THE SOVARC REPORT

MAY, 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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April 2025 Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 with three officers and five members present. It is great to see KA1IEG again and find that he is feeling better!

Many topics of old and new business were discussed including:

Field Day- Bill handed out documents of Field Day Rules and Goals to the members. We plan to start discussing particulars for our operation at the May meeting. Once again, our thanks to Bob and Helen Hain for offering their property for the cause! A Porta-Potty will be rented, and cost would be inhibitive for the club's current finances. Bill has offered to pay the charges but will accept any member's contributions to help with funding. (They run about $250!)

Fox Hunt Antennas- It was decided by the group that the presentation portion of the meeting in May will be a loop antenna build workshop for those who wish to build their own. Alden stated that we have enough material to build about ten antennas.

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.

New Meeting Spot- A room for us to meet is available to us. It was decided we will meet at the Bennington Village Fire Department (as indicated on page 1) for a period of 3 months. At that point we will vote as to whether to stay there or go back to our previous location. Chuck stated that the Masonic building would still be available if we need it in the future.

Antenna Rope Launching- After the business meeting a presentation and lively discussion took place. Randy brought his arsenal (Bean Bag, Childs "Snoopy Pole", Wrist Rocket slingshot, and home- pneumatic launcher). We discussed various projectiles with bright colors and installing tippet lines for easily snapping off a stuck weight/projectile.

An Editors Request

Photos, photos- we need lots of them! It would have been great to include a photo of Bill's portable ARES drill station (Mentioned on next page).

When you do an individual POTA activation, clean or redesign your shack, or see any interesting local ham related item, please snap a shot with your cell and send it to me (randyn1sp@gmail.com) so I may include it in the newsletter to share with all the members!

Local ARES/ RACES Report

April 5 Hospital Activation: A drill was conducted from the SVMC campus for the purpose of testing communication between hospitals within the state using HF, UHF linking, and DMR.

The room that houses our station was not available due to a different scheduled event- so Bill used his ingenuity and brought his radio trailer to the property and operated portable! Alden also joined him on site.

The drill was a success- Good job!

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

Ham Radio Trivia Corner

This issue will begin some monthly fun with trivia and discussion!

Question: What is the legendary “Wouff Hong” and its companion, the “Rettysnitch”?

Hint: These were invented very early in our hobby and the Wouff Hong has a ceremony built around it to this day!

Ham Happenings

Hamfests:

05/09/2025 - 05/11/2025
48th Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave Conference

Location: Windsor , CT
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: North East Weak Signal Group
Website: https://newsvhf.com/conference/

05/17/2025 - Southern Berkshire ARC's 33rd Annual HamFest

Location: Goshen, CT
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Southern Berkshire ARC
Website: http://www.sberk.org

Contests:

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

**New England QSO Party- May 3-4 (UTC) https://neqp.org/rules/ This a great contest for local operators! You will be popular with those hunting counties in New England (Bennington is rare) and sponsors provide very nice plaques!

7th Call Area QSO Party- May 3,4 (UTC)
http://7qp.org

Indiana QSO Party- May 3-4 (UTC) http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html

Delaware QSO Party- May 3-4 (UTC) https://www.fsarc.org/

Canadian Prairies QSO Party- May 10-11 https://cpqp.ve6hams.ca/

Arkansas QSO Party- May 17-18
http://www.arkqp.com/

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 DXpeditions:

D2TX- Angola- May 1 until May 4

D44TWO and D44ZZT- Santioga Island—May 4 until May 26

T88SG- Koror Island- May 22 until May 31

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