



THE BULL THISTLE BUGLE

“BLOWING OUR OWN HORN” since 1965

Chenango County, NY

“We are ARRL affiliated”



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The President's Corner de K2FRY



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Happy New Year!

Perhaps it's just me, but this year it actually feels like winter. With the cold keeping most of us indoors (or at least me), this can be a good season to spend some time on the air. Contesting, casual operating, and even just listening across the bands fit well with longer evenings and time spent inside, and there is usually plenty of activity for anyone who wants it.

With the new tower at the club site now largely complete, members have access to a strong station and antenna setup without needing to build or operate alone. While it may be cold outside, the building can be warmed up, and it provides a comfortable place to operate, experiment, or sharpen skills. Whether your interest is contesting, chasing DX, or making a few relaxed contacts, the station is open and available to all members.

Contesting does not have to mean long hours or intense competition. Many operators participate casually, get on the air for a short time, and still enjoy the experience. It is a good way to stay active, try different bands or modes, and make use of the equipment the club has worked hard to put in place.

If the hobby has been quieter for you lately, this is a good time to ease back in. The station is there to be used, the antennas are ready, and the club is always stronger when members take advantage of what we have built together.

Wishing everyone a healthy, enjoyable, and radio filled year ahead.

73,

Matt

K2FRY

CVARA Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2025

Called to order at 1910 on December 4, 2025 by Vice President John Rudolph (N2YP) held at the Grange Hall in Norwich.

Minutes:

Motion to accept minutes as printed in the Bugle by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM) 2nd by Dave Stearns (KD2ERR); Motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented by Dave Stearns (KD2ERR) 2nd by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM); Motion passed

Committee Reports:

Standing Committees:

Membership:

Audit:

Community Service: Matthew Jenne (WZ2I) reminded that there will be an ARES meeting at 9am on Saturday, December 6th in the EOC (2nd floor, Norwich Police station) in Norwich. Will will be going thru the IS-100.c course which is a requirement for all ARES/RACES members. Members will need to complete the exam on their own as the questions are randomized, but we will cover the instructional material.

Youth: [Education] Looking to do a Technician licensing class in January or February. Maybe on Tuesdays or Saturdays?

Publicity: Tom Mathewson (AD2TM) has listed the Bullthistle Hamfest with the ARRL. It will be in April's QST.

Property: Tom Mathewson (AD2TM) reported that Jon Englert (W2BDN) picked up the 6m beam.

Special Committees:

Old Business:

New Business:

Hamfest Prizes: A motion was made by Mike Lotterman (N1PF) and seconded by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM) to allocate up to \$500 for the purchase of prizes for the Bullthistle Hamfest. Motion passed.

For the Good of the Membership:

Dave Stearns (KD2ERR) brought up a possible public service opportunity. There's an ATV/UTV Rally in Trout Creek in October. There is also one possibly going to be started in Guilford. We will keep an eye on this and see if something may develop.

Closing: Motion made at 20:00 by Emily Goehner (WA2LFI), 2nd by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM).

Attendees: AD2TM, WZ2I, KD2ERR, WA2LFI, N2YP, N1PF

ARES This Month

Here comes 2026!!! As we look forward to the new year, let's not forget any lessons learned in years past. Let's strive to continue to learn, grow and improve, both as individuals and as a group. I know not everything is exciting (like FEMA training & certifications) or easy (say maybe building a kit), but any progress is still progress. We have a lot to look forward to.



Our monthly ARES/RACES training session at the Chenango County/City of Norwich EOC (2nd floor of the Norwich Police station) on Saturday, January 10th. We will be reviewing some services available on the local AREDN Mesh net-

work & how the could be used for our various events. We may also get into some basics of how to publish your own services to the mesh.

If anyone is available (and weather permits), I'd like to see if we can finish some of our camera kits at the January 15th "Tech Night" and maybe other Thursday night gatherings. These camera kits will be valuable for at least one of our planned events this year.

73,
Matthew Jenne
Chenango County ARES EC



2026 is ARRL's Year of the Club -- A Celebration of Amateur Radio Clubs

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As we turn the calendar to a new year, ARRL is launching a year-long celebration that puts the spotlight squarely where it belongs — on radio clubs. Beginning January 1, 2026, ARRL officially recognizes the Year of the Club, an initiative designated by the ARRL Board of Directors to honor the vital role clubs play in sustaining, growing, and energizing amateur radio.

Radio clubs are the backbone of ARRL and of the Amateur Radio Service itself. For countless hams, a club is the first welcoming doorway into the hobby — a place to learn, to operate, to build, and to belong. Clubs create opportunities for mentoring, public service, technical exploration, and lifelong friendships. Simply put, when clubs thrive, amateur radio thrives.

Throughout 2026, all ARRL Affiliated Clubs are invited to participate in special programs, operating events, and recognition opportunities designed to celebrate club accomplishments and inspire new ideas.

ARRL will be rolling out initiatives focused on supporting club growth, strengthening activities, and recognizing clubs that help expand ARRL membership or reach significant milestones, including 100 years of ARRL Affiliation.

New Ways to Celebrate and Compete Two exciting contests are al-

ready under way to kick off the Year of the Club, highlighting how clubs connect with members and the broader community. Details for entering

the ARRL Club Newsletter Contest and ARRL Club Website Contest are available now, with a shared submission deadline of January 30, 2026, at 4 PM Eastern Time.

The ARRL Club Newsletter Contest recognizes that newsletters are often the heartbeat of a club — sharing news, and keeping members connected and involved.



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Does your radio club have a great website that supports club members but also attracts attention for your club? Consider entering the ARRL Club Website Contest. Club websites play an increasingly important role in outreach, public service visibility, and attracting new members to amateur radio.

Winners will be notified in May 2026, honored at the ARRL National Convention being hosted by the Huntsville Hamfest in August, and featured in QST.

A New Home for Clubs Online In preparation for the Year of the Club, ARRL has launched a new Clubs website, offering a modernized, accessible hub for Affiliated Clubs, prospective clubs, and individual hams looking to get involved with a club. The site brings together information about club benefits, locations, resources, and ARRL Affiliation — all in one place.

A standout new feature is the Club Map search tool, which lets users locate radio clubs by ZIP code and displays both an interactive map and a list of nearby clubs. Try it at clubs.arrl.org/map.

A new, streamlined, online application also simplifies the process for becoming a new ARRL Affiliated Club. And all clubs can use the new Member Verification tool as they set a club goal to increase ARRL membership among club members. The result is faster service, easier updates, and better support for the Affiliated Clubs. Everyone is encouraged to explore the new site and pages at clubs.arrl.org and affiliatedclubs.arrl.org.

See Your Radio Club in QST During 2026, every issue of QST will include club photos, showcasing the people behind amateur radio's local success stories. Clubs are encouraged to gather members for photos, wear club or ARRL apparel, pose with banners or signs, and submit high-resolution photos along with names, call signs, and club information. It's a simple way to highlight your club's pride and presence on the national stage. See the photo submission guidelines at www.arrl.org/club-photos.

Inspiration, Innovation, and the Year Ahead In his editorial in the January 2026 issue of QST, ARRL Chief

Executive Officer David Minster, NA2AA, noted that clubs have shaped his amateur radio journey — from school clubs and Field Days to lifelong friendships built through shared activities. During the Year of the Club, he encourages members to recognize and thank the volunteer leaders who make these experiences possible, while also looking ahead to new opportunities.

ARRL will promote innovative ideas and best practices throughout the year, including content inspired by the MARCONI program — Motivating Amateur Radio Clubs to Open New Initiatives. Clubs are also encouraged to explore creative projects — from kit-building nights and technical workshops to hilltopping, antenna expeditions, and new operating challenges.

The Year of the Club also coincides with our nation's commemoration and celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. ARRL will mark the semiquincentennial with special America250 Worked All States awards, including WAS and WAS Triple Play, and clubs will have opportunities to participate through W1AW/portable activations across the country — echoing the excitement of ARRL's Centennial in 2014. The first state activations begin on January 7. See details at www.arrl.org/america250-was.

Be Radio Active in 2026

The message for 2026 is clear: Celebrate what your radio club already does well, try something new, and be radio active. Whether your club is small or large, new or nearing a century as an ARRL Affiliated Club, the Year of the Club is an invitation to connect, innovate, and share your story.

Follow all Year of the Club programming at clubs.arrl.org/year-of-the-club and make 2026 a year to remember — for your club, for ARRL, and for amateur radio.

For the full article see "The ARRL Letter" for December 31, 2025



And So It Should Be Written

By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian

Chapter 40

To Be or Not To Be – That is the Question!

We have not only seen the winter season approach, it has come more quickly than I would like, even though I do still enjoy the change of seasons. With the season change, and my writing skills being tested well into my 4th year of publication, I submit the following for all to consider. Yes, many club priorities need to be addressed, keeping in mind that CVARA, Inc. is a totally volunteer organization dedicated to the basics of communicating. In keeping with that theme, I am sharing words from two “Past Presidents” of CVARA in hopes of the remaining membership taking serious note of what has, and is, being said.

First

From the President.....

Ap'a'thy – Lack of interest or concern, especially regarding matters of general importance or appeal; indifference.

I hate writing my last column as president on a negative note (or at least a perceived one) but there are some things I need to get off my chest.

For the past few weeks, I have been frustrated with the direction of the club. It may very well be my fault, and if it is, it might be a great thing you will have a new president soon. I have been extremely busy and probably haven't put in as much time as I did when I started a year ago. For that I apologize.

Despite all that, I haven't had anyone approach me and tell me that they wished we were doing something else or didn't like the direction of the club. I present things at the meetings and get little or no response. I ask for help via the Bugle and the silence is deafening. What is it that is creating the apathy among the club membership??

There are a couple of things in particular that are bothering me.... (1) **Club Fundraiser**. People “seemed” interested in having the raffle, but when it came to doing the work, only a few people stepped up to the plate..... (2) **Tower Site**: I was hoping to see a little more excitement about the possibility of a new tower at the repeater site. I had to literally beg to get a couple people to serve on the tower committee. I thought there was interest in replacing the tower and improving our repeater. Was I wrong?

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Our meeting attendance is down, net check-ins are down and Bob is having a hard time finding net control operators.

My intent is not to berate anyone or create hard feeling, please don't take it that way. There is a tremendous amount of talent in this club and we have a lot of great projects on the horizon. There are also positive things going on and I don't want to diminish from that. There are people out there doing a lot of work, a lot of it that most people don't know about. BUT, we need everyone to help out and get involved. If a bunch of people pitch in, the workload gets spread out and things take less time.

If you have suggestions, please let someone know. If you don't like the direction of the club, don't be afraid to voice your concerns (in an appropriate manner). The future of the club is only as good as its members. Become involved!!

Second

From the President.....

I accepted this position for the current fiscal year with the understanding that I would serve as your point person for contact, information and decisions for the membership. When you, as members of this organization accepted your president and a slate of officers to represent you, did so knowing that you would often need to follow the directions of these officials. Cooperation and good teamwork are key elements that result in an efficient and effective organization.

In order to keep an organization moving forward you may be asked to step into a role of a leader, helping to avoid confusion and arguments. I feel we are at a point where we need to step back and re-organize. I ask that all of you as members of CVARA, Inc., step into a role of leadership by voicing your opinions to your elected officials, positive and/or negative. Constructive criticism is always welcome and this simple effort may go a long way toward protecting relationships between groups and individuals involved. If things are not always going well, or if any damage was caused, let's do our best to repair these relationships.

I'm obviously very concerned about the future of CVARA and am asking for your assistance.. What do you feel we have accomplished? Are there pending items that need to be addressed? What has worked well? What has not worked? What needs improvement? We need your ideas to solve known problems in the future, trying to avoid conflicts yet providing resolutions. Remember, in your leadership role as a member of CVARA, expect to work with others. Expect that there are times you are a follower. Expect that other times, you may be the leader.

With your help we can rebuild and become the Voice of Chenango County.

A New Year – A New Beginning!

**“Never Doubt That A Small Group Of
Thoughtful, Committed People Can Change
The World. Indeed, It Is The Only Thing That Ever Has!”**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2025—2026

1/8 or 1/8/2026 Meeting at Grange Hall Hale St, Norwich, NY

01/10/2026 - Marathon Winter'fest : Marathon, NY

1/15/2026 Tech Night, Grange Hall Hale St, Norwich, NY

1/29/26 Exam Session. Grange Hall Hale st, Norwich, NY

2/6 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St, Norwich

02/07/2026 - Almond Groundhog Hamfest Almond, NY

2/20 Tech Nighy, Grange Hall Hale st, Norwich, NY

2/27Ecam Session Grange Hall Hale St, Norwich, NY

3/5, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St,

Norwich

3/19,Tech Nighy, Grange Hall Hale st, Norwich, NY

3/26, cam Session 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.

January 2026

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Meeting Night	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Permanent committees

PACKET:/ Digital: **KC2SFU** Chairman, N2SPI

ARES/RACES: **KC2SFU**

PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS:AD2TM, N2YP, :
WZ2I, K2DAR

AWARDS: **AD2TM**

TECHNICAL: **WA2IZB**

BUGLE: **AD2TM** Chairman

VE TEAM: **K2DAR**: **WZ2I**

COMMUNITY SERVICE;

HAM OF THE YEAR: **WZ2I**

NEW Ham development K2FRY

Club Station/ Shack: **K2DAR**, N2YP, **KC2SFU**
Repeater Trustee: **WZ2I**

FIELD DAY: K2FRY Chairman

MEMBERSHIP: **K2FRY** Chairman

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.....

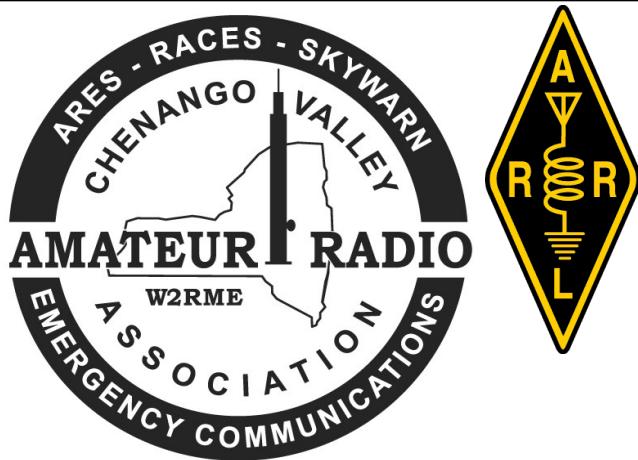
Thomas Mathewson
680 Plymouth N. Norwich Rd
Norwich, N.Y. 13815

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 February 2026 Bugle is January 20, 2026



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