



# DIGITAL DIGEST

A publication of the  
West River Radio Club



November—2007

Volume II—#11

## VITAL STATISTICS

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 fifty 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

KA1ZQX, Tim Bell; Pubic Relations

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Another great year!*

Here we are, 4 years old and growing. Who knows where we will go from here, but our vision is crystal clear and the sky is the limit. I am proud to lead such a diverse group of radio operators who have their own specialties and want to learn more of what someone else is doing. Some of us like QRP, some are antenna experts, some do remote communications, repeaters, Emergency Communications, and others have many additional specialties they all use and enjoy.

Over this past year, we were deployed to walk-a-thons, flooding in Brattleboro, traffic diversion, parking tasks, the Strolling of the Heifers, a movie premier, and much more. Our club continues to grow in popularity and membership. Our membership has grown by 13 members this year to a total of 54. This is even reflective in our growing meeting attendance. Our meeting topics still capture the interest and attention of many members month after month.

What is your specialty in Amateur Radio? Everyone has one...Please consider standing up in front of our humble

group and discuss your specialty. You do not have to take 2 hours for a presentation, how about 30 minutes? You could demonstrate your new rig, talk about your ham shack, your new antenna, operating procedures, contesting, or whatever.



So, here's to everyone in WRRC and many more great years coming up! We will continue to grow and new ventures are coming up. Here is also to a great holiday season coming up. Remember to take your time, and enjoy the moments. Time is just too precious to waste.

And before I forget, December is our annual Pot Luck Luncheon, Mini Ham Fest and Election of Officers. Information will be coming to an email "Inbox" soon, and snail mail for the few...

73

... ..

de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – President WRRC



## To Operate . . . or Not!

(Ed: Here's a welcome article from Tim, KA1ZQX. I was tempted to re-title it "To Operate, or not to operate, that is the question," but Shakespeare beat me to it. Maybe we could talk him into being a steady contributor (Tim, not Shakespeare) on assorted Ham related matters...EmComm, ARES, PR, you name it. Thanks, Tim.)

As the title suggests, questions come up once in a while for Hams, such as should we operate or not. We are a volunteer organization and the zeal to operate is in our blood any time we can help. Some times our zeal can cloud our thinking. In September when Extreme Make Over/Home Addition came to town, they asked the local hams to provide a service for them as there was no

“Cell” service or even enough radio strength (on their radios) to talk to one another. We got the call and the first response was sure, we can do that, but then the little voice in the back of our minds was saying. . . could this be a commercial venture? We started checking the rules (by asking questions and calling the League) and the response was absolutely “NO”.

This answer was a big pill to swallow. Why could this be a “NO” answer as we have provided communications for so many events in the past? Well, looking at the rule book it says;

### FCC Rule Book

#### §97.1 Basis and purpose

a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary *non-commercial communication service*, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

#### §97.113 Prohibited transmissions.

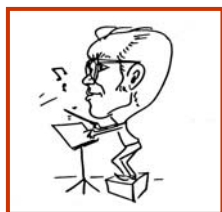
(5) Communications, on a regular basis, which could reasonably be furnished alternatively through other radio services.

We all wanted to provide that communication and show what amateur radio could do, but the rules stated very clearly, we had to say no. We all wanted to find out ways we could justify operating, but it was clear we had to sit this one out. This brings up a good point though; think before you volunteer your services. We had said we could do this, even going up and scouting locations for operators, but we had to turn around and say no after the fact. We had never run into a situation like this so it was a learning experience and a hard one at that. **To operate. . . or Not to operate!**



### RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

**A**s I type this it's less than a week to go until NEARFest at the Deerfield, NH Fairgrounds. During my time in New England I remember first attending the hamfest here. I guess that it had been held at this place since the beginning of time, or starting shortly thereafter. Then it was called Hosstraders. At some point in time it was moved to Rochester, NH and we started calling it Deerchester.



After several years of visiting Deerchester, way over on the coast of Maine, a providential change occurred. The

most around the corner from this QTH – if you consider 60 some miles around the corner, that is.

Then, horror of horrors, Hosstraders folded up its tent. I guess that after lo those many years the organizers just threw in the towel. I can't say that I blame them. Nevertheless, the cries of despair could be heard throughout New England and parts of Canada from hamfest aficionados. That anguish was soon repressed, though, when a new gang stepped in to fill the breach with NEARFest, which will celebrate its second year of operation on October 12-13 of this year. So, our thanks to the outgoing gang for a lot of years of service and the new organizers. We wish them every success.

So it's a bit further to travel than Hopkinton (Jack, N1HOS, refers to it as “FARFest”), but it beats the Rochester location for gas conservation. Whatever, I'll be there, this time with the company of W1ZS, Burt.

Do I buy stuff? Very rarely, and if I do, it's usually a few antenna end insulators, some PL-259s, or some good Dacron rope. Do I sell stuff? Rarely. In all these years I think that I've set up a table twice. The main reason is probably because I don't have any junk around here. Everything I own is a priceless treasure and when parted with brings more tears and remorse than I or my therapist can deal with. I am, though, considering bringing some of those treasures to the club's mini hamfest prior to our annual meeting. If anyone present is rich enough to buy one of my priceless commodities I hope that I have a goodly supply of tissues handy.

So why do I go? Part of the reason is that my fans demand it. I truly enjoy walking the grounds and visiting friends from the area that are rarely seen, but sometimes heard via the ether. There is also the excellent cuisine being hawked by the assorted food vendors. I've always had a problem keeping my cholesterol count up to where it should be. Hamfests always give me the chance to boost those numbers.

There is also the matter of attire. If you've ever wondered what the well dressed Ham wears, well, attend a hamfest and find out. Your eyes will be treated to a varied assortment of garb. Another “free” reward is the ability to study assorted vehicle adornment – everything from the simple mag mount dual bander to HF antennas. I have yet to observe a mobile moon bounce setup, though.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the mother of all hamfests – Dayton. My wife and I have attended this event twice and plan on going again in May of 2008. Yes,

there are loads of activities for the non-ham, so bring the YL along. The Wright-Patterson museum is nearby, too, and that is definitely worth some time.

Maybe I'll see you there. If so, I'll let you treat me to a new rig. I doubt if I'll be rich enough after peddling my treasures at the club's annual meeting.



### Quiz Answers

(Ed: For those of you too lazy to do your research last month here are the answers to W2NH, Gordon's quiz.)

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last? 116 years
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats? Ecuador
- 3) From which animal do we get catgut? Sheep and horses
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution? November
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of? Squirrel fur
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific is named after what animal? Dogs
- 7) What was King George VI's first name? Albert
- 8) What color is a purple finch? Crimson
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from? New Zealand
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane? Orange, of course



### HAMS & CERT

I was tempted to title this "Ham 'n Eggs" but on second thought.....

The following WRRRC members put on their CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) hats on Saturday, October 13 when they responded to a call to assist with an over turned dump truck on Route #35 in Townshend.

KB1HCG, Mark—N1TOX, John—W1IRA, Ira - KB1OQG, Gaila—K1KU, Darrel

After some waiting and munching on great sandwiches provided by Tim, KA1ZQX's in - laws and wife, Liz we were assigned to traffic control on the detour route around the accident to see that too many leaf peepers

didn't stray off on any of Vermont's notorious back roads and get lost.

It was another good learning situation for us all and thanks for a job well done were extended by Sgt. Mike Sorensen, the State Trooper in charge of the incident. The CERT team was also mentioned in the Monday, October 15 issue of the Reformer.

If you'd like to learn more about CERT send an email to John, N1TOX ([n1tox@comcast.net](mailto:n1tox@comcast.net)) or Tim, KA1ZQX ([ka1zqx@verizon.net](mailto:ka1zqx@verizon.net)).



### THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT

**D**o you have that Holiday Gift List started yet? How about a WRRRC gift you can wear? Place an order from the West River Radio Club for a shirt or hat. Remember, your first name and call sign are included in the price of the shirt you select.

Our order form is located at [http://www.rovers.net/~wrrcnet/WRRRC\\_Apparel.pdf](http://www.rovers.net/~wrrcnet/WRRRC_Apparel.pdf). To place an order, send, or present, a filled out application and your check to Darrel, K1KU for order processing. The usual delivery time is within 7 days.



### NOVEMBER DOINGS

(Es looking ahead)

- November 3: RACES statewide conference in White River Junction, 09:00 to 16:00
- November 13: WRRRC meeting in the EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital. We start up at 199:00L
- November 29: CERT meeting at the Putney Fire Department. Start time is 19:00L
- December 8: WRRRC annual meeting in the EMT room at GCH...Noon till ???



### THE LEAGUE AND US

**T**he WRRRC is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League. In order to maintain this affiliation 50% of our members must belong to the ARRL. So far this has not been a problem



and we thank the League members for your extra support.

What does this mean for us?

Referrals of prospective Hams in our area

- Mailing labels for particular zip codes. This is what we use every year to mail all the Hams in Windham County who are not members of the WRRC.
- Reduced prices on library sets that we might want to donate to local libraries
- Club commission recruitment program

From a financial standpoint it's that last item that helps us the most. Whenever a WRRC member renews their ARRL membership we get a \$2 rebate. Our membership consists of 47 "full" members (those who are licensed Hams) and 6 Associate members. Pause now while I take my shoes off.

Out of the 47 full members 26 belong to the League so our percentage rate is 55.3%. For each League member that renews their ARRL membership via the club we get a \$2 kick back. Now \$2 doesn't sound like much it means \$52 extra each year in the kitty.

If you're not a League member and decide to join via the WRRC we will get a \$15 kick back.

I therefore urge you NOT to send that renewal notice and check directly to Newington. Instead, send it to me. I'll do the necessary paper work and forward a club check to the League for \$2 less than you sent me. Thanks for helping make us rich.

Below is the information that I include in every mailing of the minutes.

### **HELP MAKE US RICH**

As an ARRL affiliated club we can, with your cooperation, earn money for the WRRC.

If you are renewing your League membership we get a \$2 kickback.

If you join the League as a new member we get a \$15 kickback.

Here's how it's done – Mail your renewal or new member check to me, **NOT** the ARRL. Make your check out to the WRRC, **NOT** the League.

I will deposit your check in our WRRC account and write a check to the League for \$2 or \$15 less than the full amount, depending on whether you are renewing a membership or coming in as a new member. This check, accompanied with the appropriate form to insure that your membership or renewal is properly credited, will be mailed onto the League by me.

I respectfully urge you to take advantage of this procedure.

Thanks and 73,  
Darrel Daley – K1KU  
POB 445  
Putney, VT 05346

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## **SITE OF THE MONTH**

*DX V-UHF Real Time Map*

**I**nterested in making DX with your VHF/UHF rig? Here is a web page that will show you where the hot spots are for 6 Meter, 2 Meter and 70 centimeter operations are taking place in real time. The page is updated from data collected by WWV. The DX Sherlock 1.4 V-UHF QSO real time maps are located at <http://www.vhfdx.net/spots/map.php>. For more DX Tips on moon bouncing or to sign up for DX warnings coming, go to Gabriel's main page located at <http://www.vhfdx.net/index.html>.

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## **NEED HELP?**

**W**e can't solve any personal problems, but for Ham 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



## EM COMM

On October 17 local RACES members, with assistance from the Rutland area, were dispersed around Windham County to take part in a FEMA evaluated exercise. For yet another drill they performed in a professional manner and further honed their communications skills.

Prior to the drill Mark, KB1HCG, and John, N1TOX, put in some serious time at the Guilford Fire Station getting up a 2 meter/440 dual bander in preparation for the drill.

The day before Mark, KB1HCG, and Darrel, K1KU, worked at fine tuning the Guilford set up. They were ably assisted by Dale Shipp, KB1XU and his access to the Brattleboro Fire Department "cherry picker". Then it was off to the Dummerston IFO (Incident Field Office) where Mark did some big time climbing and snaking of coax to set up a roof mounted tripod and install another dual bander. The finishing touches were also done to a Windom HF antenna installation from a distant tree to the building.

At Mark's urging via his cell phone, Gordon, W2NH, made the long haul in from Athens to provide the weary workers with some needed sustenance from the good folks under the golden arches as well as some goodies snatched from the Pugh pantry.

Many of the ops involved look back with nostalgia to the days when all of our operations were done from our vehicles outside the various EOCs (Emergency Operation Centers). Due to the efforts of people like John, N1TOX and Rob Schell, KA1ZPI in Waterbury those days are long gone. We now bask in the warmer, though nosier, environment of heated buildings, protected from the elements. There are more installations to do, but as the yester year mantra says, "We've come a long way, Baby."

So once more our thanks are extended to those listed below for volunteer efforts on behalf of the Amateur Radio community.

N1TOX, John  
N1HOS, Jack  
N1HLG, John  
WY2Y, Gerard  
KB1HCG, Mark  
KA1CYZ, Jenifer  
K1KU, Darrel  
N1PBX, Conrad  
KA1ZQX, Tim

KB1HCG, Mark  
KA1CYZ, Jenifer  
K1KU, Darrel  
N1PBX, Conrad  
KA1ZQX, Tim  
KB1KSR, Ed  
W1WOL, Bill  
KB1NJA, Walter  
KB1LQB, Chas  
W2NH, Gordon  
KB1OVJ, Mike  
K1EGL, Chuck  
KA1TWV, Elaine  
WB1CZA, Wil



**Speaking of Chas, KB1LQB, let's add him to the list of those who have experienced Nirvana by touring the radio room at VEM in Waterbury.**

**I wonder if that was a piece of anchovy pizza?**

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

