



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



August—2014

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 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

THE PRESIDENT'S KORNER

Here it is . . . the last and final month of summer. It's amazing how fast summer goes by each year. It seems like just last week the first blade of green grass was coming out of the ground! Here it is, August already. I hope everyone has been able to enjoy summer this year. As a club, we have had a successful Field Day this year. Each activity the club has whether it has been a club meeting night or just getting together at the PanAsian for lunch we are having fun. If you don't have fun or its work, you really can't call it a hobby. If you haven't been at a club function lately, you are missing out on a lot of fun and learning from each other!

Thanks again for making the West River Radio Club the best club in the state! It's because of you that we are successful. Come out and join the fun. See you soon. Until next time . . .

73
KA1ZQX/Tim

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Well, our tadpole days are over,
Feeling older, tired, and broke;
Can't hop as high, can't catch no fly,
But at least we haven't croaked.
Gary Larson
(From a birthday card given to me by my first wife)

THE WRRRC ARES NET

The decision was made to take cancel the remainder of the nets this summer.

The nets will resume as below in September, 2014.

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@arrrl.net

(John Sternala, KB1YNU, is a so far, unseen friend of the WRRRC. He hails from Wilbraham, MA where he

works as a network administrator. For two years now he has unsuccessfully tried to visit us during Field Day weekend. Let's keep the faith. Maybe 2015 will be the *magic* year.

John passed along this humorous parody on a very familiar work originally done by David, the Goliath slayer. Thanks for the contribution, John. Remember, we accept visitors at other times, not just for Field Day. We'd love to see you at a meeting sometime.

The 21.0600 MHz Psalm de KB1YNU, John Sternala

The Elmer is my shepherd;
I shall not want; (except for his awards, QSL's, Shack equipment, power supplies, etc...)
He maketh me check SWR and leadeth me beside the still USB
He restoreth my deep cycle EOC battery in the paths of righteousness for W1AW's sake
Yea though I key-up in the valley of Amplitude Modulation, I shall fear no Attenuated Sporadic-E
Thou preparest a table before me at the Hamfest in the presence of QRN enemies:
Thou anointest my head with The Old Man's Wouff Hong;
My QSL Log runneth over.
Surely 599's on 10-160 meters shall follow me all the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the Shack of the Elmer forever,or at least until his XYL says go home!

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

Ongoing: WRRRC ARES net...The net will resume in September, 2014

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>

August 12: Come out and enjoy a regularly scheduled meeting of the WRRRC. We start at 19:00L in the EMT room of Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, VT. I'm sure that there will be a review of the ARRL Centennial Convention by those who attended over the weekend of July 17-19.

There will also be a presentation on QSL cards; whether to buy them or make them yourself, what to put on them and graphical layout considerations. The dynamic duo of John, N1TOX and Darrel, K1KU will share their ideas with comments from the audience being more than welcome.

A large assortment of stateside and DX cards will also be available for viewing.

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

August 30: Monthly meeting of the WRRRC 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. Plans will be made for a fall picnic.

August events you won't want to miss:

Aug 3—International Friendship Day

Aug 13—International Left Handers Day

Aug 24—Feast of Saint Bartholomew

My wife and I met Tom shortly after moving to Vermont. We were attending a hamfest gathering sponsored by the CVFMA.

One of the raffle items was a picture painted by Tom. Having been born with the luck of the Irish I happened to win his painting and it still hangs proudly in our Putney home.

With luck you can often meet up with Tom at Nearfest. Believe me, it's a treat.

PAST PREZ CIRCLE

So, what's going on?

Well, that is definitely a question which needs no answer if you have been following the clubs activities over the past few months. But if you have not followed our events, here is a quick review. We helped out at the Girls on the Run 5k, participated at the WRRRC Field Day 2014, multiple parades, and attended the ARRL Centennial Conference, just to mention a few.

The Girls on the Run 5k has been a WRRRC event for a number of years. We have assisted with radio communications and we have been the point of contact for anything happening during the event. With our EmComm background, we are a natural for running the road event to ensure the safety of the runners. Over the past 7 years, we have been there for the fun and excitement of the event. Maintaining the communications from the field to the first responders has been the success that we need to carry on. And with your help and support, we will still be called upon for the years to come. This year there were 13 members of WRRRC, VT DEMHS CERT, and RACES programs helping out at this year's event. Thank you to all who assisted. Again, without you, we would not be as successful deploying to events as we are.

Field Day 2014 was a great time. This year was probably the only year that I can remember what we had no rain. No downpours, thunderstorms or showers. No wet equipment or tents, just some great sunshine and weather. And thanks to Andy KK4ADQ for the use of his property again this year. A wonderful location for great DX. So we had 3 stations running digital, CW, and Phone, which is our usual setup. We were able to keep the wildlife away for the weekend and hope to return there next year.

Just this month was the ARRL Centennial Celebration in Hartford, CT. WRRRC had a great turn out there. Emily Andrews KB1NXN, David Andrews N1ESK, Sean Sander-son KD6MPY, Darrel Daley K1KU, Chas Baker W1CWB and John Borichevsky N1TOX were there to enjoy the vendor fair and the wonderful presentations on technology, operations and what is coming around the corner. Plus Darrel got to stay all weekend, just because he figured out that he had an excuse to stay up late at night and party with many of his friends in the ham community. Plus there was some great events happening during the nighttime also! Do you know how many hams Darrel actually knows? **TONS!** I bet he was at the Japan



Now is this art work that you can live with or what? Paintings like these two examples and many other pieces were done by Tom Stanley, KA1T, AKA, "teakettle Tom."

booth and knew the folks there!! But did he get a new Yaesu hat? The jury is out on that one.

Have you seen our WRRRC web page lately, there is a new addition there on the home page. Did you see it? Probably not, otherwise I would know that it peaked your interest. Do you have a Facebook account? Join the West River Radio Club, LLC group! Yes, I created the "[West River Radio Club, LLC \(W1RRC/WR1VT\)](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WRRRCVT/)" Facebook Group. Hopefully this will be a place for all of the WRRRC members will share their amateur radio experiences. All members who register with the group have the ability to post pictures, comments, or whatever you wish to share with those who subscribe to the group. We hope you will join in and see what we are talking about. Here is the link to join us. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WRRRCVT/>

So the summer is not over. There is much more going on. I know the VT 100 is over, but for those who were available, I hope you volunteered your time to assist. There are many more meetings and events going on over the summer, we hope you can help out and participate. Let's keep the excitement growing. If not, work a new mode, reach out to a new DX country, get involved in a contest, or learn how to operate a new radio. This is Amateur Radio at its best.

So where have I been for the last 3 months? Did you miss my writings? I hear ya cheering my absence. I've been busy doing family things that needed attention. But now, I have a few hours to pound the keys and relax. My next task is to sort the letter "O" QSL Cards and send them out to you members. Yet another thing I do to make the radio magic happen from operation to the final word, the QSL card delivered to my clients. Want to learn how to make a QSL card? Come to our next meeting. I've made mine, and you can make yours. I'll show you how.

Until next month!

73

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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – Past President WRRRC

RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

The lights of Hartford

Marion and I attended the ARRL Centennial Convention over the weekend of July 17-19. That's right, we got ambitious and ventured away from bucolic Putney and into the traffic, tall buildings and lights of the city of Hartford. We're both glad that we did. After all, a bit of change in scenery and routine is good for a person's soul. And travel broadens, especially if you eat too much.

The event was definitely well organized. At least I thought so. The League was so organized that they were offering discounted prices for anyone wishing to make advance reservations for the bicentennial in 2114. I did notice that several Techs took advantage of the offer.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll find some friendly poking done at your ever humble editor. It is stated that he

knows lots of Ham, specifically tons of them. I hereby plead guilty to the charge.

I've mentioned more than once that the greatest benefit I find in our exciting hobby comes from the opportunity to meet folks from all over the world. In many cases they even become lifelong friends. I find it fascinating that in some cases this takes place without ever having met them in person; without ever having "had an eyeball."

I'll admit to having an edge on many of you. I've been a Ham for thirty six years. I've also been blessed with enough time and money to do a fair amount of traveling. I also do the kind of volunteering in our hobby that sees me involved with many other Hams:

- NCS on the Green Mountain since 1983 for 1300 times
- Work with the W1 Incoming Bureau for a lot of years
- VE for many years
- Holding appointed and volunteer positions with the CVFMA for several years and the WRRRC since its inception
- Membership on many Ham organizations that promote assorted aspects of our hobby;
- ARRL, FISTS, ARLHS, INDEXA, MTC, QCWA

Here's my list of notables seen and not seen (*) at the convention. If they were seen a rag chew followed, even if it was just a short one.

- AE1P, Neil & XYL
- K1GE, Glenn
- Glenn's son-in-law, Kevin (can't remember his call)
- N1ESK, David
- KB1NXN, Emily
- K1KI, Tom Frenaye (New England Division Director)
- AA1SU, Paul Gayet (VT SM)
- N1UE, Dennis
- KB6MPY, Sean*
- KV1J, Eric
- N1TOX, John*
- W1CWB, Chas*
- WB8SIW, Jim Wade (President of the Morse Telegraph Club)
- W1TP, Tom Perera (noted authority on and collector of telegraph keys)
- N3KN, Kay Cragie* (I did have the good fortune to work Kay during this centennial year)

Believe it or not all of my time was not spent talking. There was a large exhibit area to walk through and some excellent forums to attend with enough variety to satisfy the many interests that our hobby encompasses. Since my interests are what they are here's where I went to learn new stuff:

- Hams in the Great War - Chris Codella, W2PA
- The 170 Year History of Telegraph Keys - Tom Perera, W1TP

- We All Have Our Dreams - Martti Laine, OH2BH. Martti has held over 150 call signs during his long DX career. Many of them show up in my log. He was instrumental in getting the country of Albania on the air and helping them gain membership in the IARU.
- The Enigma and other Communications Deciphering Devices - Tom Perera, W1TP
- Remote Station Operations/The Basics Made Easy - Dave Anderson, K4SV

As per usual at large gathering of Hams there were programs provided for the distaff side of the family. In a city as large as Hartford there is plenty to see whether you're a Ham or not. Marion joined me on this trip (she has also been to Dayton) and spent Friday having lunch and touring the city with a friend. On Saturday she joined me at the convention center for a walk through the exhibit area as well as listening to W1TP's lecture and PowerPoint show on the Enigma machine.

Perhaps the only question remaining is WHY? For starters, I like to see friends and meet new ones. I never fail to stop at several booths with representatives from other countries, especially those which we have visited. If nothing else I let them know of visits to their countries and enjoyed the scenery and hospitality. Remember, we're supposed to be promoting international good will.

I spoke with the of the Japanese Hams representing the JARL (Japanese Amateur Radio League), the RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) folks, and the chaps from the RSGB (Radio Society of Great Britain)

Another reason is that viewing the exhibits and listening to the various forums gets me motivated to try something new in our extensive pastime. I also feel enthused to forge ahead to finish a goal.

While we're waiting for the 2114 Bicentennial anyone want to do Dayton next year? OK, how about NearFest?



W1TP, Tim with part of his collection

The Drone guy. Rob, N1XSS, has one. Everyone email him saying that we want a demo



A familiar face at Ham gatherings. This was K1KU's first visit at a League centennial convention



Our motel was only a half mile walk across the Connecticut River to the convention site.



Exhibit area

**Buddipole booth
N1TOX and K1KU will testify
that Buddipoles are first
rate**



Japanese Amateur Radio League

WRRC PICNIC

The WRRC Board of Directors voted to have a late fall picnic. The date will be September 27. The location has yet to be determined.

This will not be a complicated affair. Bring your own drinks and food. If some wish to do a portable set up and snag a few contacts, all the better. This would be a good time to test out a new Buddipole configuration.

The location is yet to be determined.

Turn the page to devour some of the latest Ham news clips from our friends at Ham Hijinks



TECHNICIAN CLASS

The WRRC club plans on offering a Technician class on September 13, and 20 at the Red Cross offices on High Street. On the 21st there will be a review and test session.

If you know someone that is interested have them get in touch with Mary, KB1YCD—vt doves@gmail.com Her phone number is 802-258-7589—cell/802-258-3921—home

VE OPPORTUNITIES

Our friends to the north, the CVFMA (Connecticut Valley FM Association), are offering two exam opportunities in 2014. The dates are on Saturday September 13 and Saturday December 13.

You can get further information by contacting Bruce Bedford, N1RX, at n1rx@arrl.org and/or going to <http://www.cvfma.org/Exams.html>

Once more we close off this informative issue of the WRRC newsletter with some more up-to-date news from our friends at Ham Hijinks.

Horrible Field Day Reported By Local Ham Radio Operator

By WB0RUR, on the scene

JOHNSON, Montana – A local ham radio operator says he had a “terrible and horrific” Field Day this year, all due to his lack of planning.

Dick Longfellow, a ham radio operator since 1963, says it’s not the emergency preparedness training or the radio operating which excites him.



“I go for the food. And I like to make a day out of it. I top off the fuel tank in the F-150 and I visit a minimum of five or six local amateur radio club Field Day operations so I can treat myself to a smorgasbord of flavorful goodness. I travel all over the state.”

“I go for the food,” says Longfellow, seen here on his way to the food tent at the Creek County Communicators field day event.

But this year, Longfellow – who weighs in at well over 300 pounds – says he left the loose leaf binder with his food plan somewhere in his shack and couldn’t find it when it came time to depart. So he set out on his annual pilgrimage with only memory to guide him.

“My first stop was at the Golden Spike Amateur Radio Club set up in Glacier National Park. They had just set out the salad table fixin’s when I arrived. So that’s a great way to start the day. Not everyone likes macaroni salad at 9 a.m., but I’m not really adverse to it.”

The day took a sour turn, says the retired oil pipeline supervisor, when he got to his second stop.

“Upon arriving at the Big Sky Amateur Radio Club event just outside of Butte, I knew something was wrong. It was 11 a.m. and they only had desserts out. I intended to align my arrival with the cooking of burgers and brats, but I was about two hours too early. It was only then I realized the shocking truth: I was supposed to be in Missoula.”

Longfellow says it was “physically impossible” to get back on schedule after his travel faux pas; particularly disappointing was his last stop of the day – Bozeman, Montana – just as the last slice of meatloaf was being eaten.

“I have no one to blame but myself,” he admits. “Good Field Day execution relies on weeks of planning followed by flawless execution. I dropped the ball, plain and simple.”

Longfellow says he may have found a solution for next year’s Field Day.

He will be setting up a GOTA station next to the chocolate fountain at the Golden Corral in Bozeman.

“I can visit with people between the banana pudding and the ‘endless’ beef tips. I think it will be a great way to attract new people into the hobby,” he declares.

Local Ham Hopes for Sunnier Days

ByWB0RUR, on the scene

BRIDLINGTON PASS, Utah – Local ham radio operator and “prepper” Sam Holtmeyer says he has a plan.

“When the end-of-days comes, I’ll be ready!” he boasts unapologetically, loading another case of Chicken-of-the-Sea tuna into his cavernous bunker.



The bunker, dug 10 feet below his Burkett County home, is equipped with the latest ham radio gear, water filtration equipment, and enough food to feed a family of 12 for two years.

In the planning stages for several years, Holtmeyer says he’ll be ready when “they drop the big one.”

Holtmeyer says the only drawback is his solar power electricity system.

“It doesn’t generate any power when it’s cloudy,” he explains.

“So I’m really hoping that Armageddon comes during a nice sunny spring day.”

CUL es 73 de K1KU SK

