THE SOVARC REPORT

APRIL, 2025

SOVARC (Southern Vermont Amateur Radio Club) is a long-standing club (1988) dedicated to Amateur Radio operation, science, emergency service and general practice within the hobby.

SOVARC maintains a repeater (K1SV) on 146.835 (minus offset) with a PL tone of 100hZ.

Nets are held each Sunday night at 8pm local on 28.333, and an ARES net each Monday night at 7pm local on the K1SV repeater.

Our website is sovarc.org and we have a chat group on the N1SP Groups IO.

The club holds regular meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7pm local time. The location is in the basement of the Masonic Lodge next to TD Bank with ample parking available in the public lot at the rear of the building. The entrance to the meeting is located on the east side of the building.

Anyone, licensed or not, with an interest in Amateur Radio, is welcome to attend.

Regular member dues are $25 annually, and due at the beginning of each calendar year.

Club Officers and Contact Info:

President: William Clark, W1BVT	w1bvt@hotmail.com
VP, Newsletter Editor: Randy Horn, N1SP	randyn1sp@gmail.com
Treasurer: Ken Lanoue, N1RZ	n1rz@hotmail.com
Secretary: Bob Collins, KB1NFQ	rgcbjc@gmail.com
Equipment Trustee: Alden Jones IV, KC1JWR	ajonesiv78@gmail.com

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March 2025 Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 with three officers and eight members present. It is great to see attendance growing!

Many topics of old and new business were discussed including:

Special Event vs POTA activation- It was voted by the group that we will do POTA activations this year rather than a special event. This will allow us to become more used to what is needed for simple field setup, not having to print QSL cards or certificates, and not having to acquire private property owner permission. We are still looking to do a special event in the future but are taking the easier path for now.

Fox Hunt Antennas- Some time ago the club project of building fox hunt antennas had begun. It was found that some parts of the instructions were not clear, and some mistakes were made. At the meeting it was decided that 1) Bill and Alden will inventory the materials that we have and replace as needed. 2) At a meeting, we will build three antennas to be used by members while operation as teams during the actual Fox Hunt. 3) Anyone wishing to build their own antenna may do so at a price to be determined by Bill and Alden to cover materials.

Equipment Inventory- Chuck and Bill will begin an inventory of club and personal equipment that is stored at Mike's (N1HSJ) store. It will then be determined what will be stored elsewhere or sold.

VE Test Sessions- Randy will contact the ARRL about paperwork and club requirements for giving test sessions. We currently have at least 4 Volunteer Examiners in our club, so this would be a nice service to offer.

Equinox UHF Repeater- It appears that the linked repeater on Mt. Equinox may be having some issues with output power, and by my testing, seems to only be linking to the Killington repeater. This may affect plans for the April 5 drill announced in the ARES news section of this issue. The NFMRA is aware of the problem. More information to follow.

"Go Box" Presentation- Nathan, Bill, Alden, and Randy all brought their Go Boxes for a fun demonstration. Three setups were QRP for either digital or CW (plus Nathan's IC 705 has SSB as well) and Bill's box was fully equipped with an IC-7300, DMR UHF/VHF radio, and a solar charged capable power station. Great show and discussion!

N1HSJ- sk

We are sad to report that another long time member of SOVARC has left us this year. Mike Lachant, N1HSJ passed away in March after battling a long term illness.

Mike served the club in many ways including storing club equipment, helping haul heavy gear for Field Day, staffing the GOTO station and obtaining food donations for the event.

Mike was always known for the smile on his face and quick wit. We will miss you, Mike.

N1HSJ with Cristine Lanoue at the GOTO tent- 2001 SOVARC Field Day

Local ARES/ RACES Report

April 5 Hospital Activation: There will be another drill activated between SVMC and other hospitals within the state on Saturday, April 5. The purpose of this drill is to confirm and improve capabilities around the state. More info will be coming shortly via email from the VT ARES Groups io.

Bill, W1BVT (Bennington Co DEC) has expressed a need for operators who are familiar with DMR operation. While we have the hospital DMR radio programmed, someone experienced with it for future programming would be of help.

Digital Nets: These nets are scheduled on a weekly basis on or about 3.570 using the mode THOR 22. Nets are held each Wednesday night at 7pm local, and have a Zoom meeting in session at the same time. The Zoom info is…

https://us05web.zoom.us/j/88089907163?pwd=L9liblvWNZgtitSQTaAUtU8KvsmNol.1

Meeting ID 880 8990 7163

Passcode spCA7P

Each session seems to pick up one more check-in than previously on board, so the net is growing.

Ham Happenings

World Amateur Radio Day!

Did you know that Amateur Radio has its own day celebrated worldwide? It indeed does and falls on April 18 of each year. This year is special, as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of the IARU initial formation in Paris, France 1925. For more information visit: World Amateur Radio Day , an article on the ARRL website.

Hamfests:

Southington, CT ARA Hamfest -Public Contact: K1HSN- k1hsnrs@gmail.com

04/05/2025 - Ellsworth Ham Radio Symposium 2025 -- An event with only ham radio-related presentations Location: Ellsworth, ME
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Ellsworth Amateur Wireless Association
Website: http://w1tu.org

04/05/2025 - Seacoast Amateur Radio Flea Market Location: Hampton, NH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Port City Amateur Radio Club
Website: www.w1wqm.org

04/12/2025 - Lakes Region Spring HamFest 2025 Location: Moultonborough , NH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Lakes Region Repeater Association
Website: http://w1bst.org

04/26/2025 - SECARS Amateur Radio Fleamarket Location: Gales Ferry, CT
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Southeastern CT Amateur Radio Society
Website: https://secars.org

Contests:

CQ WPX SSB Contest- (A great event to pick up some new states or countries!) March 29-30 (UTC)
https://www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm

Louisiana QSO Party- April 5-6 (UTC) http://laqp.louisianacontestclub.org/laqso_rules.htm

Mississippi QSO Party- April 5-6 (UTC) https://www.arrlmiss.org/

Missouri QSO Party- April 5-6 (UTC) http://www.w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party

New Mexico QSO Party- April 12-13 (UTC) http://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/

Georgia QSO Party- April 12-13 (UTC) https://gaqsoparty.com/

North Dakota QSO Party- April 12-13 (UTC)
https://ndarrlsection.com/2024/2024_ND_QSO_Party_Rule.pdf

Nebraska QSO Party- April 19 (UTC) https://nebraskaqsoparty.com/qso-party-rules/f/rules-for-2022-nebraska-qso-party

Michigan QSO Party- April 19-20 (UTC) https://miqp.org/index.php/rules/

Florida QSO Party- April 26-27 (UTC) http://floridaqsoparty.org/rules/

For many more and special interest contests, please visit...
https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.php

Special Events:

Due to the volume of specials events, we direct you to
https://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:1/model:Event

Upcoming DXpeditions:

TO1Q- Guadeloupe -Will continue operation until April 7

5H3MD- Tanzania- Will continue operation until April 8

JD1BON- Chichi Jima Island- April 8 until April 16

JG8NQJ/JD1- Marcus Island- April 17 until June 17 *(Plenty of time to catch this rare one!)*

A21TX- Botswana- April 23 until April 26

Swapmeet – For Sale/Wanted

This area is intended for the use of dues paying members of SOVARC to post personal ham radio related items for sale or wanted. Each month the list will be deleted, but you may repost it for as long as you wish.

To advertise an item for sale, a want, give away or a repost contact N1SP (Editor)

For Sale- Server Racks- All three are American made by Middle Atlantic Products and are very high quality. Components are NOT included, just the racks.

6’ rack - $300 OBO, and the two shorter racks $100 each, OBO. Must be picked up at N1RZ’s QTH. The large rack is quite heavy and has a castor base for easy rolling. For more info please contact Ken, N1RZ at n1rz@hotmail.com

For Sale- GAP Challenger Vertical Antenna- 33 ft tall, covers 2,6,10,15,20, 40 and the SSB portion of 80 meters. Prefer the purchaser is present when I disassemble to understand how it goes back together (although instructions are included). Also includes the top portion of a tilt over base- I will have to cut the in-ground portion off as it is in concrete- just add some angle iron and “replant”.

This has been my go-to antenna when I don’t want to mess with a tuner.

$235- contact N1SP at randyn1sp@gmail.com