

THE SOVARC REPORT

NOVEMBER, 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

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)

See change for our November meeting!

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

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VP, Newsletter Editor: Randy Horn, N1SP

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Treasurer: Ken Lanoue, N1RZ

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October 2025 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 with five members and two officers present.

Important: It was decided at this meeting that **the November SOVARC meeting will be held on Wednesday, 11/19, same time and place** due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Please mark your calendar!

Ideas were discussed for activities next year:

- 1) More POTA activations with a new twist- LUNCH! No reason we can't roast some weenies or burgers.
- 2) A "Practice Run" Foxhunt on the fire station property at a regular meeting. The club will provide 2 or 3 prebuilt antennas for teams to try their skills. The idea being to hold a hunt in an easy environment

where folks can gain experience before moving on to more challenging locations and equipment.

Chuck provided a list of repeater controller commands to the group.

It was decided that members would like to choose from ideas for a holiday party in December.

If you have any ideas, please let Bill or Randy know as we plan to email the options soon. We feel that having a carry-in at the firehouse is not an option due to clean up and cooking facilities.

Local ARES/ RACES Report



On October 4th another ARES Hospital Drill was conducted. This drill included the modes of FM UHF Linking System, DMR, HF Phone and for the first time THOR22 which greatly helped communication in the high noise levels. THOR22 which greatly helped communication in the high noise levels.

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

From the editor: Included in this issue is a list of some HF nets around our region. These are an excellent way to get used to what message forms look like, some digital and how a large net is conducted. Most of these nets are in their infancy, so NOW is a great time to begin learning more skills.

ARES HF Nets Schedule:

VT ARES Phone Net- Each Sunday at 8AM local time. 3976 khz.

MA ARES 80 Meter Phone Net- First Monday of the month. 6:45 local time. 3938 khz (and up)

MA HF 80 Meter NBEMS Net-7PM local time. 3584khz THOR22 center freq 1500.

NNY Digital Net- Second Monday of each month at 7pm local time (6:30 Early Check-ins). 7.065 (=/- QRM), THOR 22. This net is also on netlogger.

A New Area Repeater Upgrade!

News from the NFMRA:

The Mt Snow DMR repeater is now analog and is on the NFMRA network. 446.275 (-5MHz) pl 110.9. Thank you to Paul W1IMD for helping make this happen. I would love to hear any reports of how it is working in Southern Vermont and Northern Massachusetts.

Chris KI1P



Hams Love Their Food!

After weeks of “nutritious and tasty” hospital food, Ken, N1RZ had a very nice welcome home meal! It’s good to see you have a good appetite and I hope you send them this pic to show how it is done!



November Ham Shack Visit



This month we visit the rolling ham shack of our beloved president Bill, W1BVT. Earlier this autumn Bill totally disassembled his old trailer down to the frame and rebuilt the enclosure taller and sturdier as well as improved weatherization.

This trailer sports wide, flat fenders to act as benches or operation tables, solar and battery power, masts for erecting antennas and many other features. Of course, knowing Bill, it also carries a fire extinguisher!

Great job Bill!

A note from the editor:

Please share some photos and information about your shack with me so we may publish it. It doesn't matter how fancy or how modest- show others what you're up to in the hobby!

Ham Happenings



SOVARC POTA:

On October 11th several SOVARC members (Bill- W1BVT, Robert- KI4JQD, Alden- KC1JWR, and Nathan- K1MAZ) activated the Southstream Wildlife Management Park. Bills new trailer was utilized for the first time since remodeling and all went well. Bill suggests that lunch would add to future activations!



DX Chasing Is Picking Up!

The high bands are picking up as the summer propagation doldrums fade and there are at least 10 DXpeditions active at this time. N1SP worked FW5K (Wallis and Futuna Island) just

before writing this newsletter- 90 watts with an EFHW antenna. (Not bad for reaching the South Pacific)

Chasing DX does not require a tower or super-station. The main thing is to find them (see websites below), know good times for propagation, and a bit of patience in navigating pileups.

Hamfests:

The next hamfest that the editor is aware of at the time of writing is the VT Hamcomm in February. More info to follow.

Contests:

We refer you to the WA7BNM contest page: [WA7BNM Contest Calendar: Home](#)

Here you can find a very complete listing (more than the ARRL provides)

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

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

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 they 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