

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

February 10: Come out and enjoy a regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRC. We start at 19:00L in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, VT. Find out what the DYK [Did You Know] topic is this month. Time will also be spent learning about the gear in our cabinet and some features of the ICOM 706. Hey, there might even be a QSO or two.

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

February 28: Monthly meeting of the WRRC 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. Everyone present always has a good time.

DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S FABULOUS EVENTS:

Feb 2—Sorry, you missed the visit from our favorite meteorologist, Punxsutawney Phil. Sometimes it's Phyllis but the way his handlers hold him/her you can't get a visual clue.

Feb 14—Valentine's Day

Feb 16—President's Day

Feb 17—Mardi Gras

Feb 19—Chinese New Year

PAST PREZ CIRCLE

Are we having fun or what?

Hello fellow West River Radio Club Members! It's been a while since I have had some time to pound some keys for fun and write my *Past Prez Circle* article. I have new job responsibilities at work, more things to do at home, the holidays, and things just happened over the fall time that left me sitting and taking care of myself before winter set in.

So, with the magic of memory, let's catch you up on events that I have been involved with. The Brattleboro repeater project has come to life. With a large amount of help (95%) from David Andrews, N1ESK, he and I have put enough money together from various areas, to build a new repeater in Brattleboro. While this is not a secret any longer, David's efforts were stellar and monumental. I was on the outside making sure we have a place for the money (thanks for the club yacht folks!). There were many negotiation phone calls and meetings we both took care of to push this through with many establishments. No, this was not easy for anyone to take on but a seasoned professional. With over 2 years of planning and hard dedicated work, the ground level assembly and tuning should happen during the spring-time with the deployment happening during the summer

(fingers crossed). So we are eager to see this come to life. Especially with the potential of digital communications built into the system. Again, a huge shout out of thanks to Dave, N1ESK, is in order. Oh I forgot to add that this will also serve the State of New Hampshire as well as Vermont with multiple paths of communications!! Yes, we are leading the pack once again.

As many of you know, Sue and I have date night once a week. We found a wine at one of our frequently visited establishments that caught our eyes when we were eating with Chas, W1CWB, and his wife, Andi. It is called Morse Code. And yes, the bottle has Shiraz spelled out in code. Yes, this was a great bottle of wine to have with a good Italian fare. So our thoughts of good food, friends, conversations, and drinks "do" live harmoniously together.



Lost family members. This summer I was honored to be brought together with family members I did not know who live so close to me in Montague, MA and others from Philadelphia, PA. I have no idea of why the family separated other than my grandfather married outside of the Russian heritage. So I had 2 "all day sessions" learning about over 80 years of family followings and dealings. Learning about the family and getting tested upon it later on. Easter will be something as we will be going to Philly to see the other side of the family. Looking forward to it. Not sure how many are radio ops, but that is OK, this will be fun to find out. According to the FCC database, I am the only one...

So after a trip to Foxboro for a football game, 3 trips to Maine, a cruise to Bermuda and more, this has left my amateur radio time to a minimum. Bermuda is a wonderful place to visit. We were there the week after the second hurricane hit there. Yes there was damage, but nothing like Irene here. Look at the picture of the Swizzle Inn. There is roof damage. That is really most of the damage we saw, other than trees down. I love the motto of the inn, "Swizzle Inn and Swagger Out!" A great place to eat and relax with a great drink. If you are on HF and talk to someone from Bermuda, ask them how they bond together and make things work, recover from disaster, and carry on. It is amazing how clean the island was after 2 consecutive hurricanes. It really looked like nothing happened, but we know that it did. Congratulations to them!!

[Ed: When these pictures arrived I immediately thought, "Swizzle Inn, that sounds familiar." My wife confirmed what John wrote. We had seen it upon our several trips to Bermuda. We agree with John and Sue; Bermuda is a wonderful place to visit.]

So now it is time to catch up yet again in the shack. Time to move forward with my mobile installation, re-

wire the coax on the 4 antennas coming into the shack and enhance the grounding of these antennas. Then clean up the cable jungle behind the radios to simplify the installations. Afterwards, maybe I will have to build some more shelves to make it easier to operate and a cleaner presentation. It's time to get back in operation.

Here are some of the WRRRC statistics that should be of interest to you, or maybe not...

From the start of the club in Nov 2003, we have / had....

- 53 different members, plus 4 auxiliary members
- 35 members are repeating members (8 years plus)
- 12 members are SK's
- 2 Presidents
- 5 Vice Presidents
- 2 Secretary Treasures
- 3 Call Signs (W1RRC / WR1VT / KB1PIH)
- 1 web site with 3 sub sites
- 2 ISP's (SoVerNet and 1 &1.com)
- Now averaging 80 - 120 hits per day
- Visited by many countries worldwide
- The leader in Emergency Communications in the area

But most of all, our members are all friends who help out one another when help is needed. We share our experiences, knowledge, ideas, team efforts and most of all, and life stories. We are bonded together by amateur radio as a unit, one unit that will not fail when everything else fails around us. If you remember in 2011 when Tropical Storm Irene hit, it was our clubs efforts and training that made us the largest deployed communication team in the state. Mostly via the CERT program, we were there helping others when everything failed, we were there.

With that said, I feel that we will be there in the future too. With the new modes of communications being developed world wide, and those being deployed locally in 2015, I look forward to a very bright future of our club. Welcome in 2015 and remember to tune in and push that button to talk. We need you to make this future bright for our families and those being born to follow in our footsteps. I know I am following my father's footsteps. Dad was in the communication's section while deployed in the US Air Force during the Korean War timeframe and base in Alaska, right in Darrel, K1KU's (ex-KL7DN), back yard!!

In closing, because Darrel will soon be saying "when is this guy going to shut up", I have to say, thank you one and all for being a friend and member of the West River Radio Club. We have done a lot over the past years to make this area safer by utilizing our communication expertise for the betterment of the towns, county, and state. We cannot do it alone, but with friends like you, it sure is easier.

So enjoy a great meal, a bottle of Morse Code Shiraz, and enjoy this wonderful hobby. Help one another, join us at a club meeting, share a story and your knowledge, and we will be there.

Until next time!

73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky - Past President WRRRC

NEARFEST - 2015

The dates for this stellar hamfest are May 1 & 2.

For those of you who like to watch your pennies, i.e., someone who wouldn't pay a nickel to watch an ant eat a bale of hay, there is good news for you.

Nearfest 2015 is free. If you'd like to park inside up close to all the action there will still be a auto fee of \$10. If you can squeeze twenty people into your VW Bug, well, it still only costs \$10 for the vehicle.

This might motivate some of our more frugal friends and members to take the jaunt over to Deerfield, NH in May. All the juicy details can be found at:

<http://www.near-fest.com:8084/nearfest/>

For those of you who are interested in the financial end of things see below

WRRRC FUNDING SUMMARY	
January 31, 2015	
BALANCES FROM 2014	
CHECKING	\$ 8,398.75
PETTY CASH	\$ 28.57
DEPOSITS	
	\$ 50.36
EXPENSES	
	\$ 1,920.50
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	
	\$ 6,528.61
PETTY CASH	
	\$43.57
TOTAL MONEY ON HAND	
	\$ 6,572.18
FULL Members	37
AUXILIARY MEMBERS	3
ARRL Members	20
ARRL / Memb (SSC)	54.05%
Grant Funding Balances (In Checking)	
Townshend	\$ 34.14
Vernon Fire Assoc Inc	\$2,100.90
Entergy Srv Dist	\$2,000.00



DYK IS HERE TO STAY

DYK, AKA *Did You Know*, made its appearance last year when Chas, W1CWB, gave a short talk on repeaters and antennas. We will be keeping the tradition alive in 2015 with a short presentation [less than 15 minutes] during each meeting. Yours truly gave a condensed version of the below at our January meeting. Come to the February gathering to see what you can learn from *DYK*?

So what is it? It is a short 10-15 minute presentation on some aspect of our great hobby. It can be of a technical nature or not.

73 = Best Wishes or Regards [NOT 73s]

All abbreviations like this are inherited from the "land line" operators before radio; Primarily Western Union operators and railroad telegraphers. The numbers 7 and 3 are "opposites" in the Morse code - dah dah di di dit and di di dit dah dah.

An easily recognized palindrome. - a word, phrase, number, or other sequence of symbols or elements, whose meaning may be interpreted the same way in either forward or reverse direction. As in **Amy, must I jujitsu my ma?**

The words dot and dash should not be used in "saying" the code, but rather dit and dah, which is what the code sounds like coming over the air. Also, when there is a string of dits only the last one gets the "t" attached. E.g., dah di di dit= B and dah dit= N

I will never tire of encouraging the learning of and use of the Morse code. When removed by the FCC as a licensing requirement its demise was forecast by many. Those MANY were way off the mark. CW remains a popular mode for a lot of reasons. Many Ham organizations devote themselves exclusively to the use of the code. One of the largest is FISTS of which I and the WRRRC is a member. Our certificate is in the cabinet.

73 was part of the Western Union 92 *Code* developed in 1859 to facilitate and speed up communications. It is usually used by Hams at the end of a transmission. 73 also aids in overcoming language barriers amongst Hams in different countries. 73 is universally understood.

88 = Hugs and kisses [NOT 88s]

The actual source of "73" and "88" was the list of numerical abbreviations used by wire telegraphers. These abbreviations were used in a manner similar to Q signals today. Here's a partial list of number abbreviations: 1 - Wait 2 - Important business 3 - What is the time? 6 - I am ready 7 - Are you ready? 12 - Do you understand? 13 - I understand 14 - What is the weather? 17 - Lightning here 19 - Form 19 train order (used by RR) 21 - Stop to eat 23 - All copy 24 - Repeat this back 30 - No more, end 31 - Form 31 train order (used by RR) 44 - Answer promptly by wire 73 - Best regards 88 - Love and kisses 92 - Deliver promptly 134 - Who is at the key?

This also originated with the "92" Western Union

code. More intimate than 73.

Not used in a passionate sense, but more a Platonic one, as a greeting or parting hug of a friend. You'll sometimes hear 73 and 88 on CW or phone spoken to a mixed group.

807

This was a tube (British call them valves) used in audio amplifiers for public address systems and hi-fi sets. Many became available after WWII.

We're talking about pre digital times when Hams home brewed their gear.

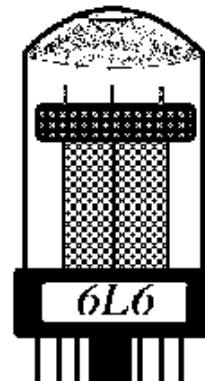
About 1948 or '49 JAN (military surplus) 807's were about a quarter apiece from the mail order surplus suppliers - many of whom had a minimum order. A ham who needed a few odds and ends usually padded his order with a few "bottles."

At the same time many parks and other public places didn't allow beer or other alcoholic beverages. Many hams of the era preferred warm beer, the 807 boxes were the right size to conceal these "newfangled" steel beer cans, so it wasn't unusual to see a ham sipping something from a white box. Or using a church key to open a "tube box."

After FD those steel cans made great vertical antennas - and yes, I have no doubt that some FD operators carried their snakebite remedy in large transmitting tube boxes. But our sheriff didn't care about our illegal Pabst and Jax, but a bottle of the hard stuff would get us six months shoveling gravel on the county road.

73, Pete Allen AC5E

807s, of course, were popular medium power transmitter tubes. Transmitter tubes were often referred to as 'bottles'. Hence, having a few 807s meant having a few bottles, which is the way beer usually was obtained. I am not sure when this started, but it was well established in the early 1950's, which were probably the heyday of the 807 tube, too. I once had a Johnson-Viking mobile rig from the late 1940's that had an 807 final in it - a wonderful CW and AM rig, too. In the 1930s, the popular tube was the Model 45. By the late 1950's, the tube of choice was the 6146, so it probably started someplace in between those two eras.



ANNUAL MEETING

You know what? They're still fun to attend. Now why is that?

For starters, there is lots of good food. There is also a lot of good conversation and joking around; two things that most Hams are good at.

They also arouse a bit of nostalgia for those of us who have been attending them since day one. There seems to be a bit of debate going on about just how old this club is. A bit of investigating of my minutes files show that the first minutes were recorded for an organizational meeting at the Town Hall in Townshend, VT. Here they are:

MINUTES West River Radio Club 11 November, 2003

A small group of Hams met in the town hall at Townshend, VT on November 4, 2003 at 7 PM to discuss the feasibility of starting a club in Windham County. The meeting was the brainchild of KA1ZQX, Tim Bell and N1JSG, Richard Pierce.

Present were:

AA1T, Grant Warner - K1KU, Darrel Daley - KA1ZQX, Tim Bell

KB1HCG, Mark Krackum - KB1J, Richard Austin - KB1JNS, Paul Kickery

N1FQS, Clarence Merritt - N1FXX, David LaValley - N1JSG, Richard Pierce (SK)

Ed Phoenix

Not present but expressing an interest were KA1ETQ, Carl Noe and KA1ZCO, Bob Moore.

After much discussion of possible activities and benefits it was decided by all to proceed with the formation of a club for area hams.

It was decided to meet again at 7 PM on December 16, 2003 at the Grace Cottage Hospital.

And so, dear reader, I leave it up to you. Has our club existed for ten or eleven years?

BOXBORO NEWSFLASH

From: Bob DeMattia, Boxboro! [k1iw@boxboro.org]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 1:58 PM

To: k1ku@myfairpoint.net

Subject: Boxboro! 2015 Convention August 21, 22, 23

Tickets for the 2015 Boxboro! convention are now on sale.

As you may have noticed, we are breaking our usual "every other year" schedule by having a convention this year—so help us spread the word to your friends and acquaintances that there IS a convention this year.

The committee is lining up speakers, forums and exhibitors, so many details are still to be announced.

However, Gordon West WB6NOA is confirmed as the keynote speaker at our Saturday banquet.

And finally.. be the first on your block to get tickets.

<http://www.boxboro.org>

73, Bob DeMattia

Vice Chairman, Boxboro Convention Committee

[Ed: More up-to-date news from the reporters at Ham Hiinks. Let's hope that it never comes to this with the WRRRC]

Local Club Says No To Chicken Salad

By WB0RUR, on the scene

GRAND RAVINE, South Dakota –A fist fight broke out Sunday afternoon at a local amateur radio club meeting in downtown Grand Ravine. The Mt. Agnes Radio Society was discussing Field Day plans in the private room of the Village Inn while their regular meeting location, Golden Corral, undergoes much needed renovation.

Tempers boiled over as the conversation went from radios to antennas to food. Local ham radio operator Walter "Scruffy" Smith volunteered to bring his "famous" chicken salad to feed the group of 20 Field Day volunteers. Instantly, five men stood up and walked to the door, stating they "...could not handle another case of 'back door trots' like last year."

Defiantly, the 82-year-old Smith challenged the group to "say that to his face" and began swinging clenched fists. Although the five men were far across the room, police say Smith's roundhouse blow connected with 79-year-old Maggie Peterson, wife of former club president Max Peterson of Lincolnville County.

Peterson, a former Roller Derby dame in previous decades, was unscathed by the blow and in fact, challenged Smith "to take another shot if he was man enough."

Police add it is unlikely Smith would have actually hit anyone if he hadn't been thrown off-balance due to his arthritic hip and the body contact may have come as Smith was attempting to catch himself from falling.

The meeting was immediately adjourned when Village Inn manager Marguerite Thomas stormed into the room and declared there would be no senior discounts "if this ruckus doesn't stop."

For now, meal plans remain undecided for Field Day 2015 in Grand Ravine, South Dakota.

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

