

DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the West River Radio Club



July-2014

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.

VITAL STATISTICS

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

irst of all, I want to thank all of you that participated in our annual Field Day Operations in Townshend this year. It sounds to me that it was a total success this year. Being stuck in Louisiana for training, I was not able to participate this year. My heart was with you all the whole time and was wishing I was here with you, not in Louisiana! Thanks again for the leadership, Darrel (K1KU), John (N1TOX), Chas (W1CWB) and others for heading up this year's event.

This week starts our celebration of our country's birth. Please be safe in whatever you do. I wish each and every one of you a safe holiday this year. Until next time . . .

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I have searched all the parks in all the cities and I can find no statues of committees.

G. K. Chesterton



Volume IX-#V

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

RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

Our 10th Field Day

Let me say that I'm glad that I'm still young as it means that I have more Field Days to look forward to. One reason that I like Field Day is that it saves me from having to think about what my Runnin' On Empty column will be about each July. The other ninety nine reasons would take up too much space to explain.

Our 10th FD event as a club was held for the 2nd year in a row at the QTH of Andy Higgins, KK4ADQ. A big thanks to Andy for letting us use his land once more. What a great location. It's high up with views on three sides. More trees than you'd ever need for hanging wire, yet enough open land to allow parking and the erection of screen houses and tents.

We stayed with tradition and did another 3A operation. For those who need to know 3A means that we were a club operation using batteries or generators. It also means that we never had more that three rigs on the air at any one time.

Those three rigs handled nearly all the modes and bands available to Hams; CW, digital and phone on 160 through 10 meters. A nice touch would have been a VHF/UHF setup but it was not to be. If we keep asking long enough maybe someone will fill that hole for us some year.

The fun all began on Friday, June 27 when a team of

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

<u>Ongoing</u>: All sorts of Ham Radio celebratory activities for the 100th anniversary of the ARRL. Go to http://www.arrl.org/centennial or http://www.arrl.org/centennial

July 8: 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. The program will be

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/pramplan.html

July 26: 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 enjoy themselves.

July 15: Saint Swithun's Day. For further information go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swithun And stop telling people that you can't find anything of worth in this newsletter.

four began setting up the antennas. We went overboard this year on hanging wire. When all was said and done we had six antennas ready to radiate our signals thither and yon.

We returned to our site again the next day to finish it all up; setting up screen houses, hooking up rigs, and enjoying an excellent lunch.

Now is as good a time as any to thank the people responsible for feeding our hungry team this year. Chas, W1CWB, and Rob, N1XSS did a superb job of purchasing the food and preparing several meals for the famished operators and guests.

Thanks also need to be given to all who devoted their weekend to getting it all set up, operating, tearing it down at the end, or just stopping by for a visit or to enjoy some dining and conversation with us.

The bands were not all that hot this year, but hot enough to keep each of our 3A stations active in dispensing a lot of RF energy. I don't have all the numbers in yet, but there will be more details in the August issue.

Hot bands or not, what's NOT to enjoy about Field Day? Since the 1930s it remains the most popular operating event sponsored by the ARRL. Those of us who take part know what makes it so enjoyable. You can find out, too. Set aside the last full weekend in June, 2015 and come join the other Happy Hams from WRRC for our

eleventh consecutive Field Day.

In the meantime check out a few pictures of Field Day 2014. There is also a chart of all the operators and quests.



W1CWB, Chas, the master of flippery



N1XSS, Rob sets a wicked good table



The CW station







Part of the team poses in front of the CW station: KB1J, Rich/K1KU, Darrel/W1CWB, Chas/N1XSS, Rob/K1JON, John/N1TOX, John



WK1L, Bro Frank W1ERE, Irv KB1J, Rich

Log checking at the phone station.

KB1J, Rich—Op, tear down
KB1MQD, Karen—Guest
W1CWB, Chas—Op, cook, setup, tear down
N1TOX, John—Op, setup, tear down
K1JON, John—Op, setup, tear down
K1KU, Darrel—Op, setup, tear down
W1ZS, Burt—Op
KB1OQG, Gaila—Guest

WK1L, Bro Frank—Op
W1ERE. Irv—Guest
N1XSS, Rob—Cook, tear down
KB1YCD, Mary—Op
K1ZS, Dave—Guest
Suzanne, N1TOX YL—Guest
Dorothy, W1ERE YL—Guest



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[Ed: It's now time to check out the latest happenings in the exciting world of Ham Radio. We turn again to our top notch reporters at **Ham Hijinks.com**

Little Piggy Kit Will Help New Hams Fit In

By K5KV N on the scene

WELLSBURG, Missouri – With the number of new amateur radio licenses on the rise, one company is stepping in to help new hams fit in with seasoned operators at Hamvention.

The "Little Piggy Kit" from Peanut Whistle Transmitters claims to contain the essential items needed to make a brand-new radio operator look like "one of the guys."

Each kit contains the following:

- Trucker hat with antenna mounted on top (available in 2m or 70cm)
- Paracord survivalist belt suitable for holding accessories such as HT, multi-tool and/or flip phone (accessories not included)
- Flashing LED callsign badge
- "Game of Rohns" t-shirt
- Sweatpants
- Crocs shoes

"This kit will turn those little piggies into full-fledged hams!" said Erastus Pflemming, Director of Peanut Whistle marketing.

The kits are available now via mail order for \$59.90, and will be available at the Peanut Whistle booth at Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio.



"Valleys on the Air" Program Created By Acrophobic Ham Operator

By K5PO, on the scene

Banton, Colo.; March 29, 2013 — Willie Wilcox, 56, of eastern Banton, is an avid outdoorsman and amateur radio operator. Willie was inspired by his daughter Wendy, also an ham, into creating a new on the air activity.

"Lately, Wendy has really gotten into a popular ham activity called 'Summits on the Air', or SOTA." said Mr. Wilcox. "On these SOTA activations, she climbs way up into these mountains and works all kinds of stations. She sends me all these colorful photographs from some of Colorado's highest peaks. Here is one from Pikes P..P...Peak," Wilcox says with a fearful hesitation, as he shows me a picturesque scene he's printed.

As much as Wilcox enjoys spending time with Wendy, he won't be joining her on any SOTA activations anytime soon. Wilcox suffers from acrophobia, or a fear of heights, and the mere thought of Colorado's high elevations makes sweat begin to bead up on his forehead.

"I'm proud of Wendy and her bravery, but I just can't... whew... can't do that!" said a worried Wilcox. "Last week she sent me a video of her operating on Bravado Pass and I fainted while watching it. But when I woke up, I had an idea. Why not flip this up! You see, I like to be low. I mean real low. So what about valleys? Why couldn't we activate those too?"

With that, Mr. Wilcox founded the "Valleys on the Air" program, or VOTA. "The lower you go, the more points. You can even earn extra by trying to activate areas that are underwater!" said Wilcox. He admits the VOTA program lacks some of the excitement of SOTA, and creates some unique challenges.

"In the valley, your signal just doesn't get out. It took us three activations of the Plataria Ravine in Cavalara

County to have a QSO. And in the end, the only way it worked was Wendy walked to the top of the hill with her HT and aimed her portable yagi down at me. I'm not sure if that even counts for QSO credit, frankly." said Wilcox.



So far, the program hasn't exactly risen to the top. "I've not got much website traffic yet," said Wilcox, and no one has tried to activate any other valleys as far as he's aware. Still, Wilcox is pressing on with the program, mentioning that a VLF activation of the Mariana Trench might just be the ticket to lift the program to new heights.

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

