

SOVARC REPORT

March
2026



Southern Vermont
Amateur Radio Club
The SOVARC Report

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* Scribblings of the

Scribe



Bill Clark- Recording Secretary
February 2026 Meeting Minutes
Brief summary below. See also Pg. 3.

- # .The February 25, 2026 SOVARC Meeting was held at the Bennington Fire House. Meeting started at 7:05 PM and concluded at 8:00 PM.
- # Three officers and five Club members were in attendance.
- # Discussion entertained the idea of having an April 22, 2026 meeting at Pizza Hut in Bennington with dinner and meeting all in one wonderful evening.
- # Ideas presented in addition was a May 23, 2026 SOVARC Meeting as combination POTA event and Club Meeting at the same day. Location of the POTA and Meeting has not been cemented in concrete as of yet, but will be announced in the future.
- # Ideas have already surfaced concerning ARRL Field Day in June. Members were encouraged to think of ideas related to that. Discussed was the cost related to renting a Porta Potty unit for the event, and how members could split the cost among our selves for that. The vendor has

Meeting minutes continued on Pg. 3

Calendar Events



- April 22, 2026 SOVARC Meeting and Dinner at Pizza Hut 6:00 PM
- May 23, 2026 POTA Event & SOVARC Meeting Location to be announced
- June 19-21, 2026 ARRL Field Day Tentative Dates Only

* The Icom IC-9100 is a Base Unit covering the HF/50/144/430/1200 mHz bands with SSB/CW/AM/FM/RTTY and digital modes with optional inter face. It provides 100 Watts of RF power on HF and 144 mHz, is equipped with Independent receivers, automatic antenna tuner, built-in USB interface for CAT control, SD card slot for settings, recording, and logging, DSP filtering. No SDR

Equipment
Of the
Month

**Calendar of Events Continued
From Page 1**

No additional details are necessary.

All upcoming events listed on
Page 1.

Meeting Minutes Continued from Pg. 1

stipulated that they require payment of the rental before the unit is delivered.

- # Bob Hain, WA2VYZ has once again offered to host the Field Day at his QTH on Holy Smoke Road in Shaftsbury this year.
- # Nate Mazanek, K1MAZ, has been officially certified as our new Club Treasurer. Thank you Nate.
- # The full slate of SOVARC officers was elected at the January SOVARC meeting, and reported then:
 - # President; Bill Clark-W1BVT
 - Vice President: Randy Horn, N1SP
 - Treasurer: Nate Mazanek, K1MAZ
 - Secretary / Editor SOVARC Report: Bob Collins-KB1NFQ
 - Equipment Quartermaster: Alden Jones-KC1JWR



Attention Battery Recyclers:

The following information was supplied by Art, K2IIR, to help all of us recycle our rechargeable and non rechargeable cells. Art brought each battery in it's own plastic bag.

Home Depot:

Once inside the store, there is a Self Checkout location up front. Walk through and on your left side, head to the EXIT. On the right side just before the EXIT doors there is a large container labelled, "Batteries".

Staples::

As you enter the store on your right side, go to Customer Service. I was asked if I was a Rewards Member. Once confirmed by my name and phone number, they took my battery from me and said, "Thank You". I'm not sure if Non-Rewards Members get the same treatment.

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 \$25.00 annually

Payable at our meetings or send to:

Nathan Mazanek-K1MAZ

Editor: "The SOVARC Report"

Bob Collins-KB1NFQ

SOVARC Members 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

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

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



**Buzz, please promise me you'll respect
me in March.**

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 7:00 PM

It goes without saying that on the Fourth
Wednesday of the month the official
SOVARC meeting is held at the
Bennington Firehouse on 130 River Street
at 7:00 PM. All hams are welcome!

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, 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.

Editor's Notes March, 2026

March On Folks,

Emphasis should be given to things we can do which work. It was my plan to discuss the FCC license renewal process in depth, but since no suggestions or comments came my way, I felt happy you weren't experiencing problems. Experience recently has taught me appreciation for the helpful people on the switchboard at Papa FCC.

I have spoken to many of you who have related your success stories where everything went smoothly and you received your renewed license. What delayed my quest to renew my ticket was the online system's inability to accept my six digit codes emailed to me at times during the registration and payment process. Their IT people attribute it to failed registration attempts.

A few hints are in order:

(1) Follow the directions explicitly for creating a pass word which meets their criteria. If you find a continual problem, don't try again and again. Call 1-877-430-3201.

(2) When you get to the payment part of the process, if your Credit Card # doesn't pass, and you have to try again and again, notice a rectangular box around the Card Number entry section. I didn't.

(3) Clicking on that will erase your attempts, and you get to do it again. Then it asks for your credit card EXPIRATION DATE and 3 DIGIT SECURITY CODE, same as always. The FCC will acknowledge payment as having been initiated. No spectacular advice. "Finito" all is done.

73,
Bob-KB1NFQ

In handling this, I found the <https://contacts.google.com> website was the only access to the Editing and Adding process. These are perhaps overly repetitious directions. If you ever need to wander through the new Gmail, feel free to use them, or notify me if you find an easier way.

Gmail Makes It Harder

Recently, Goggle announced there had been changes in the organization and procedures within G-Mail. They stated the reasons were "to improve the security of their email system".

Going forward, procedures which had been intuitive and convenient in the past are now complicated and require learning new methods...[and new ways to get there.](#) Editor's opinion, "Much too cumbersome."

Now....

EDIT any of your Gmail Contacts their new way:

- # Go to Google Contacts on your web Browser by <https://contacts.google.com>.
- # Click on Google Contacts-Sign In.
- # Your combined Contact List will Appear.
- # To edit any part of a contact, go to that contact and click on the pencil. (Edit)
- # That contact and all fields appear and you can add Call Signs, Emails, phone numbers, comments, etc.
- # Then SAVE.
- # Click the left arrow next to the Contact name. You're done.
- # You can go back through your contacts to double check, or continue to edit.

DELETE any contact from the list.

- # Click on the three dots, then click on DELETE or any option there.
- # The contact you highlighted will be deleted from that list.
- # You may go back through the list or continue to Delete.
- # Every one you've deleted will be obvious by it's absence.
- # Get out of Google Contacts. You're done.

Create a New Contact

- # Access Gmail the usual way.
- # Up pops Gmail in it's colorful ghostly intro.
- # Along the right side of the INBOX is the contacts list, and farther to the right to the is a silhouette of a person. Ignore that.
- # Go to the top of the list snd click on Create Contact. Instantly, as if by magic from Google, a fountain of fields appears glistening in the sun, where you can fill in the data for your new contact.
- # Fill in all you want, and notice a SAVE oval has appeared.to remind you to save this. There are no fields for Shoe Size, (just the facts, man.)
- # You just added a NEW CONTACT.
- # The identity or name appears.
- # Above that, a left arrow appears. When clicked, will bring you back to the list, where you can continue to create more new contacts.
- # You can double check your newly added contacts by clicking on the back arrow at the extreme left top, exiting this.
- # Sign into Gmail to access your contact list for editing or deleting by following the above procedure.

Create a New Contact List by Name.

- # To create a new Label for a separate Contact List , go down to LABELS on your Inbox page and click (+) to name your new List label.
- # Leave it that way, or even say where you want the new Label to be "nested" under (Personal, Receipts, or Work).

Separate Contact Lists, if you have more than one list created,

- # Go to Gmail the usual way.
- # Select COMPOSE and click directly on the word (To:) at the beginning of your message.
- # Your combined lists will appear, and to the right select My Contacts. The list choices drop down for you to select your list.
- # Select ALL or individual names, and then click Insert to have those be recipients of your message.
- # Of course, if you merely begin to spell your Contacts name in the (To:) field, a list of the many names will show, you highlight it to insert it into the (TO:) field. The old method.
- # Both of the previous two methods work.

Bouvet Island

DXpedition

**In planning for three years.
Landing and operating
approximately Feb. 26, 2026.**

This latest DXpedition, licensed as 3YOK, with a budget of \$1,675,000 is traveling to “the most remote uninhabited island in the world.” For the most part, many participating are not wealthy, and this RF rendezvous is financed by donations, purchase of QSL’s, with much of the equipment donated by Icom America and countless other manufacturers.

Bouvet Island, islet in the South [Atlantic Ocean](#). One of the world’s most isolated islands, it lies about 1,500 miles (2,400 km) southwest of the [Cape of Good Hope](#) of southern Africa and about 1,000 miles (1,600 km) north of the mainland of [Antarctica](#). Of volcanic origin, it is rocky and almost entirely ice-covered, with ice cliffs surrounding the coast. Landing is extremely difficult on the island. It has an area of 23 square miles (59 square km), rises to 3,068 feet (935 metres), and is uninhabited.

A group of approximately 20 experienced DXpeditioners, helicopter pilots, mechanics, ship captains and crew, doctors, chef, and others are sailing from Capetown, South Africa aboard an icebreaker, under the Icelandic flag. They plan to stay and operate for three weeks from two QTH’s on the small island.

Helicopters will transport the crew to the rocky island, after reconnaissance flights locate suitable QTH sites. Below are the proposed Band Plans for the incredible venture:

Band	CW	SSB	FT8	Band	Mode
160m	Free	N/A	1836 kHz	160m	CW/FT8
80m	Free	N/A	3567 kHz	80m	CW/FT8
60m	Free	N/A	5357 kHz	60m	CW/FT8
40m	Free	Free	7090 kHz	40m	All mode
30m	Free	Free	10131 kHz	30m	CW/FT8
20m	Free	Free	14090 kHz	20m	All mode
17m	Free	Free	18095 kHz	17m	All mode
15m	Free	Free	21090 kHz	15m	All mode
12m	Free	Free	24911 kHz	12m	All mode
10m	Free	Free	28090 kHz	10m	All mode
				SAT	QO-100

Band	CW
160m	1810-1815
80m	3500-3510
40m	7000-7010
30m	10100-10105
20m	14000-14010
17m	18068-18073
15m	21000-21010
12m	24890-24895
10m	28000-28010

Band	CW (kHz)	SSB
80m	3510-3530	N/A
40m	7010-7030	7120-7150
30m	10105-10125	N/A
20m	14010-14030	14.160-14.190
17m	18073-18088	18.130-18.160
15m	21010-21030	21.160-21.190
12m	24895-24910	24.940-24.970
10m	28010-28030	28.320-28.350



The island is considered a Dependency of Norway. The country has an established base on the continent of Antarctica.

Images above show their QSL Card, a radio tent, a close-up map of Bouvet Island, and a photo of the rocky island taken from the South Atlantic Ocean showing the tent perched on a part of the shore not covered with ice.

What an opportunity for us to work this barren, isolated spot on Earth. It took 7 days to travel the waters from Capetown, South Africa to Bouvet Island aboard icebreaker Argus from the vessel company Icetugs.

QSL Manager for the 3YOK DXpedition is: charles.wilmott@m0oxo.com

Photos and facts are courtesy of the full 3YOK website,
<http://ict-kuma.net/3YOK/index.htm>
 and Wikipedia.com.

Information and website referred to the SOVARC Report by N1SP.

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



You
otter
join
dem
weekly
SOVARC
nets.

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
w1bvt@hotmail.com

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

Regular SOVARC Club Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Bennington Firehouse at 130 River St. in Bennington, VT. Meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ham Radio.

For more information contact
Bill Clark-W1BVT
w1bvt@hotmail.com