



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



December—2012

Volume VII—#X

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

By the time you read this, we most likely be done with our WRRRC Annual Meeting. It has been a pleasure to be your President this last year and still envision what WRRRC (West River Radio club) can do. We will be entering our 10th year this year and we couldn't have done it without all of you. I have made many comments about "will you be a doer" this year? Well, how have you done? We have done many community communication events, and those of you who wear the many different hats, were even busier! We have had classes, held test sessions and Field Day. Our meeting nights are always a way to learn something as we always try to focus on ways to learn something new each meeting.

If there is something you would like to see done at a meeting? Is there something you would like to share? As always, just let the board of directors know and we will try and get it in the schedule. It has been a great year, what can you do to help make this 10th year even better. See you all soon, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Till then, 73
KA1ZQX/Tim

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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.

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 ka1zqx@arrl.net

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The only thing necessary for evil to flourish is for good men to do nothing. – Edmund Burke

Past Prez Circle

Fun Facts – Where are all the Hams in Vermont?

While surfing the net the other night, I came across a website that I have seen and used many of times. It was the ARRL Website www.arrl.org. From there I was looking around at the redesigned site and things seem to make sense now that the formatting is much better than what it was years ago. Remember when the search engine did not work, the layout was nasty and well, it was hard to navigate. Now, I have been to the site for specific things by doing a Google search and it took me to where I needed to be. Sometimes that is the easy way around the world of the wacky web. But today, it is a destination for your amateur radio information.

While visiting the ARRL site, I became interested in looking at the statistics of the VE Session section. I wanted to see how many VE sessions that I have assisted in over the past years. That number is 14 sessions, if you are interested. Then I thought that it has been years since I did a "review of the state" licensed and active amateur radio operators. So here is the compiled list of things I found that you really do not need to know, but what the heck, you can read it anyway!

Here in the United States of America, there are currently 758,946 active licensed amateur radio operators spreading his/her signal around the world. The number of licensed operator per class breakdown is:

Novice Class – 15,768
 Technician Class – 371,007
 Technician + Class – 1
 General Class – 168,301
 Advanced Class – 58,663
 Amateur Extra Class – 133,413
 Club Calls – 11,748

In the State of Vermont, there are 2,305 Active Licensed Amateur Radio calls with a Vermont address. This represents about 0.304% of all amateur radio license holders in the United States of America reside in Vermont. The number of licensed operator per class breakdown is:



Novice Class – 36
 Technician Class – 1055
 Technician + Class – 0
 General Class – 534
 Advanced Class – 175
 Amateur Extra Class – 443
 Club Calls – 62

Of these 2,305 licensed amateur operators within the State of Vermont, there are 110 licensed operators in Windham County.

On the Vermont Emergency Communications side of this wonderful hobby, the Vermont Emergency Management RACES program has a total of 209 members enlisted volunteering their time and equipment when the need is there. There are also 203 ARES members in Vermont. Now many of the ARES members also belong to VEM RACES so these mostly are the same people as dual membership is always suggested in RACES and VT ARES. In Windham County we have 17 RACES/ARES WRRRC members maintaining emergency communications within the area.

Another interesting bit of information to pass along is that Vermont has 137 Volunteer Examiners! The West River Radio Club has 8 Volunteer Examiners in our team ready to administer any licensing exam you require.

Now for the West River Radio Club information compiled for the knowledge of all, we currently have 35 Full members of which 27 of our members belong to ARRL giving us a 76% membership ratio for our ARRL Club Affiliation. We also have 4 Auxiliary members helping us keep the ship upright.

Our checking account has \$2,278.75 in it as of 10/31/2012. No deposits have been made since.

So with this little bit of information that I have passed along to you for your knowledge, I know you will remember it as there will be a final exam! In closing, we hope you have a wonderful and safe holiday season and we are looking forward to a brighter 2013! Thanks for all of your help and support to WRRRC and the ever enhancing art of amateur radio and emergency communications!

Until next year!
73

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de N1TOX
John Borichevsky – Past President WRRRC

Statistical information was obtained by the following websites on 11/28/12

- <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls> - FCC Wireless Website
- <http://www.arrl.org> – ARRL League Website
- <http://vem.vermont.gov/programs/races> - VEM RACES Website
- <http://vtares.org/> - VT ARES Website
- <http://www.vanityhq.com>
- <http://www.qrz.com>



AN OLDIE BUT GOODIE

Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's *Sun*, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

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DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.
 Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
 Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'
 Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

VIRGINIA O'HANLON.
 115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET."
 VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children

nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



(Ed: The following information was received from Dick, AA1XU. Good info if you're looking for gear or want to dump some. Thanks, Dick.)

Greetings all,

Do you want/need to clean out that Ham Sty before your better-half does it for you? Then brothers and sisters, we have just the place for you!

Advertise your unwanted Ham gear, computers and other Amateur related items on the Mount Tom Amateur Radio Association [MTARA] Swap Net.

The MTARA Swap-Net meets each Wednesday, following the MTARA's information net, around 8 PM.

To ensure maximum coverage and participation on the Swap-Net, the MTARA links 146.940 - PL 127.3 and 147.000 + PL 127.3 (if in operation) repeaters for the duration of the Swap-Net! So, if you have gear to swap, or gear your looking for...this is the place to be on Wednesdays.

This message is sent once a month to the WMAR list to remind users of the MTARA Swap-Net.

Thank you for being a member of the WMAR e-mail list.

73,
Richard - N1KXR
Richard - KD1XP
WMAR List-Owners



UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

January 5-6: ARRL RTTY Roundup—A digital favorite. Scan the bands for your editor. He'll be there. Rules at <http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup>

January 8: Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L. The program will be *Winlink for Emcomm*. Come have a "hands on" communication night.

January 26: Monthly Board meeting at the PanAsian Restaurant in Brattleboro by Staples.

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

ANNUAL MEETING

The following members and friends of the West River Radio Club met on December 1 at Grace Cottage Hospital to close off yet another year. This is the ninth year that the WRRRC has had a presence in Southern Vermont and a word of thanks goes out to all who have lent their support to keep us plugging along.

Our small but vibrant and enthusiastic cadre of members has accomplished a lot in those nine years. We've played a big part in EmComm activities, primarily via the Vermont RACES program. We continue to hone our emergency operating skills in June of each year at Field Day.

Many of our members assist in several public service events each year. The club continues to offer VE Sessions and Ham classes each year. Our meetings programs that offer the opportunity to increase our knowledge of communication and computer related topics. We never miss a year of having Skywarn training.

As at past annual meetings we were we were once again blessed with some great food and camaraderie. Those who enjoyed themselves immensely were:

WK1I, Bro Frank
K1KU, Darrel
Marion Daley
W1CWB, Chas
N1TOX, John
Sue Borichevsky
KB1HXG, Mark
KA1CYZ, Jenifer
Ed Pirog
N1XSS, Rob
KB1YCD, Mary Peterson
Rich, Peterson – Mary's OM
KA1TWV, Elaine
KA1ZQX, Tim

Liz Bell
 KB1J, Rich
 W1IRA, Ira
 W2NH, Gordon
 KB1RZD, Denita
 ??? Rhodes, Denita's OM
 KB1YQP, David
 N1HOS, Jack

Thanks to all of the above for gracing us with your presence. All of you could have been doing something else and we're glad that this WRRRC activity was more important in your life than whatever that "something else" was. And not only did you show up. You also spent some valuable time in your kitchen preparing something sumptuous to dine upon.

We also elected a new slate of officers to guide us through 2013. They are:
 President – KA1ZQX, Tim
 Vice President – K1KU, Darrel
 Secretary/Treasurer – N1TOX, John

A hearty thanks to Rich, KB1J, VP for 2012 and the good job he did standing in for President Tim on a couple of occasions.

Other business brought before the general membership concerned the spending of money to commemorate the life and memory of Ed Phoenix, KB1KSR. It was decided to purchase a new table for the dining area at Grace Cottage Hospital and use matching money from the club treasury to buy something else for the dietary team at the hospital. A plaque will tell that this gift of the WRRRC honors the memory of Ed.

Although there are only three elected positions there are several people that are appointed by the Board of Directors to manage other aspects of club business.

WK1L, Bro Frank, is in charge of coordinating our VE Sessions and arranging for instructors and facilities when we have classes.
 K1KU, Darrel, is the editor of the club's newsletter, The Digital Dispatch.
 W1CWB, Chas, is the club's technical advisor

For those who are interested in the nitty gritty details a copy of the club's by-laws can be found on our web page at http://www.westriverradio.org/WRRRC/WRRRC_Data/Forms/WRRRC%20By-Laws.pdf

Several Hams bought along some treasures to sell and gear from the estate of W1ECO, Paul, was available to buy. All the proceeds from the sale of Paul's equipment went into the club's treasury. A big thanks should go to Jen, KA1CYZ, and Mark, KB1HCG for picking up the equipment, cataloging it and bringing it to the meeting. They will also keep it stored.

After the hamfest, meal, and meeting a VE Session was held. Our congratulations go to out to:
 KB1RZD, Denita – upgraded to General
 Ed Pirog – Earned his new Technician license
 KB1YQP, David – upgraded to General

Let us also not forget to give thanks to Frank, WK1L.

He's the chap who oversees the entire procedure by setting up these VE sessions by coordinating with the ARRL to receive test materials, making sure that all the paper work is in proper order.

Thanks, too, to the Volunteer Examiners who helped out at this session. They were:
 W1IRA, Ira
 KA1TWV, Elaine
 KA1ZQX, Tim
 K1KU, Darrel

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 Here are some pictures from the affair.



**N1XSS, Rob
 KA1ZQX, Tim
 N1TOX, John**



**WK1L, Rob
 KA1TWV, Elaine**



**Marion Daley
 Sue Borichevsky**



**Ed Pirog—a new Tech
 KB1HCG, Mark
 KB1YCD, Mary**



**N1XSS, Rob
 N1TOX, John**



A group of Annual Meeting attendees

