



Published
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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 K2FRY*



VOL. 61 August 2025

Thanks to years of hard work and generous donations from both our members and the community, we have successfully replaced our 100 foot radio tower (including new antennas, cabling, and accessories). In the end, most of our major communication problems have been solved, and we can even talk when it rains again. That's something worth celebrating!

To celebrate this milestone, we are proposing a September barbecue at the new tower site, with the final decision based on member feedback at the next meeting. The club will provide the meat through donations or club funds, and we will ask everyone to bring a side or dessert to share along with something for yourself to drink. We will also take time at the barbecue to thank the key people who made the largest impacts and did the most work.

This will be a great chance to see the new tower, get on the air, and enjoy some time together. Hope you will join us in making it happen.

Matt K2FRY

CVARA Meeting Minutes for July 3, 2025

Called to order at 1902 on July 3, 2025 by President Matthew Strong (K2FRY) held at the Grange Hall in Norwich.

Minutes:

Motion to accept minutes as printed in the Bugle by John Rudolph (N2YP) 2nd by Mike Mathewson (N2SAS); Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented by Dave Stearns (KD2ERR) 2nd by John Rudolph (N2YP); Motion passed

Committee Reports:

Standing Committees:

Membership:

Audit:

Community Service: No ARES/RACES meeting this month.

Related to the Canoe Regatta, KD2ERR & N2YP tested 70cm/cross band from KD2ERR's QTH.

Youth:

Publicity:

Property: Nothing major reported. Short discussion regarding ice bridge and grounding.

Special Committees:

Old Business:

Hamfest: Dates under consideration are 4/11 or 4/18. Discussed about checking with other area clubs to make sure ours doesn't conflict with others in the state.

Field Day: 52 Digital, 79 Phone contacts for a total of 184 QSO points. GOTA & VHF still to be added to the count. There was an article which mentioned our Field Day published in the Daily Star

New Business:

For the Good of the Membership:

Closing: Motion made at 20:00 by Jon Englert (W2BDN), 2nd by Dave Stearns (KD2ERR).

Attendees: K2FRY, AD2TM, WZ2I, KD2ERR, N1PF, W2BDN, N2SAS, WA2LFI, KD2CDU, N2YP

ARES This Month

Remember that the Unadilla Motocross is Saturday,
August 16, 2025
Final plans will be made Thursday night, August 14,

2025 at the Grang3e Hall on Hale St In Norwich,
NY.
73
Tom KC2SFU

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

The 100th anniversary of the wreck of the USS Shenandoah airship will be observed on August 31, 2025, in Ava, Ohio, where the ship crashed. The Cambridge Amateur Radio Association will operate special event station W8VP from 0400 - 0800Z on 7.230 MHz. A special event certificate will be available. The USS Shenandoah was the first of four United States Navy rigid airships. It was constructed during 1922 - 1923 at Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey, and first flew in September 1923. It developed the U.S. Navy's experience with rigid airships and made the first crossing of North America by airship. On the ship's 57th flight, in September 1925, Shenandoah was destroyed in a squall line of storms over southeastern Ohio. There will be a memorial service at the airship's crash site historic marker on September 3, 2025

The Yasme Foundation has awarded a supporting grant to cover the cost of amateur radio license exams for youth in Malawi, Africa. Nine people have participated in exams this past week, five for new licenses, and four for upgrades. The Yasme Foundation board is also acknowledging the ongoing work of amateur radio operator Don Jones, K6ZO, for promoting amateur radio in Malawi. Under his leadership, the HacDC Amateur Radio Club initiated the Malawi Project, which has helped license several new amateur radio operators in Malawi, the Comoros, and Uganda. The project now has a permanent home, the Jeffrey Dahn Memorial Foundation, established to honor former

club president Jeffrey Dahn, KB3ZUK, SK. The Dahn foundation's website provides additional information about its programs, projects, and how to send donations. Jones is in his second year living in Malawi, 8 months out of the year, helping young people get their amateur licenses. "It's fun," said Jones. "There is no licensing program here, but with the help of Yasme and DX Engineering, we can give these kids opportunities they would never have. This project is successful due to overwhelming support from the amateur radio community around the world." Jones added that there are now 11 youths who have licenses, including a 12-year-old girl who just passed her test. He hopes that 19 - 20 high school students will soon be licensed and an amateur station added at their school. Plans are underway to bring some of the new hams to the 2026 Hamvention®. Malawi is a landlocked country in southeastern Africa, bordered by Zambia to the west, Tanzania to the north and northeast, and Mozambique to the east, south, and southwest. It is considered to be one of least developed countries in the world with a population of over 22 million, approximately 85% of whom live in rural areas.

These articles came from the ARRL Letter for | July 31, 2025



And So It Should Be Written
By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian

Chapter 35

Presently I'm staring at my keyboard with so many thoughts while making a decision as to a subject matter to share as we rolled over into the year 2000. The story following is one to be remembered and fittingly titled:

Doomsday has arrived – The “Y2K” Scare

Did you ever look down the road and see something bad in the distance, like a police roadblock. You quickly ask yourself, did I forget to bring along my license or has my inspection sticker expired. Or you have to give a speech or a report and you worry you won't even be able to remember your own name when it becomes time to perform. Well now, think about it. Isn't life full of those horrible expectations? It's unfortunate though, that we tend to blow many of them all out of proportion. The following real time episode reminds me of one such event!

During the early weeks of December 1999 much talk and ideas were circulating through national, state and local organizations as to the possibility of disruption of essential services resulting from a potential assault from our own and outside entities. Rolling over into the year 2000 (“Y2K”) was becoming a major concern in many circles . Thoughts being processed : From President & Executive Director, Humanitarian Resource Institute ** Some 911 systems, sewage treatment plants, telephone companies and local utilities have not been audited by Y2K experts, so it will be difficult to determine to what extent these utilities may suffer from Y2K related failures ** Not all nursing home experts are ensuring that their facilities will be Y2K ready in the event of a prolonged disruption. Over 1.6 million Americans reside in nursing homes. ** Failure in embedded microchips in chemical plants may cause control problems resulting in accidents.** Chemical processes are built with layers of safeguards, so failure of various systems would have to happen to precipitate an accident.** However, accidents in the US and overseas have occurred when multiple simultaneous failures occurred. (A reasonable summation resulted: Multiple Y2K-related incidents may exceed the capacity of emergency response organizations).

Statements from local emergency management officials came quickly, such as: “For Y2K, any way that hams can help out to get an entity through a GENUINE crisis during Y2K night would be welcomed. Now, if it's just routine business, and not related to safety or health, business entities should not be relying on hams, and hams should not be participating in that regard. For Hospital communications, if there's a REAL problem during Y2K night, hams can help out even when the hospital is a for-profit entity, because the situation would no doubt impact health and welfare”. But then, all the stops were pulled and knowledge of what others are doing with Amateur Radio came pouring in via ARES/ RACES, American Red Cross, Nat'l Weather Service, NYSEG, NYS Police, Various Fire Dept's, County EMO's & a surprise request from the US Coast Guard requesting amateur radio operators to stand by, ready to assist them. Looks like amateur radio is getting the recognition that it deserves!

An excerpt of an original message received from FEMA, Mt. Weather, Berryville, VA on Tuesday 07 Dec. 1999

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Quote: Effective 00:00 EDT (0500Z) 29 December 1999, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be activating the National Emergency Coordination Net (NECN) in response to a potential communication outage resulting from the Y2K threat. The NECN is designed to provide backup command and control communications links in support of the Federal Response Plan by providing Federal Emergency Response Personnel with a common HF Frequency for the exchange of information, coordination of activities, and to request assistance.

Federal Response Plan support agencies should designate one or more Key HF Radio Stations to provide Liaison between FEMA and your agencies command structure. Those stations should check in and maintain contact with the Net Control. Net Control will be WGY-912, located at FEMA'S Mount Weather Emergency Assistance Center (MWEAAC) near Berryville, VA. This station will be opened 24 Hrs daily for the duration of this activity. The FEMA Federal Regional Centers will assist the FEMA Net Control Station by acting as Alternate Control Stations for this net. Those Alternates are as follows: Region 1, Maynard, MA; Region 4, Thomasville, GA; Region 6, Denton, TX; Region 8, Denver, CO and Region 10, Bothell, WA.

Termination of NECN support will be based on the passing of the Y2K event & availability of commercial communications services as determined by the FEMA CIO.

On/about 26 December 1999 a message was sent on the NY State RACES net on 3993.5 kHz as follows:

New York State Races Drill - "New York State Emergency Management Office will be staffed from 1930 hours, Thursday December 30 and on 3995 Khz." Upon inquiry, it was confirmed that this was not just a training message. Content is clear that the State EOC in Albany will be manned and operational December 30 using standard frequency 3955 Khz , time duration unknown. Message received and acknowledged. Be prepared!!

Nat'l Wx Service Office in Binghamton will be manned Dec. 31 to Jan 01 by an amateur radio op. who will poll their 24 county forecast area for weather updates. Skywarn spotters are requested to monitor their Skywarn repeater frequencies and report current wx conditions. The facility will be manned from 2200 to 0100 hrs. local.

American Red Cross encouraged to work with their volunteer amateur radio ops who have home or chapter HF radio capability to test networks in preparation for a need of long distance backup communications during the Y2K rollover. Chapters should check in during the period of one hour BEFORE midnight LOCAL TIME December 31. Stations monitoring are: East Coast K4ARC Red Cross Nat'l HQ; Midwest K0TCB, Red Cross, Kansas City, MO; West WA6AFV Red Cross, Oakland, CA. Frequency 7.280 Mhz +/- 10. NY State Police Barracks, (HQ Troop

C-Sidney) to be manned from 1000 Hrs., Dec. 31st to 0100 Hrs. local Jan 01, 2000. Troop C HQ was fully staffed with communication operations provided by NY State RACES/ARES, (an amateur radio operator for VHF/UHF voice and possible Digital Mode operations requested), ARC, NYSEG, NWS, FEMA etc. NY State Electric & Gas Offices in Walton, Oneonta and Norwich to be manned with possible HF/VHF/UHF capabilities, with same time frames as others listed above. Chenango County EOC, Delaware County EOC & Otsego County EOC were all activated for this event using whatever HF/VHF/UHF capabilities were available during the rollover period. (Herkimer County_RACES was on standby mode from 1730 local time on Dec. 30th until 1215 local time on Jan.1) Other facilities

operational during this period include Oneonta Fire Station/City EOC and the Oneonta State Police Barracks.

Repeaters active during the Y2K event included: WX2BGM (Binghamton Airport) 146.685 Mhz; KF1L, Broome County EOC 146.730 Mhz; WC2AGO Chenango County EOC 146.685 Mhz; NC2C Otsego County EOC 146.850; K2TFL, Walton/Delaware County EOC 147.315 Mhz; Cherry Valley Repeater 145.350 PL 167.9 and Cooperstown Repeater 146.640 Mhz. Operators active at this time included: Paul DeAndrea, WB2IOW and Terry Kennedy, N2KPR at the NYSEG station, Oneonta; Jim LeBaron, WA2IAX - Walton NYSEG station; Jerry Batik, K2TNN Delaware County Red Cross station; Brian Webster, N2KGC on duty with the military in one mobile satellite communications vehicle at Oneonta State Police station; In addition, Terry Kennedy, N2KPR to provide liaison coverage, if needed, on HF and 2 meters from his Emergency Station in Milford which has emergency back-up power; Mike Basile, N2NQH Oneonta EOC;

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Fred Stevens, KB2SYT and KA2MYD Chenango County EOC, Norwich; Ray Darling, WA2EYH, Troop C HQ, NY State Police Barracks, Sidney; Tony Sharki, WB2DTW, Norwich NYSEG station. Local operators monitoring & providing additional support included Joe Dolgos, KA2ZFM Mt. Upton, Deb Shuster, KC2FOY Burlington Flats; Al Schroer, WA2TTD Rockdale; Fred Prindle, WB2WYU Coventry; Les Gaff, KB2TIO Morris; Dave Rounds, N2ZMX Norwich; Jeff Verry, AA2YG North Norwich; Joe Toriello, KB2KIR S. Edmeston/Portable; Chuck Davenport, KC2BXO Oxford; Walt Gauthier, KC2BKD Gilbertsville, NY. Other operators/participants from Otsego, Schoharie and Herkimer Counties checked in via the WC2AGO repeater and all those secured their stations at 0100 Hrs on 01 January 2000.

Fortunately Amateur Radio (and the rest of the world's technology) survived the "Y2K" bug as the calendar rolled over from 1999 to 2000 and most fears of a technological collapse did not pan out. Obviously the expectations surrounding this event may have been somewhat overblown, yet one we met head on with success!

As the Chenango County ARES/RACES EC and County RACES Officer, I was impressed knowing that the cooperation of all organizations & personnel involved reflected the very basis of the Amateur Radio Service. We have survived change and overcome adversity by *working together*. Ham Radio has traveled a wondrous path in the past 25 years since this event took place. Where will we go in the next 25?

It is with great sadness, while recently reviewing an Obituary in a recent Evening Sun Newspaper, finding a past member of CVARA, Inc. had passed on July 6, 2025 at age 95 in Myerstown, PA. Bob Levin, N2KYZ (SK) was a good friend and mentor, held an Extra Class license and was an outstanding member of CVARA. Bob was very involved in many activities of our club, working around his busy schedule as a Lab Manager and Clinical Pathologist at Procter and Gamble, the successor to the Norwich Pharmacal Co. for 40 years, retiring in 1994.



Ironically, the photo above, taken by this writer, shows five (5) members of CVARA, Inc., reviewing results of a V.E. Session held at the Norwich BOCES facility in the early months of the year 2000. (Ken Cassidy, WN2WNC, V.E.C., Bob Levin, N2KYZ, V.E. & John Witkowski, WA2QQF, V.E. at the time). Tony, WB2DTW and Ray WA2EYH had just taken the Extra Class exam and both were successful in earning the coveted "Extra" ticket that day.

Unfortunately, four of the five shown above have become Silent Keys and will be greatly missed. Left to right order John, WA2QQF (SK), Martin Sharki, KC2HHK (Tony's surviving son), Bob, N2KYZ (SK), Ken, WN2WNC (SK) and Tony Sharki WB2DTW (SK). We shall carry on the legacy supported by these gentlemen.

*See you all in September
73 de Ray/K2DAR*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2025

08/02/2025 - Tompkins County Amateur Radio Association Hamfest, Location: Trumansburg, NY

08/07 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St, Norwich

08/16 Unidilia Motocross EWvent0

08/16/2025 - 17th Annual Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association Hamfest, Location: Howard, NY

08/21 Tech Nighy, Grange Hall Hale st, Norwich, NY

08/23/2025 - 7th Annual ROC CITY NET Hamfest, Location: Macedon, NY

09/04 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St, Norwich

08/18 Tech Nighy, Grange Hall Hale st, Norwich, NY

09/27/2025 - 50th Annual Elmira Hamfest and Computer-fest. Location: Horseheads, NY

10/02 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St, Norwich

10/07/2025 - 10/11/2025 AWA Conference, Location: Henrietta, NY

10/16 Tech Nighy, Grange Hall Hale st, Norwich, NY

Dont 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 2025					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Meeting Night	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Tech Night	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Exam session	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: Matt Strong (K2FRY)

Vice President: John Rudolph (N2YP)

Secretary: Carrie Wallingford (KD2VTH)

Treasurer: Emily Goehner (WA2LFI)

Directors: Lois Strong, NK2A; Jon Englart W2BDN, John; Rudolph,, N2YP

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.....

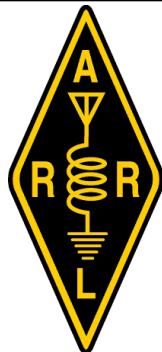
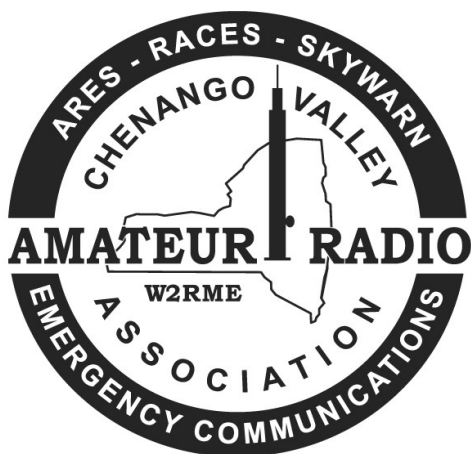
Thomas Mathewson
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We encourage promoting our organization and welcoming
new members to join our group. We hope we can continue to
grow and maintain a successful club. Your continued support
can make this happen.

Visit the club WEB site at: <http://www.cvara.net>

Deadline for the September 2025 Bugle is August 20, 2025



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