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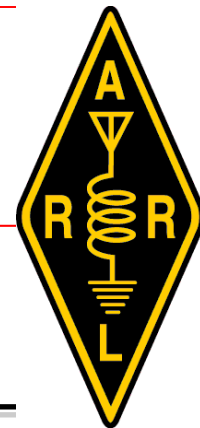
# THE BULLTHISTLE BUGLE

“BLOWING OUR OWN HORN” VOL. 46

February 2008

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



### Dues are Due !!

**Annual Full Membership \$25.00 – Full voting privileges**  
**Add'l Family Member \$25.00 – Full voting privileges**  
**Add'l Family Member \$ 5.00 - Non-voting**  
**Associate Member \$ 5.00 - Non-voting**  
**Student (To Age 17) \$ 7.50**

**You will be receiving a personal invitation to membership shortly by mail. Please complete all the information requested so that we may update our club records, both personal and ARES. Thank you for your continued support and prompt response. Send your data with cash/check or money order to our treasurer:  
Ray Darling, K2DAR  
695 Ives Settlement Rd.  
Bainbridge, NY 13733-3350.**

Greetings Fellow Hams,

With great anticipation of an early spring, we made the trip back from Florida to find that the weather is

really not cooperating as well as we expected. However, Chenango County has been known to make weather changes very abruptly, and hopefully this will get under motion soon. Florida weather was good to us with only a couple of days presenting a bit of a chill. We did get to attend the Orlando Hamfest which was quite a large event, and also met up with Frank WB2IRE while there. It was a fun day with lots of vendors and tailgaters as well.

I hope everyone had a great winter.

Thanks for your support during the past year. I am looking forward to the new slate of officers.

73,s and hope to see you all on Thursday.

Stan WB2PPN

### *Ed's Notes*

*Starting with the next issue of this publication, the April issue, the publication date will be around the 15th of the month. This means that all material will have to be sent to the editor by the tenth of the month at the very latest.*

## CVARA Meeting Notes 2/07/08

Minutes taken by W2WHT in KC2PBP's absence

**Location:** EOC, 2nd Floor; Norwich City Police Station; Main Street, Norwich New York,

**Call to order:** 19:11 EDT

**In Attendance:** 10 Members were present as well as 1 Guest.

N2RXK, N2GVB, K2DAR, W2WHT, KA2ZFM, KC2RTS, KC2SFK, KC2CN, WA2TDO, KC2SFU, Gabe Teoli

Everybody introduced themselves to the group.

K2DAR opened the meeting. He was the only club official present. There were no minutes from the previous meeting to approve.

**Treasurer's report** (K2DAR)

Motion to approve the report was made by N2RXK, Second KA2ZFM. Passed by group.

**Correspondence;** K2DAR brought to the attention of members the death of K2FRD's mother recently.

Fred is not traveling due to his own serious health issues (cancer).

Email from President Stan (WB2PPN). He, Sunny (KC2PBP) and Frank (WB2IRE) (our snowbirds in the south) spent a day together in the sunny weather of Florida. Stan mentioned the delightful weather in Florida much to the chagrin of the members present in Norwich. Mention was made of plans to attend the huge hamfest in Orlando in the coming week. Stan plans of returning the first or second week of

March.

K2DAR received a note from Wes W2EMO and the group can plan on meeting every month in the EOC for the immediate future.

A letter was received from John Scott of the National DX association. We were asked to make a donation to the group which is responsible for sponsoring at least 175 expeditions to faraway and very much sought after DX locations in recent years. Since our balance is on the fairly low it was not brought to a vote or discussed as being possible at this time.

Chuck (N2CHD) has advised he is unable to attend the next few meetings due to work obligations.

**Announcements;** K2DAR has advised that the PACKET system is still off line, and two of the TNC's were removed to be returned to KA2MYD as they belong to him. The MFJ units are still at the shack.

N2RXK announced a VE Session as well as an EMCOMM testing session tentatively scheduled in May. Also mentioned were the individuals from both Chenango and Hamilton Hospitals who will be taking the TECHNICIANS test. N2RXK will handle the arrangements with Ken (WN2WNC).

**TASIS news:** Brought to the attention of the group was the Countywide SET scheduled for

(Continued on page 3)

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2008

6 Mar CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM

3 Apr CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM

13 Apr Mt. Beacon ARC

1 May CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM

30-31 May Atlantic Division Convention (Rochester Hamfest)  
Rochester Amateur Radio Association

5 June CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM

3 Jul CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM

19 Jul Genesee Radio Amateurs  
Alexander (Batavia), NY

7 Aug CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM

4 Sep CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM

2 Oct CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM

6 Nov CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM

4 Dec CVARA Meeting 7:00 PM

*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.



April 6. The TESIS COMM GROUP will be involved and is to serve as an ancillary group to the emergency services that will be present. All Members were urged to keep that day open so the group can provide a substantial presence at the SET.

TESIS Scheduled operations additionally Scheduled for 2008:

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chenango Council of the ARTS 5k run;  
June 14<sup>th</sup>, Airport Days which will have a bigger presentation this year. They particularly appreciated the presence of the group last year and would like a similar presentation if not bigger.

The Chenango Council of the Arts Colorscape is scheduled for September 6-7 and will need over-

night security to be provided by at least two individuals. Volunteers are sought to fulfill this request.

N2RXK also informed the CVARA that TESIS COMM GROUP is now the defacto EMCOMM provider for Madison County from NYS Route 20 south. MOU's were pending from Madison County and COLGATE University. New members were acknowledged in the TESIS group including KC2AOA, and KC2SOY as well as Mike Webster who is a certified wilderness and water rescue expert who is also working on his TECH license. K2DAR announced that October 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 will be the date of the CVARA SET which is to coincide with the national SET which is held in October

each year.

*SCARES NET report (Feb.);* The net was conducted by WA2TDO this past Monday and conditions were not very good along with a couple of other hams having a QSO on a frequency very near to the NET Frequency. W2WHT mentioned she tried to check in but could not be heard over the adjacent channel interference. N2RXK suggested we try to develop an alternative communication system in the event of a catastrophic failure including the repeater.

Other bands were suggested including 40-20-10 meters. Also the concept of high ground 147.55 VHF simplex operation is feasible.

WA2TDO mentioned that the SCARES has not been viable or present for a couple of years. Perhaps we should drop the concept due to other counties not participating since that is the purpose of the net.

*ELECTIONS 2008-2009;* K2DAR mentioned that he has received nominations for this coming year's slate of officers. Only 3 out of 4 positions have candidates at this time. Those nominated are:

W2WHT – Pres.; KA2MYD – Vice Pres.;  
Sec. No Nominations as of yet; K2DAR –  
Treas. in September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The members present were encouraged to make a nomination to K2DAR to fill this last position.

*Membership information;* It was asked how many members were currently in the club. A

total of 42 dues paying members were reported. K2DAR asked if he could purchase postage for a general mailing to seek new members to join the club from the area Hams who are not currently members of the club. A motion was made by W2WHT, and seconded by N2RXK to approve the expense. Also mentioned was the fact that membership dues are supposed to be paid before the new "year" begins on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Hamfest info;* The next area hamfest is Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> in Horseheads at the Armory.

*Final Discussion;* W2WHT mentioned that the minutes and the Bugle would better serve the group if it were distributed right after the meeting. In this way upcoming events would be made known to the entire membership in advance of the events themselves. Other members made remarks in agreement, but no action was taken at this meeting.

*Meeting adjourned;* With no further business being brought to the groups attention, a motion was made by WA2TDO, Seconded by N2GVB to adjourn, voted and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 19:53.

*Minutes duly recorded and submitted by W2WHT.*

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## “Ionospheric Communicator” Taken Into Custody for Observation

Dean Lewis, WA3WGV

AP, UP, Reuters

**Scruffsborg, Ill. ....** The local fire department of this small northern Illinois town was dispatched to the home of Frank Brakish and his wife Elma to assure a small but smoky fire in their kitchen stove was completely out.

At the Brakish's home, fire officials notice 160 feet of thin copper wire routed along ceiling edges in some rooms. Asked about the wires, Brakish explained they were there because condominium regulations prohibited them being placed outdoors, “where they would be more effective,” according to Brakish.

The wires were traced to an upstairs room of their two-story townhouse, where they were attached to several interconnected pieces of equipment containing various dials, lights and switches; some of Brakish's own construction, and some apparently of commercial manufacture and Japanese origin.

Suspicious of British's sanity, police and paramedics were called to the home for further investigation. Brackish claimed he used the equipment to communicate with other individuals, mostly throughout the United States and Canada, but occasionally with persons in other countries, when spots on the sun created “favorable conditions of the Earths' magnetic field and the ionosphere,” according to information relayed b police to the press.

Despite his claims, officials confirmed the “equipment” had no connections whatever to either telephone lines, TV cable, or the Internet.

Brackish apparently uses an alias when communicating with these other people, referring to himself as “WA9QKE.”

Brakish, noting the officials' skepticism, claimed confirmation of these communications, pointing to postcard-size documents covering most of one wall of the equipment room, bearing similar aliases in much the same format as his own. These cards were said to be those of the “communicators” he claimed to have contacted. “Documentation” of his ruse included a detailed log with dates, time, “frequencies” and the same aliases indicated on the cards.

He provided further details claiming his communications involved both spoken voices (a microphone was found on the equipment table) and a quasi-binary code, which he referred to as “Morse,” and “CW.” His outrageous fabrication included claims that other communicators also use various digital and video modes of transmission, that some use Earth-orbiting satellites to relay their “signals” and that some even reflect their signal beams back to Earth from the Moon.

An otherwise respectable mechanical engineer employed by an industrial trade association, family members confirmed British's obsession with this equipment dates back to when he was in the fourth grade. At that time he began building “receivers” for the “voices” he claims to hear, and progressed to actually *transmitting* these signals when he attended high school.

When asked, his wife of many years indicated she had no objections to his activities, noting that “at least he comes home after work, and he has no other vices.”

Neighbors were completely unaware of British's “ionosphere communications,” noting that, although not reclusive, he “pretty much kept to himself.” They said British's married children live in the area, visit them often, and that their young grandchildren have friends in the neighborhood.

Although no tinfoil umbrellas or colored landing lights were found in the home, and Brackish adamantly denied that UFOs or aliens were in any way involved in his activities, he was taken into custody for psychiatric observations and evaluation.

While being led to the waiting ambulance, Brakish was heard to mutter something about "...extending PRB-1 to CC&Rs ...," and "I should've stayed on two-meter FM." Authorities were unable to explain these comments.

Mrs. Brakish assured fire officials she'd be more careful using the kitchen stove.

As a follow-up, the press learned Brakish was released later the same day at the insistence of local emergency management officials, who seem to know him. Friends and family members said he plans to sell the equipment (and wires) and purchase a telescope. Brakish added that he and his wife plan to dine out more often .



### ***Can I have Other Hobbies Besides***

### ***Amateur Radio ?***

***By Tony/N2GVB***

Over the years, I have done some demo's about ham radio. These are a lot of fun such as the one that Ray/K2DAR, Joe/



KA2ZFM, Stan/WA2PPN and I with several others did at the Amphenol Family Days in Sidney last year. It was lots of fun and we met a lot of nice people. The one thing about doing these demo's is that it gives the public an insight into what Amateur Radio is all about. Most don't know that hams are emergency oriented and are called upon to help in a emergency.

One question that I am asked by some of the young people that stop by at a demo is, can I have other hobbies besides Amateur Radio? The an-

swer is " YES ".

Some people think that hamming takes up all our time. When I tell them about my other hobbies,



they are surprised. They want to know how I can





find time to build models, such as the samples that are shown, collect stamps and just do the everyday things. I tell them about how being an amateur radio operator is not a mandatory thing. It is like any other hobby. You can spend as much time hamming as you do with building models or collecting stamps. Like other hobbies, there are some aspects of the hobby that might be your only interest, such as contesting, chasing DX, or just rag chewing. I split my time between ham radio and my modeling hobby, and stamp collecting.

I tell them how equipment also goes with me camping so I can operate in the evenings. You can see in their faces that they cannot really understand the concept of a hobby with so many as-

pects to it.

The hobby is growing and a lot of young people are starting to get interested in it as the world grows closer and requirements change in the hobby. By this I mean, here in the US as well in other countries, the code requirement has been dropped. Band width has changed. Also we have a real mix of people from around the world. We are exposed to all different cultures. As hams we meet other hams around the world, but it is just a voice or fist or call that we know some one by. Today, it is different. Last year, my wife and I went on a cruise and met so many people from around the world. It was great talking to them and finding out what it is like at their homes. It was a chance of a lifetime to meet these interesting people from around the world.

So to answer the ones that wonder about can you have other hobbies besides Amateur Radio? The answer is most emphatically "YES". So when you are talking to young people, let them know that they do not have to give up their other hobbies or sports. Encourage them to take the plunge. They will find that it is easy and rewarding.....

*Let them know that Ham Radio is just like any other hobby. You can devote as much time as you want and still do other things.*

*Happy Hamming to all....73*



## **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.....

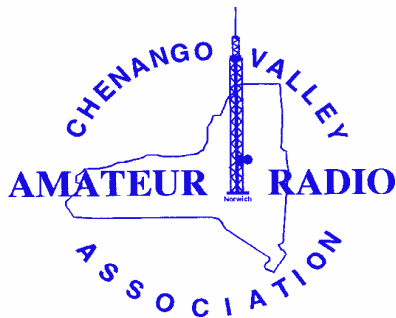
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*Visit the club WEB site at: <http://www.cvara.net>*

***Deadline for the April 2008 Bugle is March 15th***

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