



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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RANV SUMMER PICNIC Saturday, August 9th Kamp Kill Kare State Park

The RANV Summer Picnic will be this Saturday, August 9th, 11AM-3PM at Kamp Kill Kare State Park in St. Albans Bay. The current forecast is looking favorable with 5% chance of rain and an afternoon high of 86F.

If you have a Green Mountain Passport card, please use that for park admission. Otherwise, RANV will cover the admission for you.

We plan set up a radio and do an activation of the park. Pets are NOT allowed in the park. Don't think of leaving a pet in the car. Keep them at home.

The St. Albans Hamfest is in the morning, 8AM noon at 353 Lake Street, St. Albans. Directions: I-89 to Exit 19. Continue down the connector road to Route 7 and go right. In the center of town, make a left on Lake Street (VT 36). Continue all the way to St. Albans Bay, past the Town Park and up to Hathaway Point Road, where you will make a left. Continue for a few miles and go directly into the park.

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

STARC Annual HamFest

Saturday, August 9th - 8:00am-12:00pm

St. Albans VFW - 353 Lake Street - St. Albans, VT



Admission: \$5.00

**Includes: Tailgating and Inside Sellers
Under 18 Years Old: Free Admission**

**FREE admission for commercial vendors
Indoor and outdoor selling places available**

Door Prize Drawings at 10:30am

Amateur Radio Test session at 9:00am.

For questions regarding the HamFest, contact:
Ann Benjamin - n1arn@yahoo.com or 802-782-6650
Michael Gladu - n1fbz@arrl.net

Directions to HamFest:

- Take I-89 - Exit 19 toward St. Albans (US-7/VT-36/VT104)
- Merge onto St. Albans State Highway
- Go straight through traffic light at VT-104 (heading West)
- Turn Right at S. Main St. onto US-7 going North
- Proceed Straight / North through two traffic lights
- Turn left at 3rd traffic light onto VT-36/Lake St.
- Drive for approximately 1 mile
- The VFW hall is on the right

Official HamFest Repeater
Rx 145.230 MHz, Tx offset to: -600 kHz,
CTCSS Tone Encode to: 100 Hz



First Class Field Day (remember that!) and Operating the Ham Radio Satellites.

In addition, there will be a vendor room, on-air station and hundreds of hams from New England. There is a flea market too, but it tends to be small – NEAR-Fest is a better choice for a flea market.

Marlborough is on Route 20 off of I-495 – a 3 ½ hour drive from Burlington. You may find available rooms nearby, but lodging is pricey in this area. Campgrounds or AirBNB may be a more affordable option.

Details can be found at <https://hamxposition.org/>

GET ON THE REPEATER WITHOUT THE RADIO

Mitch W1SJ

There hasn't been much activity on the repeater lately, and one reason may be that less people carry radios with them. But there is a neat workaround. If you install Echolink on your phone and go to WB1GQR-R, you will be connected directly into the Bolton repeater. I have used this facility to call in from various hamfests like Dayton. I sometimes use it when I don't have the HT with me. Back in April, I connected in from West Texas and hooked up with a guy in Long Island through the GARA Network. It is a real handy tool which allows access when out of range or out of radio!

There are some restrictions though. Don't use Echolink as a replacement for your radio – only use it when out of range, or if you don't have your radio with you. And be sure to drop the Echolink connection when done. Don't leave the system connected as it will cause interference.

We hope to hear more people on the repeater!

NORTHEAST HAMXPOSITION THIS MONTH

Mitch W1SJ

HamX – The Northeast HamXposition will take place August 22-24 th at the Best Western in Marlborough, Massachusetts. Someone asked me about doing a Vermont Ham Radio Town Hall at the event. Unfortunately, I've seen few Vermont hams there, which is too bad.

Skip K1NKR has once again put together another tremendous forum program. On Saturday, there are no less than 15 rooms of forums running from 10AM until 5PM. Friday has 6 long-form workshops and Sunday has a few talks in the morning. Whatever topic you might be interested in, you'll find it. I will be giving talks on Running a

**2025 RANV FIELD DAY
BOX SCORE**

80 CW	101	80 SSB	30
40 CW	544	40 SSB	588
20 CW	550	20 SSB	1108
15 CW	239	15 SSB	95

GOTA Dig	264	GOTA Ph	565
VHF Dig	58	VHF Ph	9
Sat CW	0	Sat Ph	6
Total CW	1434	Total Ph	2401
Total Dig	323		

4158 QSOs 5900 Bonus 17730 Pts

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
QSO's	4976	4906	4681	4945
Bonuses	7289	5865	2510	2130
Points	20662	19782	15294	15900

**2025 RANV FIELD DAY
HALL OF FAME**

AA1SU Paul – CW op; VHF op; Equipment; Traffic; Set up; Tear down.

AB1T Doug – CW op; Equipment; Tear down.

AC1QY John – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down

K1BIF Bob – Phone op; Photography; Set up; Tear down.

K1ZK Zach – CW op.

K2AST Kevin – Set up.

K2CIB John – CW op.

KB3DQZ Jonathan – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down.

KC1IFK Stew – Phone op; GOTA op; Equipment; Set up; Tear down.

KC1JGM George – GOTA op; Safety; Set up; Tear down.

KC1SFJ Logan – Phone op; GOTA op; Set up.

KC1WZN Todd – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down.

KK1L Ron – Phone op; Set up; Tear down; Logging Network,

N1CFO Erik – Phone op; Tear down.

N1YD Jeff – GOTA op; Safety; Demo; Set up; Tear down.

NV1Y John – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down.

W1LWH Linn – CW op; Equipment; Set up; Tear down.

W1SJ Mitch – Chairman; Phone op; Satellite op; Equipment; Set up; Tear down; Results.

W4MRA Micha – GOTA op.

Other Participants:

W4YFJ Bob – Friday night FD Bulletin.

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

Please mark your calendars for the August 2m simplex net: Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 8:00pm on 146.55 MHz.

Jeff **N1YD**

Service Monitor -- the July Meeting

Our July meeting had several visitors. They included Mitch's grandson Daniel, Stew's two kids, and new member Juan Jimenez, K1JMJ.

Linn W1LWH joined remotely from Massachusetts, and Matthias

AC1RI joined from Newport. Matthias told us a little about his club's Field Day activities in the Northeast Kingdom. Their web site is nekrc.net.

We did a session of Field Day comments and feedback. One of our antennas had neat coil of coax right by its feed point to act as a balun.

Someone uncoiled it, so we operated that antenna all weekend with its feed line radiating. It worked all right anyway. Linn told us about installing a pulley on top of the CW tower to use for a halyard. He was planning to raise a wire antenna sort of like putting up a flag. Someone carefully taped the halyard cord so it wouldn't move! Several of our Elecraft K3's were acting up in strange ways that no one would normally expect. Stew fixed two of them with "Percussive maintenance". The relays were a little flaky, and he slapped and tapped the radios until they began to work correctly. Propagation was pretty bad this year due to a geomagnetic storm. We did 4119 QSO's, which is about 800 less than last year.

VTdigger.com reporter Kelsey and a friend came to see us during setup, and spoke with everyone. She came back on Saturday, got on the air, and wrote a nice article about our event.

Then Mike N1BFZ brought out his service monitor. It can generate RF signals for testing, and can measure RF in many different ways. Stew brought his Zenith Trans-Oceanic shortwave radio made in the 1970's or maybe earlier. Using the service monitor, Stew and Mike were able to calibrate and adjust different parts of the radio to get it up to its peak performance. I also brought my Vectronics VEC-1240 QRP transmitter. Mike confirmed that it was low on power and not transmitting at 7.04 MHz. At this point Juan was totally certain that we could figure out its problems right on the spot. He downloaded the Vectronics kit assembly instructions, and confirmed that every component was the correct value, nothing was installed backwards, and the soldering did not have any shorts or opens. (Later, I found that three particular capacitors were supposed to be multi layer instead of ceramic. I replaced them and now it outputs 1 watt instead of 0.625 watts. I also replaced its 7.04 MHz crystal, and now it is right on frequency.)



Jeff Bonn N1YD



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NEXT MEETING

RANV Picnic Killcare State Park

Meeting Topic

RANV 2025 Summer Picnic

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