THE SOVARC REPORT

JULY, 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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June 2025 Meeting

There was no regular meeting in June as we had our Field Day Planning meeting on June 18th as indicated in the last newsletter. This planning meeting was held at Deer Park with 9 members present.

Local ARES/ RACES Report

Hospital Drill: The June 4th hospital drill took place from each location around the state. Results (especially HF) were mixed as we look to further improve.

Our largest issue is RX noise generated from the hospital equipment and more attempts will be made with grounding and ferrite chokes.

We may be attempting HF digital communication from hospital stations in the future and/or experiment with relaying to and from home stations (Away from the noise issues).

W1BVT and K1MAZ manning the June 4th drill from the SVMC station.

Ham Radio Trivia Corner

Last Month's Question: What was the name of the first amateur radio satellite launched and when was it launched? Answer: "OSCAR" (Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio) launched Dec.12, 1961.

July Question: How many countries are currently on the ARRL DXCC list?

Field Day 2025

Early on the forecast for Saturday looked to be very wet and stormy but alas, Mother Nature smiled upon us and provided a warm, but dry weekend.

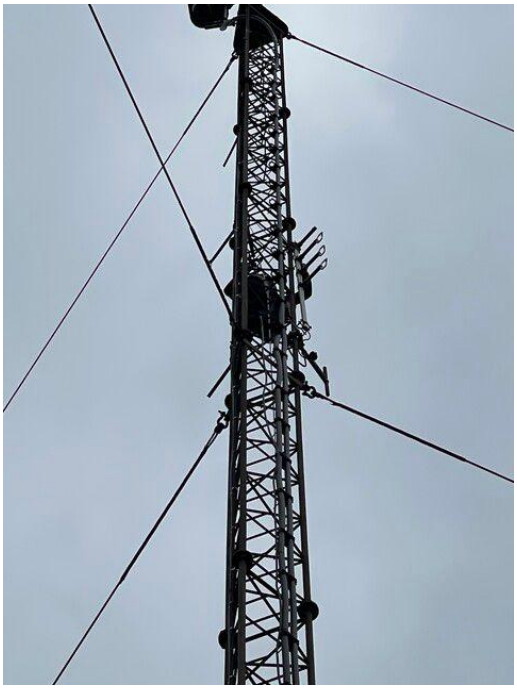
All bands above 15 meters provided good propagation as we operated CW, SSB. and FT8. The comradery, teamwork and food were excellent. A good time was had by all!

Mt. Equinox UHF Repeater Repaired

The following is information from the NFMRA Groups IO Page…

The 444.050 antenna at Mt. Equinox has been replaced and the coverage has been restored. As mentioned previously, this past spring was tough on a lot of our antennas and we are trying to bring things around as time and resources permit.

Below you can see the defective antenna. The top dipole got knocked off by falling ice causing a horrible VSWR.



And now you see the replacement. Previously we had just over 5 watts reflected power with about 30 watts forward.

Now we have almost 70 watts forward with less than 1 watt reflected. Quite an improvement.

The chap on the tower is Marty and he had a 16 hour day today driving over from Maine and back to work on this job for me.

More fixes coming soon.

73, Paul

Ham Happenings

POTA Activation:

On June 14th N1SP, W1BVT, K1MAZ and K2IIR activated the Southstream Wildlife Management Area (Park #10299).

The weather was rainy drizzle but the plan stayed on track. We used a 20 meter EFHW sloped from a 30' pole attached to my truck's receiver hitch. One radio at 40 watts as we operated with battery power (with a 10 amp limit).

We only operated for about an hour because of the rain dribbling down our necks, but had a great time. We worked 52 stations- 8 of those being at parks themselves. It was discovered AFTER the event that Nathan, K1MAZ was holding out with a fresh box of donuts in his car.

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

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:

For those interested in upcoming DXpeditions, please refer to the “DX News site”.

Starting mid-July through October, there are too many activations to 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)

Art, K2IIR has a nice MFJ Iambic paddle for sale, and is only asking $10.

Send inquiries to K1IIR@ARRL.net or give him a call.