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Calendar of Events

July Contests

- July 1 RAC Canada Day Contest
Phone Weekly Test
A1Club AWT
CWops Test (CWT)
VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest
Mini-Test 40
Mini-Test 80
- 1** July 2 VHF/UHF FT* Activity Contest—NA
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest
CWops Test (CWT)

Scribblings Of The Scribe

*Bill Clark - Minutes Recorder
No June 2026 Meeting Minutes*

A formal June SOVARC meeting was not necessary with Field Day 2026 the prime priority. A planning meeting near the Deer Park completed the details needed for the June 27-28 "CQ Field Day...CQ Field Day" festivities.

As good fortune would have it, weather in Shaftsbury, Vermont was splendid. Prayers were answered. Members and many visitors arrived with nothing else on our minds but enjoying the comradery, operating, eating, laughing, having a great time, and gathering some Contest Points in the process.

Some 15-20 SOVARC members were on hand, setting up and operating. As many as 10 curious and invited guests from the community dropped in to renew old memories or see what the Field Day experience was all about.

Featured Equipment of the Month



At the top of Icom's transceiver offering is the Icom IC-7760. If you would like the best this esteemed developer has, and you have the resources to obtain it, then it sits before you in two-part splendor. With an innovative shack style of a full control head and separate RF deck, it enables you to place that RF section off the main working surface if you wish, closer to the outgoing coax, and to a possibly safer, cooler place. With a LAN cable you could place the control head almost anywhere on your cast concrete pedestal tea table on the veranda.

For your cash you obtain a very clean transmit signal thanks to a new DPD (Digital Pre-Distortion) technology circuit. With that signal is the extra boost of 100 watts for a grand total of 200 watts RF power, 100% duty cycle.

Two touch control display screens show all the tuning, spectrum scope and waterfall info, metering, audio characteristics, CW wave form info, even the band switching button simulations. With dual speakers monitoring Main and Sub tuning, it is switchable to stereo or mono output. For \$6,500 you receive a multitude of features.

Did you think that the June newsletter was testing you to see if you were paying attention to details, when SOVREPNEWLET featured an Icom transceiver while a Yaesu photo loomed over it? That was an error caused by this man's bad eyes. I apologize on behalf of that, and my hardly taxed, but aged brain. How could this happen? And for that eventuality, this month the SOVARC Report Newsletter will hold a revolutionary contest to see who is the **First Member** to discover a hidden error in the July newsletter. The winner will receive an all expense-paid trip to 12 Greenview Drive, downtown Bennington, to the nerve center of SOVARC Publishing Headquarters, where you will be greeted by an entourage of cheerful, aging, Editor's family members, and one male tuxedo individual. FCC Amateur license required.

Stealth Antennas for SOVARC Experimenters

The Off Center Fed 80 meter Dipole at my QTH has performed well for my needs. At my age and health I am not inclined to put up another Wire, Yagi, or Array, but if I were feeling brave, the idea of erecting one of these stealth antennas sounds very inviting.

Art Haytko, K2IIR, mentioned,

“At the SOVARC meeting a couple of us were discussing antennas that landlords or family members didn’t want to be seen. I mentioned that I have several ARRL books on stealth antennas that I would be glad to lend. “Stealth Antennas for Ham Radio” and Salty Walt’s “Antenna Sketchbook” are two. Walt Hudson, (Salty Walt), K4OGO, sets up temporary operating sites in places like “Chowder Ted’s in Jacksonville, Florida to “Tommy’s Clam Shack in Warwick, Rhode Island.”

“Both books provide provoking articles, from the slinky verticle (using a metal slinky toy) to using the downspout and gutter on a building. Let’s put on our thinking caps.”

With these antennas, bring your antenna tuner.



Stealth Antennas Continued

These stealth antennas enable operators to use “invisible” to the easily-offended-eye designs. Many of these are inexpensive, while some require special fabrication techniques requiring materials which are more costly and require time to build. This is half the fun.

Included are other ideas circulating around the shacks of hams which are delightful in their novelty.

I've listed just a few intriguing designs and the links to connect you with individual examples in each case. Each link brings us to only one of many who create or sell versions of each design.

Flower Pot Antennas. Geraniums in disguise.

<https://vk2zoi.com>

Carpet Loop Antennas. It's under that Wool 3 inch pile. Who's to know?

<https://davidmoisan.org/radio/carpetloop/carpetloop.html>

Table Antennas mounted under a table. Why not?

[#HOAHam](#) [#StealthHOA Antenna](#) [#DiamondBB7V](#)

Two Meter Turnstile Antennas for ARDF and satellite operations

<https://www.dxzone.com/dx11646/a-turnstile-antenna-for-2-meter-ardf.html>

Stealthy Coat Hanger Antennas

<https://www.kr1st.com/hfcoath.html>

Additional links are listed on the following page.

Additional Links to Specific Stealth Antennas

Flag Pole Vertical Antennas

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=flag+pole+antenna+installation&FORM=QSRE1>

Bird Feeder Antennas

<https://you tube.ham radio perspectives/motorized bird feeder>

Wind Vane Antennas

<https://www.davisinstruments.com/products/windtrak-av-antenna-mount-wind-vane>

Extension Ladder Antenna. Just for Field Day, Henry.

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=can+i+use+an+ladder+itself+as+a+verticle+ham+antenna%3f&q=HS&sk=HS1&sc=20-0&cvid=6539354200804C5398C8E960625CB52C&FORM=QBLH&sp=2&q=0>

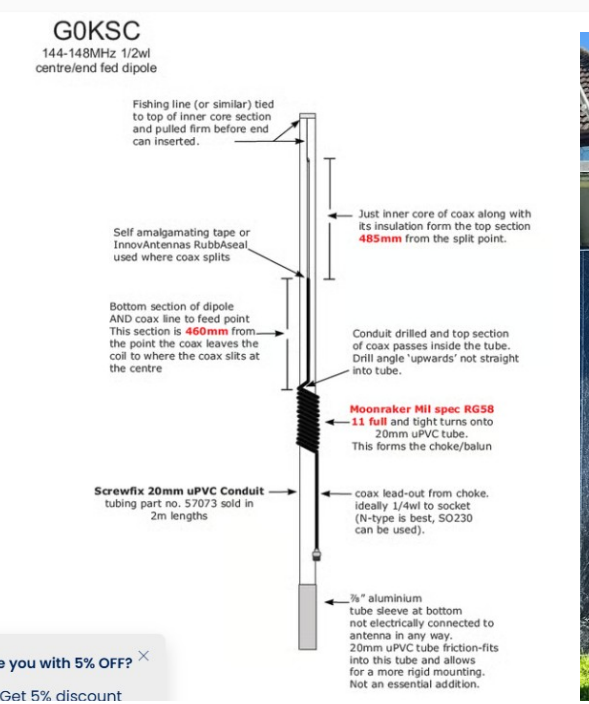
While these links don't function as hyperlinks, they can be copy/pasted as a URL.

These pages display some “invisible” designs Radio Amateurs have built to get on the air. Below are some photos.

The first “organic” design is named for the gardener’s best friend.

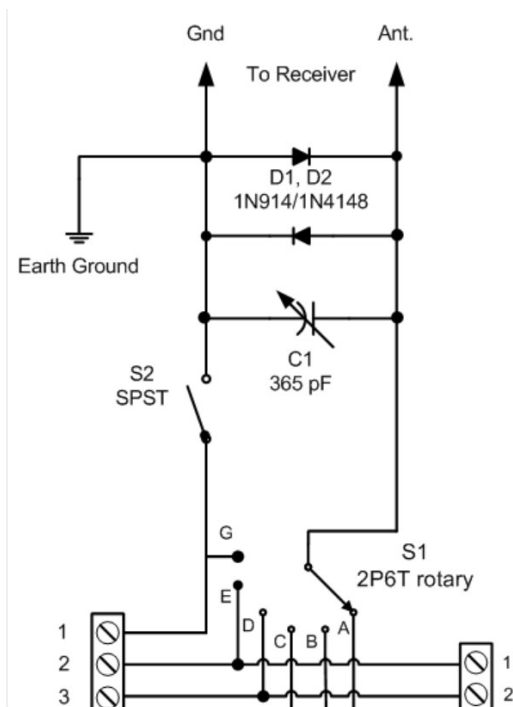
WHY THE FLOWER POT?

“Even for an experienced antenna designer, there's something appealing about the flower pot antenna's simplicity. It's a vertically polarized, end-fed half-wave dipole, typically housed inside a non-conductive tube – often, but not always, an actual flower pot! **The “flower pot” name is more about its unassuming appearance than its required construction** It's a design that proves you don't need expensive materials or complex tools to get on the air.”



How about a Carpet Loop Antenna?

This is a loop antenna, and if made with the right antenna rotor cable, folded origami style at the corners, it can be concealed beneath the super plush Elvis Presley carpet in your man-cave Ham Shack.



A Carpet Loop antenna requires a switching circuit with a rotary switch, a 365 pF variable tuning capacitor, and various other components to work effectively.

When you have completed it, tested it, and worked a few places, invite us over. We'll shed our moccasins and socks and enjoy a little DX with your new IC-7760.

How about an Under Table antenna?

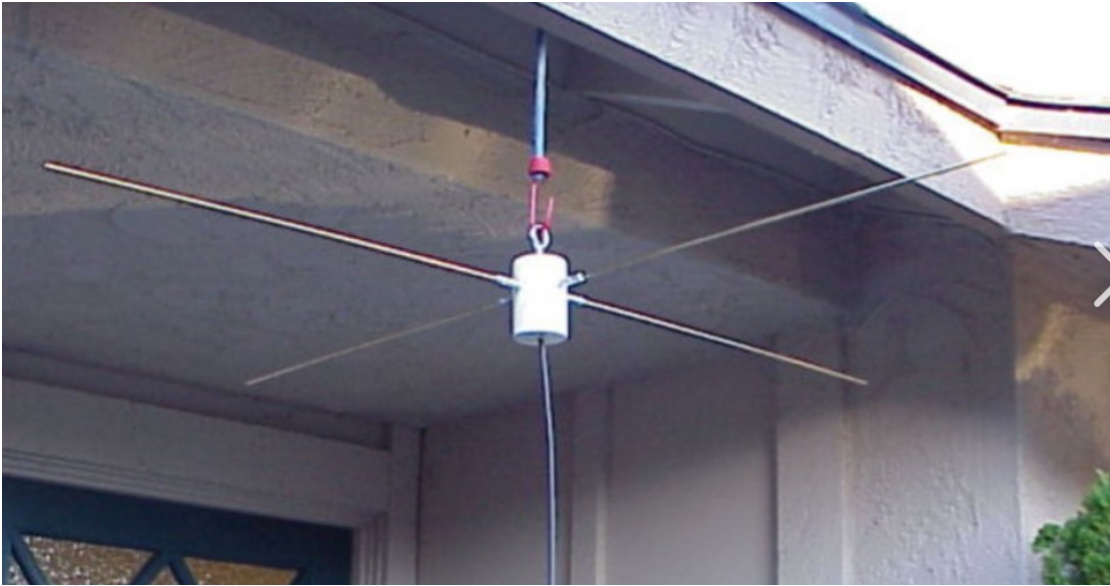
A KD4 Ham in Florida concealed a 21 foot Diamond Vertical antenna under a patio table with a weighted box underneath, holding the base. It's covered with an umbrella cover during the day. Whisk it off at night, slide the antenna up when you operate, and enjoy contacts around the globe. The HOA, landlord, or neighbors will never see it.



Apologies for the **GO ARROW** in the middle of the picture. This gentleman shot a video for all to see, and it's presented on the website on page 4 if you want to see him share it.

Try Out a Turnstile Antenna

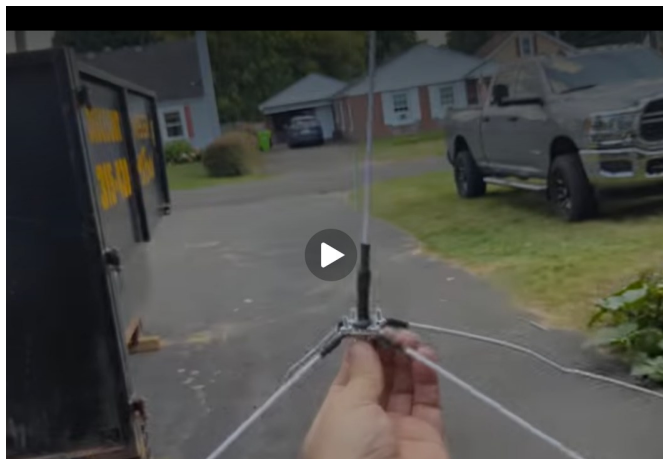
A turnstile is meant to be rotated. As it pertains to a Turnstile Ham Antenna, this design needs to have a means to be turned as well.



Turnstile Antennas for Two meter operation can be compact and lend themselves to being mounted with manual or motorized rotating means. Explain to neighbors that it is installed to keep certain bird species away from your azur colleander blooms. Go into detail. Be convincing.

A Stealthy Coat Hanger Antenna Uses Some of What You Have On Hand.

A 1/4 Wave Ground Plane Antennas for 144 mHz. This design can be built with parts from the local Foam Depot.



For \$10.00 (less if you have most of the items such as an SO-239, coat hangers, heat shrink tubing, ring lugs, nuts and bolts, etc. on hand.) If you measure carefully, it should allow you to reach most of your favorite repeaters with ease with SWR of less than 1.3 to 1 at center of the band, 146.00 mHz.

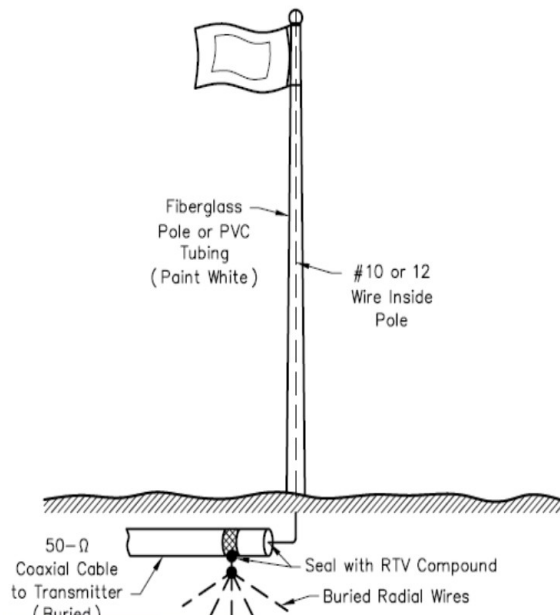
Your Neighbors See A Flagpole. Your Radio Sees 160 Meters To 6 Meters - No Radials, No Complaints, No HOA Grief

“This design is a vertical dipole antenna disguised as a genuine commercial-grade flagpole. One feedpoint covers every HF band from 160 through 6 meters. No buried radials. Return current flows through the lower element rather than through a soil-based ground system, which is why the antenna performs consistently on rooftop, asphalt, frozen soil, or any surface a flag-rated pole can stand on. A permanent property asset your neighbors will compliment and your radio will love.” This is the description Grayline provides for their antenna.

A host of manufacturers design stealth antennas, and many Amateur Radio enthusiasts have fabricated their own patriotic RF blasters. Below, some commercial and home made examples. Tools and concrete ready?



Around the country...



9

...and right here at home.



This flag pole design at the QTH of W1BVT is actually a 30 foot vertical antenna with an additional length wire in an end fed L arrangement. It tunes well on 20 and 10 meters. Nice flag.

Windvane Antennas Work Well In the Wind With Plenty of Wind

Who's to know? You mount this Wind Vane attachment on top of your vertical or whip element, and beautify the estate. Guests compliment you on your weather acumen. You smile, acknowledge the observation, tune up the rig, and prepare for an evening of working the world.



Most Extension Ladders Don't Function As Vertical Antennas, But May Work As Supports.



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An excursion into Stealth Antenna Experimentation has ended. Since we all don't live in southern Cowboycaavernous, Texas with antenna farms to play with, many of these ideas have a place in our tool boxes. SOVARC wishes you happy building.

Calendar of Events

Continued from Page 1

Below, a detailed Events page containing more contests.

- July 3 QRP Fox Hunt
NCCC FT4 Sprint
Weekly RTTY Test
NCCC Sprint
K1USN Slow Speed Test
- July 4 NZART Memorial Contest
TA VHF/UHF Contest
ARAN 50 mHz Contest
Marconi Memorial Contest
CQ Worldwide VHF SSB/CW
Original QRP Contest
PODXS 070 Club Firecracker
- July 5 FOC 1960's QSO Party
- July 6 K1USN Slow Speed Test
ICWC Medium Speed Test
OK1WC Memorial (MWC)
RSGB 80m Club Championship
- July 7 ARS Spartan Sprint
Worldwide SSB Contest
ICWC Medium Speed Test
Tuesday's Telegraphy Contest
- July 8 Phone Weekly Test
A1 Club AWT
CWops Test (CWT)
VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest
Mini Test 40
Mini Test 80

Meeting Minutes

We'll have more next month.

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

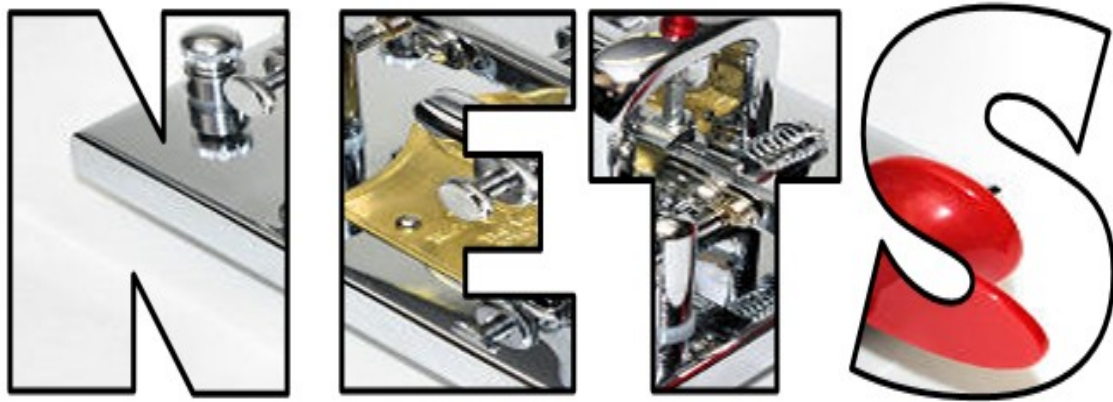
SOVARC Membership is \$25.00 annually
Payable at our meetings or send to:
Nathan Mazanek-K1MAZ

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
Leigh Dupee-AC1IX
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

In the Bennington area, there are currently 50-60 licensed Amateur Radio operators who are not now affiliated with any organized club. You may know them. Invite them to a function. We would love to have them be a part of the SOVARC family.



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 at 7:00 PM the official SOVARC meeting is held. We will notify everybody about a new location to be announced.

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.



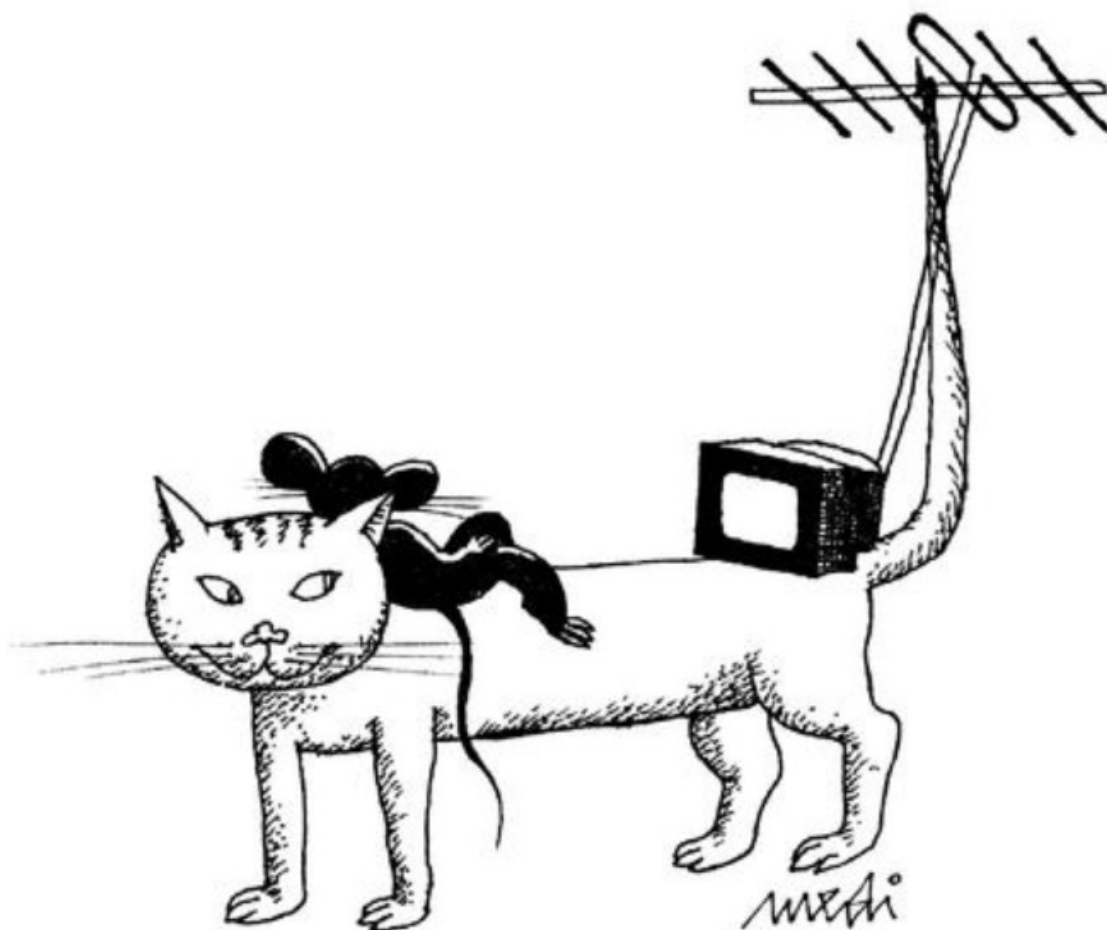
**Remember the
100 Hz PL Tone.**

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.





Points to Ponder...

How does NASA prepare a party? They planet.

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger.
Then it hit me.

How do you get warm in any room?

You go to the corner. It's always 90 degrees.

The family that sticks together....should bathe more often.

This Month in QST

Hear it on the club juke box? It's an old favorite by Billy Joel (Clark).

"It's nine o'clock on a Saturday.
And the regular crowd shuffles in.
It's the SOVARC elite, and they're bringing HT's.
And they do it with tonic and gin."

"A complaint's in the air. July QST is nowhere.
And Clarky gets right on the phone.
They have it online, it'll all be sublime.
And you'll have yours with tonic and gin."

Please excuse the Billy Joel melody. The following are articles from the July QST acquired from the ARRL site in mid June, which you may find interesting: They're almost like previews of coming attractions.

- Page 35 **Establishing a County Wide Duplex Emergency Network**
A Florida Club beats the hurricane threat, power outages, and repeater failures by building a VHF/UHF HT network. Their system uses a program called VarAC. It's a real-time chat system which uses digital software.
- Page 38 **Converting Construction Light Tower Trailers for Radio Use**
They're equipped with portable generators, light sources, and 30 foot towers. They utilize this for the club's portable operations.
- Page 41 **Understanding Third Order Intermodulation Distortion Dynamic Range On Receivers** Explains why you hear ghostly CW signals in the voice portion of the band. It's probably this T.O.I.D.D.R. in some receivers, the article relates.
- Page 44 **QST has a new Lab Comparison Tool** (Database) to compare data in receivers, transmitters, transceivers, and amplifiers, much like the Sherwood Labs comparison charts.
- Page 46 **Product Review of the Venus QRP 6 band CW transceiver** in a briefcase style enclosure.

QST Articles Continued

Page 55 **Product Review of PAR Electronics Rectangular Antenna**

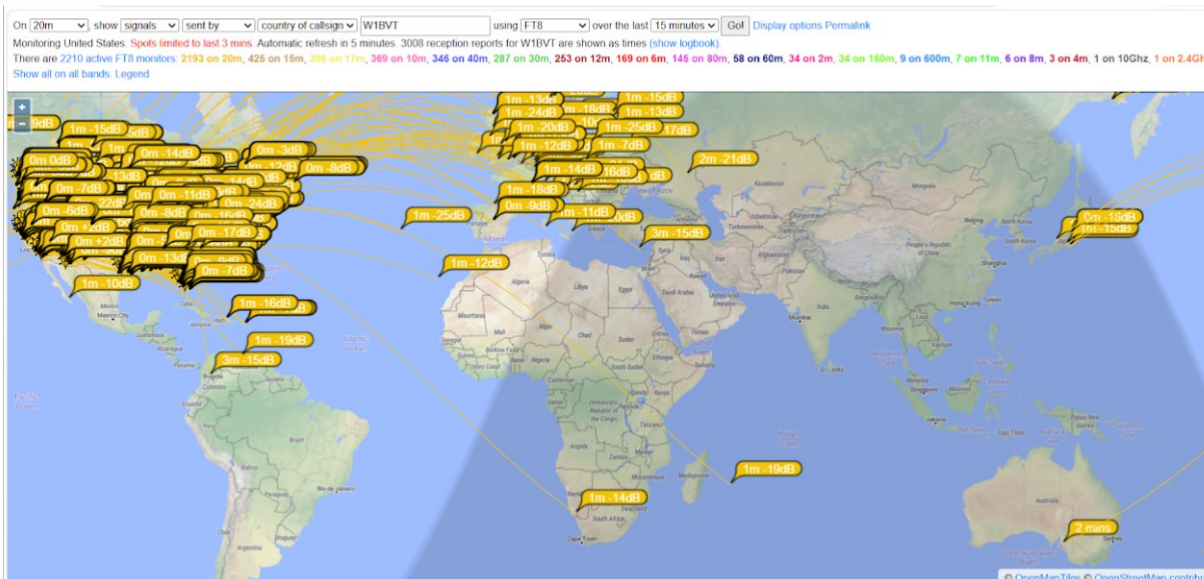
Page 73 **FCC Approves Limited Use of 70 Centimeters by AST Space Mobile When Not Over The U.S.** It will establish five 50 kHz channels in the 440-460 mHz band for emergency telemetry, tracking, and command operations for it's planned satellite docking. No dates given.

Page 78 **New FCC Technician's Question Pool takes place July 1, 2026**

A Program Shows Where Your Signal Is Being Received

When operators want a visual “map” of where their signal is reaching they turn to a program called **PSK Reporter**. Whether it's a digital mode like FT8, or SSB or CW signal, this program can give you an exact representation of where you are being heard in the world. Originally written for FT8, it also tracks non-digital modes well.

Randy Horn, N1SP and Bill Clark, W1BVT are among those in SOVARC currently utilizing this informative system. Contact them for enthusiastic details.



Bill, I was thinking of the club doing a....

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. 2026 Field Day is always a June tradition. We tried to have F.D. revolve around operating fun, not concentrating on point earning entirely. We did have a welcoming venue to enjoy at Hain's barn on Holy Smoke Road in Shaftsbury. Super !!!

Do you have some thoughts for a field trip, a project evening, a skills seminar, a chance to join another club in the state? There are Hamfests, ARRL Headquarter's tours, and videos to watch on a million Ham Radio related topics. The variety boggles the mind. Be in thought and let us know.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Hello SOVARC Friends,

My cat never passed his FCC Amateur license test. It was a bad day for him. He had a light breakfast and his blood sugar level was low. He blames himself. It doesn't matter to me, since I would have to share my equipment with him, anyway. I'm willing to share, but he doesn't like to give back his toys once he's having fun.

However, he always knows when I'm on the air for weekly nets or DX time, and he jumps up on the couch to listen in and join me. He knows all the right words, and he's familiar with the voices of hams who are regular ragchewers and net participants.

I love this little fellow, and the feedback I get is, it's reciprocal. I'm very fortunate.

His CW receiving speed is low and his sending speed is erratic. but who's complaining? He's only a cat.

Bob KB1NFQ



Still relevant....NOBARC's invite is August 23.

Communication from Northern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club - Courtesy Randy Horn, N1SP

Re: SOVARC Invitation

Randy Horn

Thanks Corey,

I will be there (as usual) and pass the info to our club secretary for our newsletter.

73,

Randy Horn, N1SP
VP SOVARC

On Thu, May 28 2026 1:01 PM Cory Adelt <k1sv@sovarc.org> wrote:

From Corey Adelt <coreyfdar@gmail.com>
Subject: Invitation

Subject Body:

Dear Fellow Amateur Radio Club Members,

On behalf of the Northern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club, we would like to extend a warm invitation to your club and members to attend our upcoming Hamfest. Our Hamfest is a great opportunity for amateur radio operators, families, and radio enthusiasts to come together for a day of fellowship, networking, and fun. Attendees will have a chance to browse vendor tables, radio equipment, electronics, accessories, and connect with fellow operators from across the region. We welcome clubs to attend as a group, set up informational displays, promote upcoming events, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes community so special.

Event details are as follows:

Northern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Date: ~~---->~~ **August 23**~~<---~~ _____

Time: _____ 7:00 AM _____

Location: ___ Adams, Massachusetts ___

Features may include:

Amateur Radio equipment and electronics vendors

Tailgating and flea market tables

Club information and networking

Door Prizes and raffles

Food and refreshments

Educational demonstration and activities

We would greatly appreciate it if you could share this invitation with your members and help us spread the word throuth the amateur radio community.

Thank you for your continued support of Amateur Radio and spirit of cooperation between clubs. We hope to see you at our Hamfest.

“

The Vermont 100 Needs Volunteers

Fellow Ham,

The Vermont 100 is an annual fundraiser for Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sport, a local organization whose motto is "A Sport for Every Body." Vermont Adaptive runs a wide range of adaptive sports programs designed to support and empower people with disabilities, helping them enjoy outdoor recreation year round. You can learn more about their mission at vermontadaptive.org.

The Vermont 100 itself is a 100 mile endurance race featuring both runners and horses, spanning 11 towns across some of the most beautiful parts of Vermont. For more than 30 years, the Amateur Radio community has played a critical role in supporting the event by providing emergency and logistical communications to help ensure the safety and smooth operation of this 30 hour race.

This year, we are looking for additional Amateur Radio operators to help staff aid stations, horse holds, restock trucks, and shuttle vehicles.

If you have time on Saturday, July 18th or Sunday, July 19th and would like to have some fun playing radio while supporting a great cause, please reply to this email.

Thanks,

Rob Mather
N1XSS
C- 802-591-7277
H-802-886-5478

N1XSS@mather1.com

Today's technology offers many options for portable and emergency power. The most common is a small generator. The disadvantage to a generator is that it requires fuel and it produces emissions. Fuel goes bad and can be a storage issue and the emissions exclude indoor use. An alternative is what is commonly called a Power Station. These power stations are battery packs, DC-AC inverters and DC regulators combined into one package. I recently purchased one of these units (600 watt) at our local Harbor Freight. They offer several size units ranging from 350Watts to 2000Watts.



For most of our needs (amateur radio) I believe the 350 and 600 watt units are the most suitable. The larger units become more expensive and physically heavier, making me think if you need more than 600 watts, a small generator might be a better choice. Both units feature two front panel AC, two USB-A, two USB-C and one DC port. A DC power cable is included for use with the DC power port. This cable has a Power Pole connector on its end, which is convenient since many of us use these connectors on our equipment. Charging is accomplished through the rear panel – AC and DC. They also offer a Solar Panel for charging. The instructions state that the unit should be charged every 3 months, so I'm assuming that it can hold its charge for that long and be ready for use. These units may be a great option for portable use and short-term emergency power.

Always use caution when charging any battery.
Never leave a charging battery unattended.
From cell phones to power tools – these batteries can catch fire.

Here are links to these products:

350Watt: <https://www.harborfreight.com/350-watt-power-station-294-wh-capacity-70082.html>

600Watt: <https://www.harborfreight.com/600-watt-power-station-512-wh-capacity-70083.html>

Solar Panel: <https://www.harborfreight.com/100-watt-super-lightweight-foldable-solar-panel-70474.html>

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



Hi there. I'm Punch and I'm here with my buddy and best friend, Plushee. We live in dis beautiful zoo in Japan. I'm gonna bring my friend to one a them SOVARC Nets by way of Ham Radio. So, let me find my HT. I hope we can hit the repeater. No monkey business.

SOVARC Sponsored

VE Exam Sessions
By SOVARC
Will Not Be Scheduled
Until Further Notice.
Exam Sessions Are Available
At Nearby Clubs and Hamfests.

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

●Next SOVARC Meeting●
Join us at a location to be
announced. It's coming.

Regular SOVARC Club Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The Club is currently seeking a permanent, heated, location for it's meetings. We hope for a July meeting, but it most certainly will not be at the Masonic Lodge. We will notify everyone when one is finalized.

Meetings are open to anyone with an
interest in Ham Radio.

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