



# RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

The Official Journal of the Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont

May • 2023

An ARRL Special Service Club

Vol. 33 No. 5

## PRESENTATIONS FROM NEW HAMS The May 11th RANV Meeting

This month, we will try something different. Instead of a presentation from an experienced operator about a something technical or about operating, we will present a few new hams who will let us know what they have been up to in ham radio. Some will do a formal presentation and some will just talk. But it will be an opportunity to hear what our newest hams are doing, and perhaps incite the rest of us to get more active. The presentation will be a two way deal. Besides what they are active with, they will also challenge us with their ham radio issues and we will get to provide advice.

The RANV meeting is Thursday, May 11 th at 7PM at the Holy Family Parish Hall, 30 Lincoln Street, Essex Junction. Be sure to join us!

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## FIELD DAY 2023 Mitch **W1SJ**

Things are starting to bloom and that can only mean that Field Day is soon. Actually, it is only 6 weeks away, on Friday-Sunday, June 23-25. While there are plans to build a facility near our site, we are good to go for this year.

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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:  
[RANVMentor@gmail.com](mailto:RANVMentor@gmail.com)

The folks that organize this event, the ARRL, keeps messing with the rules and have come up with a few strange twists this year. In a way, the GOTA scoring is simpler, but the setup is not quite logical. Regardless, we will we still strive to be the best under the new rules. There is no bonus for specific numbers of QSO's made by GOTA operators any longer. Each GOTA contact is worth 5 points each, regardless of mode. GOTA operators can make as many contacts as they care to without affecting the bonus points. And our GOTA coach only needs to supervise a minimum of 10 QSO's. Now the illogical part: based on the number of QSO's our GOTA station made last year, that station would have earned MORE POINTS than the CW station! Hey, I didn't make this stuff up!

So, that means that we need all hands on deck for the GOTA station. And we cannot put our experienced contesters in there. We need to run the station 24 hours and we need the operators scheduled to get on to make the contacts round the clock – just like the phone and CW stations are doing. I'm thinking that we might have a second radio hooked to the second GOTA antenna to allow off-duty operators to listen and get familiar with what is going on. This would be preferable to just having a new operator jump in cold. I am sure there are other ideas which we might explore as we discuss this.

The most important thing is to get everyone committed to the task at hand. No weddings, birthday parties, dinner with the family or weekend travels. We really need everyone on deck! The schedule is the same as previous years. We will discuss this a little at the May meeting and discuss it a lot more in June. Our team meeting will be Monday, June 19, 7PM at my QTH. We deliver the antennas and shoot the lines over the trees on Thursday, June 22. On Friday June 23, at 10AM we do the entire setup and we need a crew on site at that time. The activity runs from 2PM Saturday, June 24 until 2PM on Sunday and then we take it all down and pack it all away.

Soon you will receive a link to our Field Day survey to let me know when everyone can be on site, so we can plan everything out. Remember to put June 23-

25 for Field Day on your calendar. Accept no substitutes!

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## **DUAL PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS THIS MONTH**

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

May is the month when we do all of our public service events. This schedule was interrupted in the last few years by the pandemic and conflicts with my schedule, but we are back to normal this year.

The Essex Memorial Parade takes place on Saturday, May 27, 7:30 until noon. We meet at St. James Church for a pre-parade gathering. Our job is to serve as marshals to help line up the parade and march everyone down Route 2A and back up Route 15 to the Fairgrounds and make sure that everyone behaves. This is an easy job which doesn't require a lot of preparation. If interested, contact [W1SJ](#).

The Vermont City Marathon takes place on Sunday, May 28, 6:30 until 1:30. We had a full staff in place, but a few drop outs have left us with an opening or two. This is a bit more serious as we will have a planning meeting and have to be sure we know how to handle all of the situations during the Marathon. Again if interested, contact [W1SJ](#).

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## **ANOTHER BIG RANV PARK ACTIVATION**

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

This past weekend we pulled off a dual park activation along with operating in the New England QSO Party (NEQP). Not only did we activate two parks, but we provided two of the rarest New England counties for the masses – Franklin and Grand Island counties. Yes, we know that Essex County is the rarest, but who feels like driving for two hours up into the Kingdom?

The NEQP has a weird schedule of two operating times consisting of Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday all day. This is because it was designed to follow on the heels of NEAR-Fest. People leave the fest early Saturday afternoon and then get on the

air. To be honest, after 2 days of fun at the fester, the LAST thing I want to do is sit in front of a radio. But as the scheduling worked out, the fest and NEQP were on different weekends. I think that is a better plan.

Our first stop was Lake Carmi State Park in Franklin, Vermont. It is very scenic and quiet in the off-season. I arrived at 3PM and met up with Logan KC1SFJ and George KC1JGM and Donna. The mission was to get our two stations on the air for the 4PM start. George helped with my station and we had the antenna up in a flash. I then went to plug the radio into the power supply and to my horror, I found that I had brought the WRONG cable. In my many forums I emphasize over and over to make sure to bring the power cable, or else your activation will be over before it starts. Now here I am looking at a cable with a 6 pin power connector where instead, I need a power pole connector for the Elecraft. I quickly cannibalized the power pole connector from the vehicle and spliced that onto the cable I had with me. This only wasted 5-10 minutes, but it certainly was stressful. My packing list will now emphasize to bring the CORRECT cable! I managed to get going only 18 minutes after the start of the event.

Meanwhile, Logan was building his station and he has NEVER done this before. He required several shots into the trees, and eventually had a G5RV 40 feet up. He had a full station with computer running N3FJP in the front seat of his car and was on the air by 5:30. It didn't look comfortable, but it was functional.

I was on 20 meter phone and it wasn't great. The rates were lackluster and everyone was weak. The Indiana QSO Party was running and I worked virtually every ham in that state. The 7th Area QSO Party was also running, but I only heard a few of those guys. I jumped to CW and things got better. Clearly, conditions on 20 meters were not good.

We had a bunch of visitors in the late afternoon including Anna KC1PYO and Scott W1ZU, along with George.

As it got dark, I switched to 40 meter phone and now the big rates started happening. But as the night

wore on, 40 meters got noisy, and CW became the name of the game. Ultimately, I ended up with more CW than phone contacts, which is good for the NEQP which has bonus points for CW, but not as good for the park chasers, most of whom are on phone. The Saturday installment of the contest ended at 1AM, and I crawled into the back for some shut eye.

Sunday morning at Lake Carmi is something special. The park was totally empty and quiet, save for some birds squawking and a few motorboats on the lake. I quickly took down the antenna and packed everything away for the 50-minute ride over to the second location, Knight Point State Park in North Hero.

I met up with Bob K1BIF and we both got to work setting up our stations and both were ready by 10:30. We wanted to get on earlier, but it didn't happen that way. And it didn't matter. Conditions stunk. Hardly anything could be worked, or even heard on 20-meter phone. And while 40-meter phone produced contacts, it was slow going. I switched to CW and stayed there through much of the morning and early afternoon. Bob popped onto 20-meter phone around 12:30 and was met by a big pileup and he had a bunch of fun. But it ended all too quickly 90 minutes later. It was back to begging for QSO's. He then later went up to 15 meters and had yet another pileup of European stations. Man, he's getting all the great runs. I finally got on 40 meter phone later on and had a couple of good runs before tearing down just before 6.

We ended up with 873 QSO's on Saturday and 594 QSO's on Sunday. This is less than last year, but with more CW contacts and more DX multipliers, we actually will score a tad higher. A lot of folks were very happy to be able to work the rare multipliers and park activations.

We get to do this again in one month as we plan to activate Camels Hump State Park on Saturday, June 3. Hope to see you then.

Bob, **K1BIF**



RANV meeting. 4/13/2023 minutes

Bob, **K1BIF**

Present on-line was: KB1NHQ, KC1JGM, N1WCK, W1EJC

In person: KC1SFJ, K1CSF, K1BIF, AA1SU, W4YFJ, W1SJ, N1YD, KB1LOC, K1KF, KB1NHQ, KK1L

The meeting began at 7:15.

Mitch, W1SJ gave a talk on portable operation. He insisted that more power is better. The higher the antenna the better, dipole is better than a vertical, whip. When conditions are poor, CW and FT8 is best. Radio should be reliable, headphones are a must, and a good antenna is important. If mains power is available, bring a long extension cord, and make sure no one trips over it. Make sure your battery has enough power for the activation. Make sure you have a reliable radio. Bring a power supply if you're running on AC or a generator- bring all the power cables you need. Bring all cables needed. Use a headset. Use a computer for logging, and backup regularly. Also bring the computer to radio cable. If you're using FT8, bring the necessary cables. If possible, use a spotting network. High dipoles are the best for portable operations. Use existing park tables, if possible, have a shelter, or tent, for rain. Or, you could use a camper. Bring food, water and appropriate clothing for the entire activation. For operating ability, practice operating; do contests for practice. Know propagation, use 40 & 80 meters for close by contacts. 20 and 40 meters are best for beyond the skip zone. Announce your activation before and during your activation.

Near Fest is the 29th of April. Paul will bring snacks next month. Steering Wheel will be 4/21/2023 at noon in the Guilty Plate restaurant in Colchester.

Meeting ended at 8:40  
Bob, k1bif, secretary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeX8RdqODko&t=8s>

## **VERMONT QSO PARTY RESULTS**

Mitch **W1SJ**

The results are in!

Ron **KK1L** repeats as our first-place finisher with an amazing 834k using low power.

Kevin **KE1VT** takes second,

Erik **N1CFO** fourth,

Stew **KC1IFK** fifth.

The **N1GVT** multiop at **K1ZK**'s QTH ran up a score of 425k.

Full details can be found at

<http://www.ranv.org/vt23.html>



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### NEXT MEETING

May 11<sup>h</sup> 2023 7:00pm  
Holy Family Parrish Hall

**Meeting Topic**  
Presentation New Hams

### Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

- Steering Wheel: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thur Noon; 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)