



# RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

The Official Journal of the Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont

## March RANV Meeting

### John NV1Y

The Healthcare Facility Drill is a bi-monthly activity intended to ensure that Vermont hospitals and department of health field offices can communicate in the event of a failure of normal channels. Sixteen hospitals and ten field offices are equipped with amateur stations, as well as the operations center at Camp Johnson and the state emergency management center. The talk on Tuesday will describe the current status of this activity, and what actions are being taken to prepare the system for actual emergencies.

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## WHAT'S NEXT

### Mitch W1SJ

With HAM-CON, the Winter Breakfast and contest season past us, we enter the unofficial “Mud Season” of ham radio where there isn’t anything spectacular happening for two months. Of course, you “could” make things exciting by getting on the air – that’s always a possibility. While conditions are not quite the peak that we saw in the Fall,

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Meetings:        2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:RANVMentor@gmail.com)

things are still pretty good, with all the high HF bands open during the day. Make a point to get on the air regularly when you have some free time during the day or evening. I always feel great when I work a new country! And also, frequent the repeater. We have hams across northern Vermont and all throughout eastern New York down to Long Island who can get on to have a QSO with you.

By May, things get exciting again. NEAR-Fest is May 2nd. If you really want to experience the maximum hamfest fun, Dayton Hamvention is May 16-18th. The Essex Parade is May 24th and the Vermont City Marathon is May 25th. That leads us to June where the focus will be planning for another great Field Day operation on June 28th-29th. Oh, and plan on a bunch of Park activations starting in May.

Be sure to put these events on your calendar and guard them jealously against any possible incursions by family members. We always hear that nothing gets done without a plan. So, start planning!

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## HAM-CON 2025 – A SUCCESS!

### Mitch **W1SJ**

HAM-CON 2025 was an unqualified success. Everyone who I have spoken to reports that they had a great time. Attendance was the same as last year- around 200, mostly on site with a bunch on-line. With the drops in small hamfest attendance over the years, holding our own is good news. We even brought in a few more youths with the promise of a free HT! And we were able to bring in some money above and beyond our expenses. It was a LOT of work – probably the hardest I’ve ever worked in a long time. The good news is that I have negotiated for the site for next year. There will be a “reasonable” price increase which we will have to deal with. As we all know, everything involves a price increase these days.

Forums, Demos and Flea Market were all well attended. The flea market had a sizeable crowd first thing in the morning and it held well into the late

morning. The demos and mini-forums all had mini-crowds gathered around. The main forums had an average of 19-20 attendees (15 live, 5 on line) with the ARRL Forum having a surprising 35 attendees. If you missed the forums, the link is show below. But also, please take the time to fill out the survey. This gives us feedback on the presentations we bring to the show and what topics work well. We are always looking for ideas to bring in more attendees at future shows and feel free to contact me with ideas. Also, bring along your ideas and stories about HAM-CON to share at the March meeting.

Presentations: <https://ham-con.org/hc25video.html>

Evaluation: <https://www.hamclass.net/hceval.html>

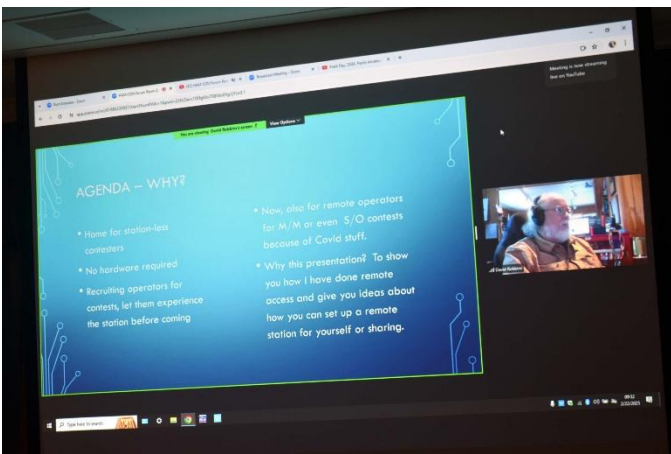
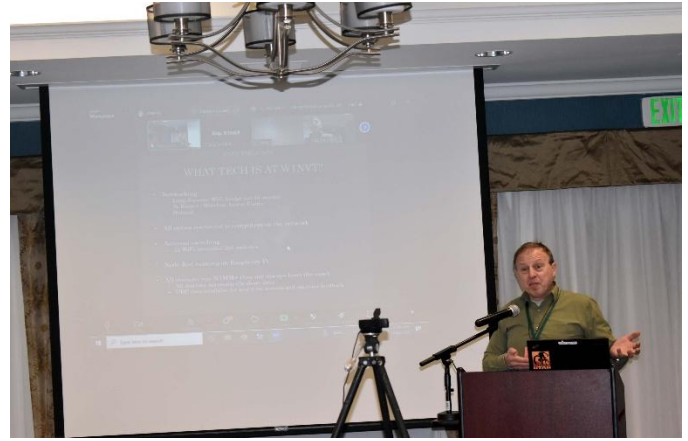
There are only 355 days until HAM-CON 2026 on February 28th next year. Be sure to promote the show and Ham Radio throughout the year. See you all next year!

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## HAM-CON Photographs

### Bob **K1BIF**









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**March 2025 Chittenden County 2m Simplex Net.**  
**Zachary [K1ZK](#)**

Please mark your calendars for the **March 2025 Chittenden County 2m Simplex Net.**

The next Chittenden County region FM simplex activity will be on **Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 8:00pm** on 146.55MHz. All radio amateurs are welcome. Stick around after the net to try simplex communications on other bands that might interest you.

Spread the word, & we'll see you on simplex soon!

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### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
Holy Family Parish Hall  
30 Lincoln St, Essex Junction, VT 05452

#### Meeting Topic

Vermont Hospitals Communication

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

### Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

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