



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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Presentation June 9th RANV Meeting

REPEATER LINKING and FIELD DAY

Mitch **W1SJ**

Our June meeting will have not one, but TWO topics! We will start off with Repeater Linking. If you have been listening to the repeater lately, you might have heard stations coming in from all sorts of distant locations. We now have the ability to link WB1GQR to the IRLP, Echolink and AllStar networks. That means that we can both hook up to distant repeaters and also distant hams can “call in” on the repeater. For example, I was able to connect to the repeater through my phone from the Dayton Hamvention and also connect in to the Marathon while out of town. Our short talk will detail how this is done and the rules to be followed when accessing the networks.

Our second, and even more important topic, is Field Day, which is only a short 2½ weeks away. This talk is meant as an introduction for those who have little to no Field Day experience. We will detail the idea behind Field Day and how our club manages this rather complex operation. It is a must-attend for new Field Day participants.

The meeting will be both live and on-line via Zoom, but we encourage those in the local area to attend live. It is time we all get back to meeting in person!

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

Repeater: 145.150, PL 100; WB1GQR

New Hams, Mentoring:
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JOIN US AT THE BEST FIELD DAY EVER!

Mitch **W1SJ**

Sign up now at: <http://www.ranv.org/surfd22.html>

Field Day is an event where ham radio is set up in the field, approximating a self-contained communications center with no available infrastructure. While not “officially” a contest, Field Day has a scoring system whereby each operation can measure their efforts against others and past performance. We have won our category 3 out of 4 years, and last year, we attained the 4th highest Field Day score of ALL entries. We are pretty good at what we do, but it takes a serious effort by a team of people to make it happen. In other words, WE NEED YOU!

Field Day is Friday, June 24 through Sunday, June 26, encompassing 3 full days of ham radio fun. Friday, 10AM to 6PM is setup day where we set up 5 antennas on 3 towers, 6 wire antennas in the trees and 3 tents. Setup is one of the best antenna classrooms you can attend. You will get to see how many different antennas are deployed in more detail than found in any book. We’re back on-site Saturday at 10AM for station setup and attending to many last-minute items. The operating phase starts at 2PM. We operate in the two transmitter category (2A), plus 2 bonus stations. The main stations, on phone and CW, run 24 hours through the night, while the GOTA or beginner station runs for as long as we can keep operators there. The VHF station runs during the day and evening. This all means that we need a bunch of people to keep all this going. At 2PM on Sunday, we stop operating and spend the rest of the afternoon taking everything down and putting it away.

Our Field Day operation is rather complex. The BEST way to participate is from the beginning where you attend our June 9th RANV meeting and then read the manual on how it all fits together. All of our activities are scheduled in advance. Simply showing up is NOT a good method. Everyone on site is very busy and it is easy for someone new to get lost in all the activities.

It is imperative that we get as many hams and potential hams to the Field Day site! While we have an excellent dedicated team, we are all getting older and our physical abilities are diminishing. We really need new people to come in, learn the details and help us move into the future. Ham radio is more than hanging a license on the wall!

You can learn a little about Field Day at our site at:

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

Then, go to our sign-up facility at <http://www.ranv.org/surfd22.html>

Use the form to spell out when you will be able to be on site and what types of activities you want to be involved in. Next, be sure to attend the June RANV meeting 7PM on June 9th at our meeting site at 30 Lincoln Street, Essex where we will talk about Field Day activities. Finally, make a point to attend our final Field Day planning session on Monday, June 20 at W1SJ (drop me a line if you don’t know where this is).

Ham radio is a participation activity. You gain little by staying home, liking it on Facebook and chatting about it on line. You need to be THERE!

Vermont City Marathon 2022

Bob **K1BIF**

This year was the first since the pandemic started that a full marathon was run. Last year only a half marathon took place. The course was changed from previous years, eliminating the 127 stretch of road this time. This eliminated an aid station, and the need for a ham operator. Also, there was no bus running, and no hams to shadow the supply truck, or the race director. All this was a good thing, because we had far fewer volunteers to man the remaining sites than we did in previous years. With even fewer volunteers, things got worse; four volunteers had to drop out before race day and we had to scramble to make the number we had left work.

The “ham meeting” before the race was a Zoom session, and individual volunteers had to pick up their shirts by themselves the Thursday before the race. As they say, life is change. And, change isn’t always bad. We were able to staff all the needed sites, by moving volunteers around. Because of timing, some could cover two jobs, one early in the race, and one towards the end. Net control began the communications operation around 6:30am, and closed up around 1:30pm. There were no major problems, and very few small ones. It was a very smooth year for our volunteer communications effort.

Many thanks go out to all the volunteers who showed up and put in a great day’s work helping keep the Vermont City Marathon problem free. As one of the ham volunteers told me towards the end of the race, “this was boring, and boring is a good thing in this endeavor”.

Farm on the Air

Bob **K1BIF**

On May 14th AB1DD, W1SJ and K1BIF activated K1BIF's tree farm as a "Farm on the Air, or FOTA. We set up and began transmitting around 10am and quit about 3pm, putting 277 QSOs in the log. This is a new idea, started by k1bif, to celebrate the American farmer. If you own a farm, get on the air and transmit as a farm on the air. In the February 2022 issue of QST I published a letter to the editor about FOTA. I also posted comments about FOTA on several ham radio list serves.

No, antenna farms aren't a farm. Also, your back yard garden isn't a farm. To legally qualify as a farm in Vermont (current use) the farm must be 25 acres or larger and you must fill out lots of paperwork with the state and you actually do have to farm either food crops or trees; but your property taxes go down significantly.

It was sunny, hot and humid during the activation, but we all had fun. We started on 40m in the morning, and around 11:30 switched to 20m. We had better luck on 20m, and the pileups kept going until we quit at 3. The station was all Elecraft; a K3, a KAT500 tuner and a KPA500 amp, all run with a Honda generator. The antenna was a Cobra Ultralight 160-10-meter folded dipole up about 55 feet. There are lots of trees to hang antennas, just not a lot of open space between them. The video is on YouTube;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xx2i6zMHaCs>



RANV minutes for May 12th 2022

Bob **K1BIF**

Present on-line was: No one

In person: KB1ZEB, KC1JGM, AA1SU, K1BIF

Meeting started at 7:26 pm. George started a discussion of Field Day preparations. We then discuss logging programs for Field Day. We discussed the poor turnout at this meeting and what can be done to improve attendance. Paul AA1SU won the grand prize at Nearfest - Yaesu FT-891.

The meeting ended at 8:14

Bob, k1bif, secretary



NEWS&VIEWS

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NEXT MEETING

Thursday • June 9TH • 7:00pm
Holy Family Parrish Hall

Meeting Topic:
REPEATER LINKING and FIELD DAY

Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

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