



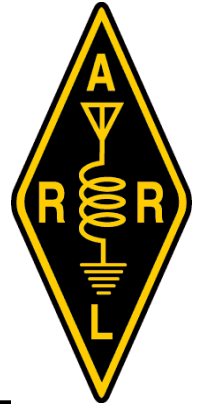
Published Monthly by the HAMS of CVARA

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 August 2024

The grant application for our tower replacement project was completed this past month. If approved, this will complete the fundraising phase of this project. Construction will start dependent on our contractors schedule. While there is much work to be done, I have high hopes this project can be completed this fall.

I think it is time to begin looking forward to our next priorities. As time permits, over the next few months, I will be soliciting your input on what these priorities should be. If I don't see you and talk to you about this please feel free to email me with your thoughts.

Off the top of me head, I believe that improving and reestablishing the systems and processes needed to turn those interested in ham radio into good operators and active club members should be high on our list. We see both new candidates and former members come in our door quite often. I think it is fare to say we are not good at helping them reach there goals in amateur radio nor getting them to be active in the club. Tell me, what could be more important?

73, Tom

CVARA Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2024

Called to order at 1900 on July 11, 2024 by President Tom Monday (K2SFU) held at the Grange Hall in Norwich, NY.

Minutes:

Motion to accept minutes as printed in the Bugle by Matt Strong (K2FRY) 2nd by Lois Strong (NK2A); motion passed.

Treasures Report:

Motion to accept Treasures Report as presented by Matt Strong (K2FRY) 2nd by Lois Strong (NK2A); motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Standing Committees:

Membership:

Audit:

Community service: Motocross event August 10th.

Publicly:

Property Repeater: W2BDN got in touch with Bob Bowman to have lawn mowed at the repeater site. Him and WA2LFI have shared the \$150 bill for the mowing for 3 times.

Special Committee:

Old Business:

New Business:

Motion to pay for mowing service for 3 more times made by W2BDN, 2nd by NK2A, motion carried
Grant Application is 99.9% complete set to go in within the week.

Need a list of what we want for equipment for the new tower.

Zoom meetings still in discussion.

For the good of the Membership:

Closing: motion made at 19.42 by K2SFU 2nd by W2BDN.

Attendees: K2SFU, KA2LFI, KD2ERR, KF6C, KG8MOE, K2FRY, NK2A, W2BDN, KD2VTH, K2HJ

Respectfully submitted Carralee KD2VTH

And So It Should Be Written

By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian

Chapter 24

Welcome To – August 2024

Few, if any, of the remaining members of CVARA, Inc. remember that the original repeater site was not at the location we presently occupy. The land we occupied originally was provided to us in a lease agreement (gratis) from Mr. Bourn's farm acreage, some 100 plus yards N.E. of the present site. The spot we occupied then was a high point overlooking the shale bed it sat upon. It offered an excellent panoramic view across the valley below, from the North-West to North-East. A great vantage point for VHF/UHF communications.

Saturday, June 20, 1981 turned out to be a dismal day which was not necessarily the result of grey skies and subsequent rain. Bob's (WA2TDO) proposed climb to the top of the tower to remove the antenna obstruction did not get him above the first 15 foot section. A serious crack was discovered in one leg of the tower and it was agreed that Bob should not venture above this point. A short length of galvanized pipe was clamped to this joint, and because of rain setting in, all agreed to call off any further tower work at that time. A familiar scenario folks??

What appeared as a greater threat to the existence of the repeater, was the continued excavation of the shale bed on which the repeater is located. A remark that the approaching excavation had reached a point close to the northern perimeter of the site in the area of the tower guy wires and that undermining of the point was taking place. A view of the site on June 20th indicated that excavation was continuing with no apparent end in site. A check with the owner allowed us use of an area within a 50 Ft. radius measured from the center of the repeater shack, including a right-of-way from the main road to the site. Clearly this had been encroached upon to a point where the excavation is within 10-15 ft. of the door to the shack. The original owner of the property passed away and it was inherited by the son. All we apparently had at the time was a verbal agreement with the son for continued use of the property. Post site activity discussions took place in Elly's (K2QHK) camper and Ray (WA2EYH), Repeater Trustee, agreed to meet with the current owner to determine our future status at the site.

Long story, short, after several meetings with the son (owner of the property) and legal council a plot of land was selected (approx. .75 acre) and agreed upon by the owner for purchase by CVARA. Legal paperwork was completed, discussed and approved by CVARA membership,

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(Continued from page 3)

A purchase price check was issued and paid to the property owner's son, transfer of ownership of the selected piece of property completed and paperwork properly recorded with Chenango County records.

Due to the continuing excavation in the shale-bed approaching our guy-wire ground mounts, and the crack in the tower leg, it was decided to dismantle the tower, sell what was salvageable as scrap metal. The building housing our repeater system had to be moved, with the property owners son offering to bring his tractor to our site, put skids underneath the building and skid it down to a location close to what is now the permanent site of our existing system. The rest is history as the story goes!!



Here We Go Again

Every once in a while, there is a single development that ranks up there with fire and the wheel – something that fundamentally changes the way people live, work or travel. Television in one that comes to mind (1949). But, before that, you have to go back to the turn of the century and the incredible changes

brought about by the electric light, the telephone, radio, the automobile and the airplane. The 1970's and 1980's saw more than one fundamental change, one which (while it may not seem that way now) would rival the invention of the printing press as a means of putting knowledge and information into the hands of the common man. Could I be talking about the personal computer?

Obviously, the power of the computer came of age in the '60s and '70s. But until around 1985 computers were huge machines, monstrously expensive and affordable only by the universities, big businesses and the largest government agencies. They had their own climate-controlled rooms and a staff of programmers and technicians to keep them running. I can personally attest to the above statement. While serving overseas, I witnessed the installation of one of those monstrously huge machines which was being housed and maintained in a completely climate and lighting controlled room within the compound I was assigned to.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Access to this room was strictly enforced and only those personnel responsible for its programming, maintenance and upkeep was allowed for some time. It was an amazing sight and equally exciting to witness the capabilities coming forth.

The story of the personal computer goes back to the early days, to the invention of the transistor, the integrated circuit and the microprocessor. But it wasn't until 1975 that it all started to come together. The year 1975 was a big one for the electronics world. Fifty million pocket calculators were sold that year; the \$50 electronic watch came on the market; Atari and Sears introduced the first home video game, "Hockey Pong," in time for Christmas. And the Altair 8800 appeared on the market. It was the first commercially available personal computer. It wasn't for the faint-of-heart, though. You had to build it from a kit and it had only 256 bytes of memory. But it was there. Just a year later two Californians named Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs built a computer in Wozniak's garage. They wanted it to sound friendly, so they called it the "Apple."

The year 1976, General Motors put the first microcomputer in a car. It measures fuel level and consumption, speed, battery voltage and oil pressure, calculates trip time and generally runs the engine. Also, in 1976 Canon introduced its AE-1, the first camera that uses a microprocessor to control exposure settings.

These days I have a computer on my desk and I don't have a support staff to run it or write programs for it. I'm writing this monthly Bugle entry with a word-processing program I bought at the store and installed myself. Even then, the computer could use the telephone to call other computers and exchange information with them. That was only the beginning!

Enough about computers. What else has transpired since the beginnings of the computer age? Stay tuned for the next episode and the history of CVARA, Inc. as we know it today.

From the vast collection of QSL Cards (well over 3,000) I will be sharing copies of selected cards received over the past 56 years. I hope you will enjoy the adventure and consider trying one of the fascinating aspects of ham radio. 73 for now de K2DAR - See you in September!



Morse code practice

Hello All in the CVARA family,

If anyone is interested in morse code practice, on the air or on the Internet, please email me at KB2YSI@GMAIL.COM and we can figure out what works for us!

---... ---

Don, KB2YSI

ARES This Month

Our August ARES activity This month will be the Unadilla Motocross national races on August 10th. Matt Genne will be leading this event, as I will be out of town. This public service event has been a big success in past years and has made a good impression on the served agencies.

AREDN, the main technology used for Unadilla has great potential for ham radio in the future. It can provide a versatile high speed data network in remote areas that many served agencies need. The networking skills needed to construct an AREDN are identical to those used commercially by companies worldwide and in all of our homes and radio rooms. They have become a valuable life skill.

That said, AREDN is not the only technology in use at Unadilla. Many times over the years ARES had acted as eyes on the ground to gather timely data using only a 2 meter mobile setup. Skilled operators still make a difference. I expect Matt will be contacting via email soon. Please consider helping him with the setup work in the days leading up to Unadilla and on the day off.

Thank you, Tom KC2SFU

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024

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

August 1, Doug's Fish Fry at Grange Hall, Norwich, to benefit Tower fund

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

Aug. 15, Tech Night

Aug 22, Exam Session

Aug 24- ROC City Net Hamfest, Location: Macedon, NY

Sept 5, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St, Norwich

Sept 7. 09/07/2024 - Lancaster Hamfest Location: Lockport, NY

Sept 19, Tech Night

Sept 26, 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.

August 2024

				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	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.....

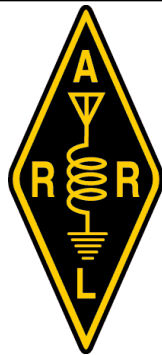
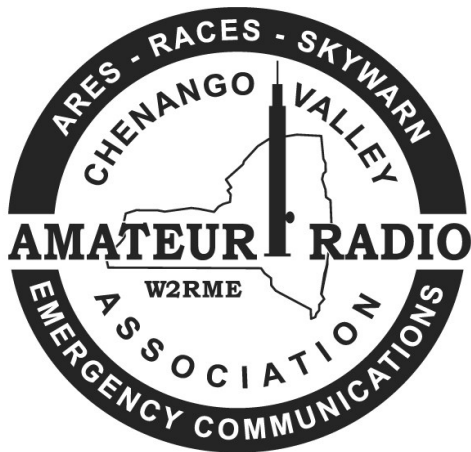
Thomas Mathewson
 680 Plymouth N. Norwich Rd
 Norwich, N.Y. 13815

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 September 2024 Bugle is August 20, 2024



PO Box 1324
 Norwich, N.Y, 13815