



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



March—2013

Volume VIII—#11

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
K1KU, Darrel Daley; VP/Digital Dispatch editor
WK1L, Bro Frank Hagerty ED/VE Liaison
N1TOX, John Borichevsky; Secretary/Treasurer
W1CWB, Chas Baker; Technical Advisor

THE PRESIDENT'S KORNER

Again, welcome to the West River's Radio's 10th year! We hope this will be the best year yet for the club and all involved! We already are making a lot of plans for this year; we hope you can participate in some or all of the events this year. The first event beside our monthly meetings the 2nd Tuesday of every month will be our annual dinner at the New England House on the 23rd of March (1800hrs). We are starting to plan for Field Day, a Fox Hunt or two and will have emergency communication support activities too. So, mark your calendars for the events you can help in.

Last year we focused on what you can do for Amateur Radio. I think it would be a good year to focus on preparedness. This could include building a "GO Kit", antennas, and checking your gear out. Do you need help with any of this? Well, we have a lot of experts in our little group waiting for you to ask the question. There are a lot of things we can do ourselves, but it's a lot more fun doing it as a group! We have a lot of good programs scheduled for our monthly meetings, we hope you can come. If you can't make it to the monthly regular meeting, don't forget our monthly BOD meeting at the Panasian Restaurant.

Have a toy you would like to share, bring it to our next meeting. We always have a lot of fun. You might even learn something. We have a lot of experience in our group. Come and join the fun. 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. What can you do to help make this 10th year even better?

See you all soon!

Till then, 73
KA1ZQX/Tim



(Ed: Our President relays the following information. This material and the picture of Tim Allen's shack [no shack should be that neat] was gleaned from the ARRL web site.)

"Awhile back Hollywood started a program called *Last Man Standing*. Until now, the Ham radio part has been a little disappointing, but with an upcoming program that will air in March, they will actually show his station and make a call. Below is a feature article that was put out by the ARRL and the producer of the show. Personally I like the show, but you make the judgment. Happy watching. Tim, KA1ZQX"

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Ham Radio in Hollywood: Last Man Standing to Feature Ham Radio in Upcoming Episode

02/13/2013

In an episode to air in mid-March, the hit ABC comedy *Last Man Standing* -- starring Tim Allen as Mike Baxter, KA0XTT -- will prominently feature scenes with cast members using Amateur Radio. This episode will be the first episode to feature Amateur Radio since the middle of the show's first season.



According to *Last Man Standing* Producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, the episode called "The Fight" will feature several of the regular cast members talking on the radios. "I can't say much about the episode right now," Amodeo told the ARRL, "But this episode has the most significant use of Amateur Radio in a TV comedy since Herman Munster, W6XRL4, got his ham license." Fans of 1960s television will remember the episode of *The Munsters* (originally aired January 21, 1965) when Herman, on his ham radio, overheard children using walkie-talkies who were pretending to be Martians.

"In addition to the original KA0XTT station in Mike Baxter's work office, viewers will get to see Mike's ham shack in the basement of his home," Amodeo explained. "A cast member will also be calling in

from a portable HF radio while hiking along the Amazon." The ARRL provided many of the awards -- including 5 Band DXCC, 5 Band Worked All States, 5 Band Worked All Continents and VUCC - that are on Mike Baxter's home shack wall. The episode, which was filmed February 12, will also feature Richard Karn. Fans of Allen's former show *Home Improvement* will remember Karn as Al Borland.

Last Man Standing is produced by 20th Century Fox for the ABC Television Network and airs on Friday nights at 8 PM Eastern and Pacific and 7 PM Central



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.

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.vt@gmail.com

A list of upcoming net control stations can be found at http://www.westriverradio.org/WRRC/WRRC_Pages/ARES_Net.html

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A tree that is unbending is easily broken. - Lao Tzu

(Interpretation: Choose your battles wisely. While your core principles and your life goals are important, most of what you let upset you is not worth an argument or lost sleep.)

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 Grifone 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 tid bit of information you wanted.



Past President's Corner

Time to make your Reservations!

Here it is a beautiful sunny 76 degree day in the Sunshine State of Florida. WE have been to Epcot, NASA, and Sea World so far. Next stop, Venice! No you silly person, not Italy! Florida! On the Gulf Coast! OK, I'll stop rubbing it in as I have been watching the weather maps of the heavy crap you folks have received this past week.

So while I have my feet stretched across to another chair relaxing with a little umbrella drink in one hand and typing with the other, I wanted to take the moment to remind you that we will be having the Annual (I forget how many annuals this is now) Winter Blues Get Away dinner at "The New England House Restaurant" in W. Brattleboro, VT on Saturday 23-MAR-2013. The festivities will start at 1800 hrs. (that is 6 PM to the non 24 hour clock people). While I have guaranteed a number to the restaurant, I need to hear from you, our loyal members of the West River Radio Club as who will be attending to confirm this number.

So if you will please email at n1tox@comcast.net, I will be glad to take your reservations for this annual event. We all look forward to your presence!

So from the Sunny South to the very Wintery north, I will see you all soon! Yes, we are coming back! Wait a minute, did I hear some Boo's????

Until next time!
73,

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – Past President WRRRC



While at the Epcot Center John got this shot of a new "Chevy Concept Car" on the Chevrolet Test Track.

He also poised several questions:

- If you ask how much it is can you afford it?
- How much will the insurance run?
- Where will Joe Ham mount the antenna (s) and rig?



Ed: I'll still stick with my new Chevy Equinox



CHINESE OR JAPANESE?

Those are the culinary choices available once a month when interested members and friends of the WRRRC gather at the Panasian Restaurant in Brattleboro, VT.

At our last meeting on February 23 seven folks came out to enjoy good food, good conversation, and discussions on assorted WRRRC activities. Those activities at this gathering were:

- ◆ Field Day
- ◆ Getting the Worked All Vermont award advertised
- ◆ Our upcoming summer fox hunt
- ◆ Our upcoming club dine out on March 23 at the New England Restaurant in West Brattleboro. You say that your name isn't on the list yet? Then contact the coordinator, John, N1TOX at n1tox.vt@gmail.com
- ◆ The club program for March 12, which happens to be home computer networking. Bring your questions and see if you can stump the expert(s).



A GIFT TO GRACIE

The WRRRC Board of Directors recently approved the purchase of two tables for the newly renovated dining area at Grace Cottage Hospital. One is given in memory of Ed Phoenix, KB1KSR and the other is a gift from our club in thanks for Grace Cottage's many years of sponsoring us and providing a place for us to meet and maintain our radio station.

Some background: Nearfest attendees had, at Ed's request, sold some of his gear. In the interim Ed passed away and his wife, Lois, requested that the money go to the club.

It was felt that it was fitting and proper that this money should be spent in such a way as to honor Ed's memory and his contributions to the WRRRC over the years. The tables will both have quality plaques attached explaining who the donors are.

W1ALE—SK

Though not a member of the WRRC I feel it is appropriate to note the passing of W1ALE, Ted Everett, of Concord, NH.

I had known Ted since 1983 when I began checking into the Green Mountain Net. He was very active on this net and served as a NCS for many years until failing health forced him to relinquish this duty.

I experienced many an eyeball with Ted at yearly gathering of the net.

Gordon, W2NH, was also close to Ted and I'm inserting some comments I received from him re this man who was a sterling representative of the Ham radio community.

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Ted was the son of a noted Olympic hockey player, which explains how the Everett Turnpike got named. He worked on Mount Washington at the observatory and built the first NH 2 meter FM Repeater in the Concord area.

He has been in poor health for several years. Our stints on the "Rock Pile" didn't match but we QSO'd regularly when I worked up there. He was also an early pioneer in packet and APRS. The original group of early repeater gurus is thinning faster and faster . . . the handwriting is on the wall. It's a shame that the early history is not well preserved in prose.
Gordon

Edward "Ted" Everett-W1ALE, 81, of Pembroke, NH died Jan 31, 2013 after a period of failing health.

We knew Ted, (then W1TNO), in the late 1950s when he was working at the Mt. Washington weather observatory. The schedule was 3 weeks on and 1 week off. He would ski down the "rock pile" after each 3 week tour and ride the caterpillar tractor back up after a week off.

In wintertime Ted would drive down to Mt. Unca-noonuc in his convertible and operate 10 meter mobile (AM). If we were operating the Manchester Radio Club station-(W1HPM, also on the hill, we would walk over and join him. He was also a regular at the Bedford Grove roller skating rink. Ted put up the first FM repeater in the area (146.34/94), home of the Granite State FM Net which continues on the 147.225 repeater, on which Ted was active until recently. Thanks to those who continue activity there.

W1ALE was Ted's secondary call at his camp on the Piscataquog River in the Goffstown area and we used to talk to him on 29.000MHz AM. When the FCC abolished secondary calls, it's obvious which one he kept.

More can be learned about this fine man at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/unionleader/obituary.aspx?n=edward-f-everett&pid=162870812&fhid=4796#fbLoggedOut>

Many tributes from friends are also posted there.

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

March 12: Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L. The program will be about home computer networking.

March 23: Our annual club dine out at the New England Restaurant in West Brattleboro, VT. Contact John, N1TOX to get your name on the list. n1tox.vt@gmail.com—There will be no monthly Board meeting this month due to the close proximity to our dine out.

March 20: Hospital drill

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

The WRRC has sponsored more than one in its nearly ten year life span; Set ups at Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day, a portable operation at Kurn Hattin school, and a couple of BSA outings in Windham County.

So, what are they? I'm glad that you asked. They are events, special ones, that is, where Ham clubs or individuals set up a portable operation and work other hams. A certificate or special QSL card is usually offered in exchange for a SASE and sometimes a green stamp or two.

Special event types can range from the sublime to the "what in the blazes is that" variety. In an abbreviated list of my special event contacts below I'll bet that you can cull out the *what in the blazes* entries.

In my nearly thirty five years as a Ham I've worked my fair share of special event stations and I have a three ringed binder of certificates and QSL cards to prove it.

- * Superstition Mountain/Apache Jct, AZ
- * KD8FJ's set up at the Northeast Ohio Council's Fall BSA *Camperall*.
- * Vermont Bicentennial Special Event. I worked good friend, neighbor, and now a SK Don Wright, W1HXE in 1991 to get this certificate.
- * Walt Disney World's 20th Anniversary in September 1991.

I haven't even begun to make a dent in my collection, but common sense tells me that I'd better stop while I'm ahead. I am still ahead, aren't I?

But, before I forget, You can always find a listing of special event happenings in each issue of QST.

I want to leave room for a contribution from W2NH, Gordon, concerning a special event being sponsored

by the LIMRC (Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club), a club that Gordon helped set up.

Here's is Gordon's information:

Lindbergh departed for Paris from Roosevelt Field in Nassau County, Long Island, NY. It was a dirt field then and paved when I used it in the early 1950's. The LI club that I helped set up (LIMARC) is planning a special event station to operate **on** the air during the calendar period that he was **in** the air.

Isn't it nice to be in a place where the bad apples are so far apart that they don't rot out the good ones. On LI they are packed so closely that the whole barrel is going bad. Every month their bulletin has a lot of space devoted to repeater jamming. It happened now and then back in the late 50's but the support for these *&^%\) wasn't there and they individually rotted into oblivion, except for one, W2JTP, persisted for years trying to jam our uplinks. It was rather fun to watch/listen to the frustration he must have gone through trying. He even filed a complaint with the FCC alleging 21 counts of unlawful conduct. The FCC inspected both the home control point and the Mt Beacon site and found nothing out of place. That resulted in the local office referring repeater questions to me. A good backfire. The one remark by Harry, the inspector, at the transmitter site was, "Excessive power? - it would melt."

As for the repeaters we use, most of the interference is QRN or ducting.

Special Event Station: We are thinking about setting up a special event station to commemorate the flight of Charles Lindbergh on May 20th through 21st; this station would operate using the Cradle of Aviation Museum's call sign K2CAM. Our goal is to operate during the 33+ hours that Lindbergh was in the air. The operation will probably be from one or more LIMARC members' houses the first year and hopefully from the museum after that. One interesting possibility is to let stations we work know where Charles Lindbergh was in his flight at the time of the QSO. (from the LIMARC LOG)

Gordon, W2NH

W2ORS – ON THE AIR

After the publication of the January issue of the Dispatch I received an email from K1PU, Mark, concerning my short article on K2ORS, Jean Shepherd.

To satisfy your curiosity Mark is the recipient of the plaque for having the highest score in VT during the New England QSO Party. That plaque was donated by the West River Radio Club and goes to the high scorer in Vermont each year. Besides doing a good thing we get some recognition on the New England QSO Party site - <http://www.neqp.org/awards.html>

Having read the blurb on Jean Shepherd, W2ORS, he shot me off the following link - <http://www.k1pu.com/Presentations/K2ORS/K2ORS.html>

Here you'll find a radio broadcast by W2ORS that Mark, K1PU and AI, W1FXQ, presented to QCWA Chapter #149 on February 18, 2009. It's all about code operators in during WWII and, to quote Mark, "extremely funny", but that's what we'd expect from Shep. You can watch it live or download it for listening later.

Edited from a longer broadcast originally aired on August 12, 2009 by NPR's Hearing Voices Program, Harry Shearer's two-part tribute to the great radio [raconteur](#) - "Jean Shepard, a voice in the night" I've left the "raconteur" link in case some of you want to learn what the word means and also learn more about the "Hearing Voices" series.

Thanks, Mark.

NUFF SAID FOR THIS ISSUE!

Thank you all for your support of the West River Radio Club.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next meeting on March 12 and at our dine out on March 23.

In the meantime keep our members of the military and their support personnel in your thoughts and prayers.



CUL es 73,
from Putney, Vermont's President Pundit & Perambulating Prognosticator
K1KU SK