



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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An ARRL Special Service Club

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The May RANV Meeting

The East Coast Amateur Radio Services, ECARS is an open service net. Member projects include experimental radio design and modification in amateur radio.

The Yankee Clipper Contest Club, YCC is a special-purpose amateur radio club devoted to the pursuit of operating and technical excellence. The goals are to promote the fun, satisfaction, and competitive thrill of radio contesting by assist our members in the development of their operating and technical skills

FIELD DAY – IT’S ALL DIFFERENT THIS YEAR!

Mitch **W1SJ**

First important item: Field Day is June 22-23, the 4th full weekend of June – NOT the last weekend of June. This was the case several years ago and it caused a lot of confusion. Make sure to set up your calendars.

Second important item: After some 40 years, our Field Day site will be different. There is potential work going on up in Williston, requiring us to

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Meetings: 2nd Thursday • 7:30 PM
Holy Family Parrish Hall
30 Lincoln Street
Essex Junction, Vt

Repeater: 145.150, PL 100; WB1GQR

New Hams, Mentoring:
RANVMentor@gmail.com

change locations. The new site is 111 West Street in Essex Junction. This is the State facility, also known as the Tree Farm, which is essentially on the other side of Route 15 across from the Fair. We have a lot of room to play with and the opportunity to locate the stations further apart, solving some of the interference issues. But there are also challenges. I've found a noisy power pole and we have to keep clear of that. And we will have to redesign how to set up our antennas to fit with the available trees, of which there are plenty of high ones. Stay tuned for more details on the site planning.

We will be planning a club visit to the site sometime in early June so everyone knows what to expect. Very soon you will receive the link to the Field Day survey, which will give us data on who will be on site at what times. We will have a lot of challenges and a lot of fun figuring all this out.

PUBLIC SERVICE WEEKEND: MAY 25-26

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

Memorial Day Weekend is our big public service weekend. The Essex Memorial Parade is on Saturday and the Vermont City Marathon is on Sunday. We could use a few more communicators, and especially need new people going forward. Volunteerism in all activities is down these days. Amateur radio owes its existence for the ability to do public service and all hams should be involved in this.

The Essex Memorial Parade is Saturday, May 25th. The 1-mile parade route starts at the Fair and goes down Route 2A and up Route 15 back to the Fair. We will operate from 8AM until noon. Hams serve as parade marshals to make sure the parade keeps the proper pace and that everyone is safe. This is an easy activity and a good place to start if you have never done this before.

The Vermont City Marathon is Sunday, May 26th. The Marathon does two loops around

Burlington using Pine Street, North Avenue and the Burlington Bikeway. We will operate from 6:30 AM until 1:30 PM. Ham operators provide communications at various aid stations along the route.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Mitch [W1SJ](#) right away. Once we get close to the events, it will not be possible to add staff, so act soon.

PARKS ON THE AIR

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

RANV will be planning several park activations this summer season. We were planning an activation last weekend (May 11), but with a magnetic storm and aurora going on, it was decided to bypass the poor conditions and move the activation out to June 1st. Park activations are generally planned for Saturdays during the summer. Be sure to make some time to join in on these fun events.

SAVE HAM RADIO?

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

In case you haven't noticed, ham radio is not doing so well lately. The latest news is that MFJ is shutting down their manufacturing and will wind down as they sell off inventory. This is serious. MFJ currently advertises on 11 pages (out of 26) in QST. The ARRL is already struggling to fund its operations. Can they afford to lose 42% of their advertising? In Ham Radio Outlet's catalog, I counted around 150 items with the MFJ logo, plus another 150 items from the other names in the MFJ family, including Cushcraft, HY-Gain and KLM. Kenwood has reduced its ham radio offerings over the last 10 years, and now only offers 3 HF radios and a single HT. CQ magazine is no more. Attendance at all except the largest hamfests is down. Do you hear much activity on the repeaters? With the exception of a few of us on 145.15, the repeaters are dead – all over. And the most serious piece of data is that the average age of

ham operators is 75. The life expectancy for adult males is considered to be 84. That means that in 9 short years half of us are out of here. Not great news.

So what are hams doing? Not much. We are not promoting the hobby. Most of us are not even active. That is a bad plan. At the very least, when you are active and passionate about what you are doing, others want to join you. If we all sit home and play with our phones, no one knows about us and we fade into the sunset.

So, the call for action is to be active! At RANV we try our best to provide numerous activities throughout the year. Make sure you set aside the time and energy to be a participant and not just someone who checks the “like” box. Coming up, we have Field Day, park activations and a picnic. Show up. Get involved. Have fun. And as an aside, the health professionals tell me that if you do these things, you will be a lot healthier! Sounds like a great reason to get on the air!

Chittenden County Regional 2m FM Simplex Group Meeting

Zach [K1ZK](#)

- (1) The next meeting of the Chittenden County regional 2m FM simplex group is set for **6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 28 2024** on 146.55 MHz. We’ll try to wrap up by 7pm so folks can join the UHF RACES net and/or get on 1.25m for 222 MHz “activity night”.
 - (2) The W1XIV 223.86 (-) (100Hz) repeater is on the air and open for use.
 - (3) K1ZK is planning a tower-raising party at his Shelburne QTH on Saturday June 1. I have a good crew of volunteers already, but RANV members who are interested in learning the process or providing additional help should contact K1ZK@K1ZK.com
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March RANV Meeting Minutes

Bob [K1BIF](#)

RANV MEETING 4/9/2024

In person: AA1SU, W4YFJ, W1SJ, N1YD, K1BIF, KC1IFK, KC1JGM, KB1LOT, N1JGB
On line: K1TTW, KC1SFJ, W1EJC

Meeting started at 7:10. Everyone introduced themselves. The club is looking for someone to be in charge of the official emergency station.

Nearfest is Thursday and Friday this year, May 25, 26. The next POTA activations will be Maidenstone, and Crystal Lake parks.

Then, K1BIF spoke about his experience at the UVM hospital, working the hospital net during the eclipse. Then, W1Sj spoke about his experience during the eclipse, running HF from his home, mostly FT8. At totality, he went on 80m. He only got locals, no Europe. At 3:15, he got HA1BF on 40m. He made about 600 contacts. AA1SU left his radio on 40m, uploading too PSK reporter.

KC1SFJ showed a slide show of his shack. He runs a remote “shack” in an old chicken coop. He ran 20m on FT8, uploading to PSK reporter. K1TTW set up a POTA site for the eclipse. He stayed mostly on 40m. He made about 70 contacts on FT8. Warren county RACES has a swapfest 13th of April.

Meeting ended 8:55

Bob, k1bif, secretary



NEWS & VIEWS

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NEXT MEETING

Holy Family Parrish Hall
Tuesday May 14th 7:30pm

Meeting Topic
ECARS, YCC

If the main room is in use, we will use the classroom downstairs

Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

- Steering Wheel: 3rd Thur Noon; Guilty Plate Colchester
- VE Exams every 2nd Friday; Contact AB1WG for information
- Dues due? Pay online at www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html

