



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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THE PREZ SEZ and FARMS ON THE AIR Mitch **W1SJ**

For our first meeting of 2022, President Stew KC1IFK will present to the club his background and his vision for RANV in the future. This is the perfect opportunity to learn what we will be up to and to ask questions. Stew is pretty good at presentations, so it will be an entertaining time.

Part 2 is the Farms On The Air program, introduced by Bob K1BIF. An article in this issue will detail how the program works.

We will also have discussion on the upcoming Vermont QSO Party on February 5-6 and HAM-CON on February 26. Things will be a bit different at the show this year, so be sure to attend the meeting and ask questions. Perhaps we may even know some of the answers!

There is no live meeting in January, so don't go to the parish hall! Remember this is Thursday night we'll be meeting. We will be on Zoom, same meeting address as always. This information will be E-mailed to the membership before the meeting and will appear on the web site just before the meeting. Let's strive to get a real good turnout this time. As there is no need to go outside in the -10-degree WX we have right now, attending the meeting should be easy. If you have any Zoom issues, contact one of the officers and we'll lend encouragement.

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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

WINVT DXCC

Mitch **W1SJ**

I'm on the Logbook of the World site often as I track my award status. I decided to check in on what we have for WINVT. This callsign is used during Field Day and for the Vermont QSO Party.

We qualify for DXCC: phone and mixed. We also qualify for VUCC with 129 grids confirmed on 6 meters.

We qualify for Worked All States: CW, phone and mixed. We are only 6 shy to qualify for 5 Band WAS, needing AK, DE, MD, NH, RI on 10 meters and AK on 80 meters. And we are only 3 shy to qualify for Triple Play (WAS on CW, phone digital), needing AK, HI and RI on digital.

I also checked W1PU and we qualify for WAS with that callsign as well. Great work by the GOTA operators!

Should we obtain the awards? Using LOTW credits is expensive - \$.12 per credit used, meaning that a simple WAS certificate will run around \$15-20. If we eventually go for the 5BWAS plaque, that will be around \$90. The next question would be where we would actually hang such an award. Perhaps on the walls of the Field Day tent? It may be that the bragging rights are all we need to go with!

Mitch **W1SJ**

I spent last weekend doing something pretty ridiculous, operating the RTTY Roundup. I was quasi-serious, taking the first and last hour off and not staying up late or getting up early. This contest has a very strange rule which requires you to take 2-time offs, whether you want to or not. So, I found myself taking time off Sunday morning to have a leisurely breakfast - because I had to.

RTTY is a very old mode - 100 years old this year. In terms of old modes, there is spark, CW, AM and then RTTY. SSB would come later, and all most other digital modes came much later. It was developed as a way to send information directly to an electric typewriter (teleprinter) thus eliminating the need for a telegraph operator at both ends. It worked well in the day, but it is largely obsolete now. It is set up for sending text, not for high-speed operating, it is not all that great in weak signal situations and it has no error correction. So, when you get interference or fading, you end up with a lot of garbage and not much information. There is no point to use RTTY, unless you want to relive the good old days. And for that experience, you should have a Model 15 teleprinter making a God-awful noise and shaking everything in the shack. Back in the day (i.e. 50 years ago), I had friends who had such setups. I couldn't understand why anyone would do that.

Oh, and one other thing. RTTY operators are the worst - even worse than SSB operators. Now don't get me wrong, this

mode does require a bit of skill in tuning and many of the operators are indeed very good, and as a newbie at this, I am not all that great either. But because this mode is so unforgiving with interference, you really have to understand what you are doing, or you mess everything up. On SSB, when two stations of similar strength call in, I can usually copy both. When this happens on RTTY, you get gobbledygook typically a lot of punctuation marks. And there is no way to deal with it - you have to hope someone stops sending or they offset their sending and then you might copy both call signs. I cannot fathom how DX-peditions deal with RTTY pileups. And, like on phone you have a lot of folks who will keep calling, even when you specifically go back to someone else. But worse, are the guys who feel that they can crawl 300 Hz away from you and not cause grief. This is inconvenient on phone, but will absolutely kill any copy on RTTY. There is a lot of discussion about RTTY filters to deal with this and I've learned that I could have used more aggressive filtering. But, that won't much matter when a loud station gets right on top of you. This seemed to occur every 30 minutes. And then you have a few inconsiderate types who simply spin the dial and call CQ and don't care who they disrupt. This is exasperated by the fact that the digital segment is tiny - only 30 kHz on 80 meters, and little bit wider on the other bands. Now we do slop up and down from that, but if you go too high, you run into DX SSB stations and too low, the CW guys complain. And then you get weird carriers all over the segment from FT8, FT4, and a dozen other digital modes. It's a jungle out there.

I kept hearing the voice of Mr. Spock saying, - This is highly illogical!

While there are many people on RTTY, there are not too many in Vermont. I only saw AA1SU this weekend, which probably explains why I was getting pileups. I've seen K1ZK and K1VMT on the mode at other times. I remember during the W1AW/1 operation, there was so little RTTY operation that people were asking me if RTTY was legal in Vermont!

I ended up with 830 QSO's, and 86 multipliers total. If I operated full time, I could have approached the leaders if I operated the full time. However, that might have caused significant mental damage. Was it any fun? Yes, the runs of over 100 QSOs per hour were nice, but then there were other times I wanted wring a few necks. A fair tradeoff.

Farms On the Air

Bob **K1BIF**

FARMS on the AIR. This proposal is simple. If you're a ham AND a farm owner, get on the air and make contacts as a "Farm on the Air" from your farm, either in your shack or somewhere else remote, on your land. My initial intent is to have an event that is free from excessive rules and doesn't require large amounts of time and money to support it with regulation and web site development/costs. This is more of a

hunter's game, not an activator. If you own a farm, just get on the air and have fun. If you make a contact with a farm, ask for a QSL card; and, of course, also have fun. Be honest about owning a farm. Most farm owners will indicate that status in their QRZ page. If you know a farm owner who is not a ham, talk them into getting their ticket. And, as I have said many times, have fun.

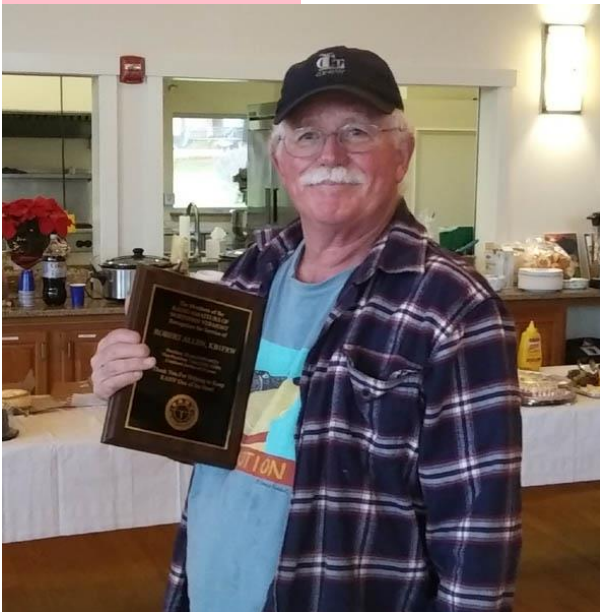
**RANV "RANV Holiday Party"
December 11th, 2021**

"RANV Holiday Party"

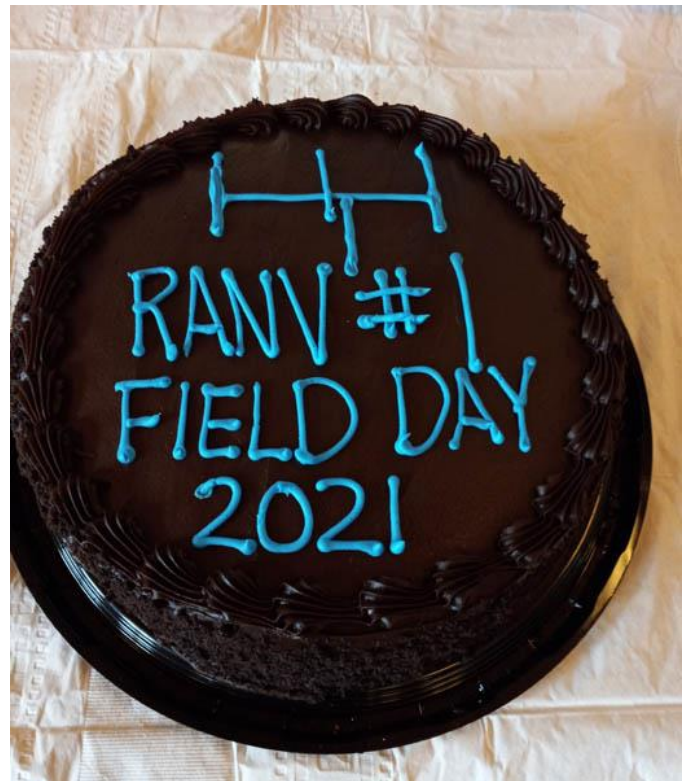
George May KC1JGM

The RANV Holiday party was very well attended and all had an enjoyable afternoon.

Bob KB1FRW honored for 20 years of service with RANV!



Field Day Champions Chocolate Cake!



**The BOB'S!
Bob W4YFJ
Bob K1BIF
Bob KB1FRW**



A real nice spread of eats!



Marsha & George KB1JGM

Linn W1LWH

Jeff N1YD & Barbara



Jim KB1LOT and

Paul AA1SU



Glenn N1WCK and

Carl AB1DD





NEWS & VIEWS

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December Holiday Party

NEXT MEETING

Thursday • January 13TH • 7:00pm
Via Zoom

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