

THE SOVARC REPORT

JANUARY, 2026

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 (SK)

Secretary: *Bob Collins, KB1NFQ* rgcbjc@gmail.com

Equipment Quartermaster: Alden Jones IV, KC1JWR ajonesiv78@gmail.com

December, 2025 Meeting

The December meeting had been planned as a Holiday Get Together at the Bennington Pizza Hut on 12/10. Unfortunately, it was decided to postpone the event due to freezing rain in the evening. A “Winter Doldrums” get together will be planned in its place at our January Meeting (Jan 28)

SOVARC 2025 and Looking Forward

Looking back over the last year, our club has made outstanding progress. We are now proud to say that all communications to the club now almost immediately receive a response. Our website has been updated and a new Facebook page has been created.

Echolink is now back operational on the K1SV repeater.

We also once again have an active monthly newsletter and often have presentations at our monthly meetings.

Perhaps because of more activity, We have had six new members join this year.

Due to increased membership and proceeds from equipment donated (directly a benefit of our Facebook page and quick response), our assets have increased 5 fold in 2025.

Looking back at newsletters from the spring of last year, the only chore still active is the inventory of club equipment, which we need to once again investigate.

These accomplishments cannot keep going if they are only administrated by a few people. We have a choice as club members whether to step up to keep these things happening, or to slowly slip back where we once were a short time ago. We need the energy and skills of our members to keep this ball rolling! Please consider a position as an officer(*as long as you are willing to do the work*), helping with the newsletter, or giving a presentation.

The January meeting will once again have election of officers, and a review of old that still needs to be done.

Help Needed for Newsletter!

Each month, about three hours of the editor's time is invested in this newsletter with an attempt to provide an interesting publication. Without ideas or photos from the membership, the "idea well is going dry". Please provide any photos or information regarding what you are doing in the hobby or feedback on what you would like to see.

Without this help, the newsletter will become more condensed in the future.

Local ARES/ RACES Report



On December 10th, a state wide drill between hospitals was conducted. Our station was successful on all of the modes used (UHF FM, UHF DMR, HF SSB, HF Digital). Operators present at SVMC were K1MAZ, W1BVT, and N1SP.

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

Ken Lanoue, N1RZ- SK

We are sad to report on the passing of our dear friend and fellow member Ken, N1RZ between the Christmas and New Year Holidays. Ken was first licensed in 2001, and has been a dedicated SOVARC member along with his wife Maria, KB1LTA ever since.

Ken had also served as a past president and treasurer for the club, and will always be remembered for his quiet, unassuming nature as well as helping others.

God bless Ken and Maria, their two daughters and the rest of the family.

We will miss you, Ken.



Winter Ham Radio Project Time!



The cold weather season is upon us, and a good time to work on those radio projects that have been gathering dust. Below are a few of the projects that were in motion during December:

Chuck, WA1NBU has been working to get Echolink set up once again on the K1SV repeater. After a donation of a spare VHF radio from W1BVT, the system is up and running! So far, I have heard activity from hams in France and Brazil- now is a good time to start monitoring the K1SV repeater again!

Bill, W1BVT has continued building and experimenting with coaxial portable antennas. His latest creation is an extremely portable, quickly installed VHF coaxial vertical for VHF.

Randy, N1SP has been doing bench work on his old Kenwood TS-520. So far, work done has been cleaning and regreasing the VFO, installing new HV caps and new lamp bulbs. Next up will be replacing the 50-year-old bias resistors and capacitors in the driver and final sections. Is it worth it?- probably not but a cheap, fun project.

In between chasing DXpeditions, Randy has also been taking some online electronics courses through Udemy to brush up on his skills.

As mentioned on a previous page, please let us know what you have been up to. Just send a pic or description to randyn1sp@gmail.com We'd love to post it here!

Ham Happenings



Hamfests:

Hamfest/Convention

02/28/2026 - HAM-CON, ARRL Vermont State Convention

Location: Colchester, VT

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont

Website: <http://www.ham-con.org/>

Contests:

Tis' the season for ham radio contests! There are far too many for the editor to try to pick ones interesting to you.

For many popular and special interest contests, please visit the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.php>

Point is- it's time to fire up the radio!!!

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:

3G0XQ- San Ambrosia Island- Jan 12-Feb 15

T88HS- Koror Island Palau- Jan 7-15

Z81D- South Sudan- Jan 18 -23

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

Starting mid-July through October, 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)

George, K2KVI has the following Rotator for sale:

Yaesu G-5500 Azimuth-Elevation Rotator

This is the older version with the AC motors. It's never been mounted outside.

The plan was to setup an EME station - but that's not going to happen.

Asking \$500

Please contact George at: george.k2kvi@gmail.com

Bob, KB1NFQ has the following kit for sale:

IN-14 Single Tube Nixie Tube Clock Kit With Tube Kit with original packaging, unopened, unassembled, with all parts, PC boards and original Instruction page. Initially purchased by KB1NFQ, not knowing it was engineered with Surface Mount components. Seller is re-selling at reduced price to enable assembler with proper skills and tools to solder and enjoy.

\$25- Contact Bob at: rgcbjc@gmail.com

