



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



April—2014

Volume IX—#III

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

The month of April, is it a time for change or is it just another month? Hopefully soon, all the snow will go away and there will be some flowers popping out of the ground. Just the other evening I was noticing a couple of daffodils poking up through the ice and snow. Nothing will stop them! It won't be long before the grass will turn green, the temperature will get warmer and soon it will be time to get my hands dirty in the garden. It is a time for new beginnings. Is there still a project you want to do? Well, winter is about over and it will be time to put that project to task! This next meeting we will be doing a little project. Darrel (K1KU) has a project for us to do and will put out a list again of what we will be doing. Hope you all will be able to come and help us build!

Most of the winter I have been talking about ECOMM etc., what have you done to ready yourself and or your station? Have you made improvements to your antenna, your tower, or have you been studying to upgrade your license class? I hope whatever you have done; you are ready for another year of helping out your community. Besides our usual events (walks, parades etc.), I am sure it will be a busy summer. Are you ready?

As a board we have already been talking about Field day. If you look at the calendar, it's not that too far off. Will you be able to help out with the festivities this year? There are many different ways to help out. We have setup, teardown and then everything from operating, to

eating lots of food in between! Have I mentioned camaraderie? It's a good time all around. Hope you can be there to help out.

Thanks again for what you do. It could not be possible without you! Hope to see you all at our next meeting.

Till then, 73
KA1ZQX/Tim

.....-/-

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot. - Michael Althsuler

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

UNBELIEVABLE

April 1, 2010 - by Dan, KB6NU

This from Jim, WB8AZP, via the ARROW mailing list:

Buried in the middle of the 1200-page Health Care Reform package is something that should be disturbing to all US amateur radio operators. Embedded in the funding guidelines section 415, paragraph 27, line 45, are details on one of the mechanisms that the government intends to employ to help pay for the staggering costs of the new plan.

To put it simply, the new health care guidelines

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.arrl.org/centennial-gso-party#QSLs> or <http://www.arrl.org/centennial>

April 8: You're all invited to come to our next meeting and build a foxhole radio. We start at 19:00L in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, VT. A parts list and write up on the radio are attached to this mailing.

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

April 26: Monthly meeting at the Panasian Restaurant by Staples in Brattleboro. Come enjoy some Chinese or Japanese food, make chit chat and toss around ideas for our club.

June 27–29, 2014: Is it spring yet? Close enough for this Ham to start thinking about Field Day. Consider yourself invited to this popular operating event. See the attachment to this email concerning this year's event.

Skywarn: A flyer is also included with this mailing that gives dates/places for upcoming Skywarn classes.

support the notion of creative funding from untapped resources, and from other government agencies, like the FCC. This puts the burden on funding on other agencies, and therefore the health care reform pundits can claim that "they" didn't introduce any new taxes to pay for everything.

Lurking in the depths of the new health care package is a time bomb waiting to affect all US Amateur Radio Operators; The new Talk And Pay (TAP) Tax. What does the TAP Tax do? Well, just as it implies, it adds a tax on to each amateur license, based on usage of the bands.

The FCC knew it was going to be troublesome to enforce this kind of regulation, so they came up with a clever scheme – taxation by license class. All Technician, General, and Extra Class Licensees will be taxed at a different rate. Any holdover licenses from different classes will be taxed at the next higher rate, so novice license holders will be taxed as technicians, advanced holders as extra class licensees and so on. The logic is that higher class licenses can use more of the frequencies; therefore they pay a larger percentage. There are even paragraphs that define taxing stations that haven't operated, (although you have to prove that by filing a waiver), stations where the license holder has

become a silent key (a different waiver), and repeater or space stations (when the license is held by a non-profit group, you can apply for a waiver as well). They legislators have even thought of the mechanism to capture revenue from youngsters, in their special Tax On Eventual Earnings (TOE) tax. So, a youngster who is not working will pay into a TOE TAP TAX account, in the form of a debit owed to the government. Even retirees do not escape this tax, as there is a provision for the SNAP TAP TAX (Sure Not Accounting for Productivity).

There does seem to be a provision for testing down to a previous license class, so you can get a tax break by forfeiting your current license class, (after taking a new 50 question written exam, and paying a hefty 45 dollar examination fee). You'll be then required to sign BCKTP in CW or "slash Back Tap" in voice.

This looks to be pretty well thought out. I stopped reading after seeing the FCC amateur radio entry. It appears that Cell phones and wireless data networks will be next. There are 20 other government agencies listed in the document. Where will this insanity end? All of this is scheduled to go into effect on April 1, 2011, because there apparently wasn't enough time to implement it before then.

If this doesn't negatively impact the growth of amateur radio, I don't know what will! I think it will also promote the notion of going really underground, and not using your callsign at all., actually a practice that I've already heard lots of people adopt, especially on VHF.

I called my congressman after reading all of this, and he said that there are already proposals being filed to allow credit for amateur radio operators involved in public service, and he called it the Support for Individuals Desiring to Engage in Services Training, Education, and Planning (SIDESTEP). That makes me feel a little better.

I think it just might be time to get rid of my gear before all this TOE TAP, SNAP TAP, BACK TAP, and SIDESTEP stuff goes into affect. Once again, the government is here to help you.

A CENTENNIAL YEAR

2014 was the year that *The Old Man*, Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, with the assistance of his 17 year friend, Clarence Tuska, 1AY, started the American Radio Relay League. I won't bore you with a lot of history. Besides, better writers than I have covered it all in detail. A little creative Googling will point you to a lot of neat stuff.

I will tell you how he earned the moniker of "the Old Man." In the early years of the ARRL, co-founder and first President Hiram Percy Maxim occasionally penned editorials in QST magazine using the pseudonym "The Old Man." These "rants" became legendary. Those early CW ops, and even today's users of the first digital mode, love abbreviations. Hence, *The Old Man* became TOM.

Personally, I believe that Hiram did a good thing. The ARRL is not perfect. I'll now pause to allow you the time to think of all the organizations you know of that are perfect. In my maybe not so humble opinion, though, it does a better than average job of invigorating this wonderful hobby. Here are some of their services; many of them for non-members:

- Publishing a monthly magazine, QST (Now available digitally)
- Publishing several specialized journals dealing with certain aspects of our hobby; Two examples are QEX for communications experimenters, and NCJ, the National Contest Journal.
- Educational programs for new hams
- Maintaining a Volunteer Examiner program
- Keeping an excellent lab for testing new ham gear
- Making available a large quantity of books and other resources pertaining to Amateur Radio
- Promoting numerous awards and assuring that no "cheating" goes on; DXCC and WAS being two of the most prominent ones.
- Keeping close watch on the FCC in case their rule making has a not so good effect on Amateur operations.
- Providing legal advice for Hams caught in lawsuits or rulings by local governments concerning their antennas
- Maintaining and staffing both an Incoming and Outgoing QSL Bureau. The Incoming Bureau is entirely staffed by volunteers. Three of those volunteers belong to the WRRRC; N1TOX, John Borichevsky, Burt Eldridge, W1ZS, and Darrel Daley, K1KU.
- Sponsoring regional conventions in all of the call areas.
- Promoting emergency communications.
- Publishing numerous e-letters dealing with various aspects of Ham radio; a DX Bulletin, one that covers Emcomm, a propagation announcements, contest updates, and others.

Therefore, I hereby appoint myself as the one to proclaim HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes to the American Radio Relay League for having reached its 100th anniversary. May there be many more to come, and may our hobby grow and prosper as we march on into the 21st Century.



ALL COMMUNICATIONS ARE SUSPENDED!

While under the observation of our Official Observer for over the past 3 years, I have received a notice from the FCC that my license has been suspended. To that, I say phooey!! I have been singled out as a jammer, splatter, uncooperative and a hacker. Therefore my FCC license has been suspended and I now have a court order to cease opera-

tions as of 1-JUN-2105.

In speaking with my legal counsel of Howe, Judd, Doit, and Why, we are planning a legal proceeding against the Official Observer for falsely accusing me with working outside of the amateur radio bands and interfering with the highway traffic signals in San Diego. While it is totally understood that we cannot operate under the gruesome "Y" zone because of this issue across the country, I have to say that the part of my shack that I was operating in was inches above the "Y" zone and my signals might have splattered and changed the colors of the traffic lights to green in all directions. Hey, I'm sorry the line of the "Y" zone goes directly through the center of my shack but that is not my fault the ground moved. Besides, I was only using the northern part of my Windom antenna, so what they hey??? It is above the line!!

So I will still operate while my legal team fights this battle for me. I think it will take some time for the court to realize that I am right and they (the Official Observer) are totally wrong and see that I was not in the wrong.



So until the next time when I come out of hiding.... Keep your radios operating and tune into the nets!
More details to follow!

John Borichevsky – N1TOX

(Ed note: John, I know that I speak for the entire membership of the WRRRC in urging you to continue this fight. You are in the RIGHT in this struggle. Likewise, if your lawyer fees get out of hand (we know how greedy these people are) we'll dig into the club treasury to ease the financial strain.)



RARE ANTENNA GREASE

[Ed not: News of this rare and valuable item came to me from AA1XU, Dick. After you've had a chance to observe its effects give me a shout and we'll publish the results.]

For sale one tube of rare CB antenna grease.

This stuff came out in the 60's. It was developed by the Department of Defense for the armed services. It



was mainly used in the field on hand held units, tripling their range. It is a closely guarded secret by technicians & Hams. When the FCC found out some amateur radio supply outlets had purchased a sizable quantity of the RF grease through US Army & Navy surplus auctions, the FCC outlawed the sale of it in the US.

What the RF grease does is make your signal slide out your antenna faster and with less friction. Because of this you get less RF friction (hysteresis). The results are: lower SWR readings & increased power handling, the faster moving RF signal builds up a tremendous RF inertia, resulting a higher DB gain on your signal, (like

a slingshot effect throwing a faster & larger signal) (typically 3.8-4.7 db gain) and 4x the power handling capacity.
Modulation & SSB benefit a whopping 6 db gain. over an untreated isotropic dipole antenna lasts for about 6 months then, just wipe off any old grease and put some new on.

This is probably the best kept secret in amateur radio! The guys at the shoot-out's won't tell you about this amazing secret! Triple the RF output of a 200 watt box to 600 ERP, etc... (effective radiated power)

This RF grease also causes a very cool side effect if you feed over 100 watts into a treated antenna you will see a cool purplish-pink halo glowing around your antenna on key up at night, pulsating with your modulation ! (not to cool for the military, this is why they stopped using it!) For now all I have is one 16oz. tube. \$250.00 FIRM



ONE BIG QSO PARTY

That's what has been going on since January 1, 2014. It will end on December 31, 2014.

What's the plan? Why, to put every state of the union on the air for two weeks, but not consecutively during the ARRL Centennial Celebration. As I type this Vermont is "on the air". We'll go "off the air" at 20:00L on April 1. We'll be back on the air on August 6 and go off the air a week later at 20:00L.

Iowa has been on the air with us in March, but in August we'll share the honors with Hams from New Jersey.

Take my word for it, a lot of RF is scuttling around the atmosphere. I've been busier than usual on the bands trying to work 'em all. I didn't get started until February, so I'll have to make sure to those missed states later in the year.

Got a favorite mode? Someone will be working it; CW, phone, RTTY, and PSK.

Got a favorite band? You're covered; 160 up to 70cm, plus 903 MHz and higher, not to mention the birds.

All the details you need can be found here - http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#Bands_Modes

Love to operate? You must, or you wouldn't be a Ham. You're too late to schedule some slots for the spring, but keep your ears and eyes open. Announcements will be made on how to sign up in August as W1AW/1 VT.



[Ed: Here's a parting shot from our friends at Ham Hinks. Even if you aren't Irish, enjoy a laugh]

St. Patrick's Day Special Event Runs Out of Luck

By K5KVNon the scene

BOSTON, Mass. — A Saint Patrick's Day special event station shut down early after several misfortunes forced club members to cease operations before making a single contact.

The Boston Enthusiasts of Engineering and Radio (BEER) Club was excited to put K1I on the air.

"We put a lot of planning into this, but the alcohol factor wasn't taken into consideration when it came to executing the set up," said club president Sam Smith.

"First off, Fernando, our technical officer, who consumed several pints of Guinness by 8 a.m., spent three hours trying to hang the dipole into the shape of a shamrock. We kept telling him that the radiation pattern would be unacceptable but he wouldn't listen," said Smith. Other club members resorted to setting up another antenna while Fernando continued his unsuccessful attempt.

Meanwhile, club members say things came to blows when one intoxicated member was asked to turn down his car stereo, which was blasting U2 songs during set up. "They're an Irish band!" explained Landon Garfunkle, the car's owner.

Alcohol was certainly one problem, but Smith says tainted food was the final straw.

"We all know that hams aren't the most hygienic bunch. And as it turned out, the corned beef and cabbage that Agatha cooked led to some stomach issues," said Smith. Police records show that park officials have asked the club to pay for the cleanup of two porta-potties at the park.

Three members of the radio club were cited by police for public intoxication. In a striking coincidence, the operators were using a beverage antenna.



SEE YOU IN JUNE