



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



February—2012

Volume XIII—#1

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 36 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:

KA1ZQX, Tim Bell; President

KB1J, Rich Austin; VP

N1TOX, John Borichevsky; Secretary/Treasurer

WK1L, Bro Frank Hagerty ED/VE Liaison

K1KU, Darrel Daley; Newsletter Editor

KA1ZQX, Tim Bell; Public Relations/ARES

W1CWB, Chas Baker; Technical Consultant

THE PRESIDENT'S KORNER

Happy New Year and welcome to a new year with the West River Radio Club. It's hard to believe that we are in our 9th year of existence already, but time flies when you are having fun. Back in 2003 when we meet for the first time, I had no idea of what was in store for us, but that the need for a club was needed. From that day/night we meet, we still have some of the founding club members still around. Thanks for sticking to it and making this club an important part of Windham County.

I want to thank you all for entrusting me as the president of the West River Radio Club again. I have some big shoes to fill! It seems just like yesterday that I was in this position, how time flies. Two deployments and 8 full years now, and starting our 9th year have passed. I also want to take this time to thank John N1TOX for his expertise and guidance he has given the club over that last seven years. This club has not only grown in numbers, but is now a premier club in southern Vermont.

I would go wrong if I did not mention Darrel K1KU for his dedication to this club from the beginning also. He has taken his job as the secretary/treasurer seriously and has done an outstanding job. A big THANKS goes out to you Darrel! If I am not mistaken, you have been there since the beginning. (Ed: he's NOT mistaken.)

Many others have taken part in various positions over the

years also. We could not have done it without any of you either. Thank you all who have taken Emergency services seriously and to heart. The camaraderie we share here in the West River Radio Club is unmatched anywhere.

So here we are in 2012. Will you be a doer? We have a lot planned again this year and we would like to see you at the next walk, emergency exercise, or if needed the real thing.

Is it time to upgrade? We have classes ongoing or we can tutor a bit if needed.

Need help getting your station going? Let someone know. We are all busy, but if we can we will help get you on the air!

Hope to see you at our next meeting, our Cast off the Winter Blues get together on 4 February at the New England House in Brattleboro @ 6pm.

Until then....

73.

KA1ZQX/Tim

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AN UNUSUAL USE OF RADIO

W1IRA, Ira, sent in the following link. It tells about "Community" radio stations in Russia.

<http://www.udxf.nl/voices%20from%20the%20tundra.pdf>

Just more proof that the WRRC club's newsletter makes every effort to keep you apprised of radio happenings around the world.

Thanks, Ira



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

— Mark Twain

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

Ongoing: WRRC ARES net...19:30L, 147.015, positive offset and 100 Hz PL tone. Curious as to who the NCS will be? Go to http://www.westriverradio.org/WRRC/WRRC_Pages/ARES_Net.html

Ongoing: WRRC 10 meter net...19:30L on 28.425 Mhz, USB. Stop by and toss in your two cents worth. NCS is WK1L, Bro Frank

There will be NO regularly scheduled meeting on February 14. Watch for a story and pictures of our February 4 dine out at the New England House.

February 25: Board luncheon meeting at the Pannasian Restaurant in Brattleboro. We start up at 11:30 AM.

February 7—March 27: WRRC General Class license course at Entergy offices on Old Ferry Road in Brattleboro. Contact Frank, WK1L if you'd like to enroll or now of someone who is interested.

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

(Ed: It is with great pride that I welcome a special guest writer for this, and, I would hope, future issues of the Digital Dispatch. I have known this particular person for at least fifty five years, and on an intimate basis, no less. It is my hope that she will continue to provide thought provoking, inspiring and edifying articles for future editions.)

TRUE TALE OF A CHAMPION TREE Or, "My Favorite Tree Gets the Axe"

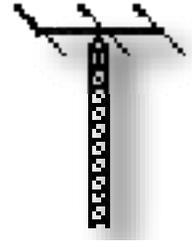
(I found the following tale in my collection of articles written in 2000. If there was space available in this newsletter I asked the editor to include it in this issue - Marion Daley, XYL of K1KU (Ed: Is there space in the newsletter? Does a chicken have lips?)

I should never even have mentioned it. It might have been years before he noticed.

Maybe it wasn't important, and certainly that "Thing-a-ma-jig" atop his tower really couldn't hurt my favorite oak tree.

It was a hot, humid summer afternoon, and I was sipping ice tea inside the screened enclosure on our second floor deck. Darrel was downstairs in his basement cave/ham shack. I noticed that those spoke-like things atop his tower could turn. How could that happen? - I have no idea. But they brushed some of the branches of that tall oak tree.

Before I proceed with my sad tale, dear reader, I should write- that though my husband has been a Ham operator since 1978, I have little knowledge of any equipment or other gadgets used in this hobby. It is all a mystery and I prefer to keep it that way.



Later, that same afternoon, I casually mentioned about those *spokey* things touching the branches to Darrel and was amazed at his swift reaction. That "thing-a-ma-jig", I learned, was a 40 meter element, part of a force 12 C4 Yagi antenna.

I had previously thought it was a giant lawn ornament. In 1997 it had rested on the ground all summer awaiting a lift to the top of the tower.

How he found a tree service within hours is a story in itself. Though he's taken down over a hundred trees on our wooded property this one posed special difficulties. And so this mighty oak...my favorite tree, (Did I mention that?) came down. When I told Darrel that it was my very favorite, he told me to pick another favorite - he sure wasn't going to glue that trunk, taken down in sections, back on to the stump. Humph, easy for him to say!

It took a little getting used to, like something missing for a day or so. But I'm accustomed to it now, and I have picked another favorite tree, far from the tower, or the wires. I hope!



FAMOUS HAMS FROM YESTERYEAR

Barry Morris Goldwater (January 2, 1909 – May 29, 1998) was a five-term United States Senator from Arizona (1953–1965, 1969–1987) and the Republican Party's nominee for President in the 1964 election. An articulate and charismatic figure during the first half of the 1960s, he was known as "Mr. Conservative".

Goldwater is the politician most often credited for sparking the resurgence of the American conservative political movement in the 1960s. He also had a substantial impact on the libertarian movement.

Goldwater rejected the legacy of the New Deal and fought through the conservative coalition to defeat the New Deal coalition. He mobilized a large conservative constituency to win the hard-fought Republican primaries. Goldwater's right-wing campaign platform ultimately failed to gain the support of the electorate^[3] and he lost the 1964 presidential election to incumbent Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson by one of the largest landslides in history, bringing down many Republican candidates as well. The Johnson campaign and other critics painted him as a reactionary, while supporters praised his crusades against the Soviet Union, labor unions, and the welfare state. His defeat allowed Johnson and the Democrats in Congress to pass the Great Society programs, but the defeat of so

many older Republicans in 1964 also cleared the way for a younger generation of American conservatives to mobilize.

Goldwater was much less active as a national leader of conservatives after 1964; his supporters mostly rallied behind Ronald Reagan, who became governor of California in 1967 and the 40th President of the United States in 1981.

Amateur radio

Goldwater was an avid amateur radio operator from the early 1920s onwards, with the call signs 6BPI, K3UIG and K7UGA. The latter is now used by an Arizona club honoring him as a commemorative call. During the Vietnam War, he spent many hours giving servicemen overseas the ability to talk to their families at home over the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS).

Goldwater was also a prominent spokesman for amateur radio and its enthusiasts. Beginning in 1969 up to his death he appeared in numerous educational and promotional films (and later videos) about the hobby that were produced for the American Radio Relay League (the United States national society representing the interests of radio amateurs) by such producers as Dave Bell (W6AQ), ARRL Southwest Director John R. Griggs (W6KW), Alan Kaul (W6RCL), Forrest Oden (N6ENV), Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) and the late Roy Neal (K6DUE). His first appearance was in Dave Bell's "The World of Amateur Radio" where Goldwater discussed the history of the hobby and demonstrated a live contact with Antarctica. His last on-screen appearance dealing with "ham radio" was in 1994, explaining a then-upcoming, Earth-orbiting ham radio relay satellite.

Electronics was a hobby for Goldwater beyond amateur radio. He enjoyed assembling Heath kits, completing more than 100 and often visiting their maker in Benton Harbor, Michigan to buy more, before the company exited the kit business in 1992.



RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

He started it all

Now who would that be? This is a publication for Amateur Radio operators, right? Then I could only be referring to the one - the only (Drum roll please) Guglielmo Marconi - another Italian boy who made good. To prove it he won the Nobel Prize for physics in 1909.

The article was actually planned for an earlier edition, but that's life, isn't it? The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray. That's a story for another time, though.

Marconi was born in Bologna, Italy on April 25, 1870 and died on April 2, 1937. Hold your hand up if you were born before he died. Did you count hands? That should give you an idea of how young the science and development of wireless really is.

He developed an early interest in electricity. In 1888 Heinrich Hertz had shown that one could produce and detect electromagnetic radiation - what we now call radio waves. He studied with Augusto Righi, a University of Bologna physicist and neighbor of Marconi who had done research on Hertz's work.

Marconi did a lot of experimenting, building much of his own equipment in the attic of his home at the Villa Griffone in Pontecchio, Italy, with the help of his butler Mignani.

His goal was to use radio waves to create a practical system of "wireless telegraphy"—i.e. the transmission of telegraph messages without connecting wires as used by the electric telegraph. This was not a new idea—numerous investigators had been exploring wireless telegraph technologies for over 50 years, but none had proven commercially successful. Marconi *did not* discover any new and revolutionary principle in his wireless-telegraph system, but rather he assembled and improved a number of components, unified and adapted them to his system.

In the summer of 1894, he built a storm alarm made up of a battery, a coherer, and an electric bell, which went off if there was lightning. Soon after he was able to make a bell ring on the other side of the room by pushing a telegraphic button on a bench. One night in December, Guglielmo woke his mother up and invited her into his secret workshop and showed her the experiment he had created.

The next day he also showed his father, who, when he was certain there were no wires, gave his son all of the money he had in his wallet so Guglielmo could buy more materials. In the summer of 1895 he moved his experimentation outdoors. After increasing the length of the transmitter and receiver antennas, and arranging them vertically, and positioning the antenna so that it touched the ground, the range increased significantly. Soon he was able to transmit signals over a hill, a distance of approximately 2.4 kilometers (1.5 mi). By this point he concluded that with additional funding and research, a device could become capable of spanning greater distances and would prove valuable both commercially and militarily.

Because he had trouble getting financial support from the Italians he went to England (He was fluent in both English and Italian) where he had better luck.

Marconi sailed to the United States at the invitation of the New York Herald newspaper to cover the America's Cup races off Sandy Hook, NJ. The transmission was done aboard the SS *Ponce*, a passenger ship of the Porto Rico Line. Marconi left for England on 8 November 1899 on the American Line's SS *St. Paul* and he and his assistants installed wireless equipment aboard during the voyage. On 15

November the *St. Paul* became the first ocean liner to report her imminent arrival by wireless when Marconi's Needles station contacted her sixty-six nautical miles off the English coast.

Since I just heard someone say "Enough is enough" I'll stop at this point. I hope that your knowledge of history in general and radio history has been improved somewhat.

Did I research all of this? I sure did and I did it the easy way, via Wikipedia. What a Godsend the internet is. Long gone are the days of sitting in musty libraries searching through book after book for just the right tidbit of information you wanted.

A MONTH LATE

You astute readers will no doubt figure out that this is February and NOT January. It's really difficult to fool a member of the WRRRC. As there was no January issue, though—as the saying goes, *better late than never*.

On January 6 in 1838, Samuel Morse's telegraph system is demonstrated for the first time at the Speedwell Iron Works in Morristown, New Jersey. The telegraph, a device which used electric impulses to transmit encoded messages over a wire, would eventually revolutionize long-distance communication, reaching the height of its popularity in the 1920s and 1930s.



Samuel Finley Breese Morse was born April 27, 1791, in Charlestown, Massachusetts. He attended Yale University, where he was interested in art, as well as electricity, still in its infancy at the time. After college, Morse became a painter. In 1832, while sailing home from Europe, he heard about the newly discovered electromagnet and came up with an idea for an electric telegraph. He had no idea that other inventors were already at work on the concept.

Morse spent the next several years developing a prototype and took on two partners, Leonard Gale and Alfred Vail, to help him. In 1838, he demonstrated his invention using Morse code, in which dots and dashes represented letters and numbers.

In 1843, Morse finally convinced a skeptical Congress to fund the construction of the first telegraph line in the United States, from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore. In May 1844, Morse sent the first official telegram over the line, with the message: "What hath God wrought!"

Over the next few years, private companies, using Morse's patent, set up telegraph lines around the Northeast. In 1851, the New York and Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company was founded; it would later change its name to Western Union. In 1861, Western Union finished the first transcontinental line across the United States. Five years later, the first successful permanent line across the Atlantic Ocean was laid and by the end of the century telegraph sys-

tems were in place in Africa, Asia and Australia. Because telegraph companies typically charged by the word, telegrams became known for their succinct prose--whether they contained happy or sad news. The word "stop," which was free, was used in place of a period, for which there was a charge. In 1933, Western Union introduced singing telegrams. During World War II, Americans came to dread the sight of Western Union couriers because the military used telegrams to inform families about soldiers' deaths.

Over the course of the 20th century, telegraph messages were largely replaced by cheap long-distance phone service, faxes and email. Western Union delivered its final telegram in January 2006.

Samuel Morse died wealthy and famous in New York City on April 2, 1872, at age 80.

ROSTER & FINANCES

33 full members
3 auxiliary members
\$1,904.83—money on hand

(Ed: In each issue for 2012 I'll try to remember to publish something from the archives. This short blurb was in the January, 2006 issue – Our very first edition. Where has the time gone?)

FOR MOVIE BUFFS

I'll leave you this month with a list of great Ham Radio movies.

- Pileup On The Orient Express
- Gone With The Wind - A Yagi Story
- Dxpedition To Skull Island By K1NG/KØNG
- Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Lid
- First BLØOD
- The Maltese Falklands
- To Live and Let Diode - ØØ73
- Casa Blanker
- Citizen Band
- Key Largo
- HamaLot - The Old DXer is at it again
- Silence Of The Hams - Starring Rachel Squelch
- Contact - Starring AL1IEN
- Zulu - The Ultimate PileUp!!
- Fifth Element - Story about a 4 element yagi starring Bruce Willis
- Custer's Last QSO - He left the Sabers, Gatling Guns & HT's at the Fort!!!
- ZULU Dawn - Durnford didn't do well either!!
- ZULU Dawn - GrayLine Prequel
- M1SH MASH - With RF Burns
- Gone With The Windom - The Sequel
- Nightmare On Elmer Street - With JA1SON
- VERTICAL!! Directed By Alfred Switchbox
- Name is James, Call is BØND - Agent ØØ73

THE PAST PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

(We welcome a familiar contributor to these hallowed pages. I hope that he notices that I saved the best until the last, well almost the last.)

This section might not be as elaborate as the past "Prez Corners" that you have known over the past 8 years, but what the heck. Is it because I cannot stop taking time to chat about communications? Not really. It's just something that I have become accustomed to do every month. Gee Darrel has been busy pestering me to meet the deadline. Then I would miss it by a day or two and I get a gentle nudge, "Hey, I have everything set to go except a hole in the cover page. (Gee, I wonder who he was talking to!!!)

So, why do I call it a circle? Well, everything goes round and round. So... why not create a new article within the "WRRRC Digital Dispatch" to keep things moving along.

So what's new with me? Not too much. I received a gift of a Cobra Ultra Lite antenna over the past holiday season. It will probably replace my G5RV which had an unfortunate meeting with a falling branch. It was not a pretty sight. It actually stretched one end of the antenna so the signals paths are not in a balanced mode. I use to get out all over the place but now, it's hard to reach Nova Scotia. Why? Maybe it's the unbalanced lengths of the sides, maybe it is because it is slightly sloped up more, or maybe there was more damage done within the balun than which I have measured. Sometimes it has a great match with an antenna tuner (depending upon the frequency), and other days, it's like chasing a cat, elusive, sly, and ya never know where is it going. But that is the fun of the experimentation part of our hobby. Try it, measure it, and if it does not work, try another solution. But that is the Methods Mechanical Engineer training in me. Document what you have done and make it better. Done....

So because I am now a "Past President", what do I do? Well, I'm still on the Board of Directors. I still am the contact of record of many things that I had to deal with in the past because many "outside organizations" do not follow our leadership changes. That is ok because I am working with President Tim Bell, KA1ZQX, to get him up to speed on what I have done and passing the torch on to him. Yes, the transition is something that takes time. As I have documented many things to transfer over to Tim, I have also forgotten a bunch! Many of the things the board has jointly remembered to do when the time came up. Like the annual dues, updating the ARRL Club page, our Special Events Designation, annual events, talking with organizations, and much, much, more. Eh, this is being human. But rest assured, we all know that because of "you", the members of the "West River Radio Club" or another club in the area, we could not have been as successful as we are today. We all help one another to get the job done. From our first deployment to getting the job done, you now see that we have closed the

circle. Assisting one another, helping the public during a disaster or a public event, we know what, how and when to do it.

I have said this many times over the past 8 years, but here it goes yet again. - It is because of the dedicated members of the West River Radio Club who make this united team work as one. We have a lot to be thankful for and we will continue to walk proud with your assistance. Thank you all for being there during my presidency and dedicating your time to assist the public as needed. I'm sure you will be there for many more years to come.

Until next month!

73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – Past President WRRC

Old & New
Officers



2012's Leaders



Our new Prez -
KA1ZQX, Tim