



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



July—2012

Volume IX—#VI

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 45 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

KB1J, Rich Austin; VP

N1TOX, John Borichevsky; Secretary/Treasurer

WK1L, Bro Frank Hagerty; ED/VE Liaison

W1CWB, Chas; Technical Advisor

KA1ZQX, Tim Bell; Public Relations/ARES

THIS ISSUE IS LOVINGLY DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND, ED PHOENIX, KB1KSR, WHOSE SOUL LEFT ITS MORTAL COIL ON JUNE 18, 2012.

REQUIEM EN PACEM.



RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

What's your purpose in life?

I have a tee shirt that our sons gave me years ago as a birthday present. On it is pictured a grizzled old coot with:

3-4 days growth of beard

Uncut disheveled hair

A way over the belt beer belly

A half empty mug of beer in one hand

A stub of a cigar clenched between his teeth

The caption says, "Find a purpose in life. Set a bad example."

My purpose in life at this very moment is to enthusiastically affirm that Ed Phoenix, KB1KSR, did **NOT** own my t-shirt. He was way too humble to have thought it of himself and I'm convinced that he's never said it, but his life set a wonderful example that all of us would do well to emulate.

Allow me to site a few of those examples:

HE WAS A GIVER.

At a club meeting a few years back the program concerned how to use 300 ohm TV ladder line for a certain type of antenna. The dialectic needed to be trimmed off for a short distance from the end, thus leaving an inch or two of bare wire on each side. Have you ever tried to do this? Most of us were having fits, even with sharp pocket knives – finding a surface to cut on so that we didn't mar the tables at Gracie, or holding the line in our hands and praying that we wouldn't lose our ambidexterity. Well, some eventually got the job done. The rest of us said something to the effect of *%#@ and scrapped the whole thing.

At the next month's meeting Ed showed up with 5 – 6, maybe more, small hand crafted wooden jigs that would make the ladder line preparation an easy matter. I was one of the fortunate ones that ended up with an example of his creative thinking and generosity. (Note: A photo gallery featuring pictures can be found at the end of this issue.)

He also gave above and beyond the call of duty. Every year that I took in the dues money Ed always included another \$5 for an auxiliary membership for Lois and even more as a contribution for the club coffers. He likewise joined the ARRL Diamond Club each year to support the cause of Amateur Radio both nationally and internationally.

During Field Day at Ed and Lois's house she showed us samples of his imaginative and creative cabinetry work. She had once expressed frustration with what to do with all the pot lids that exist in every kitchen. Within a day or two Ed had built and installed a row of vertical lid slots much like letter slots, only wider, that allowed easy access to any sized lid that was needed.

Lois was very proud of a kitchen island drawer that Ed designed and constructed so that it could be opened from either side of the island. This allowed access from either the dining table side of the island or the kitchen side. Neato!

Lois made a comment while showing us many of Ed's accomplishments that I can't wipe from my memory. Nor do I want to. *"He is sure going to be missed around here."* Wouldn't it be great if we could live lives that will elicit comments like that when the end of our earthly sojourn comes for us?

And Lois carries on the giving tradition. Tim, KA1ZQX, and I sold Ed's Ten Tec at the spring

NearFest. When Tim offered Lois the money she said that she didn't want it, that we should put it the club coffers.

HE GAVE OF HIS GENTLE NATURE.

Ed was, without a doubt, one of the gentlest people I've ever met. His face exhibited an almost perpetual soothing smile. He never, at least whenever I was with him, got upset with anything. He had mastered a skill that I struggle to acquire on a daily basis.

That's the ability to find the:

- The serenity to accept the things you cannot change
- The courage to change the things you can
- The wisdom to know the difference

HE WAS NOT A NO CODE HAM.

That's right; he learned the Morse code and passed the "solid copy" requirements. It was my VERY distinct pleasure to sign off his CSCE form and see the code box with a tick in it.

HE HAD A SENSE OF HUMOR

And it was displayed on many an occasion. He even managed to show it off after he took his leave of us. At Field Day Lois showed us Ed's ashes in a box on a fairly high shelf facing the kitchen and the living room. He had told her that he wanted them there so that he could keep an eye on her and any visitors. The crowning touch was that the box had a smiley face on it.

HE GAVE US A LEGACY.

Don Goodman and Becky Hobbs wrote a hit song done by the Country Western group Alabama named *Angels Among Us*. I'd bet money that they knew Ed.

The writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes tells us that there is:

A time to weep and a time to laugh,
A time to mourn and a time to dance.

I like to think that many of us wept when we heard of this beloved man's passing, but now it's time to laugh I know that many of us also mourned, but now it's time to dance.

Ed had a long life. He had a good life.

There is a way that we who are left in this valley of trials and tribulation can truly honor the blessing we experienced when he was with us. His life will have been more purposeful if make up our minds to have t-shirts that encourage us to set a good example.

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.

The NCS lineup through July follows:

July 9 KA1ZQX, Tim

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July 16 KB1J, Rich
July 23 W1CWB, Chas
July 30

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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

There is no effect more disproportionate to its cause than the happiness bestowed by a small compliment.

Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday wishes for the month of July go out to:



| | |
|---------|----------------|
| July 16 | KA1ZQX, Tim |
| July 5 | KB1SPF, Arthur |
| July 4 | KB1USR, Marty |
| July 11 | KB1VGI, Bert |
| July 12 | N1DLK, David |

REMEMBRANCES OF ED, KB1KSR

KD6MPY – Sean Sanderson

It saddens me that I never know Ed outside of Amateur Radio. The things I did learn about him in our brief conversations about his life outside of radio were fascinating. The memories that will stick with me most, about Ed, are how he enjoyed Ham Radio. I remember when he took his first exam with us. He was so quiet in meetings. I was worried he might not pass. He did, on the first try too. The same was true in the upgrade classes we held. It turned out he was one of my best pupils. As I recall he got some of the highest scores on the exam. Once he would get talking it was clear that he actually understood the material and that he was genuinely interested in it all.

Wonderment is the only word to describe Ed and Radio. It was like watching a child with a shiny new rocket on Christmas morning. He may have had many years on Earth, but his heart was as youthful and eager as any I have seen. It was a pleasure knowing Ed. He will be missed.

N1HOS, Jack Adams

I took my extra class test with him and we both passed. My son in law and daughter bought a camper from Ed's son and they said the family was extra nice to them.

He was a nice man and will be missed. I don't have any special thing to say about him other than he was a nice man.

The last time I talked privately with Ed was at Grace Cottage Hospital. I was there for the physical therapy following shoulder replacement. He was there on one of his errands for the hospital. He looked a little frail and I could see that things were troubling him but he remained cheerful. He had just heard the bad news about the spread of his cancer. He was not about to give up the fight. We were standing by one of the two stations in the hall corridors where there is an ice machine and snack preparation station where I had just gone through a training session about cooking with only my wrong hand and arm.

We said our 73 and Ed continued on his rounds. I discovered a pack of cookies and the makings of a hot chocolate and while I fumbled my way through that preparation I noticed a plaque above the work area noting that Ed and Lois had donated that station to the hospital. What a great gift! It will be there for countless patients and staff and as a lasting memorial to a gentle and honorable member of our Ham radio community. We'll miss you, Ed!



UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

July 10: Monthly meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital. The meeting begins at 19:00L. The program will be on VHF-UHF shadow effects.

July 28: Monthly Board meeting at the PanAsian Restaurant by Staples in Brattleboro. We meet at 11:30L—All members and guests are welcome.

August 14: Monthly meeting of the WRRRC in the EMT room at Grace Cottage Hospital. The meeting begins at 19:00L. The program will be hands on message sending using Pactor III.

August 24-26: Boxboro New England Convention—details at <http://www.boxboro.org/index.html>

Also check out WRRRC events on the club calendar at <http://www.westriverradio.org/> and scroll down the page a bit.

SOME BUM PROPHECIES

Gordon, W2NH, sent along the following for your entertainment. Is there a moral here?

"Man will never reach the moon regardless of all future scientific advances."
-- Dr. Lee DeForest, "Father of Radio & Grandfather of Television."

"The bomb will never go off. I speak as an expert in explosives." - Admiral William Leahy, US Atomic

Bomb Project

"There is no likelihood man can ever tap the power of the atom." - Robert Millikan, Nobel Prize in Physics, 1923

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons." -- Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."-- Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

"I have traveled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year." --The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957

"But what is it good for?" -- Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.

"640K ought to be enough for anybody." - Bill Gates, 1981

This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us," -- Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?" - David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.

"The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C,' the idea must be feasible," - A Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. (Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.)

"I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper," --Gary Cooper on his decision *not* to take the leading role in "Gone With The Wind."

"A cookie store is a bad idea. Besides, the market research reports say America likes crispy cookies, not soft and chewy cookies like you make," - Response to Debbi Fields' idea of starting Mrs. Fields' Cookies.

"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out," -- Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible," - Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1895.

"If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this," - Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives for 3-M "Post-It" Notepads.

"Drill for oil? You mean drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy," -- Drillers who Edwin L. Drake

tried to enlist to his project to drill for oil in 1859.

"Stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau." - Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics, Yale University , 1929.

"Airplanes are interesting toys but of no military value," - Marechal Ferdinand Foch, Professor of Strategy, Ecole Superieure de Guerre , France

"Everything that can be invented has been invented," - Charles H. Duell, Commissioner, US Office of Patents, 1899.

"The super computer is technologically impossible. It would take all of the water that flows over Niagara Falls to cool the heat generated by the number of vacuum tubes required." - Professor of Electrical Engineering, New York University

"I don't know what use any one could find for a machine that would make copies of documents. It certainly couldn't be a feasible business by itself." - the head of IBM, refusing to back the idea, forcing the inventor to found Xerox.

"Louis Pasteur's theory of germs is ridiculous fiction." - Pierre Pachtet, Professor of Physiology at Toulouse , 1872

"The abdomen, the chest, and the brain will forever be shut from the intrusion of the wise and humane surgeon," - Sir John Eric Ericksen, British surgeon, appointed Surgeon-Extraordinary to Queen Victoria 1873.

And last but not least...

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." - Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977



FIELD DAY—2012

Though we've had more successful ones, #12 was worth the effort. I'm convinced that things were learned, fun was had, and let's not forget the most important element of any FD—great and abundant chow was consumed

We suffered the loss of Tim, KA1ZQX, who had to attend a drill on Cape Cod that weekend.

Due to encountering a small road bump on the road of life our ever beloved and humble CW operator from Putney was also unable to participate this year. **(Note: but watch out in 2013)**

Our thanks to all who kept FD up and running this year.

Operators:

- N1TOX, John Borichevsky
- WK1L, Bro. Frank Hagerty
- W1CWB, Chas Baker
- N1XSS, Rob Mather
- KB1J, Rich Austin

Setup/Teardown:

- N1TOX, John
- WK1L, Chas
- W1CWB, Chas

Guests:

- KB1MQD, Karen Bailey
- KB1VGK, Ryan Hockertlotz
- ???, wife of Ryan Hockertlotz
- ???, daughter of Ryan & ??? Hockertlotz
- KB1OQG, Gaila Gulack
- K1KU, Darrel Daley
- Marion Daley, wife of Darrel Daley
- Lois Phoenix, our host



**KB1MQB, Karen
N1XSS, Rob
N1TOX, John**



Marion, YL of K1KU



W1CWB, Chas



N1XSS, Rob



CHOW HOUNDS

K1KU came with his bride on Saturday to kibitz, sample the potluck offerings, and grilling skills of our very own Chef Bro-Yagerty, AKS WK1L





KB1KSR's home brew 300 ohm TV ladder line cutting jig.



Ed learns how it's done from W1ARA at a CERT training session



Perusing the menu with Lois at the New England House



Ed and Gordon solve a problem at Gracie Fair Day

At an early Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day



Ed and Sean at an early WRRC VE session



Ed's hand made signs to put by the road to advertise our presence.

N1TOX with Ed



A group of stalwarts at an earlier FD



Ed had just earned his General Class Ticket—written and CODE