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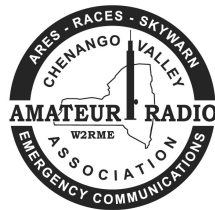
THE BULL THISTLE BUGLE

“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 KC2SFU*



VOL. 59 December 2023

Over the next few months the club will generate and approve a list of equipment to be sold in an effort to raise money for our tower project. If you as a member have equipment in need of a new home, please consider making it a donation to the club. Every little bit will help us achieve our goal. If you have anything you would like to donate please contact me at KC2SFU@YAHOO.COM
Thank you Tom KC2SFU

CVARA Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2023

Called to order at 1901 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 Lois Strong (NK2A) 2nd by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM); Motion passed

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented by John Rudolph (N2YP) 2nd by Mike Barnard (KD2CDU); Motion passed

Committee Reports: Youth/Education: Antenna build and Fox Hunt garnered 12 participants. All had a good time.

ARES/RACES: SET this weekend. Will be utilizing APRS, 40/80m NVIS and 2m. Will start on or around 10am.

Tech Night: All projects welcome! Public welcome... Bring a project along! We will be dedicating this month's Tech Night to assembling the camera kits.

Bugle: Keep the good material & pictures coming!!!!

Repeater:

Building & Grounds:

Membership:

VE Team:

Grants & Fundraising Committee:

Committee for Procedures:

Old Business:

New Business: Hamfest tickets were procured from the Elmira Hamfest to enter ticket data into a database and share it back with them. We will work on these as a group effort to enter them into a database next Thursday, November 9th, at 7pm.

Tower Project: Still trying to make contact with Mid State Communications. Will continue with this effort.

Grant Committee: Looking at Greater Norwich Foundation, R.C. Smith foundations, Higley Foundation, ECARS, ARDC via ARRL & ARDC Direct for funding opportunities. Looking to possibly "piece out" parts of the grants asking for specific parts from each group.

Membership Drive & Fundraising Mailer: Tom Monday (KC2SFU) seeks the "blessing" of the club to generate and mail a membership drive & fundraising mailer to be mailed out in the first quarter of 2024. Motion made by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM), Seconded by XXX. Motion Passed.

Certificate of Deposit: It was discussed that short term CD interest rates are currently fairly high (roughly 5%). After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Matthew Jenne (WZ2I) and seconded by John Rudolph (N2YP) to transfer \$10,000 from our savings account and purchase a 5 month CD with the "Tower Fund" being sole owner of the CD. Motion passed with one dissenting vote.

Donation From Unadilla MX: Unadilla MX sent us a donation of \$400 with their thanks for all we did during their Pro National event. A motion was made by John Rudolph (N2YP) and seconded by Matthew Jenne (WZ2I) to deposit that donation to our savings account and add it to the tower fund.

For the Good of the Membership:

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

NWS SKYWARN: December 14 Time and Location to be determined.

Holiday Party: December 10 at the Wild Owl Cafe in Norwich. 2pm

Closing: Motion made at 20:15 by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM).

Attendees: AD2TM, WZ2I, NK2A, KC2SFU, WA2LFI, KD2CDU, N2YP, K2HJ (Zoom), N2NRV & Paul Preciado.

ARES This Week

December's ARES training will be held December 14th 7:00 pm at the Norwich Grange Hall. The National Weather Service will be presenting Winter Skywarn training. I have always found training by the NWS to be interesting and informative. I would like to encourage a good turnout for this training. Helping the National Weather Service establish ground truth remains an important traditional service we as hams can provide.

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

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

Time: October 5, 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?>

Will AI help us have more fun with amateur radio?

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In this morning's email was a message from *Inc.* magazine with links to some articles in the magazine. At the top of the list was, "4Unimaginable Ways A.I. Will Change Your Life Within the Next 5 Years, According to Bill Gates" (<https://www.inc.com/minda-zetlin/4-unimaginable-ways-ai-will-change-your-life-within-next-5-years-according-to-bill-gates.html>) Gates says that in the next five years, you will have your own artificial intelligence assistant, or agent, that will be a frequent voice in your ear and will help you with everything from deciding where to go on vacation to managing your friendships and more. Let's think for a minute about Gates' 4 Ways and how they might help us enjoy amateur radio more.

1. You won't bother with software or operating systems anymore.

How cool would this be. You could simply tell your AI amateur radio assistant, "Hey, HAL. Let's operate 20-meter FT8 this afternoon," and the agent would set up the radio and begin looking for contacts. If the band wasn't open, it would come back and tell you, "I'm sorry, Dave, but propagation on 20 meters is terrible this afternoon. May I suggest 30 meters instead?"



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2. Your agent will be a frequent voice in your ear.

Gates believes that most of us will wear at least one earbud most of the time so that our agents can talk to us whenever they need to. So, for example, it might be monitoring the activity on 6 meters and notify you when the band is open. Or, you might want it to notify you when a particular contest or operating event is coming up so that you don't miss it. "Dave," it might say, "remember that the 2-meter club net is at 8 pm tonight."

3. Your agent will get involved in your personal relationships.

We often don't think of amateur radio as having a personal aspect, but it really does. For example, don't we enjoy talking to some people more than others? Your personal agent could monitor your club's 2-meter repeater or 40-meter CW and notify you when your friends are on the air.

Gates also notes that you could have your AI assistant talk to your friends' assistants and set up lunch for you. If those friends are also radio amateurs, you could also use that capability to set up an on-air sked.

4. It might even help you solve personal problems.

The article notes, "One of the most intriguing predictions Gates made is that your agent could also become your therapist" While many hams probably do need therapy, I'm not so sure how applicable this will be to amateur radio.

What I could see happening is using an AI assistant to help you choose your next rig or maybe help you troubleshoot a problem. Here are some scenarios:

You ask your AI assistant what rig you should buy next. Since it already knows what bands you like to operate—and the state of your finances—it can analyze all the options and find a radio that meets your operating needs and fits into your budget.

You might describe your backyard and the bands that you want to operate, and your AI Assistant could come back with antenna suggestions.

You ask your AI assistant about a problem that you're having with your rig. It comes back with, "Dave, if you would just RTFM, you will find the answer on page 67 of the operating manual." Or, after scanning the appropriate online forums, it would tell you, "Dave, several other owners seem to be having a similar problem. Here's what they've done...."

All of this sounds kind of fun to me, but I can understand some of you having reservations. What do you think? Can you think of other ways an AI assistant would make amateur radio more fun for you?

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (<https://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/>), and often appears on the IC-QPodcast (<https://icqpodcast.com>). When he's not trying to decide if artificial intelligence will help us have more fun with ham radio—or destroy humanity—he tinkers with electronics projects and works CW on the HF bands. You can email your AI comments to Dan at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

And So It Should Be Written

By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian

Chapter 16

Welcome To - December 2023

Most of De Forest's many patents were from relatively minor technical advances, though almost any invention would be deemed minor in comparison to the Audion. His most notable other work was Phonology, a recording system that embedded a soundtrack in motion picture film, allowing talking movies. In the 1920's he ran the De Forest Phonofilm Company, using his movie sound system to make experimental shorts, mostly filming vaudeville acts at New York theaters. His Phonofilm was not the system used for *The Jazz Singer* in 1927 and the flood of "talkies" which followed. Still, he was given an honorary Oscar in 1960, "for his pioneering inventions which brought sound to the motion picture."

As radio changed from a crystal-set hobby to a big business, De Forest was a frequently cited expert on the medium's early days. In 1930 he was elected President of the Institute of Radio Engineers, and he immediately made headlines with a public denouncement of the growing commercialization of radio, after which he was rarely invited onto the major networks. For the next few decades,

De Forest's main work revolved around building and preserving this legacy as the "Father of Radio." a term coined by De Forest himself!

During his mid-teen years, Paul Wandelt was employed by and studied radio & electronics with Lee De Forest as well as employment with the F.M. Link Company in New York City (recognized leader in the Land-Mobile Radio Communications Systems in 1921). His interest in radio communications surely made the transition to amateur radio a slam dunk. Amateur Radio was in its infancy at this time and formal assigned call signs and/or licensing was not the norm. Congress finally approved the Radio Act of 1912. For the first time amateurs were to be licensed. The law also had a provision that at first was thought could bring the death of Amateur Radio: hams were restricted to the single wave-length of 200 meters. In 1913, Commerce Department rules issued provided for amateur call letters, but prefixes were not defined or required. Prefixes came later, in the mid to late 1920's. Some research did show that Paul was issued a call sign **2ACY** and was transmitting and experimenting from his home in Bayonne, N.J. It must have been an exciting and interesting time!

The next several years became crucial in Paul's development in the Engineering Field with a Radio Engineer designation acquired. As the Depression Era came into play, salary cash payments were hard to come by. Employers that had assets to share, began issuing Stock in their companies to employees in lieu of cash. Little did those employees, at the time, realize how valuable these stocks may become in their future. With a little thought, you can imagine how many individuals became affluent at a later date taking advantage of holding these stocks for future investment and venturesome activities.

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The year 1938 brought about a Draft Notice for Paul with the war in Europe ongoing and the threat of what became President Roosevelt's fear of further involvement for U.S. Troops. The European/North African campaigns were stretched to their limits, then the unthinkable attack on Pearl Harbor. To the best of my knowledge, Paul did not serve in any of the campaigns, assuming his German family heritage.

The mid 1940's brought about his marriage to wife Margaret, with new Amateur Radio mandated Licenses and Callsigns issued to both Paul (**W2AU**) and Margaret (**W2FPR**). A move from their New York/New Jersey homes to upstate NY proved to be a good choice. They ended up purchasing property in the Town of Unadilla, Otsego County, NY, just East of the Village on NYS Rt. 7. There establishing a family home and a workshop. Late '40s, early '50s, established a small Radio/TV Sales/Service business in downtown Sidney, NY. I was quite impressed then with Paul's knowledge of electronics, as he seldom made house calls on radio/tv problems. When a problem was explained to him, he for the most part, simply advised the customer to replace tube X or Y, otherwise would come to you home and do the necessary repair(s) on-site. The couple became good friends with my family and myself and kinda took me under his wing, feeding me as much information on electronics that I could comprehend at my young age.

His continued experimentation and dedication to the field proved invaluable. Did any of his experiments pay off in the end? You only have to view the advertisement below & decide..

DEMAND THE TOP SIGNAL ON THE BAND

ONLY
\$12.95
AMAT. NET
A 4 PURPOSE BALUN

USE A W2AU BALUN
WITH BUILT-IN SEALED TYPE LIGHTNING ARRESTER
HANDLES FULL LEGAL POWER

ONLY
\$12.95
AMAT. NET
A 4 PURPOSE BALUN

THE BALUN THAT HAS BEEN PROVEN AND ACCEPTED. NOW BEING USED BY THE U.S. NAVY, COAST GUARD, AIR FORCE, ARMY, FCC, CIA, RCA, NBC, FAA AND CANADIAN DEFENSE DEPT. AND BY THOUSANDS OF HAMS IN THE USA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

—ANOTHER FIRST—

Our exclusive sealed type lightning arrester helps prevent lightning damage to your valuable equipment, balun and coax. Don't wait until lightning strikes. Protect your investment now. **DON'T BE MISLED!** Our one style balun is adaptable to all antennas, Yagis, quads, inverted Vees and multi-bands.

Backed by 50 years of electronic knowhow Baluns "that don't break down" when instructions are adhered to.

Available at all leading dealers. If not, order direct. **IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS**

W2AU BALUN LETS ENTIRE ANTENNA RADIATE!



STOP WASTING YOUR SIGNAL! REMEMBER, YOUR ANTENNA IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF GEAR YOU OWN.

1. Built-in lightning arrester
2. No Center insulator needed
3. Hang-up hook, perfect for inverted Vees
4. Broad banded—2.8 to 40 MC. Takes legal power limit. Two models:
 - 1:1-50 ohm coax to 50 ohm-balanced antenna
 - 4:1-75 ohm coax to 300 ohm-balanced antenna or folded dipole.

A Must for Inverted Vees, dipoles, multi-band antenna quads, Yagis etc.

\$ FOR \$
YOUR BEST
BALUN BUY

HELPS TVI PROBLEMS
IMPROVES F/B RATIO
BY REDUCING LINE PICKUP

UNADILLA RADIATION PRODUCTS, Mfrs. of Baluns & Quads, Unadilla, New York 13849

The W2AU Balun became a mainstay for the amateur market and Paul was awarded a Government Military Contract to build and produce this item for all branches of the military. It was, and still is, being used by the military and commercial entities for their respective antenna system, worldwide.

Following my stint in the US Air Force, returning to the local area, found this gentleman & family still located here, and more than willing to entertain this writer with his stories & dreams!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2023 -2024

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

December 10, 2pm Wild Owl... Holiday Party... ordering individually off the menu.

December 15;Tech Night

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

January 13, Marathon Hamfest

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.

December 2023					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 meeting	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Skywarn Training	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Tech Night	22	23
24	25	26	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.....

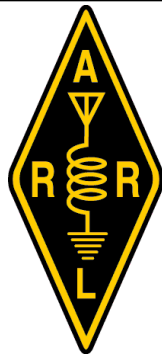
Thomas Mathewson
 680 Plymouth N. Norwich Rd
 Norwich, N.Y. 13815

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 January 2024 Bugle is December 20, 2023



PO Box 1324
 Norwich, N.Y, 13815