



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



September—2012

Volume VII—#VII

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:

KA1ZQX, Tim Bell; President
KB1J, Rich Austin; VP
WK1L, Bro Frank Hagerty ED/VE Liaison
N1TOX, John Borichevsky; Secretary/Treasurer
K1KU, Darrel Daley; Newsletter Editor
W1CWB, Chas Baker; Technical Consultant

THE PREZ KORNER

Another month has passed, I hope all of you were able to enjoy the nice weather this summer. It seems like just last week we were talking about Field day. Looking at the calendar, it's been two months already! Where has the time gone? We had a successful Field Day this year even though we had to deal with varied issues. We mourned the loss of a long time friend, Ed (KB1KSR) SK, and quite a few of us were not able to be there. I enjoyed a nice vacation on the Cape (not!) during this time period. I really missed being at Field Day this year. There is always good food, and friendship (renewed) many times over. If you haven't been able to participate in Field Day, start planning now. Tweak that radio, tune up the antenna, and prep your goody bag.

A year has come and gone since hurricane Irene, and there are still many scars visible. We as ham radio operators cannot let our guard down. Emergencies can happen at a moments notice. Is your "go" bag ready? Are your batteries charged, or checked lately? The number of hours radio operator's put in last year taxed operators to the limit. Are you ready for the next event, whether it be a drill or a real emergency?

I would like to express my thanks to Dick, AA1XU for his generosity at the last meeting as we raised \$143 with items he donated to the club for an auction which took place at the meeting. We have been blessed with many talented and giving people in our club. That's what makes our club special! Keep up the good work.

Remember our next meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each

month @ 7pm, Grace Cottage Hospital. Hope to see you all soon, take care and be safe as always!

Till then, 73
KA1ZQX/Tim

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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 September follows:

3rd—W1CWB, Chas
10th—KB1J, Rich
17th—WK1L, Frank
24th—KA1ZQX, Tim

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

How far that little candle throws his little beam! So shines a good deed in a naughty world –
William Shakespeare

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

KD6MPY, Sean—09/16



VE SESSION

When: Friday, September 7 at 7 PM

Where: 52 Old Depot Road in Putney, VT

This road runs behind People's Bank on Main Street/Route #5 in Putney

What: Pre-registration is required

Frank, WK1L, can be contacted at 802-355-0345 or hagertysse@myfairpoint.net

If you know someone who is ready to join this wonderful hobby let them know.

If you're a VE also advise Frank of your intent to participate or not on that evening.

A rumor is floating around Putney that participating VEs may enjoy some of Bro. Frank's pizza prior to the test session. Those of us who have sampled this mouthwatering treat on more than one occasion are praying that the rumor is true.



RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

Is travel really broadening?

It all depends on how much you eat. If you know me at all then you know that you should never expect to hear a *good* joke.



Our marriage has been blessed in that we both like to travel. If we were richer we'd probably do more than we do. I'm not complaining, though. We're rich in many ways.

In our case the urge to travel actually grows as we advance in years. The answer is simple; if we don't travel now we may not be healthy enough to take this or that trip next year. The other motivation is to spend "it" all now or the kids will spend it after we're gone and we won't have any say in how it's used.

And so, for the above reasons we made our ??? trip to Alaska in August and we'll do our third trip to Japan before the year is out. And for those of you who are wondering how he's going to work Ham radio into this concoction, well, read on...

Prior to our trip to Japan in 2010 I made some contacts via the internet and the FISTS Club. As a result of those exchanges Marion and I had a tour of a first class ham shack in Sapporo, a visit to a Ham Radio store and a great dine out at the Sakagura Restaurant near our hotel. What a great way to have fun and foster international good will at the same time.

On both of our trips to England we stayed with GONLM, Colin. In 1996 as G/KL7DN I worked some CW DX using Colin's rig and antenna. The propagation gods even cooperated enough so that I could work W1ZS in Brattleboro, VT for a scheduled QSO.

I used to be a regular on the Bermuda net each Sunday AM. When a New York Ham learned that we'd soon be traveling there he arranged a schedule with an American who was working over there for a couple years and had a station set up in his rental. I got busy and got a reciprocal license so that I could work him from VP9 land. My call then became KL7DN/VP9.

Then there's Alaska, our favorite home away from home. I want to break it to you easy like, but these are NOT mountains you have in Vermont. At the most they are hills – very pretty and green, but they are not

mountains. I've made 3-4 flights to our neighbor's bush camp at the base of the Alaska Range and never cease to marvel at the bigness of it all.

As Robert Service, the poet laureate of the North Country, so aptly said,
*It's the great, big, broad land 'way up yonder,
It's the forests where silence has lease;
It's the beauty that thrills me with wonder,
It's the stillness that fills me with peace*

On a couple of trips I tossed in the Windom I use for Field Day or the 40-10 meter wire vertical with elevated radials that has also seen service during FD. Oh yes, the FT-890 I owned then put the fire in the wire.

OK, you say, all well and good, but that's a bit too much for my tastes or pocket book. Fret not; there are good travel opportunities right in the neighborhood, and I can prove it.

There's the IOTA (Islands on the Air) contest every July. One of my goals is to find some hams who like to operate portable and find a nearby island to activate for that weekend – maybe the Isle of Shoals or some island off the coast of ME. I've heard that they have a few.

In May we have the New England QSO Party. I try to get on from home each year to hand out Windham County to the deserving. Wouldn't it be more exciting, though, to head up north to one of those rare VT counties, Essex comes to mind, and set up at a campground to work the pileups.

There is also the ARLHS (Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society) I've activated several in years gone by and look forward to doing more while still able. There are even lighthouses in VT crying out to have a station setup nearby.

There you have it, whatever "it" is. Maybe you'll be motivated to do some operating where you can add a /P to your call. If you've never done it, you'll just have to take my word for it, and that word is, IT'S FUN!"



A view of the Alaska Range from the porch of Bob's bush camp

K1KU goes into his Saint Francis mode and feeds a "camp robber"



Past Prez Circle

Where is the Younger Generation?

It's been a couple of months that I have written anything of interest. Oh come on now, I hear the moans and groans of "Here he goes again"! Well, I've been busy with co-authoring multiple CERT deployment AAR's, new procedures at work, getting ready for the school year to start and bam, its here!

Last weekend I was in Wilmington doing a presentation for CERT and we had a wonderful turn out. It was a great two hour presentation and Q & A session following with many great questions. One of the questions that was asked of us got me to thinking, "why are most of the people who are here all over the age of 40? Where are the younger people?"

Well, this is a national issue for any volunteer program where the younger folks would rather play with their PC's, phones, game consoles and not have to interact with the public face to face. Maybe they are looking at the money aspect also, I just do not know. They would rather text them on their phones, a web portal page (like Facebook), blow them up in a simulated game on the internet or some means that gives them instant satisfaction of a task.

Back when I was young (I know you all are thinking yeah, he is old!!) I was a volunteer fire fighter in my home town during my high school and college days. There were plenty of fun things to do. Work at the town carnival, Bingo every weekend, the Tuesday night radio check at the station, parades, search for lost animals, and much more. This was all rewarding to me as I gave back to the community, plus it filled in some "free time" I had from work. And there were many of my friends who did the same thing too. That made it fun.

Deploying to an emergency situation involves downtime from their social activities. So maybe that is it. Disconnected from the outside world, where are my friends and buddies? I don't know what to do when they are not there. How will I cope and know that the task I performed as done well enough? Here one would think that the satisfaction of a job well done would be participating in a real life adventure rather than the cyber life. Meeting new people, interacting with the public, having a social life and just plain talking

So that is how I feel the "younger generation" spends its time. Let us all see if we can get them involved in our hobby or a volunteer gig. Hang up the phones. Put down that game controller and mingle with people. Let's show them how to build an antenna and help a community, become a team member and mentor them along.

Until next month!

73

de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – Past President WRRRC



JH8RZJ, Kai with his 5 Band DXCC plaque behind him



JA8DKJ with some of his toys



JA8LWU, JA8UUM, JJ8KGZ, K1KU, JA8KDJ



JA8EFI's Ham store

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

September 5: RACES drill

September 7: VE session. See notice elsewhere in this issue

September 11: Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L.

September 19: Vermont Health Care Network drill

September 15-16: Scandavian Activity Contest, CW. See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestdetails.php?ref=121> for details

September 29: Regularly scheduled Board of Director's meeting at the Panasian Restaurant by Staples in Brattleboro—11:30

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

THANKS, DICK WE'RE RICHER

I was unable to attend our last meeting on August 14 as we were; you guessed it, travelling again.

It's too bad that I missed out as my spies inform me that AA1XU, Dick, brought along many goodies for auctioning off. Now when I say *goodies* in referring to Dick's possessions I mean **GOODIES**. We've known Dick and his lovely wife, Jan, AB1JY, for several years now and, believe me, Dick buys goodies, whether it's Ham gear or otherwise.

I also learned from my spies that the goodies were:

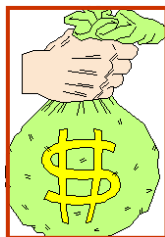
- More Wire Antenna's – ARRL Book
- Scanner
- MFJ Speaker
- Husky Socket Set
- Pocket Knife
- GMRS Radio Set
- Box Fan, 12V
- Scientific Calculator
- Astatic D-104 Mic

Thanks, Dick. As a result of your generosity the WRRC is \$143 richer.

FINANCES

August Financial Statement

Checking:	\$2,310.40
Deposit:	\$143.00
Expenses:	(\$130.00)
Cash on Hand :	\$23.00
Total funds:	\$2,346.40



The WRRC roving photographer recently discovered Bro Frank, WK1L, honing up his culinary skills under the tutelage of KB1OQH, Paul

Does this mean that we might be eating high on the hog at our 2013 Field Day? (Pun intended!)



That same photographer also found the duo of KA1ZQX, Tim and Frank, WK1L checking out the goodies at Boxboro. Another member in attendance was W2NH, Gordon

SPEAKING OF FLEA MARKETS

WHITE MOUNTAIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
FLEA MARKET
AMATEUR RADIO, ANTIQUE RADIO, RADIO CONTROL,
ELECTRONICS
SATURDAY, September 29, 2012
8:30 AM-1:30 PM - (SET UP: 7:00 AM-8:30 AM)

AT OUR NEW LOCATION
CONWAY RECREATION CENTER*
1634 EAST MAIN STREET
CENTER CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03813

REFRESHMENTS
OUTLET SHOPPING FOR XYLS or XYMs
VE SESSION AT 1:30 PM
(Registration anytime at Flea Market)
TALK IN: 145.450 PL 100Hz
Contact: Thaire Bryant, W2APF
603-447-2376, 508-245-3522
W2APF@Hughes.net

c/o White Mountain Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 1932, Conway, NH 03818
ADMISSION: \$5.00 TABLES: \$15.00
(Limit: 100 lbs, per table)

For updates and prizes go to www.w1mwv.com



How's that for another great (would you believe so so?) issue of the Digital Dispatch.

Thanks and contributions for future issues are gladly received at k1ku@myfairpoint.net.

In the meantime turn the page for a fun thing taken from the 2006 archives—something contributed by former member, Grant, AA1T.

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK



(Ed note: Our thanks to Grant, AA1T for the below. It has to do with how to handle guests in your shack. This appeared in the July 2006 issue of Digital Dispatch. Last heard from, Grant was living in CT and volunteering as a tour guide at the League.)

NOTICE TO ALL VISITORS

WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS IS AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION LICENSED AS (**Your call goes here**) BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, DC. BEFORE YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS, HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

- 1) The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here as it creates marital conflicts.
- 2) No, we cannot send a message to your brother in Hong Kong. We suggest you call Western Union.
- 3) This is strictly a hobby; we do not have the facilities or the time to fool around with TV sets, radios or hi-fi. We suggest that you see a serviceman.
- 4) Yes, the antenna in the backyard is essential to the operation of the equipment.
- 5) The farthest station we have contacted has been in Ubangiland.
- 6) The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmation of contacts made with other stations.
- 7) It is technically impossible for this station's equipment to interfere with television reception, telephones or stereo systems. Any interference problems of that nature are caused by design flaws in the home-entertainment devices themselves.
- 8) An Amateur Radio station may only be operated by a highly qualified, technically skilled electronics expert. It takes dedication, training and intelligence to reach the level of competence that justifies one to be licensed by the United States Federal Government. Therefore, it is not considered inappropriate to show proper awe, respect and general obsequiousness when I discuss my hobby or operate the controls.

--- FURTHERMORE ---

IF YOU ARE GRANTED THE EXTREME HONOR OF BEING INVITED TO SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE, PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES:

Speak in a low and soothing tone.

Do not disagree with me in any manner.

Say no bad words and tell no off-color jokes.

It is customary for guests to make complimentary remarks about this station and its licensed operator when talking to other hams on the air.

DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING, TURN ANY KNOBS, SIT ON EQUIPMENT, ETC. I HAVE LOST SEVERAL VISITORS BY ELECTROCUTION IN THE PAST FEW