



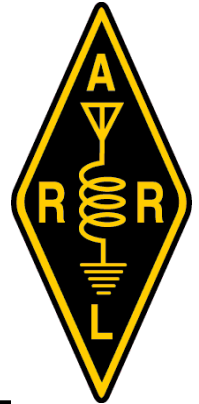
Published Monthly by the HAMS of CVARA

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 February 2024

I would like to thank all of those working on the tower project. I would also like to thank those anonymous doners that continue to make our tower fund grow. If you have not already donated, please consider it. I expect this tower will last many years and welcome many new Hams into the hobby.

Planning has begun for this years Ham Fest. As always, it seems to have snuck up on use. This years event will be on April 20th at Saint Bartholomew's parish center in Norwich. Programs will include: AREDN networks by Matt WZ2I, Gonset Communicators by Jon W2BDN, and LEO Satellites by Don KB2YSI. We will have a VE session run by Ray K2DAR and hopefully another successful swap meet. PLEASE consider helping.

73, Tom KC2SFU

CVARA Meeting Minutes for January 4, 2024

Called to order at 1901 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 Tom Mathewsosn (AD2TM); Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented by John Rudolph (WZ2I) 2nd by John Rudolph (N2YP); Motion passed

Committee Reports:

Youth/Education: The youth at the Richfield Springs Community Center are interested in licensing & an eventual radio [shack] build.

ARES/RACES: Thanks to all for the great participation in the Skywarn snow nets.

Tech Night: All projects welcome! We will be dedicating the next few official Tech Nights to the manufacturing & assembly of the camera projects.

Bugle: Always looking for contributions of articles (with print authorizations) or pictures!

Repeater: The repeater is now controlled by AllStarLink. Besides RF, one can also "get into" the repeater via Hamshack Hotline 94139 (2m Extension) or 94142 (70cm Extension) or via Echolink (W2RME-R).

Membership: Matthew Jenne (WZ2I) is working on an annual promotional edition of the Bugle to be distributed at public events and to the public in general. Tom Monday (KC2SFU) said he may use this edition of the Bugle as part of the membership mailing that he was working on.

Tower: Tom Monday (KC2SFU) presented a Request for Proposals (RFP) which will be sent out to various tower companies. Suggested companies were Midstate Communications, Up State Tower Construction, & Northeast Site & Tower. Don Rhodes (KB2YSI) made a motion that we distribute the RFP. Jon Englert (W2BDN) seconded the motion. All Ayes, motion passed.

Hamfest: The grand prize radio has been purchased. The flier & website will be updated. John Rudolph (N2YP) will work on getting other door prizes.

Field Day: General Clinton Park is available. John Rudolph made a motion that we book the park for Field Day. Lois Strong (NK2A) seconded the motion. All Ayes, motion passed.

Old Business:

Equipment to sell: Tom Monday (KC2SFU) presented a list of equipment to be sold.

New Business:

Zoom: Matt Jenne (WZ2I) reported to the group that he no longer wanted to pay for the Zoom license. He offered to continue it if the club wanted to take over the costs (or maybe split the costs between a couple clubs). Alternatives were either a Hamshack Hotline phone conference or a phone conference via the Grange Hall's phone system. John Rudolph (N2YP) made a motion to drop Zoom. Kevin Menard (KD2KWW) seconded it. All Ayes, motion passed.

Generator Maintenance: Maintenance on the Generator was brought up for discussion. John Rudolph (N2YP) made a motion to have maintenance performed on the generator with expenditures not to exceed \$500. Lois (NK2A) seconded the motion. All Ayes, motion passed.

For the Good of the Membership:

Dues: As a reminder, dues are due as of April 1 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Somehow already submitted their dues... If you have not done so already, please submit your dues and/or consider a donation to the club. We have many expenses & need to cover our obligations.

Closing: Motion made at 20:20 by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM), 2nd by Dave Stearns (KD2ERR).

Attendees: WZ2I, N2YP, AD2TM, W2BDN, NK2A, KC2SFU, KB2YSI, N2VPS, W2CTX, KD2KWW

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

***The article below is a shortened copy, at the request of the Bugle Editor, in order for it to fit in the print edition of the Bugle. I'd invite & encourage you to read the full article in the email version or the full version posted to our website here: https://cvara.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/unappealing_club.pdf*

I find myself frequently reading online forums, blogs & articles from various sources for many reasons. Mainly... because I have a desire to learn and continually improve myself. This past month brought an interesting post on Reddit.

The following is printed under the Fair Use doctrine. Originally posted at https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/1979snh/how_to_make_you_ham_radio_club_as_unappealing_as/

I joined an amateur radio club and experienced issues that make me question the competence of the club president and the board. So here's my list of things a club needs to do to make it as unappealing as possible:

[\[View original article or full version for list and other comment of interest\]](#)

<https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/1979snh/comment/ki660d4/>

Eventually, after reading thru many comments, I couldn't help but "air" my experiences as a "young" ham who is just starting his 10th year as an amateur radio operator. My comments were:

My "home club" suffered from much of what was mentioned above and so much more when I first became involved in amateur radio almost a decade ago. To make things worse, there was a "clique" of like 6 people. If you weren't one of them... you & your opinion didn't matter. It was even to the point that they'd have "secret society" meetings (they called them "Executive Committee meetings") minutes before the regular club business meeting... allegedly to discuss what would be allowed to be discussed at the regular meeting. If a topic wasn't pre-approved during this EC meeting, then it would NOT be allowed to be brought up at the regular meeting. Oh, and NO regular member was allowed in these meetings! PERIOD!

With some persistence and the threat to the aged clique's health during the "pandemic", club leadership has now changed hands and changes to the club have taken place. In my opinion, the club has greatly improved... there are no longer any "secret society" meetings... ALL meetings are open to the membership and most are open to the public. We have added "Tech Night" where we work on and discuss each other's projects. We have also added a monthly exam session!

When I first joined there was two events you could talk about each year. One annual public service event and Field Day. Now, we have a few public service events we help out with and also participate in more "contests" than just Field Day.

(Continued on page 4)

Besides events, our relationships with the local emergency managers & their offices have grown and we now have a youth committee who is actively working with other youth organizations in the area.

Anyway, I guess my point is that clubs can change and that I would encourage everyone to be patient and persistent towards the goals of sharing the hobby, being open to learn as well as to teach. Being closed-minded is usually the cause of problems in the club, so... strive to keep an open mind.

What say you? What are your thoughts about club activities? I know some think the "numbers" in the CVARA are down, but I'm pretty optimistic. I think we have a good & active group. Take the tower project, for instance. Even though our group is "small", we have been able to raise \$15k towards replacing the damaged tower. This is a project that right from the beginning we knew it was going to be a multi-year project and one that would cost in the ballpark of \$30k.

I do know that there are many members who wish they could be more active, but like me... they still have a daytime job. The majority of retirees that I know in the club have largely claimed health reasons for their lack of involvement. Though some are "snow birds" who will come back with warmer Spring weather. What's your "excuse"? What could the club do to encourage you to become more active & involved? If it's a personal issue or a disagreement with club leadership... I encourage you to let us (the club officers) know what it is and what can be done to help resolve the issue.

73,

Matthew Jenne
WZ2I

ARES This Month

ARES training this month will be Saturday February 3rd at 9:00 am in the Chenango County EOC. The training will consist of pre planning for next summers public service events. These include General Clinton Canoe Regatta, Gus Macker 3 on 3 basketball tournament and the Unadilla Motocross races. Please plan on attending and providing your best input.

73, Tom KC2SFU

And So It Should Be Written

By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian

Chapter 18

You can be sure that the '70s will be remembered as the decade of the FM repeater. Not because FM repeaters were “invented” in the 70's, they actually appeared much earlier. It was during this decade amateur FM repeaters on VHF and UHF “took off” and literally reshaped the 2 Meter, 1.25 Meter and the 70-cm bands. Even though repeaters had been in use on 5 meters back in the 1930's they were nothing more than experimental machines and never gained much popularity. During the 1950's AM repeaters began appearing, scatted throughout the nation. The idea had been sown!!

May 1978 brought about the use of the completed shack, including the Custom-Made, Wood Burned Issue of our Official Station Sign, designed by our own Tony Sharki, WB2DTW. And so it came to pass, WR2AFA was assigned to CVARA, now in full temporary operational status from our location at what is now considered 225 Whites Hill Rd., Guilford, Chenango Co.,New York. - Photos below.



Now you would think that being new to the Amateur Repeater scene, our membership would have opted for a commercial grade system, maybe from VHF Engineering, Division of Brownian Electronics, Corp., Water Street, Binghamton, NY. That might look something like the following.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. We had on-hand, one genuine electronics tinkerer who loved nothing more than a good challenge. Those of you older members will surely remember our resident expert and challenge taker, Joe Pinkney, WB2VNM (SK). While Marv, K2VIV (SK)

REPEATERS
RPT-50, RPT-144B, RPT-220B and RPT-432B

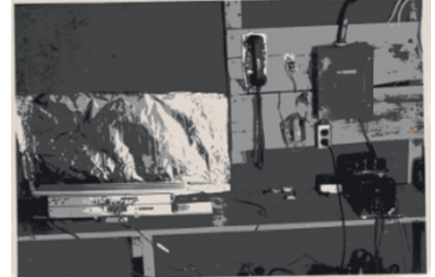
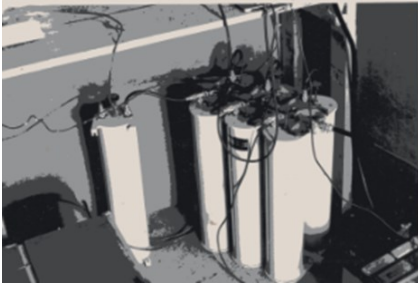
Why make do with a converted Mark II Gizwachi when you can get a complete repeater designed for Hams by Hams, AT A PRICE YOU CAN AFFORD. The RPT 144B, RPT 220B and RPT 432 are self-contained — all solid state machines. Conservatively rated, high quality, components deliver EXCELLENT RELIABILITY. Careful consideration has been given to both interfacing and control flexibility.

The Models RPT-50, RPT-144B, RPT-220B and RPT-432B are supplied as complete repeater systems. The receiver, transmitter, control circuitry, C. W. Identifier & 115/230 Volt AC power supply are all contained on a standard relay-rack panel and chassis unit. For most installations a user supplies AC power and suitable antennas with 50 OHM coaxial feed (PL 259 fittings). External connections for autopatch, tone control, etc. are provided. Built-in identifier programmed with up to 159 bits. Automatic emergency battery power changeover capability.

CIRCUITRY: All Solid State

(Continued from page 5)

was scouring about to secure a set of Band -pass-Reject Duplexers for 144-174 Mhz., Joe was busy at work producing his positively super version of CVARA's first complete home-brew repeater system. This version was designed and assembled with Joe's hamfest collection of tools, parts and wiring circuitry diagrams, all on a completely home designed aluminum chassis. How many of today's hams could accomplish that today?? See Joe and Marv's results below----



Joe's version of the repeater system lasted for several years and was reported to be, in all cases, operating most effectively and efficiently with little or no maintenance required.

One amusing anecdote concerning this system was my trips to the repeater site during the worst winter storms, snow up to my waist, and at times sub-zero temperatures, just to change or replace a blown 25 watt light-bulb.

To explain, this system was subject to temperature extremes, so a wooden box was made with breather holes to cover the repeater during the winter season. A 25 watt light-bulb placed inside the box was all that was needed to keep the repeater operational during those extremely cold days/weeks.

So as the repeater trustee, it was obviously my duty to make sure the system remained in operation at all times, whether the snow was only a few inches deep or 3 feet deep, say nothing about the sub-zero temps. Hi Hi ! We obviously survived and still here recalling those fun days of the 70's.

Ham radio operators learn their craft as a hobby but through the versatility of our chosen past-time, we are often called upon by professional and volunteer emergency services to relay messages and assist in emergency data collection.

The members of CVARA have been included in the "lifesaving fraternity" in the past, through transmitting actual emergency messages and by participating in natural disaster drills. While having amply served in these capacities in the past, the CVARA hopes to increase its usefulness through the acquisition of this vital piece of equipment. A piece of equipment which receives messages from one location and re-transmits them, as to provide a greater range for radio communications.

Because the repeater is approximately 1,800+ feet above sea-level, the apparatus provides for a wider coverage area, estimated from 200 to 500 miles and demonstrated this capability by calling on ham operators in Smyrna, Greene and Skaneateles. "Before we had the repeater, communications were restricted to "line of site" transmissions!"

The four cornerstones of successful ham radio operating are: knowledge, skill, dedication and courtesy. Skill is a product of operating ability and repeated practice so the mechanics become almost second nature. Dedication involves spending the time to learn, then applying that to your enjoyment of this rich hobby. Courtesy in Amateur Radio goes beyond just being considerate and extends to being helpful to others. Ham radio is virtually an untapped communications tool.

K2DAR



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024

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

April 25, Exam Session

February 15; Tech Night

May 2, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St, Norwich

February 22; Exam Session

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

May 16, Tech Night

March 21, Tech Night

May 23, Exam Session

March 28, 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.*

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

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

April 18, Tech Night

April 20, Bull Thistle Hamfest, St Bart parish Center,

February 2024

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

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.....

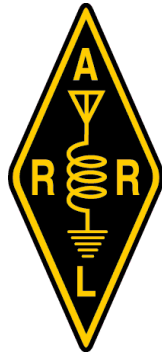
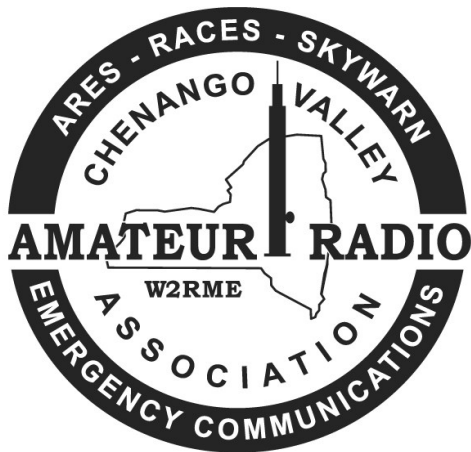
Thomas Mathewson
680 Plymouth N. Norwich Rd
Norwich, N.Y. 13815

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 March 2024 Bugle is February 20, 2024



PO Box 1324
Norwich, N.Y, 13815