



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



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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 46 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

So where's the Prez?

I thought that you'd never ask. Because of some stormy weather, work loads, Honey Do chores, and needed travel we'll all have to live without his usual soul stirring motivational comments that normally occupy this space.

When time avails he may send out a mass mailing to pacify the troops. Or, you just may have to wait until the April issue to see the return of his column.



RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

On the trail of the not so elusive GM

No, this is not a tale about General Motors....Uhhh, sorry, that's Government Motors now.

Nor is it about Eull Gibbons. Some of you old coots will remember him. He started writing a series of *Stalking* books in 1962. The first one was "Stalking the Wild Asparagus". After that original tome he wrote more books on how to stalk all kinds of things. After his original success he went on to write cook books entitled, *Stalking the Blue-Eyed Scallop* in 1964 and *Stalking the Healthful Herbs* in 1966. Today being labeled as a stalker is not a nice thing, but back in the 60s I guess that it was OK.

This is about my on and off *stalking* adventures since we made the full time move east of the Mississippi in 1983. I've been stalking the sites where Mr. Radio himself, Guglielmo Marconi, set up his early experimental radio stations. Just call it a hobby within a hobby, OK?

A really nice spot to visit, even if you're not interested in Marconi are the Twin Lights, AKA Navesink Lights, in New Jersey. Here's a little history that I purloined from the internet. <http://www.nps.gov/history/nR/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/131lighthouse/131facts2.htm>

Other significant experiments conducted at Navesink were related to communication technology. In 1899, an Italian scientist and inventor named Guglielmo Marconi placed an



antenna and receiving station at the Navesink Lighthouse to demonstrate his wireless telegraph. Marconi's wireless telegraph sent a message in Morse code, which was transmitted via electromagnetic waves. The *New York Herald* newspaper had hired Marconi to bring his wireless telegraph to the United States and report on the 1899 America's World Cup yacht races being held off the tip of Sandy Hook, New Jersey. The demonstration worked so well that Marconi expanded his American operation. He established the nation's first commercial wireless telegraph station at Navesink capable of sending and receiving messages on a regular basis. Eventually Marconi's ship-to-shore communications equipment would become standard on ocean-going vessels, improving the safety of maritime transportation. Marconi's experiments led to the development of commercial wireless telegraph equipment, which became the forerunner of modern radio communications.

There is an excellent museum (see photos) at Navesink

Another spot on Cape Cod is Wellfleet. This is the place from which the first telegram was sent overseas. It was sent by Teddy Roosevelt. Again, to quote from <http://www.stormfax.com/wireless.htm>

In February, 1902, a new aerial design at the South Wellfleet station was erected with four 210-foot wooden towers in a 200-foot square pattern. Each

tower was 24-foot square at the base and 8-foot square at the top. Twelve steel cables, one-inch in diameter, secured each tower against high winds. The guy wires were anchored to 12-inch by 12-inch crossed timbers buried nine feet in the sand. The cables were tightened by giant turnbuckles. To insulate the towers, station engineers used ship's deadeyes between rubber hoses and manila rope with melted sulphur connectors located amid the guy wires. A square 4-foot-thick cement slab was used as a base for each tower. The aerial rigging among the towers was a conical arrangement of 200 wires converging in midair just above the transmitter house and feeding in through a single wire. A similar tower configuration was already in operation at Poldhu and Glace Bay. Inside the transmitter building was a 20,000-volt condenser, antenna tuning coil, and the rotary spark-gap, the buzz of which could be heard three or four miles away. The transmitter was powered by a 45-horsepower kerosene engine generator supplying 2,200 volts of AC to a transformer that stepped it up to 20,000 volts. A small DC generator charged the batteries.

At the headquarters were a manager, two engineers, and three operators who lived on the site.

Marconi convinced President Theodore Roosevelt to take part in a wireless experiment where a message would be sent from Cape Cod to the King of England. On January 18, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt's message was tapped out in Morse code from South Wellfleet to King Edward VII at the Poldhu station. It was to be the first two-way transatlantic communication and the first wireless telegram between America and Europe. The message read:

*His Majesty, Edward VII.
London, Eng.*

In taking advantage of the wonderful triumph of scientific research and ingenuity which has been achieved in perfecting a system of wireless telegraphy, I extend on behalf of the American People most cordial greetings and good wishes to you and to all the people of the British Empire.

*THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Wellfleet, Mass., Jan. 19, 1903*

Expecting only to receive confirmation from Glace Bay that the message had been relayed to England, Marconi got a direct response* from England:

Are there other Marconi sites left to visit? You betcha, but I'll save them for future issues. Besides, it's difficult making room for all of the contributions to this rag that your humble editor receives.

FINANCES

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

41 Full members—5 Associate members
60% of the full members belong to the ARRL

Checking = \$1432.77/Cash on hand = \$21.06



UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

March 9—Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L. Chuck, K1EGL, will be there to show us how to get around in Ham Radio Deluxe and do satellite tracking.

March 27—Monthly lunch meeting at the House of Pizza by Staples in Brattleboro. We gather at 11:30 AM.

April 30—May 1: NEARFest. See <http://www.near-fest.com/> for further details.

Also check out WRRRC events on the club calendar at <http://www.westriverradio.org/> and scroll down the page

RACES to the RESCUE

I could have titled this Emcomm at Work because the story you're about to hear happened to real people and contains a moral. I'm indebted to KA1TWW, Elaine, for providing the details.

During that recent dumping of white stuff Grace Cottage Hospital found themselves without power or phone service. Someone was sent up the road to Valley Cares where Elaine works. She 4 wheeled it down to Gracie and hooked up the 2 meter/440 rig only to discover that VHF/UHF antenna was on the fritz.

W1CWB's wife, Andi, was at the hospital and went home to get Chas. To make a long story longer, the hospital was finally able to get a call out to VEM and Rob Schell, KB1ZPI, got in touch with N1TOX, John.

Both Chas, W1CWB, and Mark, KB1HCG, made appearances. The power came on all was well again.

I've heard that out of every bad experience something good materializes. In this case it's the fact that the hospital realized what we know all along—that there are times when Hams are needed to get the message through.

We hope that **VERY SOON** we'll have some antennas up in the air and feed line from them to our radios.



QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

There is so much good in the worst of us,
And so much bad in the best of us,
That it hardly behooves any of us
To talk about the rest of us.
Edward Wallis Hoch

SITE OF THE MONTH

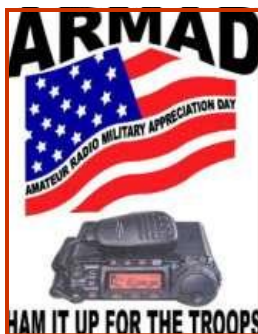
Ok, so this is a repeat, but a good one. In light of the fact that one of our own, Tim Bell—KA1ZQX, is in the military and about to leave for less than an ideal environment I thought that it would be a good idea to re-acquaint all of you with ARMAD (Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day) You'll find their site at <http://www.armad.net/>

Instead of seeing my explanation of what they're all about, I'll paste in a portion of the web page that says it all.

ARMAD is an annual **NON - POLITICAL** Amateur Radio Public Service project that stands for **Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day**. We work with **National Military Appreciation Month** during the Month of May. We also provide other events, and work with other groups as requested during the year. We ask Amateur Radio Operators from around the world to team up during this effort to allow the people from our communities to gather at public locations such as shopping centers, parks, VA hospitals, and sporting events to express verbal positive support "LIVE" over two way radio for members of the Military, Veterans, Reserves, National Guard, Retired, Coalition Forces, First Responders, and Military Support Groups. Many of us have friends, relatives, and neighbors that are active duty, and past members of the armed forces. **ARMAD** gives us the chance to support one another, and to express our thanks and appreciation to those that sacrifice and serve in the Armed Forces.

Frank, WK1L, and I, your humble and contrite editor, toyed with the idea of a spring picnic at the Townshend Dam in May to serve as a social event and shake down for Field Day the following month.

Maybe this year our dream will be fulfilled.



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 April follows:

- March 8 KB1KSR, Ed
- March 15 WK1L, Frank
- March 22 KB1KSR, Ed
- March 29 W1CWB, Chas
- April 5 KB1J, Rich
- April 12 K1KU, Darrel
- April 19 W1CWB, Chas
- April 26 K1KU, Darrel

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 N1TOX, John
n1tox@comcast.net

KA1ZQX UPDATE

Here's the latest scoop on our wandering warrior.



The below is my summarization of a recent email from Tim.

- Busy month of February
- Limited contact with the outside world
- Presently living in 300 man tents
Ed: One of those should be able to handle our FD setup
- Next thing in line is going overseas
- He wishes us all well and gives thanks for our thoughts and prayers

Short and sweet for March, but watch for a jam packed April issue.

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

