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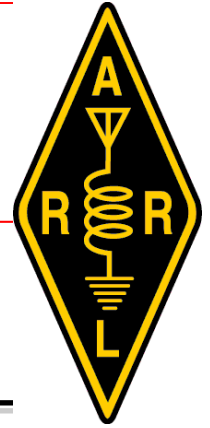
# THE BULLTHISTLE BUGLE

“BLOWING OUR OWN HORN” VOL. 45

October 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 are fast approaching our meeting for the month of October 2007. The last few meetings have showed a general increase in attendance and I hope the wave continues. Our VE testing is continuing to build new ham structure in the area and it would be good to see an encouraging growth in our club activities. One of the things I have been thinking about is a page addition to our bugle where we can list sale or swap items that many hams might be interested in. As new hams come into our group, they may be looking for something that is not being used or awaiting hamfests to acquire some of our treasures. We can discuss more at the meeting. Hope to see you all there.

73's  
Stan WB2PPN

### Eds Notes

*In Response to our presidents words of wisdom, classifieds are always welcome, for that matter any material that any one wants to share is very much welcome. Send it to me and I will see to it that it is published in these pages.. Already on the slate for the November issue are some classifieds that I have, and a short note from Jeff, KP3FT.*

73  
Tom  
KA2MYD

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"Harold!!! What are you doing wasting money on more USELESS radio equipment!!!"

## CVARA Meeting Notes 09/06/07

Club Meeting Sept. 6th, 2007; Minutes taken by W2WHT in KC2PBP's absence

**Location:** EOC, 2nd Floor; Norwich City Police Station; Main Street, Norwich NY.

Meeting called to order at 1909 hours by WB2PPN, President.

11 Members present: N2XWS, KC2RTS, Mike Teoli, W2WHT, KB2NDK, N2CHD, K2DAR, KC2CN, KA2ZFM, KC2OFT, and WB2PPN.

Introductions were offered as there were new members present:  
Michael Teoli (KC2RTS), and his father Mike Teoli.

WB2PPN (Pres.) asked if everybody had received the Bugle? Copies were provided for minutes review of last months meeting. A minor correction was offered as to how many members were present at the last meeting. The corrected total is 8. A motion was made to accept the revised minutes by K2DAR, and seconded by KB2NDK; the membership voted and the motion was carried.

**Treasurer's report** (K2DAR) – Accepted as read  
Membership now has 40 paid members.

**Tower project summary:** The work on this project began 8-02-05. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report encompassing the tower project summary. Motion was made by KB2NDK, and seconded by N2XWS. A vote was held and the motion was passed by the membership present. A general discussion followed as to the overall reception of the tower, and increased range of coverage. WB2PPN mentioned he had email correspondence with one of the hams that has been heard on the repeater as long distance interference. Apparently this individual is located on a high hill as well as the repeater (N3PC) he uses. Their location is in Coudersport, in North Central PA. A discussion

was also made regarding setting a PL tone to access the W2RME repeater and N2XWS advised he would make an effort to adjust the repeater operation to include an access tone. Noted in discussion was the ability to use an HT to access the repeater from areas previously unable to do so. This included Smyrna.

**Correspondence;** K2DAR brought to the attention of members present the frequency change for a major repeater system in effect in Binghamton. The information was emailed to all members and was also included in the Bugle for September. 2007 SET contest; K2DAR mentioned the basic guidelines for this contest in October. It involves EMCOMM, Tactical, and portable operations in many different modes. He has further information as to frequencies and points available for varying types of operation.

**Announcements;** WB2PPN advised the VE session scheduled September 15<sup>th</sup> will be held in the EOC, and asked for someone to advise N2RXK of the change in location from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room. W2WHT advised she would pass that along Friday Evening as well as making a reservation for N2XWS for his Extra exam that day.

**General Discussion;** K2DAR in his capacity as Emergency Communications coordinator mentioned the fact that the ARES and RACES portions of our EMCOMM preparedness had not been called up in at least 20 years. Activation of that aspect of our EMCOMM operations is at the request of the state or county. Simulated emergency drills are conducted every year, and generally occur in October. No warning will be given for the event/drill. Various contests were discussed including a special use call sign of 3B7C located in the Indiana Ocean from 9/7/2007 00:00 UTC to 9/24/2007 00:00 UTC Information is available from  
[http://www.southgatearc.org/news/september2007/3b7\\_st\\_brandon.htm](http://www.southgatearc.org/news/september2007/3b7_st_brandon.htm)  
For frequencies, modes and a beacon on 50.09 mhz.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2007

October 4 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM  
 November 1 CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM  
 3 - 5 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)

17 - 19 ARRL November Sweepstakes  
 (Phone) 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.

*(Continued from page 2)*

**CARES Practice net report;** (weekly practice net Wednesday Nights 7:30 local)  
 W2WHT mentioned that participation is doing well, and averages approximately 8 per week. Additionally the manpower report for the month of August was circulated and indicated a sizeable increase from July. Members present were encouraged to conduct the net. There is a script for operation of the net is available to anyone who would like to run the net and it is fun to conduct, and a great learning experience.

**Six County Amateur Radio Emergency Services net** was discussed:

(Net meets monthly, first Monday of the month 7:00 pm 3.925 mhz LSB 3.9935 mhz alt freq).

KA2ZFM mentioned that 4 stations checked in September 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is an improvement over July in which only two stations checked in.

K2DAR further explained the function of the net. It is a primary notification method in the event of an emergency which cripples communications. This net is the method used in order to summon additional help to any of the counties involved. Proper opera-

tion of this net is essential for smooth and efficient deployment in the event of such an emergency. Members who can operate on 80 meters are encouraged to log in next month.

**Comments non topic;** Colorscape is manned for this weekend.

No further business was brought forward. A motion to close was made by N2XWS and seconded by N2CHD. Vote and carried.

**Meeting adjourned** at 20:12.

After business meeting program:

Although not a "program" K2DAR and WB2PPN brought in QSL catalogs they have accumulated over many years. The purpose and method of how to obtain these was explained and there are different methods to do so. Discussion about dx'ing and various modes of communication followed for about an hour.

Rebekkah L. Whiting, W2WHT September 7<sup>th</sup>,

2007

## SPECTRUM DEFENSE FUND MARKS

### ELEVENTH YEAR

First begun in 1996 to protect the 2 meter band from "Little LEOs" (low-earth orbiting satellites), the ARRL's Spectrum Defense Fund marks its eleventh annual appeal this year, urging members to take a stand to protect the Amateur Radio spectrum from broadband over power lines (BPL). The ARRL's concern is not whether BPL will ultimately succeed or fail, but whether the federal government will fulfill its obligation to ensure that BPL systems - if and when they are deployed - will not pollute the radio spectrum.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, calls protecting the radio spectrum against BPL interference "a good example of how the ARRL works on all fronts to protect Amateur Radio. We must be patient -- spectrum defense is a never-ending mission. We must be resolute, not discouraged by the occasional setback. We must be creative, seeking alternate paths to success. Above all, we must be accurate; credibility is a precious commodity that is too easily lost."

The ARRL first brought problems concerning BPL interference to light five years ago in the October 2002 issue of QST, calling it a potential source of "radio smog." In that time, the League has fought hard to protect our precious spectrum, including the fight for "stronger protection against BPL interference in the FCC's rules, and when the FCC failed to go far enough we took them to court -- a huge but necessary financial commitment. We have taken our case to Congress, seeking legislation directing the FCC to do a serious study of the interference issue. We have done our technical homework, verifying the inadequacy of the FCC's rules and documenting violations by irresponsible BPL companies," Sumner said.

He continued: "But we also have cooperated with reputable firms, helping them to understand the seriousness of the issue and the steps they need to take to avoid problems with radio amateurs. We've made some important gains on that front -- no thanks to the

FCC, which (unlike many in the BPL industry) remains more interested in defending its early errors than in correcting them."

Sumner does explain that BPL interference issues are not all that the Spectrum Defense Fund is allocated for. He says that next year, the ARRL will begin its preparation for the 2011 World Radiocommunication Conference; agenda items for WRC-11 will be discussed this year in Geneva at WRC-07. "We will continue to defend our spectrum access against reallocation as well as against the insidious threats posed by unlicensed devices and systems," he said.

All ARRL members are an essential part of the team that will ensure that we win the fight over spectrum encroachment. With a successful Spectrum Defense Fund campaign, "the ARRL is able to stand up for Amateur Radio -- just as the League has done since its founding nearly a century ago," Sumner said.

He pointed out that the proceeds to the Spectrum Defense Fund are restricted to being used only for that purpose - spectrum defense: "When you make your contribution, you can be sure that your contribution is spent on these, and only these activities. If you've checked the ARRL audited financial statements that we post on the ARRL Web site each year, you know that the expenses attached to protecting our frequencies are never fully funded by the Spectrum Defense Fund. Membership dues and other revenues cover the rest. In fact, every penny of income the ARRL receives is devoted to the protection, promotion and advancement of Amateur Radio. It's why the League was created in 1914 and why it exists today."

For more information on how you can support the ARRL's efforts to protect the Amateur Radio spectrum, please see the Spectrum Defense Fund page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/defense>>.

The above from:

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 39,  
September 28, 2007

**Chenango Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**  
**VHF Repeater Guidelines & Good Operating Practices:**  
**W2RME/R**

All amateur radio operators are welcome to use the CVARA, Inc. 2 meter repeater. The rules that govern our service require good amateur operating practices. Our club membership and the repeater trustee have approved the following guidelines and repeater operating practices. We encourage you to follow these guidelines when using our club's repeater. This will make the use of our repeater more enjoyable for everyone.

**Use plain English and avoid jargon.** Use plain language on a repeater. There is no need to use slang or jargon. FM repeater communication is essentially as clear as a telephone call. Q-signals, pro signs and phonetics are not necessary for most FM operation.

**Content of communications.** We are all familiar with types of communications which the FCC rules prohibit, such as music, codes and ciphers, criminal activity, false signals, broadcasting, retransmitting radio signals, and obscenity and indecency.

While we support freedom of speech, we need to remember that there are many listeners of all ages who monitor our repeater. Our language should be courteous and sensitive to the considerations of all listeners, free of expletives, and suitable for family conversations. Use language suitable for prime-time television, not R rated movies.

We also ask all users to avoid on-the-air conflicts about controversial topics. If the debate starts getting vehement, change the subject, or continue it off-the-air. For many years, hams have followed a "rule of thumb" that is **is not** a good idea to discuss sex, religion and politics over the air.

**Identify correctly.** FCC rules require a station to identify every ten minutes and at the end of a QSO. Repeating the other station's call sign and your call sign following every transmission is not necessary. Never transmit without identifying.

**Making contact with another station.** If the repeater is quiet, just sign your call or say your call followed by the word "listening." Anyone on the frequency will know that you are willing to accept calls from any other station. Nothing else is necessary. Don't call CQ to begin a conversation on a repeater.

If you're in conversation, a brief pause before you begin each transmission allows other stations to break in – there could be an emergency. Don't key your microphone as soon as someone releases theirs. If your exchanges are too quick, you can prevent other stations from getting in.

To join a conversation in progress, transmit your call sign during the pause between transmissions. The station that transmits next will usually acknowledge you. If you are in the midst of a conversation and another station transmits his or her call sign between transmissions, the next station in line to transmit should acknowledge the new station and permit the new arrival to make a call or join in the conversation. It is impo-

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lite not to acknowledge new stations, or to acknowledge them but not let them speak. The calling station may need to use the repeater immediately, so let him or her make a transmission promptly. Don't use the word "break" to join a conversation unless you need to use the repeater to help in an **emergency**.

**Testing and signal reports.** If you are unsure how well you are making it into the repeater, DO NOT ker-chunk the repeater. Any time you key up the repeater, you should identify, even if you are just testing to see if you are making the machine. Keying the repeater without identifying is illegal. Do not use the repeater as a "target" for tuning or aiming antennas, checking your transmitter power, etc. Use a dummy load where appropriate, or test on a simplex frequency. If you need someone to verify that you are making the repeater OK, ask for a "signal report."

**Emergencies.** To make a distress call over a repeater, say "break, break" or "break for priority traffic" and then your call sign to alert all stations to stand by while you deal with the emergency. DO NOT USE THE WORD BREAK TO JOIN IN A QSO UNLESS THERE IS AN EMERGENCY!. All stations should give immediate priority to any station with emergency traffic.

**Usage.** Keep transmissions on the repeater as short as possible, so more people can use the repeater. Be considerate of other users, and don't tie up the repeater unnecessarily for long periods of time. Don't overuse the repeater – it is a shared resource. The repeater is not a soapbox. If you've been using the repeater for quite a while, consider getting off and letting other have an opportunity to use it, or if possible, move your conversation to a simplex frequency.

The best way to determine if you are able to communicate with the other station on simplex is to listen to the repeater input frequency. If you can hear the other station's signals there, you should be able to use simplex.

If other amateurs are asking to make calls during a QSO, it is a very good indication that there are other users waiting to use the repeater. Even if there are not other stations asking to make call during a QSO, or if other users are invited to break in but chose not to, there is still a very good possibility that there are other users waiting for the QSO to end so they can make a call. Many amateurs are reluctant to interrupt an ongoing QSO to make a call; they may feel that the call they want to make is no more important than the QSO already in progress.

Being a relatively wide-coverage system, many mobile stations and travelers use the system to communicate over a wide distance while on the road. The W2RME repeater has been built at considerable expense and hard work to provide this wide-area service. One of the purposes of our repeater is to expand the range of mobile and hand-held transceivers.

W2RME is NOT a closed repeater system. It is an open, user-friendly and visitor-friendly system. Local and visiting amateurs who are not members of the CVARA are welcome to use our repeater. Those who use our repeater frequently are encouraged to consider joining our club or making a donation to help support our repeater.

**Shutdowns.** A control operator may shut off the repeater either due to a violation of the W2RME repeater policies, violations of FCC regulations, or flagrant disregard for "good amateur practice." A shutdown should be taken as a hint that something was wrong, either with the conversation or with the operating practices.

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Shutdowns are often done in lieu of direct personal intervention by a control operator as it avoids the situation from becoming a personal confrontation.

For more information about the use of FM repeaters, we encourage you to read an excellent article on the ARRL web site entitled “Repeaters – what are they and how to use them.”

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/repeater1.pdf>. Some of the material in these guidelines was obtained from the ARRL article, and used by permission.

If you have any questions about the CVARA repeater, feel free to contact any repeater board member or Ray Darling, K2DAR, the trustee of the club call W2RME.

### *K2DAR and N2CHD do Elmira Hamfest*



## **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.....

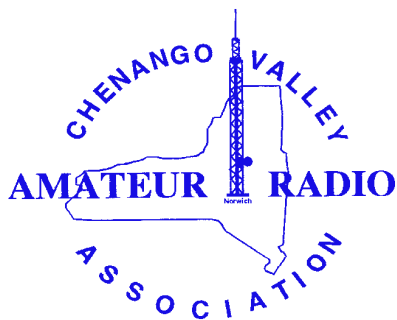
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*Visit the club WEB site at: <http://www.cvara.net>*

***Deadline for the November 2007 Bugle is October 20th***

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