



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
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the HAMS
of CVARA



*The President's
Corner de KD2HKB*



VOL. 58 February 2022

Wow! Winter sure is showing us what she has to offer this month! Luckily... that doesn't stop us from enjoying the hobby... unless we have to work on antennas, then it might. That said... there is plenty to do, both on the air and in the ham shack. Projects have been keeping me busy... what have you been working on?

One thing the weather is not keeping down is interest in our licensing exams. As I write this, we are prepping for our first exam session of 2022. While the roster is not "overwhelming", we do have at least a couple interested in taking an exam or updating their license. I'd like to extend an invite to anyone, member or not, to attend an exam session. Even if you already have your license... even your Extra class license... It can be fun AND educational. Who knows... you may accidentally learn something!

Now for a little bit of business... our February meeting will include our election of officers for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. Since the last meeting, I have become aware that Ray Darling, K2DAR, wishes to resign as Director. This will mean that we have another position to fill in addition to the normal slate of officers. Please put your thinking caps on and come prepared with your thoughts for another Director. This Director will be elected to a 1 year term, to finish out Ray's 3 year term. This will keep "normal" elections to one Director per year. I would like to have a "list" of nominees going into the meeting, so if you have someone in mind... please shoot me a quick email with your nomination.

73,

Matt KD2HKB

CVARA Meeting Minutes for December, 2021

CVARA MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 1/6/2022

Meeting held at the Grange Hall in Norwich and via zoom video conference.

Called to order at 7:10pm by President Matt Jenne. 8 members present and 6 via Zoom.

Minutes:

Motion made to accept prior month minutes as printed in the Bugle by Jon Englert
2nd by Dave Sterns. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Treasurer Emily Goehner.

Motion made to accept Treasurer's Report as presented by Mike Mathewson
2nd by Lois Strong. Motion passed

Committee Reports:

ARES/RACES: Matt Strong reported that there will be a session Saturday morning at the Grange Hall at 9:00am. He will send an email with the subject/topic, (b) Due to personal reasons, Matt Strong will be covering for Tom for an unknown length of time.

BUGLE: Tom Mathewson reminder that he is always looking for material. Also noted that the formatting on the web version has been corrected.

YOUTH/SCHOLARSHIP: Jon Englert and Tom Monday have been checking into new ideas related to Civil Defense. This is still in it's infancy and will provide updates as things progress.

V.E. TEAM: Matt Jenne reported that testing will resume on the 4th Thursday from January through October 2022 here at the Grange Hall. Also Tests will be provided in Oneonta in February, April, July and October at 6:00 (a change from the previous time of 7:00. Matt Strong reported that he will consult with Ray Darling for doing a Technician License sessions. Jon Englert and Matt Strong can do it if Ray is unavailable.

HAM FEST: Emily Goehner did a walk-through of St. Bartholomew's Parish Center facilities. She reports that these facilities will meet the needs of our Ham Fest. Jon Englert also noted that ARRL needs at least 60 days prior to publication to advertise for the event. Emily will confirm the date with St. Bart's so that planning and advertising / notifica-

tions can begin. General discussion regarding Parking, Table and chair availability, and vendor registration, advertising, etc.

Old Business:

- Matt Strong reported that the Holiday Party went well. Individual tabs (ordering off the menu worked well and we avoided prior issues with group tabs and special menu.
- Emily Goehner reported that NYSEG did an actual meter reading and the club shack and that the bill came to \$46.70. (the previous bill had been \$34.58). Also received a bill for the propane cylinder rental in the amount of \$10.80. Emily also noted as an FYI that Doug's Fish Fry has raised their prices.

New Business:

- Matt Strong suggested that the President reassign members to the Education Committee as follows: Ray Darling as Chair, Jon Englert, Tom Monday and Matt Strong as members on the committee. President Jenne accommodated the request.
- General Discussion regarding new locations for the next "Field day" event. Options included (a) General Clinton Park in Bainbridge and (b) Mt. Upton Park. The consensus is that either location would be easier for people in the South and East areas. The concept of alternating these with other locations, like Roger's Environmental, that accommodates those to the North and West is a good practice.
- Bill Pratt mentioned that he has learned that there may be RF interference emanating from Industrial Wind Turbines at another club facility elsewhere in NYS. There are 3 (or the 23 turbines located within 2500' of our repeater tower. This might be cause for concern. Ray Darling will be attempting to track that down and get more first-hand details. Matt Jenne stated that he intends to do a baseline sweep of (frequency) noise at the repeater prior to construction of these nearby towers.
- Nominations for Officers and directors): In the absence of a formal nominating committee, President Jenn opened up nominations from the floor. Nominations were as follows: President; Matt Jenne, John Rudolph (pending acceptance). Vice President; Matt Strong, Mike Barnard (pending acceptance). Secretary; Bill Pratt. Treasurer; Emily Goehner. Director (3 yr. term, replacing Ron

(Continued on page 3)

If you want to attend the meeting via Zoon

Time: January 6, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84435172692?pwd=MmNBaHIFZWpCK2ZCY240SHZ0NUw1dz09>

To dial in via phone:

+1 (929) 436-2866

Meeting ID: 844 3517 2692

Passcode: 712861

The club has the following items for sale

- ◆ 20% off listed price for club members.
- ◆
- 1. Vector VEC043 750 Watt Inverter

2. Icom IC-28A HT \$10
3. Denten Supper Tuner \$110
4. Akigawa PM-2H power meter \$110

For more information contact Tom KC2SFU 73, Tom KC2SFU

Next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo set for Mid-March What's become a regular March event, the next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will be held live from March 12-13, and then on demand for 30 days afterward. More than 60 speakers will deliver presentations on their subject areas. "There's content for everyone whether a newly licensed ham looking for next steps to using that license or a 30+ year experienced ham looking for new projects," the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo organizers promise. Presentations will include "Core HF Communication Concepts: Fundamentals of Shortwave Propagation;" "Deep Dive of an FPGA DVB-S2 Implementation;" "Fun With the NanoVNA," and "Helically Wound Vertical for 160 Meters. The complete list

of presentations is available from the Virtual Ham Expo home page. Virtual visitors may watch as many presentations as they want and return any time within 30 days to view speakers and presentations they may have miss as well as explore exhibitor offerings. This Virtual Ham Expo will debut new technology that, organizers say, will "further improve the live video interaction experience with exhibitors and fellow operators." ARRL The national association for Amateur Radio®, is a QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Partner. Early bird tickets go on sale on February 1. Tickets are \$10 through March 6. From the ARRL Letter for January 27,2022

(Continued from page 2)

Haynes); Tom Monday. President Jenne will contact both John Rudolph and Mike Barnard to get their acceptance of their nominations.*

· Jon Englert stated that he will be working a 6 meters and 1.2 gig contest at the repeater shack This Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th.

· Matt Jenne presented his "Ham Clock" (which is similar to a Geo Generator) and explained it's features to the members in attendance.

Tom Mathewson moved to adjourn at 8:47pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Pratt

CVARA Secretary

- ◆ *Post-Meeting Note: Both John Rudolph and Mike Barnard have DECLINED their nominations. Hence they have been removed from the slate of nominees.*

2022 SLATE OF NOMINEES for CVARA ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following is the formal slate of nominees for the February CVARA Election of Officers:

PRESIDENT:	Mathew Jenne
VICE PRESIDENT:	Mathew Strong
SECRETARY:	Bill Pratt
TREASURER:	Emily Goehner
DIRECTOR:	Thomas Monday

Additional nominations will be taken from the floor prior to the voting process. Nominees from the floor must be able to accept their nomination (either in person or by written confirmation to the President) prior to the call for vote.

Contesting-why!

Unless you're really into contesting, it's easy to ask the question, why. In the past, I've done my share of burning RF holes in the Ozone in Sweepstakes, the various DX 'tests and lately, in VHF/ UHF events. What's the purpose, you ask? Some say it provides a test of how much coffee you can drink (and hold), how fast you can spin your VFO, how long you can stay awake and how well you can sublimate frustration. All true, but there is a serious side to contesting, too. There is no better way of finding out just how well your station operates and stays together. You also learn operating practices such as listening for stations in the noise or under the big gun station just 2 KHz away. Picking out multiple stations on the same frequency is a challenge, too. In emergency situations, those may be just the skills you need! Watching the changes in propagation can be fun on HF. Knowing what bands are usable to a particular area of the globe is a useful tool. Propagation on the VHF bands can be positively amazing! The recent VHF contest is a good case in point. Before the contest started,

ARES This Month

As ARES members one of our most important attributes is our ability to be versatile, to think outside the box and find ways to accomplish our given task. Most often we will have only what's in our vehicles. So what's in your vehicle?

I can't help but want to start with the vehicle itself. It can be your shelter, your power source, antenna platform and your shack. It can get you where you need to go and then get you home again. Thinking about your vehicle as a tool will give you a strong base to build on.

If you're just starting out in the hobby you may think that the new HT you just bought doesn't have much to offer ARES. I would argue that it's versatility has a lot to offer. Regardless of what radio you may own adding a good antenna should be your first goal. For your vehicle you could start with a magnetic mount antenna or build yourself some sort of drive on system where your vehicle's own weight holds up your antenna mast. I built mine out of a couple of 2x4s years ago and it has served me well. When I first became a ham, I tested this type of setup from every fire station in the

there was a 6 meter opening into the UK. Scotland, Ireland and England were booming in with S9 signals—then someone threw the switch! The contest opened to a dead band. One station in Iceland did pop in the next day, though. Such a pileup! For an hour on Sunday 6 opened to the West Coast. Oregon, California and Nevada were suddenly on my list of states worked. Minor enhancements occur, too. That's how we can work Delaware. West Virginia and Western New York. I mentioned something about the gear staying together earlier. Somehow, when working with VHF and above, it's more difficult to keep everything running. Anybody want to buy a slightly used GaAs FET for a 222 preamp? How about a 2 meter FM rig that suddenly stopped keying up? Lots of goodies left over after this contest. The bottom line on contesting is really easy to define. It's FUN

-From the 2002 February Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Newsletter, written by Philip Bradway KB2HQ(SK) and used with the permission of the Schenectady Amateur Radio Association.

county. There were less than five stations that I couldn't hit the repeater from.

The next item I would add to your vehicle is a well thought out go bag. There are a number of small items that can be used to deal with the unknown you will run into when you leave the comfort of your home shack. You can find list of them all over the internet. Most of these items you will already have floating around your house. Gather them up and put them in a backpack. Now the hard part! The last and most important thing to place in your vehicle is you, your experience and knowhow. So get in your car and go somewhere and setup. Get on the air. Talk to people. Find a hilltop, find a park, find someplace where you can operate and get to know the limitations of your rig. Get to know your limitations as an operator.

If you are a person who enjoys the challenges that ham radio has to offer then taking your station on the road will be the most enjoyable and valuable experience you can imagine. So get out on the highway and go looking for the adventure.

73, Tom KC2SFU

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2022

- February 3, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, Hale St , Norwich as well as online
- February 17, Tech Night, Norwich Grange Hall
- March 3, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, Hale St , Norwich as well as online
- March 17, Tech Night, Norwich Grange Hall
- March 26 Tentive CVARA Hamfest
- April 7,, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, Hale St , Norwich as well as online
- April 21, Tech Night, Norwich Grange Hall
- May 6 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, Hale St , Norwich as well as online

- May 20, Tech Night, Norwich Grange Hall
- June 2, CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM Grange Hall, Hale St , Norwich as well as online
- June 16 Tech Night
- June 25-26, Field Day

*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.

February 2022

		1	2	3 Meeting	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17Tech Night	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Test Session	25	26
226	27	28				

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 for details.---... --- Don, KB2YSI

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**, **KD2HKB**, **K2DAR**
 - TECHNICAL: **WA2IZB**
 - VE TEAM: **K2DAR**, **WN2WNC**
 - HAM OF THE YEAR: **KD2HKB**
 - Club Station/ Shack: **K2DAR**, **N2YP**, **KC2SFU**
 - Repeater Trustee: **KD2HKB**
-

CVARA CLUB OFFICERS

President: Matt Jenne, KD2HKB
Vice Pres: Matt Strong K2FRY
Treasurer: Emily Goehner WA2LFI
Secretary: Bill Pratt K2WMP
Directors: Ray Darling, K2DAR, Ron Haynes N2RLH, 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 March 2022 Bugle is February 15 2022



PO Box 1324
Norwich, N.Y, 13815