



# DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the  
West River Radio Club



December—2009  
January—2010

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## 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 55 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

### Taking one for the team...

As many VEM RACES members already know, I received the Lucky Diamond Community Emergency Response Team Member of the Year award for 2009. While this award was really for my contributions toward the Vermont CERT venue, it was also recognition toward the efforts I put into the VEM RACES program along with enhancing the art of amateur radio. A direct link to this award, along with other presentations of the day is located at [http://www.dps.state.vt.us/vem/newsletter\\_november09.pdf](http://www.dps.state.vt.us/vem/newsletter_november09.pdf). The honor of receiving this award, although presented on a personal level, was received because of our team efforts we all put forth. This is proof that all of our commitments are combined into a well merged team which functions very well. As I have stated this in the past many, many, many, times to you all, it takes a well focused and devoted team to get the results we show in our organizations. This is what we have. Not just RACES or CERT, but locally with the West River Radio Club. Thank you for your commitment and dedicated efforts you all put forth.

This December now brings the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the West River Radio Club to a close. We have all bonded together as a family and remain a well functioning team. I am looking forward to many more years of the West River Radio Club to continue the team efforts that we all put forward and demonstrate to the public that amateur radio is not just a hobby, but an important part of life. I'm not saying that amateur radio heals all, but we do aide in the response and recovery of an event.

In 2010, the first weekend of February to be exact, we will be

hosting the VT QSO Party. We have taken the opportunity to expand our presence by asking our friends at CVARC if they would mind if we hosted the party while they still hold the exclusive sponsorship of the event. They were receptive to this offer and honored us with the 2010 event. The idea behind this is to be able to take this event and pass it around from club to club in Vermont and to share in the experiences of the total contest. Our future hope is to make this a party not to miss. We have rewritten the rules, made submission forms, maps and much more, to make this event easier to pass along from year to year. Yes it was a lot of work dealing with software programmers, building a web page, and more to make it easy for the hams to submit their scores to us to post and send out awards, but well worth every minute. For more information, please visit the website <http://vtqsoparty.westriverradio.org/>. We still have very short punch list of things to do, but it should be done before this year closes.

So as we bring 2009 to a close, our club keeps on growing and we get stronger and stronger. Our membership continues to grow because of our recognized achievements, goals, and informative club meetings. Please take a look at the great program agenda lined up for 2010 which can be seen on the Calendar Page of the WRRR web site. With the addition of the VT QSO Party and our usual events like Girls on the Run, March of Dimes, and any other public event that comes our way, we will be marching the club forward with our team members to obtain the great awards and recognition we all deserve.

With more recognition in place, I have to add one more to the plate. We have to also remember to honor our military men and women who are deployed overseas. Be safe and come home soon. We are always there for you.

In closing, I wish to thank you all for your help and dedication in 2009 and hope that you all to have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season while also looking forward to a Great 2010!

73

de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – President WRRR



## UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

**Ongoing:** WRRRC ARES net...19:30L, 147.015, positive offset and 100 Hz PL tone.

**December 12:** WRRRC Annual Meeting at in the EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital at 11:30L. See info elsewhere in this newsletter.

**RTTY Round UP:** This is one of the most popular ARRL contests and it's always held the first full week-end in January. It says RTTY, but other digital modes are allowed. Check the rules out at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2010/rtty.html>

**January 12, 2010:** Monthly meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L. The program will be all about Pactor III and WinLink communications.

**February 27:** RANV Ham fest in Colchester, VT. Details at <http://www.ranv.org/hamcon.html>

Also check out WRRRC events on the club calendar at <http://www.westriverradio.org/> and scroll down the page a bit. Click on a meeting and you'll see what the evening program will be.

## FINANCES

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

51 Full members—5 Associate members  
56.9% of the full members belong to the ARRL

Checking = \$1435.05  
Cash on hand = \$82.88



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers."

*Ronald Reagan*



## ANNUAL MEETING

We have one each year, and 2009 is no exception. It will be held on December 12 at our meeting room at Grace Cottage Hospital.

Events start at 11:30 with a mini ham fest and rag chewing. A potluck lunch will be followed by a short business meeting to elect officers for 2010. Nominations will be accepted from the floor for the club's

three elected Board of Director positions:

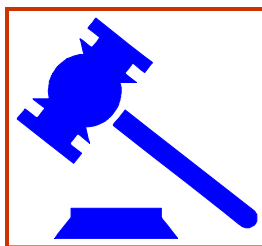
- \* President
- \* Vice President
- \* Secretary/Treasurer

All other Board positions are appointed by the elected Board members. Examples are:

- Public relations and publicity
- Education and VE Czar (that seems to be a popular term these days)
- ARES Emcomm coordinator

A quorum of ¼ of the voting members is needed to satisfy the election rules established in the by-laws. We currently have fifty *full* members, so it would be nice if 12.5 of you could be there.

When you make that decision to attend please advise KA1CYZ, Jenifer – [amblerj@sover.net](mailto:amblerj@sover.net) or 802-254-9181 of what you'll be bringing and how many will be in your party.



## SPEAKING OF DUES

When you attend our annual meeting on December 12 it would be a good time to renew your membership for 2010. You can also bring a friend and have them join. The more the merrier.

Our dues structure has not changed since day one, or even 2, for that matter.....

\$10/year for full membership  
\$5 for additional family members (If they're not Hams then they become *Auxiliary* members and do not have voting privileges.)

A payment by check (made out to WRRRC) is preferred, but I'll take cash.

Won't be attending the annual meeting? That's a shame, but all is not lost. Mail your check to:

Darrel Daley  
POB 445  
Putney, VT 05346

Our dues are NOT pro rated. Translated, that means that dues are \$10/year, no matter when they're paid. I will admit to fudging a bit though. For instance, when someone joins late in the year I usually carry that membership over to the next year. Please address any questions to me at [k1ku@myfairpoint.net](mailto:k1ku@myfairpoint.net)

## RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

### Rack up another one

In my younger years in the Navy when I had time to kill - Time, that is, when I wasn't busy protecting all the other citizens of this great land. And I hope that they are all duly thankful for my sacrifice. To get on with the story, though, (see *Rack* above) I was quite a pool player. Not that I made a lot of money like Jackie Gleason or Paul Newman, but on occasion I could come close to "cleaning" the table.



The term "rack 'em up" also refers to regular occurrences like birthdays and new years. Speaking of which, we're about to ring in another one – New Year, that is. 2010 will be the 74<sup>th</sup> one this OT has lived to see, and I truly feel blessed for that. No matter how many New Years you've seen roll around, I hope that you feel blessed, too.

Unlike my first wife, I've never been one for making New Year's resolutions. I did make a resolution to be perfect one year, but by the end of the first day, that plan got ruined.

So what's the point of all this? I was about to ask myself the same question. I've made up my mind to make the point just this – **BE THANKFUL**. Now sometimes that's hard to do. The year 2009 was the year of the scalpel for Marion and me. I started the ball rolling on July 2 by having a quadruple bypass up at Dartmouth Hitchcock. That wasn't supposed to be. After all:

- \* I quit smoking quite awhile back
- \* The cholesterol was always within bounds
- \* I wasn't terribly over weight
- \* I was very active physically
- \* Stress had never been a big problem for me

Despite the above it did happen. Somewhere along the way I had a couple of "silent" heart attacks. They're the kind where there is no nausea, numbness, pain (angina) and you just forge ahead to do what needs to be done.

In her effort to "keep" up with me Marion decided to have some serious surgery on November 5 to cut out a cancer that was eating away on her. She came through that in fine shape and is on the road to full healing.

And here we are looking at 2010 and both saying "Isn't it neat to be alive." Isn't it great to have things to do and to be able to do them?

We both keep *thanks* lists and they're both long. We add to them on occasion when we think of something new that we're glad about. One of the things I'm truly thankful for is the many friends I've made via this wonderful hobby. This list is nice to pull out and look at when those moods that a lot of us get into come on – the moods where some folks lament that they don't have a nicer car, or house, or more or better ham gear, or worry about the added wrinkles or gray hair (or loss

of hair), etc., etc.

If you're looking for New Year's resolutions we highly recommend the above. Make your own *thanks* list, keep adding to it look it over now and then when you're feeling down in the dumps. As the old Indian saying goes, "I used to feel sorry for myself because I had no moccasins until I met someone who had no feet."

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR from our house to yours.**



## OUR PRESIDENT IS HONORED

(Ed: No, he didn't get the Nobel Peace Prize. That's the other President. I'm referring to our leader, John Borichevsky, N1TOX. The below is taken directly from the last VEM newsletter, *VEM News*, Volume 3, Number 11)



John Borichevsky was awarded the first annual Lucky Diamond Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Member of the Year Award. The award is named for Lucky Diamond, a tireless volun-

teer in emergency management in Addison County and throughout Vermont. Lucky's wife and constant partner in his work, Louise, presented the award and emphasized Borichevsky's own commitment to the community and state in her assurance that Lucky would concur with the selection.

In that same issue of the newsletter John offered his thanks for being honored thusly by saying in part that:

*"While this is an individual award, it does take a team to make one rise to the top. I am blessed to have the ability to work with many great teams, not only locally in Windham County, but across the state. As we all remember, emergencies know no boundaries. By teaming up with many of the volunteers from the 13 Vermont CERT groups and the 200 VEM RACES members in Vermont, we are there to assist your agency. While working with the many professional groups including the entire VEM staff, Vermont State Police, Sheriff's Departments, local police and fire chiefs, and the American Red Cross, we can aid in the recovery from an incident in your area. There are also many other Vermont state agencies, corporate entities, and local town group events that we also assist across the state that we cannot leave out."*

Keep up the good work, John. Though he is too shy to say it, I'll speak for him—it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy. We're proud of you.

## SITE OF THE MONTH

I ran across this site in my fall issue of the Morse Telegraph Club journal. Hey, I'll toss their site in for free - <http://www.morsetelegraphclub.org/> I think that I explained before, but maybe you weren't listening, that this is a site devoted to old land line telegraphy, such as used on railroads and the Western Union. A lot of Hams do belong, though.

One of their features is a list of web sites that might be of interest to Hams. It's here that I found <http://www.usrepeaters.com/> I didn't spend a lot of time on the site, but it looks like you can subscribe if you want many of their offerings. I found that there is also a lot of info that free for the taking, or is it looking? I clicked on a state in their USA map and saw a listing of all the pertinent data one would need:

- ⇒ Frequency
- ⇒ CTCSS info
- ⇒ PL tone
- ⇒ Whether it's open or not
- ⇒ City where located
- ⇒ Etc., etc

So, this winter, when there's two feet of snow outdoors and you're bored silly give it a try.



## VERMONT QSO PARTY

This annual fun event is always held on the first full weekend of February. To save you looking, that will be on February 6 and 7, 2010. For the uninitiated a *QSO Party* is much like a contest, but also different in that the pace is much slower and the competition not nearly as fierce.

Our thanks to CVARC (Central Vermont ARC) for the great job they've done in sponsoring this event for many years. With permission and guidance of CVARC the West River Radio Club will host this event in 2010. It is our hope that this hosting job can be passed around to other Vermont clubs in the coming years.

For several months now John, N1TOX, Frank, WK1L, and Darrel, K1KU, have been working with the leadership of CVARC on plans for 2010. Our thanks to that excellent webmaster, AKA N1TOX, for designing our own web page to announce the event. We encourage you to check it out at <http://vtqsoparty.westriverradio.org/> Here you'll find the rules for 2010, forms, related links and other assorted goodies.

Why would we as a club want to tackle this chore? I'm glad that you asked.

- \* It will give CVARC a break from their many years of work on this worthy venture
- \* It will give the WRRRC some publicity nationwide by putting our club call and web site

"out there"

- \* It gives Hams worldwide the opportunity to work a Vermont Ham for possibly adding a new state and county to their log

Let's generate a little competition among club members. It's worth the cost of a dinner to me if anyone out there thinks that they can beat my score. There, the gauntlet has been tossed down. Or are you afraid to compete with an old man, even if he is an excellent operator.

So as a member of the WRRRC how do you fit in? You can help a lot by getting on the air and yelling **CQ CQ CQ VT QSO PARTY. HERE IS (insert your call here) WINDHAM COUNTY CALLING CQ AND STANDING BY.**

You're only a Tech, you say. Well, there's lots of time to hit the books and we'll have a VE session before February 2010 to make you ready.

Here's your chance to be the DX and your chances of generating small pileups are pretty good. Having worked this event for several years now using both digital and phone modes I can testify to that.

Maybe you'd like to operate all or part of the time using the club call, W1RRC or WR1VT. If so, let any of the above named individuals know and we'll come up with an operating schedule for you. [n1tox@comcast.net](mailto:n1tox@comcast.net) - [hager-tysse@myfairpoint.net](mailto:hager-tysse@myfairpoint.net) - [k1ku@myfairpoint.net](mailto:k1ku@myfairpoint.net) We have club QSL cards to answer the many requests that will be received.

If you operate using your own call we encourage you to answer QSL requests. Here's your excuse to buy or make up some cards to handle the deluge.

Questions? Get in touch with any of the trio listed two paragraphs above. Maybe we can have a short introduction to contesting at the January 2010 meeting



## CONGRATULATIONS

To top off a successful General class the WRRRC held a VE session on December 1. As a result of the tests administered we congratulate:

- \* N1XPB, Skip, new General
- \* KB1MIM, Kevin, new General
- \* Tom Walkes, New Technician

Thanks also to the participating VEs...

- ⇒ WK1L, Frank
- ⇒ N1TOX, John
- ⇒ AA1XU, Dick
- ⇒ K1KU, Darrel

Our thanks to the course instructors:  
WK1L, Frank  
W1CWB, Chas  
N1TOX, John  
W1IA, Ira  
K1KU, Darrel





Stay tuned for announcements concerning our 2010 test and class schedule.

Thanks to AA1XU, Dick for the pictures.

**KB1MIM, Kevin  
Tom  
N1XPJ, Skip**



**N1TOX, John  
AA1XU, Dick  
WK1L, Frank**

## UNIVERSAL LAWS

**Law of Mechanical Repair** - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch.

**2. Law of Gravity** - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

**3. Law of Probability** - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

**4. Law of Random Numbers** - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

**5. Law of the Alibi** - If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

**6. Variation Law** - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

**7. Law of the Bath** - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

**8. Law of Close Encounters** - The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

**9. Law of the Result** - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

**10. Law of Biomechanics** - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

**11. Law of the Theatre and Hockey Arena** - At any event, the people whose seats are farthest from the aisle arrive last and they are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over while those in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and who stay to the bitter end of the performance and beyond. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

**12. The Starbucks Law** - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

**13. Murphy's Law of Lockers** - If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

**14. Law of Physical Surfaces** - The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet/rug.

**15. Law of Logical Argument** - Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

**16. Brown's Law of Physical Appearance** - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

**17. Oliver's Law of Public Speaking** - A closed mouth gathers no feet.

**18. Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy** - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

**19. Doctors' Law** - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor. By the time you get there you'll feel better. Don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

## 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 December follows:

- Dec 7 N1TOX, John
- Dec 14 KB1J, Rich

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.

Want to be a Net Control Station? Contact Tim, KA1ZQX, at [ka1zqx@arrl.net](mailto:ka1zqx@arrl.net)

## LIFE'S THREE LAWS

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus
- 3) You are Santa Claus



CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

