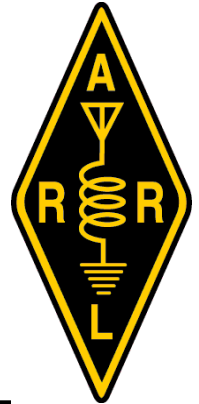




# THE BULL THISTLE BUGLE



“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 June 2024

I believe we will be successful in our goal of replacing our repeater tower this year. We have a plan, we have an experienced vendor, and we are well on our way to having the funds.

That said, we still have a lot of work to do. We need to complete the task of selling donated equipment. We need to complete our grant application. We need to arrange an install date. Again, I believe all of these task can be completed this summer and fall.

I would like to make a comment concerning the funding of this project. While we will need a grant to get us over the top to completion, in the end I suspect we will see the club's portion of the funding grow to over \$20K. The hard work by some and the amazing generosity by others in our club has been inspiring. To me, this is not surprising. Since I first joined the club I have been witness to it. Tony N2GVB (SK) just giving me my first antenna, Ray K2DAR showing me how to use my first tuner, or John WA2QQF (SK) telling me not to worry so much "just try it". The point here is we have a tradition to uphold and I think the future looks pretty good.

73, Tom KC2SFU

## CVARA Meeting Minutes for May 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 John Rudolph (N2YP) 2nd by Jon Englert (W2BDN); Motion passed

### Committee Reports:

#### Standing Committees:

**Membership:** Jon Englert (W2BDN) gave a general update about the Richfield Springs youth group & their search for study materials and grant applications.

**Audit:** Committee scheduled to meet at Tech Night (May 16) to review the financials.

**Community Service:** [ARES/RACES] No training this month. Our activity will be the General Clinton Canoe Regatta on May 25.

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

**Property:** Repeater: Discussed opportunity to link into the KB2FAF repeater to help extend our coverage during our nets. No objection noted. Tower: Matt Jenne WZ2I reported about the meet up with W2RE to discuss the tower situation. Also presented was W2RE's quote of \$20,000 to dismantle our current tower and stack a new Rohn 45 which the purchase of was also part of the quote.

Motion made by John Rudolph (N2YP) and seconded by Bill Pratt (K2WMP) to move forward with the W2RE quote for the Rohn 45 tower. For grant application purposes, we shall use this \$20k quote, plus allot another \$20k as our "glass ceiling" which will cover the purchase of new antennas, mounts, coax, tower grounding & other incidentals. Motion passed.

#### Special Committees:

**Hamfest:** Emily Goehner (WA2LFI) reported that the hamfest was "in the black" thanks to donations. Matt Jenne (WZ2I) reported that he already talked with the church's clerk about a date for next year. Motion was made by AD2TM and seconded by N2YP to reserve the date of March 29, 2025 with St. Bartholemews for our next hamfest.

**Field Day:** To be held at General Clinton Park in Bainbridge. Camping Friday & Saturday nights are permitted.

### Old Business:

#### New Business:

Richard Crow (N2SPI) has offered to donate several pieces of equipment for the club to sell and use the proceeds towards our tower replacement project. Among the equipment is a TS-2000x transceiver.

A motion was made by John Rudolph and seconded by Mike Barnard (KD2CDU) to accept the donated equipment, catalog it and sell it, forgoing normal club-owned equipment sales procedures. When listing the equipment, it was also suggested to take a poll whether the club would prefer to keep the TS-2000x and sell another radio, thereby improving the station at the club shack. Motion passed.

**County Equipment:** Tom Monday (KC2SFU) reported about a bunch of equipment that the county is looking to be rid of. A few members took a tour of the Barnes Hill facility and looked at the equipment. We will be working over the summer to remove what gear we would like for our own use (and maybe some to sell).

### For the Good of the Membership:

**Closing:** Motion made at 20:53 by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM), 2nd by Jon Englert (W2BDN).

**Attendees:** WZ2I, AD2TM, W2BDN, NK2A, KC2SFU, K2FRY, WA2LFI, N2YP, KD2CDU, KE2BID, K2WMP

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### **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](mailto:KB2YSI@GMAIL.COM) for details.--... ..-- Don, KB2YSI

### **ARES This Month:**

A huge thank you to those that helped with the General Clinton Canoe Regatta this year. We were a few operators short but managed to get the job done anyway with some operators pulling double duty. These public events are good for both training and public relations. While I tried to get a signal report from the park ahead of the event it wasn't until the day of that I realized that I was a little "directionally challenged" in the park. It's simply amazing how much better things work when your antenna is pointed in the right direction. Thanks again to all those that took part. If you were unable to make it this year please consider helping out next year.

Coming up in August we will have the Unadilla Motocross races. While this is primarily an AREDN / camera event, there is a need for a few operators along the Rt 8 corridor to provide information back to the command post at the track. Please consider helping out. The race is on August 10th this year. I will be out of town attending a family event so Matt Jenne will be leading our efforts for this event. Please lend Matt all the help you can. Unlike some of our events this one requires a lot of effort during setup. Please consider lending a hand

73, Tom KC2SFU

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## *And So It Should Be Written*

*By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian*

### *Chapter 22*

#### *More Bits & Pieces*

While the basis of amateur FM repeaters grew, mostly built of converted commercial equipment, a demand for low-cost mobile and hand-held equipment grew as well and was satisfied by both U.S. And foreign manufacturers. The market soon became flooded with new, mostly solid state mobile and portable equipment, thus making the ham FM repeater frenzy explode across the country. Early March 1972 a printed list of 2 meter repeaters was published showing 310 active in the USA and 52 in Canada. Obviously the repeater boom was in full swing, boosted by a lot of new FM gear. The Sonar, 5 Channel HT sold for about \$450, along with the Standard 2 meter repeater for \$640.00. Dozens of ads for VHF amplifier “bricks” ranging up to 50 watts of power were being promoted. Yaesu had the new FT-2 autoscan on the market, and VHF interest was boosted by the launch of OSCAR 6, a repeater (2 meters up, 10 meters down).

Japanese supremacy in the amateur radio equipment market was becoming a reality. The Kenwood TS-511 and Yaesu FTdx-570 were big sellers. Plenty of imported FM gear was available and new repeaters came on the air every day. As a result of this influx of repeaters coming on line, frequency allocations became cluttered. Because of QRM, the FCC finally formalized VHF sub-bands for the repeaters. What a mess it had been!!

Tubes started to disappear from construction articles, and by 1973 one survey showed that 25% of all dollars spent by hams was spent on VHF FM equipment, which accounted for a third of all units purchased.



Also accomplished early in the year 1974 was the licensing of VHF repeaters with “WR” calls – *Several of us remember repeater calls “WR2AFA” and “WR2APB” original calls allocated to CVARA during that period, later to be dropped per FCC ruling....* How about the start-up of an obscure manufacturer in Mississippi called MFJ? Few thought at the time that MFJ would flourish. Would it fade into oblivion, as had so many other garage-shop operations? Anyway, it couldn't compete with the Japanese manufacturers. Or could it??

Nothing seems to remain the same. While repeater systems were being brought up and put on-line, a new kind of revolution was quietly underway, thanks in no small part to our ham friends in Canada. Based on the digital computer this revolution was attracting interest from many technically oriented hams. Canadian experiments using packet techniques began in 1978, with a board capable of assembling and disassembling packets, which soon became available to the ham com-

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*(Continued from page 4)*

munity as kits. The kits sold extremely well and as the decade ended, there began a rush to amateur packet radio. A caveat ensued as unfortunately, ASCII modes were not allowed under FCC regulations. Experimentation by the Canadians was moving right along, but U.S. Hams could not legally converse on packet with each other or with their Canadian counterparts.

A significant event in 1979 occurred in Geneva at the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC). By the end of the conference, due in no small measure to superb planning and lobbying by the IARU delegation, hams had three new HF bands, at 10, 18 and 24 Mhz. In March 1980, the FCC finally permitted ASCII modes in the U.S. This coincided with the sudden rise in popularity of affordable personal computers. That's all it took to ignite amateur enthusiasm for packet radio and other digital modes.

Not so long ago one of our members, Joe Pinkney (WB2VNM) (SK) gathered himself all necessary tools, electronic parts and construction plans to put a fully functional 2 Mtr. FM Repeater system into operation, placing it at our Shumway Hill communications site. Mentioned in the previous paragraph, personal computers and the packet radio popularity quickly took its place in the annals of Amateur Radio history.

Joining our list of CVARA members contributing to the excitement of ham radio during this time period was none other than Tom Mathewson (KA2MYD). Tom, through quiet but productive study and research, began putting together a semblance of a Packet Station while testing, revising, testing and learning the necessary computer operating codes and protocol devised for this relatively new mode. Not to be outdone on this issue, Tom proceeded, with help from other interested hams, to build up a Packet Node, placing it at our club site on Shumway Hill. Beginning with links East & West (Oneonta & Cortland/Ithaca areas) provided the opportunity to transmit/receive packet messages thru other nodes in a relay process for widespread dissemination.

This writer's curiosity got the best of him and was quickly drawn into the computer age with the many opportunities that came about as a result. A Packet Connect with Space Station MIR ( R0MIR ) on 12/11/95 @ 22:19:15 UTC



```

### LOG ### Connected to R0MIR - Sun Dec 10 20:00:11 1995

### LOG: R0MIR:
cmd:*** CONNECTED to R0MIR
HELLO FROM SPACE STATION MIR !!!
Good Morning from Bainbridge, NY, USA (FN22GJ)
Tx for Connect - Pse QSL - 73 de Ray/WA2EYH
C R0MIR
*** retry count exceeded
*** DISCONNECTED

### LOG ### DISconnected from R0MIR - Sun Dec 10 20:02:45 1995

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Our existence can be best described as “A radio communications SERVICE of self-trained, intercommunication and technical investigation carried on by amateur radio operators.

The year 1990 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the CVARA, Inc., based in Norwich, NY. The Amateur Radio Service covers many phases of communications worldwide, not the least of which involves RADIOGRAM traffic. Amateur Radiogram service does not compete with other services since there are no charges and can be no guarantees. Provided FCC and International Regulations are complied with, messages may be accepted from anyone for sending via Amateur Radio.

*(Continued on page 6)*



(Continued from page 5)

Valentine's Day has always been a time of year to send our friends and loved ones messages of happiness and cheer, through greeting cards, letters, newspaper clippings, etc. CVARA, Inc. as part of its public service activities is making available to the general public Operation Desert Storm Radiogram Service. Beginning February 4, 1991, Radiograms of approx. 25 words will be accepted for forwarding to our military personnel in the Persian Gulf area. All messages accepted for forwarding are subject to FCC, International and Military Telecommunications regulations and/or restrictions in place at the time of submission. As stated previously, no charge is made for this service and there can be no guarantees. Blank message forms will be made available at various locations within the tri-county area. Messages will be picked up at regular intervals for processing & transmission by Packet Radio operators

The Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc. welcomes the opportunity to provide this service in support of our Armed Forces and Operation Desert Storm.

**RADIOGRAM**  
VIA AMATEUR RADIO

TO/NUMBER	PRIORITY	CLASS	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
105	R		W2ADN	28	Norwich NY	2300	2/28/91

\*\*\* PLEASE PRINT \*\*\*

TO: Sgt. James Jenkins  
Operation Desert Storm  
P.O. 12th Div. Spt. ACo NY 0902

PHONE NUMBER: ( ) - -

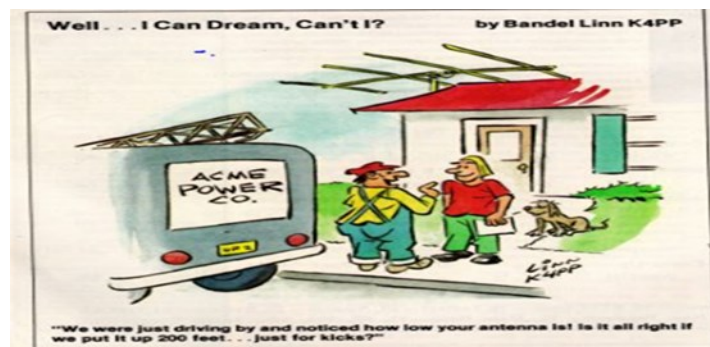
1 <u>H</u>	2 <u>H</u>	3 <u>X</u>	4 <u>H</u>	5 <u>A</u>
6 <u>Y</u>	7 <u>S</u>	8 <u>W</u>	9 <u>D</u>	10 <u>S</u>
11 <u>11</u>	12 <u>A</u>	13 <u>T</u>	14 <u>S</u>	15 <u>S</u>
16 <u>11</u>	17 <u>M</u>	18 <u>A</u>	19 <u>X</u>	20 <u>2</u>
21 <u>L</u>	22 <u>Y</u>	23 <u>A</u>	24 <u>A</u>	25 <u>Y</u>
26 <u>X</u>	27 <u>K</u>	28 <u>S</u>	29	30

SIGNATURE: Sgt. Jenkins

PERSON SENDING MESSAGE	
NAME	<u>Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Assoc.</u>
ADDRESS	<u>32 Locust St.</u>
CITY	<u>Norwich</u> STATE <u>NY</u> ZIP <u>13854</u>
PHONE NUMBER	<u>(607) 734-1111</u>

FORWARDED VIA: Packet  
 DATE: 02/28/91  
 TIME: 0134Z  
 MSG# @ BBS: #123  
 REMARKS:

THIS RADIOGRAM IS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY  
 THE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS OF THE  
 CHENANGO VALLEY  
 AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
 PO BOX 585  
 NORWICH, NEW YORK 13815



“That’s All Folks!” – See you in the July issue

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024

June 6, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St, Norwich

June 8, - Cortland Hamfest & Technology Fair, Cortland, NY

June 8,- LARA Outdoor Summer HamFest, Lockport, NY

June 20, Tech Night

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

June 27, Exam Session

July 11. CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St, Norwich Normal meeting night is July 4

July 13,- Roger's RAGS Hamfest, Camillus, NY

July 18, Tech Night

July 20, - Batavia Hamfest, Alexander, NY

July 25, Exam Session

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

Aug 3, Tompkins County Amateur Radio Association (TCARA) Hamfest Trumansburg, NY

Aug. 15, Tech Night

Aug 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.

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

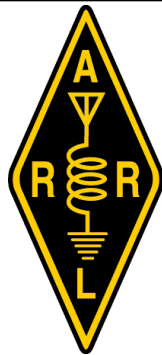
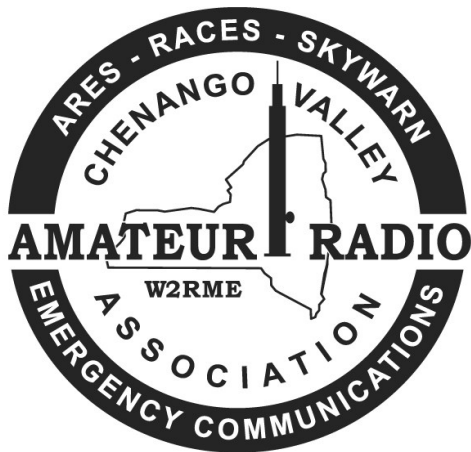
Thomas Mathewson  
680 Plymouth N. Norwich Rd  
Norwich, N.Y. 13815

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 July 2024 Bugle is June 20, 2024**



PO Box 1324  
Norwich, N.Y, 13815