



# DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the  
West River Radio Club



April—2013

Volume VIII—#III

## 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

N1TOX, John Borichevsky; Secretary/Treasurer

WK1L, Bro Frank Hagerty ED/VE Liaison

K1KU, Darrel Daley; Digital Dispatch editor

W1CWB, Chas Baker; Technical Advisor

## THE PRESIDENT'S KORNER

**G**ood Day to all! We had a fun filled month in March. Thanks to all that were able to make it to our annual dinner at the New England House on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. Fun was had by all. If you weren't able to make it to the dinner, we have a lot more planned for you this year. Help us celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> year and make it an extra special year!

Mark your calendars for the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting as we will be hosting the National Weather Service Annual Skywarn training at Grace Cottage Hospital. Even though we attend every year, there hasn't been a year where I haven't learned at least something. Please pre-register as soon as you can as this is needed for them to forecast materials for the session. If you receive this electronically, you can click here; <http://cstar.cestm.albany.edu:7775/skywarn/Talks.htm> or copy and paste. Select the Windham County session and pre-register for the session. Keep in mind that this session will start at 6:30pm (1830 hrs. Local), ½ hour earlier than our normal meeting time.



We are planning for Field Day, a Fox Hunt or two and will have emergency communication support activity too. Mark your calendar for our next meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. We always have something to show and a good presentation to boot! Have a toy you would like to share, bring it to our next meeting. If you can't make it to the monthly regular meeting, don't forget our monthly BOD meeting at the Panasian Restaurant. See you next time.

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.

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](mailto:ka1zqx@arrl.net)

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy. —Ernest Benn

## FINANCES

**T**he data below is valid as of the publication of this issue of the Digital Dispatch

Checking = \$2,317.16/Cash on hand = \$56.57  
36 full members/3 auxiliary—21 ARRL members



## THE PAST PREZ CORNER

### How about that March Madness?

**O**ok, we are not going for the bracket busters of NCAA Basketball Tournament and we are not going for anything here. Just thought I would get your attention. How about that! But some of the games were bracket busters for sure. While I bet the farm on Florida's Gulf Coast University to win it all, I was surprised that they got as far as they did. To the 32's! It was a great step for that school. OMG!! What am I talking about? I know nothing about that stuff at all, except at half time, you can try to win some money from half court!

Money, well, you have to have it to play in this hob-

by. I went to Ham Radio Outlet a few weeks ago and looked hard at a Yaesu FT-5000 setup in the store. Yup, it is the top of the line, the envy of every ham. There was not a speck of dust on that unit at all. Nice and shiny, and there was someone calling CQ from afar. Yes, the ability to touch and use such a dream piece of equipment is wonderful. Yes you can test the units in the store, but once you see the price tag of something that grand and glorious, you have to think, if I break it, what will I have to do to get it fixed? Sell the house? Run real fast? I decided to let the radio do its own thing on its own, receive the transmissions from afar and run it through its circuitry and produce a wonderful sound. You know, at \$12,000.00 just sitting there, you have to be careful. But next to that was the new FT-3000 system, a bit more in my price range at a modest price of \$2,600.00. That was a nice rig. Yes I do have my FT-1000 MP MK V at home and I am more than happy with that, for now. (Ed; I've got to have a serious Father/son chat with John. There is nothing in my ham shack that cost over \$19.95.)

So now we are entering the foolish month of April. Sugaring season and freak snow storms. Who knows what will be next? But anyway, per the calendar, it's springtime! So get those radios ready, I see a fox on the horizon! Bring on the hounds!

Until next time!

73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – Past President WRRC

(I gotta mention: If you didn't check out our web page on April 1 then do it now. John did a fantastic job to celebrate the 1th of April—<http://www.westriverradio.org/April1.htm>



## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME – Some Facts

**T**ime is an important matter for many Hams, especially for those of us who work DX. That guy or gal on Clipperton Island is probably not in the time zone as you are. The question then arises, how will you record the time in your log?



Long ago it was determined that Hams will use GMT (Greenwich Mean Time), or, is it is more commonly referred to today, UTC, Coordinated Universal Time. If you're confused on how UTC got to be CUT, welcome to the club. Here's what Wikipedia has to say about it.

*Abbreviation:*

*The official abbreviation for Coordinated Universal Time is UTC. This abbreviation arose from a desire by the International Telecommunication Union and the International Astronomical Union to use the same abbreviation in all languages. English speakers originally proposed CUT (for "coordinated universal time"), while French speakers proposed TUC (for "temps universel coordonné"). The compromise that emerged was UTC, which conforms to the pattern for the abbreviations of*

*the variants of Universal Time (UTO, UT1, UT2, UT1R, etc.).*

Kind of makes you wonder how civilization has come this far without everyone knowing about this, huh?

Having all Hams use GMT for their contacts sure makes life easy. If you do the EST or DST conversion in your head one problem that can arise is getting the wrong day in the log. I recently worked Rodriguez Island on 20 meter CW. To save you a trip to your world atlas it's in the Indian Ocean and sort of close to Madagascar. The call was 3B9DX and it was being used by Toshi, JA8BMK; Ken, JN1THL (also AB1GJ) and YL Yoshiko, JQ1LCW (also KF7JXL). So, let's say that I worked them at 9 PM (21:00L) EST on March 6, 2013. What I logged, though, was 02:00Z on March 7, 2013. Why 2 AM the next day for me? The difference between EST and GMT (UTC) is plus five hours. Therefore, I worked this small team of operators from Japan a day ahead of what it was in the Eastern USA.

The good news is that my logging software, which was running as I worked them, automatically recorded the time and day correctly, just as I had instructed it to do. Can I hear a cheer for technology? Maybe two?

(The following information was gleaned from [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com))

### Why observe DST?

Many countries observe DST, and many do not. Many countries use DST to make better use of the daylight in the evenings. Many people believe that DST could be linked to fewer road accidents and injuries. The extra hour of daylight in the evening is said to give children more social time and can boost the tourism industry because it increases the amount of outdoor activities.

DST is also used to save energy and reduce artificial light needed during the evening hours — clocks are set one hour ahead during the spring, and one hour back to standard time in the autumn. However, [many studies disagree](#) about DST's energy savings and while some studies show a positive outcome, others do not.

It is difficult to predict what will happen with Daylight Saving Time in the future. The daylight saving date in many countries may change from time to time due to special events or conditions. The United States, Canada and some other countries extended DST in 2007. The new start date is the second Sunday in March (previously the first Sunday in April) through to the first Sunday in November (previously the last Sunday in October).

### Brief history of DST

Benjamin Franklin first suggested Daylight Saving Time in 1784, but modern DST was not proposed until 1895 when an entomologist from New Zealand, George Vernon Hudson, presented a proposal for a two-hour daylight saving shift to the Wellington Philosophical Society.

The conception of DST was mainly credited to an English builder, William Willett in 1905, when he presented the idea to advance the clock during the summer months. His proposal was published two years later and introduced to the House of Commons in February 1908. The first Day-

light Saving Bill was examined by a select committee but was never made into a law. It was not until World War I, in 1916, that DST was adopted and implemented by several countries in Europe who initially rejected the idea. There is [more information about the history of DST](#) on our website.

### Is DST always one hour ahead of standard time?

Today it is almost always one hour ahead, but throughout history there have been several variants on this, such as half adjustment (30 minutes) or double adjustment (two hours), and adjustments of 20 and 40 minutes have also been used. A two-hour adjustment was used in several countries during the 1940s and elsewhere at times.

A half adjustment was sometimes used in New Zealand in the first half of the 20th century. Australia's [Lord Howe Island](#) (UTC+10:30) follows a DST schedule in which clocks are moved 30 minutes forward to UTC+11, which is Australian Eastern Daylight Time ([AEDT](#)) when it is on DST.

Sometimes DST is used for a longer period than just the summer, as it was in the United States during World War II. From February 3, 1942 to September 30, 1945 most of the United States had DST all year; it was called "War Time."

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## FOX HUNTING AGAIN

**Y**es, a summer fox hunt is still in the works. Here's the latest good word from N1ESK, David.

The West River Radio Club has been awarded a \$250 public service grant from the Vernon Fire Association, Inc. (VFAI) for the purchase of (2) Byonics Micro-Fox Transmitters. VFAI is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit corporation based in Vernon, Vermont. According to VFAI President and WRRRC member David Andrews, VFAI provides small grants to local emergency response organizations to help further their missions of serving the public.



Stay tuned for further updates.

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## RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

### *How It All Started*

I'll bet that some of you at one time or another have asked yourself, "Self, how did *this* or *that* get started?" I often do, but rarely do anything about finding out. After all, isn't ignorance bliss? It's very difficult to remain ignorant in this day and age, though, especially if you own a computer (I think that even an Apple will work) and have access to the world wide web. I'll remain eternally grateful to our former Vice President for inventing it.

Since I've never known, or once knew and forgot, I

decided to find out how April Fool's Day got its start. To do this I turned to Wikipedia. If this offends some of the perfectionists out there who insist on only knowing the pure unadulterated verifiable truth, then all I can say is *picky, picky, picky*. Here's what I learned.

April Fool's Day is sometime also referred to as All Fool's Day. As to origins I came up with the following? In Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (1392), the "Nun's Priest's Tale" is set *Syn March bigan thritty dayes and two* (The preceding makes it obvious that Chaucer did not have a spell checker on his PC). Chaucer probably meant 32 days after March, i.e. May 2, the anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia, which took place in 1381. However, readers apparently misunderstood this line to mean "March 32," i.e. April 1. In Chaucer's tale, the vain cock Chauntecleer is tricked by a fox. (I hope that the excitement isn't getting to be too much for you.)

In 1509, a French poet referred to a *poisson d'avril* (April fool, literally "April fish"), a possible reference to the holiday. In 1539, Flemish poet Eduard de Dene wrote of a nobleman who sent his servants on foolish errands on April 1. In 1686, John Aubrey referred to the holiday as "Fool's holy day", the first British reference. On April 1, 1698, several people were tricked into going to the Tower of London to "see the Lions washed". The name "April Fools" echoes that of the Feast of Fools, a Medieval holiday held on December 28.

As further travel down this "origin" track is apparently a waste of time I turned to searches on pranks of the past. I discovered some doozies, to wit:

**Decimal Time:** Repeated several times in various countries, this hoax involves claiming that the time system will be changed to one in which units of time are based on powers of 10.

**Taco Liberty Bell:** In 1996, Taco Bell took out a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times* announcing that they had purchased the Liberty Bell to "reduce the country's debt and renamed it the "Taco Liberty Bell". When asked about the sale, White House press secretary Mike McCurry replied tongue-in-cheek that the Lincoln Memorial had also been sold and would henceforth be known as the Lincoln Mercury Memorial.

**Left Handed Whoppers:** In 1998, Burger King ran

an ad in USA Today, saying that people could get a Whopper for left handed people whose conditions were designed to drip out of the right side. Not only did customers order the new burgers, but some specifically requested the "old", right handed burger.

**Apple buys the Beatles:** Bob Lefsetz released an April Fools' Day letter which had rumors circulating around the music industry, which in **2010** turned out to be true.

**Iceberg Towing:** In 1983, Australian millionaire businessman Dick Smith claimed to have towed an iceberg from Antarctica to Sydney Harbor. He used a barge covered with white plastic and fire extinguisher foam to convince witnesses.

And to close off yet another enlightening column from your humble editor, here are a couple of radio/TV pranks from yesteryear.

**Jovian Plutonian gravitational effect :** In 1976, British astronomer Sir Patrick Moore told listeners of

BBC Radio 2 that unique alignment of two planets would result in an upward gravitational pull making people lighter at precisely 9:47 a.m. that day. He invited his audience to jump in the air and experience "a strange floating sensation". Dozens of listeners phoned in to say the experiment had worked.

**Space Shuttle lands in San Diego:** In 1993, DJ Dave Rickards told listeners of KGB-FM in San Diego that Space Shuttle Discovery had been diverted from Edwards Air Force Base and would be landing at Montgomery Field, a small municipal airport with a 4,577 foot runway. Thousands of people went to the airport to watch the purported landing, causing traffic jams throughout Kearny Mesa. Moreover, there wasn't even a shuttle in orbit at the time.

**Crude oil on Mars:** In 2004, the Italian television station Rai 2 reported that NASA discovered crude oil on Mars.

**Diet Pill:** In 2006, the same station reported the invention of a miraculous diet pill that should be accompanied by a diet rich in fish.

**#10's door color:** In 2006, the BBC reported that the door to No. 10 Downing Street, the official residence of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, had been painted red. They showed footage of workmen carrying a red door. Red was the official color of the political party which

formed the government at the time. The same story was also reported in the British newspaper, The Daily Mail which credited the new design to April Fewell. The door is in fact black.

**Flying Penguins:** In 2008, the BBC reported on a newly discovered colony of flying penguins. An elaborate video segment was even produced, featuring Terry Jones (of Monty Python fame) walking with the penguins in Antarctica, and following their flight to the Amazon rainforest.



## SPECIAL EVENTS and ROUTE 66

**D**uring the pre-child college days my first wife and I spent many an hour tooling along on this famous motorway. We were living in California and for our summer breaks we'd pile into the 1958 Volkswagen and head east to sight see and visit her family in the Garden State.

US Highway 66, established in 1926, was the first major improved highway to link the west coast with the nation's heartland. Through stories, songs, and TV shows, the highway came to symbolize the spirit of the freedom of the open road, inspiring many to see America. However, the demise of Route 66 began in the 1950's as the US began building its interstate highway system, and the highway was officially decommissioned in 1986. None the less, small portions of the US Highway 66 still exist in towns and rural areas in several states.

They even wrote a song about it. It was on Route 66 where you got your kicks. Here's just one verse from the pen of lyricist Bob Troup:

Get your kicks on Route 66  
Well it goes from St Louis, down to Missouri  
Oklahoma city looks oh so pretty  
You'll see Amarillo and Gallup, New Mexico  
Flagstaff, Arizona don't forget Winona  
Kingman, Barstow, San Bernadino

And since Hams love to operate their rigs they create *Special Events*. You name an event and like as not there will be a Ham or two there to talk to you:

- The Olympics
- A visit to Alcatraz Prison
- The Rose Bowl Parade
- Superstition Mountain in Apache, AZ
- The Apollo 11 Birthday
- Route 66 On The Air

I've worked the above and a ton more to boot. Sometime to cure your insomnia I'll bring my "Special Event" scrapbook to a club meeting for your perusal.

According to their web site (<http://www.w6jbt.org/index.html>) The purpose of this event is a way to offer amateur radio operators a fun way to "Relive the Ride" and their own memories of Route 66, and to celebrate the highway's 84th anniversary. For we

Present the Thirteenth Annual "Route 66 On The Air" Special Event.

Amateur Radio Clubs using 1 X 1 call signs will operate from 17 cities, 1 rover and 1 mobile stations along the highway during the special event period, 10th September (00:00:00z) through 18th September (24:00:00z) aiming to contact as many amateur radio operators as possible who would like to take part in this annual event.



## ANOTHER DINE OUT

A smaller than usual, but nevertheless select group of club members and spouses met at the New England Restaurant on March 23 for some good chow and camaraderie.

The conversation flowed fast and heavy and the chow went down, with the aid of some suitable beverages, tasty and easy.

We hope to see you next year.



**L to R**  
**Marion Daley**  
**Bro Frank, WK1L**  
**Tim, KA1ZQX**  
**Liz Bell**

Gordon, W2NH, kept his end of the table enthralled with tales of his escapades in small planes in Alaska plus other assorted places.



The smiles were not coaxed out of Tim and Liz. They really were having fun.

Learn about Field Day 2013 in the next column



## FIELD DAY—2013

Can you believe it? You'd better believe it. On June 22 - 23 the WRRRC will hold its 9th Field Day. And the nice thing is that you're all invited.

What are the requirements? They're really very few.

- \* You're a Ham, right? Then you must like to operate.
- \* You don't have a General or higher license? Not a problem. We'll have plenty of duly qualified folks to act as control ops.
- \* You don't know what to say or which function key to press for a digital contact? Your control op will show you.

There are certain drawbacks to participating in your first Field Day. One of the major ones is that you might get hooked working a fellow Ham in California, New Hampshire, or even Canada.

Then you'll get like the rest of us who start anticipating the thrill and excitement of it all long before the actual date arrives. You'll spend time day dreaming:

- What new antenna should I hang this year? Maybe a vertical will do a better job of reaching the west coast.
- What delicacies will our favorite Field Day chef, Bro Frank, WK1L, toss on the grill on Saturday night? That's right—we take chow breaks!

There's more, but that should whet your appetite a bit for now. Stay tuned for further information as the magic day draws closer.

### UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

**April 9:** Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L. The program will be about Vermont Yankee.

**April 27:** The monthly Board/luncheon Meeting will be held at the PanAsian Restaurant in Brattleboro next to Staples. Gather at 11:30.

**May 3-4:** Nearfest—See [www.near-fest.com](http://www.near-fest.com)

**May 8:** Vermont Yankee drill for RACES members.

**May 14:** Skywarn session. The meeting will start a half hour earlier at 18:30L in the EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital.

**May 17-19:** Dayton Hamvention. See <http://www.hamvention.org/>

Also check out WRRRC events on the club calendar at [http://www.westriverradio.org/WRRRC/WRRRC\\_Pages/prgmplan.html](http://www.westriverradio.org/WRRRC/WRRRC_Pages/prgmplan.html)