



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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An ARRL Special Service Club

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NEXT MEETING – HEARING LOSS IN HAMS MARCH 13TH 7 PM

For our March meeting, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Julie Stefanski, a licensed audiologist who works at the UVM Medical Center. She will talk about hearing loss, how it is measured, how to protect one's hearing and problems with hearing as we get older. As ham operators, we rely on our hearing an awful lot, so this information is pretty important to us. Join us at our March meeting and help protect your hearing!

HAM-CON 2018 – ANOTHER GREAT SHOW!

Mitch W1SJ

HAM-CON 2018 was another great show! That's what attendees have been telling me and other RANV members.

As usual, it was quite a struggle to put the show together, something which has become all too commonplace. I had to go through a whole mess of people until I found a mix of forum speakers willing to commit to the show. We lost use of the hydraulic lift for the Yagi, forcing us to make other plans. And it was hard just getting enough volunteers to run the show.

Added to these problems was everyone getting sick. Even I wasn't immune to this problem and I took an extra hour to feel well enough to do anything. When I got to the show after it opened, the vendor room was a madhouse – all the tables were full of all sorts of neat stuff and the room was packed. This was a far cry from last year when it was rather sedate in there. But then I was worried that no one would be going to the forums. Not true – there plenty of people in the forum rooms as well. It was quite tough being an attendee and deciding between the two forum rooms or the vendor room to be in. The forums offered up all sorts of neat topics like antennas,

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Meetings: 2nd Tuesday • 7:00 PM
Wheeler House
1100 Dorset Street
South Burlington

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

baluns, FT8, public service, legal issues, ARRL and whether Marconi really did get across the Atlantic in 1901.

I was real excited to see a packed room for the FT8 forum. The excitement quickly turned to apprehension as I asked myself, "I'm a phone operator, what the heck am I doing here running this forum?" But everyone was really interested in this new mode and was quite excited when I quickly produced an FT8 QSO. Over at the Marconi forum, at the end of the presentation I asked Jeff if he would be able to pan the camera on the antenna farm at VY2ZM. He did, and it was answered with a chorus of OOOHS and AAAHS!



Lots of activity in the Vendor Room at HamCon



*John **VE2EQL** leads a well-attended presentation on baluns*

Over in the Activities room, W1V banged out 100 QSO's with a high dipole replacing the beam. Mike **N1FBZ** had a good number of customers checking out radios at the Tech table. At various times throughout the morning Jeff **N1YD** demonstrated Spice Modeling and Chad **KC1CZA** demonstrated the DMR digital voice mode.



*Mike **N1FBZ** works the Tech Table*

At the closing, a sizeable number of folks who stuck around won door prizes of various sizes and shapes. The VE session picked up 2 new hams and 2 upgraded generals. And the Repeater Coordinator's meeting reaffirmed that coordination of Vermont Repeaters will remain in Vermont.



*Bob **KB1FRW** busy working the pileup for W1V*

HAM-CON Staff:

AB1DD	Carl	Early show mgr, Forums mgr, Ant Setup,
VEK1EEX	Norm	RANV Vendor Table
K1LOL	Jason	VE
KB1FRW	Bob	W1V Station mgr, Ant setup
KB1LOT	Jim	Ant Setup
KB1MDC	Alan	Early show sales, Ant setup
KB1PDW	Spence	Early show sales
KB1THX	Tim	Room Setup
KB1VJD	Cheryl	Front Door Ticket Sales
KB1WXM	Bob	Photographer, Ant Setup
KC1APK	David	VE
KC1CZA	Chad	Digital Voice Demo
KK1L	Ron	Electronic Forums Tech Mgr
N1FBZ	Mike	Tech Table
N1PEA	Ed	VE
N1RCX	Eric	VE
N1YD	Jeff	Door Prizes, Science Demo
W1DEB	Debbie	Front Door Ticket Sales
W1SJ	Mitch	General Chairman
W4YFJ	Bob	RANV Table, Ant Setup
WL7CVD	Duane	RANV Vendor Table

VERMONT QSO PARTY 2018 – FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Mitch W1SJ

The 60th annual Vermont QSO Party is history, and as you read this, the logs are all in and the log checking process has commenced. Conditions were somewhat strange, but much better than anyone expected. On 20 meters, we had short skip much of the time on both days, resulting in S9+ signals from MD and VA, where we would normally not hear those areas at all. Bob **W4YFJ** was amazed that he was able to produce 80+ QSO's in an hour using only a dipole for an antenna. And for much of the afternoon, the big Vermont horses **W1NVT**, **K1VMT**, **KB1FRW**, **AA1SU** and **W4YFJ** held court on 20 meters while **W1JXN** was collecting QSO's on virtually every other band and mode, including 10 meters. A few stations produced some logs with FT8 contacts, a new direction in our contest. The DX activity was there on 20 meters in the mornings, but you had to have a good antenna to work a lot of them, as they were quite weak. At night, both 40 and 80 meters were in excellent shape and produced many contacts throughout the early evening.

We received 21 Vermont logs and 112 outside Vermont logs, up from 18 and 107 logs last year. The outside Vermont logs had somewhat fewer QSO's than last year's wild results, but many were quite competitive. It remains to be seen who will be winning what this year!

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Duane WL7CVD

The sign-in sheet showed eight in attendance (some may have missed it).

Bob **KB1FRW** called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Club Property, Storage, and Purchase of a Trailer

Bob **KB1FRW** sent an email showing a trailer available on Craigslist that appeared to be a good price. Very shortly after the email was sent, the listing on Craigslist had been pulled. Bob indicated that our current storage resources may soon become unavailable, and this is a serious problem for the club.

A new trailer might run \$3,000. The club had previously authorized spending \$2,000. And there is the question of where to park this trailer full of equipment. The length of the trailer at the nose must be 16 feet. A trailer is vital to support our extensive Field Day operation. Used trailers at a good price are rare, and likely will need repairs.

Club equipment is currently stored at three locations. The discussion lasted about forty minutes. This is an important issue that the entire club will have to think about.

Snacks

Paul **AA1SU** volunteered to bring snacks to the March meeting.

Section Manager Candidate

Paul **AA1SU** announced his candidacy for reelection as Section Manager and provided a petition for ARRL members to sign, if they so desired.

Worked All Zones Award

Paul **AA1SU** shared that he received this award in several categories. Congratulations.

Ham Con

Date: February 24th. Ham Con was discussed briefly. There is still need for more door prizes.

Near Fest

General reminder that Near Fest will be held May 4 & 5, 2018 in Deerfield, New Hampshire.

Program

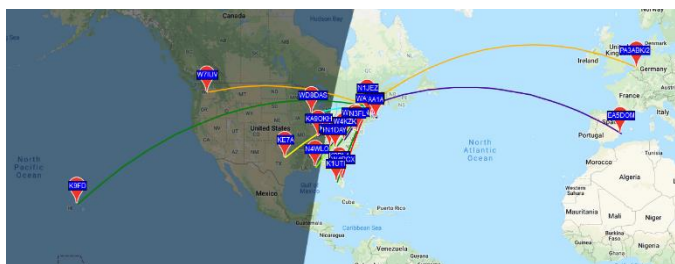
Duane **WL7CVD** presented a general review of the Amateur Radio regulations, 47CFR Part 97. Mitch **W1SJ** discussed experiences on how regulations can be (or have been) violated (we're not saying by whom), and how those violations were addressed, including at least one instance where jail time was involved. (Note: Duane posted his PowerPoint slides and some other files on his website:

<http://heartmindway.net/RANV/>

MORE FUN WITH 630 METERS

Mike N1JEZ

Here is a map from WSPRNet of signals copied on 630M from home in the New North End of Burlington.

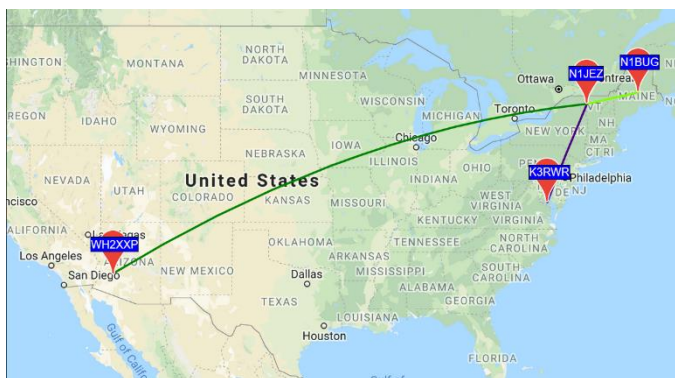


I'm using an antenna called a MiniWhip which is an E-Field Probe antenna. Attached is a picture of the entire antenna. There is a bias tee that feeds the amplifier in the antenna.



I have it setup outside my house up about 10'.

Very interesting antenna. It works at 2200M as well. Map of typical 2200M receive attached as well. Not anywhere near as much activity there yet.



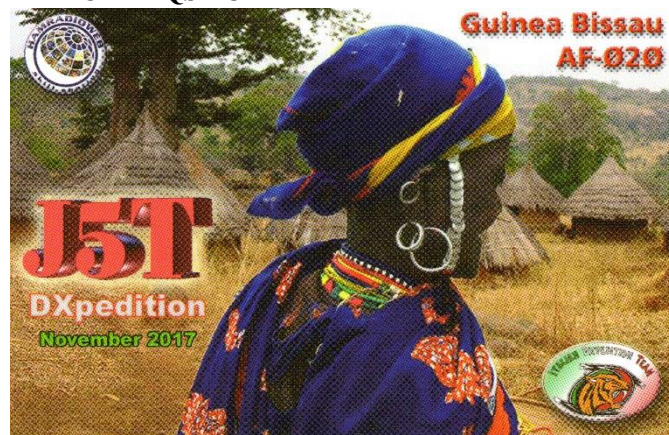
If you like to hear LSB on 478.8 here is NO3M and WA3ETD in a qso as I heard them from home.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ObtQtth8MTj5DsyoI4HvyZLI4d1Os7zZO/view?usp=sharing>

CONGRATULATIONS - New Licensees and Upgrades

KD2LMR	David Ramos (Salem, NY)	EXTRA
KC1JCP	Alexandra Schacher (Bristol)	TECHNICIAN
KC1JCQ	Scott Wallett (Florence)	TECHNICIAN

FEATURED QSL CARD



Dave **KCIAPK**'s confirmed contact with the J5T expedition on 40 meters LSB on 11/26/17 100 watts and a modest dipole.

REMEMBER - RANV GROUP HAS A NEW HOME

Here are the important addresses you need. Feel free to ask me directly if you have any questions, AB1DD@ARRL.NET.

Post: RANV@groups.io
Subscribe: RANV+subscribe@groups.io
Unsubscribe: RANV+unsubscribe@groups.io
Group Owner: RANV+owner@groups.io

EDITOR NOTES

Dave **KCIAPK**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

This is your club newsletter. Feel free to submit articles! Items of interest can be short, long, technical, anecdotal, etc. Share your experiences and stories!

NEWS & VIEWS VIA YOUR INBOX

Did you know that 25 of our members have signed up for electronic delivery of the newsletter?

To enroll, just send me an email at davidblin@aol.com. You'll get fast delivery, the club saves a dollar each month, AND the pictures look GREAT in color!

Thank you to Bob Brown **W4YFJ** for assisting with the monthly mailing!



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NEXT MEETING HEARING LOSS IN HAMS

Presented by Dr. Julie Stefanski from UVMMC

Tuesday • March 13th • 7 pm

Wheeler House, 1100 Dorset Street
South Burlington, VT

Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

- Steering Wheel: 3rd Tues 6:30; Ninety-Nine Restaurant, Taft Corners, Williston
- VE Exams every 2nd Friday; Red Cross Building 29 Mansfield Ave, Burlington
- Dues due? Pay online at www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html