



# DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the  
West River Radio Club



November—2013

Volume VIII—#X

## 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

On November 4, 2003 ten stalwart Amateur radio operators, often called ham radio operators or simply "hams", from Southeastern VT braved a dark, drizzly night to attend an exploratory meeting for a new Ham club in Windham County (as our web site states). That night was a great start to a premier club 10 years ago. It has been because of those 10 and many others (some not with us now) over the years that the West River Radio Club has been the best club in the state.

From the beginning we decided that we wanted to foster Ham Radio and be supportive to our county in any way we could. We have supported floods, special events Ham Radio classes and the State of Vermont through the RACES program. We have worked so hard to keep our Special Services Club status. Another thing we have tried and succeeded for the most part is to keep politics out of our monthly meetings. We hold our board of director's meeting each month to take care of any matters that come before the board. I can say that I am proud to be a member of this club and hope it continues for years to come. We have not done it alone. Support from the local community has been a big asset to this club also. If it wasn't for Grace Cottage Hospital providing us with space to

meet, and participating in regular drills etc. it would be hard to function as well as we have over the last 10 years. Our partnership with them has been very strong. We continue to foster partnerships all over the county.

Again, the West River Radio club has been asked to sponsor the fall session of Skywarn. If you are able to attend our next meeting, we will be hosting Skywarn. Note that it will start at 1830L not 1900 as per usual. Please visit this web site: <http://cstar.cestm.albany.edu:7775/skywarn/Talks.htm> and pre-register for this session. This session usually last about 2 hours. Hope you all can make it.

The last two months, *Bro. Frank Hagerty, WK1L* along with support from other instructors, put on a technician class in Wilmington, Vermont. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, we held a VE session for that class. We had good results, but not what we expected. Thanks to Frank and the instructors for the time and energy it took!

Hope to see you at our next gathering. Make sure you mark your calendar for Skywarn on November 14 and our annual meeting on December 14. See you then.

Till then, 73  
KA1ZQX/Tim

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

In a TV interview Tommy Lasorda remarked that during the war his life had been saved by an Italian girl who hid him in her basement for two weeks.

When asked where that was, he replied, "In the Bronx."

(Ed note: I was reminded by an email from Gordon that on November all, many, most of us will celebrate this wonderful holiday.

That email was from a friend of Gordon's and is VERY apropos for the season.

I'm sure that Gordon has lots of reasons to be thankful. He's just come through another major surgery and should be able to cope on his own before too long. We, too, are thankful for that.)

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From a friend far away:

If you were to sit down and write a list of things to be thankful for, hopefully that list would be so long as to absolutely overshadow the list of problems that we might have.

The world that we live in today is so fast paced, so social media driven, and so often devoid of any human interaction that when we get caught up in all that, we often lose sight of the little things and the important things for which we should be thankful. Most of us take for granted our health, our financial stability, our security, and are complacent about so many things in our lives. It is only when we recognize that others don't have these blessings that we should take stock and realize how lucky we are.

Because we don't walk in each other's shoes, we are often too quick to turn a deaf ear to the plight of others as simply not important or worth dealing with. In so many instances we lose the opportunity to learn from someone or help someone with a simple kind word.

There are really times when you just have to "stop and smell the roses", and appreciate what we have, and what others may not have.

Start making that list and perhaps we can be thankful every day of the year for all the good things that are in our lives.

Happy Thanksgiving!



### 3 AMIGOS AT NEAR-FEST

On October 11 your humble correspondent, newsletter editor, Field Day cheer leader and all around nice guy attended Near-Fest. He was joined by two good friends. K1KS, AI, hails from REAL Vermont, AKA, the Northeast Kingdom. Glenn, K1GE, is a resident of New Hampshire. He's the one that knows how to LIVE FREE. In New Hampshire you'd better live free or face the consequences.

Not by coincidence all three are also charter members of the NH/VT DX Association. That club's motto is now and forever, *If You Live Long Enough You Can Work*

*'em All."*

The photo shows how prescient one of the vendors was. We had not announced our plans to attend Nearfest. Nevertheless, one of the sellers must have had the NSA watch our emails and had a sign prepared just for us.

There was no WRRC presence this year, and for good reason. On past visits in the fall we were always plagued by foul weather. We've encountered it all; rain, cold, wind, everything except a cyclone and tsunami.

So guess what? The weather was fantastic. Well, fantastic if you enjoy clear skies, no wind, and mild temperatures. The 3 amigos made the most of it by sauntering all over the place, looking at stuff, and solving assorted local and world problems.

In the course of our sauntering we managed to encounter other Hams we knew:

- ◆ W1VTP, AI
- ◆ KV1J, Eric (Manager of the W1 Incoming Bureau for which Glenn and I act as card sorters)
- ◆ KA1T, Tom and his YL (I gave up saying XYL ages ago)
- ◆ AA1SU, Paul, SM for the state of VT
- ◆ N1RX, Bruce...Well, I'm convinced that I saw him, but from the rear. A couple of loud shouts failed to gain his attention and I gave up on the effort. I did consider nudging him in the rear with my car but common sense prevailed and I drove on.
- ◆ Gordon, W2NH, was allegedly wandering around, but I didn't catch sight of him

As is the trio's usual custom, we stopped at Newicks in Concord before heading home to dine on some dead fish and continue on with the rag chewing.

In the meantime mark your calendars for Near-Fest XV on May 2-3, 2014.



**K1GE, Glenn  
K1KS, AI  
K1KU, Darrel**

### TECH CLASS

Once again, thanks to Bro Frank, WK1L, who put his shoulder to the wheel and did all that was necessary to set up another WRRC TECH class. This time it was in Wilmington, VT. Assisting Frank with instructional chores were N1TOX, John, W1CWB, Chas, KA1ZQX, Tim, and K1KU, Darrel.

A VE session was held on October 21 in the Wilmington Fire Department. As a result three new Hams were welcomed into this great hobby, two Techs and one General.

Congratulations to:

- Paul Tonon KC1APE, Technician Class

- George Coulombe KC1APF, Technician Class
- Alexander Hiam KC1APG, General Class

## UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

**November 12:** This month's regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC will consist of a Skywarn session. We'll meet in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital at 18:30L., NOT 17:00L as we usually do.

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

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)

## FOND FAREWELLS FOR FRANK

I was going to say Bro Frank, but that really would have messed up the alliteration. You know who I mean, of course, WK1L, the other Putney Ham; The one that lives in the downtown metropolitan center of the city.

At our October meeting we learned that Frank will be leaving the area, probably by the end of November. Now that's not good news, but it could be worse. His new duty assignment will be in Burlington, VT. In a little state like this that's almost next door.

He will be sorely missed, not just as a person, but as one who made many contributions towards making the WRRRC the vibrant organization that it is. In case you need examples....

- \* Heavy involvement in the statewide RACES program
- \* Heavy involvement in the Windham County CERT program
- \* Handling the organizational duties for WRRRC's educational endeavors
- \* Scheduling classes
- \* Procuring instructors
- \* Finding locations for the classes
- \* Typing up the needed syllabi
- \* Procuring the necessary materials
- \* Keeping the students and instructors apprised of any and all changes
- \* Acting as the club Volunteer Examination Coordinator
- \* Procuring and storing the test material
- \* Finding suitable sites, cajoling VEs and scheduling test sessions
- \* Consistent Field Day participant, as well as:
- \* Coordinating our Saturday evening potlucks
- \* Buying food and tending to the grill
- \* Occasional contributor of technical articles for the

## Digital Dispatch

- \* Consistent attendance at our monthly meetings

Bro Frank, you are definitely going to be missed.

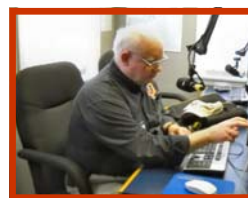
It's good that he's going to be relatively close. An invitation has already been extended to have him join us for Field Day in 2014. I'm sure, too, that there will be occasions when he'll be in the Windham County area and arrangements can be made for an eyeball.

The two of us have already discussed plans for activating the privately owned lighthouse at Isle La Motte. There is also a Catholic retreat facility there with newly built accommodations. Frank has spoken to the lighthouse owners and they are glad to have some Hams put their lighthouse "on the map". It's almost a done deal.

Richard Carlson, in his book *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff, and It's All Small Stuff* offers some pertinent advice. If you want to lead a more contented, happy life then don't waste time thinking about what you don't have. Instead, contemplate what you do have. We won't have WK1L nearby much longer, but we will have the memories of a lot of good times together. We'll also enjoy envisioning future times when we'll get together for conversation, dining, and, of course, playing radio.

Vaya Con Dios

Here are some pictures from the archives of the *Bro* in action...



## PAST PREZ CIRCLE

### *As our 10<sup>th</sup> year closes....*

As a valued member of the West River Club, or a faithful reader of this fine publication, I would like to say "Thank You" for your membership, support, and being a solution to the "All Hazards" emergency communications aspect of south eastern corner of Vermont. Without your dedication we would not be a group to follow here in Vermont.

So how did we become the leader? Well we have practiced and have worked with the Vermont State EOC (VT DEMHS) to craft out the best solutions for emergency communications via amateur radio working from the EnVY EPZ to the SOEC. With this program fully crafted, VT DEMHS has taken this to the next level and started the Health Care Network, VTrans Network, the Agriculture Network and more. So our suggestions for improvement became a viable working model for safety of the state, the first responders, the towns and the citizens of Vermont, this is where it has been fine-tuned!

So bringing it back home, it is that time of year again to renew your membership. The cost is very affordable. Our annual membership is still just \$10.00 per member with an additional \$5.00 for family members after that! Just think, for \$0.027 per day, you can be a member of the West River Radio Club! Sound like a TV ad? It sure does to me too!!

So, please consider making your membership dues payment at either of our November or December meetings. If you are paying by check, make the check payable to "West River Radio Club". If you are planning to mail your payment in, please send it to my attention at PO Box 8087, N Brattleboro, VT 05304-8087. Please note, if you have any changes to your license, address or anything else, please fill out a membership application which is located on our website <http://www.westriverradio.org> and click on the "Meeting Minutes and Club Forms" link in the left hand column. Then click on "West River Radio Club Membership Application" and note that this form is completely editable on your computer as presented, and once you print it off, include it with your payment. We will then update your noted changes.

So what is coming up in 2014? We have whole boat load of exciting events happening at our club meetings and weekend events being planned. So stay tuned and enjoy your membership, no matter as to it being a renewal or even a new membership, it is great to have you on board!

Until next month!

73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – Past President WRRRC

(Ed: Has the FCC gone too far? This time it sure looks like it! Those super sleuths at Ham Hijinks have uncovered what could prove to be a disastrous blow to our hobby.)

## FCC Approves Same Sex Cable Connections

By WBØRUR, on the scene

**WASHINGTON, D.C.; April 15, 2013** – In a move being touted by proponents as "ground breaking" and by critics as "the end of the world," the Federal Communications Commission has announced approval of same sex cable connections.

Cable rights activists vowed to get the measure approved through congressional legislative channels should the FCC not take prompt action.

FCC Commissioner Roberto De Stankhousen announced today's decision as members of the press and the cable connection rights group "Friends and Users of Cable Compatibility" gathered in the Rayburn Office building lobby.

"No longer will it be necessary to connect a PL-259 with an SO-239. An RCA male no longer need feel incompatible when partnered with another RCA male. A quarter inch phono plug may now be used for a direct connection to another quarter inch phono plug. This is truly a landmark day!"

Today's announcement has left technical specialists scratching their collective heads over the decision. "I'm all for parity among cables and connections," says Dr. Phillip Von Beckentoffer, the creator of the small NGF style connector which no one uses and doesn't even know exists.

"But this creates more issues than answers. Exactly HOW do I get the two male connectors to stay together? I can't get it to work. I experimented with this type of thing in college."

Outraged cabling technicians are vowing to appeal the FCC decision. Thomas "Red" Scrollinger – an experienced cable tech – questions the decision from his office in downtown Petaluma, California.

"There's no way to mate them together. Further, how robust is the FCC's decision? How encompassing is this decision? Can I use an RCA male with a BNC male? How about a PL-259? It's wide open for interpretation. Frankly, I don't like all the gray area."

A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday at 4:00 p.m. The FCC ruling goes into effect 90 days afterwards.

