



WEST RIVER RADIO CLUB

DIGITAL DISPATCH

June - 2006



Volume 1

Issue #5

The West River Radio Club was founded in 2004 through the efforts of KA1ZQX, Tim Bell, and N1JSG, Richard Pierce.

Our forty one members pride themselves on belonging to an active and productive organization with involvement in many aspects of this great hobby: public service, special events, Field Day, repeaters, emergency communications, contesting and chasing DX.

Current officers are:

N1TOX, John Borichevsky;

President

KD6MPY, Sean Sanderson;

VP

K1KU, Darrel Daley;

Secretary/Treasurer

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

June 2006

Wow, now that the month of May is over, we can now relax and recover from a very exciting month! Thanks to everyone who helped out with the March of Dimes Walk America 2006 and the Girls on the Run 2006 events. While we all got wet at the March of Dimes events, we did not hear too complaints about the weather. But after 10 days of rain, it was just another day. Amazingly enough there was a report of some individuals who tried to do all 6 miles in Springfield in the rain, but stopped short. And the Girls on the Run event, watching the wave of over 1,000 pink shirts running from the start line and all the smiles on their faces was rewarding. What enthusiasm! We will need more support for this event next year for better coverage.

So can we relax a bit? Not too much, we have a CERT event on June 18 in Bellows Falls, a tentative RACES drill, and Field Day 2006 coming up! What an exciting and fast paced event this is. We have a space reserved for you to operate in most any mode you like. We are planning and will have stations setup to run CW, PSK31, and Phone, or your digital mode of choice (bring your own equipment if your mode is outside the modes listed). Bring a child with you and maybe they will become interested in talking to folks around the world. If we get them on the air, we will get bonus points too. We will be having a "Pot Luck" dinner for everyone who comes. All we ask is that you bring a covered dish to share with everyone. We will have good food, friends, and conversations all over the world.

Do you know someone who would be interested in Amateur Radio? Bring them to Field Day or one of our meetings. There are no age limitations and we welcome everyone to join. Sean - KD6MPY@yahoo.com, is starting to schedule classes for both summer and fall for the New Technician License Class. New books, new questions, new classes! Email Sean with any inquiries or a contact list of who would like to sign up for the class.

We hope that you will join in with all the fun we have our events. And let's not forget our regular meetings (on the second Tuesday of each month) as well as our Board of Directors meetings (on the last Saturday of each month). Everyone is invited so bring a friend along with you. Remember to the web page <http://www.westriverradio.net> for the most current information about our club, more events coming up, and our meeting activities.

73, John Borichevsky, N1TOX

Looking for Antennas: The Curse of Aerialitis Greg Mulder - WB8LZG

(Thanks for the following to World Radio and their policy of allowing reprints when the source is acknowledged.)

While taking a ride with the family the other day I noticed that people in the car were gazing and commenting at the different things they saw. Particularly interesting was the fact that they didn't notice any of the things that I did. My XYL would seem to be spotting all of the homes with beautiful flowers, and well manicured lawns or nice windows. The kids were captivated by all the fancy cars or fast motorcycles.

Yet I was seeing things quite differently. Ever since I was a young pup playing with crystal sets I've been stringing wire up in the trees. So it is only natural that I would be looking skyward to other Hams "Antenna Farms," wondering if their skyhooks were playing better than my own. I've begun to realize that this is not the NORMAL human behavior. I've come to realize that it's more than just a passion - more than just a fancy. Upon careful self examination I finally accepted the truth about my affliction.

I had Aerialitis. The first symptoms were easy enough to pass off as circumstance. Things like walking off the end of the side walk because my eyes were focused up on a roof top. Or riding my bicycle into the curb due to my attention captivated by a piece of aluminum stretching toward the sky waiting to grab some rare DX. But as time went by, I soon became aware just how serious the disease had progressed. In the dead of winter I would find myself outside at 10 below zero, without a coat on, just to get a glimpse of the beauty of glimmering morning sunlight as it reflects off a snow covered tri-bander.

Ahhh Yes! The advanced stages of the illness are even worse. I would have to pull over in the middle of a trip somewhere just to see a better

view of another Ham's aerial apparatus. Not too terrible if you're out in the country, but when pulled over on interstate 75, while driving by the Voice Of America antenna farm, just try explaining that to the Ohio Highway Patrol! They had a very hard time understanding why I would just stand there in awe of the giant stratospheric spider webs, oblivious to the traffic going by. They instructed me to "please return to my vehicle" and sped off in a terrific hurry. I think they realized I had the disease and didn't want to catch it themselves. More advanced symptoms of the affliction can be recognized by desire to go up to a perfect stranger's house and knock on the door to inquire about the possibility of going into the back yard to have a better look at their antennas. Sometimes this is an advantage, in that I've been fortunate to have met some others with the same dreaded illness, and good friendships have been made. However, some folks do not take kindly to this and don't wish to "Be Exposed." - Can't say as I blame them. Nobody wants to be exposed to a disease that has no cure. The only relief that I have found for the symptoms are going into the "shack," turning on the rig, and pounding some brass. This only provides temporary relief however, and the same old symptoms are back.

So there you have it. This is my story, sad but true. If you should happen to see me sometime walking around with my eyes up to the heavens, just a word to the wise - It's extremely contagious. So be careful or you may contract it too. Maybe someday they will find a cure. I sure hope not!!!!



JUNE DOINGS (Es looking ahead)

- ♦ **June 13** – Regular scheduled meeting. A reminder: This meeting only we are gathering a half hour earlier (6:30 PM) at our Field Day site. That's the QTH of Ed, KB1KSR and his gracious wife, Lois. It's just up the road from GCH and talk in will be on 52 simplex for those of you who have never been there.
- ♦ **June 13** – KA1CYZ, Jenifer's birthday

- ♦ **June 20** – W1IRA, Ira's birthday
- ♦ **June 22** – KB1MUF, Peter's birthday
- ♦ **June 24** – K1KU, Darrel's birthday
- ♦ **June 21** – Races Drill
- ♦ **June 24-25** – Field Day at the QTH of KB1KSR, Ed, in Townshend, VT. See the participation form that came with this issue.
- ♦ **July 24-28** – Statewide pandemic drill (bird flu) for all hospitals.
- ♦ **August 5** – Grace Cottage Hospital Day special event
- ♦ **August 25-27** – New England Division convention in Boxboro, MA. Check out the details at www.boxboro.org/2006/index.html
- ♦ **October 6 & 7** – Hosstraders at the Hopkinton Fair Grounds
- ♦ **October** – 3rd weekend. KB1MUF, Peter is setting things up for WRRC participation in JOTA

HOSSTRADERS A Summary

It was your editor's great pleasure to attend the spring event and for a first set up a table chock-a-block full of goodies.

I had A1 company, too, because N1HOS, Jack was set up right beside me with two tables loaded down with his priceless treasures.

Gordon, W2NH, was also sited during the Saturday drawing. I have no idea where everyone else was, but I hope that you all had good excuses.

A special thanks to Mark, KB1HCG, for his donation of items for sale by the club. Thanks to him the treasury is fuller.

Why not plan ahead for the fall event and mark October 6-7 on your calendar right now. We should have a club banner for our set up by then. I can almost guarantee that a good time will be had by one and all.

You can even feel good about attending as all admission fees go to the Shriner's hospital in Boston. Since this event has been running over 1.2 million has been contributed to this worthy cause.

FIELD DAY

It's drawing close folks. Would you believe June 24 – 25?

I'm trying to stifle my disappointment in the fact that I've only had two responses to the survey form sent out with the last dispatch. N1TOX, John, Burt, W1ZS, and I would sure enjoy a little more company.



So, because I realize that many of you are, like me – shall we say, forgetful, I'm attaching that form again. I'm hoping to hear from a few more bodies this time around.

NEED HELP?

We can't solve any personal problems, but for Ham and club related matters we'll try our darndest.

General club related matters: contact our President, John Borichevsky, N1TOX – n1tox@adelphia.net or 802-257-5526

Membership or financial information: contact Darrel Daley, K1KU, k1ku@arrl.net or 802-387-5822

VE tests, club programs, or Ham classes: contact Sean Sanderson, KD6MPY, kd6mpy@arrl.net or 413-695-5133

PR ideas? Contact Tim Bell, KA1ZQX at ka1zqx@arrl.net or 802-365-7046

Also, surf to www.westriverradio.net where you'll find a wealth of information.

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