



RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

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An ARRL Special Service Club

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Our Tuesday, October 12th Meeting.

“ANTENNAS WITH TIM DUFFY K3LR”

For our October meeting, we are very pleased to have Tim K3LR join us to talk about antennas. Tim runs a super station which hosts many DX Contests. His large antenna farm can be viewed from I-80 just as one drives into Ohio. You can see videos of the drone flights over the yagis. Oh, and he is also the CEO of DX Engineering. Sit back and learn all there is to learn about antennas

Now, pay attention! This meeting is on our OLD night of Tuesday night since we scheduled this several months ago before we moved the meeting night. Tim will join us remotely. The meeting will be dual mode – in person at Holy Family Parish Hall and on Zoom. Choose whatever attendance method you feel happy with. BUT – you don't get snacks if you attend on Zoom.

Summarizing: October RANV Meeting Tuesday, October 12, 7PM at Holy Family Parish Hall, 30 Lincoln Street, Essex Junction or our usual Zoom meeting location. If you do not remember our Zoom ID, contact W1SJ.

PARKS ON THE AIR TRIFECTA Mitch W1SJ

As you probably already know, a group of us are attempting to activate all Vermont State Parks – some 59 of them. We have already activated the close in and easy ones. Now it is time to work on some of the more difficult parks.

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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

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

In September, I went out to activate 3 parks in the Groton State Forest cluster in Vermont. This is an area between Routes 2 and 302, some 15 miles East of Montpelier. There are 7 parks, and I felt I could do an overnight and easily knock off 3 parks with full activations. A “full activation” means big antenna (50’ high dipole), high power (500w) and 5-6 hours of operating. As my usual co-conspirators K1BIF, AB1DD and KB1FRW chose other activities for this weekend, I eventually made the decision to go it alone.



To get to Groton State Forest you head out past Montpelier out to Marshfield, then go down Route 232, a road which looks more like you are heading to the dump. Along this road lie 7 jewels of state parks. Most of these parks have never been activated. The three I went to were ATNO (all time new ones).



I started at Big Deer State Park, which was closed, but the lot was open. I quickly got the dipole into some high trees. The first thing you realize is that it takes longer to raise an antenna without help! I fired up the generator and got to work operating. Unfortunately, 20 meters was a disaster. There were hardly any answers to CQs on phone. It has been that way most of the summer. I switched to CW and was able to hold a rate consisting of U.S stations (mostly 4-land) and DX, all quite weak. I alternated between 20 CW and 40 phone. Over on 40 meters, I had good runs, which accelerated to some monster runs after 4:00.



I had to pull the plug at 5PM to quickly pull everything down and run down the road to New Discovery State Park for my overnight shift. Luckily the ranger is Don KAINQY. He offered me a handicapped site which had power available. It also had 2 perfect trees for a high dipole. A small audience gathered to watch me launch the ball over the tree. The pressure was on to not screw up as I nailed a perfect shot into both trees! I was back on the air a little before 7PM, just as it was getting dark. At this time, 20 meters was in great shape and I had a nice run for 90 minutes. After that, I moved to 40 meters and had an insane run until past midnight, working virtually everything in the U.S and even Alaska!

While it would have been nice to have others to operate while I made dinner, this wasn't in the cards. So in the middle of a big run on 40 meters I attempted to start the barbecue. I had those stupid self-lighting briquettes we used at the picnic. But I thought ahead and used my torch to get them running. After another 20 minute run on 40 meters, I found that the charcoal did NOT light and were cold. Not good. I was able to borrow some lighter fluid and got the charcoal nice and hot and got the burgers going. Unfortunately, after several unsuccessful relights the charcoal was exhausted and I was only able to brown the burgers. Fortunately, I brought a toaster oven with me and was able to finish the burgers. So while I was tremendously successful with the pileup, the culinary preparation was a borderline disaster. Next time I will make sure to bring my own chef!

By 12:30, I was starting to get tired, so I put the station over on FT8 while I made up the van for sleeping. I managed to bang out another 20 QSO's in 45 minutes. I even got a quick 1-hour run in the morning before it was time to pull down at 9:00 and head over to the last park.



RANV ACTIVITIES THIS WINTER

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

We have a new meeting location, new meeting night, new president and soon to be new Vice-President and Secretary. The times, they are a-changing, and we think, for the better. It has been a bit confusing through this transition period, but now we can settle down to more of a routine.

For those who haven't been to our new meeting location, it is GREAT! The room is 35x50 feet, large and spacious. The ceiling is quite high and there are ceiling fans up top and many windows. The size of the room and ability to move air will make this a safe space for us. Oh, and one added benefit – there is a large balcony – perfect for hanging a dipole.

We meet on Thursday nights at 7PM (except for October's special Tuesday night gathering). In December, we go to our winter schedule which is the holiday party on the afternoon of the 2nd Saturday, and then Zoom only meetings in January and February. We will pick up with the live Thursday night meetings in March. We stopped meeting in January and February several years ago due to the high likelihood of snowy weather on those nights. Most of our meetings are hybrid, meaning that you can attend live, or via Zoom.

Our big problem: What meeting topics to present? We need your help on this one. Please let us (any officer) know what types of activities you would like to engage in at the meetings. Oh, and if you can present something, that's even better! Our meeting attendance has not been spectacular – typically 10-12 people, going back a few years. That's only 10% of the club – we should be doing better. So, what kinds of activities will bring you (who hasn't been attending) out to a meeting?

The Steering Wheel (Board of Directors) meeting will always be the third Thursday of the month, no matter what is happening with the regular meeting. In the past we have met at 99 Restaurant, but with the tight spacing inside, there is discussion about doing something different.

Be sure to update your calendar for the upcoming meetings!

Summary of RANV Meetings

Tue Oct 12, 7PM: October Meeting (Live and Zoom)
Thu Nov 11, 7PM: November Meeting (Live and Zoom)
Sat Dec 11, Noon: Holiday Party (Live)
Thu Jan 13, 7PM: January Meeting (Zoom)
Thu Feb 10, 7PM: February Meeting (Zoom)
Sat Feb 26, 8AM: HAM-CON (Live and Zoom)



The Sunday park was Ricker Pond State Park. It took a while to get set up as this park had an expansive tree canopy and the only decent place to get a dipole into place was the parking area. I got on and conditions were exactly like Saturday – 20 meters crappy and 40 meters quite good. A little after 5 PM, I pulled it all down and went home as I had all the fun there was to be had.

It was a ton of work setting up and breaking camp each time and working stations the entire time. The result for each park: 374, 602 and 380 for a total of 1356 QSO's in 17 hours of operating in near-perfect weather. What a ride!

Next year, I'll be back to pick up the other parks in the cluster!



REPEATER WOES

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

Times have been tough on the mountain. We have been plagued by a deaf receiver since last year. Over the summer there was a nasty electrical storm. All that night I could hear the repeater going up and down, along with the FM station and probably everything else up there. When it was over, the controller took some damage, but the repeater still worked.

A couple of weeks ago a power surge killed everything on the hill. I have been told that our equipment is on, but the controller is dead. This typically means a protection diode shorted out to protect the controller. The FM station had a new transmitter brought in. The DMR repeater is still off the air. We've all been suffering.

Dealing with these problems is very difficult. Gone are the days when I would strap on a 30 pound pack and walk up, or ride up on 4-wheeler where rollovers are expected. The aging of ham radio is certainly affecting our ability to maintain our resources. However, It looks like we may be able to find a safe way to get up there and either fix the broken items or drop in a spare for the winter. Stay tuned.

NEW ENGLAND AMATEUR RADIO FESTIVAL (NEAR-FEST) – October 15 & 16

by Paul [AA1SU](#)

The NEAR-Fest is an international event run by and for all radio hobbyists and enthusiasts, including “hams”, short-wave listeners, scanner buffs, vintage/antique radio fans, etc. NEAR-Fest is held twice annually, spring and fall, rain or shine, at the Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield NH beginning on Friday at 0900 and ending Saturday at 1500 hours.

Admission is \$15. Persons under 18 and over 80 are admitted free of charge upon presentation of government-issued ID. Inside parking is available for \$10 and includes a “reasonable amount of flea market selling space” for PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS selling their own personal property.

The RANV on-site repeater will be 444.025+ 141.3 PL.

Overnight camping, trailer and RV hookups are available.

Three food vendors provide meals and snacks at reasonable prices. At the Fall event, the Deerfield Community Church ladies have been temporarily replaced with Donna. Donna has been serving homemade delicacies at Deerfield Fair for over forty years. She comes highly recommended by no less than the Fair Association president. Donna has an excellent menu of offerings such as her “Chicken-on-a-Stick as well as homemade Italian sweet sausage. Her building is scrupulously clean and is located near the Stock Pulling ring down the road from the “Church Ladies”. Angelino’s offers hamburgers,

steak, sausage submarines and other great “fair food” specialties, and Patty’s Polish Kitchen menu features wonderful “Mitteleuropa” cuisine. No one goes hungry at NEAR-Fest.

Unfortunately, the Friday night Ham Jam usually held in the Entertainment Building has been canceled.

As usual, there is a great list of forums to choose from, organized by Mitch W1SJ. See link below for more details.

Directions to Near-Fest:

Take I-89 south to Manchester, NH

Get on Interstate 93.

Look for Exit 7 - Highway 101 East. Signs say “Seacoast”, Portsmouth, etc.

Follow Highway 101 East for 6.9 miles to Exit 3 Highway 43.

Turn RIGHT at the top of the ramp. Look for signs to Candia.

Watch for the LEFT turn as Highway 43 splits off towards Candia/Deerfield.

Follow Highway 43 for 6.3 miles. Fairgrounds are on your right.

Total mileage from I-93 & 101: 12.9 miles.

More information can be found at the NEAR-Fest official web site: www.NEAR-Fest.com

RANV Meeting Minutes 9/16/2021

In attendance, in person:

Bob(w4yfq), Larry(kb1zeb), George(kc1jgm), Stew(kc1lfk), Paul(aa1su), Mitch(w1sj), Jeff(n1yd), Mark(k1kr), on Zoom: Joe(k1vmt), Bruce(w1ejc), John(wa1teo)

Stew gave a description of our new meeting space – Holy Family parish hall, Essex Junction.

The RANV election will be held in November, Duane will be sending out ballots soon. Nominations are due by Oct 23. The November meeting is on the second Tuesday (exception to the usual second Thursday meeting day). Steering Wheel is the Thursday after the regular meeting.

Paul AA1SU presented Stew with the **ARRL Special Services Club certificate**



George, KC1JGM was nominated for the treasurer/vice president position in the upcoming election and Bob, K1BIF was nominated for secretary.

Mitch W1SJ gave a summary of the VHF contest last weekend.

Mitch, W1SJ, will activate 3 Vermont parks this weekend (18th & 19th). Look for him on 20 and 40.

Radio station WBZs 100 th anniversary special event is this weekend, Paul, AA1SU, will be operating.

We discussed the upcoming ARRL New England Director election. Jeff, N1YD, demonstrated his new project – a transistor/component tester kit. Stew started a discussion on moving his shack to Linux. Joe, K1VMT told us about setting up a mobile station for his vacation in Maine.

The Vermont Marathon will be only a half marathon this year. It is scheduled for October 24th . Mitch, W1SJ, will send an email out soon, looking for volunteers.



NEWS & VIEWS

INSIDE

- **NEXT MEETING – October 12th**
“ANTENNAS WITH TIM DUFFY K3LR”
- **PARKS ON THE AIR TRIFECTA**
- **RANV ACTIVITIES THIS WINTER**
- **REPEATER WOES**
- **NEW ENGLAND AMATEUR RADIO FESTIVAL**
- **RANV Meeting Minutes**
ARRL Special Services Club certificate

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday • October 12TH • 7:00pm
Holy Family Parish Hall
30 Lincoln Street Essex Junction
This month meeting is in lower level due to date change

Meeting Topic

“ANTENNAS WITH TIM DUFFY K3LR”

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