



# WEST RIVER RADIO CLUB

## DIGITAL DISPATCH

### June - 2007



**Volume 2**

**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 nine 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**  
**KA1ZQX, Tim Bell; Pubic Relations**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### June - 2007

### *Summer Time Fun...*

Here we are, just a couple of weeks from the Brattleboro *Girls on the Run* 5K marathon and heading into an action packed June. We had 11 WRRC Members who took time and helped out with radio communications and one WRRC member participating as a runner in the GOTR event. Again, there were many thanks to hand out for everyone who was there to make this a safe event for the kids and adults alike. Ok, it was raining, and our radios got wet, but it sure was fun! Another event we covered was the *March of Dimes Walk America* 6 mile walk in Springfield. A great job was done by all.

Let's continue this momentum with the *Strolling of the Heifers*, a radio presentation to the Vernon Scouts, and *Field Day*! Please check our

Calendar of Events in this publication, and your email, for the dates and times of June's events. Also please email the coordinators if you can help. We are all looking forward to your help and support.

The Strolling of the Heifers is a new venture for us this year. We are looking for 4 – 6 operators to be on the grounds of the Dairy Fair. We will be providing radio communications for public health and well being on the grounds.

At the scout meeting, we will be doing a full demo of radio communications from VHF/UHF to HF. Maybe some of our CW Bugs will demo the original Digital Mode. This demo will assist the scouts to obtain their Radio Merit Badge.

**Field Day 2007**, Get bit by the Bug! Ok, not the black flies, mosquitoes, or any other bugs, the Contest Bug! We had a great time last year and hopefully you too will join in on the fun. Make some contacts and you just might earn a momento for your efforts. Help us raise our ranking from the center of the pack to a higher level. This will be a great time for all you new hams to understand how to use HF and / or Digital Communications. Not just watch us do the work, but you too can make the contacts! Bring a friend, coworker, spouse or neighbor to this event. There will be a BOC Pot Luck Dinner where there will be good food, friends and communications.

Radio Operators will be needed for a 24 hour shift. This will be our first time for a full 24 hour operation. Please see your June Calendar of Events for more information on who to contact.

Thanks you for all your help and support to the West River Radio Club. Without your help and support, we could not make any of this happen and be a leader here in Windham County. Here is hoping that you have a safe and happy summer time season!!

73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – President WRRC



## RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

Sometimes when I'm not deciding what to wear or how to fix my hair I like to look back on my nearly thirty years in this wonderful hobby.



Yes, I got a late start on the fun when I became a Ham in 1978 at forty two years of age. Back then we did it the hard way, going from Novice (WL7ADU) up through the ranks – General, Advanced, (both as KL7DN) then the crowning glory of becoming an Extra (KL7DN and in 1998, K1KU). On all of these tests, with the exception of the Advanced license, they also threw in a little thing called CW – 5 WPM for the Novice, 13 WPM for the General and 20 WPM for Extra. The other “hard” part was going to a nearby FCC field office to deal with the bureaucrats instead of those friendly VEs we encounter now.

Enough nostalgia! Anyway, once I've decided on my hair style of the day I sometimes take the time to think of what has given me the most satisfaction as an Amateur Radio Operator.

- ◆ Was it chasing the DX?
- ◆ Learning how to use the digital modes?
- ◆ Rag chewing?
- ◆ Contesting?
- ◆ Putting up a new antenna?
- ◆ Building my CW skills?

- ◆ Building a kit?
- ◆ Buying a new piece of gear?
- ◆ Going to hamfests?
- ◆ Getting and learning some new Ham software?

I must confess that all of the above activities above were fun, and probably some that I forgot to refer to. There is one crowning activity, though, that failed to get mentioned, namely, meeting and making new friends in the amateur world. This, by far, has given me the most enjoyment in my Ham radio career. There may be other hobbies that open up world wide vistas for meeting people like Amateur Radio does, but I don't know what they are.

I might die before I could list all of the fine people who I would never have met



except for our

**JH8RZJ – Kei (See the 5 band DXCC Plaque?)**

hobby. Though mostly in the USA, some are situated around the world. We've exchanged many visits with G0NLM, Colin Ridley who resides in Poole, England. And how about Kie, JH8RZJ and his wife? Our daughter-in-law, Reiko found their apartment in the thick of Sapporo City some years back where we had a wonderful visit.

I do want make special mention of my latest Ham friend.



I'd actually

**W1ZS, Burt - G0NLM, Colin**

“known” Bobby Mitten, KD1KDB for sometime, but didn’t realize it. I was minding our table at NEAR-Fest on Saturday, May 5 in Deerfield, NH when I saw an obviously handicapped fellow slowly, awkwardly walking towards me. I would guess MS.

Ah gee, my inner self said, “How do I handle this? What does he want?” As he got closer I stood up to greet him, feeling more uncomfortable as each unsure step brought him closer.

I felt embarrassed for Bobby as I had to ask for repetitions before I could make out what he was saying. He had seen my K1KU vanity plates. He knew me. How was that? He listened to the Green Mountain Net for which I’ve been a NCS since 1984. We talked as best we could and as time passed I felt more and more comfortable with Bobby and realized what a fine person he was.

He had driven all the way from Whitefield, NH in an old pickup to take his General exam. I directed him to a NEAR-Fest official and that was the last I saw of him that day. But not the last I heard of him. When arriving home from the hamfest there was an email from Bobby waiting for me. What a touching story of how he missed passing the exam by one question – how his dog Oreo was so glad to see him when he got back home – of how he wants to learn CW (even if the FCC says that he doesn’t have to) because his speech is not good enough for phone.

My friends, this is what I call gumption, courage, guts, you name it. Would that I had half his verve. Once more it was driven home to me with great force that you just never know when life is going to send us a potent message and at the most unlikely of times and from the most unlikely of sources. To paraphrase an Indian saying - “I felt sorry for myself because I had no shoes until I met someone who had no feet.”

Another good friend, Allen Tinker, W1AAT set the wheels in motion to get three VEs over to Bobby’s house in Whitefield and give him that General exam again. I have a feeling that this

time, and with God’s blessings, he’ll come out of it with a big smile and new ticket. I look forward to my first CW QSO with Bobby.

Until July....

73, Darrel – K1KU



## GIRLS ON THE RUN

**I**t was great weather on Saturday, May 19, 2007 (if you were a duck).

In the true spirit of Boy Scouting and Ham Radio, though, the twelve communicators from



**Girls on the Run say THANKS!**

the WRRC were well prepared. Every type of rain gear on the planet was modeled by those in attendance.

This was our second venture with the *Girls on the Run* event here in Brattleboro. With the increase in volunteers this year, our presence was clear and noticed. We worked together with Brattleboro Police and Rescue, Inc providing vital information to these agencies to make this event safe for everyone. Dr, Tom Heydinger, the director for this event, expressed his thanks for a job well done and he is still amazed how much help we can actually be for events like this. By freeing up his communication needs, he can focus on other needs to keep the party going and the Girls on the Run a success!! We will be back for our third year in 2008.

Our extreme thanks go to those who gave up their Saturday AM to offer assistance for a worthy cause and help put the good side of our eminent club out in the public eye. After this relatively short event (10:00 to 11:00 AM) nearly all the participants motored over to the PanAsian Restaurant for a BOD meeting and hearty repast.

Plan on joining us next year for some public service and a fun time.

The volunteers were:

KB1KSR, Ed

N1TOX, John –NCS

KB1LQB, Chas

W2NH, Gordon

N1HOS, Jack

K1KU, Darrel

KB1HCG, Mark – Taking up the rear in that FB red Dodge truck he drives

KB1NXN, Emily – from the field of runners

WB1CZA, Wil

AA1T, Grant

KB1NJA, Walter

KB1OQH, Paul – with assistance from two harmonics



## SO LONG GRANT

I have sad news to report. We've learned that AA1T, Grant, will shortly be moving to CT to be nearer his family. Folks, that is one big loss for the WRRC.

Grant is without a doubt our most erudite member and no one even comes close to claiming that mantle. His contributions as a Digest contributor, class instructor, VE team member, RACES member, Field Day helper, booth builder and participant in Grace Cottage

Hospital Fair Day events, etc.....Well, to put it bluntly, he's going to leave a big hole to fill.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire membership of the WWRC I wish you a rich and comfortable life in the Nutmeg state. I've asked Grant to let us know his new email and snail mail address when he gets settled in so that we can keep him in the loop.

So, take care, Grant. It's definitely been our pleasure and beneficial to us all having you as a big part of the team.



## SITE OF THE MONTH

What with Grant, AA1T, pulling up stakes and headed for the Nutmeg state and David, N1ESK, consumed with work at the glow factory (his satellite articles will resume at some point) it's going to be more difficult to fill up each monthly issue of the Digital Digest.

Nevertheless we will prevail. Each month you'll find a web site of interest to Hams. For this site and all future ones discussed let's make it clear that I do not own stock in any of them. Nor do I gain any profits from merchandise you might acquire from them.

This particular company deals mainly with emergency communications, batteries, chargers, etc. Their real claim to fame, though, is that they are the makers of that famous and innovative connector, the Anderson Power Pole. Come out to Field Day this month and you'll see them in abundant use.

Why are they great? Let's say a rig dies and you need to borrow a fellow Ham's piece of equipment. You discover, though, that his power connector has fittings that don't match your battery. If you both had Rig Runners (we'll cover their site next month) the problem would not exist. Anything needing power can be easily

inter-changed with anything else, provided that that their power leads are power pole equipped.

They're relatively easy to assemble either by crimping or soldering and the construction is such that it's impossible to get the plus and minus leads hooked up incorrectly – not that any of us have ever done that little stunt.

So, check out their offerings. Perhaps you'll be motivated to equip all your portable gear with Anderson Power Poles. If I didn't mention it, they won't cost you an arm and a leg.

I'm always interested in feedback or questions concerning these sites. If I don't know an answer (highly probable) we'll steer you towards one.

<http://www.powerwerx.com/>

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## CONGRATULATIONS MORE UPGRADES

**O**n Thursday, May 8 the WRRC VE team ran yet another test session, this one being the culmination of our General class.

So let's all join in welcoming the following to newly upgraded General status:

- ◆ K1EGL, Chuck
- ◆ KB1OQH, Paul
- ◆ WB1CZA, Wil

May you receive a lot of enjoyment from using all those new privileges.

Our thanks also go out to the participating VEs as well as extra gratitude to Sean, KD6MPY, for keeping all these classes and sessions humming along.

- ◆ AA1T, Grant
- ◆ N1TOX, John
- ◆ N1HOS, Jack
- ◆ K1KU, Darrel
- ◆ KD6MY, Sean

Stay tuned for another Tech class sometime this fall.

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## JUNE DOINGS (Es looking ahead)

**June 2, Saturday:** *Strolling of the Heifers*, AKA the cow walk. About six operators are needed for the Dairy Fair at the Retreat Meadow. If you can help out contact Mark Kracum, KB1HCG at [kb1hcg@sover.net](mailto:kb1hcg@sover.net) or N1TOX, John Borichevsky at [n1tox@comcast.net](mailto:n1tox@comcast.net)

**June 6, Wednesday:** Vernon Cub Scouts. 4-6 operators are needed to help set up and demonstrate Amateur Radio to the Cubs. Meet at the Vernon Rec Center on Pond Road at 18:15L for a 18:30L start. Contact Darrel, K1KU at [k1ku@arrl.net](mailto:k1ku@arrl.net) or John, N1TOX at [n1tox@comcast.net](mailto:n1tox@comcast.net)

**June 12, Tuesday:** Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRC – EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital. Those interested will meet at 18:30L at the QTH of Ed, KB1KSR (less than a mile past the hospital on Phoenix Way on the right) to hash out our Field Day set up. The meeting program will be a presentation by Sean, KD6MPY on taming RFI.

**June 23-24, Saturday & Sunday:** Field Day. Details to be discussed at the June 12 meeting.



**KD6MPY, Sean – Guarding the  
Club table at NEAR-Fest**

Did you know.....

That there is an international symbol for amateur radio, on which the logos of several IARU member societies are based? In the diamond is a circuit diagram featuring an antenna, inductor and ground, the basic three components common to every radio circuit.



CLUB QSL

So you didn't know that the club had its own QSL card? Well, you do now.

Grant, AA1T, was the original designer. It then went through some small evolutionary changes to become what you see here.

**West River Radio Club**

VERMONT

Confirms a two-way QSO Between

Date  /  /  (DMY)

Time  Z

Freq  MHz

Mode

RST

OP

**WIRRC** and

43.05 N 72.67 W FN33pb  
Windham County,  
Townshend, Vermont  
Email: [wrrcnet@sover.net](mailto:wrrcnet@sover.net)  
<http://www.westriverradio.net>

West River Radio Club  
PO Box 8087  
N Brattleboro, VT  
05304-8087 (USA)

## 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@comcast.net](mailto:n1tox@comcast.net) or 802-257-5526
- ◆ Membership, ARRL renewals or joining the League, and financial information: contact
- ◆ Darrel Daley, K1KU, [k1ku@arrl.net](mailto:k1ku@arrl.net) or 802-387-5822
- ◆ VE tests, club programs, or Ham classes: contact Sean Sanderson, KD6MPY, [kd6mpy@arrl.net](mailto:kd6mpy@arrl.net) or 413-695-5133
- ◆ PR or ARES ideas? Contact Tim Bell, KA1ZQX at [ka1zqx@arrl.net](mailto:ka1zqx@arrl.net) or 802-365-7046



CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

