



# DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the  
West River Radio Club



November—2012

Volume VII—#IX

## 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 PRESIDENT'S KORNER

**D**uring this year I have asked you "will you be a doer". Well, how is it going and what have you accomplished this year? Our next meeting will be a review of what we as a group have accomplished. It will be a good time to share what you have accomplished. Have you built a new antenna, radio, a gadget or did you buy that new gadget you have been always wanting!

Well it's getting close to colder/winter weather. It's about time to get that antenna up or have you done it before cold weather? Remember to be ready for any emergency by having everything charged and ready. Are you ready to upgrade yet? It's about project time. Is there a project you want to share with the group? If you can't come to a meeting, you could share it in the Digital Dispatch by writing it up. Our editor is always willing to accept any article he receives each month.

This year is about gone. It's been a great year. I want to personally invite everyone to our annual Christmas Pot luck/Annual meeting that will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December at Grace Cottage Hospital EMT Training room. We will have more information to follow on that, but before that it's time to reflect on what we are thankful for. We have so many things to be thankful for. Until next time, see you all soon.

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 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](mailto:n1tox@comcast.net)

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing - that's why we recommend it daily.

Zig Ziglar

## RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

### *Having fun in Japan with family and Hams*

In September of this year my wife, Marion, and I made our third trip to Japan in the last 10 years. In case you ask, yes, we love Japan, its scenery and its people. We also love our family that lives there – a son, his wife and three year old granddaughter (drum roll please) **THE AMAZING AMANDA**. We refer to her as our favorite JAP, Japanese American Princess. Her Mother insists, though, that she thinks she's an Empress.

Here are some first-hand observations on the Japanese and their culture.

Yes, the children are spoiled. A friend who knows the Japan culture VERY well tells us that parents do this because once the child enters their very rigid school system the entire weight of thousands of years of Japanese culture and the full force of the empire falls upon them.

Theirs is a homogeneous society. On a trip there in

2010 and this one in 2012 we encountered one other Caucasian – our son.

Everything is small in Japan. This includes the people. At 5'6" I am taller than most Japanese. Our son is 6' tall so he definitely stands out in a crowd.  
Other small items:

The furniture such as chairs, couches, and beds. Add sinks to that. In fact, most Japanese don't sleep on beds, but on futons laid on the floor.

This small furniture makes it more difficult for us older folks to arise from a sitting position as we're closer to the floor than here in the USA.

They have a healthy diet – Lots of fish, fruit, greens, and chicken...BUT, it tends to be salty

All their rice is of the white, refined variety

Speaking of rice they eat a LOT of it and keep rice makers going around the clock, much like some Americans always have the coffee pot on.

Miso soup is another staple. This soup is made from soybean stock. By itself soybean are good for you. This is a salty stock, though, and that's not so good.

Smoking is not frowned upon as it is here in the US. Like some here their teenagers dress outlandishly.

Sumo wrestling is very popular over there, as well as baseball.

I saw one guy with a large belt buckle.

Now the part about Hams. I've heard more than one comment from a non-Ham that the internet will be the death knell for Amateur Radio. Don't hold your breath.

In 2010 I was able to set up a meeting with several Hams on Hokkaido Island. Without the internet this would have been next to impossible. I've stayed in touch with a couple of them since then and easily arranged another meeting for our trip on September, 2012.

This time I was able to operate portable from the station of JA8DKJ, Takeshi. Eight of us also met again at the same restaurant where we dined in 2010. In the list of my Japanese Ham friends note that, along with their JA call sign, they also have a US call. Some of them are VEs with the W5YI VE program. If you're so inclined look up a few of these guys on QRZ and learn more about them.

Even as I type arrangements are underway to meet some of them at Dayton in 2013. Many of them make the trek each year.

As readers of my Runnin' on Empty column each month know, I'm big on the *fostering international good will* purpose of the Amateur Service. When you're dealing with the Japanese people this is an easy requirement.

They are polite, gracious, and civil beyond your greatest expectations. Like their counterparts in the US and

probably other countries, they like to have fun and do a lot of good natured teasing of each other.

Stay tuned for a story with pictures on Dayton 2013.

Here's a list of some of my JA Ham friends;

- JA8LRG/N5RG – Fumi
- JA8VE/W1VX – Saito (Saito worked as an engineer for NEC for 39 years.)
- JJ8KGZ/KC2RTP - Hiroto (Leo) – Leo works as a representative for a company that imports farm implements.
- JA8LWU/W2JA – Nobu
- JA8DKJ, Takeshi – I used his station for some portable JA8 operating.
- JA8EFI/W61B, Ryuichi. Ryuichi owns and operates a Ham radio store in Sapporo. Ryuichi is also flies and has a private pilot license.
- JA8UUM/WF6U - Masa



K1KU JJ8KGZ, Hiroto-Marion



Group



JJ8LRG, Fumi—JA8VE, Saito



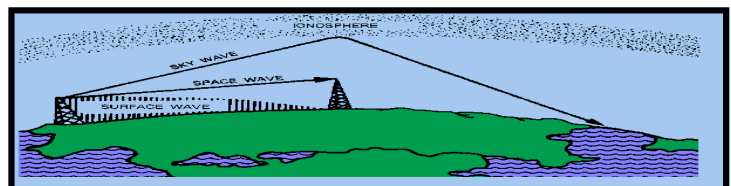
K1KU operates JA8DKJ



JA8DKJ, Takeshi



JA8EFI, Ryuichi-JA8VE, Saito



## WKBK TOUR

It was a wonderful learning experience as well as a fun time. Our thanks to W1IRA, Ira Wilner, for arranging the whole thing. His official title is Chief Engineer of the Monadnock Radio Group and Brattleboro Radio Group for the station. He also has responsibilities as a regional engineering manager for Saga's clusters in Cheshire and Windham counties.

WKBK is an AM station located at 1290 on your dial with a simulcast on 104.1 FM. Marion and I listen to it a lot out here in the Putney wilds. You can learn more at <http://www.wbkam.com/>

And just who did the learning and had the fun? The following club members and guests, that's who:

W1IRA – the first rate tour guide.  
WK1L, Bro Frank  
W2NH, Gordon  
KB1J, Rich  
K1KU, Darrel  
Ed Pirogue, a visitor at our last club meeting and, we hope, a soon to be Ham.

The WKBK station is located at the end of Stanhope Avenue in Keene, NH. We were treated to an up close look at several of the station's studios and transmitters. I can't speak for the others, but I've never visited a real live radio station and I was impressed, even if I didn't understand all of the terminology.

A lot of that terminology had to do with LANs, WANs, (Well, I do savvy those acronyms) and the servers that handle the automation of the station a lot of the time.

After a thorough tour of the station we jumped in our vehicles and drove up to the tower site in Walpole. It's a good neck exercise to look up as the steel stretches up 500 feet. Ira also provided a tour of the building by the tower and all of the associated goodies in it.

So, once again, thanks to Ira, W1IRA, for taking some time out of his weekend schedule to give those in attendance a good learning experience.

## W1ECO/PAUL FRELICH - SK

With sadness I announce the passing of one of our members, Paul "Hap" Frelich, W1ECO on September 16, 2012. Paul was 91 years old and had been a Ham since he was sixteen.

Paul served in WWII where he taught radio communications for the Army Signal Corps. After the war he worked for Raytheon and General Instrument Corporation. He retired as Principal Engineer for Undersea Systems. He patented a Doppler Navigation System and a Sonar Transducer. He held "Top Secret" security clearance.

It was our pleasure having Hap as a member of the WRRRC. His nickname and last name fit him to a tee.

In German Frelich means happy. He seemed to wear a perpetual smile on his face.

We enjoyed his presence every time that Paul was able to attend a meeting of club event. He was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word and will be missed.

Requiem in Pacem

## RACES DRILL

On September 5 to following members of the WRRRC, along with some guests from the more northern part of the Green Mountain State took part in a VY drill.

As always, heartfelt thanks are offered to these volunteers and their efforts at fulfilling a vital part of our purpose as spelled out in Part 97. For some of us who haven't tested in a while and whose memory is a bit on the forgetful side, as is mine, I've listed them below as a refresher.

### §97.1 Basis and purpose.-

The rules and regulations in this Part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Darrel Daley – K1KU  
Frank Hagerty – WK1L  
Mark Kracum – KB1HCG  
Robin Conway – N1WWW/Robin Conway from Shoreham, VT  
Kathi Walbridge – K1WAL/Kathi Walbridge from Shelburne, VT  
Gaila Gulack – KB1OQG  
Chuck Wojack – K1EGL  
Jack Adams – N1HOS  
Chas Baker – W1CWB  
John Borichevsky – N1TOX  
Allan McLane – N1HWI

## UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

**November 13:** Regular scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital. The meeting begins at 19:00L. The program will consist of a review of our activities in 2012.

**November 24:** As is our custom there will be NO monthly dine out at the PanAsian Restaurant because the date falls on the Thanksgiving weekend. You shouldn't have to work too hard to find many things to be thankful for.

**December 1, 2012:** Join us for yet another annual meeting. It will be held in the same location as our regular meeting and will consist of a mini hamfest (bring your junkie), a potluck lunch and election of officers for 2013.

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

## THE CLOSERS

(Ed: Here are some humor samplings from back issues. I need something to fill in all this white space.)

For you CW, AKA country western, fans here are a few great titles from yester year.

1. "I hear that QRM a comin'" - Johnny Cash
2. "Moms don't let your babies grow up to be Ham operators"
3. "I'm glad to be a Ham Operators Daughter" - Loretta Lynn
4. "My Son calls another Ham Daddy" - Hank Williams
5. "John Henry was a Brass Pounding Man"
6. "Put Your sweet lips a little closer to the Mike" - R. F. Burns
7. "I go on talking after Midnight" - Patsy Cline
8. "Since My final tubes left Me" - Elvis Presley
9. "My K-E-N-W-O-O-D gets a new Final today" - Tammy Wynette
10. "Don't come Home drinking with Hamming on your mind."

Some of you might be interested in this reward.

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of Hopalong Capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a Weston Primary cell, where he had been Clamped in Ions awaiting the Gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn Coil named Milli Henry, who was found Choked and robbed of valuable Joules. He is armed with a Carbon Rod and is a Potential killer.

Hopalong Capacity is also charged with driving a DC motor over the Wheatstone bridge refusing to let the Band Pass. If encountered he may offer Series Resistance.

The Electromotive Force spent the night searching for him in the Magnetic Field where he had gone to Earth. They had no success and believed Capacity returned Ohm via a Short Circuit. He was last seen, riding a Kilocycle with his friend, Eddy Current, who was playing "Ohm on the Range" on his Harmonic.

(Reprinted from the SBE Newsletter, Dallas Chapter).

## Ten Undeniable Ham Truths

William Reuter (AE0BR) February 28, 2005

I know these have been here before, but it is fun to revisit them. I can relate to 9 out of 10!

1. That antenna is only temporary . . .
2. "If my wife ever finds out what this stuff cost, I'm a dead man..."
3. The worthless stuff thrown away today shows up on eBay tomorrow.
4. If you can't sneak it in through the basement window, bring it in through the front door wrapped in a fur coat.
5. You have absolutely no trouble finding your car in a crowded parking lot. (Unless you're at a Hamfest.)
6. One of your antennas or piece of gear that you seldom ever if at all use develops a problem, now all of a sudden you must get it fixed as if you use it daily.
7. The XYL will ALWAYS need help with something DURING a QSO, never before or after the QSO.
8. During tornado watches and warnings, we are more concerned about our antennas coming down than we are about our house being blown up.
9. Computer Nerds think that Hams are the real weirdo's.
10. "Christmas" and or "birthday" come about 15 times per year (or whenever an unbudgeted radio purchase comes up). Technically, I shouldn't be getting any more "presents" for the next 10 years!

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

