



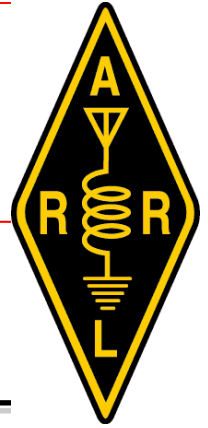
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THE BULLTHISTLE BUGLE

“BLOWING OUR OWN HORN” VOL. 45 Match 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 K2DAR



Election time is here and from the February 2007 regular meeting of CVARA, Inc., the following personnel were nominated, approved and accepted for publication in this issue.

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| President | Stan White | WB2PPN |
| Vice President | Tom Mathewson | KA2MYD |
| Secretary | Sunnie Linabery | KC2PBP |
| Treasurer | Ray Darling | K2DAR |

If no further questions and/or comments concerning the above nominees are received on or before the March 1, 2007 CVARA meeting, our current secretary will be instructed to cast one vote for the slate published. All elected officers will take office on the first meeting of the 2007-2008 fiscal year, April 5, 2007. Thank you all for your cooperation and concern for the furtherance of CVARA, Inc. and Amateur Radio in Chenango Co.

CVARA Meeting Notes 02/01/07 at the Norwich EMO

Meeting called to order at 1910 hours by K2DAR, President.

9 Members present : KC2OFT, KC2CN, K2DAR, KC2PBP, KA2ZFM, KC2BXO, WB2PPN , KB2NDK and WA2TDO.

Minutes accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report Accepted

Discussion:

Committee for Election of Officers will be on Agenda for March Meeting.

Reminder that dues have increased to \$25.00 for General Members - \$5.00 for Associate Members with no voting privileges. Dues are due April 1st, 2007.

Amphenol Family Day - Saturday July 7, 2007. Would we like to set up a booth to promote awareness in the community of Ham Radio activity?

PBA has moved their gym into our previous meeting room. Our meetings will now be held in the next room – EOC area.

As of February 23, 2007, The code requirements will be eliminated for all new licensees.

There will be a Winter Storm Related Drill the week of Feb 5 – 10, 2007 starting at 0800. Monitor "Usual frequencies".

There was a brief discussion of Packet System. We will discuss further at next meeting.

Bulletin from W2LC (Section Manager) Scott Bauer

February 10th 2007 there will be a joint MARS, ARES, RACES exercise. We need to participate. The purpose of the exercise is to support the hospitals which have been equipped with Amateur Radio equipment for use in emergencies. All local repeaters will be involved.

HAM OF THE YEAR Dinner – 4/15/07 Old Mill Restaurant

We need volunteers for weekly net operation. Everyone needs a turn. Let's make it happen.

Meeting adjourned at 2020 hours.

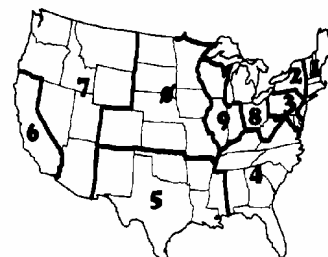
Submitted by KC2PBP & WB2PPN.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2007

- | | | | |
|----------|---|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| March 1 | CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM | 18 - 19 | ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest |
| 3 - 4 | ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) | | |
| April 5 | CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM | September 6 | CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM |
| 14 | Drumlins ARC Newark, NY | 8 - 10 | ARRL September VHF QSO Party |
| 21 | Pioneer Radio Operators Society Sardinia, NY | | |
| May 3 | CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM | 15 - 16 | ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest |
| | | October 4 | CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM |
| | | November 1 | CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM |
| | | 3 - 5 | ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW) |
| June 7 | CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM | 17 - 19 | ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone) |
| 1-3 | Atlantic Division Convention (Rochester Hamfest) | 30 - 12/2 | ARRL 160 Meter Contest |
| 9 - 11 | ARRL June VHF QSO Party | | |
| 9 | Skyline Amateur Radio Club Hamfest Cortland, NY | December 6 | CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM |
| 23 - 24 | ARRL Field Day | 8 - 9 | ARRL 10 Meter Contest |
| July 5 | CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM | | |
| 14 - 15 | IARU HF World Championships | | |
| 21 | RadioCom 2007 Utica Amateur Radio Club | | |
| August 1 | CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM | | |
| 4 - 5 | ARRL UHF Contest | | |
| 4 | Tompkins County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest Ithaca, NY | | |
| 18 | Hamfest 2007 Rome Radio Club Inc. Westmoreland | | |

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 morning around 9:30an meet with other local hams at the Crossroads café, Just North of the City of Norwich.

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



EXERCISE DEEP FREEZE 2007

Various federal, state and local government and emergency relief agencies and ARES, SKYWARN and RACES conducted a fourteen county, multistate, winter storm related drill on Feb. 10, 2007. It was anticipated the DRILL would include traffic on amateur radio circuits starting at approximately 0800 hrs.

This exercise was a test of the Amateur Radio emergency communications systems that New York hospitals recently received for emergency communications. Areas of operation included the states of: ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY, NJ, PA, MD/DC, DE, OH, IN, MI.

Scenario – Major winter storm affecting the entire area with heavy rain, flooding, mudslides, ice accumulation, high winds, and heavy snow cutting communications, transportation routes, and severely affecting the urban and rural populations. Simulated NWS bulletins would be issued beginning 5 Feb. 2007 warning of a confluence of weather systems that is expected to develop into a major winter storm. Successive bulletins would announce the formation of the storm with maximum precipitation hitting the affected areas on 8-10 Feb. 2007. Liaison: MARS will establish a liaison with ARES/RACES nets that have been activated to conduct operations in support of local and state emergency management offices and non-governmental organizations.

The TASIC/KC2NYS mobile communications trailer was moved onto the premises of Chenango Memorial Hospital in anticipation of gathering and passing traffic from hospital staff to the MARS station in Syracuse, NY, and/or other locations/hospitals requested by the served agency/agencies. The crew assembled @ approx. 07:30 hrs. – Bob Benton, N2RXK, John Merlino, N2XWS, Jim LeBaron, WA2IAX and Ray Darling, K2DAR. N2RXK assumed IC status until arrival of

K2DAR. Bob, N2RXK made initial contact/check-in on (HF) 3.925 Mhz. with the National Guard (MARS Operations Center) in Syracuse, NY and listened on alternate frequency of 7.237 Mhz. for a time monitoring frequency noise levels on both. Fortunately, even with QSB prevalent on 80 Mtrs., communications were held continuously on 3.925 Mhz. until operation was secured. Ray, K2DAR called up the local ARES net on 146.685 Mhz. with good participation from area ARES members. John, N2XWS supported the comm. trailer operations while Jim, WA2IAX assumed mobile VHF/HF backup operations from his automobile locating at a point near Chenango Lake, just of State Hwy. 23, Norwich.

It was great to be given the opportunity to demonstrate to various agencies that amateur radio does have a widespread presence in the region. A special thank you to Mr. John R. Masse, Vice President Facilities & Ancillary Services at Chenango Memorial Hospital for his participation and enthusiasm concerning Amateur Radio and it's usefulness to CMH and its staff. Mr. Masse provided our crew with traffic to pass into Wilson Memorial Hospital and successful transmission was accomplished via the KC2NYS Command Center and ultimately with the able assistance of Jim, WA2IAX and his backup/mobile operation.

The Control Cell will evaluate, to the best of their ability from monitoring net activity and other sources of information, the degree and effectiveness of interoperability and joint operations demonstrated in the exercise. A written After Action Report should be issued within 1 month and hopefully made available to each unit involved.

Thanks to everyone who participated and to Bob, N2RXK for usage of the TASIC (KC2NYS) mobile operations trailer. Follow-up report will be given upon receipt



At left Bob, N2RXK, John N2XWS, and Ray K2DAR

WA2IAX photo

ARRL MARKS TRANSITION TO NEW AMATEUR SERVICE RULES

A new Amateur Radio Service regime now is in place. The requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF privileges officially disappeared from the FCC's Part 97 rules February 23 at one minute past midnight Eastern Time. At the same time, some 200,000 Technician licensees without Morse code exam credit acquired HF privileges equivalent to those available to Novice licensees. The League is marking the occasion with a W1AW special event aimed at welcoming newcomers to the HF bands. The "W1AW HF Open House" has included exam sessions under both old and new rules. ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, points to the still-growing number of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) test sessions now on the schedule across the US as evidence that the rule changes will provide a shot in the arm to Amateur Radio.

"ARRL VEC has been extremely busy scheduling new exam sessions," Kramer said. "We normally coordinate about 5500 sessions per year, but we've already scheduled close to 5000 sessions and it's only the end of February."

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports some 175 ARRL VEC test sessions are on the schedule through the February 23-25 period, "and these are just the ones that have registered with us," she added. Two dozen applicants showed up at League Headquarters, either to sit for an exam or apply for license upgrades.

"I was surprised at the number of people who wanted to take the test at 12:01 AM," Somma remarked. All but two test applicants took their exams under the new rules. "After people took their exams, some went over to W1AW to use their new privileges," she added.

First out of the gate at the League's 12:01 AM test session was Joshua Rozovsky, N3YAR, of Bloomfield, Connecticut. He upgraded from Tech to Amateur Extra.

Despite snowy New England weather, a few applicants traveled some distance to take their exams. "A nice young couple that drove in from Rhode Island joined ARRL while here," said ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB. "They thought this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take their upgrades here at HQ."

Breen, who upgraded to General at the February 23 exam session, has been tracking W1AW Open House events in near-real time on an ARRL Web site blog <<http://www.arrl.org/blog/W1AW%20HF%20Open%20House>>. She's also posted some videos to YouTube.com.

Somma says her department now is bracing for an anticipated application avalanche as paperwork from initial sessions shows up. She and Kramer predict test demand will surge even further in the days and weeks ahead. Not only has the number of test sessions increased dramatically, Kramer pointed out, the number of applicants at each session is up as well. To keep up with demand, ARRL VEC has hired additional help. Staffers from other HQ departments also have been lending a hand.

March QST includes an eight-page "tearout" section "Now, New Opportunities for Every Ham!" between pages 48 and 49. <<http://www.arrl.org/HFWelcome/Welcome.pdf>>. It focuses on various topics of interest to those gaining new HF privileges through upgrading or owing to the new rules as well as to veteran licensees. Among other things, it covers mentoring -- or Elmering -- newcomers, "The Top 10 Reasons to Try Morse Code," earning ham radio operating awards by using Logbook of the World (LoTW) and a "Welcome to the fascinating world of high frequency (HF) radio!" by ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

"The FCC's decision to eliminate the Morse code examination as a licensing requirement opens the door to HF for all amateur licensees," Sumner points out in his remarks. Sumner also addresses the topic in his "It Seems to Us" editorial in March QST (page 9).

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"As these new HF operators join us on our favorite bands, we old timers need to set a good example and to be patient, welcoming and positive," he writes. "Let's all remember how little we knew when we got started, and honor those who helped us along the way by doing the same for others."

The March QST special section includes a new ARRL band chart <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>>. (See "Revised ARRL Band Chart available" below.)

The new rules seem to be driving greater enthusiasm for ham radio in general. There's been an uptick in ARRL publication sales, particularly in licensing manuals and licensing guides, and enrollment in the online ARRL Ham Radio License Course (EC-010) <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/Tech.html>> is at an all-time high. Additionally, Kramer notes, DXCC applications are up by 350 from last year, while LoTW has exceeded 121 million QSO records.

"W1AW HF Open House" operation continues through the February 24-25 weekend, with primary activity from 10 AM until 5 PM Eastern Time (1500 until 2200 UTC) or later, depending on interest, propagation and participation. ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY, will compete in the North American RTTY QSO Party from W1AW.

Primary operation will be on both SSB and CW. W1AW will concentrate activity on the Technician and General class HF subbands, using its normal frequencies on most bands.

On SSB: 1.855, 3.990, 7.290, 14.290, 18.160, 21.390 and 28.480 MHz.

On CW: 1.8175, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675 and 28.0675 MHz.

On RTTY: 3597.5, 7.095, 14.095, 21.095 and 28.095 MHz.

NOR'EASTER PROMPTS AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITY IN OHIO, NORTHEAST

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and SKYWARN volunteers activated February 13 and 14 as a fierce winter storm generated potentially dangerous weather conditions from the Great Lakes into New England. In Ohio, ARES teams in five counties took on a variety of weather-related duties February 13. Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Frank Piper, KI8GW, says District Emergency Coordinators in his Section were ready to deploy volunteers in the event of shelter openings or at the request of served agencies.

Piper says that Seneca County ARES members activated a net from the county's emergency operations center to gather reports of local weather conditions, road conditions and stranded motorists. The Ohio Single Sideband Net, which convenes three times a day on 75 meters (3927.5 kHz), and VHF/UHF repeaters kept northern Ohio radio amateurs in contact with each other.

In western Ohio, ARES teams in Darke, Green and Shelby counties assisted local emergency management agencies and hospitals by helping to transport essential personnel. "Many of these operations started early Tuesday morning when the storm hit and operated at each hospital shift change," Piper explained.

In Montgomery County, the local emergency management agency requested ARES activation early Tuesday, and a net was begun on the 145.11 MHz repeater. SKYWARN was active across portions of the US Northeast for the winter weather event. The storm dumped up to three feet of snow in portions of northeastern New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, northwestern Massachusetts and Maine, with white-out and blizzard conditions reported because of high-winds throughout much of the region. Sleet and freezing rain fell across much of interior Southern New England and there was heavy rainfall in Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts and along coastal areas.

(Continued on page 7)

"Amateur Radio operators supported SKYWARN and the National Weather Service Forecast Offices in Taunton, Massachusetts -- WX1BOX -- and Gray, Maine --WX1GYX -- with reports of snowfall, wind damage and flooding," said Rob Macedo, KD1CY, the ARES/SKYWARN coordinator for NWS-Taunton. Macedo says the heaviest snow fell across northern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire, which received anywhere from 8 to 15 inches.

"Luckily, little infrastructure damage occurred, though urban flooding near the evening commute was a problem on major roads in eastern, southeastern and coastal Massachusetts and Rhode Island," Macedo said. "Winds gusted to between 45 and 55 MPH, and as temperatures dropped rapidly, untreated roads iced up quickly."

Macedo says SKYWARN volunteers used several repeaters and linked repeater systems across New England, and the New England Reflector System <<http://www.new-eng.com/>> was active. He reports the VoIP system served to relay SKYWARN reports from across New England and as a pathway for NWS-Taunton to communicate with NWS-Gray, both directly and through NWS-Gray liaison Ken Grimmard, NIDOT.

"We continue to build a strong SKYWARN program for the NWS-Gray office," Macedo said. "These reports that we get from spotters are extremely helpful."

SKYWARN currently has EchoLink and VHF/UHF capability at WX1GYX, noted Tom Berman, N1KTA, a forecaster at the NWS Gray office. Since NWS-Gray has no HF capability as yet, it requested NWS-Taunton to go to the Seagull Net on 3940 kHz to gather snowfall and weather condition reports, since the net covers much of Maine and New Hampshire. The reports were then delivered to NWS-Gray via EchoLink.

FCC says no commercial credit for prior military, ham radio, experience: The FCC has told a California radio amateur that it will not waive a commercial license application rule on the basis of his Amateur Radio Morse code qualifications. Last April, Robert E. Griffin, K6YR, of San Luis Obispo, applied for an

FCC First Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate -- known as a T1 license -- requesting a waiver of §13.201(b)(1)(iv). That rule says T1 applicants must have a year's experience "sending and receiving public correspondence by radiotelegraph at a public coast station, a ship station, or both." Griffin, who's ARRL Santa Barbara Section Manager and transmits the West Coast Qualifying Run on approximately 3.590 MHz, argued that the FCC should waive the rule because it's nearly impossible in an era of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) to acquire the requisite experience and that the rule presented "an unreasonable hardship and a burdensome requirement." He sought credit on the basis of his military and Amateur Radio radiotelegraph experience, including participation in the Military Affiliate Radio System, in lieu of experience at a public coast station or ship station. In a letter <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-07-783A1.pdf> February 22, the FCC said Griffin failed to demonstrate that the rule in question was "inequitable or burdensome" insofar as all T1 applicants face the same requirement, and it denied Griffin's request. "A request for relief from the existing requirement of §13.201(b)(1)(iv) would better be addressed in a rule making proceeding, rather than through the waiver process," the FCC allowed.

The preceding taken from:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 08

February 23, 2007



CVARA CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ray Darling, K2DAR

Vice Pres: Thomas Mathewson, KA2MYD

Treasurer: Charles Davenport Sr. KC2BXO

Secretary: KC2PBP Sonja / WB2PPN Stan

Trustees: Ray Darling, K2DAR, Tom Atwell, WB2ACV, Jim Leahy, K2JL

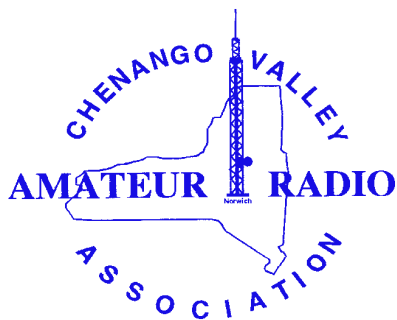
Tom, KA2MYD, editor of the Bugle is ALWAYS looking for submissions
Your views, comments, and articles will gladly be published. Send your articles to.....

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Deadline for the April 2007 Bugle is March 20th



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