



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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May 2025 RANV Meeting

George [KC1JGM](#)

Number of topics were put forth at the last meeting. An update on the World Radio League. Planning for upcoming 2025 Field Day. Review the meeting format for future meetings.

FIELD DAY JUNE 28-29

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

In a mere 7 weeks, it will be time once again for Field Day. Boy, has time flown! First thing: Grab a hold of June 2025 QST, and look at the bottom of page 20. Some teams play for trophies; but we play for the cake! I suspect other groups may be gunning for us. That's fine – we'll take them all on.

The plans for Field Day are the same as last year. The methodology worked well. The site has been reserved. The key thing is to make sure we have the key players on site for set up and operating. That is always the difficult part. In particular, we always need to bring newer operators on board to keep up a deep stable of GOTA operators. Some from last year will not be with us, and some will be promoted to the main station. There are other operators out

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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

there – I see this each year from the Vermont QSO Party results. We just need to convince them to get involved.

Right now, we need everyone to firm up their schedules for the weekend of June 28-29. Be firm (and nice) with family members who want to steal you away for trips, ball games and (gasp) weddings. There are 51 other great weekends to do these. Secondly, recruit new operators for the GOTA station. They don't even need a license. But what we do want is a commitment to put the effort in and do some prep work to learn what to do when they get on the air. Unfortunately, Field Day is a helluva time for a naïve operator to get on the radio while hundreds of others are yelling CQ. With some work, we can mitigate this and keep heart attacks to a minimum.

In a couple of weeks, you will get the dreaded survey where we will ascertain who will be around at what times during the weekend. Now is a good time to think about all of this so that you can get the information back to me quickly.

VERMONT QSO PARTY RESULTS ARE IN

Mitch W1SJ

The results have been posted, and what an event the 67th running of the Vermont QSO was! All the bands were open and in play, resulting in record scores. Some 62 Vermont stations ran up nearly 20,000 QSO's over the weekend. Who said Vermont was hard to work!

The results are at <https://www.ranv.org/vt25.html> . This is the summary. Be sure to click on the internal links to get full breakdown of scores.

In the Vermont competition, the top 7 spots were highly contested. KK1L and KE1VT waged a battle with Ron coming out on top 992k to 883k. Kevin easily had the higher score on both phone and CW, but the difference was decided on digital. NQ1B and K1VMT battled for third place with Cathy just edging out Joe, who was exclusively CW, 256k to

253k. N1SP, at the very southern end of the state went up against AC1RI, at the very northern end of the state, with Randy edging out Matt, who was exclusively digital, 232k to 231k

Zach put together a tremendous multiop at W1XIV with N1GZZ and N1SZO helping out to run up an 800k score, which also included a bunch of RTTY contacts. And, I'm sure many of you have seen the video of KI1P running up a dizzying 2400 phone QSO's from 13 countries from his mobile contest station. Honorable mention goes to K1TTW and WA1J who put on many counties in their mobile efforts as well. Many of the Vermont counties were easy to work, and competitors outside Vermont were very appreciative. No one activated Grand Isle this time, but those few of use who are active on 145.15 knew how to find someone on from that rare county.

I was super busy at host station W1NVT attempting to keep two stations going, resulting in over 4000 QSO's. The first 3 hours were pure insanity as I ran simultaneous pileups on 20 and 40 meters. The rest of the time, I was running phone and also trying to keep digital on the air. The second K3 did not help, as it crapped out Saturday and I was stuck in 10-watt QRP mode. I had some great hours on FT8 anyway. The DX pileup on 10 meters Sunday was absolutely nuts. Paul came in during the afternoons to give me some much-needed rest.

In the outside Vermont competition Carl NX3A pulled off a 3-peat of the top spot with an amazing 109 Vermont stations worked for a score of 9405. Combined with 2 third place finishes, he has quite a collection of Vermont Maple Syrup containers (I assume the syrup has been consumed already). Dave WN4AFP grabbed second place, capping off many top ten finishes over the years. Dave runs low power and has a rather low dipole which he does all this on, emphasizing that you don't need horsepower to do well in this event. Mark K1RO took third place, which is pretty incredible considering that it is very difficult to work Vermont from New Hampshire on 10-20 meters. Down in 12th place is our top QRP finisher Anthony K8ZT, grabbing 32 QSO's with a mighty 10 watts.

A total of 384 submitted logs kept me super busy for many weeks. As the Vermont QSO Party gets more popular, it is getting more difficult for the one-man staff to process the logs and certificates. And yes, the certificates and syrup are running a tad late, but I hope to get these all processed by June. Too much ham radio, and too much fun!

Chittenden County Region FM Simplex Net Zachary **K1ZK**

(1) Chittenden County Region 2m FM simplex net

The April 2025 Chittenden County Region FM Simplex Net was held on April 30, 2025; net participants were: KA1HQR, KB1ZEB, KB1NIJ, KE2BDO, KD2VRD, and K1ZK. Jon KA1HQR deployed a 3-element 2m beam at the Hyde Park Recreation area with great effect. (See picture.) His simplex signal was just shy of S9 at NCS in Shelburne, VT. The May edition of the net will be on **Thursday, May 22, 2025** at 8pm on 146.55MHz.

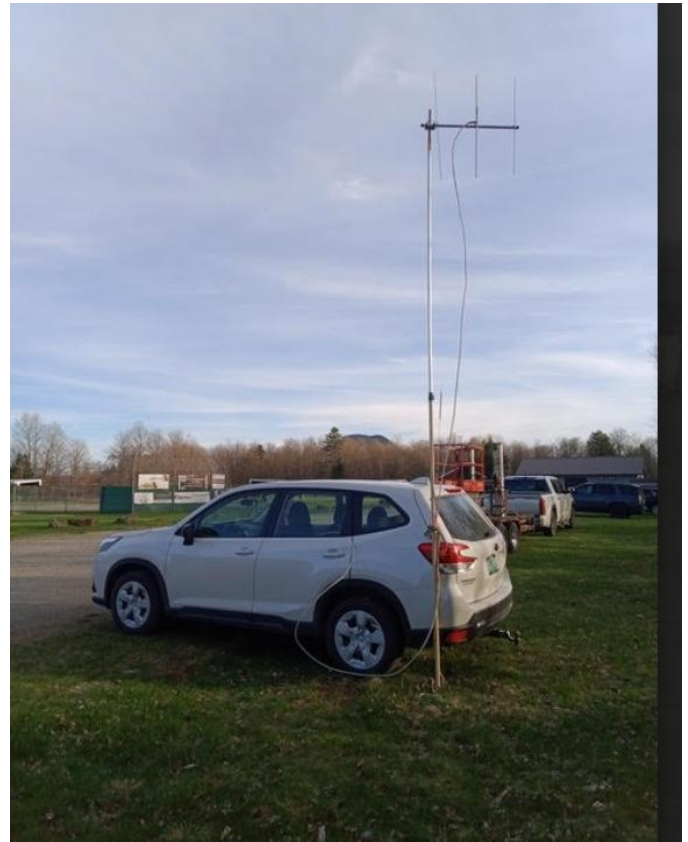
Mark your calendars and join us on simplex!

W1XIV/R 223.86 Schedule

The W1XIV repeater on 223.86 MHz carries a number of nets that may be of interest. Even if you can't TX on 1.25m, many radios can RX there and you can listen in:

- Mondays 7:30pm : Join our friends in Rutland, Vt. for the GMWS net
- Fridays 7pm: KD2SL 220 net
- Saturdays 10:15am: ARRL Audio News
- Saturdays 9pm: Saturday Science Net
- Saturdays 10pm: WM9W 220 net
- Sundays 3:20pm: WM9W "2:20" [Central Time] Net

Repeater improvements are planned for this summer; stay tuned!



Erik N1CFO

In the 2025 Championnat de France CW contest, Erik Wheeler, N1CFO had the highest score in North America, and also the highest score in the world outside of France.

<https://concours.r-e-f.org/contest/coupe-du-ref-cw-2025-results/>

Minutes April Meeting

Jeff N1YD

Audio at KK1L -- the April meeting

Seven people joined the meeting in person, four by Zoom. Tom N1GZZ has joined the club. We were all reminded that the M&T Bank Vermont City Marathon will be on Sunday May 5th. Anyone who is interested in helping out with marathon communications should sign up at ranv.org.

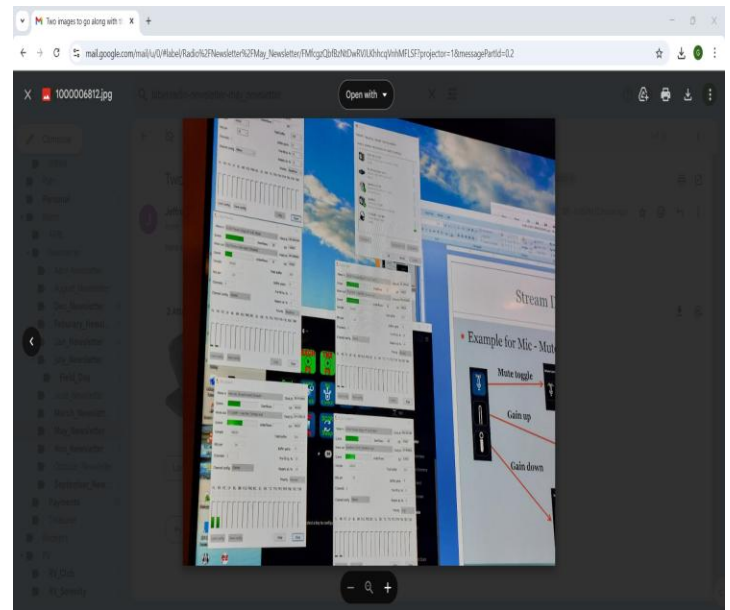
Also, Field Day will just over a month from now, on June 28th and 29th. Long time contester Ron Rossi described several ways that he has been making his station's audio better. He first installed a simple Digital Voice Keyer, then worked out ways to get consistent levels, flexible configuration, and convenient recording.

Ron has found that frequency equalization lets him get the best audio for contesting, which is much different from the audio that is best for any other purpose. Ham radio audio emphasizes the mid-range audio tones that actually get transmitted and output by an HF radio. But for any other purpose, he configures the software to give warm rich audio that covers the entire audio spectrum. The difference is dramatic. He sounded great on Zoom, then switched to the microphone and equalization used for contesting. The contesting audio is all business, with a sound that helps to punch through bad propagation.

Ron set up his system with two sound cards and at least two microphones. He is using Windows software called Virtual Audio Cable to easily set up any microphone to any radio in a convenient way. This also prevents ground loops and even helps with remote operation.

For microphones, Ron likes the HC7 best for contesting, and the CM500 for normal use. He sets up the audio equalization to trim frequencies below 400 Hertz, and to boost 1500 to 3000. "Anything below 400 Hertz is wasted energy."

Ron uses a Stream Deck. It is a USB device with a touch screen and knobs. It can be set up to control almost any software, and looks like a great alternative to digging into deeply nested software menus. For audio, the Stream deck gives him knobs to control gain, and buttons to control the voice keyer and the microphone selections. Ron is currently using Windows 10, but any operating system ought to work fine.





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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday May 13th 7:00pm
Holy Family Parish Hall
30 Lincoln St, Essex Junction, VT 05452

Meeting Topic
Field Day Discussion

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 AB1WG for information
- Dues due? Pay online at www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html