

THE SOVARC REPORT

SEPTEMBER, 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.

Club Officers and Contact Info:

President: William Clark, W1BVT

VP, Newsletter Editor: Randy Horn, N1SP

Treasurer: Ken Lanoue, N1RZ

Secretary: Bob Collins, KB1NFQ

Equipment Quartermaster: Alden Jones IV, KC1JWR

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.

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August 2025 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 with 7 members and two officers present. It was great to see all who were there.

Old business:

Bill discussed the recent donation of equipment from the estate of Brian Riley, N1BQ who was a patient in the Bennington Vets Home. All this equipment was offered to members for purchase before being taken to the NOBARC Hamfest where most of it sold and proceeds were deposited in the club account.

Nathan, K1MAZ brought us up to date on the recent ARES activation/drill from SVMC, and his "Lone Soldier" club POTA activation which unfortunately had a

major solar storm at the event's scheduled time. Nonetheless, he managed to provide 11 contacts to the K1SV POTA log.

N1SP then gave a presentation on comparing 3 antennas (dipole, EFHW, and non-resonant wire) with an emphasis on feedline matching to reduce loss.

N1SP also demonstrated an Astable Multivibrator circuit as was discussed in last months "Trivia Corner".

New business:

There was no new business discussed except for everyone to gather their thoughts on what we should do for our SOVARC Holiday Party, to be discussed soon.

Local ARES/ RACES Report



On August 13th another ARES Hospital Drill was conducted. This time, the operator (K1MAZ) had an easier time on HF hearing NCS, and 80 seemed superior to 40 meters.

He was able to check in on all 3 nets (UHF, DMR and HF).

For the results and more information please visit the VT ARES Groups IO... main@vt-ares.groups.io

Ham Radio Trivia Corner

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.)

Answer: An astable multi-vibrator is a circuit that does not stay in one constant voltage/current state. It is continually changing or “swinging back and forth.”

An example of how these circuits may be used in radio as oscillators.

September Question: Now that we have an idea of what an oscillator is... How many oscillators would we typically find in an SSB/CW transceiver?

Congratulations To Alden, KC1JWR- VT Ham Of The Year!

On July 23rd, VT Section Manager Paul Gayet, AA1SU announced that he had selected Alden Jones, KC1JWR to be the 2025 VT Ham of the Year. This then also put him as a candidate for the New England Ham of the Year, which was to be determined at the New England HAM Expo in Marlborough, MA in late August.

Here is the nomination letter presented by AA1SU:

The judges considered one nominee from each New England ARRL Section. Criteria included, but were not limited to, achievements in the areas of:

- Club leadership
- Ham class instruction / volunteer exams
- Emergency Communications / ARES
- Technical accomplishments
- Youth activities

In the Vermont Section, Alden Jones, KC1JWR was nominated for this prestigious honor.

For the 2025 New England Ham of the Year, I would like to nominate Alden Jones, KC1JWR. As a past club president of the Southern Vermont Amateur Radio Club (SOVARC), Alden was very active with club activities.

These included a meeting where he taught members to build their own fox hunting antenna.

He bought the supplies ahead of time, and only charged a small fee for the needed parts to the members.

He then organized various fox hunts for the club.

He has also led the club to do POTA activations during the summer months.

Alden is very active in both ARES and RACES, serving as an Emergency Coordinator, Digital Officer, and DMR Officer.

When inclement weather is upon us, Alden gathers the troops in local Nets to monitor for any emergencies.

In the past, Alden organized the ARES/RACES digital Nets, utilizing MK63-2KL and THOR22 on both 80 Meters and UHF linked repeaters.

Although no longer the club president, Alden held the club together during the difficult time when COVID was upon us.

He kept members updated with news via emails, and made sure that the club newsletter was distributed to everyone.

He even organized the holiday party when it was safe for everyone to get together again.

It is for these reasons and probably more that I can't think of, I nominate Alden Jones KC1JWR to be "New England Ham of the Year"!

For his service to Amateur Radio in Vermont, Alden Jones, KC1JWR has earned the honor of the Vermont Section Ham of the Year.

The New England Ham of the Year awardee will be announced in the near future. This individual, along with the Vermont Section Ham of the Year, will be acknowledged at the New England Division ("HamX") in Marlborough, Massachusetts, in late August.

For additional information, contact Paul N. Gayet ARRL Vermont Section Manager.

AA1SU@ [arrl.net](mailto:aa1su@arrl.net)

Editors note: The nominee voted to become the New England ham of the year at the Ham Expo was Dave Tessitore, K1DT from the Rhode Island Section.

Our congratulations to Alden for being a runner up and representing Vermont!

This Month's Ham Shack Visit



This month, Art, K2IR was kind enough to send us a photo of his nice shack. The radios shown are an Icom IC-7300 (HF/50 MHz) and an Icom IC-7000 (Predecessor to the IC-7100, HF/VHF/UHF all mode). The main antenna is a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave (on 160) wire approximately 123 feet long. He also finds the antenna to even be effective on the 2 meter band where it is 20 +/- wavelengths long!

SOVARC POTA Activation

Our activation on August 9th at Shaftsbury State Park had little participation. Actually, only Nathan, K1MAZ attended. He did put forth a gallant effort and added 11 contacts to the K1SV log.

It was only after the event that we discovered we were in the midst of a major solar storm that day! This known, with low power and a compromised antenna, Nathan did well. This just goes to prove that we should never simply judge band activity by published solar indices- or we will miss some contacts.

Ham Happenings



Hamfests:

09/06/2025 Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association

[Hamfest – Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association](#)

This is a nice larger size hamfest!

Contests:

US Islands QSO Party- 8/30-31 <http://usislands.org/qso-party-rules/>

Colorado QSO Party- 8/30-31 <http://ppraa.org/coqp>

Kansas QSO Party- 8/30-31

<https://ksqsoparty.org/rules/KSQPRules2024.pdf?1>

Tennessee QSO Party- 9/7-8 <https://tnqp.org/rules/>

Africa FT4 Contest- 9/13

<http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp>

ARRL September VHF Contest- 9/13-15 <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

New Jersey QSO Party- 9/20-21 <http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp/rules.html>

Texas QSO Party- 9/20-21 <https://www.txqp.net/>

New Hampshire QSO Party- 9/20-21

http://www.w1wqm.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/NHQP_Rules.pdf

Masonic Lodges On The Air- 9/27 <http://cqmorelight.com/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:

Summer doldrums on the bands are almost over, time to chase some DX!!!

VK2/SP9FIH Lord Howe Island – 8/27-9/13

5H3DX Tanzania – 8/31-9/21

9X2AW Rwanda- 9/1-27

T88DF, T88DZ Palau- 9/2-9/11

For those interested in more upcoming DXpeditions, please refer to

<https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Starting mid-July through the winter, 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)

MFJ 949D Manual Antenna Tuner:

Tuner works as it should, cross needle meter and lamp works fine.

Dummy load measures 60 ohms (rather than 50) so when measuring power into the dummy load, the SWR will be slightly over 1:1. There seems to be no damage to the dummy resistor or connections- I assume came from the factory this way.

\$75- contact Randy at randyn1sp@gmail.com