



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

The Official Journal of the Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont

June • 2010

An ARRL Special Service Club

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NEXT MEETING:

JUNE 8, 2010—911 CALL CENTER

THE JUNE MEETING OF THE RANV CLUB will be at the State Police Barracks in Williston. Address is 2777 St George Road. The Barracks is just above exit 12 on 2A. Bob Brown will discuss the E 911 system in Vermont and give a tour of the dispatch center.

When you get to the barracks, come to the door next to the garage doors. Ring the bell if no one is at the door and tell them you're there for the ham radio tour. Inside, the conference room is on the second floor immediately at the top of the stairs. Bob's pretty good a marking things, so we probably won't lose too many of you. But...hey! 911 can quickly dispatch someone to do a search and rescue, so no fear!

After the tour, we'll meet back at the conference room for snacks and to discuss the last minute details in preparation for Field Day 2010.



FIELD DAY, GOTA, AND YOU! CARL AB1DD

THE 2010 EDITION OF FIELD DAY is near. The dates this year are June 26 and 27. We start our setup on Friday afternoon and can use lots of people to help with lots of things.

I am looking for help for one aspect of the weekend in particular: the GOTA operation. For those who don't know, GOTA is "Get on the Air." This is one of the operating stations at Field Day. No experience is needed to operate here. Anyone licensed in the past year, any level, anyone who holds a Tech license, or anyone who is considered to be "inactive" is eligible to operate. Even those who do not have a license can operate! The purpose of the GOTA station is to give those who haven't had on-air experience the chance to do so. You don't even need to know how! There will be a mentor there to help. There is no pressure to make hundreds of contacts, but there are bonuses for every 20 contacts each operator makes. Will anyone make 100 or more contacts this year? For the last few years, the GOTA station has met its goal of at least 500 contacts. Let's do it again this year! Please let me know as soon as possible your plans so a schedule can be put together. We want to give everyone a chance, and if everyone shows up at the same time, this gets to be difficult.

I'm also looking for some mentors who can help out with the new operators. We also get extra credit for having under 18y.o. operators make at least one contact. Get together with your friends and make plans for Field Day 2010.

Upcoming, Notices, & Other Misc

- ♦ RANV: Next Meeting—July 13—Lightning Part 2
- ♦ VT QSO, June 20
- ♦ Field Day Planning Meeting: June 22 @ 7:00pm. Contact Mitch W1SJ
- ♦ Field Day—June 25–27
- ♦ Junior Diabetes Tour: S. Burlington to Middlebury & back; July 19—Help needed, contact Tom KB1NGQ @comcast.net
- ♦ Dues due? Pay online at www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html
- ♦ VT Ham Radio Calendar—www.vthrc.net

THE STEERING WHEEL HAS HAD A CHANGE OF VENUE.

Meet at the Ground Round on Williston Road on the 3rd Tuesday, at 6:30. Help us plan meetings, discuss club issues and upcoming events that might need to be presented to the membership.

RANV: MAY MEETING SECRETARY'S REPORT

JEFF NIYD, SECRETARY

U.S. Border Patrol—Paul Gayet AA1SU got the idea for the May meeting when he noticed a border patrol building with an impressive assortment of antennas on its roof. Four people from the U.S. Border Patrol came to our May club meeting to tell us about their equipment and their work.

The visitors were Lucas Hursey, Mark Pynduss KB1EWA, Stephen Fuller, and Mike Raymond N1IRN.

The Border Patrol has three main nets of linked VHF repeaters. The nets cover the Canadian Border from somewhere in New York state to Maine.

The communications are digital and encrypted. There is a separate net for data. They can also use U.S. Customs radio nets. There is a communication center in Florida, as well.

The border is monitored by live video, remote video, thermal imaging, and motion sensing detectors. Remote video means that the device “phones home” when it has an image or video clip to send. Though some of the devices are linked to the Internet, others are battery powered with small transmitters. Sensor batteries last for a year.

The original devices had small tape recorders that would transmit voice messages like “Whiskey 4 has detected motion.” Later devices sent a synthesized voice, while the current generation sends digital data. The Border Patrol has become pretty good at distinguishing people from animals.

Each agent has a \$4500 hand-held Motorola radio for encrypted digital communications. Stephen gave us a quick demo, working a repeater on Jay Peak with very good sound quality.

The radios have over-the-air rekeying. When the net's encryption key changes, each radio can be easily updated. However, any lost radio would soon become unusable.

The men feel that border security is “pretty good.” They get good

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RANV THE PREZ SEZ

BOB KB1FRW, PRESIDENT

AS I WRITE THIS I'M FALLING ASLEEP, not because this is boring or anything but because the place I work for has gone into overdrive mode for a while and for that reason this will be short and sweet (this is where the newsletter editors groan, rub their temples and start looking for more copy).

It is almost June, Field Day month, and I'm looking forward to it even if I can't attend all of it due to work (see above). The plans are being made, the antennas and gear is coming out and being tested as you read this.

Please do all you can for this event, as it is the premier test of emergency field operations there is and is a lot of fun. Did I mention that the RANV group frequently scores in the top ten stations nationwide in the 2A entry category (2A has the largest number of entries), and has won in 1999, 2000, 2006, and 2008!

There is opportunity to operate if you are a contester type (contact W1SJ), or a relatively inactive ham (contact AB1DD), or you want to take a chance with 6 meter at the UHF-VHF station (contact KB1FRW).

We setup three main operating areas with four 50-foot towers and antennas, three tents including a 32' x 16' for GOTA/VHF. We need setup and tear down help plus some one with a pickup truck to move things Friday afternoon and Sunday afternoon (contact the above call signs to help), all jobs are important and make the whole event work. Anyone want to take care of the food?

This all takes place June 25–27th at the Chittenden Solid Waste District field (why do you think they call it “Field Day”?), in Williston. Come visit even if you can't help out and be sure to get on UHF/VHF and HF and give us a contact. We are usually right near the UHF/VHF calling frequencies and will move to any band you have.

As you read this I am winding down from the Essex Memorial Day parade which was huge this year (35–40% bigger than last year), we really needed more help. You should have seen me trying to be at both ends of my division at the same time, boy my feet hurt!

Tomorrow is the VT City Marathon, the biggest athletic event in the state. This involves 25–35 hams and I can tell you that— considering the stress these runners put their bodies through—we serve a critical function in providing health and welfare for them.

Anyhow I'm tired, and nodding off, so I'll let you move on to the next article and maybe next month I will remember to tell you about my adventures getting and putting up a 40M rotatable dipole—had to do it twice to get it right.

By now!

73, KB1FRW

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groups.yahoo.com/group/RANV

Meetings: 2ND Tuesdays • 7:00PM
113 Patchen Road
South Burlington
The O'Brien Civic Center

Repeater: 145.150, PL100; **WB1GQR**

New Hams, Mentoring:
RANVMentor@gmail.com

PUBLIC SERVICE DOUBLEHEADER

MITCH W1SJ

THE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND is the largest public service weekend of the year in Vermont, with two ham radio supported events back to back. In fact there are a lot more parades on Memorial Day that hams do not provide service for, so it could be even larger.

Saturday was the 25th running of the Essex Memorial Parade. This event was notable since an entirely new crew was running the show after the former organizers called it a career after 24 years. I got involved in some of the organizing meetings, providing some of the logistical details from past years. I also wrote a communications manual for the non-ham marshals who use the commercial radios.

Despite a new crew and many new marshals, the parade went off as smoothly as ever. In a parade, "smoothly" is mostly a relative term in what is mostly a cat herding exercise! But we had a very large turnout of participants, very few no-shows, and no injuries. We did have an issue with a Shriners Go-Kart losing a wheel, but their own

LESS THAN 24 HOURS LATER, a larger group of hams found themselves assembling in various spots in Burlington for the 22nd annual Vermont City Marathon. Like the Essex Parade, the Marathon had a new leadership, with a new Executive Director and some course changes. Ham operators provided more support in the form of radio shadows and more operators on the busses. A major concern was the weather for race day. When we installed the repeater on Wednesday before the race, it was 93 degrees. A race run in those conditions would have completely overwhelmed the ability to take care of everyone. As it turned out, luck played a major part in this. The temperatures dropped to a high of 70 degrees during the race making it smooth sailing for most runners. Another concern, which we didn't know about during the race, was the smoke from the forest fires in Quebec which choked our area on Monday, one day after the race. That would have been a major problem and we are lucky that the weather Gods were smiling on Burlington that day. But we did have a rash of ambulance calls that we processed and the Medical tent did get filled up at one point. And we dealt with a lot of other details like getting hams on the busses, and then getting runners on the busses, and the obligatory couple of lost kids who had to find parents. But it was an unusually smooth day for a race which had a

tow truck Go-Kart hooked it up and towed it down the route without running too many folks over. The RANV Go-Kart and parade-herding car worked flawlessly for the first time in a while.

Thanks to AA1SU, KB1FRW, N1LXI, N1WCK, W1DEB W1OKH, W1SJ, and W4YFJ for their help.

VEC Exams

Every 2nd Friday

6:30–8:00^{PM}

29 Mansfield Ave. • Burlington

Tech, General, Extra Class Licenses. Bring 2 forms of identification, copies of existing license and CSCE (if applicable), pens and pencils & the exam fee (\$15 amateur/\$35 commercial), exact cash only please.

??s Email Ralph KDIR@arrl.net or the GBA ARRL VE Team website at BARCVT.net

record number of participants—over 8000 at one point or another.

We also had a full slate of ham operators—40 in all. While a good number (25) are RANV members, every club in Northern Vermont was represented. We also had 15 hams from outside of Chittenden County, from as far away as Delaware and New Hampshire. Many have been doing the Marathon since its early days. Some 15 of our operators have been out there 8 years or more! Run Vermont, who organizes the Marathon, held their first ever awards reception on Saturday night before the event. They induct runners into their Hall of Fame and also bestow their Key Achievement Award to volunteers. This year we were pleased to have Carl Phillips *ex-KC1WH* be posthumously honored with this award for his 16 years of service on the Committee and heading up race communications. I checked my files, and confirmed that Carl got his license in my 1990 Ham class and started working with the Marathon that year! Carl's sister Ruby flew in from Seattle to accept the award and give a very nice acceptance speech. It made for a very nice evening and cemented the strong relationship ham radio has with the Marathon.

Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs

THUS IS THE ARRL's replacement for their EmComms Levels II and III titled. I just happened to stumble across it on the website—hadn't seen any mention of it published anywhere yet. This is a self-paced, online course with numerous prerequisites, most are FEMA courses; ARRL membership is required. It's aimed at those in managerial/leadership positions rather than those of us out in the field as operators. They indicate that the course is expected to take a minimum of 30 hours and suggest planning it over 2 to 3 months. This is in addition to time for any FEMA courses, and activities associated with the course itself. Cost is \$35 for the final exam and certificate. You can read more about it on the ARRL website (<http://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog>), but copied below are some highlights...

Course #: EC-016

Course Syllabus.

1. Amateur Radio Relevance in a Changing World
2. Key ARES Management Positions
3. ARRL Field Staff and Section Level Support Positions
4. ARES Management and the Incident Command System
5. Review of Basic Net Operations
6. Health and Welfare Traffic Management
7. Digital Options in Message Handling
8. Working with Served Agencies
9. Building Your ARES Organization
10. Training
11. ARES and the Media
12. FCC Rules on Emergency Communication

Documenting Course Requirements

These requirements need to be documented and verified by the ARRL Continuing Education Program office:

Item	Documentation/Source
Amateur Radio license	ARRL FCC database
ARRL's Level 1/Basic course	ARRL Continuing Education database
Recommendation from ARRL Section Manager	Applicant must request this from his/her ARRL Section Manager

FEMA courses that are prerequisites for this course:

ICS-100 (basic ICS)	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate
ICS-200 (supervisory)	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate
ICS (NIMS)-700	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate
ICS-300, recommended but not required	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate (optional)

FEMA courses that need to be completed prior to the final assessment for this course:

IS-800 (National Response Framework)	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate
IS-240, Leadership & Influence	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate
IS-241, Decision Making & Problem Solving	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate
IS-250, Emergency Support Function 15	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate
IS-1, Emergency Manager, An Orientation to the Position	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate
IS-288, The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate
IS-244, Developing and Managing Volunteers	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate
IS-120.a, An Introduction to Exercises	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate
IS-130, Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate
IS-139, Exercise Design	Copy of FEMA transcript or certificate

[Uh oh... empty space! You know what that means...]

Peanut Butter Cookies

Sift:

- ½ c. brown sugar
- ½ c. white sugar

Beat until soft:

- ½ c. butter

Slowly add sugars to butter and blend until creamy.

Beat in:

- 1 egg
- 1 c. peanut butter
- ½ teas. salt
- ½ teas. baking soda
- ½ teas. vanilla

Sift first, then measure out:

- 1½ c. flour

Mix flour and batter together.

Roll into small balls

Place on greased cookie sheet

Press flat with fork

Bake:

375° for about 15 minutes.

Makes roughly 5 dozen 1½ inch cookies.

[1943 Joy of Cooking]

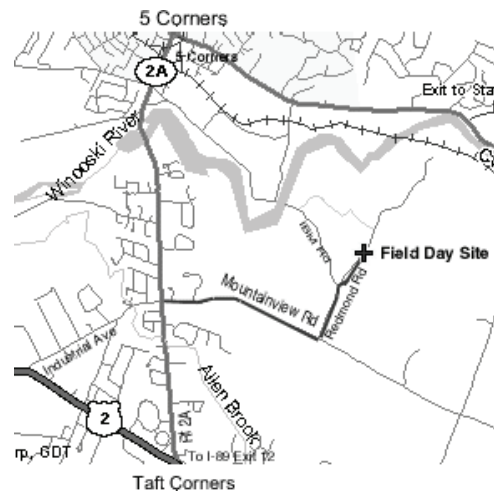
FIELD DAY FAQs

For more info and details visit <http://www.ranv.org/fd.html>

- Our Field Day planning meeting will be held on June 22nd at 7:00^{PM} at the shack of W1SJ. If you are new to Field Day, this is the best way to get a feeling for what is about to happen on the weekend.
- Sign up for whatever hours you can spare to be available. If you can't decide, then come for the whole show! Contact Mitch W1SJ or call (802) 879-6589 afternoons.
- The operation will run from 2:00^{PM} Friday until 6:00^{PM} Sunday:
 - Friday, 2:00–9:00^{PM}—Antenna Setup.
 - Friday 8:30^{PM}—Spectacular sunset from the hill. (If it doesn't rain.)
 - Saturday, 10:00^{AM}–2:00^{PM}—Station Setup.
 - Saturday 2:00^{PM}–Sunday 2:00^{PM}—Field Day operating.
 - Sunday 2:00–6:00^{PM}—Tear Down. We need help!

FD site Directions:

- Route 2A (Exit 12 off of I-89)
 - North through Taft Corners to Mountainview Drive at the lights. This is 2 miles north of I-89 or 1 mile South of Essex Junction.
 - Take Mountainview Drive EAST for 1 mile, turn left on to Redmond Road.
 - Take Redmond Road to top of hill (less than a mile). Look for hams, antennas, guy wires, etc. Park on the road (right/east side).
- If you can't get out to the Field Day site, by all means, please attempt to contact us on as many bands as you can. We work very, very few amateurs in the local area and would like to increase this number. In particular, we especially need local VHF contacts on our QRP solar powered station. All QSO's with us qualify you for the coveted W1NVT QSL card!



SHELburnE HALF-MARATHON



Ham operators for the Shelburne Half-Marathon, May 8, left to right: Moe N1ZBH, Jeff N1YD, Steve KBIIVE, Chuck KB1RQX, Kathi K1WAL, Jon KB1MAQ

Secretary cont.

cooperation from the Canadian border patrol. The U.S. Border Patrol can hear the Canadians' sensors, and they can hear ours. If our Border Patrol detects someone crossing into Canada, they notify the Canadians and vice versa.

The border does not have wide forbidden areas that keep people away. In fact, there are some homes and other buildings which actually straddle the border!

The next meeting will be at the Vermont State Police barracks in Williston. I will bring donuts! Field Day will be the weekend of June 26th.

VCM FEEDBACK NEEDED!

While it is fresh in your minds, please provide comments on how the Marathon worked.

1. Marathon Net (things we can control): Good things, bad things.
2. Marathon in General (things we cannot control, but can make some noise about).

We do provide feedback to VCM and they do take what we say seriously, so this is a valuable part of the job!

Contact Mitch via the VCM Radio website's email link to leave your feedback.



RANV

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www.RANV.org

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday • June 8 • 7:00^{PM}

VSP Barracks

2777 St George Road (Rte. 2A) • Williston

**“The E911 System
in Vermont”**

**Note
location
change!**