

SOVARC®

May
2018



Southern Vermont
Amateur Radio Club
The SOVARC Report

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Scribblings of
The

Scribe



Bob Collins - Secretary
April 2018 Meeting Minutes

- Meeting started at 7:00 PM. Seats started filling up at 6:59 PM. What a night !!
- There were 3 officers and 8 members present. Indoor temperature was 70°. Great meeting.
- Steve asked for a Secretary's Report. We had added WA1SUN back to the mailing list.
- Robert Elias, K1PLK, donated a projection screen to the club. Thank you, Robert.
- Bill Clark, W1BVT, not present tonight, immediate produced a canceled check a few days earlier, indicating we had payed the BFL for our meeting place.
- Bob Hain brought in (2) twelve volt rechargeable batteries for anyone to purchase. They are not new, but good.
- Fran Boudreau, WB1EUC, our ARRL Coordinator gave a presentation pertaining to our status as an affiliated club. We must:
 1. Have a constitution.
 2. Have 51% of membership belong to ARRL.
 3. Submit an Annual Report.



Calendar Events

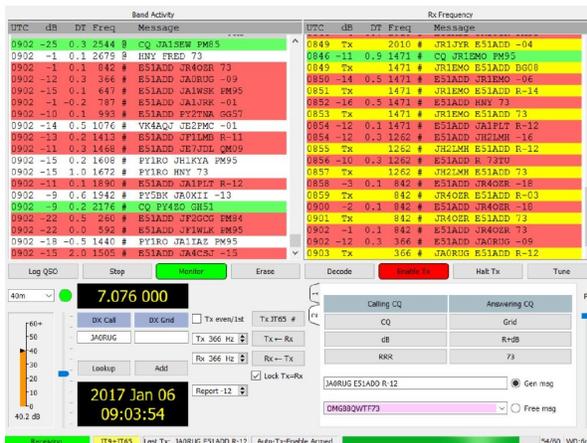
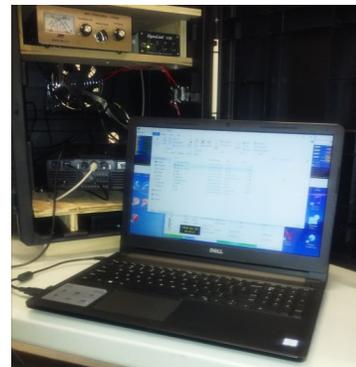
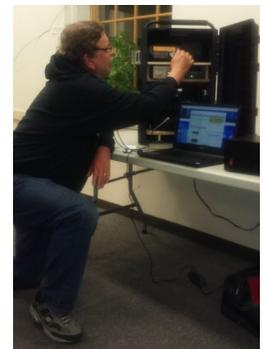
May	23,	2018	Spring Skywarn Presentation
June	23,	2018	ARRL Field Day 2018
April	8,	2024	Next Solar Eclipse in North America

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Equipment
Of the Month

This Signalink USB device is a digital operator's friend. This interface, manufactured by Tigertronics, frees your computer from having to do signal processing functions when you operate digital modes such as WSJT and PSK31. While it's not the only circuit of its' kind, it is a most popular link between the transceiver and the computer. For \$129.95, this go-to accessory is how many amateur operators get signals for those short digital QSO's into their computing devices. Indispensable.

- Chuck Watson, WA1NBU, gave a Vice President's Report. As Repeater Manager he reported that the repeater is performing fine, at the present time.
- Fran Boudreau, WB1EUC, suggested we purchase a rubber stamp to label any handouts we hand out by hand.
- Bob Hain, WA2VYZ, mentioned that computer power supplies make quite good supplies for amateur radio use.
- Chuck Watson, WA1NBU, offered that he would show Bob how to make sure a hyperlink will function so web addresses, etc. in the SOVARC Report are consistently linked to a URL.
- Randy Horn, N1SP, continued the meeting with a presentation on weak signal reception and unique software protocol such as FT8 and JT65, found in the WSJT software.
- Those not familiar with this digital form of amateur communication were intrigued by how it worked on a practical level.
- Randy brought an operating station complete with transceiver, laptop computer, digital interface, and antenna to the club meeting.
- The accompanying photos show the presentation and the portable station.
- The meeting concluded at 8:30 PM.



WSJT Screenshot

SOVARC DIRECTORY

Club Officers

President:

Steve Hearn, KA2PTE
techforce@ureach.com

Vice President:

Chuck Watson, WA1NBU
K1SV@sovarc.org

Treasurer:

Bill Clark, W1BVT
802-440-9876 w1bvt@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Bob Collins, KB1NFQ
802-447-7990 rgcbjc@gmail.com

SOVARC Repeater K1SV 146.835

PL Tone - 100.00 hz

Bear Run Rd - Shaftsbury, VT

Repeater Manager - Chuck Watson

WA1NBU

802-688-3550

K1SV@sovarc.org

Asst. Manager Mike Lachant - N1HSJ

802-447-1425 1wizz@comcast.net

SOVARC on the Web

www.sovarc.org

Webmaster: Chuck Watson WA1NBU

K1SV@sovarc.org

Volunteer Exam Sessions Contact:

Nelson Brownell - WB1HBA

802-823-5656 brown@rpi.edu

SOVARC Membership is \$20 annually

Payable at our meetings or send to:

Bill Clark

207 Maple Street

Bennington, VT 05201

Editor: "The SOVARC Report"

Bob Collins - KB1NFQ

802-447-7990 rgcbjc@gmail.com

SOVARC and Friends E-Mail List

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Stewart King - KB1IQN sbk1967@hotmail.com

This list is alphabetized by first name

S
O
V
A
R
C
I
E
S



Two Days of the Week Are Important
to all SOVARC members.

Sunday evening is the 10 Meter
Net hosted by Chuck Watson,
WA1NBU, at 28.333 mHz at
8:00 PM.

Monday Evening is the 2 Meter
ARES Net hosted by a net control
person each week at 146.835 mHz
(PL Tone 100 hz), at 7:00 PM.

Join Us !!

ARES NET SCHEDULE



The Bennington County ARES District 5 Net is held every Monday evening at 7:00 PM on the SOVARC 146.835 mHz repeater. Access to the repeater requires programming a 100 Hz PL tone. All ARES group members should be taking a turn at "Net Controller". It is good practice and spreads the opportunity.

October, November, December, January ARES Net Controller Schedule

May

5/07	W1BVT	Bill
5/14	KB1NFQ	Bob
5/21	N1RZ	Ken
5/28	W1BVT	Bill

W1BVT, Bill Clark,
is the District
Emergency Coordinator.

June

6/04	KB1NFQ	Bob
6/11	N1RZ	Ken
6/18	W1BVT	Bill
6/25	KB1NFQ	Bob



July

7/02	N1RZ	Ken
7/09	W1BVT	Bill
7/16	KB1NFQ	Bob
7/23	N1RZ	Ken
7/30	W1BVT	Bill



August

8/06	KB1NFQ	Bob
8/13	N1RZ	Ken
8/20	W1BVT	Bill
8/27	KB1NFQ	Bob

**Remember the
100 Hz PL Tone**

What is ARES?

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered, their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible in the ARES. The only qualifications, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Because ARES is an amateur service, only amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency powered equipment is desirable, but not a requirement for membership.

There are four levels of ARES organization: National, Section, District, and Local are the designations. National emergency coordination at ARRL Headquarters is under the supervision of the ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager, who is responsible for advising all ARES officials regarding their problems, maintaining contact with federal government officials concerned with amateur emergency communications potential, and in general with carrying out the League's policies regarding emergency communications. ARRL State Emergency Coordinator, Paul Gayet has indicated that a 40 year overhaul of ARES organization is coming soon. Watch this space.





LoTW Has Online Monitor

ARRL  4/26/18

Logbook of the World now has a full time [status monitor](#). The system's status is displayed in real time and is available off-site, offering a single spot for all users — web, Facebook, Twitter, etc. — to quickly check what's happening with the online repository of contacts and confirmation.

At a glance, the LoTW status monitor shows if the system is up, paused, or down; overall uptime statistics, and quick stats. A **green status** means all systems are go, a **red status** means the system is down, and **black status** means the system has been paused. The monitor indicates overall uptime for the past 24 hours, the past 7 days, and the past 30 days, as well as the most recent downtime occurrence.

<http://arrl.org/lotw.has.online.monitor>

Lunar-Orbiting Microsats with Ham Radio Payloads Will Make Use of WSJT JT4G Sub-Mode

ARRL  5/04/

“China's twin-launch [Chang'e](#) mission to the far side of the moon will place a pair of microsattellites in lunar orbit 'to test low frequency astronomy and space-based interferometry.' The two satellites [DSL WP-A1](#) and [DSL WP-A2](#) are expected to launch in June. They will carry Amateur Radio and educational payloads but not a transponder.”

(DSL WP = Discovering the Sky at Longest Wavelengths Pathfinder)

“Equipped with low-frequency antennas and receivers, the astronomy objectives of the two spacecraft will be to observe the sky at the lower end of electromagnetic spectrum, from 1 MHz to 30 MHz, with the aim of learning about energy phenomenon from celestial sources. They will use the moon to shield them from radio emissions from our Earth.”

“Developed by students at Harbin Institute of Technology ([BY2HIT](#)) the Amateur Radio Payload onboard DSL WP-A1 will provide a telecommand uplink and telemetry/digital image downlink. The open telecommand protocol is designed to allow amateurs to send commands to take and download images. DSL WP-A1 downlinks are 435.425 MHz and 436.425 MHz. DSL WP-A2 downlinks are 435.400 and 436.400 MHz, and they will use 250/500bps GMSK using 10 kHz wide FM single-channel data with canted codes or JT4G. JT4 uses four-tone FSK, with a keying rate of 4.375 baud. JT4G sub-mode uses 3 Hz tone spacing and 1260 Hz total bandwidth.” A semester, right there.

“The microsattellites represent the first phase of the Chang'e 4 mission. The satellites will piggyback on the Chang'e relay package and will fly two hundred 9,000 kilometer lunar orbits. The mission involves placing a relay satellite in a halo orbit to facilitate communication with the Chang'e lunar lander and rover, which will be sent to the far side of the moon in December. Because the moon's far side never faces the earth, the satellite is needed to serve as an Earth-Moon relay. The Chang'e mission will be the first-ever attempt at a soft-landing on the far side of the moon.”

<http://arrl.org/lunar.landing.microdats.use.wsjt.jt4g>

Save Some Dates!

It's that time of year again to save some dates for radio. For over 29 years, Amateur Radio Operators have been providing communications for these local road races to **benefit local charities** and our communities. I would like to thank each and every one of you who have been doing this year in and year out. These thanks come not just from me, but from every committee member I meet with during the year.

[June 3rd 2018 - Covered Bridges Half Marathon](#)

First is the Covered Bridges Half Marathon, Sunday June 5th We will most likely need 6 to 10 radio operators this year, an increase over the past few years. <http://http://cbhalfmarathon.blogspot.com/>

[July 21st and 22nd 2018 - Vermont 100 Endurance Race](#)

The Vermont 100 often called the "Big One" is a 100-mile foot race across some of Vermont's most beautiful landscape. During this event we provide emergency communications for the participants and race coordinators for over 30 hours. <https://vermont100.com/>

[September 30th 2018 - Vermont 50 MT Bike or Ultra Run](#)

The third and most active day is the Vermont 50, leaving from Mount Ascutney Resort we support close to 1000 participants riding, running and walking these 50 miles. <http://www.vermont50.com/>

[Prouty: July 13th and 14th](#)

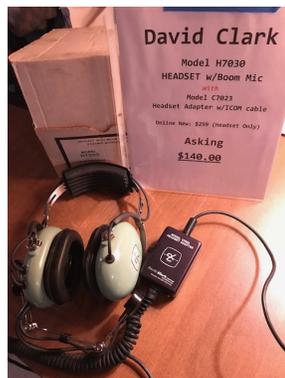
Contact Dave Colter WA1ZCN dbcolter@myfairpoint.net

For more information about the above events please contact Rob Mather- N1XSS

Home phone: 802-886-5478 or N1XSS@Mather1.com

SOVARC'S SWAP AND SHOP

The items listed below
come from the shack of
Ken Lanoue, N1RZ.



Make Ken a fair offer on any item or all.
Items are all in used excellent condition.

Ken would like proceeds from these
particular items to go to the SOVARC
treasury

For your S and S items...
Contact the SOVARC Report a week before
the issue date with any details and photos.

These additional items are copied from the SOVARC GROUPS Trading Post.

Current listing of - *WANTED* -

Looking for an AM loop antenna, the sort you
would get when you purchase a stereo / music
system. If anyone has anything laying around ex-
tra in their junk drawer let me know.

Steve Hearn - KA2PTE

Current listing of - *FOR SALE* -

SONY STR-D365 80W AM/FM Stereo receiver :
\$75.00 (Contact: Steve Hearn - KA2PTE)

[[http://www.technotronic-dimensions.com/
gear4sale/str-d365.pdf](http://www.technotronic-dimensions.com/gear4sale/str-d365.pdf)]

AIWA AV-D25 Pro Logic Surround Home Thea-
ter Stereo Receiver w/ Super T Bass : \$100.00
(Contact: Steve Hearn - KA2PTE)

[[http://www.technotronic-dimensions.com/
gear4sale/AV-D25.pdf](http://www.technotronic-dimensions.com/gear4sale/AV-D25.pdf)]

S O N Y STR-DE445 AM/FM 5.1 channel 400
Watt Surround Receiver + Original Remote &
batteries : \$95.00 (Contact: Steve Hearn -
KA2PTE)

[[http://www.technotronic-dimensions.com/
gear4sale/str-de445_.pdf](http://www.technotronic-dimensions.com/gear4sale/str-de445_.pdf)]

President's Notes

May, 2018

Hello SOVARC,

\$2.00 was donated to the "coffee fund" can last month.

The library has said it's OK for us to keep a coffee pot in the back room, but can't guarantee it won't get used by others.

Fran, WB1EUC, ordered some ARRL literature for the club which is always good to have on hand. Thanks so much, Fran.

So far no interest in the 50-50 raffle. I have counted the change in the coffee fund jar which comes to at least \$23.00. If we can get a volunteer willing to head up the refreshments duties, that would possibly help organize things better.

Ken Lanoue visited me and loaned me the David Clark headset that is in his possession and listed on the club's gear page for a test drive.

Last meeting I brought up a the http links issue in the newsletter, and have emailed Chuck and Bob the response from the development team who supports the plug-in we use on the site.

73's !!

Steve Hearn - KA2PTE

Editor's Notes

May, 2018

Happy Happy,

I was driving a car filled with SOVARC members to the PSK333 Crescendo Fest.

In my rear view mirror, I could clearly see. in spite of my cataract, my cornea floater, and a pirate eye patch, that a police car with a red strobe light, was approaching my rear fender, slowly passing a long line of cars behind me. It became clear that my car was the target of his attention. I pulled over.

"Hi officer, did I do something wrong?"
"Sir, it's about the speed limit", he said with a bit of alarm in his voice.

"Oh officer, I am sorry if I was speeding. I'll be more careful of the speed limit."
"No sir, the reason I pulled your vehicle over, is due to your excessively slow speed."

I must have sounded surprised when I replied, "Officer, I always obey the posted speed limit signs, and I'm sure I just passed a sign marked with the speed limit of 22. I know I was going the speed limit."

His face was like slate. "Sir, you're on New Hampshire Route 22. The speed limit here is 60 MPH. For the safety of yourself and other drivers, you'll have to drive a little faster with the flow of traffic."

Then he added, "By the way sir, is everything OK? I notice the gentlemen in the back seat here are all a little quiet." I thought for a second.

"Oh officer, they'll be fine. We just got off Route 119."

Stay Safe, Bob Collins - KB1NFQ

SOVARC

MEETING AGENDA

BY STEVE HEARNS

We apparently need to start discussing Field Day.

Hoping we can schedule some things to do in June and July after the SKYWARN presentation this month, as of me writing these notes, they are open months.

I wanted to make station troubleshooting a regular part of the activities, so I may wind up heading up something like that for one of these months if nothing else pops up.

So prepare your broken or suspicious ham gear as possible candidates to be evaluated, and drop me a note if you have something specific in mind for a project or demo to do at other club meetings.

...Steve....

The SOVARC Report
Southern Vermont Amateur Radio Club
Bob Collins - KB1NFQ Editor
12 Greenview Drive
Bennington, VT 05201
Email: rgbjc@gmail.com



Next SOVARC Sponsored

VE Exam Session
To Be Announced

Bennington Library
Bennington, VT 050201

Please bring the following items:

Photo ID and copy of current license
(if licensed)
All originals CSCE's
Check for exam cost

For additional information contact:
[Art Haytko K2IIR 802-442-1563](tel:802-442-1563)

May Meeting May 23, 2018

It will be SKYWARN Night

●Next SOVARC Meeting●
Join Us On
June 27, 2018

Regular SOVARC Club Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Library at 101 Silver St. in Bennington, VT. Meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio.

For more information contact
[Bob Collins KB1NFQ 802-447-7990](tel:802-447-7990)

Don't forget to set June 23-24-25 as your Field Day