



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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An ARRL Special Service Club

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Our Thursday, November 11th Meeting.

“RANV Holiday Party”

The RANV Holiday Party will be Saturday, December 11th from Noon until 4PM at the Holy Family Parish Hall, 30 Lincoln Street, Essex Junction. Please be sure to put this on your calendar!

The first item to discuss is safety. The hall is 50' by 39'; a very large space for our typical turnout of 15-20 people. There is a very high ceiling and several ceiling fans which will be turned on. We will be sitting at 8'; diameter banquet tables, with no more than 5 people per table. This will ensure a 6'; spacing for everyone at the table. Food will be set up on a large table and each attendee will be called up at random to get food, thus ensuring that no more than 2 people are around the food table at any time. Everyone would feel safer if all attendees were vaccinated and certainly do not show up if you are running a fever! We trust that we will create a safe space for all to enjoy meeting and merriment.

The party will be held in the afternoon, so no one needs to drive at night.

The event will be mostly potluck. Later on I will put out a survey to determine who is bringing what. The current thought is for RANV to provide the sandwich and cold cut platter, since that is a very popular item. If you think we should provide anything else which is popular, please let me know. With the afternoon “lunch” format, people eat less, so therefore we don't need to have as much food.

We will have an excellent and safe venue, plenty of food and drink and a lot of companionship. But we do need people to attend! Meeting attendance over the last few years has not

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Meetings: 2nd Thursday • 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

VT State Parks On The Air:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/292829457810746/>

Online Dues Payment:
www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html

been spectacular. There are club members we never see and are strangers to most of us. Let's change that! Try to show up, even if it is for a short period of time.

Finally, we really do want this to be a family event, and not just a bunch of old guys sitting around talking about DX. Bring your wife, girlfriend or SO. Bribery is an accepted form of getting one's better half to attend! The complaint we have received is that when a non-ham family member attends, there are few or none other "normal" people to talk to. So, let's see if we can remedy this.

Let's plan to have a load of fun in December!

Mitch

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES – WE'RE BACK!

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

We've had a number of activities this past October, and it looks like we're back from exile.

NEAR-Fest XXX was held October 14-15 in Deerfield. Despite all sorts of doom & gloom scenarios, attendance was up and the number of sellers was way up. Things were very busy on Friday. And the weather was perfect – 70 degrees and sunny during the day. We were back to normal and everyone had a good time. This also marked the first NEAR-Fest to run as a hybrid event whereby the forums were broadcast live on Zoom and YouTube. We will do more of that in the future and hopefully build up a following.

The Vermont City Marathon was held on October 24. This was actually a half-marathon, so contrived to minimize medical need and to keep the number of participants down. We had a ham radio team of 13 operators at aid stations and on bikes to get everyone through the course. The event ran very smoothly with no issues reported. We'll be back with the full blown event next Memorial Day weekend.

REPEATER NEWS

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

After a couple of weeks of being knocked off the air, we were finally able to get a crew up the mountain to get the repeater fixed.

Walking 3 miles uphill with a pack is no longer an option for me, so I arranged for transport up the hill. I then begged, pleaded, coaxed, arm twisted and eventually convinced Tony WA2LRE to accompany me on this trip. Four years ago, during our last trip, he was heard to say, "Never Again!"

The trip up started OK, but we ran into problems at a place on the trail I affectionately call "Heartbreak Hill". The trail is very steep and strewn with large boulders. The Utility

Terrain Vehicle did well for most of the trip, but started to pop serious wheelies and it was time to pack it in. This required us to hike in the final ½ mile, something I really did not want to do. Tony had a 50-pound pack with the service monitor and I had a large box with our replacement equipment. I found myself using the 30-3 rule – 30 paces, and then a 3-minute break. Old guys set no speed records going up hills.

Along the way we run into Chris KI1P who was on his way up to fix the DMR repeater, also knocked off the air by the power surge. His power amp was wiped out and will have to be replaced.

We finally got to the top and managed to survive and then it was time to get to work. The controller was replaced with a backup unit we programmed and the system was back on the air. The old controller just had a shorted protection diode and it will be repaired. The antenna and feedline and duplexer were all checked and all were found to be in excellent shape. The receiver was also in excellent shape and had all the sensitivity it had when installed many years ago. Why doesn't the repeater hear as well as it should? We found that there is a large amount of wideband noise which is literally blocking our receiver. Where is this noise coming from? We don't know. There are lots of theories and some basic evidence, but the smoking gun has yet to be found. There are no other VHF systems anywhere near this site and we know that the FM station is not causing the problem. This will require a lot more investigation at a site which is darn near impossible to get to. We have a new receiver on the repeater and things are a bit better, but not where we'd like them to be. One of these days, we'll get to the bottom of this.

The really good news is that the UHF receiver was also replaced, and it is hotter than a pistol. This now allows our lakeside remote receiver to be used. If you are near the lake, just use PL 131.8. With the UHF back on, we will not only be able to bring back IRLP and Echolink, but we will also be able to put on some remote receivers to fill in the dead spots.

We put in a lot of effort to get this system back up. USE IT! If the repeater sits quiet for hours on end, one has to question the sanity of having to walk up there to fix it. I still question my sanity.

If you run into Tony, be sure to thank him and perhaps get him lunch or something! See you on 15!

RANV Meeting Minutes October 12, 2021

Regular Meeting

Duane Sherwood, Secretary

There were about 13 in attendance via Zoom and in person including one club officer, Secretary Duane

WL7CVD.

Secretary, Duane WL7CVD called the meeting to order at 7:71 PM.

Official Business

It was approved to pay rent of \$100.00 for the room for the Christmas party on December 11th.

Mitch W1SJ proposed getting a plaque for past president Bob KB1FRW. Approved for \$100 to \$150.

Bob B. agreed to bring snacks to the next meeting.

Presentation

Tim, the CEO of DX Engineering, gave a presentation on antennas.



NEWS & VIEWS

INSIDE

- **NEXT MEETING – November 11th**
“Election Results / Future Activities”
- **Holiday Party**
- **Were Back, “Near Fest”**
- **REPEATER News**
- **RANV Meeting Minutes**
October Meeting

NEXT MEETING

Thursday • November 11TH • 7:00pm
Holy Family Parish Hall
30 Lincoln Street Essex Junction

Meeting Topic
“Election Results”

Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

- Steering Wheel: 3rd Tues 6:30; Ninety-Nine Restaurant, Taft Corners, Williston
- VE Exams every 2nd Friday; Contact AB1DD@arrl.net for information
- Dues due? Pay online at www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html