



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



December—2007
January—2008

Volume II—#12
Volume III—#1

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

Holiday Greetings.....

As I reflect back to all of the *President's Corner* articles published in the 2007 editions of the *Digital Dispatch*, I continue to be so proud of the accomplishments we have all done over the last year. We continue to grow and maintain the club status we originally set out to follow. This is to be a club where we are all interactive with one another, learn from one another, and help out where needed. Keeping the meetings fun and enjoyable for everyone continues to be our main objective.

Last year, it was reported that the President of the West River Radio Club pulled up stakes and went on a cruise, moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, and recently visited the "House of the Mouse" in Orlando, FL where I also saw the space shuttle land at NASA. Were these "pleasure trips" you might ask yourself? Well, even though one was work related and I was not at work, it was a

pleasure trip to me!

But why does he bring this up? Radio Communications of course! On the cruise ship, the upper deck looks like a porcupine with antennas all over the place relaying information to other ships, land and space. Salt Lake City, well I met a couple of HAMS from NJ who were at the conference I attended. NASA, Need I say more? Without radio communications being involved, where would the space program be? And any of the theme parks in Orlando you go to, to be orchestrated and successful, you need to communicate with your staff in many ways.

Now I sit back and look at Windham County and all the work that has gone into the improvements we have done this past year. Most of the EOC's in the EPZ have stationary antenna's installed on site. We still have Halifax and Dummerston to work on, but they will be done soon.

- Preliminary reports show that we have passed the FEMA and NRC Graded Drill. The final document is still being worked upon. But we made the evaluators head spin on our HF traffic backup procedures to relay information.
- Newfane Hill was under an overhaul but we needed to stop that process. Negotiations are underway with the land owners so we can continue assisting with this process. Stay tuned for details.
- Our membership keeps growing, this is a good thing.
- We are enrolling more new Amateur Radio Operators into the pool via our VE Sessions.
- We have participated in many special event programs around the county and will continue our partnership with them.
- Field Day 2007 was a great one. We actually had our first 24 hour operation period in record. We also had a small prize give away also.

- We have Official WRRRC Club Apparel. Visit our web page and click on Meeting Minutes and Club Forms page and the link is located on the top of the page for more information.
- Hostraders went away and NEARfest was raised from the ashes.
- But most of all, we are now covering ALL of the EOC's within the Entergy Vermont Yankee EPZ and are welcomed into each location as a Team Player!

TWO for ONE
Due to travel plans and the "busyness" of the season your humble editor will be away from the keyboard periodically. There will therefore not be a January 2008 issue of the Digital Dispatch.

Keep your eyes peeled for Volume III, Issue #1, or would it be #2?

know, maybe all of New England. Bargains like this do not grow on trees.

What many people do is pay at the annual meeting which will be held on Saturday, December 8 at Grace Cottage Hospital.

If I get this issue out on time it won't be too late to let Jenifer, KA1CYZ, know that you'll be in attendance and what you'll be bringing for food. This meeting is in lieu of our normal second Tuesday meeting and its main purpose is to elect new officers for 2008.

If you're unable to join our congenial group on December 8 you can send your check (made out to WRRRC) to:
 Darrel Daley
 POB 445
 Putney, VT 05346

I prefer payment by check, but gladly accept cash. Also remember that you can toss in an extra \$5 for the membership of a spouse, kid, or whoever else might be living under the same roof with you. Every little bit helps.

There is no need to fill out a new application, but please let me know of any changes we'll need to keep the roster up to date – email, address, phone number, license upgrade...you get the idea.

I should mention that if I don't hear from you by January 1, 2008 then I have the unenviable task of removing your name from the WRRRC roster. That would truly be a sad time for me and the other club members as well.

Here are some further points to ponder – Why do you belong to any group? Maybe you just have some extra money lying around that you don't know what to do with. More seriously – the dues are reasonable – more bang for the buck. Maybe you're a social animal.

Maybe you're a joiner. I confess to belonging to six Ham radio organizations (Oh oh... my wife proof reads this.) FISTS, ARRL, ARLHS (Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society), YCCC (Yankee Clipper Contest Club), INDEXA (International DX Association), and I don't want to forget, the WRRRC. My reason for all the memberships is that all these groups promote Amateur Radio activities that I want to

So here we go into 2008. Who knows what will happen in the year to come. But I do know this, with this strong team assembled, I am certain that everyone will make this another banner year not only for WRRRC, but the communities we live in, and organizations we help and support. Please remember, without you being a volunteer and representing WRRRC, RACES, ARES, CERT, or whatever program hat that we have on for that day's event, WRRRC would not be around. You are the folks who make WRRRC what it is today.

In closing, it has been a pleasure being your leader and coworker over the last few years. I am looking forward for this association to carry forward. I hope everyone has a great holiday season and finds a piece of new ham radio equipment, or accessory, coming to you soon!!

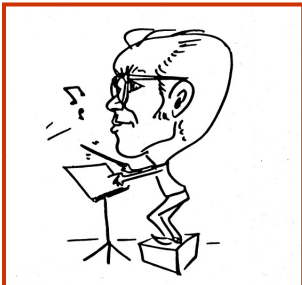
Happy Holidays to everyone!!

73
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 de N1TOX
 John Borichevsky – President WRRRC



RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

To get right to the point, I've been mandated to give a gentle reminder to the membership in this issue that **YOUR DUES FOR 2008 ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 31 OF THIS YEAR.** There, was that gentle enough? There is no change from last year. \$10 buys you a year's membership in the finest Ham Club in the state of Vermont, for all we



support. I'll never attend the meetings of many of these associations, so this is my way of doing my bit to further their causes.

There is one group, though, which you can assist above and beyond the expenditure of \$\$\$\$. You've guessed already...The WRRRC. Wouldn't 2008 be a good year for you to do something for your club? The answer is YES. The choices are many:

- ◆ Give a club presentation on some aspect of radio that you enjoy
- ◆ Write up a personal experience for this newsletter
- ◆ Get involved in EmComm (RACES/ARES)
- ◆ Volunteer for some aspect of Field Day
- ◆ Blah, blah, blah

And there's my food for thought for December of 2007

May you and yours have a blessed Christmas Season and great 2008

Darrel - K1KU



SITES OF THE MONTH

Thanks to Jack, N1HOS, for sending along this site of the month choice.

It's a place devoted to mobile operations authored by K0BG and you can easily get there by pointing your browser to www.k0bg.com

I've looked it over before and Jack is right on - It has all you'd ever want to know about mobile operations and then some.

Gordon, W2NH is also recommending that you take a peek at <http://www.arcticpeak.com/radiopages/radiospectrum.htm>

This contains information on the new Kenwood 710 dual bander.



RACES

On November 3 the following WRRRC members drove up to the VA hospital at White River Junction to attend the 4th annual statewide RACES conference.

N1HOS, Jack—KB1HCG, Mark—W2NH, Gordon

N1TOX, John—KA1ZQX, Tim—K1KU, Darrel N1PBX, Conrad—W1WOL, Bill—N1JSG, Richard WB1CZA, Wil—K1EGL, Chuck

With 172 RACES members statewide we're proud of the contribution made by our local cadre from the WRRRC.

The session went from 09:00 to 16:00L and was packed full of informative talks on many aspects of RACES activities, ranging from a thorough presentation and demonstration on Winlink by AA1KL, Rex Carr, a first hand view of the new CERT/RACES kits, deployment procedures and NVIS antennas. Two of our very own, N1TOX, John, and K1KU, Darrel, took to the stage for presentations.

Tentative drill dates for 2008 are: 19 March, 18 June, 17 September, and 10 December.

If you'd like to be a part of a viable and very active EmComm team there is time to get all your background checks done and receive your VEM ID in time for an exciting 2008 season. Just let N1TOX, Darrel, or N1TOX, John know and we'll have an application off to you muy pronto.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"It is not the class of license that the Amateur holds but the class of the Amateur that holds the license"

MONEY MATTERS

The WRRRC's financial conditions at the end of November, 2007 are as follows:

Checking account	\$1374.80
Petty cash	\$24.43
Total on hand	\$1399.23



DECEMBER EVENTS ES LOOKING AHEAD

December 8: WRRC annual meeting in the EMT at Grace Cottage Hospital. Start up at noon with a mini hamfest and lie telling sessions. There will be a potluck at noon followed by a short business meeting to elect officers for 2008. If you haven't already RSVPd via Jenifer, KA1CYZ, do so NOW! amblerj@sover.net

December 25: Merry Christmas to you and yours.

January 1: Happy New Year to you and yours.

January 4-6: RTTY Roundup. Here's a chance for you digital enthusiasts to work a bunch of other aficionados in the US and around the world. So warm up your interface, brush up on your keyboard skills and off we go. Rules can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/rtty.html>

January 8: Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital. Come on out and help celebrate the beginning of our 4th successful year as a vibrant club. Our special guest will be Allen Tinker, W1AAT - Club Coordinator for the State of Vermont.

January 26: Regular monthly luncheon meeting at the Brattleboro House of Pizza by Staples. Things start up at 11:30L

Vermont QSO Party: *February 1, 19:00L through February 3, 19:00L.* Why not get on and be the DX. As VT is a relatively "rare" state your CQs will generate a lot of pile ups. As proof in 2005 your humble editor took 2nd place in the state with 222 QSOs. He worked 42 states and Canadian Provinces, plus 2 DX stations. If there is interest I'd gladly open my shack to interested participants either on Friday evening, Saturday PM, or Sunday PM using W1RRC. We could make a beer, cheese/cracker, salsa, pizza party out of it and have some fun putting the club name and call out there. Check out the rules at http://www.qsl.net/w1bd/qso_party.htm

WRRC Net: This is ongoing - Every Monday night at 19:00L on 147.015 w/a PL of 100

VT Emergency Phone Net: This is ongoing - Every Sunday morning at 08:00L on 3.976 MHz.

Twass the night before a Ham Christmas

(Many thanks to WA3FYQ and the ARLHS Beacon Bot for the use of his revision of this famous classic.)

T'was the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HTs to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver
who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Re-soldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before --
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV,
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box,
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent,
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

de WA3YFQ



**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL**

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

