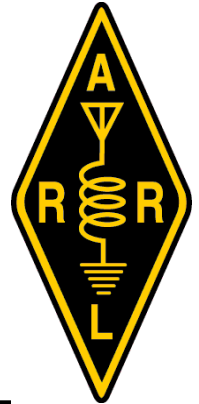




THE BULL THISTLE BUGLE



“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 April 2024

April 20th is our annual ham fest. Is this our 6th already? It started life as an Open House and I think it's fair to say it has grown every year.

We will have presentations, a swap meet and a VE session. Most importantly we will have a chance to see other hams we haven't seen for a while.

For a few years before we started having our ham fest a number of use would question if we could pull off an event like this. I think it's fair to say it s worked out for use. The fact is, it only works because so many of you have helped make it work. Each year we have all chosen to take part, pick an activity and shown up. More then ever, we need you to show up again. Maybe to help in the parking lot for a while or at the VE session. Please consider helping out.

The ham fest has always been an important financial event for the club. Maybe our biggest, but I've said from the beginning that we should do it even if we only broke even. I have always enjoyed the comradery of meeting face to face with operators that I've only talked to on the air. It is good for the club and it is good for ham radio.

Please send me an email and let me know how you would like to help.

73, Tom KC2SFU

CVARA Meeting Minutes for March 7, 2024

Called to order at 1900 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 Mathewson (AD2TM); Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM) 2nd by John Rudolph (N2YP); Motion passed

Committee Reports:

Youth/Education:

ARES/RACES: Hospital Drill/activity on 3/14 @ 10am. W2BDN will be at the repeater site... any may join him there. KC2SFU will be in the hospital's radio room.

Tour of Barnes Hill county site on Saturday, 3/16 @ 9am.

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 nearly final copy of an annual promotional edition of the Bugle to be distributed at public events and to the public in general. Some edits were suggested. Lois Strong (NK2A) offered a roll of stamps towards mailing costs. Tom Monday (KC2SFU) offered to cover printing costs.

Tower: Tom Monday (KC2SFU) reported that there have been no responses to our RFP to date. Matt Jenne (WZ2I) has made contact on FB with Ray (W2RE) of Radio Echo Communications. He and his son install & climb towers all over as well as run the site remotehamradio.com. Matt will follow up with him.

Hamfest: Coming up quick!

Field Day: Tom Mathewson (AD2TM) asked for all to look at your schedules and see who could be there and what you may be able to bring. One "goal" we have for this year is to do our best to keep all transmitters on

the air for the duration of the event. Many years we have had plenty of operators Saturday afternoon & early evening as well as Sunday late morning & afternoon. We are looking to fill some gaps for the overnight hours.

Old Business:

Generator Maintenance: Jon Englert reported that he was waiting for confirmation that the repair tech had been there. It is believed that they have been there, but he can't say for certain.

New Business:

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

Matthew Jenne (WZ2I) presented the nominations previously made, opened the floor to further nominations, and subsequently closed the floor to nominations.

As there were no further nominations made from the floor, John Rudolph (N2YP) made a motion that the Secretary cast one ballot for each nominee, thereby making the nominated officers the official. Mike Barnard (KD2CDU) seconded the motion. All ayes, motion passed.

2024-2025 officers 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 20:20 by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM), 2nd by Jon ENglert (W2BDN).

Attendees: WZ2I, AD2TM, W2BDN, NK2A, KC2SFU, K2FRY, WA2LFI, N2YP, KD2CDU, KE2BID

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

ARES This Month:

Our monthly ARES training for April will be held at the City of Norwich Police station, 2nd floor EOC. April 6th at 9:00 a.m. We will spend the time getting to know the permanently installed equipment and making changes as needed. It has been a while since we have spent much time with our station there and this will be an excellent opportunity to make some improvements.
Hope to see you there.

73, Tom KC2SFU

Amateur Radio Ham Radio Maidenhead Grid Square Locator Map

Ever wonder where a specific Grid Square is, but did not have a map handy? Ever wonder what grid square a certain city is in? Ever wonder where the person you just chatted with on the air is? Well maybe this web site can help answer these questions,

https://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php

You can enter a city, state or zip code. You can enter a valid callsign, or any four or six digit grid squares and the site will bring up a google map with the grid square outlined.

Hope this helps someone find that elusive grid square.

73 Tom AD2TM

And So It Should Be Written

By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian

Chapter 20

More Bits & Pieces

While growing up in the Southern Tier of NY State, during the 1940's-1960's, I began my journey into the Radio Wave Spectrum as a Short Wave Listener. To this day, I still enjoy tuning about the HF frequencies, hearing signals that travel to my radio from the other side of the Earth. Of course these days, I might actually transmit back!! So you might ask, what's this writer trying to say about the evolution of the technology during his 56 year career as a ham operator, and what prompted his desire to take on the challenges of HF operations?

As mentioned in earlier chapters, the '40s arrived with US hams still active on the air, but DXing was essentially a thing of the past. By June 1940 the FCC issued an order prohibiting American hams from contacting foreign stations. Portable and mobile operations on frequencies below 56 Mhz were also prohibited. The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 brought the US suddenly at war. Amateur activity in the US screeched to a halt, although those on the home front kept their technical and operational skills honed on 112 Mhz, as members of the War Emergency Radio Service. This service was important and was taken very seriously by the participants, but it still lacked the freewheeling pleasures of normal ham operations.

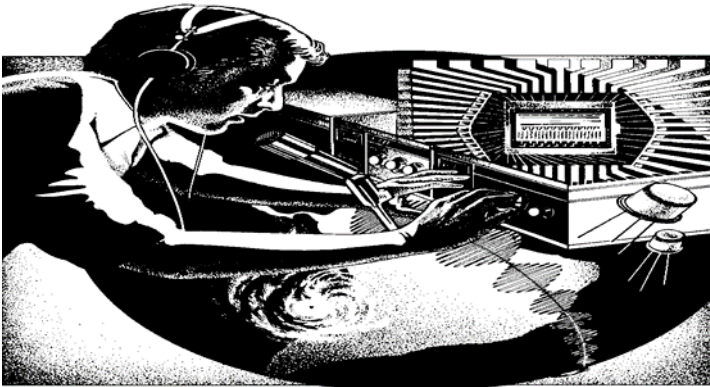
The 1950's brought out the DX enthusiasts in force as it was such a thrill to work DX after years of silence. Twenty and 10 meters were open to the world, and transoceanic QSOs on 6 meters came about in late 1946. Best of all, amateur radio had a new 15 meter band. During this time period upward of 230 countries had been worked by avid Dxers! The WAZ and DXCC lists grew longer, and more and bigger DX contests were being initiated followed by these enthusiasts turning toward 3-Element rotary beams for the higher bands and 30 element arrays were being used by some of the "big guns" on 144 Mhz. The era of the big antennas arrives.

The 1960s, as stated, was an exciting time for Amateur Radio, locally, nationally and internationally. This writer, once introduced again to the term "Ham Radio" got hooked quite easily. How could you not notice the excitement and enthusiasm of co-workers at GLA, the members of the newly formed Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association and the numbers of established ham operators in the area.

Late fall, early spring 1968 was the time to hit the books studying for the "Novice" exam, not forgetting the 5 WPM Morse code requirement in the mix. With the help of good friends and neighbors, already licensed operators, passed the code requirement, the written exam and was issued his first FCC License as a new Novice ***.... April 1968 Callsign: WN2EYH.

***** Note: The Novice Ticket at this time was good for only one (1) year and non-renewable. Upgrade during this year or lose your privileges! More books and a 13 WPM code test!!**

(Continued from page 4)



While enjoying my entry level "Novice" privileges, my CW speed improved considerably, knowing full well that within the next few months I would be challenging myself to upgrade before the one year period expired. Experience during that year produced a logbook that had amassed over 356 CW qso's, mostly like minded Novices, with several seasoned hams assisting us newbies in the proper operating methods and procedures used on and off the air. Looking back on those days of "rock bound" frequency allocations & pow-

er output limitations, I was elated that I was able to contact 14 DX stations around the world with my somewhat shaky cw transmissions!

The DX bug and DX chasing format had taken hold with one obstacle facing me right now.

The General Class ticket came just 6 months later, in October 1968, when I shared a ride to the Syracuse FCC office with Tom Leahy (WB2MKD). He was intent on taking and passing the Extra Class exam as I was on taking and passing the General Class Exam (13WPM Code Test Required) Tom Leahy, as my mentor, had taught me well with his own study ethics & transfer of knowledge about CW and its on the air advantages. Needless to say, we both came out of the Syracuse office with smiles on our faces. We had both made the upgrade(s) to Extra and General class and were ready to hit the HF and DX frequencies with our newly granted privileges - Rays call now WA2EYH

Several changes came forth during 1968. Incentive licensing was still in a somewhat disheveled state and would remain with us for many years to come. In the fall of that year, * SSTV was authorized by the FCC and a review of phone patch circuits were being tested. *The sunspot cycle advanced rapidly in the early months and DX interest picked up. *Ten meters, the mother-lode of ham radio, would soon spring to life and that was a good omen. *The onerous proposal of separate call signs for each class of license was dropped. *The Novice license was extended to two years. * VHF phone privileges for Novices were dropped.*The incentive clause in the restructuring scheme specified frequency privileges in the HF bands applied to each license class. This was to be phased in over a period of time. * In addition, oddly, old-time Extra Class hams could apply for a two-letter call for \$20.00. * An interesting ad in "Ham Radio Magazine" run by Hewlett-Packard, featured the new HP-21 scientific calculator (\$125) for the home engineer and equipment builder. Goodbye to the trusty slide rule! Do you remember slide rules??

Well ladies and gentlemen, you now might be asking, what's all the hype about operating on the HF bands? Today, it seems the average ham licensee tends to favor all the new technology afforded on the market these days with little or no attention to the basis and beginnings of Ham Radio, as we know it today. I hear too many comments on and off the air voicing the opinion that there are too many appliance operators out there. Why do we allow that to happen? Comments like "oh well, it's only a hobby, something we do for fun!" Let's take a quick look at just one of the so-called new technology items: Cell Phones

Establishing a conversation on a cell phone, it becomes necessary to know whom you are calling, or at least the phone number. To say the least, many people recoil at the idea of accepting a phone call from someone they do not know, let alone just chatting with that stranger. Can you imagine yourself dialing up a number at random and saying, "Hi. My name is Jim and I live in North Carolina. What telephone are you using?" Never happen!!

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

While cell phones can be superior communicators, they have limitation/deficiencies that HF doesn't. Obviously a cell phone conversation is private, even isolating. No one except the callers can hear all sides of the conversation. On HF we can all "read the mail" so to speak, listening in and sharing thoughts during any conversation.

On HF, of course, you call CQ. You're always seeking out people you have never met – strangers until you meet them on the air. You cannot meet new friends on a phone, but hams do it all the time, and on a global basis, on HF. Modern consumer technology has nothing that compares. And you thought you had run out of ideas on how to use Amateur Radio. That in itself tells me HF will never die.

Local DXers remaining an inspiration in my mind, seeking out those elusive DX operators around the world, have included such names as Howie Bradley (W2GHH-SK), Thelma Morgan (K2OEW-SK)-, Dunc Copley (W2RME-SK), Tom Leahy (WB2MKD-SK), Tom McConnell (WB2YME), Stan White (WB2PPN), Don Bush (WA2TPU – All QRP Ops), John Witkowski (WA2QQF-SK)), Al Mongardi (K2EZK-SK), Kurt Stietz (K2MGR), Jim Leahy (KA2AOT), Marv Druskoff (K2VIV-SK), Tony Sharki (WB2DTW-SK), Tony Masi (N2GVB-SK).Chuck Davenport (N2CHD).

Relative newcomers to the list include, Ed Lewis, (KC2WVX), Steve Burdick (N2BRD) and Ron Haynes (N2RLH), who has done an excellent job, in a relatively short time, his quest for DXCC status. Ron has worked, and received QSL card confirmation from over 200 countries of the world and continues to hunt those elusive entities.

Have I missed some of the opportunities available in the Amateur Radio World? Sure I have, but keeping my eye on HF operations has kept me alive and my mind as sharp as it can be, considering the age bracket in which I have arrived. On the HF bands, I have successfully operated AM, FM, SSB, CW, RTTY, SSTV, digital modes (FT-4, FT-8, PSK31, PSK63, PSK125) , Hellscriber, Olivia (250/500/1000), JS8, JT9, JT65 and others I have probably forgotten about.

On the VHF/UHF bands, I have operated FM, Voice and CW - Narrow and Broad Band ops, Packet Radio, Moon Bounce, Satellite Ops on 146/440 Mhz.- working the Russian Space Station "MIR" once using Packet Mode, another contact when they spoke in both the English and Russian, languages wishing everyone around the world a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year (1995-96) .

Another special treat was several contacts (VHF/UHF FM Voice) with ISS Mission 25, commanded by U.S. Army Col. Douglas Wheelock, Born 5/5/66 in Binghamton, NY, Graduate Windsor CSD, Honors Graduate West Point Military Academy with a BS Degree in Applied Sciences and Engineering, plus a Masters Degree in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech. Two minute

chats with the Colonel, but very enjoyable. *By the Way, I would say I may be the only local ham who, on 5/7/77 @ 18:45 UTC, completed a QSO on 10.25 Gigahertz FM 85mw output with a Gunplexer into a VHF Engineering 50WB Receiver ... Any other takers??*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024

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

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

April 18, Tech Night

June 28, Exam Session

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

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 25, Exam Session

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

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

April 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 Session	26	27
28	29	30				

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.....

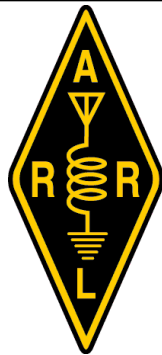
Thomas Mathewson
680 Plymouth N. Norwich Rd
Norwich, N.Y. 13815

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 May 2024 Bugle is April 20, 2024



PO Box 1324
Norwich, N.Y, 13815