

THE SOVARC REPORT

OCTOBER, 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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September 2025 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 with five members and two officers present.

For “Show and Tell” Bill, W1BVT had his portable communications trailer in tow. He has totally rebuilt the trailer’s body with improvements such as a greater internal height and more storage and seating platforms. Bill’s trailer will be the topic of next month’s “Ham Shack Visit”.

Bill presented photos of our SVMC ARES Stations’ evolution through the years

and current. A discussion about the upcoming ARES drill and changes within our activity plan. It was mentioned that NOW is the time for interested members to start taking part in training and drills as there will be training and changes in the future.

It is planned that our meeting schedule for November and December, as well as a holiday party, will be discussed at the October meeting (October 22)

The meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Local ARES/ RACES Report



On October 4th another ARES Hospital Drill will be conducted. This drill will include the modes of FM UHF Linking System, DMR, HF Phone and for the first time THOR22 which should help communication in the high noise levels.

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.

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

Ham Radio Trivia Corner

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?

Answer: A simple SSB/CW transceiver will most likely have at least three oscillators:

- An intermediate Frequency Oscillator (To be mixed with the VFO/VXO)
- A VFO/VXO (Variable Frequency Oscillator)
- A BFO (Beat Frequency Oscillator (To create a tone when in CW mode)).

There will not be a trivia question following this month as the editor is not seeing any feedback or discussion within the group. I must assume that this portion of the newsletter is not popular.

October Ham Shack Visit



This month we visit the shack of our beloved editor. Randy only recently finished building an 8' x 3' radio table with a Formica laminated top. This top has 3" holes bored toward the rear so all cables may be ran and hidden below the table. The small white box at the wall is where feedlines and a healthy 3" braided ground scrap exits the shack to the first ground rod in the system only 3' away.

Equipment left to right is: Kenwood TS-520 (for nostalgia), Yaesu FT-710 (used mostly for digi), LDG 1000 auto-tuner, Kenwood TS- 890 (main rig for contests and hunting DX), and an Acom 1010 amplifier.

On the shelf is a Yaesu FT-6000R FM dual bander, a power pole outlet for QRP rigs or testing, and controller for RX loop antenna rotator.

Antennas include: 135' doublet fed with window line, ZS6BKW (a great modification for a G5RV), 160 meter inverted L, M2 6 meter loop, and a collinear Diamond vertical for VHF/UHF.

Ham Happenings



Hamfests:

October 3 and 4 Near-Fest New Boston, NH

[Home - NEAR-Fest.com](http://Near-Fest.com)

Contests:

Due to not hearing any chatter about local contest activity I will no longer be listing contests that I feel may be interesting to you.

I will refer you to the WA7BNM contest page: [WA7BNM Contest Calendar: Home](http://WA7BNMContestCalendar.com)

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 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 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