



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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November 2025

An ARRL Special Service Club

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November RANV Meeting

Antenna Tuners Bob **K1BIF**

Bob will be presenting and demonstrating the operation of antenna tuners.

Voting RANV Officers

HAM-CON AND RANV RENEWAL TIME

Mitch **W1SJ**

HAM-CON, the Vermont ARRL Convention, will be held Saturday, February 28, 2026 at the Hampton Inn Convention Center.

General admission at the door is \$12. Early admission (vendors at 6AM) is \$18. Advanced sale general admission is \$8. Advance sale early admission is \$15. Unfortunately, increasing prices all around affect us all! HAM-CON is one of the few Conventions which are streamed, so you can attend remotely. Even if you are unsure you will be able to attend, buy your early HAM-CON tickets while the prices are low

RANV Renewal Time. We are at renewal time for RANV membership. Dues are still \$20 single or

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

Repeater: 145.150, PL 100; WB1GQR

New Hams, Mentoring:
RANVMentor@gmail.com

\$25 family. Renewals take place at the end of the year for the upcoming year. PLEASE be sure to renew by December 31st !

RANV members who have renewed for 2026 will qualify for the special HAM-COM admission price of \$5, good for general or early admission. Later this week we will have a web site where you can directly renew and buy the special admission for HAM-CON. Or else you can renew and buy tickets at the holiday party on December 20. The special offer expires December 31st, so don't wait, otherwise it will cost you more.

HAM-CON is in 2½ months and we are in the planning process. We are always looking for new ideas. It is not good if folks say, "Same old, same, old!" What do you want to see? Give us some ideas on topics, ideas and even presenters. I tend to lean towards contesting and DXing, but I need to hear what YOU might want to hear about. What other activities might be interesting? The idea is to have a lot of unique things going on to entice people to attend. Having a strong attendance is crucial. Without admissions we cannot pay the bills, so this is important.

Start spreading the news about HAM-CON. Hams do not get on the local frequencies much anymore, so be sure to reach out via text and social media to let everyone know what is going on. Get the conversation going!

MAJOR OPERATING EVENTS COMING UP

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

Fall contest season is upon us. Next weekend, November 15-16 is the Phone Sweepstakes. SS is the grand dame of contests, dating back to 1933. You just don't give 59 VT – you have to give a long mock contest exchange, which requires a lot of skill to copy. Be sure to read the rules to know when to operate and what exchange to give.

Four weeks later, on December 12-14 is the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Ten meters is still a going

concern and you will find lots of nice openings during the full weekend. You get to pick your poison – either phone or CW or both!

For our CW operators, there are a lot of contests this Fall. The weekend of November 27- 29 (Thanksgiving weekend) is the CQ Worldwide CW Contest. We just had a blowout in the phone event 2 weeks ago, so this one should be fun!

One week later, December 5-7 is the ARRL 160 meter contest, CW only. Staying up all night pulling weak CW signals out of the noise is what separates the men from the boys (or something like that).

If you didn't get enough of 160 meters, there is the Stew Perry Top Band Challenge on Saturday, December 27. This is a one-night contest, but you are scored on distance, as well as QSO's.

Throughout January and February, there are great contests EVERY weekend, but we'll report on that next time!

RANV HOLIDAY PARTY – SATURDAY DECEMBER 20

The RANV Holiday Party will be Saturday, December 20th 11AM-3PM at the Holy Family Parish Hall, 30 Lincoln Street, Essex Junction. Please be sure to reserve time on your busy holiday calendar to join us. Club members, family and friends are all invited.

The club will provide a cold cut platter and cake, and everyone else supplies the rest. A sign-up site on the web will appear soon.

Jamboree on the Air with Troop 635 G

Jeff, [N1YD](#)

Jamboree on the Air with Troop 635 G

Last month Evelyn Johnson, the senior patrol leader of Scout Troop 635 G, contacted me to ask if

RANV could help her troop with "Jamboree on the Air". (Scouting is now co-ed.) As soon as I told the club about it online, several members were interested. Bob Henneberger, Larry Day, John Colt, Ron Rossi, and George May all offered to help. We met at the Essex Middle School, which had plenty of cafeteria tables and convenient doors to the outside. It didn't rain.

On the day of the event, we had two stations set up. Bob Henneberger set up indoors with a wire antenna out to the nearest tall objects. John Colt and his son brought an elegant portable QRP setup with an FT817 (5 watts) . Their antenna setup was one light mast supported by four guy lines. Two of the guy lines were wire antenna elements. Their station worked well. While I was watching, he and the Scouts contacted Georgia and Florida in just a couple of minutes. The Scouts were gathered around them showing great interest. Our best DX was Belgium on 15m. We had lots of fun on 40m with the NY state QSO party, which gave us as many 'phone contacts as we wanted!

Indoors we had the kind of controlled chaos that makes for a good Scouting event. I brought a variety of electronics to interest Scouts at any level.

-- Magneto, battery, and phones. The Scouts got to create an intercom by connecting phones in series with a battery, or make a phone ring with a magneto.

-- Geiger counter. The very top of the electromagnetic spectrum is gamma rays. I brought an old alarm clock with a radium dial for a source, and a CDV-700 Geiger counter to detect the radiation.

-- Radar. Cheap and simple motion sensors are now available for less than ten dollars. I set one up to beep whenever someone walked by.

-- Antenna powered oscillator. I built a circuit that lights an LED and wiggles a microammeter needle when a strong radio source is nearby. It let them see that radio waves are real.

-- Solar cells and motors. It was a cloudy day, but we got some modest results using a flashlight.

-- ADS-B. Even from indoors, a laptop running ADSB Scope received and plotted the position of passing aircraft.

-- Software Defined Radio. It only covers frequencies over 50 MHz, but we heard NOAA weather, etc.

Everyone was very pleased with how it all turned out.

Badges commemorating the event were ordered for the Scouts and RANV Participants.



Scout Leaders / RANV Members



Chittenden County Region FM Simplex Net **Zachary K1ZK**

(1) The next edition of the monthly Chittenden County region 2m FM simplex net will be on 146.55 MHz on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 8pm EST. All amateur radio stations are welcome to join.

(2) The K1ZK 2.4 and 5.8 GHz AREDN nodes are QRV & connected to the K1VL AREDN supernode. The 2.4 GHz node is on channel “-2” (2.397 GHz) and points roughly north toward Burlington. The 5.8 GHz node is on channel 173 (5.865 GHz) and points roughly south. Please try them out & let me know how it works.

73 de K1ZK

JOTA Planning -- The October Meeting

Jeff N1YD

Our October meeting brought about a dozen members, including new members Davis Arfine and Scott Johnstone. In the business part of the meeting, we heard that the club’s finances are in good shape, with about \$14000 in the bank.

We decided to hold our Holiday Party on Saturday, December 20th. Also, we have decided that the January and February meetings will be Zoom only since people hate to drive at night in the winter. Our annual election is coming up. The nominations are Stew Corey for President, George May for Vice President, and Jeff Bonn for secretary. All are running unopposed.

Much of the meeting was preparing for the local Scout troop's Jamboree On the Air event. I was worried that we might have little to show them besides HF, static, and what Mitch once called, "begging for a contact". However, Bob Henneberger and others were far more

optimistic. Bob volunteered to provide an antenna launcher, an HF station, and a way for me to hook up a demonstration of PSK-31 and crystal radio. We looked at Google Maps images of the school to guess how the event would go, since it was not clear where the best places to set up antennas would be, which rooms of the school would be available, etc.

I had some JOTA ideas that did not work out. I wanted to show PSK-31 because you don't have to listen to any static, and it seems to work even with modest antennas. But I have not used it for many years, and I just did not get my PC, my radio, and my Signalink ready in time for the meeting or for the JOTA event itself. Also, I wanted to demonstrate Morse Code in some way, even if it was just using dummy loads and transmitting from one side of the room to the other. I was hoping to show two radios running CW, software to generate CW, software to decode CW, and paddles to transmit CW like the experts do. Due to my laziness, none of that happened. However, the event went well and next year’s JOTA should be even better!

Jeff Bonn N1YD



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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday November 11th 7:00pm
Holy Family Parish Hall
30 Lincoln St, Essex Junction, VT 05452

Meeting Topic
Antenna Tuners

If the main room is in use, we will use the classroom downstairs

Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

- Steering Wheel: 3rd Tue Noon; JP's Essex, Vt
- VE Exams every 2nd Friday;
- Contact AB1WG for information
- Dues due? Pay online at www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html