



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the West River Radio Club



February—2014

Volume X—#I

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

First, I want to thank all of you that have been a part of the West River Radio Club. It could not be a club without the support and time many of you put in. We are starting our 11th year now and I expect that good things will happen this year.

It's hard to top what we did last year as a club and the accomplishments of many of you. A lot of us are involved in ECOMM through CERT, RACES, ARES and the club. I know it can get tiring at times with all the events happening, but when you get a thank you at the end of the event or a comment like "we couldn't have done it without you", it makes it all worthwhile! Consider helping out during our next event. Keep the radio warm and your ability to communicate going.

Thanks to all that made our Annual Meeting a success. Thanks to Chas W1CWB for organizing the menu etc. We had very good food, camaraderie, and a good turnout. Thanks again to all who made it all possible.

Just a reminder, if you haven't sent in your dues yet, they are due. Hope to see you all at our February meeting.

Till then, 73
KA1ZQX/Tim

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle—Albert Einstein



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



ANTARCTICA

Want to work someplace that's warm? Isn't it summer down there?

John, N1TOX, forwarded me a blurb about DS4NMJ, Sang Hoon Lee. Maybe it's too warm in South Korea, but, for whatever reason Sang will be spending all of 2014 in Antarctica.

He'll be signing as D8A (neat call, huh?) at the Jang Bogo Station. QSL via another South Korean, HL2FDW.

Get more details at <http://dxing.at-communication.com/en/d8a-jang-bogo-antarctica/>



TIP OF THE MONTH

When buying pipe always make sure that the OD is larger than the ID. Otherwise, the hole will be on the outside.



UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

Ongoing: All sorts of Ham Radio celebratory activities for the 100th anniversary of the ARRL. Go to <http://www.arrrl.org/centennial-qso-party#QSLs> or <http://www.arrrl.org/centennial>

February 11: Come out and enjoy the second meeting of our 10th year as a club. We start at 19:00L in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, VT. The program will consist of an overview of all the things to do to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ARRL.

There is always a wealth of information at www.westriverradio.org—Also check out WRRRC events on the club calendar at http://www.westriverradio.org/WRRRC/WRRRC_Pages/prgmplan.html

February 6: The winter meeting of the VT/NH DX Association will be held at the Weathervane restaurant in West Lebanon, NH. Order from the menu at noon.

February 22: Monthly meeting of the WRRRC Board of Directors at the Panasian restaurant in Brattleboro, VT by Staples. All our welcome. Bring your ideas for what club activities or suggestions to make your club even better than it is.

February 15-16 & March 1-2: ARRL International DX Contest—CW in February and SSB in March. This is one of the world wide BIGGIES. Get full details at www.arrrl.org/arrrl-dx

ANNUAL MEETING - 2013

What else can I say? It was another great gathering. I was in attendance and will testify under oath that everyone had fun. They also got a belly full of great chow.

Before I forget, thanks to a bunch of folks who made it possible:

- W1CWB, Chas, for being the organizer
- All the attendees for attending
- All the cooks who provided the luscious grub
- N1ESK, David, for providing the Ham Radio version of Jeopardy—It was a kick playing, even for the losers
- The trio that said yes to another year's service as officers

So here we are, already into our 10th year of existence. Is it too early to begin planning for a gala meeting to celebrate our first decade of being a impressive club with a lot of accomplishments?



KB1HCG—N1REB



WK1L—KB1YCD



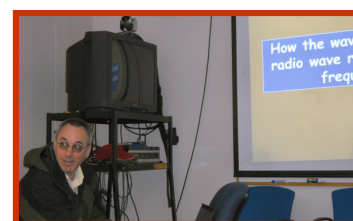
WK1L—KB1YCD—KB1J



N1XSS—KB1MQD



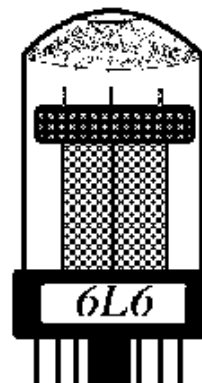
N1REB-KD6MPY-KA1CYZ



N1ESK



W1CWB



RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

RANDOM THOUGHTS

I was going to say *A POTPURRI*, but I didn't want to send some of you rushing for a dictionary. I actually stole the term *Random Thoughts* from one of my favorite writers, Dr. Thomas Sowell. This dear man, who is in his 80s, has written more books and articles that you can count, even with your shoes off. He often writes on his *Random Thoughts* and that's my plan for this issue.



Is there life beyond Ham Radio? Another way to phrase this is, do you have other interests. Maybe some of our wives or SOs would doubt it, but many of us do. I'd like to see one of our meeting round table talks discuss not

THE PAST PREZ KORNER

Recovery Time

As many of you know, I took a huge lightning strike on Labor Day 2013. I lost most of my radio equipment and while I do have insurance, it really was a hit to the old checkbook. I've never written out such large numbers before because I always let Sue have the honor. But this time, she said this was your project and you have to do it. 4 figure checks a couple of times over really hits hard. But now, it is time to recover and rebuild.

With a new antenna in the air, a new Yaesu FT-3000D transceiver, and many other replaced pieces of equipment, I have to say, it has been an adventure. From a radio that was all knobs and buttons then going to a menu driven digital display radio, I was learning amateur radio all over again, especially on the HF side. With my old FT-1000MP Mk V, I was able to find someone calling CQ and pinpoint the exact frequency they were on and made the contact. I almost knew that radio like the back of my hand, and how to work the pile-ups during a contest. 200 watts out, change the tone on the Heil Microphone, move the frequency just off center and boom, the QSO was made. Tricks I learned from some pros within our own club during Field Day which I brought to the home station.

But with the FT-3000D, it is a bit different. While the radio works the same, ya need to know which menu items to tweak and what ones just flop. And for the voice compression, leave it alone!! You could easily over modulate and become a big blob on the other end. But the adventure is still fun. I'll get it

Since I lost my baby, the FT-1000MP Mk V, I started to think about what I lost while using the FT-3000D. I could only put out 100 watts and not 200 watts. Not a real big deal unless you are contesting and contacting a really weak station. A great item on the FT-1000 was the ability to twin receive during contesting and transmitting on either VFO, for those listening up or down 5. The way I had all of the attached equipment tweaked to work with that radio and not the new 3000. There was a void in my hobby.

So I researched radio repair sites and contacted many radio techs. Many of them said, "Oh, a lightning strike? Write it off dude! I do not touch them at all." This was the story until I found Byron Campbell, WA4GEG in Sharps Chapel, TN. <http://www.hamradiobug.com>. This great individual specializes and repairs only the FT-1000 family! Even lightning strikes! So I figured that I would give it a shot after reading his website. I had hopes, high hopes. So after his vacation and exchanges of emails, I sent my baby away for an evaluation with the hopes that it was fixable. We determined that the external power supply was toast and it has been recycled. So Byron looked at it and sent me an email. I was scared to look at it for about 15 minutes. Then I read it at work and said to Chas "It's alive! It lives! It's repaired!" The transceiver was

just what we have and/or do with our radio hobby, but also secondary interests. While you're thinking this over - what you'll talk about at that meeting, I'll tell you what my other "hobby" is. It's an interest that I share with my first wife, and its name is.....

Travel. We started young, like right after our marriage. With the assistance of the GI bill and Marion's teaching job I was attending college in California. Come summer, though, we'd hop in our 1958 VW Bug and head East to see her relatives and friends. In those days \$5 - \$6 would buy you a nice motel room, sometimes even with a pool.

Upon graduation and finding teaching jobs in Alaska we headed north in that same bug over the Alaska Highway. All in all we made 16 trips out of and back to Alaska during the 21 years that we lived there. When our family swelled with the addition of two sons we upgraded to a gas guzzling Ford pickup with two 20 gallon gas tanks and an over-the-shell camper.

To escape those horrendous Alaskan winters we'd sometimes take the 6 your flight south to Hawaii. That calls for ingenuity. How do you dress to leave minus 20F and land where it's in the mid 80s? Somehow we managed.

The travel bug has never gotten out of our system. After moving to Vermont in 1983 we've managed several cruises, one back to Hawaii, several visits to Bermuda, 2 trips to England, and 3 to Japan. We've also managed a lot of driving trips to as far away as Texas, but mostly down to Florida, but also into the Canadian Maritimes, and all over the New England.

Now here's the good news. I can combine my Ham hobby with the travel. I've operated in Bermuda, Japan, and England. Even when I don't operate I've managed to arrange meetings with Hams wherever we go. Yes, this is one world wide group of mostly friendly and welcoming people.

Has age slowed us up? Sure it has. The big driving trips are out of the question anymore; but there are still planes and cruise ships. We spent a great week last month on the Big Island in Hawaii and are looking at another trip to Alaska later this year. Why travel? It's fun and we enjoy spending the kid's inheritance.



WORD OF THE MONTH

[Ed: Let's all make a real effort to use this word on the air at least 4—5 times a day.]

bumfuzzle

Pronunciation: (bum-**FUZ**-uhl)

Meaning: *verb tr.*: To confuse

Etymology: From bum-, probably from bamboozle (to deceive) + fuzzle (to confuse)



well it was not that bad, just a couple of diodes in the 30 VDC section and some other minor components. Now that I have it back totally repaired, including all of the recommended upgrades and changes Yaesu has published which Byron does with all of his repairs. I next needed to buy a 30 VDC power supply to run the rig along with the 13 VDC unit I already have. So the day of powering it up this rig is coming up real soon.

So the shack is coming along. A new antenna, radios, repaired radios, new cable and just starting all over. I will have everything put back together, but the list of other projects grew to be so large, I bet I have only reached a 60% completion rate as of now. But I will get there.

So the lesson learned here is this, just because you have a down day and feel like crap, if you put your mind to it and perform all of your research duties to the best of your abilities, it will all work out. From feeling like crap to a winning smile, I know it really could have been worst. Don't give up!

Until next month!

73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – Past President WRRC

[Ed: More breaking news from Ham Hijinks]

Help Coming For Poorly Translated Manuals

By K5KVN, on the scene

San Francisco, Calif. — Ham radio manufactures have inked a deal with the popular language learning software Rosetta Stone, in an effort to ease frustrations with poorly translated programming manuals.

Baowood marketing officer Lin Rosen admitted that a problem exists but they can't change the manuals. "Our hands are tied! We have a long-term contract with the translators of our manuals. We can't change them."

A Yaecom official who wished to remain anonymous agreed. "We have a manual that reads 'celebrate the aerial about the transmission.' I have NO IDEA know what that means."

The solution, according to radio manufactures, is not to change the manual but teach customers the additional languages. Beginning in 2014, most major radio manufacturers will ship the software for free with new radio purchases.

In addition to handling all "traditional" languages such as Chinese, Spanish and French, the software package will also help with the troublesome "broken English."

Only one radio manufacturer did not take part in the agreement. [Peanut Whistle Transmitters](#), whose popular [QRM modules](#) and [radios with celebrity catchphrases](#) are gaining popularity, said they will continue to offer their manuals in three variations, unique to their brand: Cajun, Southern Slang and Pig Latin.

Dog-Gone Miscommunication Leads To Great Civic Club Presentation

By WB0RUR on the scene

SPARK GAP, Nevada – A misunderstanding resulted in extra work – but a great presentation – by a rural Comanche County ham radio operator.

Mr. Buttons, shown here in his owner's shack last week, found propagation conditions to be "ruff."

Justin Nightingale is the public information officer for the "Bluff-dwellers Amateur Radio Klub" (BARK) of Spark Gap, Nevada. During the club's October meeting, President George Loganmiller asked Nightingale to prepare a "dog and pony" show demonstrating ham radio for an upcoming Noon Hour Kiwanis Club meeting.

Unaware that the phrase "dog and pony show" means an "interesting and detailed public relations presentation," Nightingale set forth to train his family dog to use a single sideband transceiver and make a QSO.

"Mr. Buttons was skittish at first and unable to use the PTT switch since his "dew claw" had gotten caught in that barbed wire fence and was still healing. Using a foot switch was also impossible, as the dog wasn't able to depress the foot pedal," says the ham radio operator turned dog trainer. "But we kept at it. Things progressed better when he operated VOX."

Nightingale says after several days of training and several pounds of raw hamburger, the dog got on the air, making a total of 36 contacts with 12 states and 4 countries.

"His operating practices were really bad," says Nightingale, who remained control operator of all transmissions. "He stepped on other operators' transmissions, un-keyed the microphone only to immediately key up and start talking again, failed to ID frequently enough, tried to work simplex when he should have been split frequency and talked about topics which are usually off-limits on HF."

"Due to the inherent limitations of the dog brain and the challenge of time and space relationships, 'Mr. Buttons' also had trouble figuring out UTC and calculating the offset hours for our mountain time zone."

"Probably the most difficult thing we had to overcome was his incessant and repeated 5x9 signal reports," says Nightingale. "I tried to explain to him that not EVERYONE could be 5x9, but he didn't seem to comprehend. You know, he gave me that funny cocked head / ears perked up look."

In the end, the Kiwanis Club warmly received Nightingale and Mr. Buttons. However, the group says they were very disappointed that a pony wasn't also involved.

The canine communicator now operates primarily CW on the low end of 20 meters and is said to be thinking seriously about moon-bounce operations.

WRRC FUNDING SUMMARY	
February 1, 2014	

BALANCE FROM 2013	
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	\$ 4,292.26
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DEPOSITS	
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	\$ -
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EXPENSES	
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	\$ -
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CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	
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	\$ 4,292.26
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PETTY CASH	
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	\$0.00
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TOTAL MONEY ON HAND	
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	\$ 4,292.26
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FULL Members	40
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AUXILIARY MEMBERS	3
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ARRL Members	26
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ARRL / Memb (SSC)	65.00%
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Grant Funding Balances (In Checking)	
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Townshend	\$ 34.14
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Vernon Fire Assoc Inc	\$ 1,750.00
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