



# RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

The Official Journal of the Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont

September 2025

An ARRL Special Service Club

Vol. 35 No. 9

## September RANV Meeting

### Mud Duck Battle 2025!

Stew [KC1IFK](#)

The event of the year is coming to the September RANV meeting! We will finally answer the age-old question that has been hounding Hams since the beginning of time; which antenna is better for a QRP station; Hamsticks or a Buddipole! This age-old debate will finally be settled once and for all just in time to get these items on everyone's Christmas list!

This competition will have identical Elecraft KX3 radios running a barefoot 15 watts. Both will be powered off of 12v batteries. We will be running SSB.

Here's how it is going to work: Station #1 with the Buddipole will be operated by Bob, K1BIF and the Station Alpha with the Hamsticks will be run by Stew, KC1IFK. There will be 5 heats, each one lasting 20 minutes. There will be time in between the Heats for antenna adjustment with the official clock starting when both stations are ready to operate. The winner of each Heat will be the station that collects the most contacts during official time. Heat #1 will be 20m SSB; Heat #2 will be 20m FT8; Heat #3 will be 40m SSB; Heat #4 will be 40m FT8 and Heat #5 will be the operators' choice of any band and any mode they think will net them

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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)

the most contacts. We will compare the number of contacts for each Heat and the overall contact count to determine which of these two stellar antennas is best!

After the competition, both stations will be available to any operator to sit down at and listen and compare. Come join us to see who will prevail in this battle of Titans!

Everything above this line is the body of the article text.

Let me know what you think!

73,  
Stew  
KC1IFK

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## LAKE ST. CATHERINE STATE PARK ACTIVATION

**Mitch** [W1SJ](#)

Last Saturday I activated US-3127, Lake St. Catherine State Park in Vermont as W1NVT. The day and location were perfectly selected. I had great conditions and a nice partly sunny day in Rutland County while there was a steady rain at my home QTH near Burlington. Park staff directed me to the boat launch, which was a perfect place to set up.

I quickly got the dipole 40 feet into the trees and fired up the 500 watt amp at 11:30 AM. Conditions were very good as I maintained a 100/hour rate of 4's, 5's 8's, 9's and 0's through the early afternoon on 20 meters.

Unfortunately, there were no West Coast openings on 20 meters. I tried 15 meters, but it wasn't too productive. Late afternoon I dropped down to 40 meters to give the close-in folks a chance. It didn't seem like a very good idea as there was a high noise level. But I quickly had a great rate going with reports of a very loud signal all over the Northeast. Just for laughs, I tried 20 meters for the last 20 minutes of the operation and the band was terrific with loud signals.

The Europeans had great signals with 51 stations in 15 countries worked – all on a dipole. I have had my share of poor conditions during activations this year, but this certainly made up for some of the slack days!

The total haul was 654 QSO's and 57 Park-To-Park QSOs in 6 ½ hours – a pretty good day in the park!



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## Groton State Park Activation

**Mitch** [W1SJ](#)

This past Saturday, September 6th, a group of us had a multi-faceted ham radio activity at the Groton State Forest in East Central Vermont.

An activity called “Outdoor Family Weekend” took place at Stillwater State Park. Among the many presentations was “Connecting in Nature with HAM Radio”, given by Ron KK1L. Helping him was Stew KC1IFK, Matt AC1RI and Mitch W1SJ. We explained the concepts of ham radio, practiced the phonetic alphabet, viewed QSL cards and made contacts on the ham station which was set up. The highlight of the presentation was firing the tennis ball launcher to show how we raise the antennas. It was a super rainy day, but Ron had a huge setup of pop-up shelters and tarps which kept everyone dry.

Hopefully, some of the participants will appear on the air one day!

Not to waste a great opportunity, I arrived on Friday afternoon and did an overnight “night shift” operation from Big Deer State Park (US-3100), 1 mile down the road from where the presentation was.

Night conditions were very good with 515 QSO’s in the log, including 63 DX QSO’s and 25 DXCC countries logged. Ron was activating Stillwater State Park (US-3145) when I left, and is probably still on the air as this is being written. In addition, another group of hams were providing communications for a foot race through the various parks in the area. It was a GREAT Ham Radio weekend and a load of fun!



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### Field Day Photo

**John NV1Y**



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### Chittenden County Region FM Simplex Net Zachary K1ZK

The August Chittenden County 2m FM Simplex Net was successful, with check-ins from NV1Y, KC1KZX, K1JMJ, N1TRK, and W3NFG, plus K1ZK as NCS. Thanks to everyone who participated.

The September 2m net will be at 7pm local time on Monday, September 22, 2025 on 146.55 MHz FM simplex. This coincides with the start of the popular 2m [“Fall Sprint” sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club](#). Join our local net, then stick around on 2m to log even more contacts! As

always, all amateur radio stations are welcome to join.

It might also be worth noting:

The 2025 ARRL September VHF contest is set for the weekend of September 13-14, starting at 2pm on Saturday. Use all authorized frequencies above 50 MHz; all legal modes are permitted. The exchange” is your grid square. There is a “portable” entry category for anyone who might want to do VHF SOTA. If you only have FM, enter the “FM only” category and make some noise on 146.52, 223.5, 446.0 and other FM simplex frequencies. Complete details are at <https://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

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### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday September 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
Holy Family Parish Hall  
30 Lincoln St, Essex Junction, VT 05452

**Meeting Topic**  
**Mud Duck Battle 2025**

### 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)