



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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An ARRL Special Service Club

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NEXT MEETING July 9th

Tunable Antenna System **Bob H K1BIF**

Bob H. offered to do a presentation a tunable antenna system he designed and built for less than \$100

FIELD DAY 2019 **Mitch W1SJ**

Field Day Photos **Bob H K1BIF**

We had ambitious plans to improve on Field Day to pave the way for a repeat of taking the top spot in the 2A category. New ideas were tossed around months ago and Paul started early recruiting for CW operators in April. Out of the discussion, we decided to add dedicated wire antennas for 15 meter CW, 40 meter phone and a receive-only antenna for GOTA. In addition, we put in a plan to utilize the digital FT8 mode in the wee hours of the morning on phone and GOTA.

Very quickly, our efforts became a desperate search for CW operators. We lost a couple of key people and efforts to find replacements bore no fruit. And it was clear that finding GOTA operators and even set up people was tough. Potential operators were unavailable due to family deaths, medical issues and competing activities. We even invited people from other clubs all throughout Vermont and New Hampshire. We eventually got a crew together, but staffing was thin. Several of the key players were dealing with medical issues or family issues leading up to and throughout the weekend.

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Meetings: 2nd Tuesday • 7:00 PM
Wheeler House
1100 Dorset Street
South Burlington

Repeater: 145.150, PL 100; WB1GQR

New Hams, Mentoring:
RANVMentor@gmail.com

Fortunately we got help along the way. We were able to borrow a truck from Matt Lumsden Real Estate (thanks!!!) which made equipment movement a whole lot easier. Bob N1GGU also helped out by towing Bob's trailer with the tent. Debbie W1DEB got together with Beverly KI6ISG to procure the food. We laid out an earlier schedule for setup, which allowed time for dealing with antenna and site issues. Jonathan KB3DQZ brought along students from Champlain College who helped with setup and take down. The setup worked quite well with most of the antennas and tents up by Friday afternoon. Station setup was smooth even though many of us were already tired and stressed. With 3 CW, 5 phone and 7 GOTA ops, we held our breath that it would be enough to get us through 24 hours.

The 2:00 opening bell came and we were off with both phone and CW racking up some great rates. GOTA was hampered by noise from the CW station, only 250 kHz away. Bob, Alan and I quickly threw up a 20 meter dipole further out in the field beyond the GOTA station and plugged it into the K3 receive port. Success! The interference was gone. We had a Leader Board at GOTA so that we could easily track the QSO's each operator made. Conditions on 6 meters at the VHF station were not great, but FT8 managed to put QSO's in the log. We were on our way!

On phone we had a dizzying rate of over 100 QSO's per hour, every hour, right up until midnight and reasonable rates up until 3. Then the bottom dropped out as 20 meters died and 40 and 80 meters could not produce runs. We jumped over to our secret weapon, FT8, and while it worked, it simply did not produce the rates we were hoping for. Finally, 40 meters took over in the morning and we slogged out QSO's until 15 meter unexpectedly opened up at 11 and we had a big run once again. Ultimately, we fell 140 QSO's short of last year's phone total.

On CW, it was a similar story as 3 operators pounded out a 70-90 rate through most of Saturday, with the rate hitting 114 at 11. Just like on phone, rates took a dive in the 4-6AM graveyard, but came back up steadily after that. Paul and Linn put in ironman hours as they CQ'd and pounded their way to the second largest CW totals we have ever done..

At the GOTA station, things started slow, but the rate built as the afternoon wore on. By 6PM some big rates were happening. Our night crew of N1YD and KC1IFK came on at 8 and things really heated up with a 70 rate on 20 meters after midnight. We ended up with 7 primary GOTA operators, 3 youths and a few others making over 580 QSO's, of which only the first 500 count. But we also picked up 980 points in valuable GOTA and youth bonuses.

A lot of other behind-the-scenes bonus point activities took place as well. Paul AA1SU generated a bunch of traffic and sent it to his relay station in his car. He also was the person who made sure several elected officials and agency people came by and visited us for the bonus. Jeff N1YD was our full time safety officer and ran an educational demo on phase-locked loops. I sent out the press releases and worked all week

on getting up to speed to make our bonus satellite contacts. And Bob W4YFJ was not at the site, but he copied the bonus ARRL bulletin for us.

Overall, we ended up with 4528 QSO's and 14876 points made by a staff of 19 with some 14 visitors to the site, some of whom we put to work

2019 RANV FIELD DAY BOX SCORE			
80 CW	225	80 SSB	144
40 CW	456	40 SSB	403
20 CW	787	20 SSB	1504
15 CW	109	15 SSB	291
GOTA Dig	7	GOTA Ph	493
VHF Dig	39	VHF Ph	40
Sat CW	2	Sat Ph	8
Phone Dig	20		
Total CW	1579	Total Ph	2883
Total Dig	66		
4528 QSOs 2530 Bonus 14876 Pts			
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
QSO's	4616	4671	3932
Bonuses	2490	2470	2530
Points	14732	14794	13018
	<u>2015</u>		
	3675		
	2170		
	12202		

2019 RANV FIELD DAY HALL OF FAME

AA1SU Paul – CW op; VHF op; Equipment; Traffic; Set up;

Tear down.

AB1DD Carl – GOTA coach; Set up; Tear down.

K1BIF Bob – Photos; Equipment; Tear down.

K1ZK Zach – CW op.

KB1FRW Bob – Phone op; VHF op; Equipment; Set up; Tear down.

KB1MDC Alan – Set up.

KB1THX Tim – Phone op; Set up; Tear down.

KB3DQZ Jonathan – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down.

KC1IFK Stew – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down.

KC1JGM George – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down.

KE1AZ Jim – Phone op; Set up; Tear down.

KI6ISG Bev – GOTA op; Food.

N1GGU Bob – Set up; Tear down.
N1YD Jeff – GOTA op; Safety; Demos; Set up; Tear down;
N1YWB Jeff – Phone op; Set up; Tear down.
W1DEB Debbie – GOTA op; Food.
W1LWH Linn – CW op; Equipment; Set up; Tear down.
W1SJ Mitch – Chairman; Phone op; Satellite op; Equipment;
Set up; Tear down; Results.
WL7CVD Duane – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down



June Meeting

FROM THE SECRETARY Duane [WL7CVD](#)

RANV Meeting Minutes June 11, 2019

Regular Meeting

Duane Sherwood, Secretary

There were about 13 in attendance.

Duane [WL7CVD](#) called meeting to order at 7:00.

General Discussion

Jim volunteered to bring snacks for the July meeting.

Bob H. offered to do a presentation a tunable antenna system he designed and built for less than \$100.

Karl D. reported on the successful Museum ship weekend. There were 1277 contacts including one from South Cook Islands. Certificates were handed out. About half a dozen other ships were contacted. There is a video on youtube.

Field Day Planning

Field day planning was conducted by Mitch S. A demo was set up to go over switching from phone to FT8. The Monday planning meeting was announced.

Presentation

David Halle, [W1KR](#)

David gave a presentation on his miniature (and functional) reproductions of tinfoil phonographs, which was the first method of recording sound ever devised. David also became interested in telegraph keys. David gave an extensive history centered around Thomas Edison and the advances of technology taking place during his lifetime. The idea for the phonograph grew out of technology developed to automate telegraphy. In 1877, he made the first recording which featured "Mary had a little lamb." About 500 units were manufactured based on the Hardy mode

Congratulations and Upgrades:

Nora Austin Essex, Vt, Tech [KC1LPF](#)

Curtis Guild Essex, Vt. [KB1KCL](#) upgrade to General

Ryan Jurasek S. Burlington [KC1KUW](#) upgrade to General

EDITOR NOTES

George [KC1JGM](#)

I have become more proficient at editing the newsletter and the associated logistics in preparing the distribution. I am sure a few more challenges will prevail. My 2nd Field Day experience was very positive. I am more confident in the GOTA operation and increased my score substantially from last year. I have set up my ICOM 746 PRO on the patio at home. I have made contacts with Germany, Bulgaria and across North America.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

This is your club newsletter. Feel free to submit articles! Items of interest can be short, long, technical, anecdotal, etc. Share your experiences and stories!

NEWS & VIEWS VIA YOUR INBOX

Did you know that 34 of our members have signed up for electronic delivery of the newsletter?

To enroll, just send me an email at davidblin@aol.com gmayvt1@gmail.com You'll get fast delivery, the club saves a dollar each month, AND the pictures look GREAT!



NEWS & VIEWS

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday • July 9TH • 7 pm

Statewide E911 System in VT

Wheeler House, 1100 Dorset Street
South Burlington, VT

Upcoming, Notices, & Misc.

- Steering Wheel: 3rd Tues 6:30; Ninety-Nine Restaurant, Taft Corners, Williston
- VE Exams every 2nd Friday; Red Cross Building 29 Mansfield Ave, Burlington
- Dues due? Pay online at www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html