



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



December, 2010/January, 2011

Vol VII, #XI/Vol VIII, #I

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

during the drills. Another organization which makes the communication efforts work within the state is the Northeast FM Repeater Association. I hope you all will consider joining this group as they maintain the linked 440 network which we use frequently. For information, please visit their site <http://www.nfmra.org>.

West River Radio Club is a great club which has many other things to offer. We have helped many organizations with radio communications needed so their events could go off without a hitch. Vermont Emergency Management, Girls on the Run Vermont, Grace Cottage Hospital, the Towns of Wilmington and Dover, just to name a few. Providing an alternative means of communications for the events helps the organizers and local authorities run the event with success. You who participated deserve a "job well done".

We have a great list of topics coming up for 2011. We hope you come to a meeting, bring a friend and share your ham experiences with us. This is your club as well as 52 of your Amateur Radio friends. Coming up soon, we will be seeing Tim Bell - KA1ZQX back in Vermont from his deployment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan and he probably will be at our January meeting. This will be a meeting that you will not want to miss.

In closing, and on behalf of the Board of Directors of the West River Radio Club, we wish to thank you all for your help and dedication in 2010 and hope that you all to have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season while also looking forward to a Great 2011!

Until next time we meet

73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – President WRRCL

PREZ KORNER

Happy Holidays!!

Here we are at the end of the year 2010 and the holidays are now in full swing. At the West River Radio Club we are prepared, and more than ready, to begin our 8th year of being a well-established club. Congratulations West River Radio Club, you are now 8 years old!! Gosh, it really does not feel like it has been that long, but looking back at our history archives, we can account for every year of advancements and accomplishments.

In our 7th year we accomplished hosting the 2010 Vermont QSO Party, renewed our Special Services Club designation for 2 years, concluded our 5th Field Day, and many other milestones. We started and held our first, of many, field operation picnics, and deployed to many of our yearly supporting organizations by providing radio communications. These communications were provided via WRRCL, Vermont CERT and VEM RACES.

As we all know, our "All Hazards EmComm Team" is a team to follow in Vermont. While we are a part of the Vermont All Hazards Communication Team, all of the organizations within Vermont play a strong role of communications and make it work. Let's look at making communications work in the Entergy Vermont Yankee EPZ. There are many groups who make this work. The members of the West River Radio Club, joined by other clubs and individual hams from around the state helped us out



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 6 Chas—W1CWB
- Dec 13 Ed—KB1KSR
- Dec 20 Rich—KB1J
- Dec 27 John—N1TOX

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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Do all the good you can, and make as little fuss about it as possible."

Charles Dickens

RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

Often, we never know the impact of our actions and decisions on the world around us. Little stuff, mostly.

Those are the words of W2UV, Rich Moseson, the editor of CQ Magazine, as he opens his Zero Bias column for the November issue. Rich goes on to give a moving account of his history as a Ham, starting when he was fifteen years old. He summarizes the numerous ways that Ham Radio has been good to him over the last forty years.

He also cites author Mitch Albom's book, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. In this book the main character only learns of his impact on other people's lives after he dies. Now that's a sobering thought. I've also added this title to my *must read* book list.

Some of us don't have to wait to get to heaven to learn how our actions have affected others. As a jr-sr high school band director for over 20 years I came into contact with a lot of young skulls full of mush. I had many of these students in my program for 6 consecutive years. This means that the kids that "stuck it out" appreciated my philosophy of education, or maybe their parents did.

- ◆ Maintain high standards
- ◆ Exercise strong discipline
 - ◆ Jr-sr high school kids do not want a 40 year old buddy
 - ◆ They really want to know just how hard they can push the envelope, so show them the unwanted results for those who push too hard
- ◆ Don't over-use the letter A as a grade. After all, it does stand for *Excellent*, right?

- ◆ Be as demanding and strict as you like. As long as kids see you as being a fair person and one trying to make them better they'll do anything for you.
- ◆ Show them the other side of the demanding rule with compliments when deserved.

The reason that I don't have to wait for heaven is because of these so called *social interaction* web sites. A year or so ago Jan Thurman "found" me on Facebook. Once she got over the astonishment that the curmudgeon was still alive she started spreading the word. Since that day I've heard from quite a few who not only survived my boot camp approach on how to run a band program, but actually appreciated it.

In some cases I must admit to having to respond to someone who wants to be my *friend* with, "Who are you?" When you've instructed 5-6 classes a day for over 20 years, and many of those classes had over 35 to, at times, 50 kids in them.....well, things become a blur.

Fortunately, the former students who found me were the ones who appreciated what I was doing and the way I did it. I dread the day that some of the people who didn't care for my idea of what constituted good pedagogic techniques find me. It will probably mean a visit by some swarthy man of Mediterranean descent wearing a pin-striped suit and a white tie and carrying what appears to be a violin.

Is there a moral here somewhere? I hope so. And, since you won't be able to sleep until you hear it, well, here goes. Things that we do and say in this life, many times the *small* things, often mean a lot to others. And not just the person we said or did the things to, but other observers.

1. Did you bite your tongue and smile when someone is rude to you?
 2. When in a hurry did you manage to take the time to allow someone else to go first in a line?
 3. Do you work at putting a positive spin on events, even when the event doesn't seemingly deserve it?
 4. Do you just plain smile a lot? Try it. It will really unnerve some people and is often the best way to get even.
 5. Do you thank people a lot? I'm pretty good at this when I'm out and about, but need to work at it more at home.
 - 6.
- Etc., I'll bet that you can add some to this meager list.

Before going QRT I want to reiterate the thoughts of our President on the prior page. We definitely want you to re-join for 2011, but we also want you to take part in the fun we have at our meetings and operating events.

May your holiday season be blessed with good times and the presence of family and friends. May 2011 be a great year for one and all.



FIELD DAY 2010

Frank, WK1L, alerted me to the club's FD results as posted in the December QST, page #71.

As a 2A operation we had a score of 1,622 points. We did that with 345 QSOs and low power (under 150 W). There were a total of 28 guests and participants .

We had fun and ate well due to Frank's culinary skills and some great contributed pot luck dishes.

We hope to see many of you next year. Reserve the last full weekend in June, 2011.



DRUMS & HAMS ALONG THE MOHAWK

At one time some of you may have sat through an American Literature class and read this 1936 classic penned by Walter D. Edmonds. As an aside, 1936 was a great year, maybe for some wine, the birth of a good novel and, last, but not least, the birth year of your humble editor.

In 1939 the novel was made into a movie starring Henry Fonda and Claudette Colbert. It was produced by none other than Darryl (funny spelling, that) and nominated for two academy awards. It grossed over a million dollars. In those days that was not chump change.

My story here is not really about early settlers during the American Revolution and their struggle against attacks by Indians, Tories, the British. It's about a group of local and, I might add, notable Hams who, on October 18, 2010, conquered the Mohawk trail, AKA Route #2 in Massachusetts. They did it with the aid of internal combustion engines with frames and bodies attached to same. Though not attacked by Tories, Indians, or the British we were probably well armed enough to have held our own had we been.

To get to the heart of the matter, on October 18 AA1XU, Dick, N1PSY, Phill, WK1L, Frank, and K1KU, Darrel took off from the Staples parking lot in Greenfield, MA and proceeded to the summit of the Mohawk trail. I'd often spoke about "just one more" portable outing before the snow flies. Dick took me seriously and scouted out some appropriate site – somewhere with a bit of altitude, not too crowded, etc. During a scouting expedition he and his wife Jan, AB1JY, came across Whitcomb's Summit on the Mohawk Trail.

Needless to say, it was cold and windy and we all did our operating from inside our vehicles. Phill bravely set up a vertical while the rest of us relied on our Sidekick motorized antennas. A big part of the enjoyment of this kind of venture is eating. Knowing how well Frank, WK1L, has provided luscious Field Day repasts we put him in charge of the grub for this trip. He did not disappoint us. We were treated to great appetizers, a delicious rice and chicken casserole, and

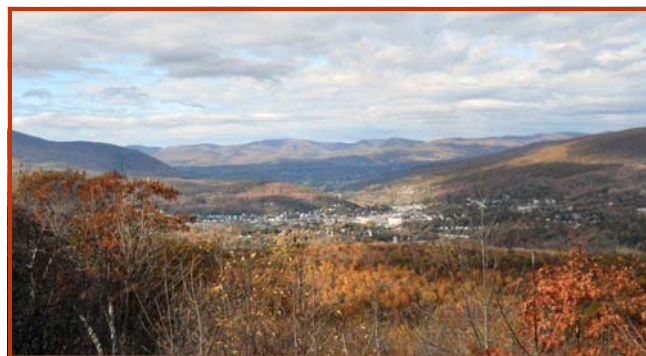
pumpkin pie.

Did we make a lot of contacts? No. Did we have fun? If you ask any of the four participants I can guarantee that you'll hear a resounding **YES**.

Would we do it again? Can you hear the echo of that resounding **YES?** We're definitely going to need a shakedown session or two in preparation for Field Day 2011. If you'd like to be included in those plans give me a shout. I'll add you to the list of fun seekers.



K1KU, WK1L, AA1XU, N1YPS



WHAT A VIEW



**WK1L & N1YPS dine in the comfort
Of AA1XU's van**

SITE OF THE MONTH

During some recent meanderings on the internet I ran across S9 Antennas. OK, maybe someone sent me the URL. At my age I can't be expected to remember every little detail.

Not that I've given their web page an exhausting going over, but at first glance it looks like some good stuff. I did go to the trouble of checking them out on Eham.net and the reviews are all good.

This might be a site to ponder for something Santa might bring you for the shack.

<http://www.s9antennas.com/>

FINANCES

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

48 Full members—4 Associate members
60% of the full members belong to the ARRL

Checking = \$1180.97/Cash on hand = \$85.06

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

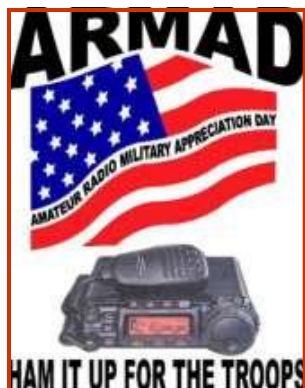
January 11: Our first meeting of 2011. Come celebrate a new year by attending this January gathering. 19:00L in the EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital. Come and get psyched up for the VT QSO Party on February 5-6. We hope that KA1ZYX, Tim, is back with us by then. Come vote for a slate of officers for 2011.

January 29: Monthly luncheon meeting at the Panasain Restaurant by Staples in Brattleboro. Meet at 11:30

February 5—6: Take part in this annual operating event, hosted for the 2nd year in a row by the WRRRC. Rules at

<http://vtqsoparty.westriverradio.org/>

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



HOW'S YOUR BREATH?

(Ed note: WK1L, Frank, is off on one of his numerous mobile jaunts within the USA and so I received a condensed article for December & January. I can testify to the usefulness of his solution for enclosing small projects as I used this answer some time ago to accept a small keyer I had constructed.)

It has become harder and harder to find small project boxes at a reasonable cost. One inexpensive solution is to use Altoids mints cans. They give you enough room to mount switches, jacks, etc. and the metal is sturdy enough, but easy to drill and work with a tapered reamer. You have a fully shielded container that opens easily. The photos show a microphone box with push-to-talk, frequency up, and frequency down buttons (momentary on switches) and a 1/8" mono jack for a foot switch. I use these boxes with my Kenwood radios and low impedance audio mics. One cable ends in a 3 pin Cannon mic connector, and the other ends in a Kenwood mic connector. Altoids cans might work for one of your projects.

73, Frank



MEA CULPA

Your ever humble editor has been advised that in last month's issue he failed to acknowledge one of our members who was present at the RACES conference in Pittsford, VT at the Police Academy. My apologies to Steve, N1EQP for leaving him off the list.



(Gordon, W2NH, passed along the bit of doggerel printed below. Thanks, Gordon.)

WINTER WONDERLAND

Hello CQ, are you listening,
Got this rig, it's so glistening
A beautiful sight,
We're happy tonight.
Working on an open HF band.

Gone away is the old rig,
Here to stay is a new rig
I love DSP,
The filters were free,
Working on an open HF band.

In Townshend we can build a pileup,
And pretend we're in a far off land
Someone will say our signal is to strong man
We'll say we can run ten gallons,
And try to catch us even if you can

Later on, we'll conspire,
As the rig catches fire
To replace unafraid,
The fuse that we've made,
Working on an open HF band.

In Salem we can buy a D star,
And contend we're in a DX town
We'll have lots of fun with ones and zeros,
Until some other ham just cuts us down.

When it snows, ain't it thrilling,
On the air, we take a grilling
We'll frolic and play, ham club all the way,
Working on a HF DX band.

A bit fractured and partly stolen but just the same—
73 to all and to all a good night



(Ed. Note: The below comes to you courtesy of Colin Ridley, G0NLM. Marion and I met Colin years ago via Ham Radio and have visited him twice in Poole, England. Likewise, Colin has been across the pond several times to visit us, one time accompanied by his parents.)

PC CHRISTMAS WISHES

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit our best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the winter

solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all.

And a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2011, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make America great, (not to imply that America is necessarily greater than any other country or is the only "AMERICA" in the western hemisphere), and without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform, or sexual preference of the wishee.

(By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms. This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/himself or others, and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year, or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first, and warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.)



And so, from our house to yours.....No matter what your religious persuasion of lack thereof—

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY HANNUKAH
PEACEFUL SOLSTICE
HAPPY NEW YEAR**