



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

The Official Journal of the Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont

September 2024

An ARRL Special Service Club

Vol. 34 No. 9

The September RANV Meeting

Stewart [KC1IFK](#)

The presentation will be about different chemistries of batteries, pros and cons and recommendations for brands of batteries to use for ham radio.

HAZEN'S NOTCH ACTIVATION

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

Last week I activated Hazen's Notch State Park. This is an undeveloped park with no vehicular access. There's not even a sign! The access is via VT-58, a narrow, dirt road with little drainage, maintained by the town, which still manages to carry a Vermont State Highway designation. There is a 5-car pull-off right near the Long Trail. In addition, to the State Park (US-3119), this location also qualifies as the Long Trail State Forest (US-5560) and Jay State Forest (US-5562).

Besides minimal parking, the notch is under a thick tree canopy. So, I brought along my 30 foot drive over mast in case I couldn't get the wire in the trees. Fortunately, I found a perfect open spot to put the dipole right along the road. It ran E-W, which is not

CONTACTS

Stewart [KC1IFK](#), President
stwbl2@gmail.com

George [KC1JGM](#), VP/Treasurer
gmayvt1@gmail.com

Bob [K1BIF](#), Secretary
bhennebe@gmail.com

George [KC1JGM](#), Editor
gmayvt1@gmail.com

Newsletter submissions to
gmayvt1@gmail.com

US Mail: PO Box 9392
South Burlington, VT 05407

Web: www.RANV.org

Reflector: RANV@groups.io

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday • 7:00 PM
Holy Family Parrish Hall
30 Lincoln Street
Essex Junction, Vt

Repeater: 145.150, PL 100; WB1GQR

New Hams, Mentoring:
RANVMentor@gmail.com

ideal, but I got it up 35 feet in the air in less than 30 minutes. This is a notch with steep rock walls to the south and north, and higher mountains towards the West and Southwest. Still I was sure I would do fine with high angle skip on 20 meters. Finally, setting the vehicle up on the uneven ground proved a challenge, but I found a space which worked. All was going well.

Then Murphy struck.

Despite great conditions late Friday afternoon, Sunday morning was a washout. I was hardly getting answers to CQs. The few stations who did come back were all in the noise, and all in the Carolinas. There was no phone service and no way to spot. Eventually, someone mentioned that there was a solar flare early Sunday morning. Wonderful.

I continued with wretched rates on 20M phone, 20M CW, 40M phone, and actually did a bit better on 20M FT8 for an hour and a half. Finally by mid-afternoon, 20M was producing a bit of a rate, but it was slow going. At 4PM, I switched to 40 meters and things went nuts. Big pileups, all short skip. It was crazy trying to go fast and rattling off 3 park numbers. I decided to stay as late as I could to take advantage of the big opening. However, at 5:30 I got real dark and windy as a front moved in. I quickly realized that being on a dirt road in a mountain pass was not a great place to be in downpour and reluctantly pulled the plug. In 15 minutes, a personal record, I got the wire antenna down and packed up the generator. I just made it before the deluge started at 6:02 and I slid my way down the hill.

Total 316 QSO's - a quite a haul for most activators, but pretty lackluster by my standards. Nothing was worked out west and no DX, except for YV and KP4. Despite good planning, sometimes you just get what you're going to get.

It was a nice drive up and back as I was able to listen to tunes on sister station WEVT-LP 98.1. This is a QRP FM station which is usually stomped on by the big boys on mountaintops, but it does fairly well in the hinterlands of Franklin County along Routes 108 and 109.

Pictures from the Hazen's Notch activation can be grabbed from the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPcrf9H8T4o>

or from the pictures on Facebook (scroll a bit down)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1452772541650481>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPcrf9H8T4o&authuser=0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPcrf9H8T4o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPcrf9H8T4o>

VHF CONTEST THIS WEEKEND

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

This weekend is the ARRL VHF QSO Party starting at 1800Z (2PM) Saturday and running until 0400Z Monday (11PM Sunday night). In this event, you can operate on any amateur frequency above 50 MHz

Much of the activity takes place on 50.130 MHz SSB, 50.313 FT8, 144.200 SSB and 146.52 FM. Monitor during the day and you may hear some stations.

And, if you do a summit activation on a VHF contest weekend and get on 146.52 MHz you will get a pileup. Bring plenty of paper to log. Another hint – do this on Sunday when everyone is worked out. You will become what we call “fresh meat” and stations far and wide will go crazy trying to work you.

I'll be operating as WB1GQR from Mt. Equinox. You should have no trouble hearing me above 50.125 and 144.200 SSB. If you cannot get through, wait for the top of the hour when I turn the beams north. I also pop on 146.52 MHz FM at various times, so keep a radio on.

August RANV Meeting Minutes
George KC1JGM

Summer Picnic at Kill Kare State Park August 10th
2024 and STARC hamfest.

Unfortunately, I was in NC helping with the grandchildren while my daughter recovered from surgery. I am sure all had a good time. If you have receipts such as park entrance fee, please send me a note or attend the October RANV mtg for reimbursement.

George KC1JGM



NEWS&VIEWS

INSIDE

- Battery Chemistries September Mtg
- Hazen's Notch Activation
- VHF Contest
- August Meeting Minutes

NEXT MEETING

Holy Family Parrish Hall
Tuesday September 10th 7:00pm

Meeting Topic
Battery Chemistries

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

Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

- Steering Wheel: 3rd Tue Noon; JP's Essex, Vt
- VE Exams every 2nd Friday;
- Contact ABIWG for information
- Dues due? Pay online at www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html