



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

The Official Journal of the Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont

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An ARRL Special Service Club

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NEXT MEETING: Tuesday May 11th

SUPERPOWER RADIO STATIONS

We have a two-part presentation for you this month. The first part is a 30-minute video about WLW, a clear channel radio station outside of Cincinnati. For 4 years, 1935-1939, WLW broadcasted with an unbelievable 500,000 watts of power. Not a bad achievement from an experimenter who started out with a 50 watt station. They are still on 700 kHz with a more pedestrian 50,000 watts, with a unique 747-foot-high tower which is a beacon for Southwestern Ohio.

Right next door to WLW is the original Bethany, Ohio Voice of America site. This museum was visited by Mitch W1SJ in 2016 and he will do a short talk with pictures. You'll see one of the big 500,000-watt shortwave transmitters and the ham radio club station WC8VOA, which many of us have worked. Be sure to show up on Zoom for a visit to two of America's most historic radio stations!

We will open for meet and greet at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7.

VERMONT QSO PARTY RESULTS

Mitch W1SJ

This year, 31 Vermont stations submitted logs up from 23 last year. The number of QSO's these stations made was WAY UP from 9282 to 15122 QSO's. With 32 stations submitting logs and another 36 not submitting logs, that results in total of 67 Vermont stations on the air that we know of, which is the highest ever.

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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

VT State Parks On The Air:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/292829457810746/>

Online Dues Payment:
www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html

All of the Vermont multipliers were available, but you had to work hard to find them. Some of the rare counties were activated by **N1FS/M** and **K1IB/M**. But most of these QSO's were on CW, so you had to be on that mode to work the rare counties. Unfortunately, we saw minimal activity from Orleans, Franklin and Grand Isle counties as the rovers did not activate these.

The number of CW contacts increased this year from 2101 up to 3405, a 62% increase. The more CW activity there is, the more folks will go to that mode to make contacts. The Vermont QSO Party does not have mode categories and one of the reasons for this is that we encourage everyone to operate as many bands and modes as they can to put more signals on the air.

Over on the digital side, the number of FT8/FT4 doubled from 986 to 1914 QSO's mainly because of the SO5B operation of **KI1P**. However, the number of outside Vermont stations using FT8 increased dramatically as many stations realized that more contacts and multipliers can be had on this mode.

Vermont Results

Zach W1JXN moved up from 2nd place to a great 1st place of 227k using low power on phone, CW, FT8 and RTTY. He reports only using wire antennas, as his antenna farm is still being approved by zoning. He did not score an impressive amount on any band or mode, but was active on ALL of them, proving that a modest station with a great operating ethic can indeed win events.

Ron KK1L went full time in this year's event and turned in a very impressive 207k on phone with a bit of FT8 all while running low power. His phone numbers were the highest of any single op station.

Paul AA1SU repeats with a third-place finish, improving this year to 152k, running high power on phone, CW and FT8. Joe **K1VMT** repeats with a fourth-place finish of 129k, this year running low power CW only. His CW QSO's nearly doubled everyone else's.

Randy N1SP is a newcomer to the top five with 120k, running low power phone and CW.

The rest of the top ten included a number of "horses" who ran up big totals, mostly on 20-meter phone, **N1JEZ**, **KB1FRW** and **WX1O**, in addition to **N1SFR** on CW. It was partially through their efforts that Vermont was a lot easier to work this year.

In the multiop competition, **NS1DX** was the air from K2LE's superstation in southern Vermont, piloted remotely by **Gerry W1VE** and **Ed K1EP**. They combined for 323k points running tremendous numbers on phone and a good number of CW as well.

Chris KI1P set up and successfully ran a SO5R operation (single-op, FIVE radios) on FT8. This is in addition to 5 computers and 5 antennas. The radios were set to all transmit at the same time, eliminating any interference. He worked an incredible 1026 FT8 QSO's for a score of 172k. As a single operator station can only transmit on one band at a time, this ultimately put this operation into the multioperator category.

The true heroes of the QSO Party are the rovers who deal with winter weather to put all those rare counties on the air. **N1FS/M** was piloted by **Kevin KE1VT**, **Rob N1TRK** and **Brett K1VYS** from the back of a box ambulance. They report that sitting in the back of moving ambulance made them sick! But they still managed to visit 10 counties and rack up 40k points. There were also rover activations by **Mark NN1R**, and **Mill K1IB/M**.

Outside Vermont Results

Bob W9IZ from Indiana is this year's winner who ran away from the pack and set a new record. Bob combined a tremendous CW effort, good phone effort and an amazing FT8 total of 18 Vermont QSO's.

Dave WN4AFP from South Carolina takes 2nd place with excellent efforts on phone and CW. Dave is one of the major QSO Party players and took the top spot in 2018. It is good to see him in the top ten again!

For 3rd place, things get interesting! **Carl NX3A** from Virginia winds up with 2775 points and **Jeff N8II** from West Virginia ends up with 2772 points. This will be judged to be a statistical tie for 3rd and both will get the maple syrup. Carl was the leader in CW contacts and ran high power, while Jeff was the leader in phone contacts and ran low power. Jeff is a regular in the top ten who also finished 3rd last year. The rather complicated scoring of the Vermont QSO Party means that one cannot make any assumptions about score until all the math is complete!

Axel KI6RRN from California takes the 5th spot with 2208 points, moving up from 8th place last year.

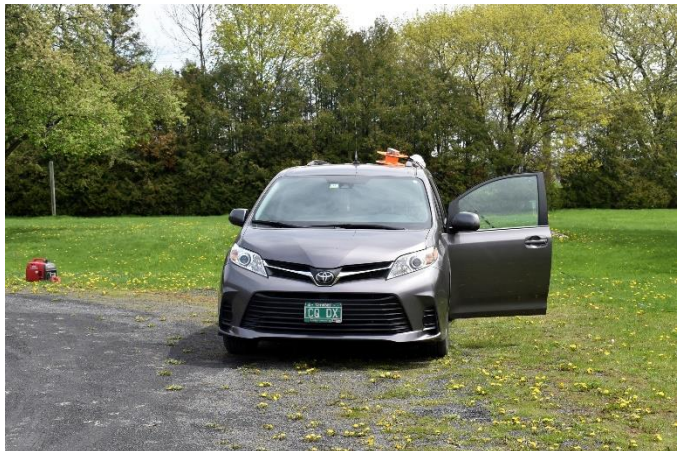
In the top 20 spots, 8 out of 10 call areas, plus a VE and a DX are represented. There is little advantage for location in this event! We do not get a high number of DX participants, but **Laci OM2VL** finished 9th (up from 10th last year) even though his signal has 4100 miles to travel to get to Vermont. And while operators in the Northeast mention that it is hard to work Vermont due to the skip zone on 20 and 40 meters, last years winner was **Mark KIRO** from New Hampshire.

Last year 76, stations outside of Vermont earned certificates by placing in the top 10 or working 10 Vermont stations. This year 147 stations outside of Vermont will receive certificates. I have a full-time job! Next year, we will definitely raise the bar!

Parks on the Air @ Knights Point State Park

Bob, K1BIF

This was the first Parks on the air for 2021. The event ran concurrent with the New England QSO Party.



Mitch W1SJ



Bob K1BIF



Ron **KK1L**



Carl **AB1DD**

RANV Meeting Minutes April 13th, 2021

Duane Sherwood, Secretary **WL7CVD**

Secretary Duane Sherwood WL7CVD was the only officer in attendance.

There were about 17 in attendance.

Duane called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Official Business

No official business was conducted at this meeting.

General Announcements and Discussions

The question of when to resume regular in-person meetings was raised. Mitch W1SJ indicated he would post the question on the RANV reflector.

Field Day is coming up on June 26th. Last year we had strict rules for handling the COVID-19 pandemic. This year we may be able to relax some of those rules. It would be good to have trainings on FT8 prior to Field Day.

Parks on the Air will resume on the first weekend in May. It will be held at Knight Point State Park concurrent with the New England QSO party.

Bob H. K1BIF brought us up to date on discussions held with the Burlington Amateur Radio Club. They are not interested in merging the two organizations, but they might be interested in combining some activities such as a joint newsletter, combined meetings, and sharing in the efforts to locate speakers. There may be other clubs in the region that may want to share activities and resources.

Presentation

Anthony K8ZT gave a presentation on a full spectrum of software packages available for amateur radio. You can get to a copy of his presentation by entering the following into the address bar of your web browser: tiny.cc/soft-ar.



NEWS & VIEWS

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday • May 11TH • 7:00pm
Via Zoom

Meeting Topic
SUPERPOWER RADIO STATIONS

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