



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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Presentation March RANV Meeting

Jason, [KM4ACK](#)

This month we will be having a presentation from Jason, KM4ACK. Jason is an extra class ham that enjoys homebrewing solutions to problems using affordable electronics and programming. He describes himself as just a regular ham that likes to learn stuff and to share. Jason has been on YouTube since 2007 and currently has 17.9k subscribers and a total of 1.8million views.

Jason covers a broad spectrum of topics ranging from programming your Baofeng to compiling a whole suite of programs in Linux for the Raspberry Pi that can be downloaded via a free Github wizard that he designed and programmed himself. He also has videos on JS8call, emergency communication solutions, POTA setups, etc. I encourage everyone to check out his channel on YouTube because I don't do it justice!

This month he will be talking about Linux and Raspberry Pi for ham radio use. I really enjoy his videos because he has a very approachable style and keeps things in layman's terms. I used his programming to convert my shack over to Linux using a Raspberry Pi 4. There is definitely a learning curve, but he hosts and participates in forums and facebook groups that are very helpful to gain further knowledge from him and the community that he has started.

I think this will be a very interesting topic and will provide an alternate solution to hams that are on a budget but want to have a modern computing solution for their shack. Join us on the 10th either in person at the Holy Family Parish Hall or via Zoom to learn more!

73,
Stew Corey
KC1IFK.

CONTACTS

Stewart **KB1IFK**, President
stwbll2@gmail.com

George **KC1JGM**, VP/Treasurer
gmayvt1@gmail.com

Bob **K1BIF**, Secretary
bhennebe@gmail.com

George **KC1JGM**, Editor
gmayvt1@gmail.com

Newsletter submissions to
gmayvt1@gmail.com

US Mail: PO Box 9392
South Burlington, VT
05407

Web: www.RANV.org

Reflector: RANV@groups.io

Meetings: 2nd Thursday • 7:00 PM
Holy Family Parrish Hall
30 Lincoln Street
Essex Junction, Vt

Repeater: 145.150, PL 100; WB1GQR

the DMR table and W1V was harder to use and suffered from some technical issues.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous work done by our tiny staff:

- Carl AB1DD supervised the flea market and timing of the forums

- George KC1JGM took care of admissions

- Bob K1BIF helped run and record the on-line events from home

- Ron KK1L ran tech for Room 2

- I ran tech for Room 1, took care of the web site and a bunch of other stuff I don't remember.

We were helped by Mark K1KR at the RANV Flea Market Table and Alan KB1MDC and Jim KB1LOT helped with traffic flow.

Our plan is to make the hybrid show a regular feature of HAM-CON. We have a lot of folks who cannot easily travel, or don't want to travel in the winter, or don't want to travel that far from home. And we have people from far away who would like to join in as well. The on-line forum presentations were very good, but we need to work on making the other parts of the show equally as accessible. We are looking to improve on the hybrid hamfest model which hardly anyone else even tries to pull off.

There is a non-technical thing which concerns me. Why is it that we only can draw around 30 out of 90 RANV members to the largest Vermont ham radio event of the year? I saw the same thing last year. Meeting attendance, both live and on-line is also quite lackluster. With around 1000 licensed hams in our area, there really should be no shortage of interested people. Why is participation so slack? Should we be doing something different?

Everyone did a tremendous job as we pulled off a rather complicated technical show. Hopefully, good comments about it will spread and we might pull in more people next time. It was great to get everyone back together after a year layoff and I'm looking forward to seeing you back at HAM-CON next February 25, 2023.

LOOKING AHEAD TO HAM ACTIVITIES

Mitch **W1SJ**

With all the silly restrictions going by the wayside, and hopefully staying that way, many of our regular ham radio activities are coming back. Here is a short list of what to expect.

HAM-CON 2022

A Live and Remote Show Wrapped Up into One Event!

Mitch **W1SJ**

Another HAM-CON has come and gone, but this one was absolutely the most challenging we have ever put on. With COVID hitting a peak in January, many of our attendees did not want to gather. Canceling the show was simply not a good idea. Not only would we lose the venue deposit, but missing the event for two years will certainly put the show in jeopardy for the future. The solution was to do a hybrid show, whereby attendees could either attend live or on-line. At the same time, we hoped to again pick up some of the distant attendees we had in last year's on-line show. For our live attendees, various protocols, like wider spacing of tables and chairs and forgoing activities which would cause clustering, were put into place.

If COVID wasn't enough to deal with, we also had a snowstorm the day before which certainly chased away our distant travelers and also chased away some of our local attendees who give priority to playing in the snow instead of festering. Oh, and we also had World War III start up a few days before, which did not affect our attendance, but certainly has and will continue to affect us all.

Running a hybrid show is easier said than done. Putting together the tech to pull this off is not trivial. We had to deal with both audio and video for 8 presenters, both live and remote, and deal with attendees, both live and remote. We presented both on Zoom and on YouTube. A plethora of computers, microphones, cameras, projectors and sound systems were put into service. In the past, I have witnessed on-line shows which resembled a train wreck. I wouldn't say that I was nervous, but I was quite concerned. However, with the exception of a few hiccups in the early events, the forums ran quite well.

The virus and snowstorm resulted in a smaller show, which was expected. Total attendance was down 35%. However, we still had a great show nonetheless and managed to pay all the bills. The number of people at the forums was similar to past years, in fact, slightly better than our last live 4 live shows. Half the attendance was live and half was on-line. The flea market was hopping first thing in the morning, but fell off quickly with the smaller live attendance. The Tech and DMR tables were busy all morning. Despite the hybrid format, we managed to give away 21 door prizes, both on-line and live.

While On-Line access to the forums was excellent, the same cannot be said for the flea market and activity tables. We tried an on-line flea market last year and most of our vendors were not interested. We are still thinking of a way to include everyone in the flea market activities. The on-line access to

April 29-30, Fri-Sat, NEAR-Fest. In the fall, NEAR-Fest came back strong and we expect it to be even bigger this spring. Even if you don't have anything on your shopping list, this is a great place to meet all the ham radio movers and shakers in New England. And, as the event is 90% outside, any lingering concerns about spread should be minimal. Details at <https://near-fest.com>.

May 20-22, Fri-Sun, Dayton Hamvention. You're not a real ham unless you've been to Hamvention. After a 2-year layoff, we all expect a great show. Yes, it is a 14-hour drive from here, but if you plan a nice vacation trip and float a bond to pay for the gas, you will have a great time. Details at <https://hamvention.org>.

May 28 Sat, Essex Memorial Parade. I haven't heard details for this year, but I'm pretty sure it will be back. Spend a morning helping to celebrate Memorial Day in Essex.

May 29 Sun, Vermont City Marathon. VCM will be back on its normal date as a full Marathon, but using the shorter (and I think, better) course they used last fall. We'll be looking for communications volunteers this month.

June 24-26 Fri-Sun, Field Day. We have been doing Field Day throughout all the shutdowns and we blasted everyone out of the water last year. How do we top that? Easy—let's get more people involved this time.

RANV minutes for February 10th 2022

Bob **K1BIF**

The meeting began @ 8:10pm

Present were: Mitch – w1sj, Stew – kc1lfk, Bob – w4yfq, Bruce – w1ejc, George – kc1jgm, Mark – k1kr, Bill – n1iro, Ron – kk1l, Kevin – ke1vt, Jack – wa1teo, Bob – k1bif

Mitch gave an update on the upcoming Ham-Con. He went over the speaker list. Mitch will close out Ham-Con with a “game show” on ham trivia. We still need volunteers to help with the in person and remote show.

George gave a brief synopsis on the club finances.

We went around the room, asking about experiences with the VT. QSO party.

Stew, kc1lfk, gave a presentation on Summits on the Air. The discussion turned to future speakers for our meetings. The difficulty in getting speakers continues to be high.

Next was a discussion on a possible RANV podcast (video and/or audio).

Steering Wheel will be a Zoom meeting next Thursday.

The meeting ended at 9:14



NEWS & VIEWS

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NEXT MEETING

Thursday • March 10TH • 7:00pm
Holy Family Parrish Hall

Meeting Topic:
Jason, **KM4ACK**
Linux and Raspberry Pi Applications

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