



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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DAYTON REVIEW AND FIELD DAY

The RANV June Meeting Doubleheader

Mitch **W1SJ**

Join us for our June 9th meeting as we present two great topics. Leading off, Stew KC1IFK will present a review of his trip to the Dayton Hamvention which he attended along with Blair K1BKW and Nick KC1YNQ. He'll talk about the long, joyful walks through the flea market, intense shopping sprees at the dealer booths and the wild times at dinner. It's always fun to hear of the joy and excitement from Hamvention newbies!

Next up is our Field Day preview. There will be two types of audience members: those who have done Field Day before and those who are new. We will present the information for both groups to have the most benefit. We do have a significant amount of planning to do, so be sure to attend.

Be sure to join us June 9th at 7PM for the RANV meeting. The meeting will be streamed, but please attend in person if you are in the area.

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Meetings: 2nd Tuesday • 7:00 PM
Holy Family Parrish Hall
30 Lincoln Street
Essex Junction, Vt

Repeater: 145.150, PL 100; WB1GQR

New Hams, Mentoring:
RANVMentor@gmail.com

FIELD DAY IS HAPPENING SOON!

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

If you haven't been watching the calendar, Field Day is only 18 days away. Are we ready? The answer would be "No".

First, we need everyone who is participating at Field Day to fill out the survey at:

ranv.org/surfd26x.html.

The more specific information you can provide about available times, the better we can plan everything. This is how we know exactly who will be there at what times and what they will be doing. For our group, Field Day is a lot more than simply showing up and turning a radio on. There is a lot of planning and organizing which is required so that the event runs like a well-oiled machine. This is not to be confused with the leaking oil machine we had going on last year which will hopefully be relegated to the rear-view mirror. We have a number of things we need to do to prepare and a number of issues which need to be addressed. For those who have never done Field Day before, this is where we will give you the information you need to know.

I cannot stress enough that we need more operators this year. Some of our operators have limited availability and some cannot make it. We always need to be training new operators to keep moving forward. And along those lines, if you know of anyone who might be interested, invite them to join us. They do not need a license – we'll take care of that later.

So, fill out the survey. Everyone who is on the list will get the link to the 2026 Field Day Manual. Read it. Then read it again. Why do I say this? Because some did not read it and some things did not work out well last year. There is also a separate manual for the GOTA operators so that they know what to do. Doing the homework and preparing goes a long way!

RANV SPRING PARK ACTIVATIONS

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

As a lead-up to Field Day, RANV activated two parks in May for the expressed purpose of training operators. This was an opportunity for new and experienced operators to get in the chair and work people. Contest operating is not an instinctive skill you are born with. It requires training and practice. The folks running 200 QSO's an hour with their hair on fire didn't start out that way. It took years of grooming.

The first operation was Sunday, May 10, at Kill Kare State Park, US-3125, in North Hero. The purpose was to put on rare Grand Isle County during the New England QSO Party. This would give our new operators a lot of folks calling them. It worked – somewhat. The action was brisk all day on 40 meters. Unfortunately, 20 meters was terrible. We had to beg for contacts. Finally, we gave up in disgust and moved to 20 meter CW and then presided over a pileup. It was a nice run, but it did not help our new operators, who were only on phone. I later heard a lot of moaning from everyone about how conditions on 20 meters were terrible Sunday morning. Again, this points out that we can do everything right, but if the propagation isn't there, we just have to go with the flow. Despite all this, we uploaded 400 QSO's to POTA, a lot more than any other activation that weekend. Operators for this activation included: Cathy NQ1B, Dave KA1DMA, Andrew KC1VWU and Paul AA1SU

We returned to our "home" park, the Essex Nursery State Forest, US-5564 right here in Essex Junction on Saturday, May 28. We had excellent conditions on both 20 and 40 meters and a lot of QSO's were logged. We uploaded 669 QSO's to POTA. Operators included Blair K1BKW, Jim KC1LOT and Paul AA1SU.

How about more group activations? They are a fun way to get outside and do some operating. I am crazy busy this summer, but there are a few others of us who are active activators who can show you the ropes. At the meeting, let's set aside a few dates to get to a park. Who knows, it might even stop raining by then!

RANV SPRING PARK ACTIVATIONS

Bob [K1BIF](#)

The video is up.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnIdXXdwhM>

[Preview YouTube video Park Activation by W1NVT, US-5546](#)
[Preview YouTube video Park Activation by W1NVT, US-5546](#)



Chittenden County Region FM Simplex Net

Zachary [K1ZK](#)

QST: The June 2026 edition of the Chittenden County region 2m FM simplex net will be at 6:00pm EDT on Sunday, June 14, 2026, on 146.5MHz.

This month's net occurs during the [June VHF](#) contest, so stations who are in the contest are also encouraged to count their simplex contacts for contest credit. The contest "exchange" is your four-digit grid square, which for most stations in simplex range will be FN34.

All stations are encouraged to remain on the air after the net to attempt QSOs on other bands, including 220 and 440MHz. NCS will be using club call sign W1XIV.

73 de [K1ZK](#)

N1MM Logger Plus -- The May Meeting

Jeff [N1YD](#)

Seven people came to our May meeting, one joining by Zoom. Paul Gayet AA1SU gave us a demo of the N1MM and N3FJP logging programs. These are not just standalone programs that you type into. The program works with your particular radio. For instance, if you change bands, the logging program will record the contact according to the band your radio is on. There is a specialized version of each program for each contest. When not contesting, a general "DX" version is used.

N1MM has a "VFO Panel" that shows the call signs of stations that are spotted online. This gives you clear info about where to find them.

Jeff Bonn N1YD gave us a demo of Chirp Next, an open source program for setting up handheld radios. Most handheld radios can be programmed through their speaker and microphone ports. The Chirp program gives you a way to set up your radio's memories and features with a special USB cable. Some radios, like the free Baofeng that I was given last month, have several features that can not be set without programming software. Chirp supports more than 50 different radios. It knows the specific settings that are available for each model, and gives you a way to change them. It also lets you set up memory channels including alphanumerics, default power, repeater shift, etc.

Mitch Essex Memorial Day Parade.





NEWS & VIEWS

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday June 9th 7:00pm
Holy Family Parish Hall
30 Lincoln St, Essex Junction, VT 05452

Meeting Topic

Dayton Trip / Field Day

Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

- Steering Wheel: 3rd Tue Noon; JP's Essex, Vt
- VE Exams every 2nd Friday;
- Contact AB1WG for information
- Dues due? Pay online at www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html