



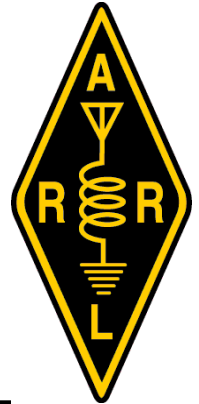
Published Monthly by the HAMS of CVARA

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 KC2SFU*



VOL. 60 January 2024

For me, like many I suspect, the new year is a time to both reflect on the past year and look forward to the new year. As President, I find myself doing the same for the CVARA. As in life, there are always some successes and some failures. I will talk about only a few.

Financially the club is in a very good a situation. Dues and other fundraisers pay the bills while grants continue to fund special projects. Without a doubt, the tower project remains both our primary financial goal and will require our greatest effort. Contractor selection and grant applications will make the next couple of months very hectic.

Over the past year the Youth Committee has, with the leadership of Jon W2BDN, developed an outstanding relationship with the Richfield Springs youth group. While distance will always make this difficult, I am sure this is going to lead to great things. We need to continue working hard so that this momentum grows. I just can't wait to see this happen!

Over this past year the unexpected resignation of our President caused both a fair degree of stress and uncertainty. Needless to say we don't live in a perfect world. These things happen and we will need to deal with them. I believe, as a group we delt with this one the best way possible. Now we move forward.

Club membership or at least participation in club activates has fallen off considerably. At the same time we have taken part in an increased number of club events. I do not see how we can maintain this level of activity. Either we build membership / participation or we decrease the number of events. I for one miss seeing a number of hams who, in the past, have been active in our group. I encourage all to take the time to invite them back. While we will never agree on everything, I'm sure we agree ham radio is a wonderful hobby and deserves the best stewardship we can give it. everything else is just noise.

I look to 2024 with great optimism. We will build a tower, we will redouble our youth efforts and we will increase our membership. Please join me in making these dreams come true.

Happy New Year everyone!

73, Tom KC2SFU

CVARA Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2023

Called to order at 1902 by President Tom Monday (KC2SFU) held at the Grange Hall in Norwich

Minutes:

Motion to accept minutes as printed in the Bugle by John Rudolph (N2YP) 2nd by Jon Englert (W2BDN); 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:

ARES/RACES: Tom Monday (KC2SFU) & Matt Jenne (WZ2I) reported about the SET. All went well & county emergency managers were pleased with our capabilities. It was announced that on 12/14 at 7pm will be a SKYWARN training at the Grange Hall. All, including the public, are welcome to attend.

Tech Night: All projects welcome! Public welcome... Bring a project along!

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

Repeater:

Building & Grounds:

Membership: A membership drive mailing is in the works.

VE Team:

Grants & Fundraising Committee:

Old Business: Tom Mathewson (AD2TM) reported that he has entered over 200 of the tickets into the database. He offered to process more from KC2SFU & N2YP.

Tower Project: Tom Monday (KC2SFU) proposed to write up a Request For Proposal "RFP" to send out to as many tower installers as we can find, including Upstate Tower, Midstate Communications & others.

New Business: A motion was made by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM) to approve up to \$450 for the purchase of a Grand Prize for the 2024 Bullthistle Hamfest. Motion seconded by John Rudolph (N2YP). Motion Passed

Field Day: A motion was made by John Rudolph (N2YP) and seconded by Mike Barnard (KD2CDU) to attempt to reserve the General Clinton Park for Field Day 2024. Motion Passed

Sale of Surplus Equipment: The following items were presented to sell:

Radio Shack HTX242 (Bad mic cable) Min \$40 Ask \$60

Radio Shack HTX100 (10M not working) Min \$20 Ask \$30

Pelican Case 30x21x18 Min \$120 Ask \$150

IBM Terminal 12" Min \$5 Ask \$10

Box of 6 MFJ 1200 TNC2s Min \$15 Ask \$20

GE Repeater Min \$120 Ask \$200

Generator Min \$120 Ask \$150

Motion to approve list for sale made by John Rudolph (N2YP) and seconded by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM). Motion Passed.

For the Good of the Membership:

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(AD2TM).

(Continued from page 2)

NWS SKYWARN: December 14 7pm at the Chenango County Grange Hall

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

Closing: Motion made at 20:13 by Tom Mathewson

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



ARRL's Year of the Volunteers Success

2023 has been a remarkable year for amateur radio. There were many noteworthy opportunities for hams to use their license privileges for the greater good. An annular solar eclipse saw radio amateurs engaging in projects of scientific research about our ionosphere, devastating firestorms gutted entire cities and saw Amateur Radio Emergency Service member-volunteers rise to activate, hurricanes threatened life and property, bicycle races spread across the desert necessitating robust communications provided by hams, and high school students led and executed contacts with the International Space Station. Many amateur radio operators stood to serve in ways that made headlines, and all of them were volunteers.



Still, tens of thousands of others did work that never made the pages of QST, didn't become the lead story on the local news, and didn't become fodder for online forums. Perhaps it was the ARRL VE who administered tests, welcoming the next generation of hams into the hobby, or the National Traffic System net manager who handled traffic from hams checking in. It could've even been the mentor who took the time to show a learner how to solder. These are the unsung heroes of the Amateur Radio Service -- these are the volunteers.

ARRL has nearly 60,000 volunteers within its membership, without whom it could not function. They are the lifeblood of this hobby. ARRL designated 2023 as the Year of the Volunteers to recognize their efforts, encourage new prospective volunteers to follow their

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lead, and call existing volunteers to reach one rung higher on the ladder of service. The [Volunteers On the Air \(VOTA\)](#) operating event has been popular among hams, with some operators making nearly 30,000 QSOs throughout the yearlong activation.

A young man from north Texas emerged as a leader.

Sam Lovett, KI5RSV, is just a teenager but has been awarded the 2023 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award for his success with developing interest in amateur radio among his peers. He leads a youth net and has been instrumental in building a strong ham culture in his Trail Life USA troop. A video interview with Sam will be featured in the February 2023 digital edition of *QST*



Sam Lovett, KI5RSV, was awarded the 2023 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award. [ARRL, photo.]

Lyn Alfman, N8IMW, of Norwich, Ohio, was honored for her volunteer work in the public information space.

She received the 2023 ARRL Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award. The proclamation issued by the ARRL Board of Directors says that Lyn "exemplifies the skills and depth of understanding [needed] to convey to media outlets the fascinating world of amateur radio."



Lyn Alfman, N8IMW, on the right, is presented with the 2023 ARRL Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award by ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK.

ARRL's George Hart Distinguished Service Award honors the work member-volunteers put in to use their license privileges to serve others. Jo Ann Keith, KA5AZK, of Diana, Texas, is the 2023 recipient.

Jo Ann is the net manager of the 7290 Traffic Net, a public service traffic net that has been in operation since 1953. She has a long history of volunteer work, dating back to her youth when she served as a candy striper. Like tens of thousands of others, Jo Ann uses amateur radio in the spirit of service.



Jo Ann Keith, KA5AZK (in the center), is presented with the 2023 ARRL George Hart Distinguished Service Award by ARRL West Gulf Division Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS (on the left), and Section Manager of the ARRL North Texas Section Steven Lott Smith, KG5VK (on the right.)

These are just a few stories that can be told from the Year of the Volunteers. There are so many other stories out there, and we encourage you to tell your own.

While the Volunteers on the Air event closes on December 31, 2023 at 2359 UTC, the spirit of this year will continue as long as there are hams standing to serve others through amateur radio.

From all of us at ARRL, thank you!

Status of *CQ* Magazine

ARRL has heard from many members concerned about their print subscriptions to *CQ* magazine. *CQ* magazine is not an ARRL publication, however ARRL members enjoy the ability to pursue earning the CQ Worked All Zones (WAZ) and Worked All Prefixes (WPX) awards through Logbook of The World (LoTW).

CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, acknowledged the delays in delivering *CQ* magazine. He indicated that the November and December issues are delayed but plans are to get them out to the readership as soon as circumstances permit.

These articles from "The ARRL Letter" for December 21, 2023

And So It Should Be Written

By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian

Chapter 17

*Happy New Year
2024
AS*

The establishment of the Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association (CVARA) came about from a document dated February 15, 1965, and that my friends was 58 years ago this coming February. This instrument invited all amateur radio operators in the county and the general public, who may have an interest in ham radio, to form a Radio Club in our area. Other areas had their versions of such a club, why were we not involved in the process??

This should be cause for some celebration, especially for an organization which has grown into the corporate structure we enjoy today. Few of our founders or original members remain or are here to share the accomplishments. As we enter and welcome the start of another year, I encourage each of you to reflect on what the past many years and the past 365 days, in particular have brought you.

Personally the past few years, and especially the past 365 days, have brought about sadness and disappointment concerning the continuing loss of membership and enthusiasm of those members remaining in CVARA, Inc. Can you explain to me what has transpired, bringing us to this moment in time? I have seen this organization go thru some hard times over the years with membership fluctuating from an all time high of 82 to an embarrassing number of 5 active members. Take a hard look at our organization please, and make that tough decision to rectify the ailment (s) that may be causing our demise. I am a Life Member of CVARA, Inc., and am prone to voicing my opinion, this being no exception. 1) All Talk/Promises, No Action. 2) Too many projects/objectives – overwhelming to say the least. 3) No diversification of interests shared amongst the membership – all seems to be one-sided. 4) Having savings accounts, steadily growing, but to what use have they been used? (Back to #2) 5) The Nov/Dec '23 issues of the “Bugle” show a meeting attendance of 6 members or less. Please stop & re-group ladies and gentlemen. Working to keep this group alive will be up to you and hopefully many future generations to follow. Will you be the ones committed to this objective?

I have reached the age which I highly regard my health and well being as my main priority. I feel that my contributions to CVARA, Inc. have been in the best interest of the organization and certainly want to see the club continue for the benefit of all amateur radio enthusiasts!

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Reflecting back to the years 1969 – 1986, while serving as a Life and A&H Agent for the Prudential Insurance Company of America, and Independent Agent/Broker for Tri-Town Agency,



LEFT: GRAHAME DAVIS
33 WATSON STREET
DELORANE, TASMANIA 7304

Inc., I was inducted into the Bainbridge Rotary Club (An International Fellowship of Rotarians mentioned in earlier chapters). During my 17 year membership I enrolled and became a member of Rotarians of Amateur Radio, (“ROAR”), whose purpose was, and is, “To further fellowship among Rotarians and good will among people of the World via Amateur Radio.”

A fellow Rotarian, Dr. Kenneth Benson, prominent Veterinarian in Bainbridge, NY, participated in a Voluntary Program involving a 1 year assignment to a Veterinarian Hospital in the Country of Ghana. (S.W. Coast of Africa). While there he had made contact with a family who were familiar with a Ham Radio Operator near the Capital City (Accra). A few letters ensued between Dr. Benson & myself resulting in a SSB schedule made to make contact on the air. It took a couple tries, but we did finally make the contact with great success. That was a 5,080 Mile DX contact for me and was very useful in the years to come. We did try to arrange a shipment of Ham Radio equipment to our friends in Ghana, but in the end, the import/export restrictions became prohibitive and we could not proceed with the shipment. When Dr. Benson returned to his Bainbridge, NY practice, a schedule was set up and I was able to keep Dr. Benson in contact with his contemporaries in Ghana for a period of time. Presenting the importance of Amateur Radio along with Dr. Benson to a Bainbridge Rotary Club meeting was a program we enjoyed giving and those in attendance appreciated learning how Amateur Radio can benefit everyone.

The second opportunity came later in my Rotary Club fellowship. I had the privilege of contacting a fellow Rotarian on the air from Tasmania. His name was Bruce Cameron, VK7GC, who was a logging contractor residing in Mole Creek, Tasmania (Population~500). His friend, Grahame Davis, Dairy Farmer in Tasmania, was soon to be making a trip to NY State, hopefully meeting with Dr. Benson. When he arrived I was honored to escort him around Chenango, Delaware & Otsego counties countryside, enjoying a really great conversation and discussing each other's countries & cultures. A photo of Grahame, my XYL and myself is shown above.

International Friendship & Fellowship!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024

January 4; CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall,
.Hale St , Norwich

January 13, Marathon Hamfest

January 18; Tech Night

January 25; Exam Session

February 1; CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall,
.Hale St, Norwich

February 15; Tech Night

February 22; Exam Session

March 7, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall,
.Hale St, Norwich

March 21, Tech Night

March 28, Exam Session

April 4, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall,
.Hale St , Norwich

April 18, Tech Night

April 20, Bull Thistle Hamfest, St Bart parish Center,
East Main St, Norwich. NY

April 25, 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.

January 2024

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

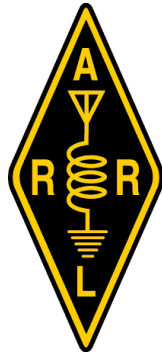
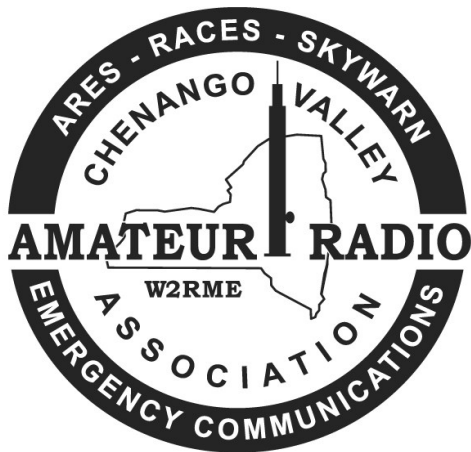
Tom, AD2TM, editor of the Bugle is ALWAYS looking for submissions
 Your views, comments, and articles will gladly be considered for publication.
 Send your articles to.....

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 February 2024 Bugle is January 20, 2024



PO Box 1324
 Norwich, N.Y, 13815