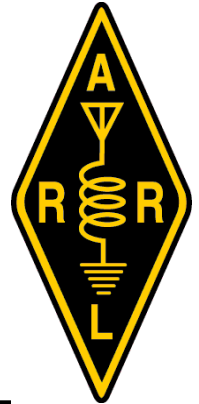




THE BULL THISTLE BUGLE



“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 KC2SFU



VOL. 59 October 2023

Below is the first draft of a tower project plan. Please read it over and let me know of any proposed changes. It will be a topic of discussion at this month's club meeting. I hope we can approve it with any recommended edits.

Objective

Replace the Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association's repeater tower with a self-supporting tower of similar height. The new tower should support new technologies needed for public service and emergency services.

Background

Amateur radio has, for over 100 years, supported Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). For over 50 years the Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association has offered their service and expertise in emergency communications to Chenango county. We currently enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship with the Chenango County Emergency Management Office.

One of the means by which the CVARA supports emergency communications is through the maintenance of a radio repeater tower. This tower, located on Whites Hill Rd in Guilford, is nearly 20 years old and has developed safety issues.

Engineering

The CVARA will purchase a manufactured tower ap-

proximately 100' tall with a wind load of approximately XXX. Engineering requirements, including tower base, will be purchased from the manufacturer.

Schedule

Project initiation.	October 2023
Engineering specification.	December 2023
Grant Applications.	January 2024
Tower Purchase.	TBD
Tower Construction.	June 2024
Project Completed.	October 2024

Budget

Total project cost is estimated to be \$30K. The CVARA currently has \$15K set aside for this project. The remaining \$15K will be subject to grant approval.

CVARA Team

Technical Requirements
Matt Jenne Secretary CVARA
Jon Englert. Director CVARA

Finance/Grant's

Emily Goehner Treasurer CVARA
Lois Strong Director CVARA

Project Manager Tom Monday Pres. CVARA

Change Management

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CVARA Meeting Minutes for September 7, 2023

Called to order at 1904 by President Tom Monday (KC2SFU) held at the Grange Hall in Norwich and via Zoom

Minutes:

Motion to accept minutes as printed in the Bugle by Bill Pratt (K2WMP) 2nd by Lois Strong (NK2A); Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented by Bill Pratt (K2WMP) 2nd by Jon Englert (W2BDN); Motion passed

Committee Reports:

Youth/Education: The fox hunt at Richfield Springs Community Center didn't happen due to unforeseen circumstances. It has tentatively been rescheduled for October 14th or 15th.

ARES/RACES: Meeting and training this Saturday. We will meet at 9am at the Norwich EOC. The topic will be NVIS. SET Weekend is October 7&8.

Tech Night: All projects welcome! Public welcome... Bring a project along! We will be dedicating one night soon to assembling the camera kits. We will also have a guest this month from the boy scouts to work with us on paperwork & such needed so we can assist scouts on getting some of their merit badges.

Bugle: First time (known) that the Bugle hit 10 pages in the print edition! Keep the good material & pictures coming!!!!

Repeater:

Building & Grounds: Lawn has been mowed. VHF entrance has had weather protection added. A "New" chair has been acquired & delivered to the site.

Membership:

VE Team:

Grants & Fundraising Committee:

Committee for Procedures: 3 SOPs partially written including the SOP to write SOPs.

Old Business:

Insurance: WZ2I apologized... running behind & hasn't renewed insurance yet. Will do so.

Picnic & Awards: We will hold a picnic on September 9, 6pm @ Norton Park in the Town of Columbus. HOY & Founder's Awards will be handed out that evening as well.

New Business:

Split Doug's Fish Fry: A motion was made to make it official that we split any proceeds from Doug's Fish Fry fundraisers with our hosts at the Chenango County Grange. Motion made by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM), seconded by Dave Stearns (KD2ERR). Motion Passed.

For the Good of the Membership:

Special Event Station: October 7 at the Chenango County Historical Society. 10am to 4pm

Closing: Motion made at 20:25 by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM).

Attendees: AD2TM, WZ2I, NK2A, KC2SFU, WA2LFI, W2BDN, K2WMP, KD2ERR, KD2CDU, KD2VTH, KD2VNE

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This is a living document. After approval by the general membership, changes to it will be made by consensus of the CVARA Executive board. Where there is no consensus, changes will require approval by the general membership.

Hello All, I was requested to write this month's article for ARES.

The official SET Weekend is October 7 & 8. This causes a small problem with the CVARA as we also have a special event station that day. Furthermore... our plans for the SET included members from neighboring counties that will not be available that weekend. Since there is no requirement that we hold our SET on the official weekend... the decision was made to push the joint SET back to Saturday November 4th.

The general plan is to demonstrate our capabilities to collect (and curate) storm reports and damage information for emergency services. We have invited the leadership of the Emergency Management office (from multiple counties) to observe our activation, so they can see first hand what we can offer.

A few things we would like to showcase include:

- APRS - tactical mapping
- Hamshack Hotline - Conference Bridge
- AREDN mesh network
- MeshChat over AREDN
- packet radio - BBS
- HF operations using NVIS regional net on 80 meters
- We will also have ADSB receivers showing for the Emergency Managers. Basically for information only.

On Saturday September 9, 2023 Tom Monday, KC2SFU presented the Duncan Copely, W2RME founder's award to Thomas Mathewson, AD2TM at the CVARA picnic. It was reported that Tom said something to the effect that he did not deserve such an award because he felt like he did not do much for the club.
Editors note, Sorry for the small picture.



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

If you want to attend the meeting via Zoon

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84435172692?>

Members of ARES/RACES are asked to either directly input road blockages, flooding or washout hazards on an APRS map or if they do not have the capabilities themselves, they will be asked to report it via one of the other communications systems for the day (HF NVIS net, packet, MeshChat, Hamshack Hotline or the 2m voice net)

The hope is that we can demonstrate to emergency managers the benefits of a multi-user real time tactical mapping system and our multitude of ways to collect information.

At this point we do not know how many counties will be participating, but the invite has gone out to several around Central New York. Besides Chenango & Otsego counties, I know general invites have gone out to ARES/RACES groups in Delaware, Herkimer, Madison & Oneida counties.

Circling back to the official SET weekend... I would like to remind you that the Oneida County Traffic & Emergency Net OCTEN will be participating in the ARRL SET weekend. I encourage you to check into OCTEN and if possible, utilize any form of "emergency power" at your disposal. This could be battery power, solar, a generator or whatever else you may have. Anything other than commercial power.

Matt WZ2I

[pwd=MmNBaHIFZWpCK2ZCY240SHZ0NUw1dz09](https://www.zoon.com/join/pwd=MmNBaHIFZWpCK2ZCY240SHZ0NUw1dz09)

To dial in via phone:

+1 (929) 436-2866

Meeting ID: 844 3517 2692

Passcode: 712861

And So It Should Be Written

By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian

Chapter 14

Welcome To - October 2023

Disaster Commo System Grows

Oct. 21, 1974

Members of the Chenango Amateur Radio Repeater Association planned to erect a 65 foot tower on Shumway Hill today for an emergency communications relay facility already tested and found successful in a previous three-county disaster drill.

Emergency Communications Coordinator Marvin Druskoff, Shumway Hill, said the Chenango and Unadilla Telephone Company is volunteering help to erect the tower. The tower will ultimately serve as a site for the association's repeater system, a facility designed to convert frequencies and relay messages among area hospitals in time of emergency.

The system is an outgrowth of last year's D&H Railroad disaster in Oneonta, an Evening Sun story and a telephone call from Chenango Memorial Hospital Director of Plant Services, Frank Mirabito to Mr. Druskoff. Mr. Mirabito explains: "One of the problems that has come to light in our past mass casualty drills was lack of communications among area hospitals. What really brought this to light was the Oneonta explosion (following the D&H derailment)."

Mr. Mirabito says Chenango Memorial Hospital had great difficulty reaching Oneonta's Fox Hospital for information on that facility's needs and on whether Fox needed room in Norwich for the transfer of patients. The only means of doing so, he explains, is by telephone and the nature and extent of the disaster generated a fusillade of telephone calls to the Oneonta hospital, effectively blocking inter-hospital communications. He notes: "In the Oneonta thing, we realized trying to contact their hospital by phone was about impossible in the middle of their disaster condition."

Mr. Mirabito read in The Evening Sun however, that Mr. Druskoff, a Shumway Hill realtor, had been named county emergency communications coordinator. He called Mr. Druskoff for information, and he says the radio amateurs took the ball from there. "All I did was contact them and show some interest," the hospital plant services director says.

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With the tower not yet erected, the association stationed a man at the tower site on Shumway Hill to manually relay messages among Chenango Memorial, Fox, The Hospital in Sidney and to the Bing-hamton and Syracuse areas. Mr. Mirabito says the system enabled instantaneous radio communications among the hospitals in time of a mass casualty disaster. "What this means," he says "is we are in a much better position in case of disaster....because what we have now is hospital to hospital communications to back up our hospital to ambulance communications". He says the new communications system enables hospitals to contact each other for equipment, man-power or supplies and to determine the space available to transfer casualties, if this proves necessary. Mr. Mirabito says the previous drill proved beyond question the viability of the repeater system.

The system was first tested Oct. 24th when it upgraded communications between Chenango Memorial Hospital and other medical facilities in south-central New York during a multi-county mass casualty disaster drill. This new system, complete with new tower will eliminate an age-old hospital problem and enable point-to-point hospital communications outside the hit-or-miss telephone communications system upon which hospitals were forced to rely on in the past.

Tower Enhances Disaster Commo

Nov. 15, 1974 News

The Chenango Amateur Radio Repeater Association's emergency radio relay system will speak from a new home 65 feet above Shumway Hill in the wake of erection of a relay tower about 100 yards northeast of the State Police tower.

(Note 1: The repeater site property was on a farm premises owned by the Austin Bourn family , obviously located on what was then known as the Shumway Hill road. This tower site was originally being occupied by a 100 Ft. NY State Police (Troop C) Communications Tower which was being decommissioned and relocated. Marv (K2VIV) and Ray (WA2EYH) made an attempt, thru NY State Bureaucracy, to purchase the standing tower, but were declined the opportunity. Unfortunately, the tower was dismantled, put through a NYS property auction process without success, and finally sold as scrap steel). What a waste of this tower!! To our advantage though, the State seemed to have left behind the expensive supporting guy cables and anchors. Could we find a use for these items?

Following a Q&A session with Mr. Bourn concerning the value of the repeater system to CARRA and the proposed Chenango County Emergency Communications System, Mr. Bourn generously offered this par-

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cel of land for exclusive usage by CARRA , including erection of the new relay tower mentioned above with no fees and/or cost factors involved.

As seen the in the photo above, a new building (shack) to house the repeater system was in progress resulting in our humble beginning flowering into an installation on top of a 1900 ft. hill called Shumway. Of course the other man of the hour was Tony Sharki, WB2DTW, without whose lumber the building would yet only be a clump of trees in the forest. Tony, with the help of his father and other family members cut and sawed all of the boards we had the pleasure of nailing hi hi. Hats off to Tony and now we will finally have a club shack & ultimate FD QTH!

It's official – We are now WR2AFA – Approved by UNYREPCO (Upper New York Repeater Council). FB congrats to K2VIV for his foresight in bringing this public service type related activity to our area. The machine is operative on 146.07 – 146.67, making sure all components are in place and in service for future use at the new Shumway Hill Site.

The tower was then raised by men and equipment donated by the Chenango and Unadilla Telephone Company and will add range to the repeater system that revolutionized emergency communications in the area. Marv is getting together a Certificate of Appreciation to present to the C&U Telephone Corp. for all the help in getting the tower erected, as well as taking great pleasure in thanking Ed Page (WA2GDE) for his untiring efforts on our behalf without whose coordinating with C&U, this project would still only be a dream. Ed has been doing a FB job (pretty much on his own except for what little help we can donate on weekends) spearheading the construction activities as well as providing a public relations drive in his own right and in our behalf. Ed has had power and light people at the Shumway Hill site and they indicate that a 30Ft. Utility pole should be set back 175 ft. from the main road with a 100 amp. Minimum service entrance required. Ed has penned a letter asking for a donation of this pole complete with anchor plus 3 anchors for the permanent site tower.. Until such time, when construction of the building is completed, power lines are run to the utility pole and power is established to the shack and inspected, all equipment and operations will continue from K2VIV's qth. These items should be completed by the January 1975 club meeting and then will mean moving the machine to the site and “getting on” from our new site location. It's been a long dry spell for WR2AFA but hopefully the hardest part is over!

*****The story continues in the November 2023 issue*****

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2023 -2024

October 5, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St , Norwich as well as online via Zoom

October 19, Tech Night

October 26 Exam Session

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

November 16; Tech Night

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

December 15;Tech Night

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

January 18; Tech Night

January 25; Exam Session

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

February 15; Tech Night

February 22; Exam Session

*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.

October 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				

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**, : **WZ2I**, **K2DAR**
 - TECHNICAL: **WA2IZB**
 - VE TEAM: **K2DAR**: **WZ2I**
 - HAM OF THE YEAR: **WZ2I**
 - Club Station/ Shack: **K2DAR**, **N2YP**, **KC2SFU**
Repeater Trustee: **WZ2I**
-

CVARA CLUB OFFICERS

President: Tom Monday KC2SFU
Vice Pres: Tom Mathewson, AD2TM
Treasurer: Emily Goehner WA2LFI
Secretary: Matt Jenne, WZ2I
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.....

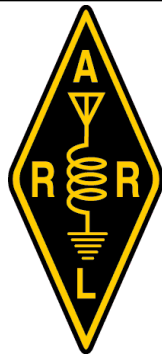
Thomas Mathewson
680 Plymouth N. Norwich Rd
Norwich, N.Y. 13815

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 October 2023 Bugle is September 20, 2023



PO Box 1324
Norwich, N.Y, 13815