



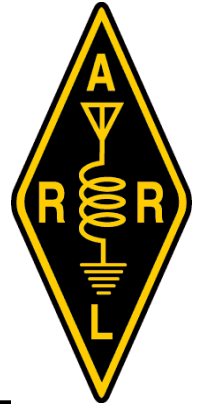
Published Monthly by the HAMS of CVARA

# 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.



*The President's  
Corner de KD2HKB*



VOL. 59 January 2023

Here's to the start of a new year! No, don't expect "a new year, a new you" from me, but you will see me take a moment to took back and reflect on what all has been accomplished this past year and look ahead to the year to come.

We, as a club, have been very successful this year. We have a great group getting together on Thursday evenings. Meeting attendance, while slimmer than pre-covid, is still pretty good. We've got the Hamfest right around the corner and a Maker Fair shortly after that.

The only "sad" part is those events roll into the next fiscal year and therefore, under the leadership of the next club President. With elections coming up in February... I do want to say what I thrill it has been to serve the club in this capacity. I really to feel that more members should take a more active role in the club. None of the offices are terribly difficult and all come with some pretty good support structure.

See you at the meeting!

73,

Matthew Jenne KD2HKB

## CVARA Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2022

### **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. 12 members present, 1 member via Zoom, and 2 guests.

### **PRIOR MONTH MINUTES:**

2 corrections raised by Jon Englert for the prior months minutes; 1 spelling error and a correction to new business. There IS a nominee for the Founders Award". Corrections made as stated. **Motion made by Tom Monday to accept prior month minutes, as corrected. Second by John Rudolph. Passed without objection.**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Financial report presented by President Jenn in the absence of Treasurer Emily Goehner. No corrections raised. **Motion to accept Treasurer's Report made by John Rudolph, second by David Stearns. Passed without objection.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **ARES/RACES:** Tom Monday talked about sending out a letter to all hams in the county in an effort to increase participation. Not placing blame. However, he would welcome any comments or recommendations on how the situation may be corrected. A general discussion ensued.
- **V.E. Team:** Matt Jenne reported that there was one session held on the 19<sup>th</sup> with 3 candidates. One passed. Another session was held in Oneonta with 2 candidates. One new and one upgrade. Both passed. Matt had a request to hold another session before the end of the year. It was decided to hold one more session on Tech Night, Thursday, the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- **Youth/education:** No report
- **Bugle:** Tom Mathewson asked for comments on how the pictures came out. One comment that they were a little small and the bigger would be better.
- **Ham Fest:** Matt Jenne reported that he has submitted the reservation and insurance documents to St. Bartholomew's Church for use of the Parish Center. He anticipates no issues.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1.) Matt Jenne reminded everyone of the Next Doug's Fish Fry on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. He also reported that the sales on November sale missed the minimum by less than \$100. The next Fish Fry will be on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- 2.) General discussion regarding CW.
- 3.) President Jenne appointed Lois Strong and John Rudolph to the Awards Committee to review the Founder's Award nominee.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1.) President Matt Jenne appointed committee members to the following committees:  
Founder's Award Committee: Lois Strong, Matt Strong, and John Rudolph.  
Nominating Committee: Jon Englert and Tom Monday.
- 2.) Tom Mathewson made a suggestion that we create a handbill advertisement for our Hamfest and hand them out at other's events (ie Marathon Ham Fest).
- 3.) Tom Monday suggested that people who would like to make a presentation at Ham Fest, to let the committee know. A general discussion ensued.
- 4.) Matt Jenne asked for volunteers to be on the 2023 Hamfest Committee. There were no responses.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** **Motion made to adjourn by John Rudolph, Second by Tom Mathewson.** With no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Bill Pratt*  
*CVARA Secretary*

If you want to attend the meeting via Zoon

Time: January 5, 2023, 07:00 PM Eastern Time  
(US and Canada)

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

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](mailto:KB2YSI@GMAIL.COM) for details.--... ..-- Don, KB2YSI

### ARES This Month

This Months ARES meeting will be held January 7th 0900 at the Norwich Police Station Emergency Operation Center. This Months training will be a discussion of portable operations and go bags.

Portability and therefore flexibly is one of the most important assets Amateur Radio can bring to emergency management. This Portability when combined with common operating practices and interoperability with thousands of hams throughout the country is a powerful force against the chaos of a disaster area.

Hope to see you there.

73, Tom KC2SFU

**THE STAFF OF THE BULL THISTLE BUGLE WOULD LIKE TO WISH  
ALL A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. MAY ALL  
YOUR ENDEAVORS BE JOYFUL**

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## Raspberry Pi Alternatives

-John Hysell K2HJ

If you have been following the supply chain issues which have impacted the price and availability of Raspberry Pi single-board computers (SBC) then you know that they have become 'UNOBTAINIUM' and 5 times their MSRP asking price. Where you used to be able to buy a complete Pi-4 setup for about \$50, they are now selling for well above \$200 if you can find them at all. The lower models are no better. Pi-3 units, and even the lowly Pi-Zero units are just not affordable under current conditions. So if you are in the middle of a Ham Radio project that requires a Pi, what can you do?

The good news is that, if you are willing to do just a little more configuration work with the SBC, you can find alternatives that will meet most project requirements.

In this review, I will describe 2 alternative SBC models that I have personally used to complete projects for my hamshack. The first, is the Chinese Pi knock-off clone known as the Orange-Pi. This unit can be sourced from AliBaba and AliExpress for a bit over \$30, (<https://www.aliexpress.com>) - search for 'orange pi zero' and is a very close replacement for the original Raspberry Pi-3B. It's not an exact replacement, but can be made to work for ham projects like Ham-Pi, Build-a-Pi, and even OctoPrint with just a few tweaks of the configuration.

As far as 'horsepower', the Orange-Pi is pleasantly well-equipped with the same quad-core CPU as the Pi-3 and, driven as slightly faster clock-speeds' actually can out-perform the Pi-3. It has fewer USB ports (only 3 versus the 4 offered by the Pi-3) but for most projects, 3 is plenty good enough. 3D print case designs are freely available on Thingiverse.com and can provide a nice finishing touch to your project.

The chief downside of using the Orange-Pi is that one cannot simply flash an SD card with a Pi-3 image, insert it into the Orange-Pi and boot. Unfortunately, there are enough subtle differences between the 2 SBC models that one is forced to begin with a vanilla image of Ubuntu or another Linux variant (several are provided on the Orange-Pi website) and then customize it for your project use. I wanted to build HAM-Pi on my

Orange-Pi and using Google, I was able to find the steps required to make that possible. I was also able to install, configure, and run OctoPrint on the Orange-Pi for controlling my 3D printers. So while it was not quite as simple as flashing a pre-built application image to an SD card, it was not rocket science, and anyone already comfortable with working with Raspberry Pi's should not be daunted by the customization steps needed.

The second Pi-3 alternative that I have encountered in some ways offers an even stranger path. This is using the Invatro Quadra SBC. This little jewel is a bargain at just \$30, which includes an AC adapter, 16 GB of flash memory, and even a beautiful case. All of those items are normally not included in the purchase price of a Pi-3, so given the current price and availability issues of the Pi-3, the Quadra is a hands-down price bargain.

You can order the Quadra online at <https://ww.inovato.com/product/inovato-quadra>, although at present, order quantities have been limited to one per customer. (This restriction has only recently been put in place - I suspect the word has gotten out that the Quadra makes a nice Pi alternative).

As said about the Orange-Pi, one cannot simply plop an SD card flashed for Pi into the Quadra, but several Ham Radio project images are already available for direct use in the Quadra. HamPi has a Quadra image available now, (<https://linktr.ee/HAMPIW3DJS>) and you CAN simply insert that into the Quadra and boot. I was also able to install OctoPrint as a virtual machine on the Quadra and, while any virtual machine suffers from some performance overhead loss, I found the performance of OctoPrint under this setup to be completely acceptable for controlling my 3D printers. The Quadra has one other advantage over the Pi, in that it has 16 GB of flash memory onboard, which leaves the SD card port free for additional storage, as well as for making backup images for loss prevention.

So there you have it - no need to fret over the unavailability of Raspberry Pi's. Get one (or both) of these alternatives and finish your winter Ham Radio projects.

73 de K2HJ

*And So It Should Be Written*

*By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian*

*Chapter 5*

*Welcome To The New Year - 2023*

Words from an old acquaintance and mentor stated one day: "Remember, time is nothing more than a measurement of change. If we're not becoming better, we are falling behind. We can never remain the same. Don't waste your time; Use It!

A brief history: A decision by several entrepreneurs in Sidney, NY departed from the Scintilla Magneto Division/Bendix Aviation Corporation and founded General Laboratory Associates in Guilford, NY. Those gentlemen included: J. Rudolph Frei, John McNulty, Embrey Paatz and Ogden Hamilton, with one employee following by the name of Norman Glover. Rudy Frei and Norm Glover were neighbors and residents of the town/village of Guilford, NY with the original GLA building located on Main Street in the Village.

Within a year they were incorporated and the company moved from Guilford to Norwich. During the 50's grew to 200 employees and developed the first high energy ignition system design, for a U.S. Navy application of a Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Engine. During the 60's, GLA continued to grow and broke ground at the current site on State Rt.12, just south of Norwich. Ownership of the company changed over the following 40 years to include Simmonds Precision, Hercules, Inc., Goodrich Aerospace, Unison Industries and the current owner, General Electric (G.E.) Aviation.

Acquaintances made at GLA, soon to become friends and influential persons, started with Bob Burdick (Mr. CB – Father of Steve, N2BRD): Bob Goehner: WA2LFI (Mr. VHF – Father of Emily, WA2LFI); Ogden Hamilton: W2RMB - (One of the founders of GLA) and Don Wingate WN2YNH. These folks seemed to be well versed in the realm of Ham Radio and in a short time invited me to occasional CVARA meetings, held at that time in the basement of the Sheriff's Dept. building in downtown Norwich. My involvement in the hobby soon became evident following those episodes. It was then that I met my friend and mentor, Mr. Tom Leahy: WB2MKD. My spouse and I were living on Polkville Hill at the time and was pleased to find that Tom was

a close neighbor, just a quarter mile to the South of me.

Notes & Photos from the CVARA Archives:

Tom, WB2MKD was definitely "Mr. CW" of the club. He first learned the code while serving in the Army/Air Force in Japan from 1947-1949. Ham interest came later when Carroll, WA2RBN, reminded him of the good old days. The Novice ticket arrived shortly (December 1963) and the bands have been better off ever since. Tom operates all bands, CW only, using his Eico 720, SX-101 and a trap dipole. Although licensed only 2 ½ hears, his walls are already covered with awards such as WAS, CP-35 and many many others too numerous to mention. WB2MKD is manager of the Victory Supermarket in Norwich where he has been employed for 14 years. Other interests include hunting, skeet shooting and other forms of marksmanship. Tom, his XYL Dolores and 2 Jr. ops live in Norwich on "Radio Hill" (WCHN type). If you want to contact

*(Continued on page 6)*

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a real CW operator, WB2MKD's your man.



Photos of Tom's Shack with his impressive equipment and wallpaper display.

After several visits, discussions and viewing equipment and wallpaper displays in this man cave, "Mr. CW" gave me no excuse but to accept his offer to assist me in obtaining an Amateur Radio License. An excellent teacher to say the least, as within several weeks, sitting on the floor of Tom's shack with my straight key, he had drilled into my head the proper method of learning Morse Code. Tom's mastery of morse code, as I was told, resulted from his being a high speed morse telegrapher while serving in the military. (1947-1949) - (Stated in prior notes from the CVARA archives, Tom rejuvenated his interest in Morse Code years later, receiving his Novice ticket in December 1963 with subsequent upgrade ending up with call: WB2MKD).

I'm still in awe, as in one of our evening sessions, while I was studying, he was concentrating on two subjects, his transmission, in contact with another ham, and chatting with me, answering my questions at the same time. I've never forgotten that day, nor expect to master that capability.

What an incentive!! - Tom continued the mentoring processes until I was ready to attempt the morse code and written exam for my Novice ticket. Keep in mind that in that period of time, which continued for several years, you were required to pass the Morse Code test before being allowed to take the written exam. No pressure!

Learning more about CVARA was in the making, as many documents, photographs and commentary came into my possession. I'm making every effort to provide some of those items



(Continued on page 7)

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(Continued from page 6)

to share with our readers, both past and present members. Attached, following the first CVARA Field Day in 1965, a club picnic was arranged and held at the local YMCA Camp. See photos.

I'm sure this was a great day for all concerned, photos seem to prove!

More history and photos will appear in future issues.

Chapter 6 - coming in the February 2023 issue

## Marines To Gain Radio Op Experience Via Amateur Radio

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 22 Communication Officers at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School (MCCES) in Twentynine Palms, California, became amateur radio operators. W6BA, the [Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club](#) (MARC) administered the exams and 21 candidates passed their Technician exam, and one passed their General exam. 14-year-old Kalynn Cossette, KN6WVD, was the youngest candidate who passed her Technician exam.



Retired Marine Corps Warrant Officer 4 Robert Cloutier, WO4ROB, and MARC President says it was a great event and he is excited to see so many new amateur radio operators. So, what drove the officers to want amateur radio licenses? Cloutier pointed out that all of the candidates already have a background in radio administration but not operating experience.

"Chief Warrant Officer (CWO3) Kalem Cossette, KK4KC, one of the training officers at MCCES, introduced amateur radio to the Communication Officers," said Cloutier. "Most of the students were curious on how to get their license, so CWO3 Cossette contacted the MARC to schedule an exam session."

Cloutier said that all new license holders were offered a free club membership but many of them will be deployed to other locations around the world and will be able to join other amateur radio clubs. He said they hope to conduct exams every three months.

*The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

## NASA "Decodes" Secret Messages Onboard the Orion Spacecraft

NASA has a long history of hiding secret messages in its spacecraft and that tradition continued with the launch of the Orion crew capsule in November on top of the Artemis I rocket.

Five hidden messages were placed in the Orion capsule ranging from Morse Code to musical notes.

On the right side of the capsule below a window and next to the pilot's seat were the letters "C, B, A, G, F" - five musical notes for the first words in Frank Sinatra's song, "Fly Me to the Moon."

In the middle of the capsule, above the cockpit control console, was a Morse Code message that spelled out the name "Charlie" in remembrance of former Orion Deputy Program Manager Charlie Lundquist, who died in 2020.

Other messages included a picture image of a cardinal to the right of the pilot seat as a tribute to former Orion Program manager, Johnson Space Center director, and St. Louis Cardinals fan Mark Geyer, who died in 2021.

The other two messages were on top of the pilot's seat including Binary code representing 18. This is in honor of NASA's history of travel to the moon with the Apollo Program and to celebrate a spacecraft's return to the Moon after Apollo 17 for the Artemis Generation. The final message was in front of the pilot's seat, the country codes of each country with the European Space Agency (ESA) that participated in developing and building the spacecraft's European Service Module.



A Morse code symbol for "Charlie" commemorates the life of former Orion Deputy Program Manager Charlie Lundquist, who died in 2020. Photo courtesy of NASA.

This page from the ARRL Letter for December 22,



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2023

January 5, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St , Norwich as well as online via Zoom  
 January 14, Marathon Winter'fest Location: Marathon, NY

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

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

*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.

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## January 2023

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

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### 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**

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# 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.....

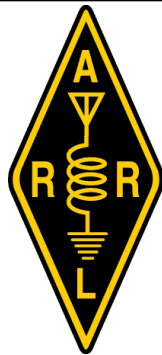
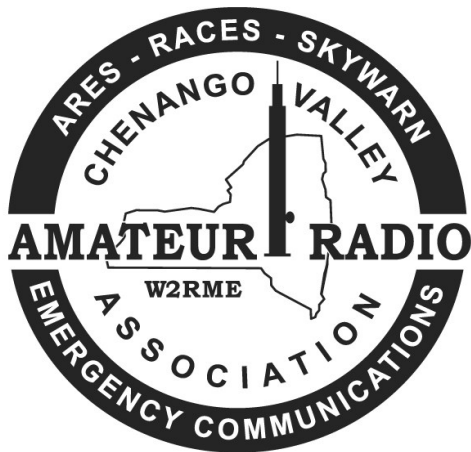
Thomas Mathewson  
680 Plymouth N.Norwich Rd  
Norwich, N.Y. 13815

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 February 2022 Bugle is 15 January 15, 2023**



PO Box 1324  
Norwich, N.Y, 13815