THE SOVARC REPORT

AUGUST, 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 Bennington Village Fire Dept at 130 River St., Bennington, VT 05201. There is plenty of parking in the back parking lot and entrance is through the rear door. (Same door where Bennington residents go to vote)

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 Quartermaster: Alden Jones IV, KC1JWR	ajonesiv78@gmail.com

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July 2025 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 with 10 members/guests and two officers present. It was great to see some new faces as well as some we haven't seen for a while.

Old business:

1) *Field Day:* While we faced issues with interference between our own stations we still managed to make plenty of contacts and enjoy a lot of comradery and great picnic food. Thoughts for next year are to separate antennas further and have band captains for each station to be responsible for having all the items they need. (Setup of antennas would of course remain a team effort.)
2) The inventory and movement of the club equipment in Mike's (N1HSJ-silent key) storage area is an ongoing process being handled by Chuck and Bill.

New business:

1) *Event Emergency Kit:* It was motioned and passed by vote that we create a small box (such as a small ammo box) to take along on club activities such as Field Day or POTA activations. This box would contain a few first aid supplies as well as member particular information including current email, emergency contact, allergies or special health concerns to be used by first responders if ever needed. These forms would be kept in sealed envelopes within the kit only to be opened in the event of an emergency. N1SP will have a draft of this form available at the next meeting for the members to vote on.
2) *Prorated Dues:* It was motioned and passed by vote that any new member or member who has been absent for over one year, who joins after July 1st in that year, will only need to pay $12.50 for the remainder of that year. *Please note that this does not apply to currently active members who pay dues early each year- unfortunately, dues are needed for the club to exist as each year is a struggle to purchase insurance and other club necessities. The payment of club dues by active members year to year is greatly appreciated.*
3) *Meeting Presentations:* As of the date of this writing, it has not been decided what we will have as a presentation at the August meeting, but we will have one. Topics discussed were a review of club history, logging techniques, QSL techniques for results and awards, and an overview of the current VT ARES organization and activities.
4) *POTA activation:* It was decided that we will have our second POTA activation of the year very soon. Details are listed within this issue.

Local ARES/ RACES Report

Simplex Test: There will be a 2 meter FM simplex test on July 30 at 8 pm for ARES members around the state. For more information please visit the VT ARES Groups IO… main@vt-ares.groups.io

Ham Radio Trivia Corner

Last Month's Question: How many countries are currently on the ARRL DXCC list?

Answer: There are currently 340 entities on the ARRL DXCC list. (The editor only has 203, with only 197 confirmed so a way to go!)

August Question: What is an "Astable Multi-Vibrator" circuit, and how can it be used in radio? (There may be an example of one at our next meeting.)

SOVARC POTA Activation

Our next activation will be held at Lake Shaftsbury State Park on August 9th at 11am local.

Please note that this is a far busier park at this time of year than the last one we activated (but easier to find). In that, we will be prepared for a "low Key/Small Footprint" to keep from interfering with others enjoying the park. This may mean using a 20 meter EFHW, or even a hamstick on a mag-mount- both have proven to be effective from this park.

We may want to consider carpooling as parking may be limited. We can discuss this further on our Groups IO or on the club nets.

Ham Happenings

Hamfests:

08/17/2025- Northern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club (NOBARC) Hamfest

https://nobarc.org/flea-markets/

This event is close by in Adams, MA. There will be a test session and a swapmeet held here.

Contests:

Alabama QSO Party- July 26/27 http://alabamacontestgroup.org/aqp/rules/

North American QSO Party, CW- August 2-3
https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf

Maryland/DC QSO Party- August 9-10 https://www.w3vpr.org/Maryland-DC_QSO_Party

North American QSO Party SSB- August 16-17 https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf

Hawaii QSO Party- August 23-25 http://www.hawaiiqsoparty.org/

Ohio QSO Party- August 23-24
http://www.ohqp.org/index.php/rules/

For many more and special interest contests, please visit the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at: 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 DX Expeditions:

E2X- Thailand – July 26-27

TY2AA- Benin – Aug 7 to September(?)

For those interested in more upcoming DXpeditions, please refer to the "DX News site".

Starting mid-July through October, there are too many activations completely list here.

Also, by going to "Club Log" https://clublog.org you can then click on the "Livestream" tab and see exactly where many of these folks are operating (frequency and mode).

These are the tools that I use, and will work better for you than me listing them here.

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)