



# DIGITAL DISPATCH

## A publication of the West River Radio Club



May—2009

Volume V—#5

### 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 52 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  
K1KU, Darrel Daley; Secretary/Treasurer  
KA1ZQX, Tim Bell; Public Relations/ARES

### PREZ KORNER

#### Are you ready to help?

The current topic all over the news is the H1N1 (Swine) Influenza. So why put it into the *Digital Dispatch*? Why not? This is why I am late in writing the *President's Corner* for this fine publication.

At this time, we might have some of our members working radio stations within the state if the conditions and communication failures warrant. I have been working along with VEM over the last week as we monitor the virus spreading around the world. Will it affect us? Who knows? As we hear on the news, it has now leveled off in Mexico. This is good news. Maybe the precautions which are in effect today are slowing the progression of the virus down. Let's all hope so! We are ready *if* it should hit our area. We have a great team and I have personally talked to folks who have called me asking about deployment possibilities. All I can say is to stand by...

As long as I am on my Soap Box, we are always asking you to write your story and see it published in the *Digital Dispatch*. The *Digital Dispatch* is yet another bonding mechanism started by Darrel Daley, K1KU. We need more stories, pictures and whatever you can offer. What about your amateur radio story? Maybe you can write about your new radio, mode of operation or whatever. Maybe share your favorite cooking recipe that you would like to share, or possibly a joke or two. It does not have to be

long. Please give it a try and send your documents off to Darrel.

We have a busy summer coming up and hope many of you will come out and participate in our activities. Field Day, Walk-a-Thon's, RACES Drills, Health Care Drills, Antenna Raisings and more. If you need help with a project, ask for help. Write a simple email to Darrel and myself and we can send it out to the group to rally up some help and support. Please plan you're your email to arrive to use at least 2 weeks prior to the event you are planning. This will allow people to check their schedules and plan to attend if they can.

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 organization would not be the significant club in Southeastern Vermont that it is.

HUntil Next month,  
73

... ..  
de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – President WRRC



### SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

That's what we are, folks. And to hold on to this special designation we, as a club, have to fulfill certain requirements—such things as:

- Holding Ham radio classes
- Having a newsletter
- Helping out with public service events
- Offering VE sessions
- Have a PR program
- Be involved with emergency communications
- Take part in at least one major operating event each year. It's coming the last full weekend in June.
- And probably some things I forgot



Are you someone who helps us in maintaining these requirements? If so, then a **BIG THANKS!**

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

In America, the young are always ready to give to those who are older than themselves the full benefits of their inexperience.

- Oscar Wilde

## WELCOME ABOARD

**A** warm welcome to two new members from south of the border. AA1XU, Dick Peeters and his wife Janice, AB1JY. They recently joined the WRRC. Both are good friends from the Green Mountain Net.

They have already volunteered their time and talents for this year's Field Day setup.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

**May 4, 11, 18, 25:** WRRC ARES net...19:30L, 147.015, positive offset and 100 Hz PL tone.

**May 6, 13, 20, 27:** WRRC Tech class—18:30L at Rescue, Inc in Brattleboro, VT

**May 12:** Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital, Townshend, VT. 19:30L

**May 16:** Girls on the Run. If you'd like to assist contact John, N1TOX—[n1tox@comcast.net](mailto:n1tox@comcast.net)

**May 16:** Grace Cottage Health Fair on the Common in Townshend.

**May 23:** *Portable Picnic—Stay tuned.*

**May 30:** Monthly luncheon meeting at the PanAsian Restaurant by Staples in Brattleboro—11:30L

**May 30:** CPOD exercise in Springfield, VT

**June 3:** VE session at Rescue, Inc in Brattleboro—18:30L



OUR 5th OPERATION—JUNE 27—28 AT THE QTH OF PAUL, KB1OQH, and TINA BLAIS

## RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

### Potpourri

**N**ow I don't know much French, but I can tell you that you don't pronounce the "T" in the word above. I also know that the middle of the word in NOT pronounced as in "pour" a cup of coffee, but rather as in "Dem folks is sure *poor*." The last two letters are pronounced as the "ree" in tree and not as the "ye" in rye bread. By the way, the accent is on the last syllable.

You're doing just fine and I can't say how proud I am of your progress. For those who need a definition let's do it right now and save you a trip to the dictionary. From my American Heritage Talking Dictionary on my hard drive (where else?) we learn that potpourri refers a combination of incongruous things. Don't get spoiled now....You'll have to look up *incongruous* on your own. I do remember an incident on *You Bet Your Life* where Groucho had a contestant who told him that he was a member of Congress. Groucho then asked the contestant, "Tell me, how long have you been incongruous?"

And so, with the intent of being incongruous I venture onward.

Optimism beats pessimism hands down.

Optimists live longer

Like blondes, Optimists have more fun.

The smile of an Optimist can drive a pessimist bananas

You find some reasons of your own for the superiority of Optimism

To be an optimist, though, demands work and discipline, mainly because, unless you're a recluse, that is, you'll be surrounded by nay sayers a large part of your life.

Take Ham Radio. Let's be honest. You thought that I'd never get here, didn't you? It's not too hard to find the whiners. Just go wherever Hams congregate; club meetings, on the air, social gatherings, you name it. I've been having fun with Amateur Radio since 1978 and here's just a short list of the pessimism I've encountered:

The CBers have taken over the hobby

The code is too hard. I just can't learn it

Ham's today can't build their own rigs

The exams are too hard

The exams are too easy

The hobby is dying

A guy just can't get on the bands any weekend because the contesters have taken over the hobby

You're in luck today as I'm going to give you a quick cure that I use. If you find it helpful, fine. If not, you can always cancel your subscription.

I've memorized Reinhold Niebuhr's "Serenity Prayer". Here's how it goes...

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;

Courage to change the things I can;

And the wisdom to know the difference.

Now it's really longer than this but the above is the meat of the whole thing.

Now it's really longer than this but the above is the meat of the whole thing.

Is there something out there you have no control over? Then stop worrying or complaining about it.

Is there something you can do to bring about change and make your latent optimism grow? Yes there is.

How about learning a new mode? Have you been "stuck" on FM or SSB rag chewing your entire Ham career? That's all nice, but there's all kinds of other fun stuff going on out there in the ether.

- PSK
- RTTY
- CW
- Traffic nets
- Emcomm
- Satellites
- DX chasing
- Contesting
- MARS

I had more to say, but that's probably more than enough incongruity for one issue.

### FINANCES

**T**he data below is valid as of the publication of this issue of the Digital Dispatch

41 Full members—7 Associate members  
63.4% of the full members belong to the ARRL

Checking = \$1815.90  
Cash on hand = \$91.36

### THE WRRC 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 March follows:

- May 4 KB1J, Rich
- Mar 11 WK1L, Bro Frank
- Mar 18 W1CWB, Chas
- Mar 25 K1KU, Darrel



All are welcome and encouraged to check in. You'll get in some rag chew time with a little thrown in now and then



### A PHUN DAY

**O**n April 25 tradition was tossed aside. The *normal* noon gathering on the last Saturday of the month was replaced, at least this one time, by a morning gathering at the QTH of KB1OQG, Gaila. After a hearty breakfast the following Good Samaritans proceeded to put up a Ringo Ranger for Gaila so that she could join the rest of us in sending some electromagnetic waves out into the ether.

Those in attendance were, besides Gaila (Hey, she lives there) were:

- W1CWB, Chas
- KA1ZQX, Tim
- WK1L, Brother Frank
- N1PBX, Conrad
- K1KU, Darrel

With the antenna up and feed line suitably routed into her shack the smoke testing commenced. The results were more than we had hoped for – full quieting on many machines, and satisfactory results on many others.

Being in a celebratory mood we all proceeded to chow down on some of Gaila's home cooked lasagna, garlic bread, and salad. What suitable pay for a job well done.



W1CWB, Chas



WK1L, Bro Frank  
KB1OQG, Gaila  
N1PBX, Conrad



WK1L, Bro Frank  
KA1ZQX, Tim  
KB1OQG, Gaila  
Is it a bird  
Is it a plane....No, it's...  
With this team, who knows

KB1OQG, Gaila

The Happy Ham—

- A new rig
- A new antenna
- On the air...  
AT LAST!



## AC6V - SK

**R**od Dinkins, AC6V became a silent key on February 16, 2009. He was 77 years old.

If you're a web surfer for Ham related information then you've surely been to [www.ac6v.com](http://www.ac6v.com). His site contains over 132 pages. It has been said that if you can't find a ham related topic or a link to it on his web site, then it doesn't exist.

It's always sad to see one of our members pass on. In this case, though, part of his legacy will be carried on by his son, Jeff, who has hosted his Father's web site for the last five years. Jeff also plans on getting his Amateur Radio license and applying for his Dad's call sign.



## WHERE ARE YOU?

**W**hile checking out a call on QRZ.COM today I had the brilliant idea (don't laugh) of seeing how many of our illustrious members had a biographical sketch and/or picture shown.

Now this was definitely not a scientific endeavor. What I did was skim down my roster and plugged calls into the QRZ web site. If you're on there with some information about yourself and your Ham radio activities and don't see your name listed below please don't come after me. Let me know of my omission and I'll set things straight in the next issue.

If you don't have any comments on QRZ why not consider putting something in there? It doesn't have to be your entire life story and a short blurb will do. You can also upload a picture so that next DX station or Ham in Alabama you work can see just how good looking you really are. When you get some data uploaded let me know and I'll list you in next month's issue.

In particular check out W1JO, Richard. What a striking resemblance he has to John Wayne. It's truly astounding.

While checking out our various members it's also fun to see how many "hits" their call has had.

W1ZS, Burt  
K1KU, Darrel  
N1TOX, John  
WK1L, Brother Frank  
W1JO, Richard  
AA1XU and AB1JY, Dick and Janice  
KB1OQH, Paul  
N1HOS, Jack



## SITE OF THE MONTH

**N**ow this is a neat one that has on my *favorites* list for some time now.

**ARMAD** stands for Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day. In my book every day should be Military Appreciation Day because these lads and lassies are out there putting themselves in harm's way so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have.

The day chosen in 2009 for special Ham Radio recognition of our military happens to be May 23. Now what a coincidence that Brother Frank and I had been planning a *Portable Picnic* for that day somewhere in the area—sort of a way for our club members to get together along with kids and spouses, set up some portable equipment to practice for Field Day, burn some dead cow on the grill, quaff the liquid of your choice....you get the picture.

Now it turns out that they'll be some other Hams on the air that day. Aren't there always?

Anyway, check out ARMAD at <http://www.armad.net/> And learn even more about this worthwhile patriotic organization.



## IDEAS?

**Y**our Board of Directors is always on the look out for them, only because we can't read minds. Let us know your thoughts on how to improve the club, increase membership or attendance at meetings, projects to take on, projects to give up on, etc.

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KA1ZQX, Tim-[timothy.bell@us.army.mil](mailto:timothy.bell@us.army.mil)  
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CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

