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Calendar of Events

April 22	SOVARC Meeting & Dinner at Pizza Hut, Northside Drive, in Bennington at 6:00 PM.
May 23	POTA Activation & SOVARC Meeting, location to be announced.
1 June 19-21	ARRL Field Day

Scribblings Of The Scribe

*Bill Clark - Minutes Recorder
March 2026 Meeting Minutes*

Brief Summary Below – See also Pg. 3

- # The March 25, 2026 SOVARC Meeting was cancelled due to Bill Clark's illness, and the risk of bringing this winter's germs and viruses into the Bennington Firehouse. We know you all appreciate the decision
- # We hope to report the Pizza Hut meeting and dinner scheduled for April 22, 2026 in next month's minutes.



Featured Equipment of the Month



The Icom IC-7300 MK2 is an evolved and slightly pricier version of the venerable IC-7300. Appearance is very similar to its older brother. (Prices now seen at \$1449.00). New features of this beauty include, (1) an HDMI port for simple connection of external monitor for frequency read, scope, waterfall, menu, and even audio output measurement, (2) a built in CW decoder, (3) USB Type C Com Ports for digital modes, logging, and contest software and (4) lower power consumption, and better cooling for contests and longer operating sessions. An improved new offering?

Calendar of Events

Continued from Page 1

All upcoming events listed on Page 1. Below, a detailed Events page:

April 22, 2026 The officers are planning a combination SOVARC Monthly Meeting and dinner at the Pizza Hut on Northside Drive in Bennington at 6:00 PM. This promises to be an enjoyable departure from the customary monthly meeting and an opportunity for everyone in the SOVARC Club to eat together and visit informally.

May 23, 2026 You may have suggestions for a park venue to activate a POTA event. Many are nearby and are prime places to gather. At the present time we have no cast in concrete location so be thinking about a favorite park we can descend on. Member can discuss how we plan to power our equipment and plans for eating. We'll operate, then have our SOVARC meeting on location there. Sounds like great fun.

June 19-21 ARRL Field Day is approaching and during the next meetings, we can entertain planning toward that end.

With an invitation once again being extended by Bob Hain to allow us to use his property for coveted Field Day, we can go ahead with plans. We plan to split the cost of rental of a Porta Potty unit among those operating. The vendor requires us to pay for the rental prior to delivery. Meals can be discussed at subsequent meetings.

We are looking forward to warmer weather soon. Won't it be great to wear lighter clothes for a change. Keep those thoughts.



Meeting Minutes

Continued from Pg. 1

We extend our best wishes to Bill Clark as he recovers from a winter illness. See you next month



'Everyone here? Good. Meeting topic: Setting world record for shortest meeting. All in favor say aye. Ayes have it. Meeting over.'



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 Check-Out 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 labeled, "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.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Saint Albans and RANV Hams Reporting



**St. Albans
Amateur Radio Club**

&

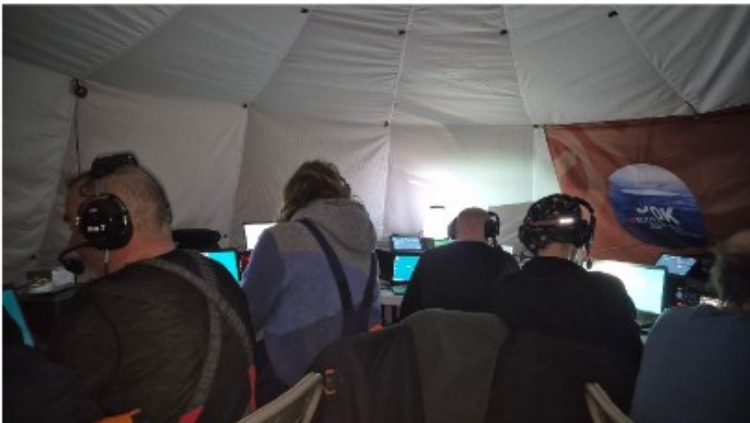


In a Sunday night SOVARC Net recently Eric Lessard, NJ1S, joined Chuck Watson, WA1NBU and others on the 10 Meter Net via Echo Link. We talked during that net, and I had an after-net QSO with him. He is a very involved and enthusiastic ham, interested in uniting members throughout Vermont. He sent along the RANV newsletter (Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont) and a colleague of his, Scot Herrick, K9JY was kind enough to send along a mailing from STARC (Saint Albans Amateur Radio Club).

Included below are some articles and photos from both clubs.

Bouvet Island

Those following the 3Y0K, Bouvet Island DXpedition will enjoy a few photos gathered by the STARC club in their mailing. This must have been frigid DX conditions for hardy souls. Some of our members worked them.



Below are several listings included for followers of the 3Y0K event and for future DXpeditions.

Bouvet Island statistics

MODE/BAND	160 m	80 m	60 m	40 m	30 m	20 m	17 m	15 m	12 m	10 m	70 cm	13 cm	TOTAL QSO	TOTAL %
CW	134	829	0	1,726	981	2,755	4,494	3,840	2,769	2,405	0	607	20,540	24.9 %
FT4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	54	106	0.13 %
FT8	268	2,031	79	5,859	3,426	7,160	9,298	5,929	9,007	2,909	222	451	46,639	56.53 %
SSB	0	0	0	760	0	1,535	1,402	2,599	3,863	3,991	0	1,068	15,218	18.45 %
TOTAL QSO	402	2,860	79	8,345	4,407	11,450	15,194	12,368	15,639	9,305	274	2,180	82,503	100 %
TOTAL %	0.49 %	3.47 %	0.1 %	10.11 %	5.34 %	13.88 %	18.42 %	14.99 %	18.96 %	11.28 %	0.33 %	2.64 %	100 %	

CONTINENT / BAND	160 m	80 m	60 m	40 m	30 m	20 m	17 m	15 m	12 m	10 m	70 cm	13 cm	TOTAL QSO	TOTAL %
AFRICA	7	33	6	105	48	148	173	153	175	89	1	32	966	1.17 %
ASIA	30	276	5	1,622	1,177	2,840	3,304	2,806	2,622	1,746	9	66	16,503	20 %
EUROPE	229	1,196	28	2,849	1,917	5,455	9,701	7,481	10,109	5,951	243	1,976	47,135	57.13 %
NORTH AMERICA	96	1,111	23	3,174	1,026	2,292	1,311	1,301	2,266	1,295	0	20	13,915	16.87 %
OCEANIA	1	24	0	60	38	268	274	171	108	30	2	6	976	1.18 %
SOUTH AMERICA	39	220	17	531	205	451	428	455	358	194	19	80	2,997	3.63 %
Not Determined	0	0	0	4	0	0	3	1	3	0	0	0	11	0.01 %
TOTAL QSO	402	2,860	79	8,345	4,407	11,450	15,194	12,368	15,639	9,305	274	2,180	82,503	100 %

Upcoming DXpeditions

2026 Mar13	2026 Mar16	Ogasawara	JD1	LoTW	OPDX 20260202	By JA0RQV as JA0RQV/JD1; 80-6m; FT8 FT4 CW SSB; 100w; QSL via Club Log OQRS			
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar15	Ogasawara	JD1 <small>NEW!</small>	See Info	OPDX 20260311	By JA1EZO as JD1/JA1EZO, JK1VCO JK1XML likewise; 160-10m; SSB FT8; QSL JA1EZO and JK1VCO via LoTW; QSL JK1XML via JK1XML			
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar17	Guam	KH2	See Info	OPDX 20260217	By YT1AD as KH2/N9YU and YU3AA as KH2/NS3A; HF; CW SSB FT8 FT4; QSL KH2/N9YU via YT1AD, KH2/NS3A via YU3AA			
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar20	Dominica	J79C	LoTW	OPDX 20260208	By HB9JAB fm Roseau, La Plaine, and Calibishie; 20-10m; SSB FT8; 100w; wire antenna; QSL via eQSL			
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar25	Austral Is	TX5EU	LoTW	DXW.Net 20260110	By PG5M PA3EWP DL2AMD PA2KW DK2AMM DL2AWG; 80-10m, incl 60m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; 3 stns, 24/7; QSL manager: DL2AWG (see Web)			
2026 Mar14	2026 Mar22	Anguilla	YP2EYO	LoTW	OPDX 20260223	By K5AYO; 40-10m; SSB FT8 CW; 15w; QSL via K5AYO direct or Club Log OQRS			NG3K
2026 Mar15	2026 Mar20	Cayman Is	ZF2AS <small>NEW!</small>	LoTW	TDDX 20260310	By K9WAS fm Grand Cayman I; 80-6m; SSB + digital; 10w; EFHW, OC-DipoleD			NG3K
2026 Mar15	2026 Apr03	Vanuatu	YJ1JXZ	LoTW	OPDX 20260220	By JK1JXZ fm Port Vila; 80-6m		NG3K	NG3K
2026 Mar17	2026 Mar23	Mariana Is	KH0	See Info	OPDX 20260217	By YT1AD as KH0/N9YU and YU3AA as KH0/NS3A; HF; CW SSB FT8 FT4; QSL KH0/N9YU via YT1AD, KH0/NS3A via YU3AA		NG3K	NG3K

Below, a few comments from Mitch Green W1SJ, from RANV (Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont), coordinator of HAM COM:

“We pulled it off. Not only that, we knocked it out of the park. HAM COM 2026 was a tremendous success, as relayed to me by many members. The paid attendance was 214. This number included folks on site, folks on Zoom, and folks who bought tickets to watch later on. This was the best attendance we have had since before COVID. It has taken a long time to get everyone back in the habit of attending the show. These days just maintaining attendance at ham radio events is tough. You might have noticed that everyone is getting much older, and with that comes the inability of old people to attend events. Sadly, young people are rare DX at most ham events. With the tireless promotion and progressive ideas in our ticket pricing, we were able to make money which will be used for future events.”

Mitch continues:

“Here is the proposal. Everyone raves about park activations. I do several each year by myself from very remote locations. Instead, let’s do club-based activations from close by parks. The purpose is twofold, build operating ability, and build group camaraderie.”

“We are looking at the time period from late April, when the weather gets nicer, through early June. There are several nearby parks we could activate. Some are available before Memorial Day, while others are not. One idea is to activate Knight Point State Park for the New England QSO Party May 2-3. This would be a combined activation along with a contest. It is busier than a normal activation, but a lot less busy than Field Day. Or we could activate other nearby parks on non-contest weekends. The goal is to get a sizeable group of people operating on SSB, making contacts, dealing with QRM, and accurately logging. Between equipment Bob Henneberger and I can provide, we can easily put two or three stations on the air, making room for everyone.”

“April 19, 20, 23, 26, May 8,9,40, 31, and June 6,7 are good dates for this. Weekends we avoid are those including NEAR FEST, Dayton, and the Vermont City Marathon. An activation generally runs from 10 AM (park opening) until around 4 PM. The goal is to activate for this entire time and not just “pop in” for an hour. You want to allow time to operate and watch others. Time spent on the air means you get better at your craft.”

Below are a few Mitch Green photos from HAM COM:



Warren County Radio Club in Queensbury, NY submitted a notice of their Swap Meet which is included below:

**WARREN COUNTY RADIO CLUB
HAM RADIO SWAP MEET
APRIL 11TH 2026 10AM UNTIL 2PM**



**INSIDE THE COMMON AREA
AT THE AVIATION MALL
QUEENSBURY, NY EXIT 19 OFF I-87
ENTRANCE NEAR 99
RESTAURANT/PLANET FITNESS**

**ENTRY IS FREE \$10 FEE PER TABLE TO SELL
RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

**LICENSE TESTING
WILL BE HELD AT
9:00AM IN THE OLD
AMERICAN EAGLE
STORE**



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
AMATEUR RADIO?
CHECK OUT OUR PUBLIC INFO TABLE OR
DISCOVER MORE AT WWW.W2WCR.ORG**



Pete Lawson, N1KJ, from South Burlington, VT is an avid CW operator and has recently completed the CW Academy Advance Course concentrating on what is referred to as “head copy”. He submitted his experiences to the RANV newsletter:

“This past week I graduated from the CW Academy Advanced Course and thought it might be useful to write down some thoughts to share with you.”

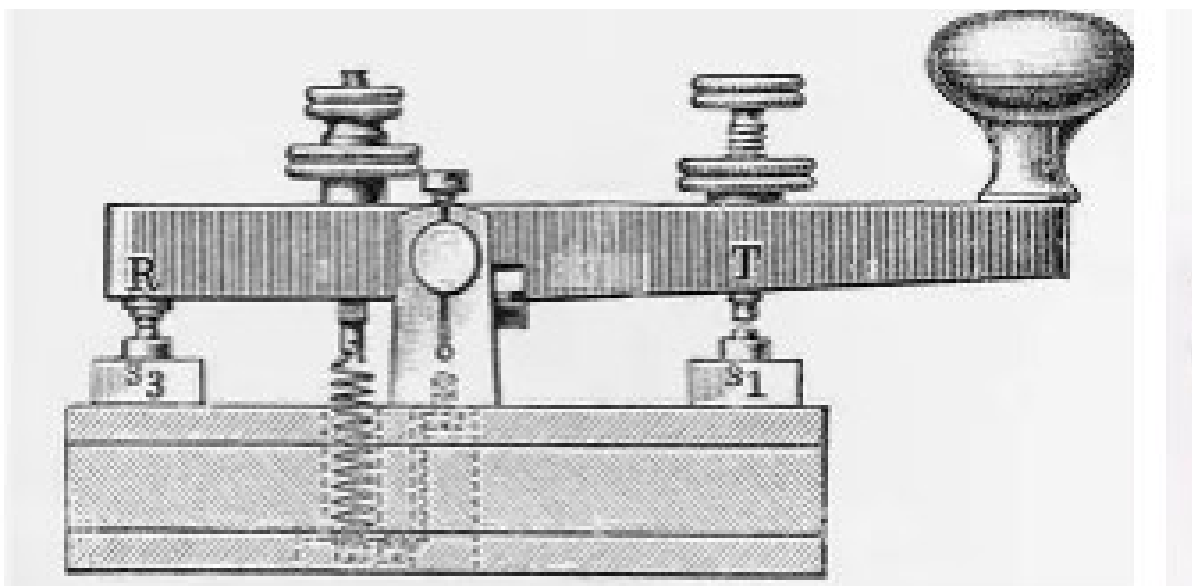
“I had previously arrived at 20 WPM by writing everything down, and it came as a shock to learn I had to put down my pen to copy at higher speeds. That was really difficult. I found if I wrote everything down, I could copy almost everything up to about 20 WPM, but when I switched to “head copy” I was initially missing quite a lot unless

I backed down to 15 WPM or slower and when I made my own audio files of common words, something worked. I used Ebook2CW to create longer audio files, and I kept up with the sessions.”

“We were told that at about 25 WPM we’d need to start switching over to a mostly “phonic” approach to head copy, where we’re no longer stringing words on a blackboard in our brain, but composing words from their letter sounds. This saves a mental step of converting letters to sounds to form meaning. I still haven’t quite mastered that. I did master a reasonable vocabulary of easily identifiable words and a moderate ability to head copy at 20 WPM, but not quite enough to decode the short stories at higher speeds. That will take a while longer. My CW skills are certainly better than they were at Christmas, and for that I am grateful.”

“If you’re interested in learning CW or improving your CW skills, I would strongly recommend the CW Academy. I had a very good experience with them. I have great respect for my instructor and the co-instructors. Their heart is in the right place and I’m grateful for them making me a better operator.”

Peter Lawson, N1KJ. CWOps #3905.



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

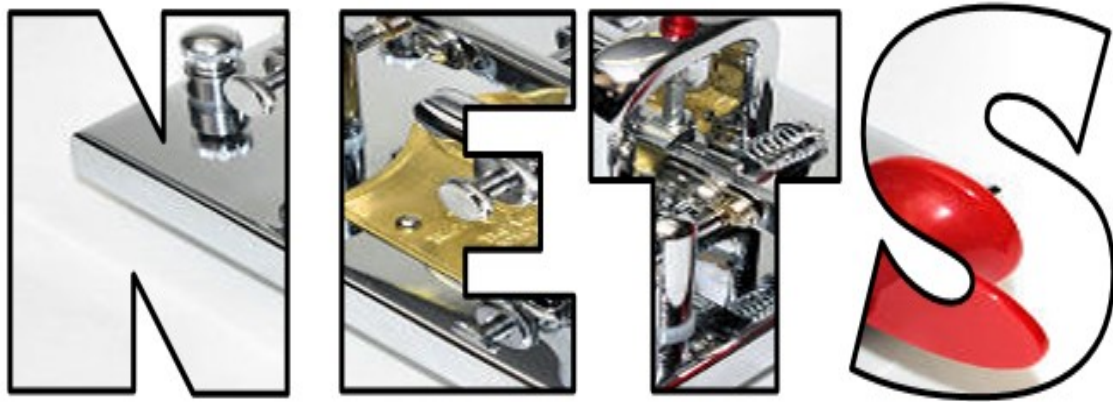
Equipment Quartermaster
Alden Jones-KC1JWR

SOVARC Membership is \$25.00 annually
Payable at our meetings or send to:
Nathan Mazanek-K1MAZ

Editor: "The SOVARC Report"
Bob Collins-KB1NFQ

SOVARC Member List

Al Margadonna-KA1IEG
Alan Shephard-WK8W
Alden Jones-KC1JWR
Anthony Bartholdi-KC1GGA
Art Haytko-K2IIR
Billy Martin-KE6EHU
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Chuck Watson-WA1NBU
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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



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 each month the official SOVARC meeting is held at the Bennington Firehouse on 130 River Street at 7:00 PM

All hams are welcome!

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



POTA NOW. POTA FOR EVER.

If one ham or a team can manage to bring a radio, card table, stool, or rock out to a town or historic park and erect a portable antenna, and provide DC power to the whole system, they can enjoy a day of operating to almost anywhere on Earth.

The history of POTA in America began with the creation of the program in 2016, inspired by the work of Sean Kutsko and Norm Fusaro from the ARRL. The program was launched with a website at parksontheair.com, and quickly gained popularity, leading to the establishment of POTA parks. As of 2021, over 8,000 hams have registered on the POTA website, and over two million contacts have been made worldwide.

POTA assigns unique numbers to each destination, with US parks and other sites carrying designations which begin with the letter K, such as K-1710. This website provides real-time information about ongoing and planned POTA activations. POTA's aim is to encourage licensed Amateur Radio operators to operate temporarily from various parks and protected areas, bringing awareness, visibility and appreciation to these locations

POTA issues awards to participants based on a wide range of criteris, including the total number of radio contacts made, number made on each amateur radio band and for different modes of communication including voice, CW, or FT8.

A non-profit organization was founded in 2016, as mentioned above, Since then it has been a popular method of community and student outreach at parks and other public events. The organization worked to expand worldwide. Participation now

has expanded to the Carribean, India, China, and Europe. Park locations range from large National Parks covering many square miles to small urban locations and islands.

Names In POTA

Inside the New POTA Board's Vision: Introducing Mark K8MST

Mark Torigian, K8MST, is a retired Attorney, former General Counsel for Hyundai Motor Company, and now a driving force behind establishing strong governance principles with the newly formed POTA Board.

Behind the scenes, a 21-person Volunteer team led by James Linden, VE3JLN, is rewriting the IT backbone, modernizing a decades old cloud based system that now processes more than a million QSOs a month. Add to that a financial reality, roughly \$5.000 to \$6.000 per month just to keep the servers running.

Young Gun of POTA: Josiah WD5JR

Josiah "Si" Russell is part of the next wave of operators breathing new life into Ham Radio. At just 18, Si already has a POTA record that would make many seasoned hams envious with over 400 activations, and more than 5,300 parks hunted. From activating rare parks in Turks and Caicos, to representing Oklahoma as a POTA mapping coordinator, SI blends technical skill and a drive for community building that's rare at any age.

Information and data provided by QRZ.com, Wikipedia, and other web sources.

SOUARC SWAP & SAVE

No items are for sale this month.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Good morning, fellow followers of Earth's path around the Sun. It is at this point in our journey around old Sol that we notice that the 23 degree tilt in axis is beginning to tip us ever so slightly so the northern hemisphere is seeing a slightly warmer sample of Sun's rays. With that future ahead, it is when we think about ideas like antenna projects and maintenance starting gardens, and the promise of Field Day in June.

If I could be operating at Holy Smoke Road in mid June, it would mean my balance would be restored, and I could be at Hain's barn. Buggers&#\$%>\$ Alas, I will be there in spirit, remembering Ken Lanoue and I elbowing each other as we log each QSO.

Before that, I recall Mike Lachant encouraging this mic-shy beginner to make my first tentative contact at Field Day with the Club.

Chuck and our enthusiastic army of RF Ruffians would be raising up the tower and antenna with the help of Bob Hain's tractor. Ah, la memoire !!

Wait.....it's April.

73,
KB1NFQ

Back In The Spot Light Again

This Capacitor or Bi Plane Antenna was fabricated by Art Haytko, K2IIR for 80 meters, It may find it's way to the next SOVARC meeting Show & Tell session. Years in the making. Back in the spot light.



This story is continued on the following page.

A Compact and Portable 80 Meter Bi Plane Antenna

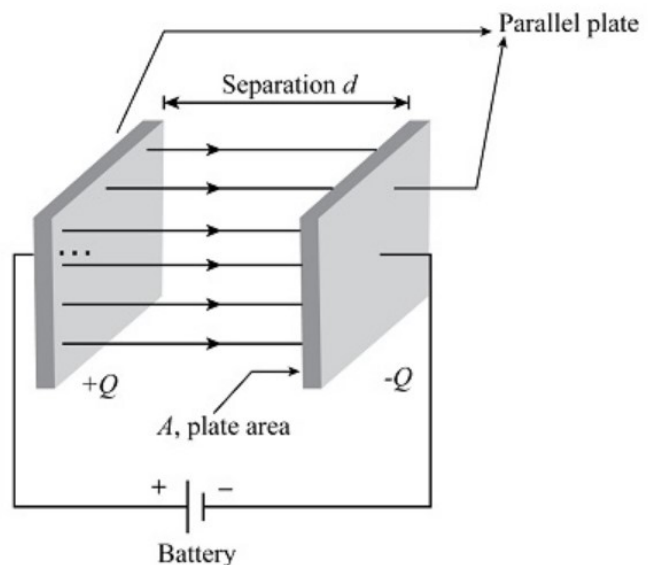
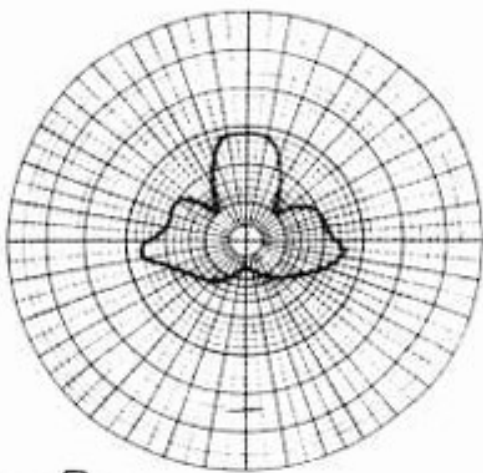
“A Bi Plane Antenna is what the inventor called it. As a member of an online group, lots of ideas were freely talked about. This member, from somewhere in Europe, did not have a ham license so his experimenting was somewhat limited. His concept was to make each of four metal plates as large in area as $1/4$ wavelength of wire and have the plates parallel with a coil of inductance to form a resonant circuit at the desired frequency.”

“This photo shows the antenna on my deck where I was able to work Al Margadonna, KA1IEG in New York.”

“What kind of field is generated? Would plates be positioned vertically or horizontally?”

“I will look for a copy of his presentation and bring it to the next Show and Tell session.”

Art Haytko, K2IIR



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



"I'm a gonna moozey on over to one of them SOVARC weekly nets, dude. Ya'll comin?"
Pizza, Pizza !!

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
April 22, 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. April gathering is planned for Pizza Hut in Bennington. Meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ham Radio.

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