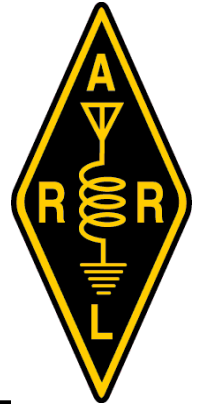




THE BULL THISTLE BUGLE



“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. 60 March 2024

If you are a person who just needs to understand how things work, amateur is for you. We have been a community of experimenters and makers for over 100 years. Amateur radio combines wireless technology, electronics, computing, and satellite technology to create an endless selection of technology related projects for the hobbyist.

Many of these projects are ideally suited for the youth of our communities. They are intertwined with both Scouting and school curriculums. Amateur radio plays an important part in NASA's educational activities, giving students an opportunity to talk to the International Space Station. Scouting involves a number of merit badges which easily relate to amateur radio including radio, electronics, computing and space. Building your own radio, talking to people all over the world or tracking the next satellite as it passes overhead is exciting for youth of all ages.



Amateur radio is a public service. We provide communication for events throughout our communities. Canoe races, motocross races and basketball tournaments are an important part of our yearly activities. We Work closely with public officials during disasters providing ad-hoc communications.

It is the highest aspirations of the Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association to help others achieve their goals in this amazing hobby. We look forward to getting to know how you would like to enjoy the hobby of Amateur Radio.

Thank you, Tom Monday
President - Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Assoc.

CVARA Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2024

Called to order at 1910 by President Tom Monday (KC2SFU) held at the Grange Hall in Norwich.

Minutes:

Motion to accept minutes as printed in the Bugle by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM) 2nd by Matt Strong (K2FRY); Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented by Matthew Jenne (WZ2I) 2nd by Jon Englert (W2BDN); Motion passed

Committee Reports:

Youth/Education:

ARES/RACES: Meeting to begin discussions for this summer's events including Canoe Regatta, Gus Macker & Unadilla MX

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:

Membership: Matthew Jenne (WZ2I) presented his work in progress copy of an annual promotional edition of the Bugle to be distributed at public events and to the public in general.

Tower: Tom Monday (KC2SFU) reported that there have been no responses to our RFP to date.

Hamfest: The flier & website will be updated. John Rudolph (N2YP) will work on getting other door prizes.

Old Business:

Equipment to sell: Tom Monday (KC2SFU) brought in roughly \$300.

Generator Maintenance: Jon Englert re-

ported that he was waiting for the repair tech, but we were on the schedule.

New Business:

Election of Officers: Election of officers was brought to the floor.

Matthew Jenne (WZ2I) Moved to suspend the bylaws in relation to Election of Officers due to being behind the required timeline. Jon Englert (W2BDN) seconded. All Ayes

The reason for the suspension of the bylaws was because the bylaws specify Election of Officers taking place at the February Meeting. This could have happened, even though we were late in other regards (establishment of Election Committee, etc) but the membership decided to hold elections off until the March meeting. This way more of the membership could be involved... should they choose to attend the meeting.

Nominations made on the floor were as follows:

President: Tom Monday - KC2SFU
Vice President: Tom Mathewson - AD2TM
Treasurer: Emily Goehner - WA2LFI
Secretary: Matthew Jenne - WZ2I
Director: Jon Englert - W2BDN

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 20:10 by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM), 2nd by Jon ENglert (W2BDN).

Attendees: WZ2I, AD2TM, W2BDN, NK2A, KC2SFU, K2FRY, W2CTX, WA2LFI

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

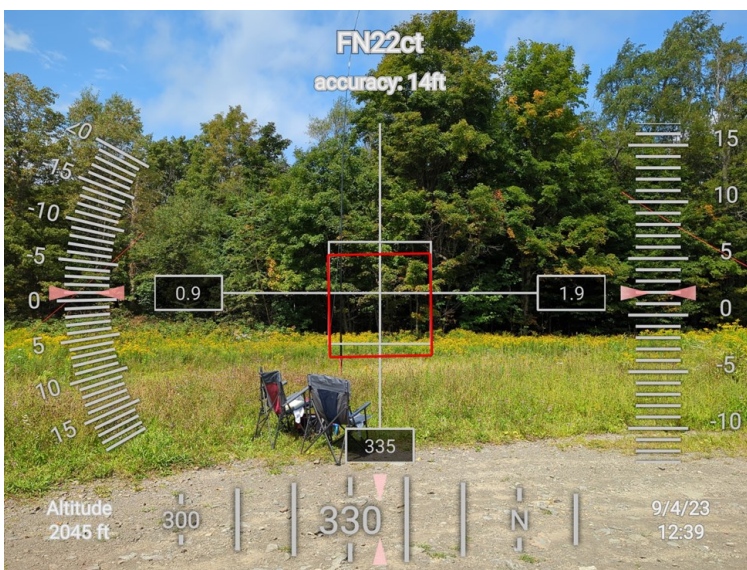
NYS Parks Centennial, POTA and SOTA, fun for all!

If you were licensed and active in 2016 it would have been hard to have missed one of the most successful year long operating events the ARRL has ever had. National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) was a program to help celebrate the Centennial of the National Park System (NPS) and produced over 1.1 million contacts from 460 of the 489 qualifying entities under the NPS control.

NPOTA was so popular that after it was over people wanted to continue and the Parks On The Air (POTA) was born. POTA expanded to include state parks along with the National Parks. This change makes it a lot more accessible to most people, as there are far more States Parks, 11,093 in the US territory with 10,726 within the 50 states, than there are National Parks (489).

On April 18th, 1924 the New York State Council of Parks was created to “plan development and set standard policies for all New York state-owned parks, reservations, and historic sites that were not under the authority of the New York State Conservation Commission (which notably included those lands that comprised the Forest Preserve in the Adirondacks and Catskills)” [1]. This makes 2024 the Centennial of the NYPS, and to help encourage people to enter and enjoy our beautiful parks the Centennial Challenge, <https://parks.ny.gov/100/challenge/>, has been created. Most of the challenges are easy to do while at a park, and there are plenty of parks in our area to explore. It would be great to get as many New Yorkers out into the parks as possible.

Solar cycle 25 has been showing life and recently 10m has been hopping during the day. This means Technicians can make plenty of world wide contacts, including FT4 or FT8! To take advantage of the band conditions, the SOTA group is having a 10m challenge for 2024 [2] to encourage people to get on the band. This is great for US Technician license holders, since you know plenty of hunters will be looking for activity here.



By joining both programs, you can activate a *2fer*, a single location that counts for 2 different programs/entities, at a drive up POTA + SOTA location in Southern Madison county, just off Route 80 between Georgetown and Sheds. There is enough room that a few different people could set up and operate within the activation zone and not be right on top of each other. Below is a picture of my activation last year. I know it is hard to see the mast and antenna, that is because they are portable and can be hard to see.

If you have ever been interested in doing a POTA/

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SOTA activation or are interested in portable operating, this is a great time to jump into the fun! It is common to have multiple operators 'pass the mic' and produce multiple contacts for the chasers, so if you are interested in trying out an activation and you would like to do it with some company, let me know!

Hope to run into you at a park this year!

—... —

Don KB2YSI@gmail.com

1 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_State_Office_of_Parks,_Recreation_and_Historic_Preservation

2 - <https://reflector.sota.org.uk/t/its-time-for-the-2024-10m-challenge-part-1/33841>

And So It Should Be Written

By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian

Chapter 19

Bits & Pieces

*The year 1917, during the depths of World War I, amateur Radio was banned from the airwaves. Even so, there was much excitement over the infant art of transmission and reception by wireless. The fact that amateurs formed a pool of trained radio operators didn't go unnoticed – Hiram Percy Maxim made certain of that – and some 4000 hams eventually wound up in the service of the nation. The word “service” is important here for it emphasizes one of the fundamental functions of Amateur Radio – to be of service to the public and to the nation. The war finally ended in November 1918. During the hostilities the Navy had been placed in control of all US radio. As hams in uniform streamed home they expected, quite reasonably, that the Navy would rescind the 1917 order that had closed them down. That was not the case. The Secretary of the Navy refused to permit amateurs back on the air. The Navy seemed determined to maintain control over all radio services, even in peace-time, with Amateur Radio seemingly not on their list of useful radio services!

Luckily, objections from the ARRL and others to congress resulted in political pressure being brought forth through pending legislation, but the Navy still refused to permit the resumption of amateur operations. A House Resolution “directing” the Navy to end the prohibition on ham operations resulted and the Navy finally complied. The logjam was broken and Amateur Radio returned to the US in November 1919. This episode was nearly textbook example of how the collective strength of thousands of amateurs can move mountains in Washington sometimes.

*December 7, 1941, the advent of World War II demolished amateur radio. The market for amateur radio gear collapsed as did the amateur radio magazine publications.

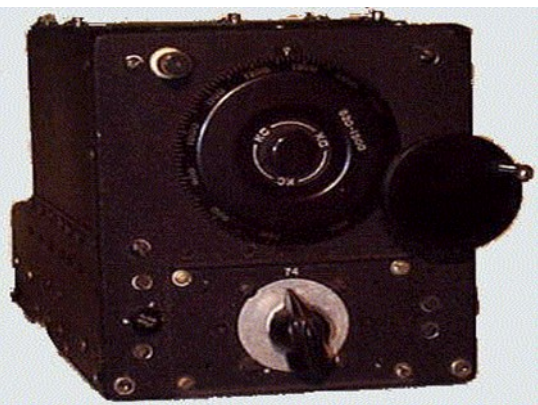
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*August 21, 1945, Four days after V-J Day, after being closed down "for the duration," hams were back on the air. After a long, cruel war in which most amateurs served (and many died), the amateur radio bands came back to life! Startup was slow with limited use and allocation of a portion of the 2 ½ meter band, a portion of 10 meters, 5 meters, the new 2 meter band and other VHF and microwave bands came into being.

* In 1946 the new 6 meter band was authorized while the old 5 meter band was delegated to TV Channel 2. By spring 1946 portions of 80 and 40 meters were relinquished by the military for amateur radio operations followed shortly by a chunk of the 20 meter band. By mid 1946 ten meter DX was in full operating mode. By November of that year, all the ham bands had been activated, with the exception of the 160 meters, a captive of the Loran navigating system.

*And so it was by the end of 1946 that amateur radio was launched in a direction that eventually led to a technical revolution that changed the face of amateur radio forever. But no one could foretell what was coming to pass.

*Initially, many amateurs had to make do with pre-war equipment or build from scratch. Manufacturers slowly geared up for some post-war receivers. New designs were in the works. Collins Radio was adapting a military receiver design to the amateur bands (soon to be known as the 75A-1). But the first post-war production receivers were warmed over, pre-war designs. Old timers remember the new Hallicrafters S-40, S-38 and SX-42. New miniature receiving tubes promised improved reception well into the VHF region and these were incorporated in some receivers. Imagine transmitting tubes at fire-sale prices! The 304TL for 75 cents! The 813 for \$6.95! The 872 rectifier for \$2! Other astounding bargains were at hand. Surplus RG-8U coax for 6 cents a foot! A kilowatt plus plate transformer for \$19.95! And don't forget the 807's for 65 cents! How many remember the ARC-5/SCR-274N communications system, or the BC-348 HF communications receiver??



*The second half of the 1950s launched a period of unparalleled technical change in amateur radio. Before the next decade was out, single sideband and solid-state design would be firmly entrenched. VHF repeaters would be on the scene and ham radio would even be in space. It was an exciting time

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to be a ham.

*Unlike the vacuum tube, which took over a decade to become a practical and reliable device, the transistor overwhelmed the communications industry in a few short years. Consumer products employing those strange creatures called transistors began appearing and construction articles using transistors began appearing in the ham magazines. Just as the spark operators had to learn about vacuum tubes in the 1920s, now the tube buffs had to hit the books and learn about transistors.

*Another hint of things to come occurred in January 1953 when Ross Bateman, W4AO, and Bill Smith, W3GKP, working together at Bateman's Falls Church, Virginia station, heard echoes of their own 2-meter signal reflected from the Moon. So began the era of moonbounce communications between amateurs.

*By 1957-58 ham radio was in full post-war flower. The sunspot cycle peaked at an all-time high of 201. Worldwide DX was available to even a modest station on 50 Mhz. DXCC and WAZ awards were flourishing.

* A Novice station achieved WAC on the new 21 Mhz band. RTTY gained in popularity on the HF bands as some surplus Model 15 teleprinters hit the market. SSB equipment was readily available and simple to operate. Some choice DX even started to show up on SSB.

*The 1960s were exciting times for Amateur Radio. The decade brought us amateur moonbounce, OSCAR satellites and FM repeaters. Still, the 60s will forever be remembered by old timers not for exciting technical achievements, but for something quite different: incentive licensing. (Much has been written on this subject over the years and full details are available on-line should you wish to examine all that has transpired to date).

See you in April ... 73, de K2DAR

ARES This Month:

Our regularly scheduled ARES training session will be canceled due to a scheduling conflict on my part. See you all next moth.

73, Tom KC2SFU

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024

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

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

May 16, Tech Night

May 23, Exam Session

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

June 21 , Tech Night

June 22—23 Field Day , General Clinton Park , Bainbridge

June 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.

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

March 2024						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 meeting	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Tech Night	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Exam Ses- sion	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.....

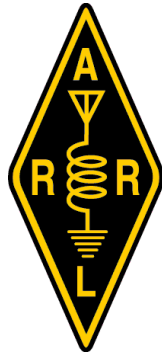
Thomas Mathewson
680 Plymouth N. Norwich Rd
Norwich, N.Y. 13815

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 April 2024 Bugle is March 20, 2024



PO Box 1324
Norwich, N.Y, 13815