RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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COMING UP IN RANV

Mitch W1SJ

We are entering the Fall and Winter season at RANV which is always busy time. Coming up next month is the RANV Holiday Party, which will be held this year on a Sunday, December 20, starting at noon. We hope that many of you join with us at this gala event. Specific details and food signups will appear in early December,

December is also renewal month. Throughout the month we will be asking everyone to renew their RANV membership for 2027. Renewal rates will remain $15 for a regular membership and $20 for a family membership. We will again extend the special $5 admission to HAM-CON for RANV members. Simple renew with $20 for regular membership or $25 for family membership and you get full HAM-CON early access, a $14 value! This offer is good only for new and renewing RANV members and will expire December 31. After that the normal HAM-CON advanced sale prices will be in effect.

Planning for HAM-CON 2027 has commenced. We have just been approved as an ARRL Convention. The date will be Saturday, February 27 and the

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Holy Family Parrish Hall
30 Lincoln Street
Essex Junction, Vt

Repeater: 145.150, PL 100; WB1GQR

New Hams, Mentoring:
RANVMentor@gmail.com

event will be held at the Hampton Inn. At this time, we are looking for proposals for forums, demonstrations and activities. A "Contest University" event was proposed, but sadly did not gain traction. Some other ideas have been discussed, but nothing is set yet. To be successful, we need to hear from both potential presenters and also attendees on what topics and speakers will be desired. Success at HAM-CON is getting an exciting program in place so that many attendees will show up. Help do your part! Get involved with HAM-CON planning.

Looking forward, we are always looking for what activities RANV should be engaged in. This is important because turnout at activities has not been spectacular. It is time to change things up. What direction should the club be going in? Get on the Reflector and share your views!

Look forward to seeing you all at the Party!

IMMEDIATE BULLETIN: FIELD DAY – WE WON IT AGAIN!!

Mitch W1SJ

Just before the start of the ARRL CW Sweepstakes, I got a call from AA1SU who just received his December QST with the news that RANV has again prevailed in the 2A Field Day category in the 2026 event. This makes it SIX in a row! Paul gets his magazine a bit earlier as he is Section Manager. The official public results have not been posted – maybe in a day or two. The score differential was fairly large – we were at 21 thousand points and the second-place group was at 15 thousand. When the results are published, we'll review all the sundry details for next month.

And you know what this means: Let them have cake! Chocolate cake for everyone at the Holiday Party!

IT'S CONTEST SEASON

Mitch W1SJ

For the next two months, virtually every weekend has a contest going on. Will you be active?

November means Sweepstakes! The CW version took place this past weekend, while the phone version is a week ahead on November 21. Sweepstakes is the granddaddy of all the contests, dating back to 1933. The contest report is a simulated piece of message traffic, which includes a serial number, category, callsign, year licensed and ARRL section. That is FIVE pieces of information which must be sent and copied correctly by both stations for QSO credit to be earned. Is it difficult? Yes, it can be if signals are not up to snuff. With solar propagation fading, signals will be weaker, especially on the higher frequency bands. And if you run low power or use a poor performing antenna, this gets even more difficult. But if you can successfully navigate Sweepstakes, you can do anything on the air.

Right after Sweepstakes is Thanksgiving, and after you have consumed all the turkey, the CQ Worldwide CW Contest takes place starting Friday, November 27 and running through Sunday. This is for the serious CW operators! DX stations pound brass at some incredible speeds. If conditions are good, one can keep a good rate up, if you can copy at those high speeds. If you stay high in the band and pick around the edges of the pileups, you can get by with slower speeds and have a little fun.

A week later, starting Friday, December 4 is the ARRL 160 Meter Contest, which is also a CW only event. As solar propagation drops, conditions on the top band start to get better. How will it be this year? Pop on the band and find out!

And a week after that, on December 11-13 is the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. This is a phone and CW event, so you get to pick your poison. How will 10 meters be this year? We don't know. We could have some really great openings during the day, or things could be flat much of the time. 10 meters is known for being dead one minute and fully involved the

next. You will have to be on during much of the contest to see how it plays out. The nicest thing about 10 meters is that small antennas can work out quite well.

And just in case you didn't have enough of 160-meter CW activity, the Stew Perry Top Band Distance Contest is a one-day event on Saturday, December 26. In this event you get extra points for working far away and low power stations, making it a different feel than the ARRL contest a few weeks earlier.

What will 2027 bring? The first five weeks have the RTTY Roundup, two North American QSO Parties, CQ Worldwide 160 Meter and the BIG ONE: The Vermont QSO Party! Stay tuned next month for all the details**.**

ARRL SWEEPSTAKES SSB

by Paul AA1SU

The Phone version ARRL Sweepstakes is next weekend. It starts at 4PM on Saturday, November 21, and ends at 10 PM on Sunday, November 22. That's 30 hours of Ham Radio fun! However, all stations are only allowed to work 24 of those 30 hours. This will be a great way to work on your WAS 250 Award that is being offered by the League for working all 50 states this calendar year.

The available bands are 160 thru 10 Meters (no WARC Bands) in the Phone portion of the band. Multipliers are all 85 ARRL Sections. You probably remember the term 'Sections' from Field Day. If you manage to work them all, that's called a CLEAN SWEEP.

Here is the exchange:
His Call, Sequential Serial Number of the contact, Precedence, Your Call Sign, Check, ARRL Section.

This is an explanation of the terms:
Sequential Serial Number: Start with the number one, and work your way up from there.

Precedence:
"Q" for Single Operator, QRP
"A" for Single Operator, Low Power
"B" for Single Operator, High Power
"U" for Single Operator, any power, using Spotting Assistance (DX Cluster)
"M" for Multi-operator
"S" for School Club

Check: The last two digits of the year you were first licensed. ARRL Section: VT, NH, NNY, etc.

This is a typical contest contact:
CQing Station: CQ Sweepstakes from W9JJ
Answering Station: W1AW
CQer: W1AW 67 A W9JJ 79 CT
Answer: 32 M W1AW 31 CT
CQer: Thanks, CQ Sweepstakes from W9JJ

Your call sign must be included in the exchange transmitted to the other station.

As the answering station, it is not necessary to send the CQing station's call before the exchange unless you think there might be some confusion about which station you are responding to. Each station may be contacted only once, regardless of band.

Logs must be submitted within 7 days of the end of the contest.

Complete rules can be found here:
http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes/
From there, you will find a link to the ARRL Section List, as well as other valuable information.
I hope to hear you putting Vermont on the air, even if you can only Search & Pounce. Vermont is still a rare state.

Chittenden County region 2m FM simplex net

Zach K1ZK:

QST: The November edition of the Chittenden County region 2m FM simplex net will be on **Thursday, November 19 at 8pm on 146.55 MHz.** As always, all amateur radio stations are welcome; you don't need to be in Chittenden County. Mark your calendar today and we'll see you on 2m FM!

Minutes October RANV Meeting

Jeff N1YD

Cell Phones in Amateur Radio -- The October Meeting

In the business part of the meeting, we tried to do nominations for the November elections. George May was nominated for Vice President and for Treasurer. Jeff Bonn was nominated for Secretary. We sort of nominated Stu for club president, but it seems that he will not be available.

We agreed that DV Voice would be a good topic for the November meeting, and that Bob Henneberger will bring snacks.

The Holiday Party will be Sunday December 20th. It starts around noon so you won't have to drive in the dark.

Based on the idea that "Hams just want to talk on their phones", each member presented their favorite radio related cell phone apps. K1BIF mounted a camera to easily show a phone on the room's big screen, and to everyone joining by Zoom.
Bob K1BIF showed us:

DXWatch.com, a tool for spotting others or yourself.

Google Translate, which translates speech to text, or speech to speech. You can hear a foreign language in English.

onX Hunt, an app for hunters which provides improved hiking maps.
Ron KK1L showed us:

POTACAT, which "Puts every POTA, SOTA and DX spot on one screen, tunes your rig with a click, and puts your whole station on your phone."

SOTAMAT, an app to self spot and send messages using HF.
Through Zoom, Logan Kc1SFJ showed us:

QFT8 which converts audio to FT8 Information.

hamstudy.org a web site to study for the Technician, General, or Extra class tests, among other subjects.

RepeaterBook, an app to find repeaters across the world.

HamAlert, an app to give notifications when a desired amateur radio station appears on air.

QRZ Log Book, an app for logging.
Mitch W1SJ showed us:

RadioLand, an app to show nearby AM, FM, and weather stations.

EchoLink, an app to access EchoLink from your phone. Blair K1BKW showed us:

MAPS.ME, an app to download maps for offline usage.

Emergency, an app to get alerts.

First Aid, an app from the American Red Cross.

Spot X, an app to access a satellite phone using Bluetooth.

Jeff N1YD showed us:

Dual Clock, an app to show local time and UTC.

Hey Sunrise, an app to show sunrise and sunset times for any location.

Tone Generator, an app to generate sounds.

Serial USB Terminal, an app to operate serial devices through the phone's USB port.

Compass, an app to show direction using the phone's internal compass.

Samsung Smart Switch, an app to fully back up an Android phone to a USB stick or to the cloud.

Architecture of Radio, an app to show satellites and nearby transmitters using a database.

NFC Tools, an app to read and write cards using the phone's Near Field Communication radio.
I don't remember who showed us:

Grid Square Locator, an app to show your grid square with great precision.

From all these apps, it looked like POTACAT, SOTAMAT, and RepeaterBook stirred up the most interest. Thanks to all who participated!

RANV
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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday November 10th
Holy Family Parish Hall
30 Lincoln St, Essex Junction, VT 05452

Meeting Topic
Digital Voice

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