



# RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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## “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: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:RANVMentor@gmail.com)

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

Online Dues Payment:

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

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## **A CHALLENGING, YET SUCCESSFUL YEAR**

Mitch **W1SJ**

2021 was an interesting year. There is no need to recount the state of the world around us. Instead let's look at how our RANV family rose to the occasion and had a very successful year despite the challenges.

Our first challenge was HAM-CON. There was no way we were going to have a live show, nor would the ARRL sanction such an event. So we took the hamfest totally online. No one had done this type of show like this before. It really was like trying to walk into a pitch-black cave with a weak flashlight. For months we agonized on how to make the tech work as well as how to sell the concept to the masses. The result was tremendous, with an attendance better than what we normally get and a price tag of zero. We presented an all-star line-up of speakers, including the first presentation of the new ARRL CEO David Minster. Ultimately, the best comments came from folks who were just able to hang out, meet friends in the virtual rooms and actually get to do some shopping in the on-line flea market.

Our next big event was Field Day. We already had experience running this event at the height of the pandemic in 2020. And in June, we were at a high vaccination level and no variants, so there was little concern. Instead, our focus was capturing the #1 spot which was wrestled from us in 2020. We did real well, but our GOTA operation was a disaster because the equipment simply did not work the way we wanted. And we won the category by a wide margin anyway. The hard work and attention to detail really does pay off!

We had other activities as we continued to have park activations all summer, starting with our annual trek to North Hero in May to operate the New England QSO Party, and culminating in the 3-park activation in the Groton State Forest in the Fall.

As the pandemic wore down, we were to first club to start live meetings back up, in July. It was certainly challenging, as many locations refused to open for us. But we moved on

to hold hybrid meetings where attendees could choose to meet live or on-line.

Our final and most difficult challenge had nothing to do with the world around us. After nearly 12 years in office, president-for-life Bob KB1FRW insisted on moving on and us other officers all had the same idea. Volunteers to take their place were non-existent. A lot of challenging meetings were held where we had to consider what to do if no one could be found. But we kept grinding it out, and finally came up with a slate of officers who are very capable and will be moving RANV through the next few years.

Despite the condition of the world around us, we have some major challenges to overcome. Locally, our issue is how to engage our entire membership of nearly 100 members, so that there is more activity by everyone. The more global issue is how to address the aging of ham radio and lack of new hams. With an average age of 65-70, ham radio needs to do something to attract younger generations. No one is sure how to do this, nor do we necessarily feel that changing ham radio into something completely different is what we want. This is everyone's problem, not just RANV's, but as one of the largest clubs in New England, we will certainly get to play a major role in where we go next.

The Holiday Party is this Saturday. Be sure to attend and celebrate the season and the success we have in our ham radio community!

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## **FIELD DAY 2021 – WE KICKED BUTT!**

Mitch **W1SJ**

The Field Day results are in: we kicked absolute butt. In our 2A category, we scored 15,900 points which way bested runner up K5CM in Oklahoma by 2790 points. That feels good after they nipped us last year, depriving us of a 3-peat.

Overall, we were #5 in all Field Day groups (5979 total) and the ones with a higher score all were operating with more transmitters (3A, 4A, 4F, 9A). We were #4 overall in QSO's with 4945 QSO's. Keep in mind that we pulled this off with our GOTA station barely limping along due to tech problems. If we had that up to snuff, we would have broken us all time point total record of 16,320 points and easily went over 5,000 QSO's. Wow.

I'll offer a bit of commentary. QST absolutely bombed in their write up for Field Day. They did NOT show the actual Field Day totals or call signs. Instead, they wasted pages upon pages of "club aggregate scores", a pretty meaningless number. Aggregate means that anyone can dump in scores into a particular club. While main contests have specific distance rules for this, anyone from anywhere can add to Field Day aggregates, including remote operations, making it a pretty useless exercise. So instead of giving credit to the groups who

go the extra mile to exude excellence, they just reward those who can get pals to submit scores. Fortunately, the digital results on line tell the story at field- day.arrl.org

We don't need no stinkin' write up to know what we accomplished. Tremendous result everyone!! Take a bow and be proud that you contributed to one of the best in the business.

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## **RANV Meeting Minutes November 11th, 2021**

### **Regular Meeting**

Duane Sherwood, Outgoing Secretary

There were about 15 in attendance, 10 in person and 9 via Zoom. Stew Corey, President, and Duane Sherwood, Outgoing Secretary were the officers in attendance.

Stew called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. We went around the room introducing ourselves and describing recent HAM radio activity.

### **Official Business**

Annual election of officers took place. Forty-one ballots were received in the mail and one was brought to the meeting in person. There were forty-two votes for each of the new officers: Stew Corey, President; George May, Vice President/Treasurer; Bob Henneberger, Secretary. Ninety ballots were mailed out. One was returned due to incorrect address. Forty-two ballots is a participation rate of 47% for an uncontested election. One ballot included a note: "Thanks to everyone for your great work! DE N2CPP."

### **Announcements**

The Christmas Party will be on December 11th at Holy Family Parish Hall in Essex Junction. Meetings in January and February will be held only via Zoom due to the possibility of bad weather.

### **Presentation**

Andrew Gilbertson, KC1PRO, gave a presentation of First-Person Video (FPV) drones. With FPV, the operator flies the drone via radio control and sees a video from the drone's camera rather than observing from the ground. This hobby led him to get his HAM license because the frequencies involved are in the amateur bands. He covered equipment and regulations. He set up a drone simulator so people could try operating the controls. He flew a small drone inside the hall and allowed members to see the video feed with a spare set of video goggles.



## NEWS & VIEWS

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November Meeting

### NEXT MEETING

Saturday • December 11<sup>TH</sup> • 12:00

Holiday Party  
Holy Family Parish Hall  
30 Lincoln Street Essex Junction

### Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

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