



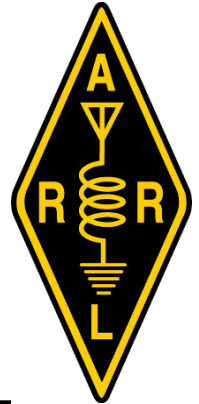
Published Monthly by the HAMS of CVARA

# 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 W2BDN*



VOL. 62 April 2026

Hi All,

Thank you everyone for coming to March’s meeting, participating in the election and putting your trust in me and the other officers. I will try my best to reach the objectives I plan to set down during my term.

Here’s my wish list: 1. Improve attendance at the monthly meetings. I believe having programs every month will help to do that. I have already received some great ideas., 2. Build membership. More

members makes a more lively and interesting club. Emphasis on younger members(nothing against us old guys, we just need members we can pass the torch to), 3. Improve our presence in the community.

We talk about our community service, we need to toot that horn a little louder. One on one with the public is helpful so being at community events would go a long way to achieve that, talking to anyone who will

listen. We have much to offer. 4. Establish a schedule, much ahead of time, of our club events giving members plenty of time to plan. 5. Present a meeting agenda prior to the monthly meeting. This will

hopefully make meetings move more smoothly and be more productive. Members will have a better idea of what the meeting will encompass, have time to think about the agenda items and what they

can contribute to the discussion. I will give a two week heads up prior to the monthly meeting in order to submit agenda items with the agenda coming out one week before the monthly meeting. 6. Invest

more in club social programs. It’s not all work and no play. Bring some ideas. 7. Speaking of work, we have property we need to take care of and that takes members to accomplish. Having club work days will go

a long way in improving and maintaining the great assets we possess. This is not an exhaustive list. If you have any ideas please feel free to contact me.

73, Jon Englert W2BDN

## CVARA Meeting Minutes for March 5, 2026

Called to order at 1902 on March 5, 2026 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 Ron Haynes (N2RLH); Motion passed

### Treasurer's Report:

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented by Rich Volpe (KE2GLH) 2nd by Jon Englert (W2BDN); Motion passed

### Committee Reports:

#### Standing Committees:

##### **Membership:**

##### **Audit:**

**Community Service:** Due to a scheduling conflict, there will be no "classroom" training session this month. Matt WZ2I is looking into a possible on-air activity that we may be able to participate in.

**Youth:** Jon Englert (W2BDN) brought up the idea of organizing a S.T.E.M. Camp. A suggestion was made to work with an organization like the YMCA if we wanted to move forward with this idea.

John Rudolph (N2YP) reported that he and Jon Englert (W2BDN) plan to hold a Technician license study class over the course of several Thursday evenings. Dates are 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23. To date there are 4 confirmed students and another 3-4 more possible. They are looking for demonstrations or "show and tell" items for the tech class.

**Publicity:** Tom Mathewson (AD2TM) asked for his "Normal" submissions to the Bugle.

**Property:** John Englert (W2BDN), John Rudolph (N2YP) and Matt Jenne (WZ2I) all reported at least driving by the site and confirm that the site is still there. Matt (WZ2I) reported that he is testing a DMR Bridge on the repeater. This allows users to utilize the Brandmeister talkgroup of 3222274 to

interact with the repeater.

### Special Committees:

#### Old Business:

**Hamfest:** There was a brief discussion regarding the Hamfest, prizes and tasks to be completed.

Tom Monday (KC2SFU) brought up the idea of giving away 30 admissions to the Hamfest for "inactive" hams in the county. Conner Kline (KD2SHA) made a motion to randomly select 30 hams that are not active club members and offer them free entry to the hamfest with the stipulation that this entry does not include an entry for the grand prize. Motion seconded by Rich Volpe (KE2GLH). Motion passed.

**Suburban Propane Credit:** Emily Goehner (WA2LFI) reported that the credit on the propane tank rental was a "refund" of late fees that were billed.

**Club Records:** Looking for suggestions on what to do with club materials currently stored at the home of Ray Darling (K2DAR) and at the Chenango County EOC.

Jon Englert (W2BDN) mentioned that he has access to a couple two drawer file cabinets that would be available.

#### New Business:

Election of officers was held with 20 ballots cast. The following received the majority of ballots cast and accepted the position they were elected to.

##### **President:**

Jon Englert (W2BDN)

##### **Vice President:**

Tom Monday (KC2SFU)

##### **Secretary:**

Ron Pfeiffer (W2CTX)

##### **Treasurer:**

Emily Goehner (WA2LFI)

##### **Director (3 year term):**

Don Rhodes (KB2YSI)

*(Continued on page 3)*

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## ARES This Month

One of our first “regular” activities is just around the corner. Well, maybe the next corner. While it still is early April (or maybe even tail end of March when this “goes to print”), the General Clinton Canoe Regatta is coming up quick. Time to dust off our go-kits and try them out to make sure they’re ready for activity! This gives me an idea. How about we all show off our go-kits. Since many of us are going to be at the Hamfest anyway, let’s bring our go-kits to the hamfest, setup a display in



*(Continued from page 2)*

### **For the Good of the Membership:**

**Closing:** Motion made at 20:08 by Tom Mathewson (AD2TM), 2nd by Emily Goehner (WA2LFI).

a side room to show off our kits. Maybe we can glean ideas from each other. Not things that worked or things that didn’t work. Let’s make this a sharing & learning experience. Whether your kit is HF, VHF, digital or multi-band & multi-mode... let’s show off our ingenuity!

With the Hamfest being the weekend after what would be our normal ARES training weekend... I think we’re just going call the Hamfest our ARES session for this Month. We’ll get back on track in April.

73,  
Matthew Jenne  
Chenango County ARES EC



**Attendees:** N2YP, AD2TM, WZ2I, KD2CDU, KD2ERR, KD2SHA, NK2A, KE2GLH, N2RLH, N2SAS, KE2HLO, N2VPS, KB2YSI, KC2SFU, N2WVX, N2BRD, KA2ZFM, K2DAR, W2CTX, WA2LFI, W2BDN, KC2AVX

### Growing an Army of Young Hams in New York



Rich Balas, W2RB, mentors a McKee High School student as he makes his first HF contact. [Photo by Steve Goodgame, K5ATA]

A high school teacher in New York City, with help from the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI), has successfully licensed nearly 700 students in the past two years as part of a wide-ranging program that is teaching students in two schools that radio today is a central part of just about everything! On March 12, ARRL Director of Education and Learning Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, and Hudson Division Director Ed Wilson, N2XDD, traveled to Staten Island Technical High School to help lead teacher Everton Hen-

riques, KD2ZZT, administer license exams to 143 students, resulting in 131 new hams and 14 upgrades. According to Goodgame, Henriques’s formula for success is “getting kids engaged, with lots of hands-on stuff.” He says everything is project-based and there is lots of crossover to the school’s robotics program. “Now,” adds Goodgame, “he’s working with a teacher at the adjacent McKee High School, which is a vocational high school, and the students are working together on a solar car program.” Wilson noted that he’s very impressed to see “the vocational kids and the technical kids working together, teaching



Students on the Seagull Solar Car team work together to measure the output of an electric motor for their project. [Photo by Steve Goodgame, K5ATA]

*(Continued on page 6)*



*And So It Should Be Written*

*By Ray Darling, K2DAR, CVARA Historian*

*Chapter 42*

**The most important thing we can involve ourselves in is service. Unselfish service to our fellow-men. It supersedes weather conditions, educational background, time commitments, financial statements, political and religious preference, and especially skin color!**

**Serve, Serve, Serve! - Three of the most important words in the world!!**

The following transcript, with a bit of history of one of our own, personifies a person who lived up to that very core statement. For all members, from youngest to oldest, let me introduce this gentleman.

**W. Frederick (Fred) Stevens**, born November 6, 1945 in Troy, NY. He grew up in Sidney, Delaware Co., NY, graduating from Sidney High School in 1963. He attended Clarkson College of Technology in Potsdam, NY, earned a B.S Degree in Wildlife Biology from Cornell University in 1968 and was drafted, then enlisted into the Army in 1968 after a short Professional Boy Scouting tour in Mayville, NY. He served in the Army Signal Corps in Vietnam (1969-1970) where he received two Purple Hearts, Army Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal and where he earned a USARV Direct Commission from Sergeant to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant In May 1970. He was reassigned as a Forward Area Signal Platoon Leader on LZ Bayonet in Americal (23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry) Division. Following relief from Active Duty in 1972, he stayed in the Army Reserve Signal Corps until his retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1992. I could go on and on with Fred's many, many achievements over the years, but wished to share this story, in memory of a most respected and valued friend, fellow veteran and former CVARA member.

Fred was an active ham radio operator earning his first license in 1961, Callsign: **KB2SYT**, then a Vanity Call: **K2FRD** after attaining the highest license class of Amateur Extra in 2000. During his travels to the North Eastern sections of Canada, applied for and was granted a Canadian License (Callsign: **VO2FS**) in 2004. He proceeded to operate remotely from Newfoundland/Labrador & other areas for a period of time signing as **VO2/K2FRD**. A few of us older members were able to make contact with Fred during his travels in those remote areas.

He was very active as an Emergency Communications Specialist and was activated for duty at Ground Zero shortly after 9/11/2001. I felt the wordage provided by the following would be of interest to all ham radio operators and his home club (CVARA) members. These profound words were forwarded to me and all interested parties via e-mail following the time of the attack at NYC. I have chosen to present as much of the text as possible, for clarity, in 2 or 3 segments titled :

**REPORT FROM A HAM AT "GROUND ZERO" NYC**

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(Continued from page 4)

From: Fred Stevens To: INTERESTED  
K2FRD PERSONS C/O

CC:  
thefred68@hotmail.com

Date: Wed, 26 Sep 2001  
22:48:00 -0400

This report will be brief (sort of): I just got off from a 23-hour duty shift (36 total hours since I last saw a bed yesterday (Mon 24 Sep) and have been sleeping ever since (it's now 1115EDT on Tues 25 Sep). I return to duty this evening at 8PM for the graveyard shift. However, many hams have inquired about what the volunteer hams have been doing during the World Trade Center disaster relief effort. The following is intentionally vague for security reasons although you can fill in the blanks by watching CNN or reading TIME.

I arrived at the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Red Cross about 1145 on Sunday 23 September after receiving my activation orders the night before. In short order, I was assigned to "Ground Zero" (the impacted area of the terrorist attacks) because of my experience with communications in adverse situations; technically, this is my third war with Vietnam and Grenada providing previous combat communications experience.

My duty station is called \*\*\*\*\*, located about 100 yards from "The Pile" in the middle of "Ground Zero" (now an official name), a secured perimeter centered around the World Trade Center disaster site and roughly two-thirds mile square (I'm guessing). After orientation, issuance of an ID tag, and retrieving and compacting my radio gear from my car, we (3 of us) were transported by Red Cross vehicle through several checkpoints and through the final blockade to our respective duty locations. \*\*\*\*\*'s raison d'etre is to provide a break: food, rest, light entertainment, and messaging for the emergency workers, policemen, fireman, and other personnel working in the zone. We ham operators provide primary and back-up commo for anyone who needs to pass traffic; cell phones are also working, but the area's commercial land-line phone service still being restored. The amateur radio National Traffic System enables us to pass traffic to anywhere in the world. I am the only ham operator at \*\*\*\*\*; during each 12- 14-hour shift, there are two or three other operators offering comparable services within the zone at other service sites. as phone service is restored, more operators will be freed for 8-hour shifts ("tricks") starting tonight. We expect to be deactivated sometime this week when phone service is restored to the degree that we are no longer needed.

about 100 to 200 yards from my duty station and is plainly visible from the building's entrance al;though it is impossible to view the entire site from the ground. Dark smoke rises thickly from The Pile; it has a characteristic smell that is familiar to combat veterans. It also permeates the area's air, gets into clothing and skin. I needed to be outside on numerous occasions and became saturated; the emergency workers outside are constantly exposed and thoroughly coated with the stuff. It takes effort to wash it off; in no small respect, it will never wash off.

Stay tuned for Segment #2 - May 2026 Bugle  
de Ray/K2DAR

(Continued from page 3)  
each other their respective skills.”

Goodgame says Staten Island Technical High School is the donor-funded Teachers Institute’s first “model school,” which makes it eligible for additional resources and equipment. He notes that the school was the site of a TI session last year and will host another this year. Goodgame adds that Henriques has completed two TI modules and is now an institute instructor, as well as being a facilitator for Math for America and co-developer of a 9-week course for teachers on “How to Use Amateur Radio in the Classroom.”

#### The Heritage CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame Inductees

Three amateur radio operators have been inducted into the Heritage CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame for 2026.

#### **Professor David B. Leeson, Ph.D., W6NL** —

Leeson was first licensed in 1952. He is the author of the ARRL book, *Physical Design of Yagi Antennas*, and was a designer of the IARU International Beacon Network. Since 1994, he has been a Consulting Professor at Stanford University and is faculty advisor of the Stanford Amateur Radio Club, W6YX. He drove a racecar, retiring in 1979, returning to ham radio after back-to-back national championships.

**Richard Dean Straw, N6BV (SK)** — A renowned antenna expert, Straw was part of a Navy project in the early 1990s to measure HF dipole and vertical antennas in front of a hill, on top of a hill, and behind a hill in Utah. The team used a helicopter that towed either a 3-axis receiver (RELEDOP) or a transmitter (XELODOP) that was developed by SRI International in Menlo Park, California. This system was used for measuring and verifying antenna performance, mainly for the military. Straw retired from the staff of ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® in 2008 following 15 years of service as the Senior Assistant Technical Editor. While working for

ARRL, Straw edited five editions of *The ARRL Antenna Book* (the most of any named editor), four volumes of *The ARRL Antenna Compendium* (4 – 7), and several editions of *The ARRL Handbook*. He became a Silent Key in 2025.

**Dr. Jose “Otis” Vicens, NP4G** — First licensed at the age of 16, Otis, known to friends and fellow operators on the air as NP4G, developed a passion for amateur radio. Born and raised in Humacao, Puerto Rico, he is the only amateur radio operator in his family.

Otis later moved to the United States to study biology at Purdue University, where he became active with the W9YB Amateur Radio Club. Otis is very active in Puerto Rico ham radio. He is past president of the Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League (PRARL) and is currently president of the International DX Association (INDEXA). Otis also received the 2026 Amateur of the Year Award from the Dayton Hamvention®.

You can read more about the 2026 inductees at the Heritage CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, created by CQ magazine and currently administered by the K8CX Ham Gallery.

#### **Amateur Radio in the News**

“Amateur radio group gets new emergency coordinator” / *The Miner Newspapers* (Washington) March 6, 2026 -- Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)®.

“Introduction to Amateur Radio - Week 6 (Communicating with other HAMs)” / *OU Daily* March 14, 2026 (Oklahoma) -- South Canadian Amateur Radio Society.

The above from “The ARRL Letter” for March 19,2026

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2026

4/2 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St, Norwich

6/4 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, .Hale St, Norwich

4/11 Bull Thistle Hamfest St Bsrts Parish Center, Eas-Main St Norwich, NY

6/13 Cortland Hamfest & Technology Fair, Cortland, NY

4/16Tech Night, Grange Hall Hale st, Norwich, NY

6/18 1Tech Night, Grange Hall Hale st, Norwich, NY

**04/18/2026 - 39th Annual Drumlins Hamfest**

6/20 Rochester Hamfest, Location: Greece, NY

**Location:** Palmyra, NY

6/25 Exam Session Grange Hall Hale St, Norwich, NY

4/23 Exam Session Grange Hall Hale St, Norwich, NY

6/27, 28 ARRL Field Day

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

*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.*

5/21Tech Night, Grange Hall Hale st, Norwich, NY

5/28 Exam Session Grange Hall Hale St, Norwich, NY

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**April 2026**

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			1		2 Meeting	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10		11 HAMFE3ST
12	13	14	15	16 Tech Night	17		18
19	20	21	22	23 Exam Ses- sion	24		25
26	27	28	29	30			

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**Permanent committees**

ARES/RACES: **WZ2I**

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**

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# CVARA CLUB OFFICERS

President: Jon Englert (W2BDN)  
 Vice President: Tom Monday (KC2SFU)  
 Secretary: Ron Pfeiffer (W2CTX)  
 Treasurer: Emily Goehner (WA2LFI)  
 Directors: Jon Englert W2BDN, John; Rudolph,, N2YP , Don Rhodes KB2YSI

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.....

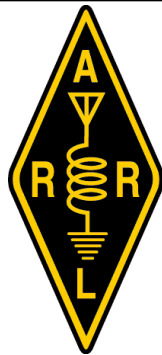
Thomas Mathewson  
 680 Plymouth N.Norwich Rd  
 Norwich, N.Y. 13815

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 2026 Bugle is April 20, 2026***



PO Box 1324  
 Norwich, N.Y, 13815

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 «Address Line 2»  
 «City»  
 «State», «ZIP Code»