RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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RANV SUMMER PICNIC

Saturday, August 8th Kamp Kill Kare State Park

The RANV Summer Picnic will be this Saturday, August 8th, 11AM-3PM at Kamp Kill Kare State Park in St. Albans Bay. The current forecast shows a 20% chance of rain and an afternoon high of 81F.

If you have a Green Mountain Passport card, please use that for park admission. Otherwise, RANV will cover the admission for you. We plan set up a radio and do an activation of the park. Pets are NOT allowed in the park. Don't think of leaving a pet in the car. Keep them at home.

The St. Albans Hamfest is in the morning, 8AM noon at 353 Lake Street, St. Albans. Directions: I 89 to Exit 19. Continue down the connector road to Route 7 and go right. In the center of town, make a left on Lake Street (VT 36). Continue all the way to St. Albans Bay, past the Town Park and up to Hathaway Point Road, where you will make a left. Continue for a few miles and go directly into the park.

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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 2026 – A SUCCESSFUL BLOWOUT!

Mitch W1SJ

Planning Field Day 2026 was challenging. They always are. We had rain and thunder during antenna setup. We were missing key people at various times. And buoyed by great conditions, we absolutely killed it! Judicious timing of our antenna setup had us missing the worst of the weather. Careful plug and play of various operators kept us on the air with good ops throughout 24 hours. Having everything working, including the propagation, we managed to run up a new high total for us for both QSO's and points. The breakdown is as follows:

Station	QSOs	Points
CW	1603	6412
Phone	2656	5312
VHF	211	720
GOTA	984	7368
Bonus	1710	
	5454	21522

Notice that the GOTA station was the highest contributor of all the stations. This is thanks to the GOTA bonus rules that the ARRL rolled out two years ago. Interestingly enough, that station didn't do as well as 2024's high water mark. But it still did very well, one of the best GOTA operations in the country.

Did we win? I don't know. Scores of other Field Day groups generally will remain unknown until November. Scores are definitely up this year. We should recognize that we did run up one of the highest 2A scores seen over the years.

A discussion about Field Day would not be complete without a call for how to improve. While we did very well, there are still some items we should look at. First and foremost, how can we bring in new participants, as our crew is getting very long in the tooth. Only 18 people were involved in Field Day this year, out of a club membership of over 80. That needs to improve. How can we better train the new GOTA operators to better make use of the great station they get to use? How can we keep operators coming back each year? And then there is the ongoing discussion on how to make our Field Day housing more manageable. Be sure to comment to the Field Day reflector at FD@RANV.groups.io

And finally, this word. Don't be the ham who has the license sitting in the drawer, or hanging up on the wall and not anything else. Get involved! We have activities, park activations, W1AW activations, club meetings, parties, hamfests and most anything we can think up. Getting old or being busy is not an excuse. Activity **is fun – and contagious! Get involved!**

W1AW/1 IS BACK IN SEPTEMBER

Mitch W1SJ

The Fall installment of the W1AW/1 Vermont activation is coming upon us soon. Our operating dates are 8PM Tuesday, September 22 through 8PM Tuesday, September 29. There are 26 band/mode slots for 12-16 hours each day of the seven days. We certainly want to fill in many of those hours during the weekend of September 26-27.

Last February's activation netted a lot of activity, but a lot of it was on digital. I'd like to see if we can do more phone activity. There is nothing like being able to speak to many of the stations we work in order to say hello and encourage them on.

If you don't have a station, I will have open slots here at W1SJ where I can run two bands at the same time. There's nothing like running pileups as W1AW/1! Right now, think about when you will be able to operate. Also, pass the word to anyone in Vermont who you think will be able to join with us. I'll turn the schedule on at the beginning of September for everyone to pick slots to operate.

FIELD DAY Picture / Video

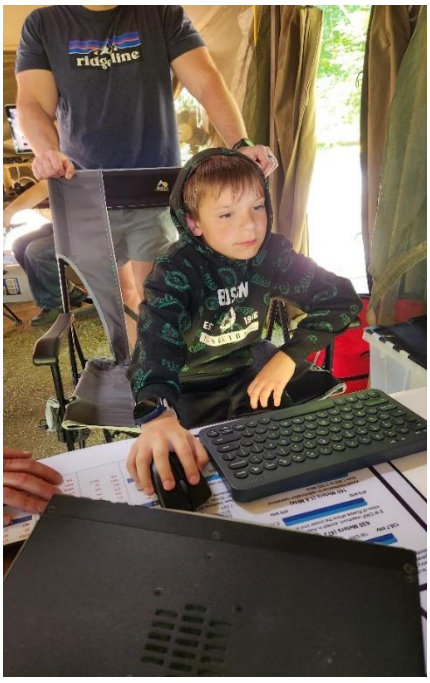
Bob K1BIF

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dikYfPly04

















Chittenden County Region FM Simplex Net
Zachary K1ZK

One:

QST: The August 2026 edition of the Chittenden County region 2m FM simplex net will be at **7:00pm EDT on Monday, August 17, 2026**, on 146.55 MHz. This is an informal gathering that occurs monthly but at different days and times. Mark your calendar and add 146.55 to your scan list so you'll hear us even if you forget the exact date and time.

Two:

The K1ZK-10 LoRa APRS iGate is up and running in Shelburne, VT on 433.775 MHz. Initial testing shows massive improvement over the range of traditional 2m FM APRS on 144.39 MHz. The K1ZK-10 igate decoded my 1W tracker on Route 7 as far south as Middlebury (!!). Get a GPS tracker, load CA2RXU's firmware, and give it a try — you'll be surprised how well it works!

73 de K1ZK

Jeff N1YD

The July Meeting

"Seinfeld", the long running successful TV comedy has been called "A Show About Nothing". Our July meeting was just like that. We had no speaker, no prepared presentation, no agenda, just six hams getting together to talk about radio.

The IARU contest will have just finished by the time you read this. Bob K1BIF had some plans for it.

Bob showed us his new **UV5R Mini**. The amazing thing is that it sells for just $18. Blair K1BKW showed use his three latest radios: His **Uniden BCD436HP** has a SIM card with a database of local repeaters and public safety stations. Wherever he goes, the radio monitors stations in the area. His **Anytone Digital D890** is running DMR. And his **Midland HH-5A** scanner monitors NOAA weather and wakes up whenever it sends out a certain alarm tone.

I brought in my vintage **Kenwood TS-830S** for discussion. It is 29 pounds of early 1980's technology, just right for single sideband and CW. Bob used to own one and suggested a few local experts who might be able to help me get it working again. We also heard how Rick's Trading Post is a great place to find old gear.

The annual RANV picnic is planned for Saturday August 8th at Kill Kare state park. Bring your own food, drinks and charcoal will be provided. The club will set up a station and we will make a few contacts. The STARC Hamfest is held nearby at the St. Albans VFW. It is always fun to look over their flea market, check out their demos, then go to the park for the picnic.

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NEWS & VIEWS

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NEXT MEETING
RANV Picnic
Saturday August 8th
Kill Kare State Park

Meeting Topic

Picnic

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