



# DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the  
West River Radio Club



August—2013

Volume VIII—#VII

## 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

## RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

### Why I belong

When I became a Ham in 1978 and quickly got hooked on all the fun I was having with this great hobby I decided to join the ARRL. I must have really been excited as I joined as a life member.

I wasn't making enough money back then to just come out and write a check to the League so I arranged pay on the installment plan, four quarterly payments. My memory being what it is I think that the whole shebang came to around \$400. I had done some math and convinced myself that I'd live long enough to get more than my money's worth from a life time membership. I was right and I did, get my money's worth, that is. I did not factor in the possibility that I might get run over by a Mac truck (or was it a Peterbuilt?). So far, at least, it appears that that would have been an unnecessary calculation.

Did I tell you? This is not a proselytizing effort on my part. If you don't belong to the League and have no desire to join, then the more power to you. I am not a joiner just for the sake of joining and cancelled my membership in the NEA (National Education Association) in the 1970s for reasons I won't go into here.

Personally, I believe that the ARRL does a good job of promoting the interests of Ham radio operators worldwide. Are they perfect? No! Please advise me when you find a perfect organization of any size and I'll gladly join, even if it happens to be the Mongolian branch of BOMOS, Benevolent Order of Musk Ox Shearers.

Below is a listing of what the League does do, things that I feel promote this great hobby nationally and internationally. The asterisk by any item denotes that League membership is required to take advantage of this benefit. You won't see too many asterisks, which, in itself, is another nice thing the folks in Newington do.

- Maintains a massive archive of old QSTs and other goodies.\*
- Operates an incoming and outgoing QSL Bureau. You have to be a member to use the outgoing, but anyone can use the incoming bureau.
- N1TOX, W1ZS, and K1KU are volunteers with the incoming bureau
- You can create an email alias, such as mine – [k1ku@arrrl.net](mailto:k1ku@arrrl.net)\*
- Serve as a go-between with the FCC and Congress to fight for what's good for our hobby
- Sponsor a VE program
- Represent US Hams at IARU and ITU meetings
- Operate under a representative form of government with elected representatives to the ARRL governing board. Our District 1 Rep is Tom Freynay K1KI
- Sponsor numerous contests and operating events, one being Field Day. Ham Radio's most popular event.
- Offer many awards for operating accomplishments
- Organize and sponsor many educational programs for youth and adults
- Nearly all of the ARRL chores get done by volunteers
- Maintain a lab where rigs and accessories are thoroughly tested and reported on honestly
- There's the ARRL store with clothing, books, DVDs, and more

There you have my two cents worth, maybe a tad more. You be the judge. If you'd ever like to see what goes on in Newington it's fairly close for a visit. It's open M – F and if you ask you can have a tour conducted by one of the several knowledgeable volunteers who are available. You can also have the thrill of operating W1AW. Just bring along a copy of your license. Several of us drove down in 2012 and had a whale of a time.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

**August 13:** Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L. The meeting will discuss programs you'd like to see for 2014.

**August 31:** The monthly Board/luncheon Meeting will be held at the PanAsian Restaurant in Brattleboro next to Staples. Gather at 11:30.

**August 10—11:** WAE, Worked all Europe contest. See rules at <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/>

**September 10:** Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L. Program topic is preparing for winter operating.

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

## 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 KA1ZQX, Tim, at [ka1zqx@arri.net](mailto:ka1zqx@arri.net)

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved. "

Will Rogers (1879-1935); actor, comic, columnist

## RAMBLINGS

This is a rather short issue, but that's OK—at least it's OK with me, and I'm the editor.

If you can't make the August meeting and have some ideas for programs in 2014 let me [k1ku@myfairpoint.net](mailto:k1ku@myfairpoint.net) or any Board member know what they are.

A few folks have tossed around the idea of fall picnic somewhere. Anyone wanting to set up a portable operation could do so. It would be a good time to test

out your Buddipoles if you have one.

Until we meet again here is some late breaking news from our friends at [www.noiseblankers.com/](http://www.noiseblankers.com/)

## MAN RETURNS TO FIND ENTIRE SHACK SOLD AT SK SALE

By K5KVN, on the scene

**LOYNIHAN, Ky.; July 23, 2013** -- Police say charges won't be filed in what appears to be an unfortunate misunderstanding at the Shady Lakes Retirement Center.

Wilford Merrington, an 82-year-old ham radio operator who lives at the assisted living facility, returned from a dentist appointment yesterday to find a small crowd gathered inside his apartment.

"Someone screamed 'YOU'RE ALIVE!' when I opened my apartment door," says Merrington. "It gave me quite a startle, and apparently Harold, too, because he passed out when he saw me."



After waking up, Harold Donnigan explained. "Betsy heard from Liz, who said Wilford had gone to the doctor this morning, where they found a tumor." He said the story got progressively worse as word spread among his friends. "I'm not going to say who, but SOMEONE said they heard he went to the ICU, and that he passed away shortly after arriving," he said.

It seems in the span of a few hours, Wilford Merrington died in the minds of his ham radio friends. He became what they call a "silent key." Then they leaped into action to sell his gear, in a silent key estate sale.

"Good grief, man! I just went to the dentist, they simply found a cavity and put me under to do the drill and fill!" said Merrington. "I get home and find out these knuckleheads thought I was dead, organized a silent key estate sale and sold all my stuff!"

"When he really dies, I'm coming back for that Collins 51-S-1," said one auction participant who wished to remain anonymous.

Merrington is asking anyone that purchased items to please return them to him. He would like to get back on the air and check in to the [Cialis Net](#).

(Ed: I'd truly appreciate any information anyone might have on the Cialis Net; time, frequency, privacy policy, etc.

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