



# RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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## Presentation April 12th RANV Meeting

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### Field Day: June 25-26 Mitch **W1SJ**

Time flies! We need to start planning Field Day, which is only 6 weeks away. You should receive a link to our annual Field Day survey soon, which will help plan staffing for the event. Getting participation is essential. Folks are getting older and dropping out. And everyone seems to be busy with everything else. Many Field Day groups have been reduced to individuals operating from home. That's silly. The entire point of the event is to operate from somewhere else. That's the fun. One can operate from home at any other time. So, our mission is to keep putting on a competitive Field Day, taking into account that we are a bunch of old guys. Maybe a bunch of young studs will come along and do the heavy lifting. We can dream. After that, we need to get back to reality and to the tasks at hand.

We have a key need for GOTA operators. While we have several new hams in our area, they have been MIA at Field Day and most other events. How do we get them involved? Get them to go to Field Day. Promise a dinner and a show. Make up some nonsense about saving the planet. Just get them involved. Bribery often works. We need to take this seriously. This year, Jeff N1YD will not be available and I'm likely to press Stew into service on phone, so we really do need operators for GOTA, and phone, and VHF.

Last year, we blew by everyone in 2A by a large margin and ended up with the 5th highest overall Field Day score. That did not happen by accident. Instead, we had excellent planning

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Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday • 7:00 PM  
Holy Family Parrish Hall  
30 Lincoln Street  
Essex Junction, Vt

Repeater: 145.150, PL 100; WB1GQR

New Hams, Mentoring:

and execution (with a little good luck). We hope to repeat all of this, and make more great radio memories. Be sure you are available for Field Day and bring other hams with you.

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## NEQP 22: TWO PARKS, 20 HOURS OF FUN

Mitch **W1SJ**

The New England QSO Party was originally set up to follow on the heels of NEAR-Fest, starting at 4PM, just after everyone returns home. As such, it has weird operating hours of 4PM-1AM on the first day and 9AM-8PM on the second day. A few of us have traditionally activated Knight Point State Park on Sundays, providing rare Grand Isle County for the QSO Party and Park K-3125 for the park chasers.

This year, NEAR-Fest was held early and not on the same weekend as the QSO Party. I thought it would be neat to do a two-park activation over two days. I set up to activate Lake Carmi State Park, K-3126, in Franklin County on Saturday and head back to our usual spot at Knight Point on Sunday.

This would be my second time doing an overnight activation, after I did a 3-park event last fall. An overnight activation requires a bit more careful planning as you have to make sure, you have lighting and sleeping equipment and more food with you. I arrived at Lake Carmi around 3PM on a bright sunny day and got to work putting up the antenna and setting up the station. I immediately got into big runs on 20 meter phone and then on CW, mostly fueled by the 7-land QSO Party. At 7, I switched to 40 meters and it was totally nuts with rates approaching what would be seen in a full DXpedition. The park chasers were also out in full force, many of them thanking me for “putting on the late shift” – usually meaning an activation after 8PM. After a few hours, a switch to 40 meter CW produced more insanity. The CW pileups were tough to manage and actually slowed things up. By 1AM, I had 1000 QSO’s in the log – a lot better than expected.

I shut down and found a spot inside the crowded van to get some shut eye. Morning was chilly, but the start of another glorious day. Being in the off-season, I had the entire park to myself. But there was no time to lose as I pulled everything down, shoveled it all into the van and headed down the road for the 45-minute trip to Knight Point. Bob K1BIF and I arrived at the same time and we quickly put our stations together.

I quickly made a bunch of QSO’s on 40 meter CW and then let Bob take over on phone. But, as in the case of most of the activations last season, 20 meters was very lackluster, despite good propagation reports. I couldn’t do much on 20 meter phone and while CW produced a serviceable rate, many areas of the country, and the DX were noticeably absent. Bob packed it in at 3 and I continued past 6. We managed to coax and cajole 630 QSO’s throughout the day, which was not terrible, but certainly a letdown after the previous night.

Having done two overnight activations, I can report having a lot of fun. The conditions appear to be much better and you get the added fun of camping and operating. Sometimes, you might be good enough to do both well.

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## Photos NEQP 22: TWO PARKS

Bob **K1BIF**





## VERMONT QSO PARY 2022 RESULTS

Mitch **W1SJ**

It was another busy and successful year in the Vermont QSO Party. Numbers were a bit smaller than last year's high-water mark. A contributor to this was propagation, which was OK, but not great. There were plenty of stations to work close in, but QSO's from far afield were weak and fewer. I immediately noticed that the usual legions of California stations were missing. And West Coast stations in the higher latitudes, like Oregon and Washington, were particularly scarce. I only had 3 – just 3 - VE7 stations in the log - a lot less than what I see each year and they were also running their QSO party. Only one Vermont station had a valid QSO with Alaska. A few claimed "AK" but they busted the abbreviation for Arkansas which is "AR". And QSO's to Europe were not much better. Despite contests running over there on both days, a lot less DX stations were logged than what I normally get. That makes the few European stations who submitted logs really special as conditions to get across were tough.

There were 21 Vermont stations submitting logs, down from 31 last year. We lost some big stations like NS1DX when the station owner decided to run the FOP contest instead. Other big signals like KB1FRW, WX1O and the 5-band FT8 operation of KIIP were missing this year. But some of our regular operators boosted up their scores somewhat. We had 2 mobile rovers going around to some of the rarer counties, one on phone and one on CW. Ultimately Vermont stations put nearly 11,000 QSO's in the log, a similar number to 2020's results. Each one of the 14 Vermont counties were on the air, but some, like FRA and GRA were real hard to find. Outside Vermont, 323 logs were submitted, keeping your contest manager quite busy.

Every year we get complaints like, "Where are the Vermont stations?" and "There are so few Vermont stations that it is not worth having a contest." Many of these comments came from out West, due to the fact that longer skip conditions were poor, and only the stations with larger antennas and power were heard out there. Sadly, 15 meters did not produce much of an opening and 20 meters mostly provided shorter openings.

There was plenty of action in the eastern part of the country. But this must be kept in mind. This is, after all, the Vermont QSO Party and NOT the California QSO Party. This might come as a complete shock, but Vermont is a RARE state, with only 2100 licensed operators, and less than 1000 General class and higher operators and only a small percentage of those with functioning HF stations. There are a few big horses who are on all day cranking out QSO's, but you have to carefully search for the rest. You have to use multiple bands, multiple modes and muster all of your skills to search out some of our elusive operators. In addition to 21 Vermont stations submitting logs, we had another 44 Vermont stations who were on the air who did not submit a log. That's 65 stations, spread across multiple bands and modes. The proof is that there were 10 stations outside Vermont who were able to make between 40 and 90 contacts with Vermont stations, and most of these guys were running low power! Vermont was in the house! You just needed the skills to know which nook and cranny to look for them in.

Ron KK1L (Chittenden/FN34) takes the top spot with a very impressive 462k. He cut back somewhat on phone QSO's but ran up some impressive numbers on both CW and FT8. He never admits to being a CW operator, but he certainly had some great runs there. And those big runs were done on low power giving his score a big boost.

Kevin KE1VT (Addison) returned to a fixed location this year and put in a solid performance of 302k to take second place. The new yagi certainly helped! Kevin was our overall CW leader, and almost the phone leader as well as he put nearly 1500 QSO's in the log. BUT, he was on high power and did not do the digital modes, which were the items which put KK1L into first place.

Joe K1VMT (Lamoille) takes third place with a score of 118k. With his quad not functioning, he had to rely on dipoles and high power to get his signal out.

Zach W1JXN (Chittenden/FN34) finishes in forth place with 102k in a one-day (Saturday-only) operation. He was also sporting a new yagi and put some high power into it to run up a nice score.

Cathy NQ1B (Washington/FN34) takes the fifth spot with 89k points. She was on phone but ran up a really impressive number of FT8 contacts and multipliers to put up a nice score.

Mike N1JEZ (Caledonia) made this rather rare county easily available with a tremendous 1024 QSOs on phone only, high power. Paul AA1SU (Chittenden) did a similar effort on CW only with 470 QSO's.

Our two rovers were quite busy. Mill K1IB/R put WNS, CAL, ORA, ESS and WAS on the air on CW to the tune of 320 QSO's. Darryl K1TTW/R put CAL, ESS and ORL (the infamous Northeast Kingdom, or NEK of Vermont) on the air on phone to the tune of 325 QSO's.

Other RANV members in the QSO Party: K1BIF, KB1LOT and KC1IFK.

This is only a short summary. For the full write up, please go to <http://www.ranv.org/vt21.html>



## RANV minutes for April 14th 2022

Bob **K1BIF**

Present on-line was: W4YFJ, W1EJC, KC1QXL, W1ZU,  
K1VL, N1TRK, AA1SU,  
N1MJD

In person: AB1DD, KC1PYO, K1KR, KB1LOT, KC1IFK,  
W1SV, N1JGB, K1IP, N1YD,  
K1BIF

Meeting started at 7:18 pm at Zachary's Pizza. Stew welcomed us. Everyone introduced themselves.

Stew introduced our speaker, NJ1JGB, Bruce Beaugard. Bruce gave us a presentation on basic DMR: what is it, how to select radio, talk groups, and general information. Motorola started DMR (TRBO). The New England DMR network is running 14 repeaters in Vermont. There are 3 digital modes, DMR, D-Star and Fusion. DMR uses 2 time slots on each frequency (one frequency coming in and 2 (time slots) going out). You must have a radio ID to use DMR, it is free to get. For DMR, programming the radio uses a "code plug", or frequencies, regions, groups, zones, color codes, time slots, etc. Color Code in DMR is just like the CTCSS in analog. There are 2 time slots, each one can handle a separate conversation. There are 2 types of talk groups: static – always open, just tune into the group, and dynamic – select the group and push PTT to open, it will close after 5 minutes of inactivity. A cBridge is a network server that manages the DMR network – repeaters, users, groups, time slots, etc. There is 1 cBridge for Vermont. There are several DMR nets in Newengland, such as NE swap net on Mondays, and VT state DMR net on Tuesday. Nedecn.org is the website that has more information on DMR; it also has a "netwatch" that displays who is using the system in real time. Use "parrot" to check your audio, signal, and ID. Even with DMR, location does matter – it depends on RF just like analog.

Mitch informed us that IRLP and echolink are active on the Bolton repeater. The Allstar connection is being worked on – use of these additions will be covered in a future meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:52  
Bob, k1bif, secretary

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## NEWS & VIEWS

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### NEXT MEETING

Thursday • May 12<sup>TH</sup> • 7:00pm  
Holy Family Parrish Hall

Meeting Topic:  
TBD

### Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

- Steering Wheel: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues 6:30; Ninety-Nine Restaurant, Taft Corners, Williston
- VE Exams every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday; Contact [AB1DD@arrl.net](mailto:AB1DD@arrl.net) for information
- Dues due? Pay online at [www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html](http://www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html)