



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

The Official Journal of the Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont

February 2025

An ARRL Special Service Club

Vol. 35 No. 2

HAM-CON THIS SATURDAY

Is the event you are in locked a lead-lined room with no Internet or links to the outside world, HAM-CON is this Saturday February 22 at the Hampton Inn.

We have provided a ton of details at meetings, media, E-mails and on the web. We have a super schedule of great activities. All that we need to seal the deal is to get everyone to the show.

Right now, only 1/3 of RANV members have purchased tickets. That is not great. Hopefully a lot more members will show up Saturday and we have more of an 80% participation rate.

Be sure to bring your friends. And remember, we have HT door prizes for our young attendees. Putting on this show is a ton of work. The payment is seeing a great turnout. Make it so!
Go to ham-con.org for details.

CONTACTS

Stewart **KC1IFK**, President
stwbll2@gmail.com

George **KC1JGM**, VP/Treasurer
gmayvt1@gmail.com

Jeff **N1YD**, Secretary
n1yd@comcast.net

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

VERMONT QSO PARTY OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE HOST STATION

Mitch **W1SJ**

I started out with a 2-radio simulcast with each transmission on 20 and 40 meters at the same time. As a multi-op, it is allowed to have multiple signals transmitting. But don't try this unless you want to see your electric bill go sky high. The left side radio (left radio, left footswitch and left side of headphones) was on 20 meters with 800 watts to the Yagi, and the right side radio was on 40 meters with 400 watts to a full wave dipole up 65 feet. It was insane with different pileups running in both ears. The tough part was choosing the correct band to log the contacts while going like a bat outta hell. I got most of it right. I think. The log showed 239 Q's that first hour and 202 the second hour. Those are the kind of numbers I had when I was in the DX contest in the Caribbean. By 10PM, 20 meters was running out of gas so I tried 80 meters which wasn't very good. But 40 meters kept on trucking way past midnight.

I thought that eating might be worthwhile endeavor, so I put both stations on FT8 and kept them going while I had dinner and relaxed.

In the morning, bad stuff started to happen. I set the main radio on 10-meter SSB and the second radio on 15-meter FT4. But the second radio kicked out an error and kept faulting to low power. I gave up and proceeded to run DX pileups on 10 meters. As Europe faded, I went to 15 meters, but the results were lackluster. Finally, I turned the beam stateside and commenced a run on 20 meters. Paul came in at 3 and gave me a much-needed break. I set out to get the second radio going, but it wasn't going to happen. I had a choice between QRP or the QRM machine (IC-718). I chose QRP and ran a mighty 11.5 watts (yeah, life's too short for QRP...). And strange things happened. I was working folks on 30 meters one right after the other. Cool! Meanwhile Paul was banging out dizzying rates on 20 meters, and I did something useful and took a nap and had lunch.

At 7, I got on the CW Sprint which is a great way to run up some CW contacts. Actually, it is a real pain. One has given a long convoluted exchange with serial numbers and names. There is also a QSY rule after every contact. But I had the Sprint manager tell everyone to leave the Vermont stations high in the band alone. Most did. But some still tried to take the frequency. Many of the guys came back at 40 WPM and pushed and shoved each other around in pileups, much like the cats do during dinner. There is a problem with getting new people to do CW, and it is tough guy behavior like that which doesn't help. I dealt with it.

Late night, I tried 40-meter FT8 QRP but it wasn't happening. But wait - what if I run 11.5 watts into my SB-200? Voila! I got a tidy 100 watts out and got down to business. There were wires crisscrossing all over the place, reminiscent of Scotty telling Captain Kirk, "The darn thing is bypassed like a Christmas Tree!" But it worked! I had 80- and 40-meter FT8 going while I had dinner and relaxed.

I got up late Sunday morning because I didn't expect much to happen. Boy, was I wrong. Very quickly, 10 meters turned into a 5-alarm fire pileup. And this was a Europe pileup where NO ONE stands by when you go back to someone. And they love stupid callsigns like this one: OE175ARWT. I don't know what it was supposed to mean, but I ended up out of breath just trying to copy and type it in. By 11, the pileup had died down and I tried some CW. After a quick run, I went back to 10-meter phone and the pileup reignited and it was crazy time all over again until 1PM. The early afternoon involved jumping around 10-, 15- and 20-meter phone and CW with diminishing results. Paul came in and we tried 40 SSB for a bit, but it wasn't great. Meanwhile, I put the FT8 station on 17 meters (no amp on that band) and my mighty QRP station snagged Japan 3 times! That's 627 miles per watt, if you are counting. And no, I didn't keep saying QRP! Finally, we got back on 20 meters and the pileups came back and lasted right until the end.

It was finally over after 4062 QSO's in the log. There were 49 states on phone - missing

AK, which was worked on FT8, all 14 Vermont counties (thank you rovers!), 65 DXCC countries and 179 grid squares accounting for 59 more multipliers.

Big scores were reported from a number of stations and everyone enjoyed the great conditions. Many participants were very pleased to be able to work many of the Vermont counties, thanks to the work of rovers KI1P, K1TTW, KC1IFK and WA1J. Look for all the results in April.



Winter Ham Radio Breakfast Jeff N1YD

Instead of a regular January meeting, we got together at JP's Restaurant in Essex for our annual Ham Radio Breakfast. Twenty one people came out, including Matthias AC1RI from the Northeast Kingdom. We ate, introduced ourselves, and discussed assorted radio related topics. As usual, JP's had just the right atmosphere, with good food and good service.







NEWS & VIEWS

NEXT MEETING

HAMCON
Saturday February 22th @ 8AM
Hampton Inn Colchester, Vt

Meeting Topic
HamCon Hampton Inn

INSIDE

- **Ham Con**
- **Vermont QSO Party Observations**
- **Winter Ham Radio Breakfast**

Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

- Steering Wheel: 3rd Tue Noon; JP's Essex, Vt
- VE Exams every 2nd Friday;
- Contact AB1WG for information
- Dues due? Pay online at www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html