



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



February—2011

Volume VIII—#11

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
KB1J, Rich Austin; 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 I watch the weather report for this week, we are going to get yet another snow storm. It certainly seems to be the year for "BIG SNOW" for sure. With well over 3' recorded for January alone, I cannot think of where I'm going to put another 2' on the land. It just does not seem right. So as we watch the forecast and the approaching storm, we all become prepared to deal with the task at hand and just take care of it one way or another.

With that said, how do we look for 2011 and our 7th year? Well, everything is shaping up to be another stellar year for the *West River Radio Club*. During our January meeting, we brought on two (2) new members from the EMD world. We had our election of officers and I would like to welcome Rich, KB1J to the Board. While Rich seems to be a little quiet, believe me, he has a lot of great knowledge to pass along to you as a fellow ham. If we can get a break in the weather, I'll post the meeting topics on the web, hopefully by the weekend.

So you are not a contester? Why not give it a try this weekend! Visit the Vermont QSO Party website <http://vtqsoparty.westriverradio.org>. This is the "official" website for the Vermont QSO Party for now on. We have reached an agreement with CVARC to maintain the web page site for the upcoming years as we put the full site up, advertised it internationally, and it is now registered with many contest organization and listing pages, it would be a shame to move it around. Yes, CVARC still is the sponsor of the contest and the hosting will be passed

around every 2 years to clubs around the state. This again, was an idea we passed onto CVARC to enhance the activity for hams in Vermont and around the world. The Burlington group RANV will be hosting it for the next 2 years. Bringing the clubs around the state together on a project like this will bond many clubs together and make the hams in the State of Vermont that much stronger as a group. Another group festivity going on around the state this month is HAM-CON at the Hampton Inn in Colchester on Feb 26, 2011. There are also many contests on the air. Here is a great web site which list many international contest on the air <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php>

So tune up your antennas and melt the snow off (I wish it were that easy). Get on the air and exchange your ideas with others. Have fun and share your experience with us. Try a new mode of operation, but most of all, have fun!!

Until next month!

73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – President WRRRC



THE WRRRC 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 March follows:

There will be a NCS sign up sheet passed at our February 8 meeting. In the meantime feel free to step up to the plate on Mondays and take charge. Thanks.

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

"Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

Vincent "Vince" Lombardi (1913-1970);
athletic coach

RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

New Year's Resolutions

Have you broken any yet? If you have there is a simple way to guarantee that you'll never break one in the future. It works for me every time. **Don't make any!**



Seriously, though, my wife read something that said that it was a good thing to make resolutions, even though you may not keep them; something about getting the mind to think in a positive way about changing your life for the better.

I'm going to do something highly unusual this month and write about Ham radio. I'm going to suggest some resolutions for you to make with regard to this great hobby. So, get ready, set, GO:

- ◆ Try a new mode. Believe it or not there is more to life than 2 meter repeater operating and phone on HF.
 - ◆ How about delving into digital? RTTY and/or PSK are relatively inexpensive. You probably already have a computer with a sound card so you're almost there. Simple interfaces can be home brewed or you can buy one of the many plug and play units on the market. Believe me, digital is fun and you don't have to say a word to enjoy it.
 - ◆ And dare I say it? Learn CW. This venerable mode is alive and well. Don't take my word for it. Tune through the CW portions of almost any band on a weekend to hear the sweet sound of Mr. Morse's invention.
- ◆ Do something for your club.
 - ◆ If you've never been to a meeting, or rarely attend, well, show up some Tuesday in 2011. You might find out that we actually have fun at our meetings. You may also hear comments, such as, "Who are you anyway?"
 - ◆ Join in on an activity. We sponsor a lot of them, to wit:
 - ◆ Public service events such as Girls on the Run
 - ◆ Kurn Hattin demonstration of Ham Radio at their Fair Day on May 7.
 - ◆ Field Day. Set aside June 25 – 26 right now for two days of emergency power operating, great food and good camaraderie.
 - ◆ Grace Cottage Health Fair. This year we'll set up a special event station and have a booth to hand out literature about Amateur Radio and educate the public about what we do.

- ◆ The Vermont QSO Party on February 5 – 6. Look for the rules at <http://vtqsoparty.westriverradio.org/>
- ◆ Write something for this newsletter. Let your fellow members know about some project you're working on or what aspect of this hobby you enjoy the most. Or, let us know what your station consists of. Take a couple of pictures and send them along with a short write up. I'll do the rest.
- ◆ Are you an Extra? If not, upgrade in 2011. If you're a Technician then go for the General. The WRRRC will sponsor a class in 2011. Holding a General ticket will open up a whole new world of HF operating. We're coming into another sunspot cycle that promises us better DXing on a minimum of power and antenna resources.
- ◆ Set an operating goal. Here are some ideas:
 - ◆ Earn DXCC in 2011. Joining in on a couple of major contests will do the trick for you
 - ◆ Earn Worked All States. Nearly each state has a QSO Party to make the job easier
 - ◆ Work all of the 13 original colonies over the July 4 holiday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday wishes for the month of February go out to:

N1EQP, Steve
N1TOX, John

Keep hanging in there, guys.

FINANCES

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

47 Full members—4 Associate members
57.5% of the full members belong to the ARRL

Checking = \$2,127.85/Cash on hand = \$76.06



SK

It is with sadness that I have to announce the passing of one of our members, Wayland Scott, N1HXC. His friends all knew him as Scotty

After spending several days in the ICU unit at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center he was released to Grace Cottage Hospital for further care. He died there on Friday, January 28.

Scotty graciously gave of his time serving as the Net Manager for the Green Mountain Net since 1995. He was a gentleman with a sense of humor who loved his family, animals and Ham radio.

Our condolences go out to his wife, Elaine, KA1TWW, who is also a member of the WRRRC.

Contributions can be made in his memory to:
Grace Cottage Hospital
185 Grafton Road
Townshend, VT 05353-0216

Cards may be sent to:
Elaine Scott—KA1TWW
59 Peters Lane—POB 34
Wardsboro, VT 05355



RUN IT REMOTE

Life is just full of coincidences, or is Providence at work?

My first wife bought me the ARRL book on remotely operating your station. That could come in real handy for me as we both enjoy traveling and if you could control your station from afar, then you wouldn't have to lug a rig, antenna, accessories, etc.

So what should Gordon, W2NH, send my way recently? It's a web site that sells a remote control package. It looks very thorough to me, but maybe one of our resident Geeks could check it out and give a verdict on it. The package features are:

- Stand alone system
- No computers required
- 2-Way high quality audio
- Extremely low latency
- Unique CW support
- Built in CW keyer
- Serial ports for PA/Rotator
- Easy WEB and USB setup

One of these days I'll check things out more thoroughly and look for some reviews on the web. If you think that you might be interested go to <http://www.remoterig.com/>

Thanks to Gordon for a neat tip.



THE TALKING DOG

(Ed: The below came from my friend on the Green Mountain Net and fellow DXer W2PSU, Ken. I've heard this story before, but not with the Ham twist to it. Thanks, Ken.)

During a recent Saturday afternoon drive around Greene County I happened down a back road near the 'Coon River. I saw a sign in front of a broken down aging farmhouse that read, "**Talking Dog for Sale.**"

Well, that made me curious so I stopped to see what the deal was. In the yard there is a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting.

"You talk?" I asked.

"Yep," the Lab replies.

Well after I got over the shock of hearing a dog talk, I asked "So, what's your story?"

"Ah shucks there ain't much to tell. Is that a screwdriver antenna on your truck out there?"

"How did you know that," I asked?

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I'm a ham radio operator. I got my ticket when I was a young pup. In no time at all I had my 5-band DXCC in Phone and CW. The CIA heard about me and asked me to do spy work for them. I would hang around the communications centers and with my keen hearing could copy the transmissions.

Because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years. Copying high speed CW all day really tired me and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the CIA (8 dog years is 56 CIA years) and joined a ham radio club. In fact I won first place in the Iowa QSO Party two years in a row. Then I had a mess of puppies and got away from Ham Radio for a while. I sure miss my radio. Why don't you buy me and I'll be your CW operator in the next DX 'test.'"

I said "let me see what I can do."

I went back in and asked the owner what he wanted for the dog.

"Ten dollars," the old farmer says.

"Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He's just a No Code Extra."



VERMONT HAMS

While cruising the web some time back John, N1TOX, came across the following statistics. Now you can appear smart if anyone ever asks you how many Hams there are in VT and how many in each county.

Addison - 155	Bennington - 130
Caledonia - 99	Chittenden - 654
Essex - 19	Franklin - 156
Grand Isle - 32	Lamoille - 73
Orange - 125	Orleans - 68
Rutland - 211	Washington - 246
Windham - 127	Windsor - 205
Total: 2300 VT HAMS	

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

February 5—6: VT QSO Party. See rules and get forms at http://www.westriverradio.org/WRRRC/VT_QSO/index.html. The WRRRC is the host club for 2011. You are encouraged to participate as much as possible.

February 8: Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L.

February 12: VE Session the Red Cross offices in Brattleboro. Contact Frank, WK1L, for further details.

February 26: The monthly Board/luncheon Meeting will be held at the PanAsian Restaurant in Brattleboro next to Staples. Gather at 11:30

March 8: Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L.

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

For the ladies out there—here are a few ways to tell if your husband/boyfriend is a Ham.

- 1) His favorite superheroes are Marconi and Tesla.
- 2) His sense of well being is tied to the sunspot cycle.
- 3) His electric shaver has a backup diesel generator.
- 4) He shows you his PL-259 connector.
- 5) For a romantic honeymoon, he chooses Dayton over Tahiti.
- 6) He buys you an HT for your anniversary.
- 7) He attaches a mag mount antenna to the baby's stroller.
- 8) When whispering sweet nothings in your ear, he ID's every few minutes.

The above list was penned by Lou, NY2H and submitted by Gordon, W2NH.

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

At least once a year I like to include the Amateur's code in the newsletter. It was originally written by Paul Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

Call me a sentimentalist, but I like things that have an enduring value. The Amateur's Code does have that. It's admonitions are as valuable today as they were when Paul wrote them out.

You'll find it in its entirety on the next page.

THANKS

To all who have renewed their membership in the WRRRC for 2011.

If you haven't sent along your \$10 check for the 2011 dues we hope that it's just an oversight.

You'll soon get a friendly email reminder from me to jog your memory.

The WRRRC does a vital and important service in furthering the cause of Ham Radio in Windham County:

- * Ham classes
- * Emergency communications
- * VE sessions
- * Public service
- * Field Day
- * Educational programs
- ◆ Special event station

And the list goes on and on. We hope that you will consider becoming a part of it again in 2011

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK



THE AMATEUR'S CODE

By Paul M. Segal W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

- CONSIDERATE** never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
- LOYAL** offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
- PROGRESSIVE** with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
- FRIENDLY** with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
- BALANCED** Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
- PATRIOTIC** with station and skill always ready for service to country and community.