



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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Remembrance Bob Brown, W4YFJ

George **KC1JGM** / Bob **K1BIF**

Our fellow ham and friend, Bob Brown, W4YFJ, passed away this week. Licensed in 1954, he spent over seventy years on the air. After retiring from IBM, he worked well into his eighties as a 911 operator at the State Patrol building in Williston. He will be remembered for his stories about the hobby, as well as his patience and guidance to new hams. As the pictures demonstrate, Bob was a consummate ham, as well as a woodworker.

Bob assisted me in assuming the role of editor for the RANV Newsletter. Bob prepared the mailers and labels prior to going to a paperless distribution. Bob also processed the QSL cards for RANV members

In addition to Bob's dedication to HAM radio, he also was a leader in the Boy Scouts of America. Bob donated equipment from his troop to Pack 635 in Essex, Vt.

A "remembrance" of Bob is planned at our upcoming Convention at 9:00am in room 1. This would provide an opportunity for sharing their memories of Bob and whatever else is appropriate.

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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:
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Bob Brown, W4YFJ

IT'S HAM-CON TIME!!

Mitch **W1SJ**

It's HAM-CON this Saturday. Be there or be square, or hexagon, or whatever. Just be there. You know the web site, you know the program (if not, read the web site). If you still don't know, ask. Just don't try to contact me after Friday morning – I'll be SUPER busy.

If you want to know what I do when not running pileups on 20 meters, go to the RANV web site, click on the links and listen to me operate 484 meters (WVMT-620) 3 meters (WVMT-96.3) or be a TV personality. (I prefer the pileups).

I'm sure most of you know the unfortunate news that Bob Brown W4YFJ passed away last weekend. I thought it might be a nice touch to have a remembrance at HAM-CON since many of us know him and many of us will be there (I hope). It then occurred to me that we've lost a few other active local hams over the past year or so: Bruce Blackman W1EJC, Ed Shipley N1PEA, Alden Bartlett K1HA, Brian Riley, N1BQ, Warren Severance K1BKK and Henry Ingwerson KT1J. I'm sure you might think of others.

We will set aside 9-9:20 in Forum Room 1 for this remembrance. Come to share stories of their ham radio life and your experiences with them.

“Break That Pileup” will run right after we finish.

See you at the Fester!

W1AW/1 MAKES A SPLASH FROM VERMONT

Mitch **W1SJ**

The week of February 4-10th we were tasked with putting W1AW/1 on the air from Vermont. There aren't a ton of hams up this way – we are the 4th smallest ham state. I still hear things like, “I've been waiting 40 years to work Vermont!”

We eventually assembled a crew of 12 people across Vermont to activate W1AW/1. To make this even more interesting, we scheduled this at the same time as the Vermont QSO Party to provide more Vermont stations for the masses. Operators had the ability to use either W1AW/1 or their own callsign or both during the QSO Party.

When the dust had cleared, we collectively put 10083 QSO's in the log, from 160 meters up to 1 ¼ meters, on Phone, CW and Digital and including satellites. Half the group was active on FT8 and others were on phone and CW.

Comments from some of our W1AW/1 operators:

W1SJ, Mitch Essex, VT, Chittenden Co.

I was super busy as W1AW/1 the first 3 days, but during the Vermont QSO Party, I operated primarily as WINVT to make the club multiplier available. It made things interesting as I was able to pop on as W1AW/1 and work the same people again with the other callsign. I ran two stations simultaneously much of the time. It was really interesting getting on the RS-44 and ISS satellites and putting W1AW/1 on the air. Did everyone on the FM ISS satellite stand by for W1AW/1? Nope. I had to fight my way in just like everyone else. I put 26 people in the log through 8 passes of the satellites over a few days.

The most fun was running big pileups on phone. Pileups scare many operators. I love them when

they are piling up on me! Unlike CW or FT8, it is easy enough to chat with folks. I stopped the run to ask a ham in Milan about the Olympics. I worked a mobile in London and we chatted about traffic near Heathrow airport – something I will get to experience in a few months. A guy in Tennessee was comparing their ice storm to our snow storm. The last guy I worked was W1AW/4 in Florida at 23:59:59 as I ended and he began his run for the week. And the fun didn't stop there! I had the opportunity to run as W1AW/1 in Massachusetts remotely from K1TTT. Running a European pileup with stacked 6 element yagis at 150' is something to behold! In total, I logged close to 6700 QSO's, mostly on SSB, over two weeks. What fun!

K1ZK, Zach, Shelburne, VT, Chittenden Co.

I was on the air as W1AW/1, focusing on CW while running as many as three additional stations on FT8 simultaneously. Interference was minimized with the FT8 stations transmitting on the same sequence, and with in-line bandpass filters. In addition to HF operations, I also made some noise with the W1AW/1 call sign on 1.25m SSB for the weekly Tuesday 222 MHz night, and on 2 meter FM on Saturday evening for the local 2m simplex net.

K1TTW, Darryl, Hartland, VT, Windsor Co.

The W1AW/1 weeklong event was great as the weather was cold and I didn't mind staying inside with a head cold. My goal was working only FT8 as the propagation from my 2-acre lot isn't great. I worked 12 meters, a band that I had never tried before with amazing results. I didn't think many guys were over there. I even got to try out running two radios at the same time on FT8 with no interference issues, which surprised me! The antennas were a multi band end fed at 40 ft and a multi-band vertical only 20 ft away. It was certainly not the best situation. I'm limited in my antenna options of antenna at the present with my current topography and a power line running through the small lot.

W2HDI, Arnie, Stowe, VT, Washington Co.

Always fun to be casual in a pileup and have a brief conversation. A surprisingly large number of contacts mentioned their visits to Stowe, and how much they liked it here. Invariably, the first

response when I mention Stowe is...."I love Stowe, its so beautiful there";

N1GB, George, Guildhall, VT, Essex Co.

Operating as W1AW/1 is quite an experience. From the moment I called CQ there was an immediate pile up on me. I operated exclusively FT8, and a pile up of multiple red line highlighted stations all calling on the same time interval is somewhat daunting at first. A steady reply process worked down the pile. Interestingly, there were many stations calling their own CQ that did not choose to call me, so after the pile was worked out I began to call them with reasonable success.

The limitation of FT8 for this type of operation is the depletion of stations on a particular band that have not been contacted. It was very helpful to have the date/time spreadsheet to check so as not to conflict with another operator when I felt the need to change bands to keep the QSOs coming. The date/time slots also facilitated matching operating to my hectic family schedule.

K9JY, Scot, Franklin, VT, Franklin Co.

I operated 100% FT8 during the W1AW/1 week, making over 600 contacts. The most interesting thing to me was the strong interest among DX stations in working W1AW/1. Perhaps it was because stations needed Vermont, but it also means confirmation comes through LoTW, which the DX station would need to confirm the contact. FT8 activity really dropped off after the conclusion of the Vermont QSO party on Monday and Tuesday. This was my second time operating W1AW/1, and it was more enjoyable than the first.

Missed the activation? We get to do this again during the week of September 22-29. Clear your schedule and contact me to get set up as a W1AW/1 operator!

Vermont Winter Breakfast

Bob **K1BIF**

The HAM Winter Breakfast was held Saturday, January 31, 9-11AM at JP's Deli in Essex. This was an opportunity to reconnect with members and discuss upcoming ham radio



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

QST: The March 2026 edition of the Chittenden County Region 2m FM simplex net will be at 8:00pm EDT on Monday, March 23, 2026, on 146.55 MHz

We have several stations running good antennas in the area, so chances are good that you'll be able to work us on simplex. All amateur radio stations are welcome to join.

73 de K1ZK



NEWS & VIEWS

INSIDE

- Remembrance Bob Brown W4YF
- IT'S HAM-CON TIME!!
- W1AW/1 MAKES A SPLASH FROM VERMONT
- Vermont Winter Ham Breakfast
- Chittenden County Region FM Simplex Net

NEXT MEETING

HAM-CON This Saturday February 28th
Hampton Inn Colchester Vt

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