



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



April—2008

Volume III—#4

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 48 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
W1CWB, Chas Baker; VP
KD6MPY, Sean Sanderson; ED/VE Liaison
K1KU, Darrel Daley; Secretary/Treasurer
KA1ZQX, Tim Bell; Public Relations/ARES

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Making a "TEAM" work as one...

One definition of the word "team" is "a number of persons associated in some joint action". A winning team that works together requires many people who have a shared vision and commitment. These folks also attend our meetings and become involved in this goal. With this team approach, we then reflect a positive image of our task to the general public.

The West River Radio Club is very fortunate. Our "TEAM" works well together when deployed. We also work well with other teams who help us out in emergency situations. We have demonstrated this many times during drills and deployments. But our team is more than deployments. We are a group of individuals who watch out for one another. Pitching in and helping out where needed. We raise ones spirits when we another is down, and then join together as a bonded group to enjoy the festivities of the day.

Last month, I asked the question "Has anybody asked you how, or why, you got interested in

amateur radio?" This great question came up during a conversation I had with David Andrews (N1ESK) and I thought it would be fair to ask this group the same question. Was it a friend, co-worker, a first responder, general interest or what? We have had a few replies and one will be in this issue if the "WRRC Digital Dispatch". Others will be coming up in months to come. We would like to see more stories from our wonderful group so take some time and type (or dictate) away. We would love to hear your story and share it with the others.

So why did he ask this question you might ask? Well, it was a team building question to see why so many of you fine folks really enjoy this hobby. Sometimes jotting down and reading these stories makes one reflect back as to why we are one team after all. We all perform very well as one team along with getting our task done professionally and with respect. We are also looking toward the future and which direction the club will take us. We will also use this data to plan the strategy of how to reach this goal and what is the best way to get there. Don't worry, the West River Radio Club is not folding or falling apart, we are looking toward the future. There are many interesting roads to take, some are new and some are old. We want to make sure you are involved in something you like to do or something that piques-your interest.

You are a member of our club and may also be an ARES, RACES and/or CERT member to boot. These bonding mechanisms also make us one team with some great experiences and memories to share with our children, grand children, family, and friends. Thank you all for your help, support, and guidance since our organizational concept meeting in November of 2003. Without you, we would not be where we are today, and the future still looks real bright for our continued success!

Until Next month,
73

.....
de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – President WRRC

(First up to the plate after my request for a short bio was Jack, N1HOS. Thanks. There is nothing in the hopper for May so why not put yourself in the limelight and send me a few paragraphs on your Ham career.)

N1HOS - Jack Adams.

Back in the early 1960's, many of us were using CB radios. I belonged to a radio club in the Winchester, NH area and was elected president of a new club in Brattleboro, but at the same time my job had me moving to Springfield, VT and I lost contact with all the many friends I made from the Winchester area. I found that the area in Springfield was short of CB operators (there were none) so the hobby was dropped for a couple of years before moving here to Bellows Falls and then I became active once again. One of the local guys was already a ham (now W1AMF) and talked to several of us about studying code and become a real radio operator. In the following months of study, with code practice on the CB bands, three of us passed tests and in 1990 I became KA1VHM and within a few weeks N1HOS.

Back in those days 10-meters was wide open and I did not get an awful lot of sleep, as I talked to people from one end of the world to the other and many times very late at night. My dream was to talk to Japan, Alaska, Hawaii and Australia and I only got the first two. Maybe with my new privileges I will get them. I never liked code, but I did make one contact in NS (VE1DXD) and have a card for proof. Since then SB rag chewing and being a VE has been my thing.



Jack checks out a rig at one of our Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day special

One of my favorite contacts in those days was a US Navy ship headed for the first Iraq conflict and I talked for a long time with the MARS operator on board (NNNOCUX) or better known as (KC4OQB). He sent me pictures of the ship and a small booklet that told all about the place. He is still active and lives in Texas. I also made contact with the Russian Space Station Mir via packet and is one of my prized QSL cards.

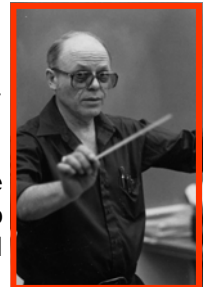
The bands will open again as they were back in the early 90's and once again I will be up nights talking to the world. Who knows, maybe this time Hawaii and Australia?



RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

The Good Ol' Days

Do you ever yearn for them? I do now and then, but not totally.



E.g., I yearn for the days when the entertainment media didn't seem to always be exalting the most base and crass aspects of society.

I yearn for the days when schools were allowed to exercise some discipline without fear of the lawsuit that might result.

I yearn for the days when, as a kid, you usually behaved because if anyone in town saw you acting up your parents would definitely hear about it.

I yearn for the days when kids were given time to just be kids and not exposed at such early ages to concepts and ideas that they'll learn about soon enough.

I yearn for the days when, as a teenager, 50 cents worth of gas would get me a lot of driving.

I yearn for the days when I could go to the Saturday matinee for a dime. Afterwards I'd run across the street and get a chile dog for all of 30 or 35 cents. After all, I needed some kind of fortification for the three mile bike ride home. And I didn't wear a helmet, either.

I yearn for the days when a teacher could put their arms around a kid to console them without being sued for sexual harassment.

I yearn for the days when a high school kid could have the school Principal come over to his car and

SITE OF THE MONTH

Studying for that license upgrade?

Here is a nice piece of study aide software. "Five by Five" software will prepare you for any of the FCC Amateur VE Exams or the FCC Commercial test to including Maritime Communications.

It is always updated to reflect the current question pools, and offers many modes of studying. You can customize the software to give you random questions in only one category, multiple categories, prepare an exam or use if like flash cards. You can "try it before you buy it" The cost of the software is \$29.99, but this is a great bargain for what you get, and you will also get free updates as they become available. To take a look at this software, go to <http://www.hamexam.com> which will redirect you to <http://www.dauntless-soft.com/PRODUCTS/FCCTest/>

And as an added bonus, as you will also receive the Pilot Morse, a Morse Code Tutor, free. **Let's keep Morse Code alive**



YOU AND THE RULES

Before we proceed with this month's thrilling installment on Part 97 our congratulations go out to our own (drum roll, please) **W1WOL, Bill Mitchell**, from the Greater Springfield Metropolitan Area, for being the first to correctly finish last month's assignment.

That assignment was to correctly answer the following questions:

1. What is an indicator? *An indicator is something appended to your call sign to more fully explain your operating circumstances.*
2. Give an example. *K1KU/6 for portable operations. Or, K1KU/MM (Maritime Mobile) for use when I'm out on the high seas.*
3. What do the rules say can be used to separate whatever indicator from the call sign? *You are required to use the "/" (slant bar) or any suitable word that denotes the slant bar. I.e., on phone I would say K1KU slant 6 or K1KU portable 6. For those of you who still use that venerable form of communication known as CW you would "say" Dahdididahdit (DN).*
4. As Bill further pointed out – It is any sort of distinctive ID that identifies

show him the new 22 or shotgun that his Dad had given him for his birthday. Like as not, they would have a chat about hunting. (I grew up in rural California where a LOT of kids drove pickups to school with loaded rifles in a gun rack and never locked the vehicle.)

I stated above that I didn't **totally** yearn for the old days, and with good reason.

Some of you probably wouldn't be alive and reading this if it hadn't been for the great strides in medicine over the years.

I think of the hours I sat in a library researching something for a college paper. Where were you Google, when I really needed you?

And how many times did I have to re-tune and dip those finals just to change bands. Now, with the aid of auto tuners and rig control I move around with ease. The price for this convenience is having had to pass Geek 101, but I'm willing to pay it.

Now as to cars; let me count the times I used to tune up one of ours in the neighbor's garage – new plugs, set the gap, do something in the distributor, etc., etc. Fortunately, that neighbor was a mechanic and at my beck and call when I ran into a problem, which, come to think of it, was quite a bit.

And so it's a mixed bag. Those good old days are not going to come back and progress will continue to be made on the technical front. But does the progress have to be so fast? I can't keep up.

That won't stop me from being an optimist, though, and I'll keep holding onto the belief that the world can become a more pleasant and user friendly place to reside. As Hams, were in an ideal position to do something about it. So, fire up the



GOOD HOME NEEDED

Assuming that you all live by the theory that a Ham can never have too many rigs I hereby offer the following for sale:

- Kenwood TM-621A dual band transceiver—2 meter and 220 MHz
- Alinco DR430 440 MHz transceiver

\$40 each. No credit cards accepted.

For further information contact K1KU, Darrel Daley—k1ku@arrl.net

Who you are
Where you are
What you are doing (As
per NCS)

BTW, are you aware that we could legally use our club initials, WRRRC, as an indicator? If these initials are not in use world wide, then we're safe. It would involve consulting an international call sign prefix table and searching for WRRRC letter combination.

Now into fresh material, or "Who's At Fault?"

Here's the scenario: A visiting Ham friend is using your station and *your call sign* while doing so. He gets caught breaking an FCC rule of some sort – obscene language, operating out of band, etc. When the FCC hammer falls, who will it fall upon?

1. You?
2. Your friend?
3. Both of you?

Now here's a variation on the first scenario – It's still your station and the same friend, although by now it's doubtful just how much of a friend he is. This time, though, he is operating using his own call sign when he messes up. The wrath of the FCC now falls upon:

4. You?
5. Your friend?
6. Both of you?

I will be awaiting your response to the two options above with baited breath. Shoot the answers to kl7dn@sover.net

You can do some research at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/news/part97/>



NO GO KIT

I'm indebted to the idea for this short write up to Don Rand, KA5DON and his article on the subject in the December 2007 issue of WorldRadio.

All of you out there involved in EmComm know what Go Kits are all about. You probably have your own in the vehicle just waiting to go on the next call up.

But what about a "No Go" kit? This is what you keep at home just in case something bad happens and stores aren't open, there is no electricity from our usual source...you get the idea.

I won't go into any great detail here, but this might be a good topic for a future meeting. You can probably all figure out what's needed.

- ◆ Batteries for you name it – ham gear, commercial radios, and flashlights. I keep my Field Day marine batteries topped off year around with float chargers.
- ◆ Lot of water
- ◆ Lots of canned, non-perishable food
- ◆ Hand sanitizer so that you don't have to waste precious water
- ◆ Storm lanterns. I have one of the newer LED lanterns I use primarily for Field Day and it sure beats filling a Coleman lantern, messing with mantles, etc.
- ◆ Camp stove. I have a Coleman single burner job that has seen lots of use during power outages. It sure beats eating cold beans.

I'm sure that you've already found things I left out. Why not let me know what those items are and I'll create a master list for handing out at a future meeting.

As the Boy Scouts still say (I hope) – **BE PREPARED!**



THE EINSTEIN FORMULA

If "a" equals success, then the formula is "a" equals "x" plus "y" and "z," with "x" being work, "y" play, and "z" keeping your mouth shut.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)
Swiss-American Physicist



APRIL EVENTS ES LOOKING AHEAD

Ongoing: WRRRC Net: This is ongoing – Every Monday night at 19:30L 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.

April 8: This regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC will involve a Skywarn session in the cafeteria of Grace Cottage Hospital. The training will start at 06:30 PM (18:30L) Register at

April 26: Our regularly scheduled monthly lunch-

eon meeting will be held at the PanAsian Restaurant by Staples in Brattleboro. Meeting time is 11:30 AM

LOOK WHAT'S NEW

Take the *WRRC Monthly Survey*.

Go to the West River Radio Club web site (www.westriverradio.org) and click on "Take the Current WRRC Survey". It is located just after the calendar section on the main page. Answer a few questions and look for the compiled results right here in the "*Digital Dispatch*" next month!

All submissions are anonymous and you can only enter one submission per month.

REGRETS

It saddens me to announce that an anticipated article by my good friend Ray Dial, K1GND was not forthcoming in time for this April issue.

Ray, a world renown authority on vertical antenna design, had promised me that he'd share a new 1/16 wavelength model he has been working on that would allow world wide coverage on all bands at qrp output levels. Unconfirmed reports reveal that Ray has been talking with his ex wife, KB1EX, in Ubangaland consistently on 2 meter fm simplex.

GORDON'S PLIGHT

Word has just reached me that Mark, KB1HCG, had to transport Gordon, W2NH, up to Dartmouth after his hip ball slipped out of the socket.

Send some healing thoughts and prayers Gordon's way. Stay tuned for further developments.



I'm not exactly a fan of rock 'n roll, but I do believe that there was a group once called the *Motley Crew*.

The Motley Crew above was captured in pixels at our last Field Day in 2007.

The WRRC will once more be doing their "motley" best on June 28—29. Mark it on the calendar now and plan on joining us for some Emcomm fun.



A PERSONAL NOTE

I'd sure me remiss if I didn't say my heartfelt thanks for all the cards, emails, personal visits, kind words, thoughts, prayers, you name it....that many of you showered upon me during my stint in the hospital or rehab.

And so I'll say it—**THANKS!**

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

