



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



June—2013

Volume VIII—#V

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

a try this year?

We have our next meeting on the second Tuesday of the month also coming up. Hope to see all of you soon.

Till then, 73
KA1ZQX/Tim

.....-/-.....



K1KU, Darrel & KA1ZQX, Tim, at a BBQ dinner in Dayton. That's JA8LWU/W2JA, Nobu, on the left.



K1KU takes a break in the Hara Arena bleachers

THE PRESIDENT'S KORNER

Good day all, I hope all of you have been busy getting the antenna ready and the radios tuned up as the Field Day is just around the corner!

We have already been busy in the Amateur Radio Community this spring and almost summer. RACES/CERT participated in the Girls on the Run and the last Yankee Drill before the graded drill this week.

Last month we also hosted the annual Skywarn weather training which we had a good turnout. Now to use that training, this isn't hard around here.

Last month, yours truly and the editor (aka Darrel) made a trip out to Dayton, OH for the Annual Dayton Ham Fest. It was a short and fast trip, but an enjoyable one at that.

We were able to meet some of Darrel's friends from Japan and attended the annual DX banquet. We had a great time with great friends and great food. Right now, it was a once in a lifetime trip, but who knows, someday I may head back out that way. It definitely takes two – three days to even start seeing the place. Lots of breaks are a good thing! It was worth the trip though.

In case you missed it . . . and most of you did, you missed a great Fox Hunt put on by Dave Andrews (N1ESK). It was kind of a wet day, but very conducive for Fox Hunting. It brought out some very quick issues that one would not think about before showing up. Come to the next meeting and we can talk out some of this issues found on our first Fox Hunt of the year.

It's only a short few weeks till Field Day; won't you give it

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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.—Will Rogers

(WK1L, Bro Frank, kindly sent along some hints on programming the Yaesu 8800. This radio is all over the place in VT—EOCs, and hospitals.)

RACES Radios: Programming News
Bro. Frank Hagerty, SSE WK1L

At the RACES Conference on June 1 in Pittsford, John Borichevsky and I announced that we are standardizing the programming for all the RACES and CERT Yaesu FT-8800 radios in Vermont. The goal is to set up all the radios so that operators from any part of the state can operate an 8800 anywhere in the state. So a ham from Chittenden Co. would be familiar with a radio used for a Vermont Yankee exercise, and someone from Windham Co. could operate an 8800 in Springfield or Barre with ease.

We want to include all the open working repeaters in Vermont, along with some repeaters along the borders of neighboring states, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York. But that adds up to a **lot** of memory channels, and it is not easy to go through the entire list to find the repeater or simplex frequency you need. So how can we make this easier? *By organizing the memory channels by regions or zones.*

We are dividing Vermont into **three zones**:

- * **Northern (Zone 1), north of U.S. 2**
- * **Central (Zone 2), between U.S. 2 and U.S. 4**
- * **Southern (Zone 3), south of U.S. 4**

The 8800 has some great memory features:

- Over 1,000 memories
- 10 memory banks
- 6 hyper-memories

We will be utilizing the **hyper-memories** to organize the channels: the repeaters that are accessible from the zone in which you are operating will be found in the corresponding **Hyper-memory, 1, 2, or 3**. Many repeaters' coverage areas reach into more than one zone. In that case, the repeaters will be listed in the zones (hyper-memories) from which they can be worked.

Hyper-memory 4 will be reserved for **local preferences**. For example our 8800's in the VY area will have only the frequencies and repeaters we usually use during a VY exercise come up in Hyper-memory 4.

Hyper-memory 5 will have all the **Weather Radio** frequencies, and well as the **V-Tach and U-Tach** and Vermont **State Police** frequencies (receive only).

Hyper-memory 6 will hold **all the memory channels**.

All channels will have alpha-numeric tags, but some people prefer "going by the numbers" and selecting channels by frequency. The 8800 makes this easy: if you push the "Scan" button on the side of the radio you are working for 2 seconds, the display will change from alpha-numeric to frequency. You can toggle back and forth using the Scan button. To make it easier to find those frequencies, I will **list the channels in order of their frequencies** in the memory banks.

We will be able to send the programming files by email to folks around the state who have the RT Systems 8800 software on their computers, and then radios can be programmed from those computers, using a RT Systems programming cable. Organizing the memories of all the RACES/CERT 8800's will make for much

more efficient operating; and it will make programming all those radios much simpler.



PAST PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Let's get active!

Here we are ready for another month full of activities involving Amateur Radio and Communications. On 5-JUN-2013, we have the graded Entergy Vermont Yankee Exercise. This graded exercise takes part every 2 years and we are a vital part of the communications which make this happen. On 8-June-2013 the annual Strolling of the Heifers Parade in Brattleboro and the CERT members have been asked to assist. On 13 – 17 JUN-2013, the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall will be at Howe Field in Wilmington. CERT has again been asked to assist. Both of these events involve our radio operators to provide communications for public safety and traffic assistance.

How about the BIGGIE? ARRL Field Day 2013!!! Yes, 22-23 Jun-2013 is Field Day. This is where we setup a remote operation to simulate the ability of amateur radio operators to setup and operate during an event of catastrophe. No power, no buildings and using the surroundings to hang antennas and making the magic happen. Yes, they're quick QSOs with another station, but this demonstrates and exercises the ability amateur radio operations in remote areas. We have done this many times in the past and look forward to it year after year. Come on out and participate, operate and maybe learn a new mode of operation. It is a fun event and we will be having a great meal on Saturday night.

How about getting more active? Did you know that after the 2013 Girls on the Run event in Brattleboro, David Andrews, N1ESK, organized a Fox Hunt? There were 2 fox's and both were found. I heard that Pizza was ready for the participants at the location of the second fox. Thanks to David for organizing this event. I also hear that there will be another hunt coming up. So get your HT's and directional antennas ready! Don't have a directional antenna? There will be a session to build a simple antenna. Be sure not to miss it!

How about a new radio? I hear that the BaoFeng UV-5R Plus HT is running for an unbelievable price of \$39.99 delivered. What a deal! I hear the President and Vice President went to the ARRL convention in Dayton! I'll make it sometime. It sounds like it was a blast!

So there are a lot of things to do with amateur radio. Some things are just an extension of what you do now. Some involve more of an effort. What can you do to become more active? Don't miss out on all of the fun, it's a great hobby to stay involved in.

Until next month,

73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – Past President WRRRC

RACES CONFERENCE

It also happened to be the 9th one and several stalwart RACES team members from the WRRC were in attendance at the Vermont Police Academy in Pittsford, VT. On June 1

KB1NWT, John
 N1HOS, Jack
 WK1L, Bro Frank
 W2NH, Gordon
 N1EQP, Steve
 K1KU, Darrel

Thanks to John, KB1NWT, who provided the transportation for most of us in his roomy van. John manages the Radiological Emergency Response Program in Brattleboro.

And thanks to John, N1TOX, the Vermont RACES Coordinator and Rob Schell, WR1VT, Chief of Field Operations, as well as all the other VEM folks who made it all possible.

Great programs were presented by our own Vermont folks as well as by Jarrett Divine, KB1BVK, FEMA Region 1 Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Ken Bailey, K1FUG, who helps manage the National ARRL Emergency Preparedness Program.

If you're sitting around moping because you're not part of the vibrant RACES team in Vermont, not to worry. Get in touch with John, N1TOX and he'll get an application off to you post haste – n1tox@comcast.net Then, you, too, can get some good feelings from performing our public service obligations and furthering the cause of Emcomm in Vermont.

N1EQP, Steve
 Pretending to be
 having fun



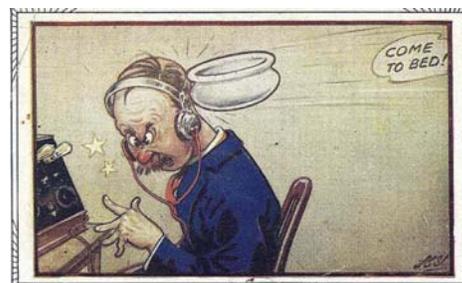
WK1L, Bro Frank
 W1RVT, Rob

W2NH, Gordon—
 Absorbing a lesson from
 WK1L, Frank



WRRC FUNDING SUMMARY	
June 4, 2013	
BALANCE FROM 2012	
	\$ 1,906.94
DEPOSITS	
	\$ 710.34
EXPENSES	
	\$ 314.93
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	
	\$ 2,302.35
PETTY CASH	
	\$71.57
TOTAL MONEY ON HAND	
	\$ 2,373.92
FULL Members	
	36
AUXILIARY MEMBERS	
	3
ARRL Members	
	21
ARRL / Memb (SSC)	
	58.33%
Grant Funding Balances	
Townshend	\$ 34.14

Cartoon
 courtesy of
 Rob, N1XSS



RACES DRILLS

Those RACES folks do stay busy. On May 8 and June 5 the following members and/or friends of the WRRC took part in VY drills on either both May 8 or June 5. Most took part in both events.

The latter was a graded event so we were under the eagle eyes of folks from FEMA.

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

June 11: Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L. We will meet at Gracie, then car pool it up to our nearby 2013 Field Day site to make plans.

June 29: For June we always hold an informal Board meeting at our Field Day site and NOT the Panasian Restaurant.

June 19: Statewide hospital drill. Contact N1TOX, John (n1tox@comcast.net) - WK1L, Bro Frank (hagertysse@myfairpoint.net), or KA1ZQX, Tim (ka1zqx@arri.net) for further details.

July 9: Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L.

Also check out WRRRC events on the club calendar at http://www.westriverradio.org/WRRRC/WRRRC_Pages/prgmplan.html

Jenifer - KA1CYZ
 John - N1TOX
 Mark - KB1HCG
 Mary - KB1YCD
 Tim - KA1ZQX
 Ira - W1IRA
 Richard - N1JSG
 Rich - KB1J
 David - N1ESK

We've been handling this chore for many years, often along with help from CERT teams from Windsor County and Wilmington.

No matter how rotten the weather is (and it's usually rotten) we still manage to have some fun while were fulfilling our public service obligations and building up lots of good PR for the WRRRC.



**Tom Heydinger
 N1TOX, John**

Thanks to all listed below. Your efforts are appreciated.

Allan McLane - N1HWI
 Barry Newton - KB1SNO
 Bro. Frank Hagerty - WK1L
 Chas Baker - W1CWB
 Chuck Wojack - K1EGL
 Darrel Daley - K1KU
 Gordon Pugh - W2NH
 Jack Adams - N1HOS
 Jenifer Ambler - KA1CYZ
 John Borichevsky - N1TOX
 Kathi Walbridge - K1WAL
 Mark Kracum - KB1HCG
 Mary Peterson - KB1YCD



**WK1L
 W1IRA
 N1ESK
 KB1J**

**KB1HCG , Mark
 N1TOX, john**



Paul Blais - KB1OGH
 Robin Conway - N1WWW
 Tim Bell - KA1ZQX
 Barry Newton—



**W1IRA, Ira,
 showing off his
 wet weather attire**

GOTR DRILL

On May 25 the following club members did their "stuff" once more by handling communication chores along the 5K route of the annual Girls on the Run event in Brattleboro.

Bro. Frank - WK1L
 Chas - W1CWB
 Darrel - K1KU

ACID TEST

(Ed: I subscribe to a weekly eletter that provides the origins of common phrases, stuff like, *The Toast of the Town* or *In a Nutshell*. When I saw this one on *Acid Test* I sez to myself, "Myself, some of our members remember these days and may have even participated in some *acid tests*. After all, what else would explain their strange behavior today. If you "fill the bill" don't bother to let me know.)

A sure test, giving an incontestable result.

Origin

In the California Gold Rush in the second half of the 19th century, prospectors and dealers needed to be able to distinguish gold from base metal. The original acid test relied on nitric acid's ability to dissolve other metals more readily than gold. To confirm that a find was gold it was given 'the acid test'. A test sample was used to mark a touchstone and the degree to which it dissolved when the acid was added determined whether it was gold. Various other later tests also used acid and these are all called 'acid tests'.

The earliest citation I have found of a figurative use of the phrase (that is, one where no actual test is performed) is from the Wisconsin paper *The Columbia Reporter*, November 1845:

"Twenty-four years of service demonstrates his ability to stand the acid test, as Gibson's Soap Polish has done for over thirty years."

A punning variant of the term arose in the 1960s hippy community. Ken Kesey and his Merry Pranksters began holding 'Acid Test' parties in San Francisco in 1965. The attendees were serenaded by The Grateful Dead and given drinks of Kool-Aid spiked with lysergic acid diethylamide. 'Acid' was of course the colloquial name of LSD. It's not clear exactly what was being tested; survival possibly. The 'test' parties were referred to

in 1965 Jefferson Airplane's recorded *A Song for All Seasons*:

Since the acid test...

They say your drummer he's crazy as a loon
Last night they found him baying at the moon

For those who have never experienced the joys of Kool-Aid, with or without the mystery ingredient, it's a soft drink. Its original name was 'Fruit Smack'; perhaps that's what Kesey had in mind?



Set aside July 17—21, 2014 for some celebrating in Hartford, CT

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FOX HUNT #1

If you weren't there you missed out on a history making event. "There" was at the entrance to Fort Dummer and the VY storage facility on the banks of the Connecticut River. That's where two foxes were hiding, just waiting to be discovered by the four sleuths listed below.

After the GOTR event these four hardy souls stuck around to go on a search for a couple of wily creatures, namely foxes.

Bro. Frank - WK1L

Darrel - K1KU

Tim - KA1ZQX

Rich - KB1J

This intro to the fine art of Fox Hunting was set up by David - N1ESK. As noted in previous issues he has



acquired to itsy bitsy solid state transmitters, AKA, Foxes. They were hidden by David prior to the actual hunt. David was duly assisted by Jeanette, N1REB, and their harmonic Emily, KB1NXN.

The participant's assignment was to find them via the aid of their HTs. You get the idea? The closer you are to the Fox the louder the signal gets. Vertical rubber duckies are not the greatest kind of antenna to use for this sport, but we made do and had fun at the same time. Plans call for the construction of some small directional beams to make the job easier.

The culmination of it all consisted of chowing down on pizza and soda. If you missed out on this introductory adventure, well, not to worry. More events are being planned for the future. In the meantime the site below will provide more details. You can also type in *ham radio fox hunting* into Google and you'll be presented with all kinds of places to learn more.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transmitter_hunting#Types_of_transmitter_hunts



The stalwart crew of WK1L, KB1J, N1ESK, KA1ZQX, and K1KU (behind the camera) eagerly anticipate their next search.

QCWA INVITATION

(Ed: Friend, fellow ham, and ARRL Club Coordinator in VT, Allen Tinker, W1AAT, has an invitation for us. I happen to be a member of the QCWA, but membership is not necessary in order to take part in either of the events listed below. All that is required is that you want to meet some new folks and have some fun.)

The Vermont/New Hampshire Twin State Chapter of the **Q**uarter **C**entury **W**ireless **A**ssociation invites all members of the West River Radio Club and their guests to join us for a Luncheon boat cruise on Lake Sunapee on Saturday 27 July 2013. Arrive at Lake Sunapee Harbor at 11:15 am for an 11:30 am departure with a return to the dock about 1:30 pm. Cost is \$36 per person. Make check payable to "Twin State Chapter #146 QCWA" and mail to Cheryl A. Breuning, Treas., 54 Myrtle St., Newport, NH 03773.

You are also invited to join us for lunch in Brattleboro on Saturday, 21 September 2013 at the Train Station and meet other hams from Vermont who will be riding "The Vermonter" that day to Brattleboro with a tour of the museum following and a return to northern Vermont in the late afternoon. We hope that many of our West River friends will be able to join us for one or both of these excursions. More details to come in the July Newsletter!



FIELD DAY
By Gordon, W2NH

Ed: Gordon, W2NH, kindly contributed this anthology, compiled from several sources, and adapted to apply to the WRRRC. Thanks, Gordon

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To the members of the West River Radio Club and other interested Amateurs and their families:

While classified as "amateurs" we all know that we are much more than that. During each and every emergency as individuals and a group, we have acted in very professional ways to help serve our communities. Often the community is not aware of how we have helped, but we know.

During Hurricane Irene amateur radio communications was the only form of communication immediately available for many individuals. When disasters and emergencies occur, ham radio has been the answer time and time again throughout the world.

There is certainly an element of common sense in

responding to an emergency. It is important to keep calm, evaluate the situation, speak clearly, and listen intently to what is being said. Regarding the tornado that recently hit Oklahoma, residents had a 14 minute window in which to reach safety. In some ways, we are always training for emergencies.

Our Monday net is a practice session for accurately determining who has signed in, and ultimately what resources or information they might have to pass on to the group. Getting the right information regardless of what the distractions or propagation conditions might be is significant to the success of a proper response to an emergency. We need to expand the net and get some genuine practice handling traffic and resources during these weekly sessions.

Field Day is an opportunity to learn new skills or reinforce those that you might already have. The knowledge of how to safely set up an antenna and tower, shoot a drag line over a tree, or how to improvise a tower where none exists, is very valuable. The use of generators and or batteries and connecting them to the variety of equipment is something that can also be applied to many personal situations in times of disaster.

Getting on the air, and getting the information that confirms the validity of the contact is also an important skill. We try to make Field Day an event in which everyone can participate. Some people treat it as a contest and try to get as many contacts as they can. Great! Others prefer to work in a more relaxed atmosphere. No problem!

It also provides an opportunity to get onto bands that one might normally not have access to. One can also use it as an opportunity to meet and greet many of our members and just sit and chat; and of course, enjoy some good food.

Field Day is less than a month away, Saturday, June 22 and Sunday, June 23. I hope that you will plan to attend this really wonderful event.



DON'T FORGET!

**THE WRRRC WILL HOLD ITS
9TH ANNUAL FIELD DAY IN
TOWNSHEND, VT ON**

JUNE 21—22

**PLEASE JOIN US AND HONE
YOUR EMERGENCY OPERATING
SKILLS**

Allen Tinker, W1AAT

And

**The Twin State Chapter of the
Quarter Century Wireless Association**

Invite you

To join us for a Luncheon boat cruise on Lake Sunapee on Saturday 27 July 2013. Arrive at Lake Sunapee Harbor at 11:15 am for an 11:30 am departure with a return to the dock about 1:30 pm. Cost is \$36 per person. Make check payable to "Twin State Chapter #146 QCWA" and mail to Cheryl A. Breuning WA1WEY, Treas., 54 Myrtle St., Newport, NH 03773.



You are also invited to board "The Vermonter" at a station near you on Saturday, 21 September 2013 and travel to Brattleboro (\$12 one way between stations in Vermont). We will have lunch at the Train Station in Brattleboro and meet other hams from Vermont who will be riding "The Vermonter" that day. We will do a tour of the Brattleboro museum following lunch and a return to northern Vermont in the late afternoon. We hope that many of our North and North Central ham friends will be able to join us for one or both of these excursions. More details to come in July but please contact W1AAT at tinker@madriver.com for details.

