



# DIGITAL DISPATCH

## A publication of the West River Radio Club



June—2014

Volume IX—#IV

### 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

KB1YCD, Mary Peterson; ED/VE Liaison

K1KU, Darrel Daley; Digital Dispatch editor

W1CWB, Chas Baker; Technical Advisor

### FAMOUS HAMS

#### Who do you remember?

I happen to have three printed pages of noted personalities that are or were licensed amateurs. Now some of them must not be too noted as I have no idea who these people are.

Some of you who have not yet experienced the joy of old age may not recognize some of these celebrities of yester year.

To make things more challenging I'm going to list some call signs below. If you can identify all or some of them, all the better. If not, be a cheater. How can you do that? Just scoot ahead to the last page and match the name with the call. Have fun.

- 1) KOHWY
- 2) K4LIB
- 3) KA6HVK
- 4) KA7EVD
- 5) UA1LO
- 6) W5LFL
- 7) N6KGB
- 8) WB4KCG
- 9) 9N1MM
- 10) K7UGA



### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

There is only one time that is important - NOW! It is the most important time because it is the only time that we have any power. - Leo Tolstoy

### 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](mailto:ka1zqx@arrl.net)

### WRTC-2014

[Ed: The below is pasted from the ARRL Letter for May, 2014)

WRTC-2014 has announced the various awards available to stations working the WRTC teams during the competition this July. The WRTC-2014 Chase" will run concurrently with the IARU HF Championship, which gets underway from the Boston area on July 12 at 1200 UTC.



The 59 competing stations will sport distinctive call signs -- not yet announced -- that will be easy to recognize.

#### Activity Award

"The WRTC teams will be using 100 W to simple antennas," Andy Blank, N2NT, director of the WRTC-2014 Competition Committee said in stressing the importance of off-site participants as part of the competition. "High activity will make the competition more exciting and help identify the more-skilled operating teams.

In what other sport can you stay home and still be on the field of play?" WRTC-2014 is encouraging "everyone" to work the competing teams on as many bands and modes as possible.

All contacts with WRTC-2014 stations will be confirmed by QSL card via the bureau for DX stations or direct to US stations. All contacts will also be confirmed through ARRL's Logbook of The World ([LotW](#)). As an added incentive, each contact with a WRTC team counts 5 points for the ARRL Centennial QSO Party.

Any station appearing in all 59 WRTC team logs will be able to download a certificate from the WRTC-2014 website after the contest. No additional application is necessary.

### 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>

**June 10:** Come out and enjoy the regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC. Meetings start at 19:00L in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, VT. This is our pre Field Day meeting and there will be a hands on demonstration of the wireless network that we'll use for FD.

There is always a wealth of information at [www.westriverradio.org](http://www.westriverradio.org)—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)

**June 18:** Quarterly hospital drill. This is a short drill held in the morning. If you'd like to participate please contact Tim, KA1ZQX ([ka1zqx@arrrl.net](mailto:ka1zqx@arrrl.net)) or John, N1TOX ([n1tox@comcast.com](mailto:n1tox@comcast.com))

**June 20-21:** Warm up for Field Day by joining in the All Asian CW Contest. It's 48 hours of hot and heavy CW and a chance to work many Asian Hams. Details can be found at [https://www.iarrl.org/English/4\\_Library/A-4-3\\_Contests/2014AA\\_rule.htm](https://www.iarrl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2014AA_rule.htm)

**June 28:** Monthly meeting of the WRRRC Board of Directors. We will **NOT** meet at the PanAsian Restaurant. In June only we hold an informal meeting during Field Day supper break.

**June 27-29:** Field Day #10 for the WRRRC. Come join in on the fun. Learn the details in assorted spots in this newsletter.

### HARTFORD ANYONE?

Ira, W1IRA, has expressed an interest in attending some or part of the ARRL 100 Year Centennial Convention on July 17-19 in Hartford.

If interested get in touch with Ira at [w1ira@vermontel.net](mailto:w1ira@vermontel.net) and maybe a car pool can be arranged or hire out a ride with Thomas Transportation.

(The below is taken from the ARRL letter for May 22, 2014)

### A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

Continuing our look at amateur SSB during its early years, there was one major human obstacle: Teaching phone operators how to operate their receivers for SSB reception. For AM reception, operators were in the habit of setting RF gain to maximum and adjusted the audio gain to control the speaker level. It was difficult to convince operators that, for SSB reception, they needed to turn up the audio gain and back off the RF gain, so the incoming SSB signal level would be at the level the receiver needed for the BFO to insert a "carrier" signal. Operators soon learned how to tune in SSB signals.

Also, back in those days of analog frequency control, receiver frequency drift was a problem, and the frequency (or the BFO frequency) would have to be tweaked occasionally to keep the SSB signal properly tuned. That problem disappeared, as the oscillators in newer receivers became more stable.

In July 1948, *QST* began publishing the monthly column, "On the Air with Single Sideband," by Goodman, W1DX, which continued until March 1954. By the early 1950s, some AM operators still looked at "that Donald Duck talk" with disdain, but most hams realized the value of SSB, and the changeover to SSB proceeded. By April 1953, there were at least 300 active SSB stations in the US. The first SSB DXCC was awarded in 1955, and the first WAS and WAC awards were made in 1956.

**Gen Curtis LeMay, W6EZV (ex-K3JUY, K4RFA, and**



One very interesting SSB-related happening took place 1956. Air Force General Curtis LeMay had been assigned in 1948 to head the Strategic Air Command. LeMay was well known on the ham bands as Curt, W6EZV. By virtue of SAC's mission, extremely reliable, long-haul communication was necessary. Separate radio operators were being eliminated from bomber crews, and the first thought was that SAC would communicate using HF AM radios. Because of his Amateur Radio background, LeMay had become aware of the value of SSB. So, he had Amateur Radio SSB gear installed in a SAC test aircraft that made two flights from SAC HQ in Offutt AFB, Nebraska -- one to Greenland and one to Okinawa -- while making SSB contacts all along the way on the ham bands! In addition to LeMay as an operator, two civilian operators were on board -- Art Collins, W0CXX (Collins Radio), and Leo I. Myerson, W0GFQ (World Radio Labs). A lot of hams around the world received treasured QSL cards from contacts made with that rare aeronautical mobile.

Soon thereafter, SAC announced its decision to install HF SSB equipment on its bombers and other aircraft. As

you can see, Amateur Radio lent a helping hand to SAC and our nation's defense posture, back in the day when the Cold War was getting very chilly.



### GOTR

**F**or the uninitiated that stands for Girls on the Run. It's a national organization that does good things for young girls. Details can be found at <http://www.girlsontherun.org/>

For a lot of year's now the RACES and CERT members handle communications and traffic control for their yearly 5K run that begins and ends at Brattleboro Union High School.

There were many WRRRC folks present again this year and we were joined by a contingent of CERT people from further north in Windsor County.

If you're not too busy around the end of May 2015 come out an join us for a morning of public service and fun.



### SV2ASP/A

That's a Ham radio call Folks. If your call starts with a W, N, A (but only A through L), or K then most Hams know that you are in America.

If your call starts with SV through SZ, or J4, though, then you're licensed in Greece. The slant A after this call means that this Ham is located on Mount Athos. The folks on the DXCC committee consider Mount Athos to be a separate entity other than Greece.

Now Mount Athos is not just a mountain, but also a peninsula in Greece. And this peninsula is home to twenty Eastern Greek Orthodox monasteries. No wonder that Greeks today commonly refer to Mount Athos as the *Holy Mountain*. This peninsula is actually the "leg" of a larger peninsula named the Chalkidiki Peninsula. The mount Athos Peninsula/Mountain extends 31 miles into the Aegean Sea and is between 4.3 and 7.5 miles wide. Its densely forested steep slopes extend up to 6,670 feet. What a site for a station, huh? Though linked to land the only practical way to get there is via ferry.

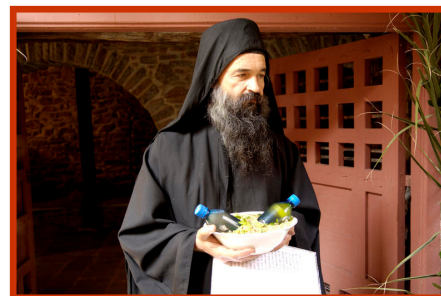
Want to put it in your travel plans. I don't think that any of us would pass the requirements one has to pass to be allowed on the Mountain. No women are allowed. Wait until Gloria Steinem hears about this! You must be a male and Orthodox Christians are given preference in the issuance of permits. Want to reside there? Only males over the age of 18 who are members of the Eastern Orthodox Church are allowed to reside there. Did I say? You must be either a monk or worker.

For those of us who have been bitten by the DX bug, AKA, yours truly, this holy mountain holds special significance. It is the home of SV2ASP/A, Monk Apollo. He is the only Ham residing in the entity known as Mount Athos. His operating time is VERY limited.

He has been a monk since 1973. In his own words taken from QRZ; "I am member of the administrative council of

*my monastery ('The Assembly of the Elders' ), and I am ranked third after the Abbot." Also, "My competences include hydraulics, electric, heavy machinery operations and other general duties related to the maintenance of the monastery."*

The above may help you understand why I'm thankful that on May 10, 2002 at 01:22Z on 20 meters I made it through the pileups to work Monk Apollo. Someone once said that Ham radio is like fishing; You never know what you're going to catch.



## HAMS & HAIKU

**A** while back I ran across some Ham Haiku on the web. Some of you may be asking, "What in the blazes is Haiku?" Lucky you. I'm here to tell you. Maybe I can do it without boring you with too many details.

It is a very short 3 line form of Japanese poetry containing 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second, and 5 in the third. In Kanji, the Japanese symbols, the entire poem is put on one line.

English verse typically uses syllabic meters while Haiku utilizes sound units. This is a bit restrictive, but there is the advantage that rhyming is not necessary.

On our first visit to Japan my Marion and I fell in love with the Japanese people and their culture. Haiku is just one small part of their ethnicity, but a good one.

In my Googling I learned that there is Haiku out there devoted to Amateur Radio. Now that's neat! I also discovered that the most prolific Haiku writer seems to be N7DLV, Eric.

Since I'm always looking for way to keep my aging gray matter active I said to myself, "Myself, you, too, can write Haiku." And so I did.

I'll try to toss in a Haiku contribution from Eric and/or myself each month. You're invited to try your hand at it, with or without a Ham motif. I'll publish your Haiku and fame will surely follow.

Another Field Day!  
Biting insects fly around,  
I need more bug spray!  
(N7DLV, Eric)

The West River Club  
Is 3A once more this year.  
We will all have fun.  
(K1KU, Darrel)



## WR1VT & QRZ

**U**p until a week or so ago if you looked up our club call on [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com) that's about all you saw—WR1VT.

About a week or so ago yours truly did some editing on our QRZ page. Go in and check it out. You'll find a short write up on the club, QSLing methods, and some pictures of members at assorted club activities.

Which reminds me? What would one see if they looked up your call on QRZ? I hope that it would be more than just your call. It's a great way for other Hams to find out a bit about you and perhaps see what you look like. Some easy instructions are provided on how to upload text and graphics.

Some of our members who use QRZ to get the word out on who they are, what they do, and what they look like are:

N1TOX	ND1Q	W1ZS	AA1XU
K1KU	N1XSS	WK1L	W1IRA

I picked some calls at random to plug into QRZ. There may be more of you, so let me know and I'll tell the world.

## THE PRESIDENT'S KORNER

**T**he month of June is here. Just a few more days and Field Day will be here. Have you made plans to attend yet? We will be setting up operations in the same place as last year, and will be operating a 3A station again. Again this year, we will try and do 24 hour operations. There is always time for everyone to operate.

We are still looking for volunteers to help set up on Friday and tear down on Sunday. Please let the board know if you can help. As always, we will be having a pot luck supper on Saturday night, 1800 hours (6pm). Chas W1CWB is heading up the chore of who needs to bring what. Please contact him with your wishes at [chas.baker@gmail.com](mailto:chas.baker@gmail.com).

As I have said in prior months, are your radios ready? Do you have a "go" kit ready? Don't wait till a disaster happens. Preparation is everything when it comes to ECOMM. I hope we won't need the latter, but as an Amateur Radio Operator, it is our duty to be ready, are you ready? Hope to see you at our next gathering.

Till then, 73  
KA1ZQX/Tim

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[Ed: And now more up to date news from our friends at Ham Hijinks. Having made three trips to Dayton I can understand how the below can happen.]

## Man Found In Hara Arena, Days After Hamvention Ends

By [K5KVN](#), on the scene

**DAYTON, Ohio** — A Vermont amateur radio operator was found today in a remote hallway within the Hara Arena complex, three days after the end of Hamvention. Officials at a news conference identified the man as Gerry Mapleshire and described him as being found "disoriented, hungry, and with three days of beard growth."



After medical technicians on the scene revived his blood sugar by providing him a leftover \$6 Hamvention Hot-dog, Mapleshire recalled what happened.

"It was shoulder-to-shoulder on the arena floor. I remember a nice-looking lady handing me a free Kenwood cloth bag full of brochures and a lapel pin, then the crowd shifted and I was pushed into the MFJ booth," said Mapleshire.

He says that's when his "survival instincts" kicked in.

"I got on my hands and knees and crawled out of the

MFJ booth. I got to the arena floor ramp but the crowd was so thick. I somehow ended up in a hall by the loading docks, without my Kenwood bag," he said.

He wandered through dark hallways trying to find his way out of the vast complex for three days before a maintenance worker found him. "I called for help on 146.520 but no one answered," said Mapleshire. Hamvention information deputy Ned Doubtman investigated why his radio call went unanswered. "Turns out he was transmitting WITHOUT a PL tone. Everyone here blocks out QRM by using a PL tone on transmit and receive. It's no wonder he wasn't heard," said Doubtman.

Mapleshire says he's still recovering from the traumatic experience, but would like to get in touch with someone from Kenwood so he can get his lapel pin.

### ANOTHER REMINDER

It's time to do some ball squeezing or any exercise that will develop finger strength. Our June 10 meeting promises to be another cliff hanger.

Keeping with tradition the program will center around Field Day weekend on June 27-29. In order to add some spice to life and provide more enjoyment for the evening there will be a hands on demonstration of how our three FD computers are wirelessly networked.

If Murphy stays home that night we'll be able to show all present how an operator on one computer can log a contact and that data will show up on the other two machines.

Did I hear someone say, "So what's the big deal?" It is this—Rich, KB1J, has racked up quite a few contacts on Saturday afternoon. The digital station is drawing a blank on making QSOs, so Rob, N1XSS switches to the phone bands on the digital rig. He plugs in a call he hears and WriteLog, our logging software, flashes a message in red saying that this station was worked on this band at 19:00Z.

Rob doesn't need to waste any more time calling this station and can move up or down the band to find a new challenge.

If the above confused you a bit on June 10 and watch it actually happen. You'll also see a demonstration of macros and how they're used to speed up the QSO rate.

The food reminder. If you'll be joining us for either the Saturday evening meal or Sunday morning breakfast please contact Chas, W1CWB—[chas.baker@gmail.com](mailto:chas.baker@gmail.com) and/or Rob, N1XSS—[Rob@mather1.com](mailto:Rob@mather1.com)



### MORE PUBLIC SERVICE

[Ed: The below comes to you from the desk of N1XSS, Rob Mather.]

It's that time of year again to save some dates for radio. For over 25 years Amateur Radio Operators have been providing communications for these local road races to benefit local charities and our communities. I would like to thank each and every one of you that have been doing this year and year out. These thanks come not just from me, but from every committee member I meet with during the year.

#### June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014 - Covered Bridges Half Marathon

First is the Covered Bridges Half Marathon, Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. This year the race committee has asked for some additional logistical support the day of the race. We will most likely need 6 to 10 radio operators this year, an increase over the past few years. <http://www.cbhm.com/>

#### July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2014 - Vermont 100 Endurance Race

The Vermont 100 often called the "Big One" is a 100 mile foot race across some of Vermont's most beautiful landscape. During this event we provide emergency communications for the participants and race coordinators for over 30 hours. <http://www.vermont100.com/>

#### September 27<sup>th</sup> 2014 - Vermont 50 MT Bike or Ultra Run

The third and most active day is the Vermont 50, leaving from Mount Ascutney Resort we support close to 1000 participants riding, running and walking these 50 miles. <http://www.vermont50.com/>

For more information about the above events please contact Rob Mather- N1XSS

Home phone: 802-886-5478 [Rob@mather1.com](mailto:Rob@mather1.com)

Prouty: July 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>—Contact: Dave Colter WA1ZCN [dbcolter@myfairpoint.net](mailto:dbcolter@myfairpoint.net)

### AND AS PROMISED

- 1) Tex Beneke, band leader. Tex took over the Glenn Miller band after Glenn was killed in a plane crash during WWII
- 2) Arthur Godfrey, TV personality. Played the ukulele. He was also a pilot and got in trouble once for buzzing someone's house.
- 3) Burl Ives, folk singer and actor. Remember him in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* with Paul Newman and Liz Taylor?
- 4) Donny Osmond, entertainer. His sister now does TV ads for Nutri System
- 5) Yuri Gagarin, Russian Cosmonaut
- 6) Owen Garriot, Astronaut
- 7) Stewart Granger, actor - born James Stewart
- 8) Ronnie Milsap, singer
- 9) Father Marshall Moran, missionary in Tibet. I became a DXer after he passed away, but know Hams who worked him.
- 10) Senator Barry Goldwater. I never worked him, but have worked Hams at his restored station in Arizona. A local club maintains his station and puts it on the air once a year as a special event.