



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

The Official Journal of the Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont

December • 2012

An ARRL Special Service Club

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ELECTIONS

“NEW OFFICERS”

JEFF N1YD, RANV SECRETARY

NEWLY ELECTED CLUB OFFICERS ARE:

- Bob Allen *KB1FRW* was reelected as President.
- Jim Hefferon *KE1AZ* was elected as Vice-president and Treasurer.
- Kathi Walbridge *K1WAL* is our new Secretary.

Congratulations to all!



LOOSE ENDS

ONCE AGAIN, THE NEW YEAR IS UPON US, and once again it will open with a bang! Mark your calendars now and watch for further details in upcoming newsletters.

- **Annual Ham Breakfast**—Details yet to be announced, but this highly enjoyable event typically is held the last Saturday in January. In 2013 that will be January 26. Location is typically in Chittenden County so it can be a haul for some. Nonetheless, folks come in from New York, southern Vermont and elsewhere. Plan on it!
- Next up: **HAM-CON 2013**. No details yet, just mark it for February 23, again, the last Saturday.
- There is *one* detail to pass along: There will be another **RANV Members' Flea Table**, so start casting your eyes around your shack for items you no longer need, use, or want. They could be just the treasure someone else is looking for. And make a list of what you might be looking for as well. Items all to be in good repair, useable as is, or in need of minor repairs only. Again, more details to come.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

JEFF N1YD, OUT-GOING SECRETARY

NOVEMBER MEETING

Business:

- Bob announced the scores from Field Day. We took second place nationwide. We had more QSO's than the first place team, but they had more on CW. The scoring, of course, is one point for each Single Side Band contact, and five points for each CW contact.
- Bob Brown, *W4YFJ* won an Elecraft KX3 at Near-Fest. I just checked the Elecraft web site, it is a 10 watt transceiver that does 160–6 meters and all modes.

- We voted to spend up to \$150 for snacks at next month's Holiday party, which will as usual be held at Mitch Stern's house in Essex.
- Cheryl, *KB1VJD* will bring snacks to the January meeting.
- Election results: *see elsewhere*

Presentation:

John Cohn, formerly WN5IAU

John Cohn is an IBM Fellow. He is well known for intriguing and dramatic scientific demonstrations.

Continued

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 11

“HOLIDAY PARTY”

JHE 2012 RANV HOLIDAY PARTY will be Tuesday, December 11th at the QTH of *W1SJ* in Essex. Arrive at any time, AFTER 5:30, but no food guarantees are made if you show up very late! If you need directions, contact Mitch at *w1sj@arrl.net* BEFORE Tuesday night.

This is a food-fest, first and foremost and we have a whole assortment of stuff planned, plus whatever everyone brings. See below for more information on this.

This ain't much of a party unless y'all come. So clear your calendar and blow off all those other boring parties on the same night (I'm already doing this). And make sure you bring family and friends—this is a family event after all.

It is key that you let Mitch know how many are coming. If you haven't already, please let him know the number of attendees who are likely “definite” and the number of attendees who are likely “maybe.” This information is needed right away so that the proper amount of food can be ordered. If you don't say anything, there will be no food for you!

If you plan on bringing something, let Mitch know that, too. If it's a main dish, you should come around 5:30. If you plan to arrive later, bring a dessert item. Misc. suggestions: soda, cider, pies, cookies, cheeses, dips.

The best way to pass all the above information along is by using the RANV Holiday Party form, found at: www.ranv.org/partys.html.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the Party!



VE Exams

Every 2nd Friday
6:30–8:00^{PM}

29 Mansfield Ave. • Burlington

Tech, General, Extra class licenses. Bring 2 forms of identification, copies of existing license and CSCE (if applicable), pens and pencils, and the exam fee (\$15—exact amount only please).

Directions:
barcvt.net/directionsarc.html
CARL ABIDD@arrl.net

Secretary cont.

For instance, you might have seen his flamethrower at the Maker Faire. In fact, he helped to organize the Maker Faire. John is active in "Vermont's Own MIT Club", also known as VOMIT.

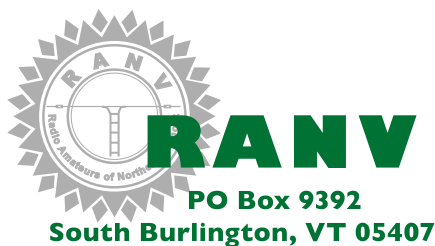
His mission is to make engineering interesting and appealing, especially to those who are choosing careers. As his advisor said, "An engineer is a scientist with a job." In recent years, somehow social attitudes have improved, and now it is becoming somewhat cool to be a nerd. He showed us an Arduino processor, which sells for \$19 and has an enormous amount of open source software available for it. Another nice sign of progress is web sites like instructables.com, where people show each other how to make remarkable things.

John also told us about taking part in a reality TV show called "The Colony." Without really knowing what they were getting into, he and a team of assorted people were put into an abandoned warehouse and made to deal with all kinds of survival problems. They had to live as if it were the aftermath of an apocalyptic disaster. As a highly educated inventor, it was "just like Gilligan's Island," with John as the professor.

Over about 60 days, John and the team ate rats and pigeons, purified water from a polluted river in downtown Los Angeles, built a flamethrower to fight off attackers,

scrounged electronics and solar panels from a nearby building, and gasified wood to run an engine. He also built a crystal radio and a spark gap transmitter. Despite sending out calls for help (he still remembers Morse Code after many years), no one came to rescue them.

After his initial presentation, John demoed a Tesla coil he'd brought along. Unlike most others, this one had a way to modulate the strength of the spark. Instead of the usual loud buzz, it played the theme from Jeopardy and a few other tunes.



INSIDE

- New Officers
- Secretary: November
- Holiday Party

Upcoming, Notices, & Other Misc

- RANV: February Meeting—2/12/13
- 2012 SET—Sat., 12/8/12, 9–12
- Ham Breakfast: 1/26/13
- HAMCON: 2/23/13
- Steering Wheel: 3rd Tues, 6:30-8:30
Ninety-Nine Restaurant, Taft Corners
- Dues due? Pay online at www.ranv.org/granvpay.html
- VT Ham Radio Calendar www.vthrc.net

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NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY • DECEMBER 11 • 7:00^{PM}

QTH of W1SJ
Essex Junction

"Holiday Party"

www.RANV.org