



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



June — 2008

Volume III—#6

VITAL STATISTICS

The West River Radio Club, an ARRL Special Service 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

Summer is here!

What makes summer special? Friends and family make any event special and memorable. While we are all friends, let's think about Field Day for our first stop. Field Day 2008 will allow us to get together and meet hundreds of other Hams on the air waves we all use in our hobby. So our family grows more and more every year. We ask that you also come out and operate as we run our 24 hour event from the Old Pond Chapel on Pond Road across from the Recreation center in Vernon. I sure hope to see many of you in Vernon this year. And as a special attraction, we will also have front row seats for the fireworks!

At this year's Field Day, we will be running 3 HF stations on a small plot of land. Please contact Darrel – K1KU at k17dn@sover.net if you wish to operate a station. There will also be a town wide pot luck dinner we are invited to attend this year.

So why the Old Pond Chapel you might ask? Vernon is really trying to make the town day a family event. We will be operating at the Old Pond Chapel and welcome visitors into this historically restored building and to promote the art of amateur radio. Combining these two events together allow us to introduce the public to WRRRC and let them also enter and view the chapel. More details will be coming!

Did you know it is "take your radio on vacation year?" Ok, it's not an official thing to do, but that is all I could think about at this time. Take your rig to a light house on the Maine coast and "light up" the house. Put that radial into the ocean and watch out for all the incoming contacts you will get. How about setting up your portable rig on the porch of a Bed and Breakfast and operating while swinging on a porch swing and sipping on your favorite beverage?

Whatever you do this summer, traveling, staying home, or both, please be safe, drive safely, and make memories happen. I hope to see you at an event or catch you on the air during the summer.

Until Next month,
73

.....
de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – President WRRRC



RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

You can see a lot by just looking – Yogi Berra



Now this guy had it all together, or maybe he just took one too many fast balls in the old noggin' when his face mask was off. Whatever, if laughter is good for the soul then we should read a lot of quotes by Yogi.

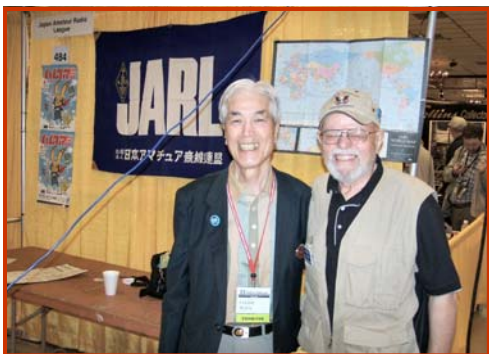
As some of you may be aware, I and my first wife have been away from the nest recently...a trip to Dayton, OH to once more savor the excitement of the Dayton Hamvention, for the third time, no less. While in the area we also managed two long visits to the National Museum of the United States Air Force Once home from Ohio I headed north to a friend's camp on Holland Pond for some *male bonding* with some of the guys.

But to get back to Yogi's quote and also make a long story longer....I haven't had too much time to devote to cranking out the June issue of the Digital Dispatch. So, sit back, see a lot and look at some of the pictures that got snapped while spending part of the kid's inheritance at the Hara Arena in Dayton, OH.



Yours truly at the ICOM display with noted DXer, WA1S, Ann Santos. Ann is a rep for ICOM and has traveled to many rare DX locations on this globe where I've had the pleasure of exchanging CW reports with her.

Here I am with JA1DM, Masa, at the JARL booth. He gave me the low down on getting a temporary license for our next trip to JA land. Did I tell you that Dayton is truly an international gathering?



W3FF, Budd, explains the workings of his famous and popular portable antenna system. John, N1TOX, and Darrel, K1KU can attest to the quality of Budd's antennas.

Keep CW alive.

Nancy Kott, WZ8C, Editor of WorldRadio and head honcho of the North American branch of FISTS provides a photo op for me.



Did I tell you that KD6MPY, Sean, W1ZS, Burt, and myself are FISTS members? Well, they are. Don't forget that the WRRRC also has a club membership and FISTS number. You can learn more about FISTS at www.fists.org

Parting advice: Beg, borrow, but don't steal the money to go to Dayton. You owe it to yourself to experience this fantabulous Ham Radio extravaganza at least once. Remember....you're not getting any younger. If you are, please forward me the secret.



SPEAKING OF CW

KD6MPY, Sean, recently expressed his interest in holding a CW class.

Several of us in the club can attest to the fact that it is one great mode. Tales of its demise have been greatly exaggerated.

The only problem with teaching, though, is that you need students. If you might be interested in learning the art and skill of CW give Sean or myself a shout—kd6mpy@arrl.net or k1ku@arrl.net



SPEAKING OF CLASSES

Sean has also set aside the two Saturdays of June 14 and 21 for a Technician course. If you know of someone who wants to get into this fascinating hobby give Sean a shout as per above.



MARCH OF DIMES Walk for Babies Update John Borichevsky (N1TOX)

If you remember from last month, 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. We actually covered two locations, Brattleboro and Springfield. While the information was not available from the Springfield walk at press time, we do want to make note of the two individuals from our group who did assist the walkers in Springfield during the 6 mile walk. They were Ed Phoenix, KB1KSR, and Richard Pierce, N1JSG.

We would also like to note that this event marks Richards' 19th year of covering this event. Congratulations and a huge "Thank You" to Richard for his dedication to this worthwhile cause and keeping Amateur Radio an important part of the event for all of these years.

JUNE EVENTS ES LOOKING AHEAD

Ongoing: WRRRC 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.

June 10: Regular scheduled meeting of the WRRRC—19:00L in the EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, VT.

June 11: Statewide RACES hospital drill. Stay tuned for further details.

June 18: RACES drill. Stay tuned.

June 28-29: Field Day in Vernon, VT. We'll be part of their town wide celebration. If you'd like to be an operator or help out in some way contact K1KU, Darrel—k1ku@arrl.net



The May WRRRC Survey John Borichevsky (N1TOX)

Where did everybody go? In April, we had 33 people log into the WRRRC Survey and this month we had only 3. Oh well, we will continue...

The May questions evolved around HF Antennas. It seems that 66.7% of the folks use a Dipole antenna over a Yagi for his / her primary antenna. Cushcraft received a 100% response as the preferred antenna manufacture followed by Hi-Gain and VanGorden. We varied all over the map on the style of antenna we use as the Standard Dipole was the winner, with the Carolina Windom, Vertical, and Yagi following the leaders. 66.7% of the responders have towers... Ah, the landscape does make amateur radio interesting.

How about the June Survey? Let's see what folks have to say about V/UHF Antenna's! Please take a few minutes to take the survey. The link to the survey can be found on the home page of the West River Radio Club's web site <http://www.westriverradio.org>. Check the page on June 1 for the newest survey.

GIRLS ON THE RUN (N1TOX)

On Saturday May 17, 2008, we had 10 WRRRC members assisting over 1,000 runners around the 5K route.

Those assisting were:

- John Borichevsky - N1TOX (Net Control)
- Mark Kracum—KB1HCG (Mobile)
- Gordon Pugh - W2NH
- Richard Pierce - N1JSG
- Jen Ambler - KA1CYZ
- Chas Baker - W1CWB
- Jack Adams - N1HOS
- Burt Eldridge – W1ZS
- Ed Phoenix – KB1KSR
- Conrad Kruse – N1PBX.

I would like to share some special comments that Dr Tom Heydinger, the event coordinator, had to say about our participation in this event...

"I was just about to email you to thank you again for the great job you guys did again this year. It is so nice not to have to worry about what is going on out on the course. You guys really attack your jobs with a professionalism that I admire. I wish this level of expertise could be found in all the groups we work with to put on this event."

I also wish to pass on a huge "Thank You" all for the professionalism you all exhibit during all of our EmComm outings.

This was our 3rd year at the Girls on the Run event, and we will be back next year. As you can see, we do eliminate some stress put upon the organizers as they worry about the event and what is going on. This relief then allows that individual to focus on the overall picture of things and its success. If you can think of anything to make this event better, please let John - N1TOX know so we can plan ahead.



FIELD DAY

Yes, it's that time of year again, time for my and, I hope, your favorite Ham radio activity.

This year will see a change of venue for the WRRRC. We'll be talking to the rest of the USA and Canada from Vernon, VT. David, N1ESK, has arranged for us to be part of a Vernon town celebration, thereby putting us more into the public spotlight and giving us the opportunity to make a lot of folks aware of what this great hobby is all about.

Our many thanks to Ed, KB1KSr, and Lois Phoenix for being our gracious FD hosts for these last three years. Their hospitality has been truly appreciated.

So plan on being a part of the WRRRC FD team this year by setting aside June 28—29. If you'd like to take part as an operator or assist with setting up/tearing down give me a shout at k1ku@arrl.net

A FD only mass mailing will be sent out in early June.



RACES Commitments

John Borichevsky/VEM RACES Program Coordinator
(The other hat)

During our recent VEM RACES drill, 20 RACES members deployed into the Entergy Vermont Yankee EPZ to provide a vital redundant means of emergency communications within Vermont. There are many people who ask why we practice 4 times a year. Well, the answer it to become better prepared for any disaster that might come up. Any disaster you might ask? Well yes, any! We can apply what we learn during the VY drills into any disaster. Think of a potential flood. If we needed to move elderly folks out of West Brattleboro, we know where we will setup for communications, who will be there and what to expect. We just did this during the last Transportation Drill. This was just one example of many.

For some information to ponder upon, FEMA stated in the recently released Emergency Communication Plan - State of Vermont Annex

"VEM RACES plays a vital role in providing backup emergency communications in the State of Vermont. Local and state agencies rely heavily on VEM RACES to provide backup communications for all mission operation areas, when primary communi-

ation systems are interrupted. There are currently 188 volunteer RACES operators in the State of Vermont available to support multiple locations."

Our continued thanks that come from VEM and the local towns go out to all of our members who deploy to drills and actual events. Thank you for your ability to volunteer time and expert knowledge. Without you, we could not make it work



THINGS I LEARNED IN REHAB

When you're on your back or sitting most of the day the mind does a lot more ruminating. At least mine does. Now I just have to find out what "ruminating" means.



- Force that gray matter to find the good, the positive in whatever circumstance you find yourself.
- This is a good time to stop whining. If you've never indulged yourself, I compliment you. I always hearken back to the old American Indian saying, namely, "I used to feel sorry for myself because I had no moccasins until I met someone who had no feet."
- Be thankful for those who work in the medical care professions – nurses, assistants, pill pushers, home care givers (read Elaine Scott), and some I probably missed. Many are blessed with the skill of anticipating your almost every need:
 - Is your drinking water fresh?
 - Can I get you anything?
 - Would you like this, that, whatever? And politely responded to my request...."No, I'm afraid that I can't bring you a Bass Ale." I even tried for a gin martini, straight up with lots of olives.
 - Let me move this so that you'll be able to reach it more easily.
 - The above drove home the point that thinking of other's needs is a great quality of the human soul. I'll try to do better at developing this skill in the future.
 - A little TV goes a long way. There's a

reason they call it the *boob* tube. During my first 2-3 days in rehab the guy I shared a room with had our shared set on almost around the clock. He did offer me the use of the remote now and then. Fortunately, my prayers paid off and he moved out to leave me with sole control of the remote.

- There are a **LOT** of people out there offering up positive thoughts and prayers for your well being and healing.
- There are a **LOT** of people out there who unselfishly take time out of their busy days to stop by for a personal visit.
- There are a **LOT** of people out there who, because of geographical reasons, couldn't stop by and, instead, took the time to send along a card or email expressing their hopes for my speedy recovery.
- Wives are great! At least mine is. I'm glad that she didn't have her fingers crossed when, over 50 years ago, she answered in the affirmative to "For better or for worse – In sickness and in health."
- Life is good, as are the vast majority of the inhabitants of this planet.

This list could go on and on, but the constraints of time and space always step in.



NOSTALGIA TIME

Does the call sign K2ORS ring a bell with anyone out there? How about Jean Shepherd? Just as I thought, most of you are way too young.



That call and name came to remembrance recently when I read in WorldRadio that the new owner of K2ORS is one Warren Zeigler of Wayland, MA. Apparently Warren is a

big fan of Jean and so grabbed onto his call when it first became available after Jean, W2ORS, became a SK on October 16, 1999.

I won't go into great detail on the life of Jean Shepherd. As noted earlier in this newsletter, "You can see a lot just by looking." Google Jean Shepherd and you'll get a lot of hits. To get you started, though, try www.keyflux.com or www.bobkaye.com/shep.html. Wikipedia also has a wealth of information. Or check out <http://www.wbcq.com/> and listen to Shep himself.

I will say that he was an American humorist, a raconteur of some renown. If you've ever watched *A Christmas Story* on TV during that season you know something of the youth of the former K2ORS. Some say that he was the originator of talk radio.

The moral here is STOP and smell the roses. Jean was one funny man who happened to be a Ham. Some of his books are still in print, such as [In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash](#)," "Wanda Hickey's Night of Golden Memories," and "A Fistful of Fig Newtons."

As to television He was the writer and narrator for the show "Jean Shepherd's America," produced by Boston [Public Television](#) station [WGBH](#) in which he told his famous narratives, visited unusual locales, and interviewed local people of interest.

In 2005 he was posthumously inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame.

If it weren't for my fear of copyright infringement I'd print a short story he did for 73 Magazine (Remember Wayne Green?) in December of 1963.



WORD OF THE MONTH

It's truly astounding! The first most correct definition of last month's word, *pestiferous*, was received from Gordon, W2NH. Didn't you just have an operation? He is apparently one tough cookie and recouped enough to win our Word Smith of the month award. Congratulations!

From my American Heritage "talking dictionary" on a CD, we find that *pestiferous* is an adjective and means: Producing or breeding infectious disease. Infected with or contaminated by an epidemic disease. **2.** Morally evil or deadly; pernicious. **3.** Bothersome; annoying.

As used in my sample sentence meaning #3 was implied – Unless, of course, you know someone infected or contaminated with an epidemic disease.

From the rapid and correct response I've learned that a tougher challenge is called for. Therefore the word for June will be *atrabillious*.

As in, "Because of this Ham's atrabillious tendencies no one ever liked to see them show up at any club meeting."

Good luck you word sleuths. Let's see someone beat Gordon to the punch this month.



SITE OF THE MONTH

This one has it all, or, as a sign in the Putney General store said (before it burned down, that is)...If you can't find it here you don't need it.

Don't believe me? Give it a try. <http://ac6v.com>



BIO OF THE MONTH

I hate to be a party pooper, but no one sent in a short biographical sketch for June. Folks, what am I going to do with you? Honestly!!

My thanks to N1HOS, Jack—W1CWB, Chas and KB1OQG, Gaila for their recent submissions.

Please be warned—If nothing is received here for the July issue I may be forced to type of 5-6 pages of suitably dry, boring material concerning my early childhood adventures in the wilds of California.



CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

