



Published  
Monthly by  
the HAMS  
of CVARA

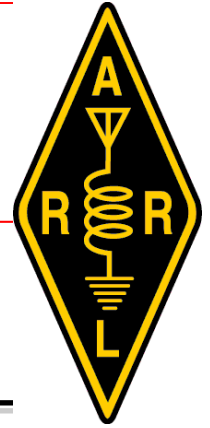
# THE BULLTHISTLE BUGLE

“BLOWING OUR OWN HORN” VOL. 45

December 2007

Chenango County, NY

“We are ARRL affiliated”



Official Publication of the Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. Owner and operator of memorial station W2RME/ R on 146.085R/146.685T MHZ.

## *The President's Corner* De WB2PPN



Greetings Fellow Hams,

We will soon be heading into the Month of December, with the Spirit of Christmas already being promoted strongly by the media. Snow hasn't been a factor so far, at least at the time of this writing...I am sure we won't get through the winter season without having to dig out our snow removal implements. Some of the luckier ones will be heading South in an attempt to find warmer temperatures. Rumor has it that Santa is stocking up with lots of new radio gear. Hope everyone gets a piece of the action.

Merry Christmas to All  
Stan WB2PPN

The December meet is 12/06/07 at the Norwich Police Station 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you all there.



## CVARA Meeting Notes 11/01/07

### CVARA Meeting Notes

Meeting called to order at 1900 hours by WB2PPN, President.

12 Members present: N2XWS, KC2PBP, WB2PPN, W2WHT, KC2CN, KA2MYD, WA2TDO, N2GVB and N2RXX.

Minutes - Minutes of last meeting accepted as published.

Treasurer's report – None.

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month – SCARES NET is at 1900 hours on 3.925 mhz with alternate frequency of 3.9935 mhz. You do not have to be a member to participate.

SET - Saturday 11/17/07 0900 Hrs. per note from K2DAR.

VE Testing set for December 8 2007 0900 Hrs.

CARES net – 5 people checked in Wednesday evening.

SPACE SHUTTLE - Tune to 7.185 mhz to hear communications from shuttle.

Repeater Tone Discussion – N2RXX, N2XYS and W2WHT will go to Tower site on Sunday 11/04/07 to set Tones on repeater. Motion made to set “Quiet Time” announcements overnight. If tone setting does not solve the problem of kerchunking, the repeater may have to be repaired. Backup repeater should be checked to be sure it works.

N2RXX – Could Packet be programmed for 145.07 for local traffic?

N2RXX stated that a Sunday in January or February will be organized for Privatair SET at the airport, which will involve several local agencies.

Build Jump Kits for winter emergency.

Meeting adjourned at 1959 Hrs.

Minutes submitted by Sunnie Linabery KC2PBP



VE and EmComm testing will occur on Saturday December 8th, 2007 at 0900 hours. The testing site is at the Norwich Police Department located on East Main Street in Norwich, New York. VE testing will be available for Technician, General, and Extra classes. EmComm Testing will be available for Levels One, Two, and Three. Though walk-ins are allowed, it is strongly suggested that you pre-register for the exams you would like to take. You may take both the Amateur and Emergency Commu-

nications Exams the same day.

Contact person for pre-registration for all exams is:  
Robert Benton N2RXX  
Email: n2rxk@yahoo.com  
Telephone: 607-674-6024  
Mail: 7721 State Highway 12  
Sherburne, NY 13460

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2007

November 1 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM  
3 - 5 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)

(Phone) 17 - 19 ARRL November Sweepstakes  
30 - 12/2 ARRL 160 Me-  
ter Contest

December 6 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM  
8 - 9 ARRL 10 Meter Contest

*Do not forget that every Wednesday nite at 7:30 local on the W2RME/R 146.085/146.685 The CARES net meets. If you are hungry Saturday breakfasts. They are now being held at "The Dog House" North of North Norwich, around 9:30 a.m*

If you know of, or hear about any activities that should be listed here, Please pass them on to the editor.



### **HAMS AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: WORKING TOGETHER FOR SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY**

The Ninth Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day recognizes Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to help keep communities safe. Co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS), the event is scheduled for Saturday, December 1. During this 24 hour special event, Amateur Radio operators, working together with their local NWS offices, will activate Amateur Radio stations and work as a team to contact other hams across the world.

"This is a fun event," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. "For 364 days of the year, hams aid in providing the NWS offices with real-time information on severe weather when people and property are at risk. But this one day is for fun, friendship and recognition of the critical services given to communities by the hams."

Scott Mentzer, N0QE, organizer of the event and Meteorologist-In-Charge at the NWS office

in Goodland, Kansas, concurred. "Radio amateurs are a tremendous resource for the National Weather Service. These folks are dedicated, and the assistance they provide throughout the year is invaluable. SKYWARN Recognition Day is our way of saying thank you."

In 2006, 90 NWS offices across the country participated and logged more than 16,000 radio contacts, according to Goodland's Warning Coordination Meteorologist David Floyd, N5DBZ. In typical SKYWARN operations during severe weather, direct communication between mobile spotters and local NWS offices provides critical "ground truth" information for forecasters. In summer, spotter reports of hail size, wind damage and storm rotation in real time greatly assist the radar warning operator, since that information can be correlated with Doppler radar displays. In winter, snow nets are held, where reports of snow totals, ice accumulations and whiteout conditions in blowing snow help NWS forecasters assess the extent and severity of winter storms. In recent years during wildfire situations, Amateur Radio operators have re-

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ported the precise locations of thick smoke and zero visibility, allowing forecasters to provide crucial weather updates to fire fighters.

"NWS offices utilize the real-time reporting of weather events to assist in warning operations, but certainly hurricanes Katrina and Rita have shown us that ham radio operators are equally important during the recovery phase of large-scale natural disasters," Floyd pointed out. He also cited the example of the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN). He notes that the HWN, organized in 1965 during Hurricane Betsy, started out as an informal group of amateurs but has since developed a formal relationship with the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami via its Amateur Radio station WX4NHC. Ham radio operators and volunteers at Miami work together when hurricanes threaten to provide real-time weather data and damage reports to the Hurricane Center's forecasters.

For more information on SKYWARN Recognition Day, including a list of participating NWS offices, QSL card and certificate information, please see the NWS Web site <<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/hamradio/index.php>>.

### **ARISS ANTENNAS SET TO LAUNCH ON NASA MISSION IN DECEMBER**

Columbus, the laboratory built by the European Space Agency (ESA), is now packed inside space shuttle Atlantis' payload bay. It is the culmination of years of design and engineering work aimed at creating Europe's primary component for the International Space Station (ISS). At 23 feet long and 15 feet in diameter, the cylindrical segment is designed to host specialized experiments examining how humans react to micro-gravity and the effect of space on various fluids and objects such as crystals. Two Amateur-Radio-on-the-International-Space-Station (ARISS) antennas have been installed on the nadir side of Columbus. NASA is currently planning

on a launch date of Thursday, December 6 for Atlantis.

According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, "The ARISS-Europe Team is holding weekly meetings to determine what the ARISS International Team should have for a station in the Columbus module. The

Europeans will need to begin fundraising for the multiple sets of equipment, such as the on-orbit equipment, the required back-up on-orbit equipment and the test equipment. Some portions of the equipment system can be purchased, but much of it would need to be built. Once the team

purchases or builds the equipment, next comes the special testing (individual equipment tests plus an end-to-end test) for space (probably by ESA), getting the equipment certified (also probably by ESA) and finally manifesting the system for launch. All of that will take many months and help from ARISS volunteers from many countries."

The mission, STS-122, will bring seven astronauts to the ISS: Commander Stephen N. Frick, KD5DZC; Pilot Alan G. Poindexter; Mission Specialist Rex J. Walheim; Mission Specialist Stanley G. Love; Mission Specialist Leland D. Melvin; Mission Specialist Hans Schlegel of Germany, and Mission Specialist/Expedition 16 Flight Engineer Leopold Eyharts, KE5FNO, of France.

Earlier this week, ISS Commander Peggy Whitson and Flight Engineer Dan Tani, KD5DXE, installed the Centerline Berthing Camera System that will be used for visual cues in the installation of the Columbus module to the Harmony connecting node. Russian cosmonaut Yuri alenchenko, RK3DUP, is also on board. Tani is due to depart the ISS when Atlantis returns to Earth; Eyharts will take his place.

Earlier this year, the ARISS antennas successfully passed electrical and SWR tests, with one of the two antennas, Antenna 42, going through a final test -- a thermal test under vacuum. Based

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on modeling, engineers have no fear the antenna will pass with flying colors. Columbus will house an additional Amateur Radio station, including the first digital Amateur Radio TV (DATV) station in space, as well as a ham radio transponder. The yet-to-be-built Columbus amateur gear will facilitate operation on new frequencies that will make it possible for ARISS to establish wideband and video operations for the first time and allow continuous transponder operation.

At the ARISS International conference last year in San Francisco, Graham Shirville, G3VZV, speaking on behalf of ARISS-Europe, outlined plans for a mode L/S ham radio transponder as well as a DATV downlink on S1 band (2.4 GHz). "So, future ARISS contacts could have pictures as well as sound," Shirville told the delegates. ARISS-Europe is looking at a 10 W transmitter and a signal bandwidth of from 4 to 8 MHz. Since the Columbus module will be some distance from the other two ARISS stations, parallel operation will be possible.

Atlantis' mission to the ISS is scheduled to last 11 days. On flight day 4, Walheim and Schlegel's main task will be to prepare the Columbus module for installation on Harmony. They will install the Power Data Grapple Fixture on Columbus, which will allow the space station's robotic arm to grab the module and move it from the shuttle's payload bay to Harmony. On flight day 8, Walheim and Love will install two payloads on Columbus' exterior: SOLAR, an observatory to monitor the sun, and the European Technology Exposure Facility (EuTEF) which will carry eight different experiments requiring exposure to the space environment.

Funding to finish and install ham radio antennas on Columbus has been uncertain; however. ARISS Vice Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, says donations from various sources covered a payment of 9000 Euros (approximately \$12,000) in March. Donations already have come in from the ARRL Foundation, AMSAT-NA and AMSAT-UK, among other organiza-

tions, as well as from many individual donors. According to Bertels, there is still a funding shortfall of 14,000 Euros (approximately \$20,000 USD). To help out, PayPal donations are being accepted.

## 500 kHz Experiment Charting New Territory:

The evening of November 13 saw the first transatlantic contact on 500 kHz between amateur experimental stations. US experimental station WE2XGR/2 (Jay Rusgrove, W1VD, in Connecticut) and GI4DPE (Finbar O'Connor, EI0CF, in Northern Ireland) communicated by standard-speed CW for about 15 minutes. On that same night, US experimental stations WD2XSH/12 (Mike Mussler, AI8Z, in Colorado) and WD2XSH/20 (Rudy Severns, N6LF, in Oregon) made the first contact in the western half of the USA. Two days later, WE2XGR/2 and GI4DPE repeated their feat and WD2XSH/12 had contacts with WD2XSH/6 (Pat Hamel, W5THT, in Mississippi) and WD2XSH/13 (John Oehlenschlager, K0JO, in Minnesota). The ARRL 500 kHz experimental license, WD2XSH, was issued in September 2006 and has 19 active stations. Fritz Raab, W1FR, of Vermont, serves as experimental project manager for The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio <<http://www.500kc.com/>>.

The proceeding articles were taken from The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 47 November 30, 2007



## **CVARA CLUB OFFICERS**

**President:** Stan White WB2PPN

**Vice Pres:** Thomas Mathewson, KA2MYD

**Treasurer:** Ray Darling, K2DAR

**Secretary:** KC2PBP Sonja / WB2PPN Stan, only as an assistant

**Trustees:** Ray Darling, K2DAR, Jim Leahy, K2JL

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Tom, KA2MYD, editor of the Bugle is ALWAYS looking for submissions  
Your views, comments, and articles will gladly be published. Send your articles to.....

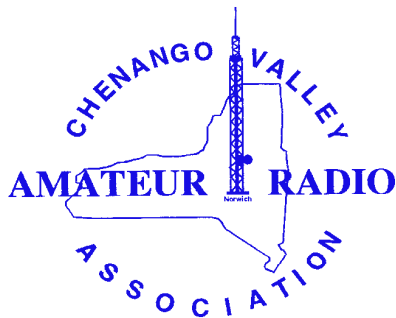
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*Visit the club WEB site at: <http://www.cvara.net>*

***Deadline for the January 2008 Bugle is December 20th***

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