



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the West River Radio Club



June—2010

Volume VII—#VI

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 50 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

Disaster and Recovery – The Sequel

Here I am sitting in the dark typing away and thinking about what the last 24 hours has done to the "normal daily routine". No power, no telephone (land line), minimal cell coverage (thanks AT&T), and a weak battery for the base station.

At 9 PM Wednesday night, I received a phone call from John Quinlan at the National Weather Service in Albany. After some nice chit chat, I asked why he was calling. He said, "Your about to get slammed. You should start a weather net as you will be getting a really big storm in about an hour." I looked at the radar and said, "Are you referring to the line of weather in Chittenden County coming from Quebec?" It looked way too small to do anything to us. But leave that to the professionals and Jack pot!! He nailed this forecast right on the head.

So three of us convened on the Marlboro repeater and were trading weather reports, I hear thunder, I see lighting, Here come the wind, boy is it pouring, there goes the power and more statistics. But I will say the Guilford and Vernon took the brunt of the storm head on. Trees taking power, cable and telephone lines down in many spots of the area. After

32 hours, we got our power back but still no land line service, that came back after 44 hours. At least it was not the middle of winter!

So being prepared and knowing how you will ride out the storm and recover from its aftermath is important. Have a plan and know what to do and how you can make the impossible work. You never know what resources you might need to make.

We have some exciting things coming up over the summer months. Field Day is in June, I'm sure Darrel has something in the *Digital Dispatch* about this. Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day is in August 7th. And not to mention that there is an upcoming quarterly drill for VY on June 23rd. So mark your calendars. And I hope you do not miss this month's meeting as Darrel will be talking up a storm about their trip to Japan.

Girl's on the Run update – The GOTR event was held on May 22, 2010. There were 1,496 participants in this year's event. This was up again from last year. Thanks to all who helped and for those who could not make this year's event, we hope you will be there next year as our mission scope will be larger than the past years. Next year's event will be on May 21, 2011 so please mark your calendars!

As always, should you go on vacation, bring along your radio. Have fun and be safe!

Until next month!

73

de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – President WRRC



RUNN' ON EMPTY

Travel Junkies

Both my wife Marion and I have always loved to travel. We also both feel fortunate in that we've had jobs that gave us enough \$\$\$ to allow it and the time to do it. After all, the three main reasons I loved teaching were June, July, and August.

Never make the mistake of asking Marion about any particular trip, unless, that is, you have a week off to absorb all the details; the color scheme in the motel in Murdo, SD in 1959, how much we paid for gas in Oklahoma at a Texaco station in 1963 and whether the bathroom was clean or not – you get the idea.

As my memory is not fit to be in the same room with my first wife I'll use wider brush strokes to summarize our personal travelogue:

- All 50 states. That involved MANY cross trips from California to the East coast in a Volkswagen bug while I was in college.
- A passel of our National Parks
Into Mexico a few times before there was a big risk of eating lead
- All but one of the Canadian provinces and many of their National Parks
- We've done several trips to the Maritime Provinces – our favorite spot in Canada
- Four cruises
- Two trips to England
- Two trips to Japan
- At least sixteen driving trips on the Alaska Highway (It used to be called the Al Can)

Things we've learned from all of our trips:

- 1) No matter where you go most people are nice
- 2) Contrary to what you've heard, not everybody in the world speaks English. This includes parts of the USA. Not a problem. You learn how to make gestures and point, as in restaurants
- 3) When the exchange rate is NOT in our favor beware of credit card costs. It may not look bad on the bill at the restaurant or hotel, but when you get your monthly statement after arriving home and see the "converted" cost....WOW!

I bring all this up because Ham radio has played a part in many of our journeys. On our two trips to England we were hosted by GONLM, Colin Ridley, a remarkable person who, after an early retirement took on more and more chores as a sailing instructor. He is qualified to sail the really big multi masted ships. Colin has also paid us several visits here in New England and once bought his parents over with him.

We've been visited by other Hams from Germany and Wales. They found out about us via the International Travel Host Exchange, with which we're registered. This program is administered by the Deutschland Amateur Radio Club, DARC. It's the equivalent of our

ARRL. Don't believe me? Go to <http://www.darc.de/> and check it out. In a nutshell, if you were going to travel to say, Spain, and wanted to get a taste of what the locals live like you could find out if Hams in the area you'll be visiting are registered with the ITHE. You get in touch with them, arrange a meeting and maybe even a stay over of one or two nights with them.

Getting back to the present; whereas 2009 was *the year of the scalpel* for both Marion and I we decided to celebrate being alive by making 2010 the year of travel. On our trip to Japan in 2002 we managed a visit with JH8RZJ, Kei. We were back on Hokkaido Island this May to see Son #2, his lovely wife, Reiko, and a new granddaughter, Amanda. This time around we visited with JJ8KGZ, Hiroto (Leo) and several of his Ham friends. Like me, Leo is a member of FISTS. During our layover at Narita Airport we were met by JE1KUC, Takeshi. Takeshi also holds the call N1KU and I happen to be the K sorter for the W1 Incoming Bureau. Fortunately I had two cards for him from one of his operations from KH6 land. (That's Hawaii for you non DXers.) These cards got delivered in person. We go to great lengths to please the clients of the W1 Incoming Bureau.

Stay tuned here for future accounts of our escapades in JA Land. I promise more great pictures of your humble editor promoting international good will. In order to conjure up some of those memories I may have to sample a bit of Sake, Japanese beer, and consume some Sushi, but the sacrifice will be well worth it.



K1KU PRESENTS QSL CARDS TO KE1KUC (N1KU), TAKESHI AT NARITA AIRPORT IN TOKYO



JA8DKJ (AD7UV), TAKESHI, SHOWS OFF HIS FANTASTIC SHACK IN SAPPORO.



JA8LWU (W2JA) NOBU JA8UUM, MASA JJ8KGZ (KC2RTP), HIROTO (LEO)
K1KU, DARREL JA8DKJ, TAKESHI



JA8EFI'S XYL MARION DALEY JJ8KGZ, HIROTO JA8LWU, NOBU JA8UUM, MASA
JA8EFI (W6IB), RYUICHI INSIDE RYUICHI'S HAM STORE

FINANCES

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

46 Full members—4 Associate members
58.7% of the full members belong to the ARRL
Checking = \$1474.97/Cash on hand = \$85.06



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 June follows:

- June 7
- June 14
- June 21
- June 28

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 at n1tox@comcast.net



D-LAN TRAINING

What is D-Lan, you may well ask. D-Lan is the software used by the State of Vermont Department of Public Safety for keeping all the varied groups and individuals around our state *in the loop*.

State Police, assorted Sheriff's departments, town EMDs, and on and on and on. One group of which Hams are well aware is also tied into this matrix – RACES.

On Wednesday, April 21 a bunch of us met at the Brattleboro High School Tech Center to go through a three hour training session on all the aspects of D-Lan. Bob Weinert and KA1ZPI, Rob Schell drove down from Waterbury to walk us through the capabilities of the program.

Members of the WRRC present were:

John Borichevsky, N1TOX –RACES State Coordinator
Darrel Daley (K1KU)
Gordon Pugh (W2NH)
Jack Adams (N1HOS)
Charles "Chuck" Wojack (K1EGL)
Gaila Gulack (KB1OOG)
Paul Blais, (KB1OOH)
Wil Shaffer (WB1CZA)

Signed up for the repeat session on April 28 were:
Jennifer Ambler (KA1CYZ)
Frank Hagerty (WK1L)

Charles Baker (W1CWB)

Thanks to those of our members who go the extra mile to support Emcomm in the state of VT.



KA1ZPI, Rob Schell, demonstrates the finer points of D-Lan software



WB1CZA, Wil
KA1ZPI, Rob
N1TOX, John
K1EGL, Chuck

FIELD DAY—2010

We're there for you. In spite of some blustery May weather members of our FD team ventured forth to the QTH of Ed, KB1KSR and Gaila, KB1OQH, to plan a layout for this year's exciting event.

N1TOX, John, Chas, W1CWB, Bro. Frank, WK1L, and Darrel, K1KU did some measuring and logistical planning for the last full weekend in June.

Because Gaila and Ed live adjacent to each other this is the first year that we'll be able to take advantage of the 1000' diameter rule. That means we'll have a LOT of separation between antennas for our 3A operation—ergo, NO interference. At least, that's our fervent hope.

You've already received an email bulletin on FD, so if you haven't participated in the past and want to join in on the fun in 2010 give me a shout at k1ku@arrl.net

And as you read this, Tim, know that we'll be thinking of you and wishing that you could be with us instead of where you are. Let's make a date for 2011, OK?

N1TOX, John
W1CWB, Chas
WK1L, Frank



WK1L, Frank
W1CWB, Chas

ADVERTISING PAYS OFF

In 2009 your Board of Directors voted to spend \$40 to purchase an award plaque for top scorers in the New England QSO Party.

Those plaques were recently mailed and we received a note of thanks from Mark Mokosi, K1PU, in Higganum, CT. His note is as follows:

Many thanks to the West River Club for sponsoring the New England QSO Party plaque I received via UPS today.

Even thou I'm not a resident, I have family in Vermont and I operate from Derby Line and Canaan when there. It was at Canaan in Essex County that I set up shop for the 2009 NEQP.

You can see my "primitive" shack and antenna farm in the photo section of my web site www.K1pu.com

Again, thank you for sponsoring the VT low power award and I hope to operate from Vermont in the NEQP for 2011 (staying home in Connecticut this year to defend my Middlesex county record!).

73, K1PU
Mark Mokoski

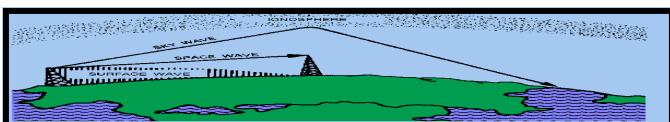
We're glad that we enabled Mark to have another trophy for his wall.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

At our last meeting KB1J, Rich, was presented with his participation certificate, earned for entering the VT QSO Party in February. (Your Treasurer will go to any lengths to save 44 cents.) We wish to thank Rich and the other participating Hams from the WRRC, namely, N1TOX, John, WK1L, Frank and K1KU, Darrel

If you weren't able to join in on the fun this year I have good news for you. February 2011 is just around the corner. Plan to be there.



SITE OF THE MONTH

The sked Page

Now some hams can be darn inventive. Just read on and I'll explain.

How many times have you gotten on the air and scanned through the bands looking for that state you need on RTTY? Or maybe you need them on phone or CW. I don't have time to mess with the details.

Or maybe you'd just like a pleasant rag chew on PSK31 or phone. Whatever your QSO need or desire Andy O'Brien has come to your rescue. On this innovative web page you'll see assorted tabs across the top of the page that say *Ragchew Page*, *Digital Radio*, *FISTS/QRP*, plus several others.

So how does it all work? You click on the tab of your choice. Let's say that you want to nail NE on 20 meter phone, so you click on the *LOTW* tab. You'll see a list of activity on the left hand side of the screen... Hams from the US and around the world trying to get in touch on some particular band. Or you'll see something like, "Tnx for the QSO, Dwayne. de RA1ORB." That went to KD4POJ.

On the right of the screen you'll see windows showing what states are on the air at that moment and whether any DX is on the air. In a window below that you'll see a list of user's call signs. If you hold your mouse pointer over a call you'll find out their name, QTH and grid square. Neat, huh?

Maybe you're a generous soul and want to help a Ham somewhere get a needed state or county. When you log in your call and state will show up in those windows I mentioned above.

How do you log in? At the very bottom of the page it says, "You must be LOGGED IN to post." Click on the *LOGGED IN* link and you'll be shown a window in which to put your data and preferences.

So here you have it, a page for the DX hound, state of county chaser, casual rag chewer, digital enthusiast, QRP aficionado, etc., etc. Needless to say, it's almost a necessity to have a PC at your operating position to enjoy this. If you don't have a computer sitting by the rig then let me urge you to come into the 21st century.

<http://www.obriensweb.com/sked/>

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

