



# WEST RIVER RADIO CLUB

## DIGITAL DISPATCH

### July – 2007



**Volume 2**

**Issue #7**

**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

#### July - 2007

Gung Ho Into Summer!

Going into the summer heat, we find it pleasurable to be outside in the sun and having fun with family and friends. This is what summer is all about. This past Field Day was a tribute to this statement. We had many friends and family members enjoying the great outdoors, making some contacts on HF, CW, PSK31, SSTV, VHF/UHF and even some satellite chatter was heard. And let's not forget about the planning of those important projects coming up before winter settles in.

With over 20 people at our Field Day event, this was the best turn out we have ever had. Thank you all for taking the time to make it a point to come visit, participate, setup, tear down or just chow down. This is what our second families are for. But most of all, a sincere thank you to

everyone who brought food for us all to eat and enjoy. Not too much was left over either.

As we witnessed, Field Day is all about making contacts under emergency conditions to see how good your setup really works out. Getting new folks interested in Amateur Radio by letting them

make some contacts is a great bonus for us. For those who have just obtained



**Night time FD maneuvers by KA1ZQX, Tim & N1TOX, John**

their license, making

that first contact on HF sure is a thrill; I know it was for me. Or maybe your time was spent just learning what ham radio is all about. Whatever your reason for being with us, it was great to see you all there.

This was the year that we went the full 24 hours of operation. Yet another milestone has been set for WRRRC. While I crashed and burned at 0200 on Sunday, Tim Bell, KA1ZQX kept plugging away. When I got up at 0600 with my hair looking like I just stuck my finger into a light socket, I relieved Tim. I think I scared him, but I don't think he will remember that!! Then the other overnights woke up as the smell of coffee and breakfast was cooking by Chef Tim. Go figure, food and hams go hand in hand now don't they!

Field Day 2007 was a great one. I am sure Darrel, K1KU, is penning something along these lines anyway so I'll stop for now. Check

out our Stats when they are compiled and posted and compare them to last year on the WRRC Website.

For those who operated, there was a contest and prizes will be awarded. This will be a continuing tradition for years to come. These prizes will be awarded at our July meeting so this is one you will not want to miss.

My continued thanks to all who make WRRC the club it is today. Without your participation, we would not be the group of fine amateur radio operators we are today. Until our next QSO.....  
73

.....-  
de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – President WRRC



### RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

As the WRRC is well into its fourth year of existence this might be a good time to honor the founders and charter members



you see listed below. To capture the historical perspective the easiest approach is to quote from our fine web site ([www.westriverradio.net](http://www.westriverradio.net))

The *West River Radio Club* is Windham County's and Vermont's newest Amateur Radio

Club. On November 4, 2003 ten stalwart Amateur radio operators, often called ham radio operators or simply "hams", from Southeastern VT braved a dark, drizzly night to attend an exploratory meeting for a new Ham club in Windham County. This idea was the brainchild of Tim Bell, KA1ZQX, and Richard Pierce, N1JSG. After a discussion of the benefits and possibilities for a club in this area it was unanimously decided to proceed with the formation of a Ham club.

Below is a list of those distinguished folks who took the plunge and joined that first year. If you spot an omission give me a shout. Since then our ranks have swelled to 49.

AA1T	Extra	Grant
K1EGL	Tech	Chuck
K1KU	Extra	Darrel
KA1CYZ	Novice	Jenifer
KA1CZO	Tech+	Bob
KA1TWV	Adv	Elaine
KA1ZQX	Gen	Tim
KB1HCG	Tech	Mark
KB1KSR	Extra	Ed
KB1LLI	Tech	David
KB1LQB	Gen	"Chas"
KD6MPY	Extra	Sean
N1FXX	Extra	David
N1HXC	Gen	"Scotty"
N1JSG	Gen	Richard
N1TOX	Gen	John
W1ERE	Extra	Irving
W1ZS	Extra	Burt
W2NH	Extra	Gordon
MARION DALEY		
LOIS PHOENIX		

Since that auspicious date it has been on success story after the other, whether it is:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Walk-a-thons</li> <li>♦ RACES involvement</li> <li>♦ ARES involvement</li> <li>♦ Ham Radio classes (Tech/General/Extra)</li> <li>♦ VE sessions</li> <li>♦ An educational program at each meeting</li> <li>♦ Skywarn training</li> <li>♦ A great web page</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Club repeaters</li> <li>♦ Grace Cottage Hospital's fine sponsorship</li> <li>♦ A complete HF – UHF/VHF station at Grace Cottage Hospital</li> <li>♦ A weekly net</li> <li>♦ WRRC presence at hamfests</li> <li>♦ Yearly special event stations at Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

- ♦ Field Day participation for three years running
- ♦ Two vanity club calls
- ♦ Boy Scout demonstrations of Ham Radio
- ♦ ARRL affiliation

So, what say you all give yourselves a pat on the back.

If you haven't had the opportunity to get involved in some club activity – well, create the occasion. We'd love to see an unseen face at one of our meetings or other activities sometime in 2007. Be careful, though, as you might have some fun and want to come back again.

73 de Darrel – K1KU



## SITE OF THE MONTH

**D**o you remember our Power Pole connector discussion from last month? If not, go back and check it out. You do save all these issues for posterity, roger?

This month we're sending you to a site that makes the thing-a-whingy you'll need for those connectors, the Rig Runner. As you'll see on their site they also sell many other Ham related items, such as batteries, sound card interfaces, speakers, etc., but for this discussion we're only interested in the Rig Runner.

The Rig Runner connects to your battery or power supply via ring terminals and, depending on the model you get, has varying numbers of connectors for your Power Pole equipped gear. I happen to own two different models, the plain Jane 4005 is in the vehicle and the 4008 is in the shack. A nice feature of the more advanced models is that you'll get a tone from them if and when the PS voltage drops below a certain level.

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.westmountainradio.com/>



**KB1NWU,  
Nathan  
Looking for  
the birds**

## FIELD DAY - 2007

**N**umerous members of the WRRC, as well as friends and guests, gathered over the weekend of June 22-24 to take part in Amateur Radio's most popular operating affair.

As for the past two events we extend a hearty thanks to our hosts, Ed, KB1KSR, and Lois Phoenix. Their generous and welcoming hospitality is second to none. This year Ed, KB1KSR, and Lois even crafted some professional looking signs to post on the road. They served their purpose in luring in more than one visitor.

This was our third and definitely best year of participation. Our 3A operation (CW, digital and phone) raked in more QSOs than in any prior year. OK, our club's name may not appear at the top of the 3A listing in the November QST, but we had fun and learned more about setting up and operating under emergency conditions.

The set up work went by quickly due to the able assistance of the largest crew we've ever had. It was great to see two members



**The 2007 Set Up Team**

of our youth contingent participating as well as several "new to the hobby" Hams. With only minor

appearances by Murphy we got three antennas strung up and three screen houses erected, as well as the club canopy. Thanks much to:

WB1CZA, Wil	KB1OQG, Gaila
KB1OQH, Paul	N1TOX, John
KB1KSR, Ed	KD6MPY, Sean
KB1NWU, Nathan	KB1NXN, Emily
N1ESK, David	KA1ZQX, Tim
K1KU, Darrel	

The tear down crew on Sunday PM made fast work of it, too. Thanks to the following folks who stayed around till the bitter end:

N1TOX, John	N1ESK, David
KB1NWU, Nathan	KB1NXN, Emily
KA1ZQX, Tim	WB1CZA, Wil
KD6MPY, Sean	W1ZS, Burt
KB1JNA, Walter	KB1J, Richard
K1KU, Darrel	

We were honored to have an abundance of visitors this year, both Ham and non Ham:

Norm, N1SJK	Megan Blais
W1ECO, Paul	N1HOS, Jack
Katherine Maisner	KA1CYZ, Jenifer
KB1HCG, Mark	Danielle Kracum
Megan Farmer	Marion Daley
Suzanne Borichevsky	Ned Phoenix
Mike, KB1HBJ	Tina Blais
N1PBX, Conrad	KB1LQB, Chas
Paul Blais Jr.	N1JSG, Richard
K1EGL, Chuck	W1WOL, Bill

Operators at this FD were:

N1TOX, John	KD6MPY, Sean
W1ZS, Burt	K1KU, Darrel
KA1ZQX, Tim	N1ESK, David
KB1NXN, Emily	KB1WNU, Nathan
KB1OQH, Paul	PJ Blais
Megan Blais	

Thanks to David, N1ESK, and his two harmonics, KB1NWU, Nathan, and KB1NXN, Emily, we had our first ever satellite station on the air during FD.

For those of you who are interested in such matters as vital statistics I'm sorry to say that the numbers weren't crunched in time for this issue. Stay tuned for special bulletin to see how we did compared to last year. We may not win the 3A category, but that's really not the way to judge matters. Instead, did we do more than last year? You betcha – A satellite station, more youth participation, more operators, and more guests. Did we have more fun? You decide.

A “new touch” this year will be the awarding of small tokens of appreciation to any and all who made it all come together, not just by operating, but also helping with setting up and tearing down. These presentations will be made at our July 10 meeting.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

At the end of June, 2007 the WRRRC possesses the following resources in money and goods. A copy of the club's current financial statement (pdf or Excel) can be obtained by emailing Darrel, K1KU, at [k1ku@arrl.net](mailto:k1ku@arrl.net)

Checking Account	1,589.90
Cash on hand	18.94
Inventoried items	2195.43
(approximate value)	

Respectfully submitted,  
Darrel – K1KU  
Secretary/Treasurer: WRRRC

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## A SCOUTING GIG

On June 6, at the invitation of Vernon's Scout Master, Barbara Garino, AA1T, Grant, John, N1TOX, and Darrel, K1KU represented the WRRRC at a Cub Scout pack meeting at the Recreation Center in Vernon, VT.

After John, N1TOX, gave a short introduction of what Amateur Radio is all about he, Grant, AA1T, and Darrel, K1KU demonstrated assorted modes of communication to smaller groups that moved between our “set ups”. John showed off VHF/UHF gear while Grant had his Omni set up to demonstrate phone and the digital modes. Darrel had the kids learn some letters in CW and play with a straight key.

Thanks to the following who helped from home: W1ZPB, Walt – W2NH, Gordon – KB1HCG, Mark



AA1T, Grant tuning his Omni in Vernon

We aren't guaranteeing any new young Hams as a result of this venture, but at least another small step was made in getting the word out about our hobby and the WRRC.



## RACES NEWS

N1TOX, John Borichevsky  
RACES Program Coordinator

During the month of June, I received a phone call from David Cain, W1DEC, who asked me if I would consider and accept the soon to be vacant position of RACES Program Coordinator for the State of Vermont. David decided after many years of work, retirement was calling to him. Believe me, he does deserve to retire. We chatted for about 40 minutes on the land line talking about what this position requires and how to get started. Then I started to think about all the great work he has done for amateur radio operators in the State of

Vermont. David was not only the RACES Program Coordinator, he also held the roll of ARES SGL (Section Government Liaison) which has allowed many of Vermont hams benefit from these efforts.

My final decision did not come without many nights of thought and role playing. This also included chats with Suzanne, my wife (the CO), over what this would mean to me and what would be involved. While chatting with the CO, I had many conversations with Rob Schell, KA1ZPI at Vermont Emergency Management to make sure I had the full picture of what was involved. After all the thinking was over and a couple more emails were exchanged, I decided to accept the position of the Vermont State Amateur Radio RACES Program Coordinator.

What does this mean for WRRC? Everything! There are over 165 RACES member in the State of Vermont at this time. WRRC's RACES members are only part of the success of the program within the State of Vermont. Our contribution is primarily the result of the four (4) Entergy Vermont Yankee and the FEMA drills we participate in yearly. This makes us an efficient and managed team who works together. We also have at this time, the most public health offices and hospitals per section to cover in the time of an emergency. That's right, in a time of a full scale emergency we might need to operate up to 13 facilities! That spreads us very thin. With more than 135 additional RACES members across the State of Vermont, we are all one team.

There are other parts of the state which do not benefit from the VY drills, but they might be called upon to help us out, as we might be called to their portion of Vermont to help them out. This truly is a balancing act for sure. When deployed it might not be a RACES event that we are called to. This activation could be an ARES, CERT, or even a Walk-a-Thon event. One never knows. Here you will notice the reason why we (WRRC) encourage dual enrolment in ARES and RACES. Both of these programs are important to Amateur Radio, the

State of Vermont, and the general public, wherever they may reside.

Another milestone has been crossed with the assistance of Darrel, K1KU. We have worked very hard to encourage the installation of base antennas at each of the EOC's within the Entergy Vermont Yankee EPZ. We have finally obtained the necessary permissions to install antennas at each of the EOC's within the EPZ. This work should be completed by August of this year!

This is a new beginning for me. I'm looking forward to chat with many hams in the state over the next few years and see new plans implemented and proven effective for all of us to utilize. Vermont is a great state with great people and hams. Together we will keep it that way!

Good luck David, you have been a great asset to the State of Vermont, amateur radio and a great friend to many. The door will be open for you to visit any time.



## JULY DOINGS (Es looking ahead)

**July 10:** Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital. 19:00L

**July 14-15:** IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) Contest. Here's a chance to work headquarter stations all over the world.

See the rules at [www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/iaru.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/iaru.html)

**July 28-29:** IOTA (Islands on the Air) Contest. Sponsored by the RSGB, this popular contest finds islands all over the world activated.

See the rules at [www.contesting.co.uk/hfcc/rules/riota.shtml](http://www.contesting.co.uk/hfcc/rules/riota.shtml)

**July 28:** Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRC Board of Directors at the Brattleboro House of Pizza by Staples. Things start up at 11:30L. Although all business is conducted by the BOD all members are welcome to attend these meetings and chime in with ideas or just chew the rag.

**August 4:** Grace Cottage Hospital special event station

## NEED HELP?

**W**e 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, club apparel orders, 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



## CONGRATULATIONS

**O**n Wednesday June 20 John, N1TOX – Tim, KA1ZQX, and Darrel, K1KU attended a RACES meeting in Waterbury, VT. This meeting had a special meaning beyond the usual review and critique of RACES performance and future plans, though.

It was a time for bidding farewell to long time RACES Coordinator, David Cain, W1DEC. By the time you read this David will be retired to Rhode Island where he hopes to be able to devote more time to fun pursuits such as boating and Amateur Radio. David brought a lot of enthusiasm, hard work, and devotion to the Coordinator position. As proof during his tenure the statewide membership grew to 167.

David will still be “in touch” and informed me that he and his XYL, Annie, will be in attendance as much as possible during the UVM hockey season. Our best wishes to David as he enters this new phase of his life. Speaking from experience I can say that it’s not too shabby.

As to the congratulations – David’s replacement as RACES Coordinator is our one and only John Borichevsky, N1TOX – Mr. Workaholic himself. Our best wishes to him as he steps into these new shoes. I’m sure that his performance at this new task will be very FB.

Speaking of which, if someone out there reading this is not a member of our outstanding RACES team give me ([k1ku@arrl.net](mailto:k1ku@arrl.net)) or John, N1TOX ([n1tox@comcast.net](mailto:n1tox@comcast.net)) a shout and we’ll have an application sent your way.

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK



And to fill things out here are some more visuals. Thanks to David, N1ESK, for providing many of the pictures.



KA1ZQX, Tim in the VEM RACES shack



KB1OQH, Paul - His FIRST FD



KB1OQG, Gaila – “Get that Banner straight.”



KD6MPY, Sean and the analyzer

I AND ALL THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS RAG SEND YOU AND YOURS VERY BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE, SANE, AND HAPPY 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY.

MAY FREEDOM LONG CONTINUE TO RING IN THIS GREAT LAND!!