



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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An ARRL Special Service Club

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SOTA

Stewart **KB1IFK**

Stewart will present on his SOTA experiences. Stewart and his son have done a number of Summit on the Air sessions since acquiring his license.

HAM-CON FEBRUARY 26

Mitch **W1SJ**

HAM-CON will be held Saturday, February 26 at the Hampton Inn Convention Center in Colchester, and On-Line at HAM-CON.ORG. This will be a hybrid show, meaning that you can attend in person, or attend on-line. I recommend that you make every effort to try to attend in person. Everyone will tell you that the live experience is always better. Fortunately, the infection spread is down and trending lower, which will make everyone feel a lot less worried. If you are health compromised, you should certainly consider your options with your health provider. Otherwise, if you are healthy, consider attending for a least a short period of time and perhaps watching the rest on-line.

The highlight of HAM-CON is the forum program and we have another knock out show. We have collected speakers both on-line and live to bring you the best in ham radio. For the newer hams we have two great forums for you. Dave Casler KE0OG, author of the "Ask Dave" column in QST will be on hand to answer your questions about ham radio technical issues. Each year, I am asked to provide information on setting up a station. We will have Anthony Luscre K8ZT returning this year to offer, "Setting Up a HF Ham Station". Learn all the tricks of the trade to set up a functional shack.

For the more technical types, we have a couple of forums of interest. Ed Hare W1RFI will talk what's in his call sign: RFI.

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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

Interference to ham radio operations from a plethora of electronic devices bedevils all of us, and is on the rise. Ed will explain how to make sense of all of this and how to deal with it. And our own Mr. Wizard, Jeff Bonn N1YD will give a technical talk on one of his current experimental exploits.

Many of us are interested in contesting, and many of us are also interested in bringing younger people into ham radio. We got both covered as Marty Sullaway NN1C will talk about developing younger contest operators. Marty is around college age and beats up on us older testers, so he really knows his stuff! Along the same lines, the ARRL Forum will feature newly elected Director Fred Kemmerer AB1OC who will be focusing on bringing young people into ham radio. He will detail what his team has been doing since the beginning of the year and plans for the future.

A great show has a great start and a great ending, and we got you covered! ARRL CEO David Minster NA2AA, will start us off with, "2021 Happenings at ARRL and What to Look Forward to in 2022". David addressed HAM-CON last year and it will be interesting to see the changes from that time. And for our ending, we have something completely different! It will not be a technical forum or a "what's new" forum. Instead, it will be a Game Show! We will present, "Who Wants to Be a Ham Radio Millionaire", where a few lucky contestants will answer ham radio trivia questions and vie for a million-dollar (actual award somewhat less due to exchange rates). We won't have Regis hosting, but the next best thing. Be sure to show up and have a real fun time with us!

VERMONT QSO PARTY ANOTHER BLAST

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

The Vermont QSO Party has just finished up, and what a blast. Conditions were roughly the same as last year and there were certainly a lot of people on to work. Last year, 15 and 10 meters were mostly dead until the last couple of hours on Sunday when they went nuts. This year they were open so-so for much of the afternoon. The other bands were pretty good, but short. Europe was a lot harder to work on all bands. Only the big guns got through. I worked around 60 DX stations when I often will work hundreds. And it did seem like the number of stations out West were down, and I noticed they were all fairly weak. I haven't even looked at any logs yet, so my comments are strictly based on first impressions from 3830scores. In the Vermont competition, KK1L and KE1VT went head-to-head, both with scores which will set a new single op record. A lot more stations worked CW this year, and it was evident as more stations answered CQ's on CW. And FT8/4 was the go-to mode when the pileups subsided on SSB. It looks like there were fewer Vermont stations on, but the ones who were on made more contacts. I haven't heard much from the mobile rovers yet. It is always good to hear stories from the road. In the outside Vermont competition, it is shaping up to be a real horse race. There

were a few people who worked me on 4 bands (160-20 meters), both modes. They may have also worked me on FT8, but I haven't analyzed that yet. It is great to see the high level of competition.

I'll start popping open the logs soon and process them after HAM-CON and see how everyone stacks up. I was bored silly in early January and soon it will be the one-armed paper hanger bit for a while. Great job in the event, everyone!

RANV minutes for January 13th 2022

Bob [K1BIF](#)

The meeting began @ 8:04

Present were: Mitch – w1sj, Stew – kc1lfk, Joe – k1vmt, Al – kc1lno, Linn – w1lwh, Bob – w4yfj, John – walteo, Bruce – w1ejc, George – kc1jgm, Mike – kb1nhq, Mark – k1kr, Jeff – n1yd, Jim – kb1lot, Bob – k1bif

First was a roundtable of those present and what they have been doing in the hobby.

A motion was made and seconded for the club to purchase a tennis ball launcher. The motion passed unanimously.

Mitch outlined the upcoming Hamcon. Hamcon will be both in person at the Colchester Hampton Inn and remote through Zoom.

Stew, KC1IFK, our new president introduced himself, and gave a talk about his vision of our club and where we could go in the future.

Bob, K1BIF gave a short talk about "Farms on the Air". Owners of actual farms (in VT, current use land), call CQ from their farm and make as many contact as possible.

Steering Wheel will be a Zoom meeting next Thursday.



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NEXT MEETING

Thursday • February 10TH • 7:00pm
Via Zoom

Meeting Topic: Stewart SOTA

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