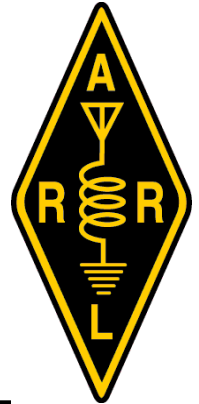




THE BULL THISTLE BUGLE



“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. 59 February 2023

Tis the season... For planning!

While we have just wrapped up the January VHF contest and with Winter Field Day going on as I type this... Some minds are wandering to the events of tomorrow. Well, maybe not exactly tomorrow, but of the future. I, as well as several others, have been laying the groundwork for our Hamfest coming up on April 15th. Planning has also begun for a maker faire of sorts in May. Of course, we can't forget our two favorite events... The Canoe Regatta on Memorial Day weekend and Field Day at the end of June... Worth the June VHF contest nestled nicely in between.

If that's not enough... Two of my nephews decided to "pop the question" this fall/winter, so I have to work in a couple weddings during that May/June timeline. I will say... I'm kinda excited about the one wedding as I'm planning on making the most of the trip, so for me it will be a week of sightseeing & playing radio! This includes participating in the VHF contest somewhere between here and Indiana as well as hopefully activating some parks for POTA on the way back!!!

Anyone else have a busy Spring/Summer planned?

73,

~Matt KD2HKB

CVARA Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting held at the Grange Hall in Norwich and via zoom video conference. Called to order at 7:02 pm by President Matt Jenne. 15 members present, 2 members via Zoom.

PRIOR MONTH MINUTES:

Motion to Approve the Minutes from previous meeting as posted in the Bugle by Tom Mathewson, second by Matt Strong. Passed without objection.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Financial report presented by Treasurer Emily Goehner. **Motion made to accept the Treasurer's Report by Lois Strong, second by David Stearns. Passed without objection.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **ARES/RACES:** Tom Monday reported that the training this month will be at the Emergency Operations Center on Saturday, Jan 7th.
- **V.E. Team:** (1) Matt Jenne reported that they held an impromptu session for 1 person, an upgrade. (2) Matt received a report from *Laurel VEC* with some interesting stats from 2021 to 2022. They Processed 185 fewer applications in 2022 than in 2021. Matt will post copy on the club website so people can see all the details. (3) We will be starting our monthly sessions again here at the Grange Hall on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7pm. No pre-registration is required. Make sure new Technician applicants get their FRN in ahead of time.
- **Youth/education:** (1) Tom Monday reported that at the last Tech Night, Brian Comer was working on a radio design that could be built by youth. Tom thought about re-branding our "*Tech Night*" to a "*Maker Night*". Also suggested that the club sponsor a "*Maker Fair*" sometime in the spring. Brian Comer provided a description of a potential project. Will soon be looking for about 5 people to build a prototype. Tom continued; what the Committee is looking for is approval from the club to put together and host this "*Maker Fair*". President Jenne tabled the discussion until we get to New Business.
- **Bugle:** Tom Mathewson commented; "*Same old, same old*" ... Always looking for material that he

can publish. Reminder to get author's permission for copyrighted materials.

- **Ham Fest:** No report at the moment
- **Nominating Committee:** Jon Englert announced slate of officer nominees as follows:
 President: Jean Comer (KG8MOE)
 Vice President: Tom Mathewson (AD2TM)
 Treasurer: Emily Goehner (WA2LFI)
 Secretary:
 Director: Lois Strong (NK2A)

The Nominating Committee was unable to post a nominee for the office of Secretary. Nominations from the floor are acceptable for this (as well as ALL offices), on the night of elections.

OLD BUSINESS: (1) Matt Jenne reported that sales (\$2,297) for the Dec 22nd Fish Fry fell short of the minimum so there was no contribution to the club. Likely due to poor weather/driving conditions). There is another Fish Fry scheduled for May 19, 2023. (2) Matt submitted an applicant's name to the Founder's Award Committee. Matt Strong announced that a recipient has been selected but will share the details at the February meeting. (3) Discussion about on-air CW Practice. Don Rhodes provided an update. (4) Matt Jenne reported that he has confirmation from St. Paul's Church for Ham Fest facilities for Saturday, April 15th.

NEW BUSINESS: (1) Matt Jenne opened the floor for discussion regarding a "*Maker Fair*". Tom Monday opened the discussion with comments. General discussion ensued. With no objections, Tom granted permission to put together a plan and report back next month. (2) Ham Fest: **Tom Monday moved to approve up to \$400 to purchase a portable radio, similar to last year's, for the grand prize. Second by Tom Mathewson. Passed without objection.** President Jenne appointed the following individuals to be the 2023 Ham Fest Committee: Matt Jenne (chair), Matt Strong, Emily Goehner, Tom Monday, Jon Englert, and John Rudolph. There will be an organization meeting of the Ham Fest Committee here at the Grange Hall on Thursday, January 12th at 6:30pm. (3) Jon Englert announced that there will be the ARRL VHF

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If you want to attend the meeting via Zoon

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Time: February 3, 2023, 07:00 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

To dial in via phone:

+1 (929) 436-2866

Meeting ID: 844 3517 2692

Passcode: 712861

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84435172692?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84435172692?pwd=MmNBaHlFZWpCK2ZCY240SHZ0NUw1dz09)

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

(Continued from page 2)

Contest on Jan 21-23. People will be at the shack periodically throughout the event. Also, on Jan 28 and 29 is Winter Field Day. Matt Jenne reviewed the Field Day rules.

by Matt Strong, Second by Tom Mathewson. With no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Pratt

CVARA Secretary

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion made to adjourn

ARES This Month

Over the course of the next few weeks I will be reviewing Chenango County ARES membership roles. As many know our current ID badges have expired. My plan is to contact each of you individually but if you like you can simply drop me an email letting me know that you would like to continue on as a member of ARES. My email address is kc2sfu@yahoo.com.

If you would like to play a more active role I would suggest attending our monthly meeting and possibly becoming a Technical Specialist on one of the many technologies needed in disaster response.

If you are interested in playing more of a leadership role I am very interested in talking to you about your interest.

I believe ARES is an important part of Amateur Radio and that there is a role for all operators to participate. The minimum requirements for ARES/ RACES are set by the county Emergency Management Office and include 4 Incident Command System online courses an amateur radio license and a background check.

It's hard to imagine at this point but summer is just around the corner. Our summer public service events are fast approaching. We truly need to fill our ranks to meet our obligations to our community and to our served agencies.

73, Tom KC2SFU

A new alternative filament to ABS

So, if you have ever read my reviews, or heard me speak on selecting 3D printing filament, you probably have heard me whine about the softness of PLA for printing durable gear that will take a beating. I usually use ASA for ham gear, as it is tougher than PLA, and is UV resistant as well. ASA has a downside though - it requires some higher temperatures - both nozzle and print bed temps. Some 3D printers find ASA to be outside of their temperature range.

ABS can fill the void, but it also has a rather nasty downside - it emits really nasty vapors when printing. You definitely need to provide some ventilation when printing with ABS, and that introduces another world of issues as far as maintaining temperatures in the build volume. Many hobbyists add cabinets and venti-

lation hoses to their printers for these reasons.

I recently came across a new breed of PLA filament called PLA+. It prints in the same temperature range as ABS, and seems to offer the same toughness, but does not introduce the nasty fumes which ABS inflicts upon us. I printed a hacksaw blade handle using SUNLU PLA+ (Amazon - \$16.50 for kg spool) and was pleasantly surprised with the results. I used a nozzle temp of 230 °C and bed temp of 80 °C. One thing I noticed was that removing the raft and support materials was a bit more work, as they were tougher than PLA too (not unexpected). The real test lies ahead when I assemble the handle with a hacksaw blade and put it to work.

73 de K2HJ
John Hysell

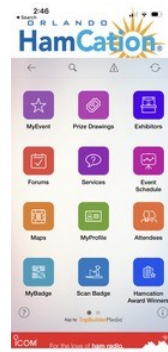
Mobile App Available to Navigate 2023 Orlando HamCation

Orlando HamCation® is February 10 - 12, 2023, and hosts the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention. In partnership with HamCation, ARRL's free mobile app is available to help attendees navigate the large event, which is held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park.



The free ARRL Events app is now available and already includes HamCation's full program, so attendees can browse and schedule forums, preview the extensive list of exhibitors, and find affiliated events. During the event, attendees can use other app features to follow the hourly prize drawings and grand prize packages, and browse building and site maps. While returning app users do not have to re-register to use the app, they will be prompted to complete a simple registration to view each new event. Attendees are also encouraged to tap on the MyProfile icon in the app to add their name and call sign, email address, and any additional information they would like to share with other HamCation guests. Additionally, the MyBadge icon displays a QR code of your event badge that can be scanned by another attendee or exhibitor using the Scan Badge icon - instantly connecting shared contact information with other hams at the event.

The app is available for Apple and Android smart devices, or access the web browser version which is optimized for nearly any browser or other type of mobile phone or tablet. Visit your app store to download the



app (search "ARRL Events") or access the [links](#) available on the ARRL Expo web page. If you're reading this article on a mobile device, click [here](#) to be redirected to the appropriate app store, or redirected to the web browser version (www.tripbuildermedia.com/apps/arrl).

For more information, please visit these official websites:

Orlando HamCation www.hamcation.com
ARRL at Orlando HamCation www.arrl.org/expo

This article from the ARRL Letter for January 26, 2023

And So It Should Be Written

By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian

Chapter 6

Welcome To – February 2023

No pressure he says! "Learning the right way from the start is the best way to get it right your whole life. Life that starts out that way can only get better. Remember, practice doesn't make perfect; perfect practice makes perfect!"

Thinking back on those days only brings a smile and the excitement felt back in February 1968 after taking and passing the Morse Code exam (5 wpm – sending & receiving a solid one (1) minute string of copy – approximately 60 characters), followed by the written theory exam.

My first goal was being realized. Mailing the morse code and written theory exam results to the FCC office in Washington, DC would only make the waiting seem like a lifetime!

The waiting time seemed to drag on and on, but during that period, I busied myself by ordering an older, used Drake 2B receiver and an Ameco AC-1, 15 Watt crystal controlled cw transmitter kit from World Radio, in Chicago, IL. These two items came through rather quickly from Chicago which gave me a bit of time to gather soldering equipment and items to build the Ameco AC-1. Gaining the experience at GLA, populating PC boards etc., gave me the patience and ability to complete this project without a problem.

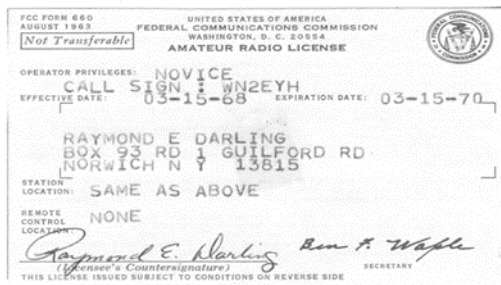


A few weeks down the road, the Novice Ticket arrived, and most welcomed at that time.

Although the actual ticket had arrived, the urge to get on the air became a fight with

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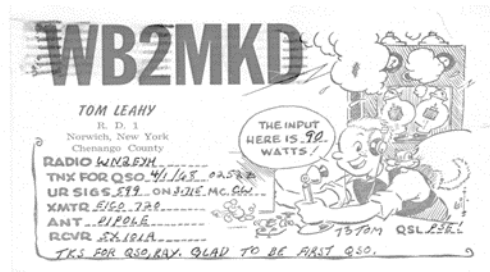


nerves and a shaky hand on the straight key. Didn't everyone experience that feeling??

Although the license was dated 15 March 1968, getting on the air was a bit more difficult in that one has to overcome the nerve factor and steady that shaky straight key hand.

Once the nerve factor had been toned down, the first contact with the Ameco AC-1 Transmitter was on 80 Meters, 02 April 1968, with none other

than my mentor, Tom Leahy (WB2MKD) lasting a long 21 minutes. Immediately following was another QSO with none other than Mr. CW himself, Dunc Copley (W2RME). Both kept me rattled for a total period of 59 minutes. This all with my transmitter attached to an end fed, 100' stretch of steel fence wire, hanging out the house window attached to the side of the barn next door. Yes, the code speed left a little bit to be desired, but sending with a straight key was not my favorite way of sending. Could there be a solution to this quandary? Quite an introduction to Amateur Radio operations! Chapter 7 should provide increasing thought processes and the realization that due to current regulations, the Novice Ticket is only good for a period of 1 year and non-renewable. The General Class Ticket requires an upgraded code speed of 13 wpm prior to taking the written exam. Another quandary! Practice -Practice!!



Editors note" Emily informed that in the previous issue That the pictures dated 1965, were actually taken in 1966



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2023

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

February 17. Tech Night

February 24, Exam Session Norwich Grange Hall

March 2, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall,
.Hale St , Norwich as well as online via Zoom

March 16, Tech Night

March 23, Exam Session Norwich Grange Hall

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

April 15, CVARA Hamfest

April 20, Tech Night

April 27, Exam Session Norwich Grange Hall

May 4, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall,
.Hale St , Norwich as well as online via Zoom

May 18, Tech Night

May 25, am Session Norwich Grange Hall

June 1, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall,
.Hale St , Norwich as well as online via Zoom

June 15 Tech Night

June 22, am Session Norwich Grange Hall

June 24—25 ARRL Field Day

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

July 14, Tech Night

July 27, am Session Norwich Grange Hall

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.

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

February 2023

			1	2 Meeting	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Tech Night	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Exam Ses- sion	24	25
26	27	28				

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**, **KD2HKB**

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.....

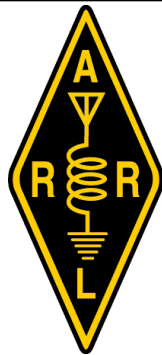
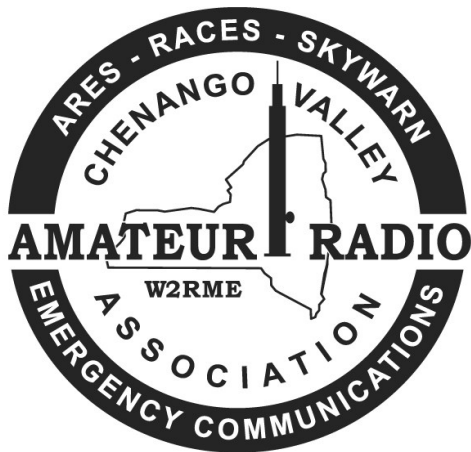
Thomas Mathewson
680 Plymouth N.Norwich Rd
Norwich, N.Y. 13815

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 March 2023 Bugle is February 15, 2023



PO Box 1324
Norwich, N.Y, 13815