



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the West River Radio Club



June—2009

Volume VI—#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 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

As We Slide Into Summer!

Everyone always wonders where the time goes. Especially when you are having fun! May just flew by. We participated with the March of Dimes Walk America walks in Springfield and Brattleboro, and the Girl's on the Run event in Brattleboro. We currently have an ongoing VE Tech Class and a VE Testing session this week.

So where has the time gone? Well, unfortunately into the past. We have been busy and that is a good feeling of accomplishment. This means that the West River Radio Club and its members are doing the right thing. A case in point is I received a call from a person who is 90% blind who got our information from a ham in Connecticut. He has an HT and has been listening to our nets and wants to join in on the fun and excitement of amateur radio. And why not? He is interested in the hobby and is very willing to learn. So we are currently looking into special needs teaching aides for him, as the VE teams have to accommodate individuals with learning obstacles.

Summer is a time for traveling as school is out, the kids are restless and most of all, the parents are ready to relax from work. While many "single nesters" take the off season for vacations, it's a good time to review your plans for when you leave the house. If you leave your radios on, connected to the antennas, and hope to use some remote control software to communicate to the

world, this *might not* be a wise idea. Please Mr. President, take note! Remove the radios from the grids, disconnect the antennas and if you can, lower the higher one(s) to avoid the possibility of a lightning strike. On the average, over the whole earth's surface, lightning strikes approximately 100 times per second! So be safe! Don't be a statistic.



But think about bringing a radio with you. An HT does not take up that much room and you never know where you might need to use one! Who knows, you might just meet up with local hams and share stories, or you might help out at a real emergency.

So what is happening in June with WRRR? We will have our regular meeting on the 9th, the graded Entergy VY / NRC / FEMA dill on the 10th, and Field Day on the 27th and 28th. Our end of month meeting will be in Halifax during our Field Day dinner as usual. See our schedule later in the *Digital Dispatch* for more information.

So have a great and safe summer folks, take your time and enjoy the summer. Take a day trip to Maine and enjoy the coast line. Maybe take in a show specializing in one of your interest. Maybe it is cars, stamps, coins, antiques, flea markets, or whatever. Make this summer another one to remember. And don't blink, as it will pass you by. Until Next month,

73
.....
de N1TOX
John Borichevsky – President WRRR

SITE OF THE MONTH

(Ed: This month's site was contributed by W1JO, Richard. Thanks.)

Got a microphone in your shack? Don't laugh: I still meet a Ham now and then who does 100% CW and brags that they don't even own a mic. Now I like CW and do RTTY and PSK, but I still own a mic and it gets its fair share of usage. In fact, it's a Heil BM-10

with a rag chew and DX setting. The latter position cuts out lows so as to improve your chances of being heard while chasing DX, contesting, or under poor conditions.

Back to the topic at hand, though. G4WPW, Ron's site represents nine years of labor compiling pin-out information and diagrams on every mic that's out there – Not just the major brands like Yaesu, Alinco, Kenwood,

Ten Tec, and Icom, but everything else, too....Heil, Shure, Standard, and loads that I'd never heard of, which doesn't mean all that much.

So take a gander, then bookmark the site. You'll need it when that next flea market bargain you buy has to be hooked up to the rig.

<http://www.qsl.net/g4wpw/date.html>



GOTR - 2009

That's "Girls on the Run", by the way. It's an international organization that assists pre teen girls in developing healthy lifestyles through running.

And what does the WRRC have to do with them, you ask? For the third year in a row we've provided communication help for the 5K run the local chapter sponsors in Brattleboro. That local group is run by Nancy and Tom Heydinger and it is our club's distinct pleasure to fulfill our public service duties and provide help with this worthwhile event. With over 1,000 runners enrolled in this year's event, WRRC members assisted them safely to the finish line with guidance and radio communications while running in the open streets of Brattleboro.

Our thanks to the club members who came out this year to offer their time and talent:

- KB1KSR, Ed
- KB1CHG, Mark assisted by Danielle
- N1TOX, John
- N1HOS, Jack
- WK1L, Bro Frank
- W1ZS, Burt
- W1CWB, Chas
- KB1OQH, Paul
- PJ Blais
- K1KU, Darrel

We look forward to seeing you next year with the addition of some new faces.

CERT

On the same day as the GOTR event the Windham County CERT team set up on the Common in Townshend, VT for Grace Cottage Hospital Health Fair.

Now CERT is only incidentally Ham related, but some of their events deserve mention because many WRRC members also wear a CERT hat on occasion. In this case Tim, KA1ZQX, missed the GOTR run as he was needed in helping set things up in Townshend.

Some of us took a run up north after the GOTR run to make sure that everything was ship shape so to speak.

WK1L, Bro Frank

KB1KSR, Ed

K1KU, Darrel

W1CWB, Chas

The throngs weren't all that large, but some brochures did get passed out and a few folks left the fair having a better idea of what CERT is all about.



**KB1CHG, Mark, and
KB1KSR, Ed at the GOTR
event**



**KB1OQH, Paul, and
W1CWB, Chas**



**The Whole GOTR
Emergency Team**



**W1CWB, Chas
KA1ZQX, Tim**

RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

This one's easy

No need to rack my brain, scratch my head, ponder and endure whatever other mental contortions I go through once a month as I muse over what to write about in this column.

And do you know why?? June is Field Day month, that's why. On June 27 and 28 Hams all over the USA and Canada will take to fields, shopping mall, EOCs, public parks, or campgrounds to do what Hams love to do the most and do the best – **COMMUNICATE!** Some will even stay at home and operate their base stations, but what fun is that? You have every other weekend of the year to do be comfortable while playing radio. The real thrill is to find a field, set up a station, swat bugs, get sun stroke or hypothermia, depending on the weather, eat too much and, to make it all worthwhile, contact more Field Day participants in more states and provinces than you did last year.

A cadre of WRRRC members celebrate our club's fifth year of involvement in Field Day as they set up some temporary antennas, screen houses with stations inside, and tents. This year we'll be at the QTH of Paul, KB1OQH and Tina, she should have a call sign by then, Blais. I don't know why others take part each year, but I can certainly speak for myself, and since this is MY column, I will.

I enjoy Field Day because:

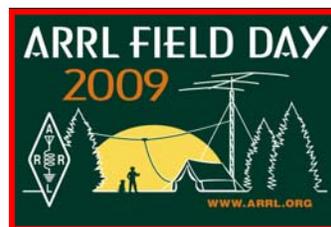
- I like being with other Hams. Have you ever tried discussing antennas, rigs, SWR, etc. with a non Ham? It's not that much fun, believe me.
- I like operating portable using emergency power
- I like to hone my operating skills, especially with CW
- I like the challenge of figuring out how to discourage flying critters from being a distraction
- I like the challenge of figuring out how to arrange the screen house tarps to keep water away from that expensive equipment – just in case it rains, that is....Oh oh, I forgot that my wife proof reads this.
- I like the challenge of arranging the light so as to be able to see the rig controls and laptop keys.
- I like sampling the variety of chow present at our Field Day events. This year Frank, WK1L and Tim, KA1ZQX, are in charge of arranging the culinary delights, so warn your tummy beforehand that some first class vittles are headed its way.

If you'll be stopping by for a visit around supper time on Saturday, June 27 please let Frank, WK1L, and tim, KA1ZQX know so that they can prepare for an extra mouth to feed. I would also suggest that you toss in a folding chair as our busy operators may not take too kindly to sharing their seating arrangements with you.

To assist you in finding us I'm putting the directions

to Paul and Tina's QTH as a separate attachment with this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you.



HURRICANE NET

Now here's a chance to put your radio station and services to work for a good cause.

Hurricane season begins on June 1 and if you think that you have the time and a station that can "get out" there a bit this looks like another good opportunity to do some EmComm volunteering. Just go to this URL and get some more details. <http://www.hwn.org/home/membership-info.html>

Though you wouldn't be in an effected area to report weather information relay stations are often needed.



March for Babies Walks

On May 2nd, Richard Pierce - N1JSG (an 18 year veteran of the walk) Jen Ambler - KA1CYZ, Walter VanNess - KB1NJA, Mark Kracum - KB1HCG, Bro. Frank Hagerty - WK1L, and John Borichevsky - N1TOX, assisted 30 walkers on the March of Dimes - March for Babies campaign around the 3.5 mile course. While this was a sharp decrease in walkers from last years event, WRRRC still stands committed to assist the MOD folks with this walk. WRRRC handled the necessary communications on 146.550 simplex on this sunny day.

Prior to the Brattleboro walk, Richard Pierce - N1JSG, Ed Phoenix - KB1KSR, and Jack Adams - N1HOS assisted 70 walkers along the Rail Trail in Springfield for the 3.1 mile walk on April 25, 2009.

Thank you all for your help and support.

**N1JSG, Richard
KA1CYZ, Jenifer
KB1NJA, Walter
KB1HCG, Mark
WK1L, Bro Frank**



NEW TECHNICIANS

We take our hats off to the three successful graduates of the WRRRC 6 week Technician class as well as three "walk in" folks. The following people successfully passed their exams at a June 3rd VE Session at Rescue, Inc in Brattleboro

Tina Blais
PJ Blais
Richard Cogliano
Austin Smith
Arthur Rizzi

Tina and PJ, the wife and son respectively of KB1OQH, Paul, are already members of the WRRRC, but by successfully becoming a Ham via a WRRRC sponsored class they have earned a one year free membership. This will apply to the year 2010.

Each graduate received a packet of materials containing information to help them adjust to their new found hobby. We wish them all the best and look forward to seeing them at future WRRRC meetings and events.

WRRC members who assisted with the instructional and/or VE chores were:

WK1L, Frank—W1CWB, Chas—N1TOX, John, W1ZS, Burt—K1KU, Darrel

Again, hearty congratulations and very 73 from the Board of Directors and all the members of the WRRRC.

Rich Cogliano poses with his graduation packet in hand and an unknown VE session guest.



ANOTHER VE SESSION

This one was held in Springfield, VT to close off a weekend class taught by WRRC member, W1WOL, Bill Mitchell.

As a result of Bill's tutoring and some studious students there are now eight more Technician Class Amateur Radio Operators in the world. Congratulations are in order to all concerned.

Volunteer Examiners from the WRRC who drove north to conduct the test session were:

- ◆ KD6MPY, Sean
- ◆ WK1L, Bro Frank
- ◆ N1HOS, Jack
- ◆ N1TOX, John

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

John Kennedy once said to an assembled group of scholars in the White House...

"I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of Human knowledge, that has ever been gathered at the White House - with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

June 8, a5, 22, 29: WRRC ARES net...19:30L, 147.015, positive offset and 100 Hz PL tone.

June 9: Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital, Townshend, VT. 19:30L

June 27, 28: WRRC's 5th Field Day in Halifax, VT. See attached directions.

June 27: This month's meeting will be part of our annual Field Day event at KB1OQH, Paul and Tina's QTH in Halifax, VT.

FINANCES

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

46 Full members—7 Associate members
62.2% of the full members belong to the ARRL

Checking = \$1503.35
Cash on hand = \$62.48

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

(AA1XU, Dick, sent along a shot of himself at the operating position along with some information on his setup. Thanks, Dick. Pictures of yourself doing your "thing" and short write ups are always welcome.)

Here's a shot of Dick, AA1XU, in his shack (See page #5). He runs an Icom Pro 111 with an LDG Pro 1000 automatic tuner. He also uses an Ameritron amp at around 500 to 600 watts.

Dick's antenna is a 134 foot off center fed Windom in an inverted configuration. He passes along thanks to Darrel (Ed note: You're welcome) for the heads up on this antenna. He also does the 2 meter/440 and 6 meter thing along with SSTV and PSK31

AB1JY, Jan, has had her extra class for about 4 months but has been licensed for 12 years. They're both looking forward to meeting everyone at some WRRC event. (Ed: And we're looking forward to seeing you folks. They've volunteered to help with our Field Day set up this year.)



COOKING MASSACHUSSETTS STYLE

I'll be honest with you....When John, N1TOX, put out a plea for material for the newsletter and said, "Maybe share your favorite cooking recipe." I figured that was the end of that. Then, lo and behold, the same day that the Dispatch was dispatched I found a recipe in my in box.

Thanks to AA1XU, Dick and AB1JY, Janice, I hope that you like zucchini. Dick informs me that this is really Janice's creation. Smart move, Dick. One reason that our marriage has survive for over fifty years is that I stay out of the kitchen.

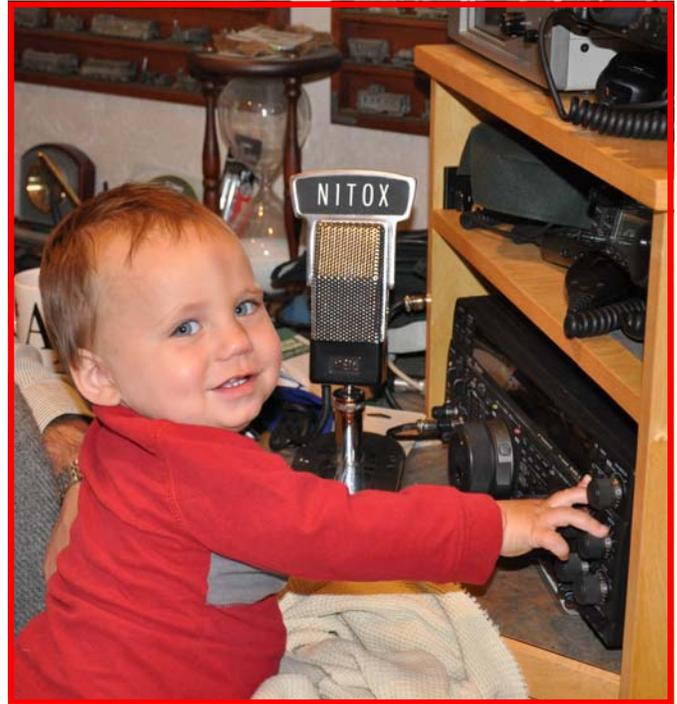
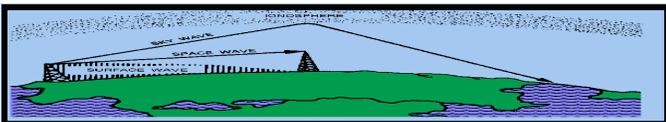
Here is their old fashion zucchini pickle recipe.

- 2 lbs zucchini
- 2 large onions
- ¼ cup salt
- 2 cups white vinegar
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon celery seed
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 2 tsp, mustard seed

Wash zucchini and cut into thin slices. Peel and slice onions Cover zucchini and onions with water, add salt.

Let stand at least 12 hrs. Drain thoroughly. Place all remaining ingredients into saucepan and bring too a boil. Remove from heat and pour over the drained zucchini and onions. Let stand for 2 hrs.

Return zucchini, onions, and brine to a kettle that will hold everything and bring to a boil for 5 minutes. Pack into sterilized jars and seal.



No, silly, the picture above is **NOT** of John, N1TOX, unless he's found some new anti-aging medications, that is. There should be some resemblance, though, as it's his Grandson, Alex.

When John sent the picture in he didn't specify which country Alex was working, but I'm sure that it was rare DX for sure. I am a little disappointed that no key is visible on the shack bench.

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 May follows:

- June 8 WK1L, Frank
- June 15 K1KU, Darrel
- June 20 ???
- June 27 ???

All are welcome and encouraged to check in.

You'll get in some rag chew time with a little training thrown in now and then

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

