



WEST RIVER RADIO CLUB

DIGITAL DISPATCH

July – 2006



Volume 1

Issue #6

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

Our forty three 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

July 2006

A time for Celebration

Here we are entering the month of July in the year of 2006!! A time for the United States to celebrate it's Independence from Great Britain, and the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Along with this, it is also a time for us to reflect and celebrate our last month's activities that we, the West River Radio Club, participated in. CERT, VY RACES, Field Day, Fair Day or a Walk-a-Thon, pick your event. At our CERT event in Bellows Falls there were 8 WRRC members deployed. At the VY RACES drill we had 5 WRRC members, one from GMWS and 2 from SOVARC. At Field Day 2006, we had an excellent turn out of WRRC members, a good number operated and plenty of guests. We have applied for 1548 points which is more than twice as many as last year! The weather was not

as bad as predicted. I would like to thank everyone who helped and provided support with each of these events. Your help and support is noted and helps us become a better formed organization.

The times we share our ideas, enjoy friendship, and celebrate together, are what our club's memories are built on. Field Day was a good example of what we have done for the Windham County Area. We had more club members and visitors arrive at our Field Day event than we did last year. I know we will obtain 2 new members, at least, from the visitors. This increase was in direct relation to the media coverage we got this year. Tim, KA1ZQX, batted "1000". Five papers published our Public Relations articles. This created a large spike in interest on our web site. I have never seen our counter rise so fast on our web site. This is phenomenal.

Another celebration I wish to share is that our team is a team that works together. Working together as a team is a very important thread to have in common. As we work together, we know how each person will work in harmony with others within the team. Sharing our experiences and ideas with everyone helps us to become better at the jobs we do. Both Darrel and I hear compliments on how mature we have become as an established anchor to the emergency and community service efforts we provide within our area. Keep in mind, we are not the greatest in the world, but with more practice, team work and participation, we will become better!! I continue to thank you, for all your dedicated work and efforts to make us the great team we are.

I encourage you to share some of your knowledge by writing a small article for the Digital Dispatch. Sharing your experiences and knowledge with others will make each person's experience with this hobby better. How about a new operating discovery you are experimenting with? Please consider writing an article for us so we can have your experience in history. This is what we are trying to preserve. Amateur Radio is changing and new things are on the horizon. Celebrate and preserve history to the best of your abilities. Like America, Amateur Radio is history which needs to be preserved and you can make it happen.

Until our next QSO, 73
John, N1TOX



RECYCLE NOTICE

This is a request for all you folks with old copies of QST, WorldRadio, or any ham related magazines. The request is - **DON'T TOSS 'EM!**

Our 3rd Grace Cottage Hospital Days special event is coming up on Saturday, August 5. It would be nice to have a stack of magazines available for visitors to haul off with them. Who knows, someone just might get bitten with the bug.

I'll bring along a lot of 2X4" labels with club information to stick on each issue. Don't worry if you forget this request as you'll see it again in the August issue.



JULY DOINGS (Es looking ahead)

- ♦ **July 11** – Regular scheduled WRRRC meeting; 7 PM in the EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital – Townshend, VT.
- ♦ **July 29** – BOD meeting; 11:30 AM at Panasian Restaurant by Staples in Brattleboro
- ♦ **July 24-28** – Statewide pandemic drill (bird flu) for all hospitals.

- ♦ **August 8** – Regular scheduled WRRRC meeting; 7 PM in the EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital – Townshend, VT.
- ♦ **August 5** – Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day special event
- ♦ **August 25-27** – New England Division convention in Boxboro, MA. Check out the details at www.boxboro.org/2006/index.html
- ♦ **August 26** – BOD meeting; 11:30 AM at Panasian restaurant by Staples in Brattleboro.
- ♦ **October 6 & 7** – Hosstraders at the Hopkinton Fair Grounds. Check it all out at www.hosstraders.com
- ♦ **October** – 3rd weekend. KB1MUF, Peter is setting things up for WRRRC participation in JOTA



HAM ONE LINERS

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

Since they were a perfect match, soon they generated harmonics. They then wrapped the harmonics in dipoles.

But later the harmonics turned out to be parasitic elements.

The true story - she was a tribander and he felt trapped, so they went on separate beam headings.

Old radio nuts never die, they just fade into the noise.

Why did the DXer cross the road?
To get to the next grid square!

"There's nothing to fear but fear itself, except maybe a high SWR reading..."

"There's nothing to fear but fear itself, well that and poor propagation and a high K index."

(Ed note: Our thanks to Grant, AA1T for what is below. It has to do with how to handle guests in your shack.)

NOTICE TO ALL VISITORS

WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS IS AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION LICENSED AS (**Your call goes here**) BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, DC. BEFORE YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS, HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

- 1) The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here as it creates marital conflicts.
- 2) No, we cannot send a message to your brother in Hong Kong. We suggest you call Western Union.
- 3) This is strictly a hobby; we do not have the facilities or the time to fool around with TV sets, radios or hi-fi. We suggest that you see a serviceman.
- 4) Yes, the antenna in the backyard is essential to the operation of the equipment.
- 5) The farthest station we have contacted has been in Ubangiland.
- 6) The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmation of contacts made with other stations.
- 7) It is technically impossible for this station's equipment to interfere with television reception, telephones or stereo systems. Any interference problems of that nature are caused by design flaws in the home-entertainment devices themselves.
- 8) An Amateur Radio station may only be operated by a highly qualified, technically skilled electronics expert. It takes dedication, training and intelligence to reach the level of competence that justifies one to be licensed by the United States Federal Government. Therefore, it is not considered inappropriate to show proper awe, respect and general obsequiousness when I discuss my hobby or operate the controls.

--- FURTHERMORE ---

IF YOU ARE GRANTED THE EXTREME HONOR OF BEING INVITED TO SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE, PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES:

- Speak in a low and soothing tone.
- Do not disagree with me in any manner.
- Say no bad words and tell no off-color jokes.
- It is customary for guests to make complimentary remarks about this station and its licensed operator when talking to other hams on the air.



DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING, TURN ANY KNOBS, SIT ON EQUIPMENT, ETC. I HAVE LOST SEVERAL VISITORS BY ELECTROCUTION IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.



FIELD DAY

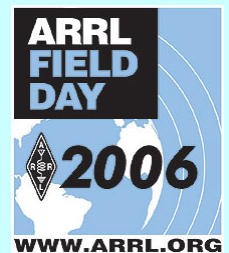
Yes, another one has come and gone. This most popular League sponsored operating event was the second FD your club has been involved in.

I think that others involved would agree that **IT WAS A BLAST!**

Helping again to make it more successful were Ed, KB1KSR and Lois Phoenix. We're so appreciative of your generosity in loaning us part of your land every year.

A more detailed summary went out earlier. This short piece is just to encourage you to come out next year and see what it's all about.

It's easy to remember as FD is always held on the 4th full weekend of June.



CERT

No, it's not a tablet you take to insure that your breath is fresh. What it stands for is Community Emergency Response Team. These county wide based groups found all over the USA are sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security.

Our purpose is to offer assistance during local area disasters, such as fires, search and rescue operations, traffic control, and on and on and on. We've also had our baptism of fire when we recently helped out the police department at the Bellows Falls alumni parade.

Eight WRRRC members attended and honorably graduated from a 24 hour course held over three days to become certified as CERT members.

They are:

- o N1HOS, Jack
- o KB1LQB, Chas
- o KB1KSR, Ed
- o KA1ZQX, Tim
- o KB1HCG, Mark
- o N1TOX, John
- o W1IRA, Ira
- o K1KU, Darrel

There are monthly meetings at the Putney Fire Department.

Want to learn more? Check out <http://www.dps.state.vt.us/vem/cert/> or talk to one of the members listed above.

Want to join up after checking it out? Contact Chief Keith Clark at kclark@rockbf.org



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, ARRL renewals or joining the League, and 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.

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK



BEWARE THE BEARER OF THE WOUFF HONG.



DON'T KNOW WHAT A WOUFF HONG IS?

TUNE IN NEXT MONTH AND FIND OUT!