



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



February—2009

Volume IV—#2

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 44 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/WK1L, Bro Frank Hagerty ED/VE Liaison

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to 2009!

Well, here we go again. This is our 5th year of organization. The calendar has been changed, winter sure has a grip on us, and we are planning to have a wonderful time in 2009 with Amateur Radio, Emergency Communications, and most of all, you, our members of the West River Radio Club.

So what's going on this year? Funny you should ask. Taking a quick look at our website, we will have classes offered 4 times this year, field trips, great meeting topics, along with our usual volunteer work. For example, on the 28th of February, many of our members are planning to go to "HAM-CON - The Vermont Ham Radio Convention" in Colchester, VT. For more information on the convention see <http://www.ranv.org/hamcon.html>. A trip to the ARRL Headquarters, visiting the National Weather Service in Albany, NY and maybe more exciting attractions are also in the works. Is there something you would like to do or learn more about? Please let us know. With your ideas and quest for more knowledge, this will make us

stronger and increase our member's interest and maybe they will make you an Elmer so they can learn and enjoy your interest also.

Elmer? Did someone say Elmer? We are looking for Elmer's. What is an Elmer you may ask? An "Elmer" is someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams. Do you specialize in an area of Amateur Radio and are willing to help others? How about radio installations in cars, radio programming, SSTV, PSK, or any other aspect of amateur radio? Let us know and we will put you on the list.

Going on vacation to the ocean? Drag the HF radio with you and lay that ground line into the ocean. Sit back and work QRP! Make a few calls and they will come. How about backpacking? Many people enjoy working on mountain tops. Got Goats? Take a look at this video of Rooster and Peanut ... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsqzxVt0igA>. I first learned about the Rooster and Peanut expeditions on the Buddi-Pole group. You can view more videos of Rooster and Peanut at YouTube.com, search for Rooster and Peanut. Please note that you will need a high speed internet access to view these videos.

EmComm... Did I mention that we are having 4 Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee drills this year? As this is a graded year, we will be busy with that for sure. We will also be deploying Pactor III modems and AirMail systems to the Health Care Facilities. Yes fellow hams, Email over the airwaves is coming to VT.

So what can we bring to the table? A lot! Let's all make the year of 2009 our time to shine!! With your help and support, I do not see failure in this goal at all.

Until next month!

73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – President WRRRC

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

February 10: Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital, Townshend, VT. Chuck, K1EGL, will give us the true scoop on radio control via Ham Radio Deluxe. Learn how to work the world with your rig via the internet. This is a program you don't want to miss.

February 7—8: Vermont QSO party. Get on and be the DX as the rest of the world tries to work you. Rules can be found elsewhere in this edition.

February 28: RANV Hamfest in Colchester, VT. Chas, W1CWB, Frank, WK1L, Sean, KD6MPY, John, N1TOX and Darrel, K1KU will be in attendance. Learn more by going to <http://www.ranv.org/> and clicking on Ham-con on the left. Want to hitch a ride? Get in touch with Chas—chas.baker@gmail.com

February 28: Monthly luncheon meeting at the PanAsian Restaurant by Staples in Brattleboro.

March 10: Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital, Townshend, VT.

RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

The Energizer Bunny

I'm not sure if that's a good analogy for the WRRRC, but thus far it seems to be. Here we are, entering our 5th year of activity as a club and still going strong.

- Running classes and VE sessions
- A healthy Field Day activation each year
- A growing membership
- Lots of involvement in RACES
- We do more than our fair share of public service events
- A first class website
- A first class newsletter
- A weekly net
- Some good programs at each meeting
- Continued good relations with our sponsor, Grace Cottage Hospital
- A yearly presence at Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day



The annual meeting last December is late news by now, but news, nevertheless. Twenty two folks were in attendance and enjoyed a lot of rag chewing, gawking at and buying each other's junkie, stuffing themselves on excellent food and electing a Board of Directors for 2009—Still the same old calls and names with the exception of Bro Frank, WK1L, who has stepped in to work with Sean, KD6MPY, in organizing VE sessions and club classes.

A hearty thanks to Gaila, KB1OQG, for organizing the chow part of things: who was going to be there, what they were bringing, etc. We hereby appoint you as *Annual Meeting Head Honcho* in perpetuity.

Allow me to introduce your Board of Directors for 2009:

- President – N1TOX, John Borchovsky
- Vice President – W1CWB, Chas Baker
- Secretary/Treasurer – K1KU, Darrel Daley
- ARES/Public Relations – KA1ZQX, Tim Bell
- Education & VE liaison – KD6MPY, Sean Sander-son along with WK1L, Bro Frank Hagerty

Give them your mental, physical and moral support. It's needed. And don't be afraid to volunteer your assistance. There are all sorts of ways:

- Prepare a short program for a meeting on some aspect of Ham Radio that turns you on
- Submit material for the newsletter
- Help out with a walk-a-thon or other public service event
- Act as a net control station for the club net

THE WRRRC ARES NET

WHEN: Every Monday evening at 19:30L

WHERE: The Marlboro Repeater—147.015 MHz. Positive offset and a 100 Hz PL

WHAT: The net varies between rag chewing on some Mondays and a bit of training on others. Often there is a combination of some training and rag chewing.

The NCS lineup through February follows:

- Feb 2nd KB1J, Rich
- Feb 9th K1KU, Darrel
- Feb 16 KB1OQH, Paul
- Feb 23 N1TOX, John

All are welcome and encouraged to check in.



HOW'S YOUR ACRONYM IQ? Not mention abbreviations

If you tuned into this column in the last issue you found the following acronyms:

- IC – Integrated Circuit
- CATVI – Cable Television Interference
- I/O – Input/output
- OSCAR – Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio
- UTC - Coordinated Universal Time (Also referenced as Z/Zulu)

Here we go for 2009:

- RTTY
- SASE
- MUF
- ASCII
- WPM

They just get easier and easier, don't they?



SITE OF THE MONTH

Now here's a site that many of you already know about, but maybe don't check out all that much. What a shame if you don't. Let's honor John, N1TOX, for all the work he has put in building in and maintaining it. It just happens to be one of the premier ham club web sites anywhere.

After checking out its many links you'll discover that it if you can't find it here Well, it's not worth knowing.

And, by the way, do you have it book marked in your favorites? If not, I hope that you have a good excuse. Anyway, your assignment for this month is to go to www.westriverradio.org and save it to your favorites. While you're there take note of the vast amount of information that's available.

Quote of the Month

"Laugh a lot at yourself. Trust me, if you don't, others will do it for you."

Tony Snow



PRACTICE TEST Online Resources

I received an email from Hamilton Carter, KDOFNR. He has a blog with practice exams plus a list of resources for the questions.

How did Hamilton hear about us? Why, he found our web site. Didn't I tell you somewhere else that you need to look this web site over? People from all over the world do.

Anyway, check out Hamilton's site and let him know what you think. <http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/>



A NEW RESOURCE

The League has a new supply of information dealing with NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines. For those of you who might be acronym challenged NTS stands for National Traffic System.

At any rate point your browser to www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nts.mpg and discover the working reference manual on traffic net and message handling procedures in the ARRL Nation Traffic System.

The complete ARRL Public Service Communications Manual can be found at www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm

FINANCES

The data below is valid as of the publication of this issue of the Digital Dispatch

36 Full members—7 Associate members
52.7% of the full members belong to the ARRL

Checking = \$1833.90
Cash on hand = \$91.36

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK



Vermont QSO Party 2009

Date and time:

0000Z Feb 7 - 2400Z Feb 8

Expressed in local time,

This is Friday February 6th, 7:00 p.m. to Sunday February 8th, 7:00 p.m.

QSO Party Coordinator: Fred Messer, WA1LIE

Frequencies:

160M-10M

50 MHz and up

CW: lower band edge + 40 KHz

SSB: lowest 25 KHz of the General band

VHF SSB: 50.200 and 144.200

VHF FM: 146.690 and 146.500

Exchange:

Call sign, Name, RS(T) and Vermont County or State/Province/DXCC Entity

Log due to coordinator no later than:

1-March

Address for logs: Fred Messer WA1LIE, 317 Meadow Road, Waitsfield, VT 05673.

fmesser@madriver.com

I NEED YOUR HELP

We are an ARRL affiliated and Special Services Club. To maintain that status 50% of our voting members must be members of the League.

As the club Secretary here is my problem. Application forms are not needed when you send in your much appreciated renewal checks at the beginning of each year. The problem is that changes in your membership status often get bypassed....

- ⇒ Address changes for email and the snail variety, too
- ⇒ License class changes. Maybe you've upgraded and that needs to be noted in our roster
- ⇒ ARRL membership—Maybe you were a member at one time, but are not now...OR
- ⇒ Maybe you were not a member and now are.

To help me keep our club data up to date please advise me of any changes in your status that I might not know of.

I would especially appreciate knowing if you are a member of the League. Do **NOT** notify me if you do **NOT** belong, but only if you do.

You can most easily get this information to me by emailing me at k1ku@myfairpoint.net (This address becomes effective on January 31, 2009)