



DIGITAL DISPATCH

A publication of the
West River Radio Club



April — 2015

Volume X—#III

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

This time last year we were talking a lot about change. Well, April has its seasonal change we all look forward to each year. This year I have wanted this month to come for a long time. It's been a hard winter and it's time to see some warm weather and green grass. I think I saw some crocus trying to come up through the ice yesterday. It's been a slow go in the flower department too. I've got some seeds going, so I hope it warms up soon.

Well, now that I got that out of the way . . . we started to talk about Field Day at our last meeting. You say, what's that? Well, it's something that the club has been doing since 2004 and doing it strong. There are many different ways to help out. We have setup, teardown and then everything from operating, to eating lots of food in between! We have a lot of fun each year. If you haven't been to this event, you are missing a great time! Mark your calendar for the last weekend of June off and plan to attend this year.

What have you been doing all winter? Have you made improvements to your radio, antenna, your tower, or have you been studying to upgrade your license class? I hope whatever you have done; you are ready for another year of helping out your community. Besides our usual events (walks, parades etc.), I am sure it will be a busy summer. Are you ready?

Thanks again for what each of you do. This club would not be possible without you! Hope to see you all at our next meeting.

Till then, 73—KA1ZQX/Tim

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Walking is man's best medicine – Hippocrates



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@arrrl.net



WRRC FUNDING SUMMARY	
March 31, 2015	
BALANCES FROM 2014	
CHECKING	\$ 8,398.75
PETTY CASH	\$ 28.57
DEPOSITS	\$ 170.63
EXPENSES	\$ 2,096.87
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 6,472.51
PETTY CASH	\$ 38.57
TOTAL MONEY ON HAND	\$ 6,511.08
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	\$ 1,304.75
Entergy Srv Dist	\$ 2,000.00

UPCOMING EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD

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

April 1: April Fools day. Who did you fool?

April 3: Good Friday

April 5: Easter

April 14: 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. Bruce Pollock, KB1SEK, from the Red Cross, will fill us in on matters of interest to the WRRRC. Amy, AB1WH, will tell us all about Micro Controller chips and "Arduino" open source technology.

Our meeting combine two major elements:

- 1] We learn something
- 2] We have fun

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

April 28: 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.

April—Only in America—A Month of Wackiness:

- National Humor Month
- International Guitar Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- Lawn and Garden Month
- National Poetry Month
- National Pecan Month
- National Welding Month
- Records and Information Management Month

BEARD GLITTER

Men; OK, I don't want to appear to be sexist - Women, too, if you're so inclined - this might be just for you. Those of you who only sport a mustache might also be interested. Our son who lives in Texas ran across this add in the Dallas Digest and forwarded it on to me.

He is going to check out the prices and shipping/handling charges. Let me know if you might be in the market for this kind of thing. There's no telling what kind of compliments you might receive at the next social outing you attend.]

Beard Glitter. Offered for sale by the [Texas Beard](#)

[Company](#), only available in the month of April.

Looking for the formula to make your beard more fierce and fabulous. Search no further. All new Texas Beard Company Beard Glitter represents the finest product in the entire Beard Glitter industry. Get yours and get your Glamour on today!



PAST PREZ KORNER

Welcome to the Radio Jungle!

Something that crosses one's mind might be the rat race of contesting, theory of amateur radio, why I can send out a signal and I cannot hear any replies, and most of all, why did I turn on that dang radio? Well the answer is easy, there was nothing else to do on the daily list!

So in order to wipe out any confusion, here are the answers to your questions, and most of all, the answers to the questions on your test.

Contesting – Defined as the act of getting more QSO's than Darrel Daley, K1KU during mud season in the backwoods of Alaska. Well, that is now much easier because he is now K1KU here in New England and is no longer in Alaska imitating some strange call of KL7DN. Where he dreamed up that crazy call, one will never know. Alaska, the final frontier, the land of the midnight sun, the home of the Aurora Borealis, bear, moose, and salmon. The real question that I have is this, how many icebergs did it take to string up antennas? Did he put his ground wire in the water only to defrost dinner?

The Theory of Amateur Radio – Understanding what happens when you turn on the radio, tune in a frequency and hear static, push the PTT Button, and say "Wake up world! Chat with me, I'm new!" Then someone comes back and says "Dude, what's your call sign?" Then in sheer embarrassment, you turn off the radio and review the manual because there was nobody out there before and the magic box spoke back to you. You did not know what to do! Talk back to the black box, or run and hide? You decide. Heck no, turn that black box back on and throw out your call and talk. But make sure it is not a representative of the FCC being an Official Observer who will slap a fine on you quicker than molasses flowing out of a cold jar. Remember, government runs a little slow, but the fines are huge!

Why can I not send out a signal? – Duh, you forgot to connect the coax to the antenna on the top of the tower. Or in my case, as KB1HCG pointed out 7 years ago, I did not solder the connector correctly. But little did he know, I did not make the cable! But that is my secret. He still picks on me about that.

Why can I not hear anyone? – Turn up the volume!! Ok, it was turned up smarty pants and I can hear it just fine. The issue is I was hitting the repeater, but receiving a signal was way off frequency. And yes, my settings on the knob are correct, why did you ask? Oh I

know what it is, the XYL was talking to me. Background interference, is that what they mean by "offsets"?

So, why did I turn on the radio? – Because I was bored. Tired of doing nothing, tired of doing the same old crap every day. Tired of falling asleep at the helm of a key-board, tired of living a redundant life. I wanted some change. I wanted to listen to music from China or Japan. Enhance my knowledge of foreign culture. Seems to be a good thing to do!

I climbed up the tower for the tenth time, I finally remembered the antenna needed an "N" style connector and not a PL-259. As for the rotor, well that will be tower climbs 11 – 15!! I've heard hiring a tree company with a cherry picker was easier than climbing a tower, but I just do not understand. I can reach the antenna from the ground!! Why do I need to put the antenna on the tower? I'm still making adjustments, the MFJ meter must be way out of spec. I know the antenna is tuned properly. I made a contact. It was my buddy across the street, so it must be working, right?

So I was able to beat KL7DN the other night by making one contact (remember he does not live in Alaska any longer so that was a snap!), I heard a disturbing noise emanating from the magic black box and I talked back to it, the PTT button worked, and for once, just once, a smile came to my face. I just made my first contact. Wow, I can hardly wait until I get my FCC license! This will be great!

So until next year when I will be back in Salt Lake City exploring the Micro Brews out there yet again, making more contacts via a remote session, and a trip to the federal jail because they caught up with me, I bid you a great year of Field Days, Contest, Contacts, and most of all, Phun with this great hobby we call "radigio".

73

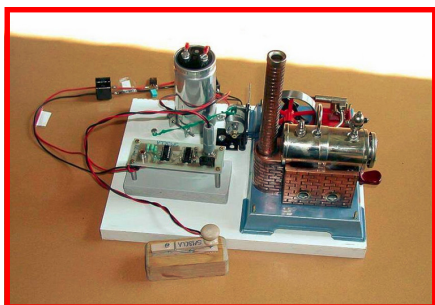
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de N1TOX

John Borichevsky – Past President WRR

Yes, I know that it's close to April 1. Nevertheless, here is something to ponder. John, N1TOX, found this oddity on You Tube.

The question remains; can the average Ham generate enough hot air to boil water on his own steam? Or, is some other form of heat required?



[Ed: More goodies for the active Ham from our friends at Ham Hijinks. Com]

New Creative QRM Voice Box Wildly Popular

By WBØRUR, on the scene

WELLSBURG, Missouri – In the wake of overwhelming sales response to the recently introduced "[Peanut Whistle 250](#)" transmitter and the "[Gary Coleman QSO Machine](#)," amateur radio equipment manufacturer "Peanut Whistle Inc." is announcing a new line of ham radio station accessories designed to enhance your operating experience.

"Our new equipment is designed to satisfy a unique ham radio need," says Erastus Pflemming, Director of Peanut Whistle marketing. "We realize there may be times you want to transmit – but don't want to make QSOs."

Peanut Whistle will unveil the "Mother-In-Law's Voice Box" at the upcoming Radio Consumer Device Show in Las Vegas, Nevada. (RCDS is the largest gathering of niche technology providers in the United States.)

The "Mother-In-Law's Voice Box" seamlessly integrates with your transceiver's audio connections and transmits randomly generated pronouncements of QRM. "We're really taking the idea of a voice-keyer to the next level," says company president Macy Blixton. "If you're listening to a DX pileup with hundreds of stations calling, you may at first be puzzled about how to join in. Now, you can participate in the chaos and QRM with nothing more than the push of a silky-smooth momentary switch."

Operated by a 10-key remote control pad, the base unit comes supplied with 25 pre-recorded audio messages – recorded by top industry voiceover talent – ranging from profane to simply irritating.

A sample of the 25 included messages:

- "HELLO HELLO HELLO HELLO HELLO"
 - "YOU ARE A SON OF A #@%&!"
 - RANDOM WHISTLING
- THE ENTIRE PREAMBLE TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
(Read by Hal Holbrook)

For a limited time, the company is including "The 1970's: Slang" voice module on the first 100 units sold. This provides the user 10 additional pre-recorded messages ranging from J.J. Walker's "DY-NO-MITE!" to former President Richard Nixon stating "I AM NOT A CROOK."

"While not profane, they remain very annoying and a GREAT source of QRM," says Blixton. Pflemming expects the "Mother In Law's Voice Box" to be in high demand. Adding, "the device has been beta-tested for several months on 14.313 MHz with great success."

(Editor's Note: The Mother-In-Law's Voice Box may be ordered from your favorite ham radio retailer; M.S.R.P \$149.99. After the introductory offer has ex-

pired, you may order the 1970's Slang module as a \$25 option.

DON'T BE A JIVE TURKEY! ORDER TODAY!)

RUNNIN' ON EMPTY

Potpourri

It's April and that means it's time to start thinking about:

- A] Baseball
- B] Spring flowers

C] FIELD DAY

- D] Having a raffle to pick the day on which all of this snow will be gone

I sure hope that you picked #3, FIELD DAY. Otherwise you don't deserve to have a Ham license [JUST KIDDING]. Since its inception in the 1930s February has been designated as the month for all red blooded fun loving American and Canadian Hams to start thinking about FIELD DAY.

You are thereby admonished to reserve the weekend of June 27-28 for two days of camaraderie, food and beverage consumption, and, more importantly - making all kinds of contacts using only emergency power. **Be there or be square!**

My Japanese Ham Friends

As a Ham you know that we have 5 principals that constitute the reason for our existence. There is always a question about our *Basis and Purpose* on the test. Below you'll see how some international good will was fostered between Japan and America.

Here they all are again, just in case you forgot them.

§ 97.1 Basis and purpose. The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.*
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.*
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.*
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.*
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.***

Here's how international good will was recently enhanced between two ham friends, one in Japan and the other in Putney, VT.

One of several friends that I know on Hokkaido Island

in Japan is Nobuyuki Kabasawa. His nickname is Nobu and he has both a Japanese and US call sign - JA8LWU & W2JA.

I first met Nobu and several other JA Hams in 2010. We met again in 2012 in Japan, then for dinner at the Dayton Hamvention in 2013. Tim was my chauffer to Dayton that year so he can back up my story. See pictures on the next page.

As an aside, Nobu is a member of both the JARL [Japan Amateur Radio League], and the ARRL. I know this because he has an "alias" email address for both organizations. [ja8lwu@jarl.net and w2ja@arrl.net] If you belong to the League you, too, can have an "alias" address. Mine is k1ku@arrl.net.

All of my Ham friends on Hokkaido also have US FCC licenses. To do this they need an address in the USA. It is legal to use the address of an American Ham [maybe non hams, too] to qualify.

I recently received an email from Nobu saying that he needed a "new" USA address and wants to use mine in Putney. [He currently has an address in Oregon] I, of course, gave my permission. It all worked out for the good. Nobu applied to the FCC for a renewal of his WJ2A license. I received it vial snail mail and forwarded it onto him in Japan.

Isn't it great when things work out?

Do you QRZ?

Here's another Q signal for you. Does a question mark follow it? QRZ? - If so it's a question, *Who is calling me?* No question mark? Then it becomes *You are being called by _____*, and optionally, *on _____ MHz*.

It is also the URL [uniform resource locator] of one of the most popular web pages in the Ham Radio Kingdom, www.qrz.com - In the olden days we had Call Books, listings by country of every Ham in the world. We're talking of a big book folks.

They got updated each year and perhaps even quarterly. Check it out for yourself as I have a memory like a steel sieve. You paid for this update, of course.

This is one of those miraculous ways that the computer has made life easier, especially for Hams. Now you check into QRZ.COM, type in a call in the box and up pops the Ham's name, address, email [if they want it listed] and a short biography if they want to upload the information. You can even have pictures. Is life good, or what.

Here's the good news/bad news, bad first:

- You have to put up with some ads. After all we still live in a mostly capitalistic society.
- You can't access all of the information available, like email addresses, unless you sign in.

Now the good news:

- It's faster and more convenient than thumbing through the small print in a gigantic book.
- It's a free service. See above concerning ads.
- If you feel guilty from using their site and benefiting

from it you can donate.

- There are links to *Ham Radio Headlines* on the main page.
- There is an online swap meet.
- There is plenty of help on how to submit a statement about yourself and also pictures if you'd like to.
- They're on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media stuff.

You can learn a lot about a fellow Ham **IF** they have included a biographical sketch.

Here's where I want to end up - **IF** they have a biographical sketch. Many don't and that's too bad. I often work someone on a net or make a DX contact and go to QRZ.COM to check out QSL preferences and/or routes. Often times there is nothing there except the call, name and address.

I did an unscientific random search of QRZ.COM using club member calls the results could be better. I will not mention the names and calls of some movers and shakers in the WRRC that do not share any information about themselves there. If I failed to put your name/call above give me a shout and I'll rectify things in the next newsletter. I may even send out a special bulletin.

Three noted members that do are N1TOX, John, N1WGU, Ken, and K1KU, Darrel. Take a minute and check out what they have to say or what they offer to see.

So can I suggest that some of you make time to put something out there so that the ham radio community can learn a bit about you if they so desire.



JA8LWU—K1KU —KA1ZQX



JA8LWU—KA1ZQX



HAPPY EASTER



What would you do with a Statistics and Number-Crunching Computer that starts at \$7,400* has 16K Hardwired Basic Language and 28 Major Peripherals?

Ed: Knowing that many of you keep a few bucks stashed away for that special toy, David, N1ESK, sent along this ad for a first rate PC.

Can't you just imagine how this baby would perform when interfaced with your favorite state-of-the-art rig.

The Gang at Wang, or is it Wang Gang? have gone all out to make you a **HAPPY HAM**.



Plenty!

The new Wang System 2200 is a System. It gives you the raw power and the peripherals you must have for a wide range of problem solving. For under \$7,500 you get a CPU with 16K bytes of BASIC language instructions hardwired into the electronics... plus a 4K operating memory. You also get a big 16 lines (of 64 characters each) CRT display, a console mag tape drive and your choice of either alpha or BASIC Keyword keyboards.

Some Words About Language: The hardwired MOS ROM language in your System 2200 finally ends your dollar trade-offs... economy systems that are costly to program or very expensive systems that are relatively easy to program. Many, if not most, of your people already know BASIC. They'll be solving problems the day your system is delivered (and, we can deliver in about two weeks). Most of your budget will go into problem solving; not system support.

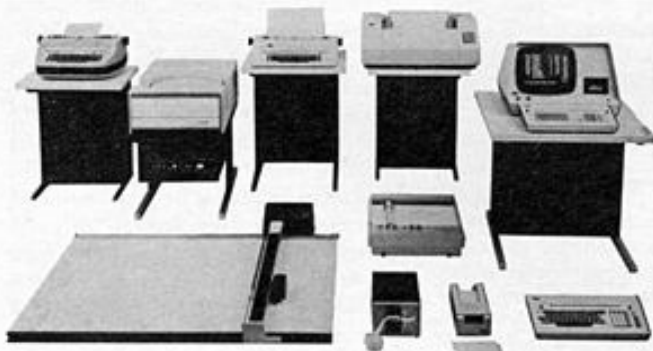
Try To Out-Grow It: Main memory is field expandable in 4K increments (at \$1,600 per 4K). Up to 32K. You can choose from three kinds (and 7 price ranges) of printers... one even has a stepping motor for very precise 4-quadrant incremental plotting. Speaking of plots, we have a new, very large flatbed (31" X 48") for only \$8,000 or a smaller one if you plot small. Both print alphanumerics and plot under full program control. Been appalled lately by disk prices? Starting at just \$4,500, we offer you our new "floppy" disk in single, double and triple disk configurations (.25, .50 and .75 MB's). For big disk power, you can have 1, 2 or 5 megabyte fixed/removable disk systems. All peripherals, including punched or mark sense hopper card readers, paper tape readers and on-line BCD or ASCII controllers are easily added-on in the field so your System 2200 will grow with your needs.

The Wise Terminal: If you are now or may soon be getting into terminals, we have several new products that will instantly upgrade your System 2200 for telecommunications with any other System 2200 or a mainframe computer. And, you still have a powerful stand-alone system. Another approach, of course, is to justify it as a powerful terminal and get a "free" stand-alone computer. Wise?

We Do A Lot For You: System 2200 is backed by over 250 factory-trained Wang Service Technicians in 105 U.S. cities. Naturally, we guarantee or warranty everything you buy from us. If you want, there are free programming/operating schools here in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, almost every week. We have a growing program library on a wide range of statistics and math/science applications. Our user group (with the unlikely name of "SWAP") could help you cut programming costs even further. We do a lot for you.

* All prices U.S. List. If you're the entrepreneur type, we've just announced a new 7-module Basic Accounting System software package for the business end of your business like payroll, invoicing, inventory, receivables and some really fancy management reports.

WANG



Even if you call the Wang System 2200 a small system... you have to admit it's a big idea.

- ☐ Please send literature
☐ Please have your representative phone me: _____

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Wang Laboratories, Inc.,
836 North St., Tewksbury, Ma. 01876, Tel. (617) 851-4111

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