



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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An ARRL Special Service Club

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NEXT MEETING:

RANV SUMMER PICNIC
Saturday, August 7, 11AM-3PM
Kamp Kill Kare State Park

Be sure to join us at the 2021 RANV Summer Picnic this Saturday! We will be fully open for a fun and gala time. The outside location, large meeting area and generally breezy conditions at the park will keep any concerns about pathogens at bay.

We set up the picnic in conjunction with the St. Albans Hamfest on the same day. The hamfest runs 8AM – Noon at 353 Lake Street in St. Albans, which you have to drive by to get to the picnic! Stop by and meet up with the gang and perhaps you might find a trinket or two to buy.

Later in the morning, simply continue down Lake Street to St. Albans Bay and head up to Kamp Kill Kare State Park for the picnic. RANV will cover the admission. But if you have a Green Mountain Passport card (many of us do), use that for your admission. We'll also have charcoal for the grills. We will only have bottled water on hand – bringing in an assortment of drinks in a large cooler has become too much work which no one is signing up for.

There are three main activities which go on at the picnic: Talking, Eating and Operating. The talking part is simple enough – bring all of your tall ham stories to tell. We are also quite talented at eating. Be sure to bring the burgers, dogs, chips, drinks and whatever to have that perfect mid-afternoon feast. And for operating, we'll have two stations on the air doing a park activation. We'll keep one station on FT8 for those who don't like to talk!

Remember – no pets! They are not allowed, and it is too hot to keep them in vehicles.

CONTACTS

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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

Between dropping attendance and COVID last year, the participation at the picnic has been rather small. We'll like to turn that around this year. We especially would like to see many of our members who have not been attending meetings, live or on-line for the last few years. Remember, everyone is invited, so bring friends and family.

**Notice of RANV Special Election
Duane Sherwood, RANV Secretary**

After over a decade of service, Bob Allen, KB1FRW, is stepping down as President of RANV. We will hold an election for his replacement at the RANV picnic on August 7th.

One person, Stew Corey, has stepped forward to fill this position. He provided the following statement:

My Fellow Members,

Let me introduce myself; my name is Stew Corey (KC1IFK) and I have been a member of RANV for my entire Ham career. I was first licensed in 2017 and attended my first RANV meeting not long after. I sat for my General Exam a year later and even though I have sat for my Extra, I haven't attained it yet. I enjoy SOTA, POTA and casual contesting and spend a lot of time in FT8. I am an Elecraft enthusiast having a KX3, a KXP100 and a KP1500. I just added a K3 to my home station this week after searching and saving for the last two years. I thoroughly enjoy Field Day and have participated every year I have been a Ham working the GOTA station as an operator and coach and I was honored to operate on the main phone station this year as well. I have not been to any meetings in the last couple years due to my work schedule, but I have recently changed careers which will allowed me more time to be involved. I would be honored to have your support to finish out Bob's term as President and hopefully put my name forward in November for the regular election.

73!

Stew Corey

KC1IFK

**FIELD DAY 2021
WE KICKED BUTT
But Was It Enough?**

Mitch **WISJ**

After last years' Field Day, where we had to follow protocols and be careful, this year was a lot more fun. Ultimately, despite a stellar performance last year, we fell short on our quest for a three-peat, just being edged out by another group. But we still managed to have the 6 th best score of all Field Day groups, during an event which saw most people operate from home.

This year, we took nothing for granted as big changes were made in the GOTA station to pull in more points and activity with digital operation. We also incorporated a few more tweaks to bring the phone and CW QSO's up.

The results were spectacular, and perhaps this had nothing to do with the extra planning. Conditions were just better and it seemed like more people were energized to be on the air.

In the first few hours, both the phone and CW stations reported that conditions were TOO GOOD. The pileups got to the point where it slowed us down a tad. But that rush of QSO's on phone continued all afternoon until well into the evening, resulting in unbelievable QSO rates every hour. How good? We held over a 100 QSO per hour rate until past 1 AM. In fact, we stayed above 90 QSO's per hour for 15 out of 24 hours. Fortunately, we did not have any equipment disasters which have plagued overnight operations and we held reasonable rates in the wee hours. The bad news was that 15 meters was quite slack on Sunday, with only a few weak signals heard. Instead, 20 meters opened to short skip and we had a couple of insane hours, culminating in 200 QSO's in the last hour. Ultimately, we ended up with 2800 QSO's – just shy of our record pace set in 2011.

Back in 2011, that was a magical year! We set all sorts of high-water marks and even set a new Field Day 2A record of 16,320 points. Of course, that came on the heels of tremendous openings on 15, 10 and 6 meters. We had nearly 500 QSO's on 6 meters alone. Phone was actually ahead of the 2011 rate for a while, but things slowed up a bit in the morning. Eventually the rates came back with a bang right in the last 2 hours.

The results were impressive when considering that we lost almost our entire complement of phone operators this year. Ron KK1L was supposed to provide overnight relief and his hours were extended to all day operation. We even had to promote one of our GOTA operators, Stew KC1IFK, who turned in a fine performance and we even pressed Bob K1BIF into service.

The CW station did one better! They logged 1735 QSO's, beating the 2011 score by 78 QSO's (312 points). At first the rates were lagging behind our running average, but the

operators kept grinding it out and eventually passed the 2011 numbers in the morning. The CW corps was a tremendous exercise in teamwork as Paul, Linn and Doug built the complex station at Doug's house, tested it and put it into service flawlessly. It worked so smoothly that the generator went out and Doug continued making contacts on the UPS, unaware that the primary power was out. Moving the two radios between bands paid dividends as sizeable rates were attained on Sunday morning even though some of the lower bands were worked out.

The VHF station was entirely on FT8 and logged 71 QSO's on this mode on a band with only so-so openings. But why didn't they operate SSB? I listened on 6 meters and did not hear a thing on SSB, but heard a bunch of stuff on the FT8 frequency. One must go where the action is.

That brings us to the GOTA station, where changes were made and we were going to have a spectacular time. However, Murphy nixed this plan. We used a different radio on GOTA which had a much dirtier transmitter than the K3 we have used in the past. Whether this was a specific problem with this radio or whether it was a design problem is unknown. However, whenever the GOTA station transmitted, it wiped out the CW station, 40 kHz and 220 feet away. GOTA was then moved to 40 meters FT8 and then 40 meter SSB and that worked for a while. But later in the evening, when CW used both bands, GOTA was without a place to go. We then used Mark W1KR's Kenwood on phone for a while, but it required use of the headset we needed for the second radio at the phone station. Is this starting to sound messed up? Finally, we put the GOTA operators on our second radio in the phone tent, using the big monobander, and that got them going for a while. So GOTA consisted of three very different radios, 2 computers and 2 different logging programs. They did a great job of keeping up with a very confusing situation. But the damage – 314 QSO's instead of over 500 QSO's and 560 bonus points instead of 800- 900 bonus points. Fortunately, the 2-point FT8 contacts helped close the gap somewhat. But it is fair to say we were down around 400 points from where we should have been. Those points would have put us right at our high water mark of over 16,000 points, but we had to settle for 15,900. The table showing the 2021 vs. 2011 comparison spells this out. Is this enough to put us over the top? We'll see in November!

Despite having a smaller crew this year and last year, we still managed to set everything up on time and safely. A well-trained and well-motivated small crew can get as much or more done than a larger crew!

Clearly there are a few things to address. The GOTA station has to be re-engineered to make sure it can get along with the CW station nearby. The UPS at the phone station kept giving us fits and had to be taken off line. Two of the generators extended run tanks did not work properly. I'm sure we'll find a few other technical snafus we need to fix.

However, the most difficult problem to solve is attracting participants. Does it concern you that a club of nearly 100 members can only attract 16 to our largest event of the year? It concerns me. Of our group, only 1 person was new at Field Day. Emails went out to all of our newly licensed members inviting them to on-line Field Day meetings and training sessions. No one showed. Invitations were sent out to members of other clubs who did not have a Field Day. No one showed. A couple of new hams stopped by but did not operate. No one who was invited even asked questions as to what we were doing or why.

Are we doing something which is incredibly unpopular? I ask myself this question all the time. Why do people get ham licenses? I would answer that this is done to converse with others on the air. But conversing on the air has become a rather rare activity. Perhaps folks just want a license to hang on the wall. I really don't know and it bothers me. The reality is that the average age of our group is 63.6. We have participants well into their 70's. Building and maintaining a Field Day setup requires one to be in good health. How much longer can we keep at this? I can tell you that the number Field Day field operators (as opposed to folks operating at home or at an EOC) are dropping each year. Do we need to find an assisted living home with a community yagi? And this is not meant as humor, but is sad reality.

RANV has a number of operating events throughout the year. The next event is the picnic this Saturday. Come out and get involved. And if you are not interested in what is offered, then let everyone know what does interest you in amateur radio. The purpose of a club is to network and share ideas, and not to try and seek out hiding hams. Get involved!

2021 RANV FIELD DAY BOX SCORE			
80 CW	199	80 SSB	380
40 CW	527	40 SSB	359
20 CW	928	20 SSB	2061
15 CW	51		
10 CW	30		
GOTA Dig	132	GOTA Ph	182
VHF Dig	71	VHF Ph	17
Sat CW	2	Sat Ph	6
Total CW	1737	Total Ph	3005
Total Dig	203		
4945 QSOs 2130 Bonus 15900 Pts			
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
QSO's	4171	4528	4616
Bonuses	1570	2530	2490
Points	11214	14876	14732
	<u>2017</u>		
	4671		
	2470		
	14794		

RANV FIELD DAY 2021 vs. 2011			
QSOs			
	2021	2011	Delta
CW	1735	1657	+78
PH	2800	2830	-30
VHF	96	480	-384
GOTA	314	500	-186
TOTAL	4945	5467	-522
Points			
	2021	2011	Delta
CW	6040	6628	+312
PH	5600	5660	-60
VHF	338	962	-624
GOTA	892	1000	-108
BONUS	1570	1350	+220
GBONUS	560	720	-160
TOTAL	15900	16320	-420

List of RANV Assets

Duane Sherwood, RANV Secretary

Our club has accumulated some substantial and valuable assets, most of which support our annual field day. Here is the best list I've been able to compile. Costs are best-guess "eBay" estimates. If you know of any items that should be added, please email me at webmaya@ak.net. The tent we use for the GOTA station at field day belongs to Bob KB1FRW.

Item	Total
four military surplus antenna towers at \$1,250 each with bags of hardware	\$5,000
enclosed utility trailer for storage	\$3,000
Agilent HP 8920A Communications Test Set	\$3,000
Honda EU2000 generator	\$950
extended run kit for generator	\$200
10 x 20 foot white tent	\$200
100' extension cord	\$100
projector: Sharp XR-10X	\$30
projector Screen	?
battery tester	?
Kenwood TS-820 (needs work)	?
Bank Account (approximate)	\$11,500
Grand Total:	\$23,980

2021 RANV FIELD DAY HALL OF FAME	
AA1SU Paul	- CW op; VHF op; Equipment; Traffic; Set up; Tear down.
AB1DD Carl	- Set up; Tear down.
AB1T Doug	- CW op, Equipment; Set up; Tear down.
K1BIF Bob	- Phone op; Set up; Tear down.
K1ZK Zach	- CW op.
KB1FRW Bob	- VHF op; Equipment; Set up; Tear down.
KB1LOT Jim	- Set up; Tear down.
KC1IFK Stew	- Phone op; GOTA op.
KC1JGM George	- GOTA op; Safety; Set up; Tear down.
KK1L Ron	- Phone op.
N1GGU Bob	- Set up.
N1YD Jeff	- GOTA op; Safety; Demos; Set up; Tear down.
W1KR Mark	- GOTA op; Equipment; Set up; Tear down.
W1LWH Linn	- CW op; Equipment; Set up; Tear down.
W1SJ Mitch	- Chairman; Phone op; Satellite op; Equipment; Set up; Tear down; Results.
WA1TEO Jack	- VHF op; Transport; Set up; Tear down.
Off-Site Participants:	
W4YFJ Bob	- FD Bulletin.

RANV Meeting Minutes July 13th, 2021

Paul [AA1SU](#)

There were about 8 members in attendance including 1 officer

The meeting was held at the Veteran's Memorial Park in South Burlington at the shelter in front of the Cairns Area

The WX was cooperative. Cloudy, cool, slight breeze. Don't think this place will work for us in December.

Can't you get us back into the Wheeler House? I mentioned that the Brownell Library has a meeting room, and others bought up that So Burlington has a new library with a meeting room. Most of us thought that might be a good place, but we need a native to ask for permission.

Three upcoming hamfests were also discussed.

I had an announcement that the New England Division Director elections already have 3 people in the running, so we will be getting ballots later this summer for that.

Official Business

No official business was conducted at this meeting.

Presentations

I bought along a power supply and two Yaesu FT-8100R transceivers. Unfortunately, I did not bring the manual or paper to compare the findings to the specs, but both radios had good sensitivity and power output.

One radio sounded weird with the squelch off at 145.030 MHz. This was the radio I was using at home for Packet Traffic.

73

Paul N. Gayet AA1SU



NEWS&VIEWS

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- Notice of RANV Special Election
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NEXT MEETING

Saturday, August 7TH • 11:00AM – 3:00PM
Kill Kare State Park

Meeting Topic
Picnic and Special Elections

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