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## Calendar of Events

May 2-3	New England QSO Party
May 15-17	Dayton Hamvention Xenia, Ohio
May 27.....	SOVARC Monthly Meeting Bennington Firehouse 7:00 PM
June 27-28...	ARRL Field Day Tentative Dates Only
August 13-16	Northeast Ham Expo Marlborough, Mass.

## *Scribblings Of The*

# *Scribe*

*Bill Clark - Minutes Recorder*

*March 2026 Meeting Minutes*

*Brief Summary Below - See also Pg. 3*

- # The Pizza Hut and SOVARC Meeting held in April was a success. Details on page 4.
- # Coming up on May 27, 2026 will be a SOVARC Meeting at the 130 River Street Fire House
- # Ideas have already surfaced involving ARRL Field Day in June. Members are encouraged to think of ideas related to that. Discussions will center around the cost of renting a Porta Potty unit and how members could split the cost among ourselves for that.

## Featured Equipment of the Month



2

The Yaesu FTDX101D is what this hailed company calls their Ultimate HF Transceiver. This 100W wonder also has a muscular cousin, the FTDX101MP which has an RF power output of 200W. Perhaps MP stands for **More Power** or **Plus De Puissance** in French. With a Narrow Band SDR direct sampling receiver, and a wonderful Real-Time Spectrum Scope with optional 300 Hz and 1.2 kHz roofing filters, “it enables the weakest signals to be observed on the display when it appears, and is then selected, filtered, and decoded,” states Yaesu. A newly developed VC (variable capacitor) tune circuit with a high precision stepping motor has been miniaturized and is a proud advance. A 7 inch color TFT touch panel and waterfall display sets this power house off. GigiParts \$4,499.95.

# Calendar of Events

## Continued from Page 1

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

**May 2 - 3** The New England QSO Party runs from 4:00 PM EDT Saturday until 1:00 AM EDT Sunday continues 9:00 AM EDT Sunday to 8 PM EDT Sunday



**May 15 - 17** Dayton Hamvention 2026 in Xenia, Ohio at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. The Membership Forum is Saturday, 11:00 AM to 11:50 AM. Also at Dayton, the ARRL Youth Rally connecting visiting students who are 11 to 21 years of age

**May 27,** SOVARC Meeting 7:00 PM at the Bennington Firehouse.

No POTA now. At the present time we have no cast in concrete location so be thinking about a favorite park we can descend on.

We will activate at the park we choose and subsequently conduct our park premier that day.

**June 27-28** Field Day 2026 With an invitation once again being extended by Bob Hain allowing us to use his property for our coveted Field Day, We can go ahead with plans. It begins at 3:00 PM



on Saturday and concludes at 4:59 PM on Sunday. 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.

The event simulates emergency communications conditions and allows us to set up temporary stations and operate in the field. We operate 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meter HF bands, and all bands 50 mHz and above. The 60, 30, 17 and 12 Meter HF bands are excluded. Fun every year.

**August 13-16** The Federation of Eastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Associations (FEMARA) is sponsoring the Northeast Ham Expo in Marlborough, Mass. Manufacturers presentations, vendors, flea markets, a Youth Forum. Right outside of Boston. Nearly 2,000 participants in 2025.

# Meeting Minutes

Continued from Pg. 1

# The Pizza Hut Dinner and SOVARC meeting went relatively well. Incredible comraderie and joy was evident, however orders were poorly managed and service was overall poor. This may have been due to a lack of wait staff on board. Photo is included below..

Bill Clark has turned over ARES and Vermont District Emergency Cordinator responsibilities to Alden Jones due to Bill's real commitment to the SOVARC club and wanting to concentrate his efforts as President to develop the Club further.

Photo from Pizza Hut below:  
Randy Horn Photo



May 27 monthly SOVARC meeting will be held at the the Bennington Firehouse at 7:00 PM. Please bring your projects, antennas, and any FCC Licensed Otters to the Show and Tell which will follow that meeting. Otter must have Tech privileges or above.

The POTA activation was postponed from that date. Members are asked to rethink locations for an activation in the future We had to postpone the activation but interest for one is high. Please do your research, and recommend a park which would be interesting and suitable for Randy's RF Renegades to spread out for some actual active activation activity..

With future activities in mind, we really need to hear from you folks with ideas you would like to see the club plan. We are thinking of a Fox and Hounds experiment and 2026 Field Day is a June tradition. This year's F.D. will revolve around operating fun, not concentrating on point earning entirely. We do have a venue to enjoy at Hain's barn on Holy Smoke Road in Shaftsbury.

Do you have some thoughts for a field trip, a project evening, a skills seminar, a chance to join another club in the vicinity? There are Hamfests, ARRL Headquarters tours, and videos to watch on a million Ham Radio related topics. The variety boggles the mind.



## **This Publisher Program**

Microsoft released the first version of Publisher in 1991. Microsoft Publisher is a low end but powerful desktop publishing tool aimed more toward the home user than the professional. This has been a long life for a product in today's market.

The program includes text editing and design tools, graphic effect tools, and easy to use layout features. It differs from Word in that it's emphasis is on page layout rather than text composition. It is widely disregarded by professionals, who regard Adobe Pagemaker and InDesign as more flexible. Unfortunately, in 2015 Microsoft announced that Publisher will be discontinued in October 2026, This date will mark the end of Publisher as a stand alone program.

Microsoft, in a cavalier statement, suggested that several applications can import the .pub files format "with some

success" such as Scribus. It's a little disconcerting to loose a program I use for the SOVARC Newsletter.

Honestly I can't think of a reason why Microsoft would discontinue it's much revered software. It could be any of several reasons, not shared, such as license agreement or plans for a future product, but it won't be the end of the world. I believe that earlier editions of this program will still be available to us. Time will tell.



## **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**

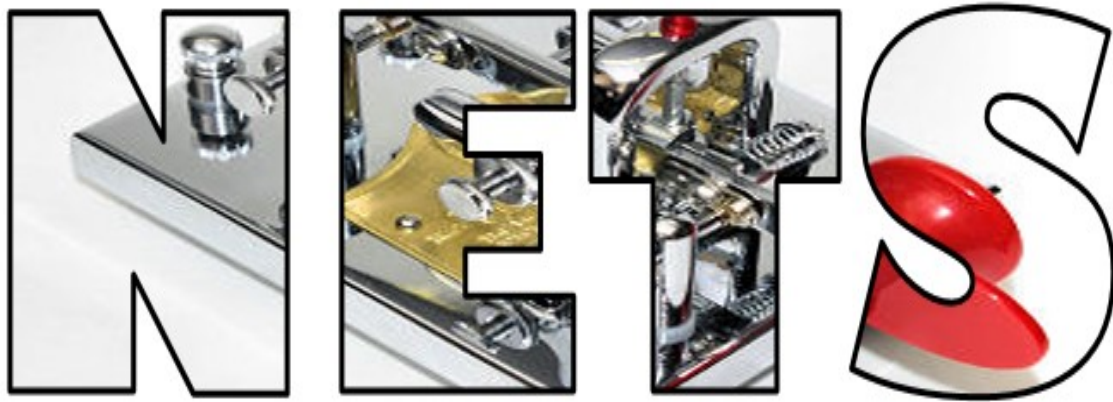
Equipment Quartermaster  
**Alden Jones-KC1JWR**

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  
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  
Jon Meigs-WB1AJJ  
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



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,  
was 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.



# SOUTH GEORGIA DXPEDITION 2027

At this moment, the Southern Hemisphere is enjoying their Autumn. Countrymen in South America and Africa are running, skipping, and cavorting among falling leaves.

Exactly half-way between those two continents, in the South Atlantic Ocean, sits a cluster of islands referred to as South Georgia Island and the South Sandwich Islands.

It's considered a much sought after DXpedition to work. It's similar, but not as remote and uninhabited as Bouvet Island. It still is a cold, craggy, rocky island especially in Autumn, and it does attract fascinating creatures unlike Bouvet. South Georgia Island, the largest in the cluster, is home to an enormous variety of birds, penguins, seals, and Lap Deer (reindeer) which were introduced in 1925. The prolific penguins, "Golly grapes !" They are everywhere.



Rune Oye, LA7THA is helping lead the planned VP0SG 2027 South Georgia DXpedition. Rune, LA7THA, and Erwann Merrian, VP0SG, bring deep experience to the project. Over the years they've been involved in Sao Tome, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, and the Bouvet Island experiences.

The team has already secured the vessel MV Meridian, and assembled a 14 operator team. Their plan is to run 5 stations from a tented camp on the island, with six operators on shore at a time, rotating between the island and the ship for rest.

The expedition funding is approaching \$400,000 . While The crew has received encouraging feedback from the Government of South Georgia, the official language authorization is expected later this year.

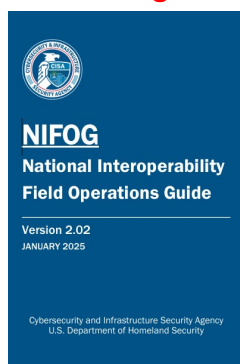
# NIFOG FOR ARES OPERATORS

As reported in the latest April QST Issue, NIFOG isn't a low lying evening cloud condition, but a DHS guide which ARES volunteers might find helpful in times of emergency.

The National Interoperability Field Operators Guide (what a word salad) is published for responders, communications technicians, and radio operators, and it lists channels across HF, VHF, UHF, and 700-800 MHz federal bands. It also outlines procedures, channel priorities, and practices used in emergency incidents.

The guide helps hams see how this *interoperability* is achieved and where Amateur Radio fits into the national plan. ARES volunteers are prohibited from transmitting on the NIFOG channels, and they can only program them into equipment as **receive only**. This knowledge can transform an ARES volunteer from "someone with a radio" into "a communicator who better understands the communications environment." It's available as a free download and in hard copy for \$14.95 from [www.cisa.gov](http://www.cisa.gov).

But they  
charge \$14.95?  
&%\$^%@#



# EDITOR'S NOTES

Good morning SOVARC folks, Have you ever ordered some item from an equipment vendor or got into an online scenario where you were asked to prove you were not a **robot**? Many robots have tried to buy items for their adventures on the highways and byways.

Here at Greenview Drive, we order our groceries from Walmart. It's not the best gourmet source for food, but we are finding it really difficult to trudge through the Walton's Warehouse like we used to. For a tiny charge Walmart picks our groceries from our list and deliverers them to us within hours, sometimes the same day. It makes it easy.

We sit down at the website and go through the items, beautiful photos of every cracker and tooth paste. We've discovered something curious in that order process. With certain random products, we are asked to click a box indicating we are not **robots**. Our tomatoes, Melatonin capsules, paper towels, and red onions have been flagged as being sought after by AI powered shoppers.

I promise not to transmit outside the band limits, but please, can I order my plum tomatoes?

73,  
Bob - KB1NFQ

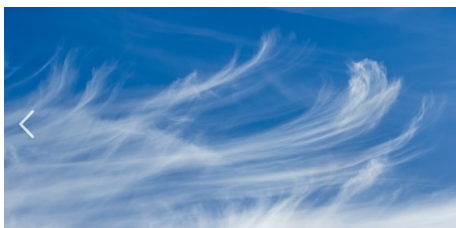
# News From The World Of High Tech Breakthroughs

Exciting developments in data transfer technology are being announced in Bannerstaff, Arizona. Researchers from a little known research company have published a report on their new product "Air Whisp Gas." The start-up company, **No Walk Technologies** is reporting that a newly discovered rare earth gas can be used to send data in mere milliseconds to a proprietary container similar to a 500 TB flash drive with an appetite. The variety of gas transferred data ranges from conventional text and audio/video files, to tastes, smells, and entire thoughts and dreams.

Scientists in competing firms have claimed that collecting the gas at the present time is very difficult, and can only be extracted at certain times of the day and under ideal conditions.

**No Walk Technologies** President and CEO Robert Nowak, at a press conference in North Bennington, Vermont was eager to announce the news to a curious crowd of local reporters and fishermen. Nowak rushed to a private jet and returned to Bannerstaff amid shouts from the crowd that they wanted more information. A message from Nowak said, "More news on the next SOVARC Net."

Rare photo  
of  
Air Whisp  
Gas



## Mt. Equinox NFMRA (Northeast FM Repeater Association)

To those who utilize the NFMRA Mount Equinox station and have noticed it is back on the air, here is correspondence from Randy Horn N1SP.

Date: Fri. Apr. 24, 2026 8 PM  
Subject: Re: [NFMRA] Mt. Equinox is off the air.  
To: <nfmra@groups.io>

Good Evening All,

There is good news to report. Equinox is back on the network!

Thanks to Eric KA1SUN, who is the WEQX engineer, he provided a replacement power supply when he visited the site on Thursday getting our station back on the air.

We will work on some upgrades to stabilize things for the future.

73,

Paul

<b>RX Frequency:</b>	<b>449.050 mHz.</b>
<b>TX Frequency:</b>	<b>444.050 mHz.</b>
<b>Offset:</b>	<b>5.0 mHz.</b>
<b>PL Tone:</b>	<b>100.00 Hz.</b>

More details on Pages 12-13

## How NFMRA Operates

The Northeast FM Repeater Association (NFMRA) operates repeaters in both VHF (two-meter) and UHF (70-centimeter) amateur radio bands [nfmra.org](http://nfmra.org).

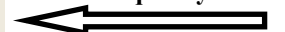
According to the NFMRA's own description, the club is dedicated to operating FM repeater stations in both the VHF and UHF portions of the amateur bands, and it actively promotes UHF usage by adding new UHF sites and linking them into a network [nfmra.org](http://nfmra.org).

The NFMRA owns or is affiliated with twelve repeaters in Vermont, and many of these are linked into a state-wide UHF FM network. For example, the N1STA UHF repeater in St. Albans is connected to the NFMRA network, providing state-wide coverage [St. Albans Amateur Radio Club](#). Other repeaters, such as WA1KFX in Newfane, also operate on UHF and are part of the NFMRA system [Repeaterbook.com](http://Repeaterbook.com).

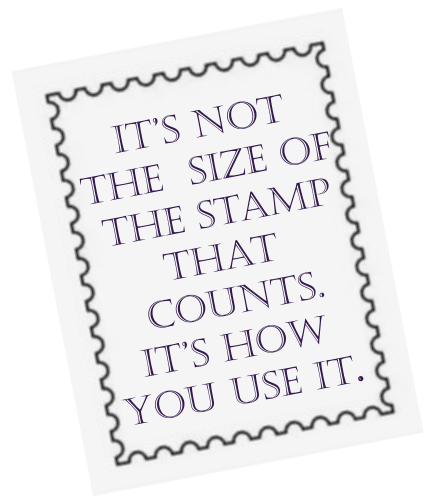
In summary, NFMRA stations are currently available in both **VHF** and **UHF**, with a strong emphasis on **UHF** network coverage for emergency and regular communications.

# State Wide (NFMRA) UHF-VHF Frequency Allocations

Location	Call Sign	Frequency	Offset	Tone In	Tone Out
<u>Jay Peak, VT</u>	K1JAY	447.225	-5 MHz	110.9	114.8
St. Albans, VT	N1STA	443.400	+5 MHz	162.2	114.8
<u>Burke Mountain, VT</u>	W1AAK	449.125	-5 MHz	110.9	114.8
Burlington, VT <i>Down for May–November?</i>	W1KOO	443.150	+5 MHz	100.0	114.8
<u>Mount Mansfield, VT</u>	W1IMD	447.175	-5 MHz	110.9	114.8
<u>Monkton, VT</u>	W1AAK	444.650	+5 MHz	110.9	114.8
<u>Williamstown, VT</u>	W1AAK	444.600	+5 MHz	110.9	114.8
<u>Killington Peak, VT</u>	W1ABI	444.550	+5 MHz	110.9	110.9
<u>Mount Ascutney, VT</u>	W1IMD	448.125	-5 MHz	110.9	114.8
<u>Mount Equinox, VT</u>	K1EQX	444.050	+5 MHz	110.9	114.8
<u>Newfane, VT</u>	WA1KFX	444.700	+5 MHz	110.9	114.8
Killington Peak, VT – VHF	W1ABI	146.880	-600 KHz	110.9	
Mount Snow, VT	W1AAK	446.275	-5 MHz	110.9	114.8

..... and one (1) VHF frequency.  


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



Hi, I'm Dooley.  
The only thing I  
like better than  
catnip are those  
Sunday and  
Monday night  
SOVARC Nets.  
Meow to ya.

### 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](mailto:w1bvt@hotmail.com)

●Next SOVARC Meeting●  
Join Us On  
May 27, 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 Benning-  
ton, VT. Meetings are open to anyone  
with an interest in Ham Radio.

For more information contact:  
**Bill Clark-W1BVT**  
[w1bvt@hotmail.com](mailto:w1bvt@hotmail.com)