



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the West River Radio Club



September—2013

Volume VIII—#IX

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

It's been a couple of months since I have written as I was away for my Annual Training in the Guard. Thanks to all that kept the torch burning and things running. It sounds like our monthly meeting went well this month with a great kit building session. Thanks to all who made the meeting go well.

We have some positive movement on getting a repeater in the Brattleboro area. At our board of director's meeting the other day, we had a great planning session. Thanks to all who attended. At this meeting we had one of our biggest attendances in quite a while, thanks. Well, as you see, this has been a busy month, and it looks to be a busy fall. Bro. Frank has a Technician class scheduled and there will be more happening in the Fox Hunt events soon. So keep in touch, have a great month.

Till then, 73
KA1ZQX/Tim

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PLUMBING 101

I was unable to attend the WRRR's August meeting due to our yearly scheduled trip to visit friends who live on Lake Willoughby, VT. Ever been there? If not, then I envy you as you have that pleasure to look forward to.

Especially since I missed the meeting I was pleased to receive some photos from David,



N1ESK, that revealed the nature of the activities that took place. On first glance I surmised that the attendees were being offered instruction in basic plumbing skills. Why else would the table be strewn with pvc pipe? To be honest, my plumbing experiences go back to the age of copper and mastering the art of doing a sweat joint. None of this glue things together baloney.

I have since learned, primarily via deductive reasoning, that the folks that night were constructing antennas. Could it be that since David was in attendance and that he was instrumental in hiding two foxes after the Girls on the Run event, he might be trying to make life easier for fox hunters via the use of directional antennas? If so, then good for him. I happened to be on that fox hunt and Rich, KB1J, and I had the devil's own time using only HTs with vertical antennas.

In any case, I look forward to the next event when some of the hunters will have the advantage of using a directive beam.



WK1L, Bro Frank



W1CWB Chas



W2NH Gordon
K1JON, John



K1EGL, Chuck
KB1NWT, John
ND1Q, David



UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

September 10: Regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 19:00L. The program will consist of a roundtable discussion on preparing for winter, like:

- The best buys on long underwear.
- Where to buy cheap firewood

If a roundtable wasn't done on programs for 2014 yours truly would like to include that.

September 28: The monthly Board/luncheon Meeting will be held at the PanAsian Restaurant in Brattleboro next to Staples. Gather at 11:30. These are always fun events and I'll bet that the August 31 meeting set an attendance record.

September 29: Submission deadline for material for the October issue.

October 30: Submission deadline for material for the November issue.

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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Never look back unless you are planning to go that way. - Henry David Thoreau

RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

SOTA

Most of you have probably been in this hobby long enough to know that Hams will "collect" anything that their feverish imaginations can conjure up:

- ◆ Countries (DXCC = DX Century Club)

- ◆ US Counties
- ◆ States (**Worked All States**)
- ◆ Grid squares
- ◆ Islands (**Islands On The Air**)
- ◆ Call prefixes (CQ magazine's **WPX** award)
- ◆ YLs named Hortense...OK, I made that one up
- ◆ And on and on and on

And some are not content to just, say, work all states. They then have to work every state on every band, or using every mode that's legally available. Some even try to do it all using QRP only.

Did someone say QRP? That's what really got the idea of this topic percolating in my gray matter. W1OKO, Oliver, joined us for Field Day this year and brought along his son to get a taste of this marvelous hobby. He came back later in the day sans harmonic, but with his Elecraft KX3. <http://www.elecraft.com/KX3/kx3.htm> It's a 10 watt rig that's very popular with a large segment of the Ham population.

With his KX3 hooked up to one of the FD antennas he proceeded to rack up a few QSOs QRP style. A WRRRC member who was observing Oliver and the KX3 in action confirms that he contacted Hawaii. Now that's a neat feat.

Since Field Day I've exchanged a few emails with Oliver concerning the rig and his feelings about it. Needless to say, he is well pleased. He also mentioned that he plans on using it for some SOTA activity. And here we find yet another thing that Hams like to collect, namely, **Summits On The Air**. As the proud owner of a Buddipole antenna system (<http://www.buddipole.com/>) I'm quite familiar with SOTA. You can learn more about it at <http://www.sota.org.uk/>

Maybe Oliver would be willing to attend a meeting and talk about some of his summit conquests, antennas used, contacts made, etc. Are you reading this, Oliver? If so, give me a **shout**.

Now here's a little tip for some of you that like to visit places in the beautiful state, and not just to operate portable, either. Although operating portable is a fun thing to do. Just ask any of our Field Day participants.

Frank, WK1L, and I both have *Green Mountain Passport* cards. If you're 55 or older your town clerk can get you one for the exorbitant some of \$2. This little card will get your vehicle and its passengers into any state park free of charge. With enough of us in possession of these cards we could get a lot of folks into the state park of our choice.

So there! You have some thoughts to ponder in your spare time.



QST—QST—QST

Don't hesitate set aside
July 17-20, 2014

As the dates to celebrate the
League's 100th Birthday

A MEMORABLE QSO

What with 24,898 QSOs in my computer log (<http://www.dx4win.com/>) (Yes, it's brag time) the law of averages says that some of them must be memorable. The law of averages speaks the truth. These are the kind of contacts that you remember long after the event.

There is always the first contact. I dare say that many of us will carry the memory of that QSO to the grave. Mine was with JHOHCV, Taka, but I'll cover that one in a future issue. Over the next few issues of this highly rated newsletter I'll cover several of the QSOs that stand out in my mind. For those of you who are still puzzled over the term "highly rated" the explanation is simple. **I DO THE RATING!**

For this issue I'll look at a recent contact with M5E. DX4WIN (see above) is truly amazing logging software. From it I learned that I have 214 confirmed QSOs with England and 383 unconfirmed. I could also search DX4 to learn how many of my English contacts were on RTTY, PSK31, CW, phone or assorted other modes. Or, how many were on any of the bands allotted to Hams.

Now the most used prefix for England is the letter G, but the letter M is also a legitimate prefix. The date was February 19, 2012 on 20 meter CW. What makes this a memorable QSO is that the operators were set up at the site where Guglielmo Marconi transmitted the first radio signals across the Atlantic Ocean. Folks, we're talking about a **BIG** milestone in the history of communications.

On the other side of the "pond" Marconi had a station set up at Saint Johns, Newfoundland. Now I and my wife have visited all of the Marconi sites in the USA and Canada with one exception, and that is St. Johns, Newfoundland.

I'll close this off with a little human interest touch. This set up was done with the blessing and assistance of the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club and the Marconi Centre at the site. They used Elecraft K3 transmitters and their KPA500 solid state amps. The operators were JK3GAD, Kazu, from Shiga, Japan, W6NV, Oliver, from Orinda, CA, and one lone Brit with a Scandinavian name, G0CKV, Olof Lubdberg. Go figure!

Is this a great hobby or not?



Cover of my fold out QSL card

The coast at Poldhu today



The man who started it all

(Editor's note: Let's close off with some breaking news from our friends at Ham Hijinks. These guys do a fantastic job of keeping us up to date with what's going on in the world of Amateur Radio.

AGAIN? AGAIN? OHIO HAM ACCIDENTALLY SETS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

DONCHESTERVILLE, Ohio; June 7, 2013

A Buckeye state ham radio operator has earned world-wide recognition...and did it accidentally.

Calvin Smithpeters is very proud of his record-setting achievement. Calvin Smithpeters, a General-class licensee, has been an amateur radio operator for 25 years. He says he received a phone call a few days ago notifying him that he'd earned a spot in the upcoming 2014 version of the famous Guinness Book of World Records.



"I was working some 40 meter SSB," says Smithpeters. "The phone rang downstairs and Mildred didn't believe who it was at first. She kept the representative on the line until I could get there."

According to the London, England-based record keeping organization, Smithpeters requested information be re-transmitted repeatedly during a QSO with Paul Evers (another U.S. ham located in Reno, Nevada).

The representative told Smithpeters he had set a new record for "*Asking An Amateur Radio Operator to Repeat Information in an On-Going QSO.*"

"It truly is an outstanding feat, even if the category is fairly obscure," says Oliver Newcastle-Ipswich, Guinness' Director of Notifications. "Mr. Smithpeters asked for a signal report 17 times. He asked for Mr. Evers to repeat his name 28 times. And he requested the QTH be repeated over 3 dozen times. Truly remarkable in a 15 minute conversation!"

While proud to be included in the world-renown publication, Smithpeters says next time he'll wait until his wife is finished using the food blender before he starts a QSO.

K1KU's TIP OF THE DAY

**Never forget that it's a hobby.
So have fun!**

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

