



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



May—2012

Volume IX—#IV

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 45 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

WK1L, Bro Frank Hagerty Education/VE Liaison

W1CWB, Chas Baker; Technical Consultant

N1TOX, John Borichevsky; Secretary/Treasurer

PREZ KORNER

Good day all, I hope all of you have been busy getting the antenna ready or the radios tuned up as the warm season approaches. We have a lot of activities approaching such as Skywarn Training, Girls on the Run, The RACES conference and the biggest one yet. . . Field Day. In past issues I have mentioned "will you be a doer?" Now is the time to shine! If you haven't ever participated in a communication event or Field Day, why not start this year. I learn best by watching, but after that, it gets old, so it's time to get the feet wet. I have a lot of fun each year not just by getting on the radio, but by getting together with my fellow hams. Saturday night of Field Day we have our annual pot luck supper, if you can't come to operate, come and have some good food. Questions, start by asking, you will be amazed by what you may hear!

See you at our next gathering on 8 May 2012 at Grace Cottage Hospital EMT Training room. Special time for this May session is: 6:30pm for Skywarn training, please pre-register @ http://cstar.cestm.albany.edu:7775/skywarn/skywarn_entry.htm

Till then, 73
KA1ZQX/Tim



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 May follows:

May 7—KA1ZQX, Tim

May 14—KB1J, Rich

May 21—K1KU, Darrel

May 28—WK1L, Frank

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 KA1ZQX, Tim at ka1zqx@arrl.net

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

AA1XU, Dick—May 3

AB1J, Janice—May 4

KA1TWV, Elaine—May 19

KB1KSR, Ed—May 1

W1ZS, Burt—May 25

FINANCES

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

42 Full members—3 Associate members
60% of the full members belong to the ARRL

Checking = \$1,814.31/Cash on hand = \$77.07



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people. - G. K. Chesterton

LOOK WHO'S 86

On Sunday, April 29 several WRRRC members joined the family and friends of KB1KSR, Ed Phoenix, at his and Lois's home in Townshend.

The occasion? It was a celebration of Ed's 86 birthday. And what a celebration it was:

- More delicious food than you'd ever want to consume in one lifetime
- Many great people to make conversation with
- A chance to meet many of Ed and Lois's offspring and family friends that this correspondent had never met before:

Distinguished WRRRC luminaries that I saw in attendance were:

WK1L, Brother Frank
KA1ZQX, Tim
KA1TWV, Elaine
K1KU, Darrel

And so, on behalf of all the members of the WRRRC we congratulate you on the achievement of this milestone. Your participation in club activities over the years is greatly appreciated. Your easy going and friendly manner makes you a person that everyone enjoys being with.

Very 73 and keep up the good work.



Ed shows off his new General ticket—and he did it when good old Morse was a requirement
(Photo from the WRRRC digital archives)

Past Prez Circle—May 2012

The school year is wrapping up!

As the college school year is drawing to its final days, one thinks about the past and how this past year slipped away. It is not hard to think about the beginning of the school year, which seemed like yesterday and now tomorrow is the end. Time just goes by quickly. So let the learning begin.

Over the past few months, we have seen many things happen in our world. Gas is way up in price, the weather has been funky, and the solar activity has been wild! So have you been on the air? Why not? License restrictions you say? Well we have a cure for that. The West River Radio Club has a team that will assist you getting that upgrade to your current license. From a beginner to becoming an Extra, we can assist. Just let the education team know what license level you wish to achieve, attend our classes (or study on your own) and attend one of our VE sessions to take the test. It's that simple.

Not sure if you are cut out for HF or maybe you do not know enough about it? Well, we have the cure for that also! ARRL Field Day 2012 is coming right around the corner. On June 23 – 24 from 2 PM on for 24 hours we will be running many modes of communication. Come and learn how to operate HF using voice (SSB), CW, and Digital (RTTY, PSK, SSTV and more). What's that? Your license will not allow you to operate the HF bands? Not to worry, we will have General, Advanced, and Extra class operators at the ready to let you operate the rigs and get on the air. We cannot do it alone. We need operators to get us through the 24 hours. Come and learn more about the hobby and have fun. And did I mention food? Yes there will be breaks for food. Ok, real contesters do not stop for food, but we make an exception.



So will you be coming to Field Day 2012? I bet there will be a spot in this fine publication with details about when and where, so I will not put it in here (because I usually mess that up!). It is a fun time to chat and talk with people all over the world. Plus Vermont is a highly sought after state! Once you throw out the W1RRC or WR1VT call sign and follow it up with "From Vermont", I hope you have your seat belts fastened because they will come in swarms at times. We hope you will come and continue your education of amateur radio and its operation. Learning is a never ending process and Field Day should be on your "Must Do" list, at least once. WARNING!! If you do it once, you will be back!!

Until next month!

73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – Past President WRRRC

RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

Harold S. Bride

You might ask, who is Harold Bride? Consider yourselves fortunate that I'm here to take you by the hand to lead you through some historical reminiscing.

Does the name *Titanic* ring a bell? Ah, there's a bit of history that you're probably aware of. Well, 22 year old Harold was a Marconi Operator on board that ill-fated ship, the Second Operator, to be exact. The Senior Marconi Operator was one Jack Phillips.

Harold Sydney Bride was born in England in 1890. After primary school made decided that he wanted to become a wireless operator and worked in the family business to pay for his training. He completed his training in 1911 and began working for Marconi as a wireless operator, first on the Haverford, then Beaverford, the LaFrance, Lusitania, and Anselm.

In 1912 he joined the White Star Line ocean liner RMS Titanic as Junior Wireless Operator and assistant to John "Jack" Phillips of Ireland.

On April 10 the Titanic set sail on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England bound for New York. Their job consisted of sending out passenger's personal messages and receiving iceberg reports from other ships.

On the fateful evening of April 14, 2012 Bride had gone to bed early, knowing that he had to relieve Jack at midnight, two hours earlier than normal. The wireless had not been working normally and Jack had been working feverishly to catch up on a backlog of passenger messages going to Cape Race, Newfoundland.

The iceberg was hit at 11:40 PM. Bride soon woke up and asked Phillips what had happened. Captain Edward Smith soon came into the radio room and told Bride and Phillips to be ready to send out the distress call. He came in later again telling them to send out the call and giving them the ship's position.

Phillips began sending out CQD and Bride took messages to the Captain concerning which ships were coming to their aid. The RMS Carpathia, the closest ship to respond, would not reach them until the Titanic had sunk.

Some enlightenment on CQD is called for. This was the original distress call. It was based on the universal CQ used by early telegraphers to alert stations along the line of precautionary measures that should be taken. The Marconi company had added the letter "D" to make it into a distress call. The real meaning then, was *all stations distress*.

CQD was never adopted as an international standard since it could be mistaken for a general call "CQ" if the reception was poor. At the second International Radiotelegraphic Convention, held in Berlin in 1906, Germany's Notzeichen distress signal of three-dots/three-dashes/three-dots was adopted as the interna-

tional Morse code distress signal. This distress signal soon became known as "SOS". Germany had first adopted this distress signal in regulations effective April 1, 1905.

Ironically, Bride jokingly suggested to Phillips that he use the new SOS, thinking that it might be the only time he would get to use it. Phillips then began to alternate between the two.

When power to the wireless was almost gone Captain Smith arrived and told the men that they had done their duty and that they were relieved. Phillips continued working while Bride gathered some money and personal belongings.

When his back was turned a crew member had sneaked in and was taking Phillips' life vest. Bride saw what was happening and grabbed the man while Phillips stood up and knocked him out. Water was beginning to flood the boat deck as they ran out of the wireless room and Bride began helping remove one of the last two lifeboats off the roof of the officer's quarters.

The crew was unable to launch the boat before it was washed off the deck upside down. Bride was also washed off the deck and found himself beneath the overturned boat. He swam out from under and climbed onto the boat, on which he and fifteen other men were able to survive, although the collapsible was waterlogged and slowly sinking.

Phillips also made it to this boat, but died shortly before rescue arrived. Bride and the others were later assisted into other lifeboats and eventually taken aboard the RMS Carpathia.

On the Carpathia, the seriously injured Bride rested, and later helped the Carpathia's wireless operator, Harold Cottam, send out the large number of personal messages from the survivors.

From the Encyclopedia Titanica we learn that Bride and Cottam had met before the disaster and were good friends. After the tragedy they stayed in contact for many years.



(Ed. Note: Mark, K1PU, is a reader of our Digital Dispatch and has submitted the below for you edification. He won the New England QSO Party Plaque sponsored by the WRRRC a couple of years ago.)

TELLING YOUR AGE VIA SOLAR CYCLES

I remember the 'ramp up' of 21 (I started in 1976, was WN1ZEK then). Guess that Ham's can use an alternative 'age' system, count solar cycles and multiply by 11, kind of like 'dog years'.

Maybe we can call them 'solar years'? So since I stared out at the bottom of cycle 20, I'm "4 1/2" now! (4.5 x 11 works out to be a little short of my actual age, but close).

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

May 16: RACES drill

May 19: Girls on the Run

May 26: Monthly meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital. The meeting begins at 19:00L

May 26: The monthly meeting at the Panasian Restaurant by Staples in Brattleboro is cancelled for May because of the Memorial Day weekend.

June 12: Regular meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital. We start at 19:00L

June 22—24: Field Day. Contact K1KU, Darrel, if you're interested in being a part of the show this year. k1ku@arri.net

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

A VISIT TO HQ

The response to an "are you interested in a trip to Newington" query in the February 2012 Minutes netted six respondents. I'm pleased to announce that the visit to ARRL HQ was made on April 16 and that the following participants had a great time:

N1TOX, John
W1CWB, Chas
WK1L, Frank
KB1J, Rich
KA1ZQX, Tim
K1KU, Darrel

We all piled into Chas's van at the Price Chopper parking lot at 8 AM and arrived at HQ in plenty of time for a 10 AM tour. Our very able tour leader was W1RGC, Richard. We got to see it all and then some:

- The DXCC and LoTW offices
- League memorabilia from the early days when TOM (The Old Man), Hiram Percy Maxim was starting to get the ball rolling.
- The offices where QST is put together on PCs
- The testing lab
- The licensing, education, and training area. WK1L was able to get stocked up on test materials here.
- The IT area

The public is not normally allowed in this area, but the honcho of this part of the operation heard the word "Putney" as we passed his office. As he used to live in this fair city he popped his head out to see who these Putneyites were. Once he found out that John and Chas were IT guys we were invited to peek at the mass of servers, computers and wire that somehow get hooked up to make good things happen.

Right before noon we headed across the parking lot to visit W1AW and try our hand at operating a couple of several stations you'll find there. This is the building from which emanates the numerous bulletins, CW code practice, and announcements via phone, RTTY, CW, and probably another mode or two I'm not aware of.

There was a solar storm going on that day so conditions were pretty stinko. John, N1TOX, did manage to roust Rob Schell, W1RVT, on 80 meters at the VEM RACES communications center (N1VEM) and several of us had a chat with him.



**K1KU—KA1ZQX
N1TOX—KB1J
WK1L**

**WK1L
Operating
W1AW**



**KA1ZQX
Operating
W1AW**

**N1TOX
Operating
W1AW**

