



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the West River Radio Club



March — 2015

Volume X—#II

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 [SK]

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—Digital Dispatch Editor
N1TOX, John Borichevsky; Secretary/Treasurer
KB1YCD, Mary Peterson; ED/VE Liaison
W1CWB, Chas Baker; Technical Advisor

THE PRESIDENT'S KORNER

Anyone ready for spring yet! I for one am ready for a change. It's March already and it's time to start some seeds, avoid some of your favorite roads and yes, it's time to maybe tweak the radio a little bit too and get ready for another season of ECOMM. Just think, it won't be not too long before we will be trekking up the hill for field day either!

Is this the year you will upgrade your license? We have a few that are getting ready for their first license. I know of others (like me) who have said they need to upgrade. Will this be the year? If I can get some extra time, maybe this will be the year for me. How about you!

We have a busy year ahead of us already. Plans continue to get our repeater on the air this spring. We have events to support with communications etc. Will you be able to help us out? I hope so. We have some exciting club presentations coming to our monthly meetings soon. We aren't all experts, but we have a lot of fun sharing our knowledge of why this hobby is interesting to us. Hope you can make it to a meeting soon.

Thanks again for what you do. It could not be possible without you! Hope to see you all soon.

Till then, 73
KA1ZQX/Tim

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Simply put, you believe that things or people make you unhappy, but this is not accurate. You make yourself unhappy. - Wayne Dyer

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

[OK, this is a repeat, but I want to make sure that you all know that this is a fun event and, for the first time, the admission is free. Cars are still \$10 if you want to park inside the sale area.]

NEARFEST - 2015

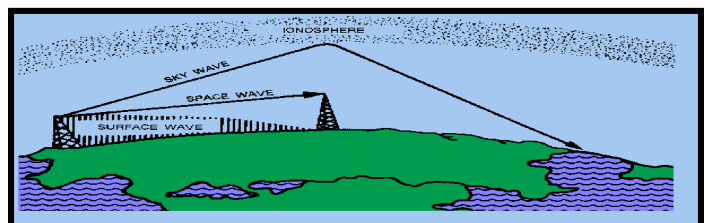
The dates for this stellar ham fest are May 1 & 2.

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/>



UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

March 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. Chas, W1CWB, will present a DYK [Did You Know] topic of special interest to the Newbies in our club. Who knows, maybe some of us Oldies will also learn something.

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/prgmplan.html

March 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. Six stellar personalities showed up in February to chat and chow down on Chinese and Japanese food. The answer is YES. We all had a good time.

DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S FABULOUS EVENTS:

March 5: National Multiple Personality Day. Details can be found at <http://holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/March/multipersonday.htm>

March 8—Daylight Savings Time kicks in

March 10: National Middle Name Pride Day

March 17—Saint Patrick's Day

HAIKU ERRORS

A file that big?
It might be very useful.
But now it is gone.

The Web site you seek
cannot be located,
but endless others exist

Chaos reigns within.
Reflect, repent, and reboot.
Order shall return.



SARTORIAL SPLENDOR

At the WRRC annual lunch/meeting at Grace Cottage Hospital in December three attendees definitely stood out from the crowd. Now what was it that gave John, N1TOX, David, N1ESK, and Darrel, K1KU that air of sophistication and graciousness that all others in the crowd lacked?

The answer is simple. All of them were attired in official WRRC clothing complete with club logo, name and call sign. Feeling envious yet? Maybe you, too, want to show others that you're "with it" and know how to draw favorable attention in a crowd.

If so, heist yourself over to the WRRC world class web page (www.westriverradio.org) and order yourself some sanctioned WRRC apparel. The order form is at http://www.westriverradio.org/WRRC_Apparel.pdf

FEBRUARY MEETING

A few hearty members braved the elements on February 10 and made the trek to Grace Cottage Hospital for our monthly meeting. Perhaps the reason for more absences was that you were still digging out of the recent dumping; whatever the reason, your absence is graciously excused.

Those in attendance missed a good show. Do we not ever have fun at our meetings? Tim, KA1ZQX, gave a short DYK? [Did You Know] talk on the how the early land line telegraph keys got their power from batteries. Thanks, Tim.

I stole one description from Tom Perera, W1TP's web page - <http://w1tp.com>

The battery consisted of a glass jar filled with a chemical solution (often Copper Sulfate) with copper and zinc electrodes immersed in the solution. A chemical reaction between the electrodes and the solution produced the electrical voltage. The voltage of each cell measured about 1 volt and several cells could be hooked together to produce higher voltages. These batteries produced voltages similar to the dry batteries that we use in flashlights.



Tim, KA1ZQX, shows off our club station to KB1BHX, Gary

Needless to say, battery technology has improved a bit since the mid 1800s.

For those of you who missed any previous explanations of just what DYK? is here goes again. *Did You Know* is a regular feature of each meeting of the WRRC. It's a short [10-15 minute] explanation of some aspect of Amateur Radio - nothing elaborate, but short and to the point. No nitty gritty details.

If there is some facet of our hobby that you'd like to learn something about just give me a shout at k1ku@arri.net and we'll arrange a presentation. Maybe you'd like to expound on something near and dear to your heart. If so, great. Give me another shout and we'll line you up for a meeting at which you'll be in attendance.

So far we've heard about Ham numbers such as 73, 88, 807, and early telegraph batteries.



John, N1TOX, fields a question

John, N1TOX, took over for the rest of the meeting. The large Pelican case he brought contained the gear used at the Dummerston Staging Area for each RACES drill. He also had his personal Yaesu 897 with the attached LDG auto tuner.

Of special interest was learning how every EOC [Emergency Operation Center] in Vermont has the same memories programmed into it. A big advantage of the technology we now enjoy is Hams the ability to use PCs to program certain radios with identical memories. RT Systems software does a remarkable job of this. I have their software for my ICOM 7000 and am well pleased with its performance.

He did a fine presentation of the assorted radios, power supplies and tuners used by Hams in portable and em-comm situations. Thanks to John for lugging all that gear along and prepping for this talk.

FIELD DAY PRACTICE

A good way to gain experience and build your operating skills is to take part in one or more of the short weekend contests sponsored by the NAQP. As some of you may know, NAQP stands for North American QSO party.

This paragraph from the National Contest Journal probably explains it better than I ever could. *Emphasis added.*

*The North American QSO Parties are favorites of beginners and seasoned operators alike. **The NAQP contests allow low-power only (no amplifiers allowed)** which makes for a lot more breathing room on the bands. Small stations can generate very effective "runs" in the NAQP contests. Multipliers count once per-band, which makes for an exciting format, as multipliers can be "moved" from band to band. The NAQPs allow stations from all parts of North America to be in the running for the top spots. The 12 hour format allows participants to do some great contesting, yet still have time for other activities during the weekend. Participants can enter in the single op or multi-op categories and also have the opportunity to combine up to five separate single op scores into a team score.*

There are six contests held each year, two each for CW, SSB, and RTTY.

They're a great way to hone your search and pounce skills for Field Day. The time and date layout for all of their contest, CW, phone, and RTTY can be found at <http://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

O, did I tell you? Field Day for 2015 will be held on June 27-28. They're always the last full weekend in June.

If the truth be known there is almost always at least one contest going during any given weekend. You can always find out what they are by going to <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> If you make a request Bruce will even send you a weekly list of "this week's contest." How's that for service?

ARRL CENTENNIAL QSO PARTY

Participation in ARRL Centennial On-the-Air Events Exceeds All Expectations

Attendance at the ARRL's on-the-air Centennial celebration in 2014 was through the roof! Approximately 3.5 million contacts were recorded for W1AW portable operations and the Centennial Points Challenge during the [Centennial QSO Party](#) last year.

"The Centennial QSO Party was a huge success, and participation was way greater than anyone anticipated it would be when we were in the planning stages," said Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Assistant Manager, Field Services and Radiosport Department. As a result, the window for operators to apply and pay fees for [awards](#) they earned in the Centennial QSO Party is not expected to open until mid-March.

Fusaro said that while award certificates have been printed, the task of checking and double-checking the electronic logs and resolving any anomalies has put an unexpected burden on staff resources.

To compete in the Centennial Points Challenge, logs must have been submitted through Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)). The system will automatically look for points-qualifying QSOs from submitted logs and apply them to each participant's Centennial QSO Points total. ARRL Headquarters has been recalculating all submitted scores to come up with final tallies.

The above was lifted from a ARRL announcement on the On-The-Air QSO party held during the League's centennial year 2014.

Your humble editor participated as much as was possible, contacting many of the fifty states using a variety of modes; CW, phone, and RTTY.

He also had the pleasure of handing out contacts from Vermont during the two periods when operators from the Green Mountain State was called up to fire up the rigs and the CQing as W1AW/1.

After considerable thought I figured that I had better take part in the 100th centennial celebration. After all, the odds of me being a Ham in 2114 are rather slim. Who knows, though? There may be the distinct possibility of celestial transmission when our sojourn in this spinning ball of clay is completed.

