a preview to CVARA at the October club meeting.

- **Bugle:** Nothing new to report. As always, looking for material from members to include in the Bugle..

OLD BUSINESS: Matt Jenne reminded everyone that Doug's Fish Fry has been scheduled for Novem-

ber 9th and December 22nd. There is nothing in January. There was a general discussion about splitting the proceeds from *each* Fish Fry between CVARA and The Grange in lieu of designating all proceeds from a specified event. (a 50/50 split each time)

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Jon Englert raised a question about mass mailing options for future advertising/solicitation for the Ham Fest. General discussion ensued.

(2) **Tom Monday made a motion to reserve St. Bartholomew's Parish Center again for the 2023 Hamfest. 2nd by Bill Pratt. Motion Carried.**

Emily will call St. Bart's to formally reserve the date.

(3) Jon Englert mentioned that the September VHF Contest will be on September 10, 11 and 12. He'll be at the shack some of the time.

GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION: Matt Jenne noted that there are 3 months to have a slate of nominees for the 2023 club election of officers. He encouraged people to consider running for an office. Tom Monday commented that everyone should consider doing something for the club. Dave Stearns mentioned that Bainbridge offers a "matching grant" for up to \$1,000 for a fundraiser.

Presentation was made by John Hysell showing samples of what he's made with his 3D printer. He suggested that, if there was an interest, we could work with it on Tech Nights.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: **Motion made by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM), Second by David Stears (KD2ERR).** With no opposition, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Pratt
CVARA Secretary

If you want to attend the meeting via Zoon

Time: October 6, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84435172692?
pwd=MmNBaHIFZWpCK2ZCY240SHZ0NUw1dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84435172692?pwd=MmNBaHIFZWpCK2ZCY240SHZ0NUw1dz09)

To dial in via phone:

+1 (929) 436-2866

Meeting ID: 844 3517 2692

Passcode: 712861

Local On The Air CW Practice

Hello All in the CVARA family,

I know this has been done before, but I am trying to drum up participants for On The Air CW Practice, OTACWP; let's agree to never say or use that. One change this time around is that we will have Zoom as a fallback / coordinating room so we know what is going on other than hearing static. Ideally we will use 2m or 6m, I have a vertical for both, but we could switch to a few HF bands if people want/need to venture that direction. If anything this is a decent way to try out a simplex net, even though it is not on FM.

If you are interested please email me at KB2YSI@GMAIL.COM for details.--... ..-- Don, KB2YSI

Andy Clift, G6PJZ, has achieved the coveted Summits on the Air (SOTA) Mountain Goat status for reaching 1,000 activator points. His Mountain Goat-qualifying activation took place from Helvellyn in the English Lake District in Cumbria, England. Andy's SOTA journey started back in 2015, when he learned about the program by answering a CQ call from a SOTA activator. He soon activated his first summit -- Rogan's Seat in the Yorkshire Dales in England -- and started, as so many do, a keen obsession over the ensuing years. Reflecting on his achievement, Andy commented, "Without SOTA I would not do anywhere near as much walking. I would not be as active on the radio, and I would not have discovered some of

the fantastic smaller Marilyns [parts of larger mountain systems that are situated in protected areas] that people don't bother travelling to." For more information about SOTA, visit www.sota.org.uk

This note from The ARRL Letter for September 22, 2022

ARES This Month

Recently, with a little help from my friends, I have had the pleasure of making QSOs on my Gonset Communicator III. It is in fact the original Gonset from the Chenango County EOC. Like so many other aspects of ham radio it has become a learning experience for me.

First, it is a different set of skills needed to run the equipment. Tuning the grids, the exciter, or spotting yourself on the regen receiver is no small challenge. I can't help but believe that learning these things is making me a better operator.

Second, this is our history. Using this equipment, in the way it was used in the past, has added a keen understanding of both the pros and cons of six meter amplitude modulation propagation. Regardless of your niche in ham radio RF propagation is an important subject.

Lastly, this is tube technology. It will withstand an Electro magnetic pulse. You never know when that might be important.

This years Simulated Emergency Test will be held on Saturday October 8 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at 9:00 at the 685 repeater site. Hope to see you there.
73, Tom KC2SFU

Boat Anchor Radio Contest.



I plan to enter the Fall 2022 Classic Exchange (CX) contest [Classic Exchange CX](#).

Sunday Oct 23 1300Z to Oct 24 0700Z

Tuesday Oct 25 1300Z to Oct 26 0700Z.

I debated for a long time whether to enter the “Four or more receiver-transmitter pairs.” or the “Three or fewer receiver-transmitter pairs”. I finally decided to stick to the latter and spend available pre contest time working on getting the radios I plan to use in as best a condition as I can.

My three pairs are:

1 Racal RA17 receiver, [Army Radio Sales Co. :: Our Museum Items :: Racal RA-17 HF Communications Receiver](#) and Collins TCS retuned to cover 1.8 to 14.4 MHz. The modification involves changing all the ferrite tuning slugs to Home Brew aluminum equivalents. Removing the dial mechanism and adding a frequency counter. [Radio Transmitter COL-52245 - TCS-12 Military Collins Radio \(radiomuseum.org\)](#).

2 RCA AR88D receiver [AR88D \(radiomuseum.co.uk\)](#) and a second Collins TCS 12 This transmitter is very close to original condition.

3 HRO receiver [National HRO Receiver \(radioblvd.com\)](#) and a Johnson Adventurer [RAS Hardware Page \(isquare.com\)](#)

A power supply is being built using two toroidal transformers to develop the required 200 and 400 volt supplies to power the TCS 12s.

The power supply module will also contain circuitry to allow single switch change-over between the three pairs including antennas, key, headphones, and amplifier power control. All three pairs will use the Elecraft KPA 1500, the Steppir antenna and 160/80 meter dipole which are integral to my HF setup as needed.

I would like to work as many CVARA members as possible, one does not need to use a boat anchor for this event, however, if you have a working one it can add to the fun, you can also submit an entry. The optimum would be to QSO on each of the three pairs with each operator. Skeds can be arranged with CW at any speed. Anyone wanting to operate these old setups is welcome at my QTH.

de Brian, KF6C

And So It Should Be Written

By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian

Chapter 2

Life during the 19th century was not easy, but the ability to withstand the hardships and challenges were always in the forefront and many resolved as best they could be at the time.

So many things took place during the following years, which made, and will continue to make, a lasting impression on the American people as well as citizens of the world. The Great Depression, The War in Europe and the shocking attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor all set the tone for our attitude and determination to become a better people and nation. The advances in electrical power production, the ever evolving Industrial Revolution with so many advancements during the War Effort and beyond only proved our integrity and desire for improvement. One of Henry Ford's sayings come to mind when he said: "One of the great discoveries a man or woman makes and one of the greatest surprises they ever enjoy is when they find out they can do what they were afraid they couldn't do."

And so it came to be, one cold, windy, winter day some 80 years ago, a young man came into this world, screaming to be heard, with mixed results competing with two older siblings in the household. That, my good friends, became the prologue to "Basic Communications 101."

Growing up during WW2 and the subsequent Korean Conflict brought about a curious and inquisitive mindset. Listening to the old AM/Shortwave Radio stations was wondrous, trying to figure out how those signals were generated and sent out over the air. No TV to watch in those days, so simply by listening and using your imagination could you possibly realize what was happening in the world we



knew at that time. How is it possible that I can hear and listen to local newscasts, the BBC, Several European, Middle Eastern Broadcasts, and even Radio Moscow at times? From wireless telegraphy to amplitude modulation. Where do we go from here?:



As a youth, stumbling through those teenage years was tough. But with the encouragement of my grandparents, parents, siblings, good friends and teachers, was able to survive those sometimes troubling days. Vast amounts of knowledge was passed down from family as well as schooling in subjects including Math (Business Math, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus), Chemistry, Physics, Home Shop, Physical as well as Music Education. How naive youth can be at the ripe old age of 18? Just because we receive good instruction doesn't mean we also master the knowledge or skill that goes with it. Once we are taught something, it's up to us to apply it in our lives. It's a life-long process of hard work and practical application of that instruction. Only through work and study on our own part will we ever master anything we are taught.

Both of my older siblings married men seemingly interested in the communications field. The first was an avid "Short-Wave" listener monitoring most European Broadcasts. The second was in

the electronics field, working for General Electric, retiring as a robotics engineer. This one often mentioned a strange hobby he was involved with known as "Ham Radio" and seemed anxious to get me involved. He held callsigns, WA2POU while in the Johnson City, NY plant; K3SQZ when transferred to the Valley Forge, PA plant and W2GFJ when settled back in the Schenectady, NY plant. Early on an invitation to a gathering at St. John's Ukrainian Center in Johnson City called a "Hamfest" was issued and accepted. What was this all about?? So much information was thrown at me, I went into overload mode. Couldn't handle any more studying at the time as High School graduation was nearing and needed to concentrate on my senior year requirements.

Looming in the background in the late 1950's was the "draft" possibility, prompting me to visit local armed forces recruiters. With that in mind, as I had already turned 18, mid-term of my senior year, my signature on an early/delayed U.S Air Force enlistment contract was generated. Extensive aptitude testing during the recruiting process provided the opportunity to be assigned in the Electronics Field.

My Air Force career began immediately, as the morning following H.S. Graduation I was on a plane in Syracuse, NY headed for San Antonio, TX for basic training. While in basic, a staff of AF Intel. Officers presented a small list of recruits to be screened for the USAF Security Service Command. My name somehow appeared on that list. A select group of us were screened for several days with 6-7 different languages resulting in my selection for Russian Language School at Indiana University. A full and lengthy background check ensued before official orders were issued. Go figure!! Believe me, high school studying was nothing compared to the intense training, Reading, Writing, Speaking, Translating and Transliterating the Russian Language assignments. No English was spoken in the classroom after the first two weeks of indoctrination.

Tech School came as a pleasant surprise as it involved basic Electronics training combined with Voice Intercept Processing specialties. Advanced electronic transmitting, receiving, recording and processing apparatus came into the program (Collins R-390's and Hammarlund SP-600 Units included). Other personnel on site (Commonly known as "Ditty-Boppers") were training in data gathering by the use of Morse Code. Did that operations mode drive me nuts??? Oh yeah!!!

Luckily we were not required to master that skill. The language training was adequate thank you....

Two tours at Camp Badaber-Peshawar Air Station, Pakistan was the major part of my overseas deployment. Our Communications Group was located in the North West Quadrant of the country, very near the Eastern approach to the ancient/famed Khyber Pass. Survived two major earthquakes, the Kennedy Assassination, Cuban Missile Crisis plus exploration into Afghanistan proved enlightening.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2022 -2023

October 4 –8,2022 [AWA Annual Conference](#) Location: Henrietta, NY

.Hale St , Norwich as well as online
January 14, [Marathon Winter'fest](#) Location: Marathon, NY

October 6, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St , Norwich as well as online

January 19, Tech Night
January 27, Exam Session Norwich Grange Hall

October 20, Tech Night

February 3,CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St , Norwich as well as online

October 27, Exam Session, Norwich Grange Hall, Last one until January 2023

February 17. Tech Night
February 24, Exam Session Norwich Grange Hall

November 3, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St , Norwich as well as online
November 17, Tech Night

*Do not forget that every Wednesday **night** at 7:30 local on the W2RME/R 146.085/146.685 PL 110.9. The CARES net meets.*

December 1, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St , Norwich as well as online
December 15. Tech Night

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

January 5, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall,

October 2022							1
2	3	4	5	6 Meeting	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20 Tech Night	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27 Exam Session	28	29	
30	31						

Permanent committees

- ARES/RACES: **KC2SFU**
- AWARDS: **AD2TM**
- BUGLE: **AD2TM** Chairman
- COMMUNITY SERVICE;
- NEW Ham development **K2FRY**
- FIELD DAY: **K2FRY** Chairman
- MEMBERSHIP: **K2FRY** Chairman

- PACKET:/ Digital: **KC2SFU** Chairman, **N2SPI**
- PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS:**AD2TM**, **N2YP**, **KD2HKB**, **K2DAR**
- TECHNICAL: **WA2IZB**
- VE TEAM: **K2DAR**, **WN2WNC**
- HAM OF THE YEAR: **KD2HKB**
- Club Station/ Shack: **K2DAR**, **N2YP**, **KC2SFU**
- Repeater Trustee: **KD2HKB**

CVARA CLUB OFFICERS

President: Matt Jenne, KD2HKB

Vice Pres: Matt Strong K2FRY

Treasurer: Emily Goehner WA2LFI

Secretary: Bill Pratt K2WMP

Directors: Lois Strong, NK2A;;Tom Monday, KC2SFU; Jon Englart W2BDN

Tom, AD2TM, editor of the Bugle is ALWAYS looking for submissions
Your views, comments, and articles will gladly be considered for publication.

Send your articles to.....

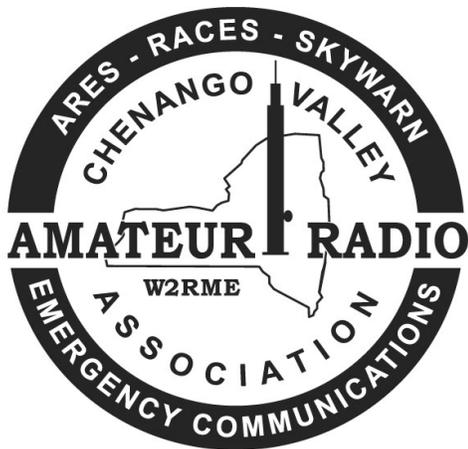
Thomas Mathewson
680 Plymouth N.Norwich Rd
Norwich, N.Y. 13815

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 November 2022 Bugle is 15 October 2022



PO Box 1324
Norwich, N.Y, 13815