

SOVARC REPORT

February
2026



Southern Vermont
Amateur Radio Club
The SOVARC Report

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← Whoops.
Wouldn't go
There.
Don't know
why.

*
Scribblings of the

Scribe



Randy Horn - Recording Secretary
January 2026 Meeting Minutes
Brief summary below:

- # Meeting came to order at 7:00 PM with three officers and eight members present.
- # Officers / Notables present: Bill Clark, President and District Emergency Coordinator for Southwestern Vermont, Randy Horn, Vice President, Man of Many Hats, Leigh Dupee, VT Section Emergency Coordinator, George Jounakos, SOVARC Website Coordinator, Nathan Mazanek, new SOVARC Club Treasurer and SOVARC Facebook Coordinator, and Equipment Quartermaster, Alden Jones.
- # Bill made mention of our late friend, and Treasurer, Ken Lanoue and that he is now known by the FCC and QRZ as a silent key.
- # Bill discussed a new direction the Monday night ARES Net will take. It will now be held as two nets. First there will be a formal ARES Net followed by a directed, yet informal group roundtable net. Bill also provided a new Preamble copy for controllers to use to build consistency.
- # Club dues time is upon us. Three current members and two new members paid dues at the meeting.

Calendar Events



Feb. 1, 2026 to Feb. 15, 2026... [ARRL In Vermont](#)
Feb. 7, 2026 & Feb. 8, 2026... [VT QSO Party](#)
Feb. 28, 2026... [HAM CON In Colchester, Vermont](#)

Calendar of Events will be amplified on Pg. 2

Meeting minutes continued on Pg. 3

* This Icom IC-7100 is a two piece transceiver, covering HF/50/144/440 Mhz. It has a Touch Screen Control Section. It's D-Star capable, providing 100 watts of RF power. It has an SD Card slot for voice storage and data cloning. Pretty nifty.

Equipment
Of the
Month

Calendar of Events Continued From Page 1

February 1 to February 15, 2026

As part of the ARRL's "Year of the Club" event, volunteer stations from each state will operate as W1AW for a period of two weeks. For that time stations will be operating on all modes as W1AW / 1. This is a chance to get W1AW in your log and confirmed through LoTW. Our own N1SP will be volunteering to represent Vermont during this time.

SOVARC PROUD ! ! !

Randy N1SP, Bennington, will be operating one-hour shifts.

- # Wednesday Feb 4 at 2 PM local, 20 Meters FT8 / FT4
- # Thursday Feb 5 at 8 PM local, 80 Meters, CW
- # Friday Feb 6 at 11 AM local, 17 Meters, FT8 / FT4
- # Monday Feb 9 at 8 PM local, 40 Meters, CW
- # Tuesday Feb 10 at 3 PM local, 30 Meters, CW

This event recognizes the vital role of amateur radio clubs in the ARRL community. Operators can participate by contacting W1AW portable stations which will be activated twice during the year, with each state hosting the callsign for two one-week periods.

February 7 & 8, 2026 VT QSO Party It is a great time to be hunted by Hams in other counties. For Description and Rules go to:
<https://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html>

February 28, 2026 HAM CON CONVENTION

The ARRL State Convention and Hamfest will be held at Hampton Inn in Colchester, Vermont, conveniently located at I-89 Exit 15. Ham Con is the only "hybrid convention" which means if you are unable to come, you can join the forums and demonstrations online from the comfort of home. A first for Vermont?

Mitch Stern, Ham Con organizer writes, "We have another great show planned. Elecraft co-owner Wayne Burdick will do a presentation on the various Elecraft radios you might consider. The World Radio Team Championship (WRTC) chairman, W0DXR, will be available to tell us about the team."

"We'll have forums on POTA activations, operating satellites, and operating on the Long Wave Bands. Demonstrations will include AREDN, DMR, and our HF radios. Add to this the Flea Market, ham exams, game shows, door prizes, and hundreds of your ham friends, and you will have a great time in the making. Buy your ticket now. It is only \$8.00."



Meeting Minutes Continued from Pg. 1

- # Club welcomes Tom, N4PXB as a new member, and Teddy, W2RRU as a returning member.
- # Randy, N1SP gave a "State of The Club" address concerning the club's growth and health over this past year. Special thanks were given to Nathan, K1MAZ for administering our new Facebook page, and George, K2KVI for his work on maintaining the Club Website. Both the Facebook page and Website were responsible for potential new members viewing us and some donations of equipment leading to a stronger fiscal health for the club.
- # Several items were suggested as SOVARC business for 2026. These will be discussed at our February meeting:
 - 1. Club equipment inventory.
 - 2. Having an annual "State of The Club" duly written into the club by-laws.
 - 3. The potential for having two or three club meetings held on weekends, perhaps along with a picnic or POTA event.
- # 4 Some Show and Tell items were displayed during the meeting, including a couple of rare DXpedition QSL cards, dipole antenna traps built by Randy, N1SP, a tiny SDR receiver donated by SK Ken, N1RZ, and some items donated to the club by Billy Martin.

Results for Election of Officers

President: Bill W1BVT
Vice President: Randy N1SP
Treasurer: Nathan K1MAZ
Secretary: Bob KB1NFQ
Equipment Alden Jones
Quartermaster: KC1JWR

- # The SDR receiver ended up being a surprise door prize. All members had a number posted on the back of their chair, and the lucky winner was Tom, N4PXB !!!

Minutes were submitted by
N1SP, with help from
Papermate.

SOVARC DIRECTORY Club Officers

President

Bill Clark-W1BVT

Vice President

Randy Horn-N1SP

Treasurer & Facebook Coordinator

Nathan Mazanek-K1MAZ

Secretary

Bob Collins-KB1NFQ

Repeater Manager

Chuck Watson-WA1NBU

SOVARC Repeater K1SV 146.835 mHz
PL Tone-100.00 Hz

Website Coordinator

George Jounakos-K2KVI

Equipment Quartermaster

Alden Jones-KC1JWR

SOVARC Membership is \$20.00 annually

Payable at our meetings or send to:
Nathan Mazanek K1MAZ

Editor: "The SOVARC Report"

Bob Collins-KB1NFQ

SOVARC and Friends Member List

Al Margadonna KA1IEG
Alan Shephard-WK8W
Alden Jones KC1JWR
Anthony Bartholdi - KC1GGA
Art Haytko-K2IIR
Bill Martin-KE6EHU
Bill Clark - W1BVT
Bob Collins - KB1NFQ
Bob Hain - WA2VYZ
Chuck Watson - WA1NBU
Dave Latchum - W1VR
Dave Lubinski-N1VNV
Ed Evans-KC1QJR
Ed Landry SK-N2HX
Ed Ransom KA1MAG SK
Frank Pulaski-Wt1B
George Jounakos-K2KVI
Glenn Burt - KA2DTH
Heather Rigney-KC1PMR
Ian Foist-KC1VRY
John Blandford
John Colt-NV1V
Josh O'Bourne-N1ZGA
Kerry McCall
Ken Lanoue SK
Michael Lachant SK
Mike Powlaka - SK
Nate Mazanek- K1MAZ
Paul Gayet-AA1SU
Peter Hayes-K2AEP
Randy Horn - N1SP
Robert Elias-K1PLK
Robert Nowak - KI4JQD
Roland Stiner-NK2U
Ron Wonderlick-AG1W
Roy Mattison-N1TBB
Teddy Vincent=W2RRU
Tom Woodson-N4PXB



SOVARC FUNNIES

Two Days of the Week Are Important
to all SOVARC members.

Sunday evening is the 10 Meter
Net hosted by Chuck Watson,
WA1NBU each week at 28.333 mHz at
8:00 PM.

Monday Evening is the 2 Meter
ARES Net hosted by Bob Collins,
KB1NFQ each week at 146.835 mHz
(PL Tone 100 hz) at 7: PM

It goes without saying that on the
Fourth Wednesday of the month the
official SOVARC meeting is held at
the Bennington Firehouse, hams welcomed.

Join Us !!

ARES NET



The Bennington County ARES District 5 Net is held every Monday evening at 7:00 PM on the SOVARC 146.835 mHz repeater. Access to the repeater requires programming a 100 Hz PL tone. All ARES group members should be occasionally taking a turn as "Net Controller. The opportunity is great for the preparedness of the net.

W1BVT, Bill Clark,
is the District
Emergency Coordinator.



**Remember the
100 Hz PL Tone**

What is ARES?

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered, their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible in the ARES. The only qualifications, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Because ARES is an amateur service, only amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency powered equipment is desirable, but not a requirement for membership.

There are four levels of ARES organization: National, Section, District, and Local are the designations. National emergency coordination at ARRL Headquarters is under the supervision of the ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager, who is responsible for advising all ARES officials regarding their problems, maintaining contact with federal government officials concerned with amateur emergency communications potential, and in general with carrying out the League's policies regarding emergency communications



SOVARC SWAP & SAVE

This Month's Items

Art Haytko has two items for sale:
Prices: \$10.00 Club Members
\$15.00 Non-Members

Soldering Iron: Included are 3 tips for today's smaller components, a stand for the iron, and some silver bearing, not included a sponge pad



and.....

Clock: A 7.5 inch diameter 24 hour electric movement, with a North Pole polar map of the world. Can be adjusted for any one of the 24 time zones.



Contact: Art Haytko K2IIR at
arthaytko@gmail.com

Please notify the SOVARC REPORT a week before the issue date with any details and photos necessary for your sale..

*73, We'll Catch
You In The Next QSO
Old Man.*

In the next issue, we'll hopefully examine the subject of navigating the FCC Amateur Radio License Renewal process.

If you have any comments for viewers which might pertain to your experience, let us know. It's not impossible to do. We all are required to go through it periodically. It may be a subject that shared knowledge and experience can help everybody in the SOVARC community.

Until next month, have fun on the air !
KB1NFQ.

Space to take notes, scribble,
or test that old ball-point pen
to see if it still works

.

Editor's Notes February, 2026

Greetings,

A warm welcome to all. It is great to be back as Editor after some years. I believe it has been about ten years. Please allow me to continue with one good eye, one good ear, and a real heart for this growing club.

Please let me know if you find corrections necessary, omissions in order, etc. I will not take comments badly. In fact, if this Newsletter is to improve I need your input. As long as the old Microsoft Publisher works, we'll be in business.

Printing/Publishing has always been in my blood. My dad was a printer and I grew up listening to an ancient cast iron letterpress machine in the basement surrounded by cases of lead type. We would print letterheads, Christmas cards, business cards, and newsletters. Printing has come a long way since the letterpress days with our electronic typesetters, computers, and laser printers, but those old clankety clank relics still exist. I am with you hoping a functioning newsletter will help our SOVARC thrive.

Please keep in touch. Until next month, stay safe, and stay warm. If I am unable to make meetings please excuse me. It's due to a low blood pressure thing in the PM. I'm apt to find myself on the floor after fainting. My son, who is a Human Physiology professor, tells us it is not uncommon in oldsters. Bummer city.

Your Editor

Remember \$20.00 annual dues are payable to Bill Clark, W1BVT, or the Treasurer at the meetings.

Best regards,

Bob - KB1NFQ

This just came across my inbox. You may have seen it.
I thought I would share this gentleman's idea for what it is.

Greetings,

I am a relatively new HAM living in Arlington. I've been thinking about how to increase our ranks of active, passionate, HAM operators and I believe I have a winning idea to make a difference.

I am working with the Vermont Lions Club International, and specifically my local Arlington Lions Club to create a new "chapter based" program under the Lions Club umbrella that promotes HAM radio within Vermont. The program is named the "Lions Radio Relay League" or LRRL. Once we finalize the details and establish a repeatable process and program, we hope to share this program in other states, and eventually around the world.

The program targets local youth (ages 12 to 18) and adult community members, providing classes that prepare participants to pass the FCC's Technician exam. It also provides practical labs, and supplemental learning sessions to "fill in the gaps" so participants can get on the air with as little friction as possible. For the youth graduates we provide a free VHF/UHF HT, an inexpensive QRP mobile HF radio (pre-built or kit) and accessories and materials to assemble, tune, and assemble simple HF antennas for the HF radio. For the youth who opt for the "kit", the intent is to teach them to assemble, tune, and test it. For those unable or uninterested in building their own kit radio, we will supply a pre-built model. All graduates will participate in a group QSO Celebration Party once they have their call signs, using the radios and antennas they have built themselves during the practical lab sessions.

This program is in it's infancy. Our first cohort of students begins on March 17. I am still working on the curriculum including the extra ham culture session content. Suggestions are definitely welcome.

I am willing to ask for assistance in your group and/or individual members. If anyone has experience assembling HF radio kits such as the TruDX or QRPLabs kits, or just knows how to solder through-board components onto PCB's and could assist in one or more practical lab sessions, I would greatly appreciate help instructing and assisting students in learning these skills.

I attached a CONFIDENTIAL first draft of our initial mailer for the parents of students at our local high school. We are meeting with our local Principal tomorrow. Our website isn't live yet, and some of our final details aren't finalized, so please don't share them or the mailer yet. We also plan to have posters and social media campaign materials targeting adult participants.

Is this a project that your group might be able to help me with? I'm not looking for a commitment for anyone to be an instructor or assistant for the entire course (although that would be awesome). I realize people are busy and have many demands on their time. Help with one practical lab session here or there, maybe a live demo or presentation of an interesting aspect of "ham life" could make a huge difference. I am one guy here trying to make a difference and grow our ranks, and I would appreciate any help I can get.

I look forward to your response !!

73,

Peter Pavlovich
W1PSP, Arlington, VT

Introducing: The Lions' ROARS Program

A hands-on STEM, communications, and public-service program

What Is Lions' ROARS?

Lions' ROARS is a free educational program introducing students to the science, technology, and real-world applications of amateur (ham) radio through hands-on learning in a supportive, team-oriented environment. The program is operated by the Arlington Lions Club through its local branch of the Lions' Radio Relay League (LRRL).

Why Amateur Radio for Youth?

- Hands-on STEM with real tech
- Modern digital and analog communication skills
- Emergency readiness and community service
- Builds confidence, teamwork, and leadership
- Connects youth with people around the world

What Students Will Learn

- How HF, VHF, and UHF radios work
- How radio waves begin, travel & why conditions matter
- Basics of electronics, radios, antennas, and safety
- FCC rules and good operating habits
- Voice, digital, and Morse code communication
- Portable, satellite, and emergency radio skills

Practical Labs (optional: hands-on or observe)

- Learn about electronic parts and simple circuits
- Practice soldering and repairs
- Build their own radios and antennas
- Explore real-world radio operation and culture
- See presentations / demos from experienced operators



Free Equipment and FCC Licensing

Students receive all instruction needed to pass the FCC technician's exam. Graduates who pass the FCC Technician exam earn an official FCC license and callsign.

Youth graduates aged 12-18 receive a free equipment kit to help them get on the air quickly and successfully:

- A VHF/UHF handheld radio.
- A pre-built or build-your-own HF radio kit.
- A pre-built or build-your-own antenna kit.
- Essential accessories and optional lab supplies.

Continuing Education & Group Activities

- Optional LRRL trips, events, and contests
- Mentorship and community service projects
- Advanced FCC licensing for more operating privileges
- Additional hands-on radio and antenna building
- Community service credits (subject to school approval)

Classes and Activities

- Led by licensed, experienced educators.
- Always supervised by at least two adults.
- Follow all FCC safety rules and guidelines.

Classes begin March 17, 2026.

Space is limited.

Registration closes March 6, 2026.

Program Details

Location:	Arlington Community House
Time:	6:30-8:00 PM
Class Days:	Tuesdays: FCC exam prep (required) Thursdays: Optional hands-on labs, demos, ham radio culture, tips and tricks. (participate, work in teams, or observe)
Course Dates:	March 17 through May 21 (no classes during spring break, April 20-24)
Ages:	12-18 (parents/community welcome)

Learn More or Register

Website: <https://lrll.org/youth.html> **Email:** youth@lrll.org



The SOVARC Report
Southern Vermont Amateur Radio Club
Bob Collins - KB1NFQ Editor
12 Greenview Drive
Bennington, VT 05201
Email: rgcbjc@gmail.com



Groundhogs concur, there will be at least 6 more weeks of Winter,

Next SOVARC Sponsored

VE Exam Session
To Be Announced

Bennington Firehouse
Bennington, VT 05201

Please bring the following items:
Pen, Pencil

Photo ID and copy of current license
(if licensed)
All originals CSCE's
Check for exam cost

For additional information contact:
Bill Clark-W1BVT 802-491-7707

●Next SOVARC Meeting● Join Us On February 25, 2026

Regular SOVARC Club Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Bennington Firehouse at 150 River St. in Bennington, VT. Meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ham Radio.

For more information contact
Bill Clark-W1BVT 802-491-7707