



# DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the  
West River Radio Club



May—2008

Volume III—#5

## 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

### State of the club...

Well, the President of the United States gives a "State of the Nation" speech, the Governor of the State of Vermont gives a "State of the State" speech, so I am going to write the a "State of the Club" report as President of this fine club.

As you know, the West River Radio Club was started by the ideas of two individuals, Tim Bell, KA1ZQX and Richard Pierce, N1JSG. Our first meeting was in November of 2003 with 11 members all showing a common interest in forming a club form. In December, we all had an assignment to think of a name, logo, and what we wanted to do to make it happen. While I do not recall all the names mentioned, we settled on the name as we know it today, The West River Radio Club. This name came to the table because of the West River is the dominate river that flows through Windham County, Townshend, where our home is, also sits on the West River. It seems to

fit. The West River bonds many communities together in Windham County, and we bond Windham County to the State of Vermont and the world.

Our small 11 member club of the past has grown up to a modest size of 48 members strong today. We have a lot of common goals which we grow upon. Some like contesting, some like EmComm, some like tube equipment and some like the new solid state rigs. This harmonious mix makes us better overall as we share our knowledge of our equipment with one another. But one real nice thing to note is that this group has the best thing to offer to the public which is the commitment to the preservation of the Amateur Radio art and Emergency Communications. Out of all of our members, 25 are RACES members, 28 are ARES members, 12 are CERT members and most of all, we all are WRRR members. Please remember why you became a licensed Amateur Radio Operator. Write your story and see it published in the Digital Dispatch, another bonding mechanism started by Darrel Daley, K1KU. We need more stories. What about yours?

We have been an Affiliated ARRL Club since October 2004. As members, we have bonded together. We all have a common interest, and we have technical people we can call upon if we run into problems. We have an Elmer Team, Antennas R Us, and most of all we have your dedication to the group. We have grown at a controlled pace, and now it is time that we take the next controlled step in our history. This all leads up to the most current information I can offer. The West River Radio Club is now an "ARRL Special Services Club" with the ARRL. We are honored by receiving this designation to show that we are one of the 4 clubs in Vermont to share this proud honor. Watch your upcoming issues of the ARRL "QST" magazine for this honored announcement.



In closing, and I now hear a lot of cheering, I always thank each and every one of you for your dedication, time, efforts, and continued membership in the West River Radio Club. There are more great announcements to come out this year at different events around the state. But please remember without you, this club would not be the significant club in Southeastern Vermont that it is.

Until Next month,  
73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – President WRRC



(Our thanks to Gaila, KB1OQG, for her contribution to the *short bio* portion of our newsletter. There is nothing in the hopper for June so why not put yourself in the limelight and send me a few paragraphs on your Ham career.)

### KB1OQG—Gaila

#### Why I became an Amateur Radio Operator—Gaila Gulack (KB1OQG)

**B**orn in the wilds of the Upper East Side of New York City, I soon learned the importance of learning alternative means of communications.

At first, as a small child, I started the traditional way with stringing Campbell's soup cans. Although this was fun, I found the distance unsatisfying. Also, our mothers wanted to take our equipment so they could make dinner.

As a teenager, like most, I progressed to the telephone (the Princess of course) but the long distance charges that accrued as I tried to find my prince pretty much did me in. So there was no joy there.

So, after a long hiatus, I have finally fulfilled my dream of instant, global communications to anywhere, anytime (assuming the conditions are right), that's right Ham Radio! While I am still a lowly tech licensed operator, I have high hopes of sharing my scintillating voice and question-



**KB1OQG, Gaila assists at the clubs' 2007 FD**

able repartee worldwide. What more could a girl want?

With the assistance of Antenna's R Us, I will be on the air soon. So this may be the end of world peace as we know it. Be afraid, be very afraid!

Yours truly,  
Gaila, KB1OQG



### RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

#### *NO pain – NO gain*

**A**s many of you are probably aware your humble correspondent had himself a new hip installed on March 11 of this year. I know that some of you were privy to this matter as I was inundated with land lines, cards, personal visits, and emails galore – all expressing kind, healing thoughts and wishes for a speedy recovery. What can a guy say other than THANKS? Not much, I fear, so I'll say it – THANKS!



As you read this I should be 95% recovered and enthusiastically celebrating my new life with assorted activities:

- ◆ Climb Putney Mountain
- ◆ Visit the Dayton Hamvention (This will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> trip there.)
- ◆ Cut and split the rest of that wood pile
- ◆ Pick up all the limbs that fell off during this worse than usual winter
- ◆ FD 2008.

I was blessed in many ways during this new experience:

- ◆ A fine surgeon to do the replacement
- ◆ Great nurses to make sure that all of life's little necessities were attended to.
- ◆ Exceptional care once I got home in the form of my wife of over 50 years
- ◆ Top notch rehabilitation people to guide me though the healing process

And speaking of rehabilitation...Why is it that the exercises that cause the most pain do the most good? I was prompted to ask this question more than once on my slow, but methodical road back to full mobility.

If a physical therapist was guiding me though a new routine and I commented that I could do this all day long, she had me into another procedure in no time

## YOU AND THE RULES

at all. But when a certain stretch brought on a grimace and I sucked for air, well, that was the one they told me to stick with and do a lot.

Anyway, this concept led me into a fairly uncommon activity for me, namely, thinking. I reached the conclusion that *No pain – No gain* sort of sums up all of life itself.

Remember school? I remember that in order to get halfway decent grades I had to go through the pain of study – giving up time for fun activities and hitting the books instead. Was there a gain? Statistics on longevity, health, wealth tend to say a resounding YES.

Tied in with this is the pride of accomplishment we all feel when we've made some sort of sacrifice in order to advance our lives in some worthwhile way. Good self esteem is no small matter

I've never given birth, but I get the impression that a lot of pain is involved in the process. And what's the gain? I personally see the potential in a new life that will make some worthwhile contribution to the betterment of our world.

This *No pain – No gain* philosophy can even be applied to Ham Radio (You just knew that was coming, didn't you?) Here we go: In each case the *Pain* is giving up some personal time and the *Gain* is the good feeling you'll get from knowing that you've helped promote Ham Radio in our small part of the world. At the same time you will have made yourself a better person.

- ◆ Volunteer to give a program at some meeting
- ◆ Write up a short piece for the Digital Dispatch
- ◆ If not already a VE become qualified
- ◆ Volunteer to teach some topic at a club Technician or upgrade class
- ◆ Not in RACES or ARES? Get into RACES or ARES
- ◆ Learn to operate a new mode
- ◆ Etc., etc., etc.

To quote Sean Connery in one of his roles where he wasn't Agent 007, "Thus endeth the lesson."



**I**t saddens me to report that no one came forth with an answer to last month's rules quiz. I can only assume that everyone felt that the questions were too simple and not worth the time to respond.

The task of providing erudition therefore falls upon your humble editor. Fear not, for he is up to the task.

To review – your alleged Ham friend does bad things while operating your station and using *your call sign*. The FCC will blame....

1. You?
2. Your friend?
- 3. Both of you?** (With luck (?) maybe you can both share the same cell.)

Now this no good friend of yours messes up at your station using his own call sign. The FCC will blame...

1. You?
- 2. Your friend?** (As a true friend I'm sure that you'll visit him or her in jail. Just don't bring a rig along for him to use.)
3. Both of you?

This month's installment of *You and the Rules* concerns Section 97.1 (a) (b) (c) (d) and (e). You got it...The basis and purpose of why the FCC allows us to exist and utilize some valuable frequencies. Like me, you probably memorized them all once, but here they are for review: (The italics are mine)

### §97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this Part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

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

(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of *the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill*.

You're in luck as I haven't prepared a sermon on the above. But I do think that it's fun to look at the 5 purposes and ask yourself where you fit in. E.g., I'm not an electronics expert, but do consider myself a "trained operator". That doesn't mean that more training isn't called for. As a DXer I also do my fair share in enhancing international good will.

Now it's your turn. Where do you "fit in" best with the 5 purposes? There will not be a test.



## FINANCES

The figures below represent the WRRC's current financial status.

Checking	\$1648.86
Cash on hand	\$44.55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1693.41</b>



## GORDON UPDATE

The below information on W2NH, Gordon, was received in our editorial offices from Jenifer, KA1CYZ, on April 28.

He has come through his long postponed surgery on Friday (4/28) OK. At the time of receipt of this information no one has been able to contact Gordon personally.

## LATE BREAKING NEWS FLASH!

An email from Gordon himself just prior to starting the presses informs me that in a couple of days he will be in rehab at Grace Cottage Hospital (Been there—Done that). Maybe he'll be up to attending the May 13 meeting. If not, maybe everyone can go upstairs and meet at his bedside.



## MAY EVENTS ES LOOKING AHEAD

**Ongoing: WRRC Net:** Every Monday night at 19:30L on 147.015 w/a PL of 100

**Ongoing: VT Emergency Phone Net:** Every Sunday morning at 08:00L on 3.976 MHz.

**May 2-3:** NEARFest at the Deerfield, NH fair grounds. Check out [www.near-fest.com](http://www.near-fest.com) for details. Your humble correspondent along with W1ZS, Burt, will be in attendance on Friday.

**May 10:** Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test

**May 13:** Regular scheduled meeting of the WRRC in the EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, VT. You won't want to miss this one as Mark, KB1HCG, will show us all how to save money on gasoline. The meeting starts at 19:30L.

**May 16 -18:** Dayton Hamvention. Your humble correspondent will be in attendance.

**May 17:** Armed Forces Day

**May 31:** WRRC regularly scheduled monthly luncheon meeting will be held at the Brattleboro House of Pizza by Staples in Brattleboro. Meeting time is 11:30 AM



## RACES DRILL

Our RACES members are back in action for another year. On April 17, 2008, the following members took part in an evacuation drill for area schools.

N1TOX, John  
N1HOS, Jack  
N1PBX, Conrad  
KB1OQH, Paul  
K1KU, Darrel

KA1ZQX, Tim  
K1EGL, Chuck Wojack  
W1CWB, Chas  
KB1HCG, Mark

The scenario was as follows: John, N1TOX, from the RACES station at the Dummerston IFO (Incident Field Office) relayed traffic from the Waterbury VEM Headquarters to the RACES members listed who were stationed at assorted EOC (Emergency Operation Centers) in Windham County and the school bus staging area.



**N1TOX, John at the  
Dummerston IFO**

As with every drill we learned something that will make future drills more beneficial. Some of us might even confess to getting that warm, fuzzy feeling from knowing that we were doing a good thing.

New members are always welcome. Shoot a request for an application to N1TYOX, John Borichevsky ([n1tox@comcast.net](mailto:n1tox@comcast.net)) or K1KU, Darrel ([k1ku@arrl.net](mailto:k1ku@arrl.net)) and will get a background check started on you muy pronto. Besides that warm, fuzzy feeling benefits also include:

- \* Liability coverage
- \* RACES vests

The second transportation drill will be at the end of this month. Watch your email for details.



KA1ZQX, Tim at the Guilford EOC

### THE AMATEUR'S CODE

By Paul M. Segal W9EEA (1928)

(Ed: Some things never change. Maybe that's why they're called standards. I've run this before, but it needs repeating every now and then – Maybe not for you, but my aging gray matter needs periodic reinforcement of these simple, yet powerful admonishments.)

**The Radio Amateur is:**

**CONSIDERATE:** never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL:** offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE:** with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.

**FRIENDLY:** with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED:** Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

**PATRIOTIC:** with station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

## March of Dimes – Walk for Babies John Borichevsky (N1TOX)

On Saturday April 26, 2008, the West River Radio Club assisted the Vermont Chapter of the March of Dimes with their annual Walk for Babies 3.5 mile walk in Brattleboro. In attendance was our Event Leader Mark Karcum (KB1HCG), Chas Baker (W1CWB), Conrad Kruse (N1PBX), John Borichevsky (N1TOX) and the Blais family, Paul (KB1OQH), Tina, Meaghan, and PJ. The walk took off at 10:10 AM from the Brattleboro Common then proceeding to Living Memorial Park then it was back to the common. The walk was finished at 11:35 AM with nobody getting lost or hurt. There were approximately 65 walkers in attendance.



## The April WRRC Survey John Borichevsky (N1TOX)

During the month of April, I introduced you to the WRRC Monthly Survey. This is a quick and easy survey to participate in and will be kept to fewer than 5 questions per month. For the Month of April, the survey was about the equipment you used in this great hobby of amateur radio. Here is the information that was compiled of the 38 participants who answer the questions.

### What brand of base station radio(s) do you own? (All bands)

Brand	Count	Percent- age
Elecraft	0	0.0
Heath Kit	1	3.0
<b>Icom</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36.4</b>
Kenwood	8	24.2
Ten-Tec	1	3.0
Yaesu	6	18.2
Other	5	15.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**What brand mobile unit(s) do you own?  
(All bands)**

Brand	Count	Percentage
Alinco	0	0.0
<b>Icom</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>39.5</b>
Kenwood	9	23.7
Radio Shack	1	2.6
Yeasu	12	31.6
Other	1	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**What brand of HT(s) do you own? (All bands)**

Brand	Count	Percentage
Alinco	1	2.9
<b>Icom</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>35.3</b>
Kenwood	7	20.6
Radio Shack	2	5.9
Yeasu	8	23.5
Other	4	11.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100.0</b>

So it looks like we like our Icom equipment. Thank you all for your participation. Check the West River radio Club web site for next month's survey after the first of the month.



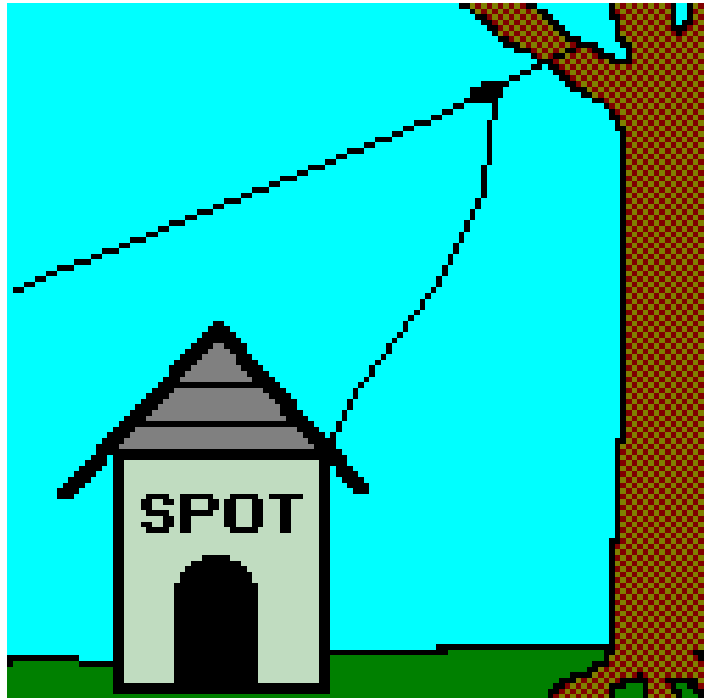
**WORD OF THE MONTH**

**I** often have the sense that some (many?) of our readers are not making every effort possible on a daily basis to improve themselves intellectually. In an attempt to resolve this problem I'll try to remember to bring you a *word a month* that will encourage you to find a dictionary (or use Google). After all, I'm sure that many of you want to become known as the most well spoken Ham in Windham County, maybe even the entire state of Vermont.

So try this one on for size – *pestiferous*

As in, "Many Hams had learned not to answer his CQs as he had proven to be a very *pestiferous* person."

The first person that gets back to me with the correct answer gets a BIG honorable mention in the June issue.



**This might be a dog gone good antenna**

**SITE OF THE MONTH**

The Ham Radio Search Engine. It uses all of the major search engines and presents Ham Radio related items only. Give it a try...<http://www.cqoogle.com/search/>

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