



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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NEXT MEETING: Tuesday June 8th

THE GOLDEN YEARS OF SHORTWAVE LISTENING

The June 8th RANV Meeting on Zoom

Many hams started off as shortwave listeners (SWL's) before they got their ham ticket. In those days, there were many, many broadcast outlets from many countries who vied to get their "message" out to the world. Back then, there was no internet or even computers at home. If you wanted to get the story from the horse's mouth, you listened on shortwave.

Before becoming an avid ham radio operator, Mitch W1SJ was known as WPE2QIA and was an active Shortwave Listener, logging and QSLing stations from all over the world. The QSL cards and mailings and audio clips have recently been recovered from the vault and we'll all get to see and hear what shortwave listening was like over 50 YEARS ago.

This meeting will be on Zoom since it will work better for the format of this presentation. Be sure to use a good video display and headphones so that you can see and hear everything well.

The meeting will open at 6:30, with the presentation starting after 7:15. Members were sent the link in an email a few days ago. You can also find the link on the RANV Web <http://www.ranv.org> starting Tuesday afternoon.

You can invite up to two others who you know might be interested. Please be mindful that we do have to keep tabs on the number of attendees. Please DO NOT POST the link.

BTW, this will be our LAST ZOOM meeting as we emerge from the basement in July!

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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

VHF QSO PARTY THIS WEEKEND

Mitch **W1SJ**

The VHF QSO Party is this weekend, starting at 2PM Saturday, June 12 and running through until Sunday night at 11PM. Our Technician licensees can take part in this as well. You might hear a few people on the air from home. If you drive up to a hilltop, you'll hear a lot more. We often get Sporadic E openings in June, so keep the radio on 6 meters all day and night and there is a good chance you run into an opening. Also keep an eye on 50.313 FT8 for activity.

I'll be on as WB1GQR from Mt. Equinox. Look for me around 50.130 and 144.200 MHz – you should have no trouble hearing me. If I don't hear you, wait for the top of the hour when I point the yagis north. I am on a limited amount of time on 146.52 MHz FM. Monitor there and you should eventually hear me and others calling CQ. Allot some time to listen and find stations to work.

FIELD DAY JUNE 25-27

Mitch **W1SJ**

Field Day is less than 3 weeks away!

If you haven't been following the discussion, we have 3 Field Day activity periods:

1. Friday 10AM-6PM, where we set up antennas and facilities
2. Saturday 2PM until Sunday 2PM, when we go on the air and operate
3. Sunday 2PM when we take it all down and put it away.

We need participants to help in the site setup and take down. We also need participants to help operate. What you get in return is a wealth of knowledge and experience which you cannot even get on YouTube!

All potential Field Day participants should go to www.ranv.org/survfd21.html to sign up for Field Day. This information is imperative to allow us to properly staff the myriad activities which need to go on. In addition, each Tuesday night starting at 6:30, we will hold discussions on Field Day. This is a great place to ask questions and learn what is going on. We will also provide an operations manual which will answer many of your questions. Right now, we know most of the players who will be involved in Field Day and we know most of the organizational details. However, this is not good enough. A big mission of Field Day is education. To have education, we need students – new and inexperienced

hams who want to learn. Sadly, this group has been conspicuously absent over the last several years.

The statistics tell us that ham radio is still growing. We still are seeing new hams get licenses. But we are not seeing these people engage. For the most part, they are not getting on the air and not participating in ham radio group activities. It almost appears that folks just want a license certificate to hang on the wall or a callsign vanity plate to hang on the car. How can you be a great communicator, if you do not communicate?

We have a lot of RANV members who are not active. I would like to see many of you (and non-members, as well) get involved with Field Day. I am very sure that if you do this, you will be hooked. You will then WANT to build a station, build antennas, get on the air and get involved. I've found that I can tell many, many stories of ham radio QSO's and activities over the years. I can do this because I was involved. If you are not involved, what stories can you tell others in the future?

Get involved! Join us at Field Day!

May 29th Parks on the Air
Bob K1BIF

On May 29th W1NVT activated K-5564, in Essex Junction, from 11am to 5:30pm, 6 1/2 hours. We put 1,036 QSOs in the log. Operators were AA1SU, AB1DD, W1SJ and K1BIF. We operated on 20 and 40 meters with two stations, both with 500 watt amps. The 20- and 40-meter antennas were dipoles, each up 75 feet. The weather was cool, in the 60s and partly cloudy. Propagation was supposed to be fair, but we managed over a thousand QSOs which is a record for W1NVT Vermont park activations.



Carl AB1DD



Paul AA1SU



Bob K1BIF

Mitch W1SJ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2osx21BfoNQ&t=330s&author=0>



RANV Meeting Minutes May 11th, 2021

Duane Sherwood, Secretary [WL7CVD](#)

There were about 13 in attendance via Zoom including one club officer, Secretary Duane WL7CVD.

Secretary, Duane WL7CVD called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Official Business

No official business was conducted at this meeting.

General Announcements and Discussions

Field Day was discussed. Mitch will send out a questionnaire. There was an interest in training people on FT8 for the GOTA station. Jeff Bonn agreed to be the safety officer again. Jeff requested someone volunteer to be a part-time safety officer so Jeff can take breaks.

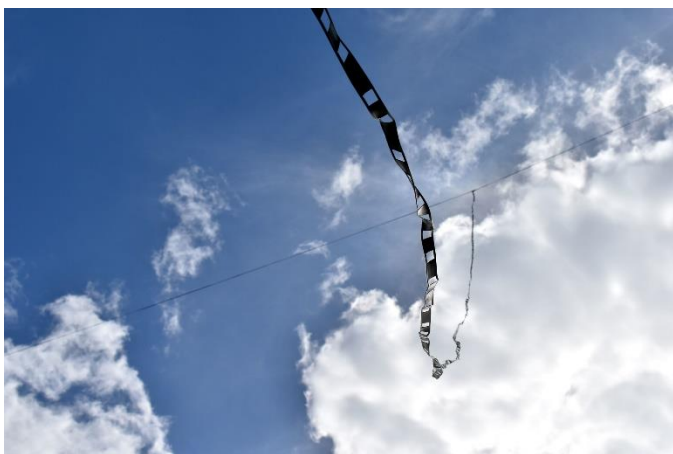
Someone will need to move the club's trailer to the field day site, then someone will have to provide a new place where the trailer will be parked afterward.

A hybrid meeting with a mix of online and in person was proposed for July. Carl agreed to contact Mike G. to see if he would demonstrate the club's analyzer and check a few radios too. Duane agreed to contact South Burlington to see about using the Wheeler House. Paul AA1SU agreed to contact the Chittenden Solid Waste to arrange for the Field Day site.

There will be no meeting in August. We hope to be back to "normal" in September.

Presentation

Bob H. presented a video on a 500,000 watt radio station that was on the air. Mitch W1SJ gave a presentation on Voice of America.





NEWS & VIEWS

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday • June 8TH • 7:00pm
Via Zoom

Meeting Topic

THE GOLDEN YEARS OF SHORTWAVE LISTENING

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