



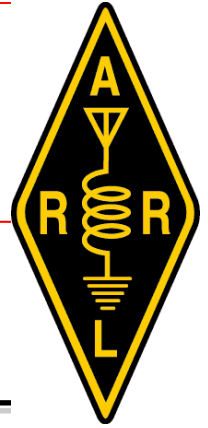
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# THE BULLTHISTLE BUGLE

“BLOWING OUR OWN HORN” VOL. 45 May 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



From The President's Corner

Since our initial spring weather offering, it has become a little discouraging to have to revert to winter conditions again, but I am sure things will gradually improve. In my eager anticipation of warmer weather, I had already started my antenna work and fortunately, solved a few of its problem areas before the cold reality of winter found its way back.

UPDATE : A week later and we are now back to Summer weather again.

Sorry the bad weather had to change our original schedule for Ham of the Year Dinner at The Old Mill, but we still managed to get it in on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all of our new Hams and encourage their participation in events to come. Let's keep the ball rolling.

73's, Stan WB2PPN

## CVARA Meeting Notes 04/05/07

Meeting called to order at 1902 hours by WB2PPN, President.

12 Members present : KA2MYD, KC2CN, K2DAR, KC2PBP, KA2ZFM, KC2BXO, WB2PPN, N2RXK, KB2NOK, N2XWS, WA2IAX and WA2TDO.

**Minutes** accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer's** report - Accepted

### Old Business:

**Membership** now has 2 new members. 83 letters have been sent to members to update information and solicit dues.

No further information on Amphenol Open House.

### Field Day Plans:

Plan 2 Alpha stations  
KA2MYD will have sign up sheets next month  
Discussed publishing notice of Field Day in local media. K2DAR will make preparations for same.

### Education:

N2RXK waiting for Hamilton Hospital and CMH to get volunteers in line for training. Radio has been installed in Hamilton.

### Hamfest

Owego - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May.  
Cortland - June 9th

Ham of the Year Dinner will be held at The Old Mill on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 P.M.

**NOTICE:** Saturday Breakfasts are now being held at The Dog House on Rt 12 North of North Norwich at 9 or 9:30 a.m.

EMCOM May 5<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. – Allegro Run for the Arts.

Need 3 people in vehicles and a couple of extra would be helpful. Meet at the old High School.

### Packet System:

Still waiting for Otsego County.

N2RXK will present EMCOM program at next meeting.

**Meeting** adjourned 1954 hrs.

Minutes submitted by Sunnie Linabery KC2PBP

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2007

May 3	CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM	September	6 CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM 8 - 10 ARRL September VHF QSO Party
June 7	CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM	October 4	15 - 16 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM
1-3	Atlantic Division Convention (Rochester Hamfest)	November	1 CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM 3 - 5 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)
9 - 11	ARRL June VHF QSO Party		17 - 19 ARRL November Sweepstakes
9	Skyline Amateur Radio Club Hamfest Cortland, NY	(Phone)	
23 - 24	ARRL Field Day	30 - 12/2	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
July 5	CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM	December	6 CIVARA Meeting 7:00 PM
14 - 15	IARU HF World Championships	8 - 9	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
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		
18 - 19	ARRL 10 GHz and Up 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.



## Field Day 2007 CVARA Style

The picture at left is of the current field day logo. Anyone interested in ordering either a pin or a T shirt? Pins are \$5.00 ea and T's are 12.96 ea. If you are interested, drop me a line

Plans are starting to come together for this years Field Day to be held on June 23 and 24 at the vclub repeater site. Word from N2XWS that he and his lovely XYL, Donna will be on site with the land yacht, providing little rain. John also informs me that “[Donna would like donations or a commitment of what you will be providing \(Food or Money\) by June 18th -- PLEASE](#)”



That is about it for now. I hope to make the meeting on Thursday night to answer questions

73  
Tom  
KA2MYD

## APPLICATION SURGE CONTINUES UNDER NEW AMATEUR RULES

It's been just a little more than two months since the FCC dropped the requirement that Amateur Radio applicants pass a Morse code test to earn operating privileges below 30 MHz. While the initial avalanche of applications immediately following February 23, when the no-Morse testing regime went into effect, has abated somewhat, business remains brisk for the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator staff.

"It's slowing down a little bit, but it's still substantially above what we usually see," observed ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. She estimated that new Amateur Radio applications were up by 35 percent, while upgrade applications were up by 150 percent over last year's volume.

In a typical pre-February 23 week, Somma said, ARRL VEC would receive paperwork from approximately 115 test sessions. "It's on the order of 150 to 200 sessions per week now!" she exclaimed. Somma and ARRL VEC staffers concurred that applications were roughly evenly split between newcomers and upgraders. She said she's also seen a spike in the number of applications from General and higher class radio amateurs to serve as volunteer examiners.

To satisfy his own curiosity, ARRL member Tommy Gober, N5DUX, compiled some FCC statistics on the number of new Technician, General and Extra licensees

before and after the Morse code requirement was deleted. His numbers show the FCC issued nearly 700 more Amateur Extra, 3625 more General and 454 more Technician licenses in March 2007 than in the same month last year.

Figures from ARRL member and ham radio statistician Joe Speroni, AH0A, indicate the total number of Amateur Extra licensees is up 1649 from March 2006 to March 2007, while the General population grew by 2668. The total number of Technician licensees dropped by 1632 during the same period, however -- and it continues to drop going into April.

Speroni's figures also show that the grand total of Amateur Radio station licenses has declined by more than 12,800 over the past two years -- to 655,048 at the end of March.

The still-heavy volume has stretched the amount of time it takes for an application to proceed from examination session to license grant. "I think we're looking at eight to ten days from the test date," Somma allowed. By and large, those on the waiting end have been patient and understanding, she added.

A staff of seven full-time and three part-time employees handle the "incoming" from Amateur Radio exam sessions across the US and from other sites where US Amateur Radio examinations are administered through ARRL VEC.

There's no light at the end of the tunnel just yet. Somma and her staff are looking ahead to 450 examination sessions registered for May, another 400 in June and 320 apiece during July and August. And summer is "the slow season," she remarked. Another 900 test sessions already are on the calendar for the rest of 2007.

Clandestine broadcaster, jamming station back in Amateur Radio band: ARRL Monitoring System/Intruder Watch Liaison Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, confirms reports that a clandestine broadcaster and a jamming station again are competing on 18.160 MHz. The 17-meter band is a worldwide exclusive Amateur Radio allocation. Following up on reports, Skolaut says he's able to hear the "Sound of Hope" broadcast station from Taiwan as well as the so-called "Fire Dragon" jammer, broadcasting music from Hainan, Peoples' Republic of China, at ARRL Headquarters station W1HQ. The Sound of Hope transmits news unfavorable to the PRC, while the Hainan music transmissions attempt to block the transmission, pausing for four minutes each hour, apparently to check the frequency. The result is a mess! Skolaut has received reports about the clandestine broadcaster and music jammer interference from all over the US as well as Europe, Africa and the UK. IARU Monitoring System Region 1 Coordinator Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, in Germany has docu-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## *WA2IAX named CVARA Ham of the Year*



29 April 2007

After a snow storm delay, we finally arrived at The Old Mill Restaurant for a fine meal and topped it off with the Annual presentation of "The Ham of the Year" to Jim LeBaron. Jim has been working with his Scout troop and through his patience has helped create several new licensed Amateur Radio Operators. His encouragement will hopefully keep the Amateur ranks growing into the next generation. Our congratulations to Jim for keeping the ball rolling.

De Stan WB2PPN

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## Ham Scout Helps with Orienteering Requirement



**SPL**OD [Senior Patrol Leader of the Day], Jesse Hornbeck KC2NTS, [right] keeps in touch with Orienteering Course leader during Troop campout. Fellow Scouts [L-R] Chris Omahen and Mike Roberts wait their turn to run the course.

The safety factor of Ham radio was in place during troop 99, Sidney NY's Orienteering campout at Melondy Hill state Land in Broome county April 28 – 29, 2007. Under Permit from DEC Ranger Jeremy Oldroyd, the troop braved intermittent showers to help 3 First class Scout candidates complete requirement 2.a, "Participate in an Orienteering Course of at least one mile....". SPL Hornbeck kept in touch with the course designer and continued his leadership by helping younger Scouts with meals and camp protocol. The three Scouts who completed the wet, rough terrain course were Chris Omahen, Mike Roberts and Trey Crawford. A "Field Report" and two personnel messages were sent from camp and one message reply was received. No cell phone coverage was available from this site. Thanks for home stations KC2MYX, KB2EZR and KC2RGE for passing the traffic.

De WA2IAX

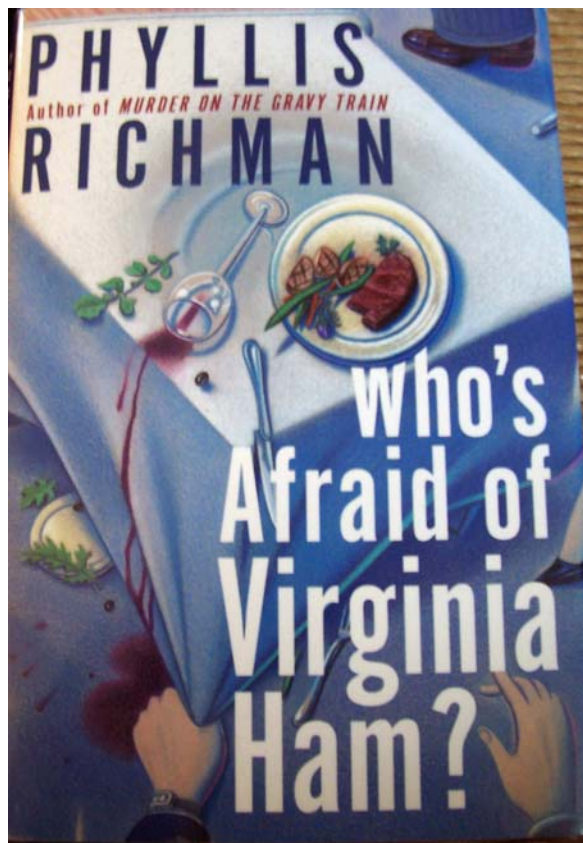
*(Continued from page 4)*

mented the intruders on 18.160 MHz (and others) on his Web site <<http://www.iarums-r1.org/iarums/latest.pdf>>.

Satgate System to QRT: AMSAT-NA reports that after many years of forwarding packet messages via UO-22, GO-32 and AO-51 the Satgate System will go silent. The total of 35 worldwide stations in the system a few years ago has dwindled due to a lack of traffic,

maintenance problems, change of location and operator attrition. The system originated with David Medley, KI6QE, and the driving force over the past several years has been Andrew Sellers, G8TZJ, who's credited with developing software to permit Satgate stations to be fully automated. -- AMSAT News Service

The above from The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 17, April 27, 2007



### New Book for YL's?

Must have missed this one.

No advertisements in QST.

Published by HarperCollins Publishing in 2001.

You'd think we would have heard of it.

No mention of Virginia's callsign either.

Might be a good idea to search QRZ.

De WA2IAX

### Four Scouts and 2 Dads Get Their Tickets.

**L-R** [F] Ethan Green KC2RGG, Carl Ayres KC2RGJ. [R] Seth Green KC2RGF and Jeremy Maxwell KC2RGI. Seth and Ethan's dad, Dan KC2RGE and Jeremy's dad, Ron KC2RGH also joined the Troop 99 "C-Corps" as licensed operators.

Troop 99 Scouts, who had been attending "Tech Class" at Troop sponsor: the "First Congregational Church" of Sidney, NY, were happy to receive their new callsigns, posted April 4 th. 2007. They join eight other TR99 licensed members, parents and leaders. Thanks go out to Paul DeAndrea WB2JOW who served as a substitute instructor and also to the VE team of Ken Cassidy WN2WNC, Ray Darling K2DAR, Stan White WB2PPN, Bob Benton N2RXK and John Witkowski WA2QQF from the Chenango Valley ARA, Chenango County, NY. Scouts are planning their first "Club" meeting Apr 12 to build some roll-up J-pole antennas.



DE WA2IZX

## **CVARA CLUB OFFICERS**

**President:** Stan White WB2PPN

**Vice Pres:** Thomas Mathewson, KA2MYD

**Treasurer:** Ray Darling, K2DAR

**Secretary:** KC2PBP Sonja / WB2PPN Stan

**Trustees:** Ray Darling, K2DAR, Tom Atwell, WB2ACV, 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.....

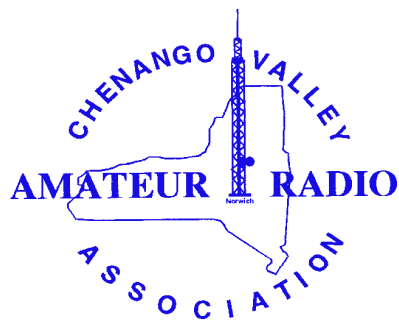
Thomas Mathewson  
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*Visit the club WEB site at: <http://www.cvara.net>*

***Deadline for the June 2007 Bugle is May 20th***

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