

The SOVARC Report

Volume 1, Issue 19



April 2008

In This Issue

In This Issue	1
Important Dates for Your Calendar	1
Scribblings of the Scribe	1
SOVARC Directory	2
SOVARC Friends email Addresses	2
Fun Websites	3
Vermont Section News	4
In Memory	4
Email Address Updates	4
ARRL Membership Renewals	4
Club Volunteers Needed	5
One Snowy Night	5
A Note From Your President	6
Notes from the Editor	6
ARES Net Schedules	7
For Sale	7,8,9
Shack of the Month	10
VE Exams & Meeting Dates	11

Scribblings ... of the Scribe by Randy Horn, N1SP



SOVARC Meeting Minutes 3/26/2008

The March, 2008 SOVARC meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm with 14 members present.

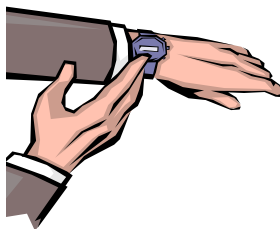
Our new addition to the newsletter was discussed. The "Ham Shack of the Month" will feature a different member's shack or mobile/portable station. Should be fun and create some discussion for swapping station ideas!

Members were reminded that they may wish to log onto QRZ and post a brief "bio". By doing this someone can read a bit about your radio and other interests- tying a more personal ribbon on your QSO.

NOAA WX will present Skywarn Spotter training at our May club meeting. The

(Continued on page 3)

Important Calendar Dates



April 23 Regular Club Meeting
May 2&3 NEARFEST

Note: If you have any important dates, please submit them for listing.

2007 SOVARC DIRECTORY Club Officers

President: Skip Crego – N1RRW
447-3254 crowsnest@dishmail.net

Vice President: Greg Howe - N1OI
g.howe6@verizon.net

Treasurer: Steve Loftus – KA1ROI
sjloftus@comcast.net

Secretary: Randy Horn – N1SP
N1SP@verizon.net

SOVARC Repeater K1SV 146.835 Mhz

West Mountain - Shaftsbury, VT
Repeater Manager: Chuck Watson –
WA1NBU

447-7768 chuckw@vtcomputerservice.com

Mike Lachant – N1HSJ

447-1425 lwizz@comcast.net

SOVARC on the Web

www.sovarc.org

Webmaster: Alan Shephard - N1LSZ
ncognito66@comcast.net

Volunteer Exam Sessions Contact:

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SOVARC Membership is \$20 Annually

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Bob Hain – WA2VYZ

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Todd Brown – AB2MS wyzguy@gmail.com

Wayne Hillard – KA1CXD woodycxd@adelphia.net

Send additions/corrections to editor – WA2VYZ

(Continued from page 1)

membership felt this timing will not interfere with Field Day planning.

The Vt Dept of Health now has radio antennas and station set up at their location. Just like the hospital, they are part of the VEM/RACES "Healthcare Network". Marlene has asked us to help her get the gear programmed and help with upcoming drills. Greg, N1OI, volunteered and has already begun his work at the station.

We soon have another ham in our community. Welcome to N7SO who will be attending a meeting soon.

The membership discussed band conditions. Although the higher bands have been quite sporadic some good DX has been worked. As spring storm season approaches, the low bands have gotten noisier. Was a great winter for low band DX though.

After the regular meeting, Mike, KA1DLK gave a nice presentation on the use and installation of Anderson Power Poles. These handy connectors are very reliable and help standardize everyone's gear. Mike also pointed out that while power poles may be soldered, a special crimper makes the job a lot easier. He has this crimper and is happy to help anyone with it.

Fun Websites and Clubs for the Active Amateur

Compiled by Randy, N1SP

The following is an abbreviated list of Randy's presentation at the February, 2007 meeting. I have added a few sites to Randy's list.

It might be fun to make this a permanent list on the SOVARC website. If you have additional sites that you think may be of interest, email them to the editor.

QRZ	www.qrz.com
W4RNL	www.cebik.com
AC6V	www.ac6v.com
eQSL	www.eqsl.cc
AMSAT	www.amsat.org
ARRL	www.arrl.org
Young Ladies	www.ylrl.org
Ten-Ten Intl	www.ten-ten.org
ARC Intl	www.qrparci.org
Lighthouses	www.arlhs.com
Weak Signals	www.newsvhf.com
East Coast ARS	www.ecars7255.com
Hoss Traders	www.qsl.net/K1rqq
DX Spotters	www.oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs
Buck Masters	www.buck.com/cgi-bin/do_hamcall
Vermont Net	7:30 pm Daily on 3.857 MHZ
Vt. Emerg. Ph.Net	9:00 am Sunday on 3.976 MHZ
Geratol Net	7:00 pm Daily on 3.668 MHZ

Vermont Section News

Your Vermont section manager is:

SM, Paul N. Gayet, AA1SU

The information noted below has been extracted from the ARRL website for your use. Paul has provided a link to check previous [Section News Summaries](#).

73 for now, and take care.

Paul N. Gayet
AA1SU
ARRL Vermont Section Manager

EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES PLEASE TAKE NOTE

If your email address changes, please take the time to let the club officers know. When the SOVARC Newsletter is emailed, we sometimes get “failed email addresses”. This is frustrating for the editor, yours truly. It also deprives you of timely delivery.

Obviously, if your email has changed you are probably not reading this notice !! DUH !!

Thanks
Bob, WA2VYZ

ARRL Membership Renewals

Please note that you may renew your ARRL membership through the SOVARC club. The benefit of doing this is that the club receives a portion of the fee back from ARRL.

Art Haytko can fill you in on the details.

In Memory

I'm sure that most of you have been informed of the the loss of Nick Watson (March 28, 2008), the son of Chuck Watson (WA1NBU). ... Nick had suffered a long and stressful battle with cancer and other issues resulting from the various treatments he was forced to go through.

Throughout it all he maintained a positive and inspiring attitude and I'm sure that all of us extend our most sincere condolences to Chuck and his entire family.

Many club members paid their respects to the family at the Mahar and Son Funeral Home on Monday, March 31,2008.

Skip

Club Volunteers Needed

Well I just got a call requesting our assistance at the March of Dimes Walk a week from tomorrow, Sunday 20 April.

Information:

Starts at the Elks Club ... Check in at 8:00, walk start at 9:00

Two routes: one short (2 miles), one long (8.8 miles) ... both start together but the short one splits

off along the way and comes back sooner to the starting point.

Maps to be provided along with doughnuts/coffee beforehand and Hamburgers/hot dogs after

T-shirts to all

Contacts: Deloris (the organizer, (term loosely applied)) ` Office 802 645-0500 ... cell 802 770 2006 (cell not reliable !!!)

She will be on scene at 7:00 AM

Second on scene contact: Eddie Silver ?

I told her that I could not be absolutely certain but the odds were that we would have volunteers to assist them. She was very appreciative. Also told her that we had a meeting this Wednesday and would request volunteers then most likely about 6 people (so she could plan on T-shirts); 2 at base (net control) 4 mobile to watch the "heard" or move where and when needed. ... She expects us to contact her after the meeting to confirm.

Let me know if you have any questions or need something. ... We have done many of these in the past and I have every confidence that SO-VARC will shine again thanks to you !!!

73 Skip

One Snowy Night

I happened to connect tonight to echolink (I'm in Florida as you know) and when I signed on to the repeater Greg, N1OI came back to me. He had been off the road, stuck in the snow, for an hour in Arlington and no one had come by to lend a hand. Also no one responded on the repeater. Greg did not have a cell phone. So I offered to make a call for him. He didn't have the number in his memory bank and I didn't have a Bennington phone book down here so I called Bob Dawson, W1VY, to get on the repeater to help. Bob signed on and called a towing company, and after 2 hours in the snow bank, Greg was pulled to safety. I thought it might be a neat story for the newsletter to let all know the worth of Echolink.

Frank Pulaski

WT1B

CQ SOVARC ... CQ SOVARC

Don't say it too loud because you might scare it away, but, it almost looks like "Spring" is trying to sneak into the area. Aside from the usual yard work to clean up the leftover winter mess the arrival of spring usually means our thoughts turn to antenna work (aside from other things !!). When it comes to antenna work it is important to remember that you have a group of friends at SOVARC that can usually be counted on to provide those extra hands needed so antenna work can be done AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE. ... In addition to the many 'strong backs' available there are several 'strong minds' that will be happy to help with antenna trouble shooting as well as planning the lay-out of a new string of wire. So bring your questions and state your needs at the next meeting. Just remember, the more involved the antenna project is the more food and cold drinks are required to get it installed !!

Can't say I'll see you at the meeting but I'm sure you will have a good time !

73 Skip

NOTES from the Editor

This month's newsletter is rather lengthy, with plenty of interesting information and some sad news.

First, if you didn't get to pay your respects to Chuck Watson and his family, let him know you are praying for his family on the loss of his son Nicholas.

Second, please check out the For Sale items. We have gotten a number of new items.

Third, this month's meeting will be without our President and Vice-president. However, someone will raise to the occasion and direct the meeting, we hope. As a suggestion, we are asking that you bring a "gadget" to the meeting to discuss how it improves your shack. Or, some of your more interesting QSL cards.

Fourth, we have started the "Shack of the Month". Skip, N1RRW, our president, boldly volunteered to show us his Shack. Check out page 10. No comments on the operator, just the equipment.

See you on Wednesday night at the Library.

Bob, WA2VYZ

ARES NET SCHEDULE



The Bennington County ARES Net, District 5, is held every Monday evening at 7 pm on the SOVARC 146.835 Mhz repeater. All ARES group members should be taking a turn at "Net Controller". It is good practice and spreads out the "opportunities".

Bennington County ARES NET

Controller Schedule

April 2008

21 KA1DLK
28 N1SP

May 2008

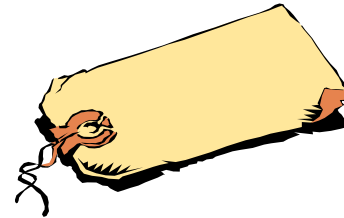
5 N1FV
12 KB1IQN
19 KB1NFQ
26 N1RRW

As usual, if you anticipate a problem with this let me know and/or feel free to swap with any of the other scheduled controllers. ... If you would like to be added to this list (and you are all invited/encouraged) just let me know and I'll get you a copy of the format and 'work you into' the schedule ASAP.

Please remember:

- If any date poses a problem you are free to swap with

For Sale



HO Model Train layout (track & switches only), 4x8' crossed oval with 2 sidings on stand-alone wood frame. Tech II dual power controller (like new) included. Asking \$25. Contact Ken, N1RZ, if interested.

Please see pages 8 & 9 for a complete listing of For Sale items.

any other regular operator. If you can't find a swap let me know.

- If it appears that the Net Controller has been "distracted" (which can happen to any of us) please step up and call the net.

- If I happen to miss the net please send me a E-mail reporting the number participating (remember to include yourself), .. the number of messages sent/received, ... and the duration of the net (I report this information on up the line each month)

FOR SALE

- 1) **Icom 730** HF 10-80 mtr. 100 watt Real Nice! - \$325
Has CW narrow filter, Preamp, hand mic, Pwr cord, manual.
 - 2) **Icom 735** (#1) HF 10-160 mtr. 100 watt Good shape - \$250
FL-30a SSB filter, Hand mic, pwr cord....missing little plastic door on front (re-painted cabinet)....everything works good.
 - 3) **Icom 735** (#2) HF 10-160 mtr 100 watt BEAUTIFUL!! - \$375
Has both FL-30a SSB and FL-32a CW narrow filters!
With hand mic, Manual, pwr cord, (does have plastic door!)
(I have a SM-5 Icom desk mic available for this at additional \$\$)
 - 4) **Icom HT** (#1) **IC-32at** Dual band 144/440 5wt Great shape! - \$175
with battery, drop-in charger, Antenna, HM-54 Spkr-Mic, Manual.
 - 5) **Icom HT** (#2) **IC-32at** Dual band 144/440 5wt Also Great Shape! - \$150
with battery, wall charger, antenna, CMP-115 spkr mic (after-mrkt),
Manual on CD only.
 - 6) **Kenwood HT TH-77a** Dual Band 144/440 5wt REALLY NICE! - \$200
With NiMh battery, drop in charger, deluxe spkr mic., Antenna.
Original box and manual!
- *Note:** All of the above radios have the Mars/CAP out-of-band mods done!
Can only guarantee operation within spec'd ham bands!
- 7) **Antenna** Solorcon (Antron) **A99** 10 mtr vert. 17 ft lg in 3 sections - \$50
works great for local or DX..... (I use one for my 10 meters.)
 - 8) **Alinco DR-140** Mobile 2 meter 45 watt Hi/ 5 watt low Nice shape - \$125
with Hand mic, pwr cord, and manual on CD.

Also various odds-n-ends of antenna's, mic's, radio's, cables, Etc...etc...
Let me know what You might need!

And..... A soon to be ready Yaesu FT-101b in great shape!

If You Need more info.... Email me at rgbanjo2@yahoo.com or call and leave
A msg at **802-823-5049**. I can email pic's or You can come to my
QTH and see them and/or try them!

Thanks.....**Randy N1GWL**

For Sale

My husband, Tom Repstad (call sign K1VG) was an avid ham radio hobbist. He passed away in November and I have many items that I am sure someone might be interested in. I will list what I have found so far. I am interested in selling all of it. I will just list the brand and model# and hope that you will be able to discern from that what these items are.

I am located in Sheldon, Vermont Franklin County.

Thank you-

Diane K Repstad
drepstad@biweekly.com

Teac A-23005

Heathkit HW-2036

Kenwood FM Dual Bander TM-V7

MJF Deluxe Versa Tuner II Model MFJ-969

LDG DWM-4 Digital Watt Meter

Kenwood HF Transceiver TS-9403

West Mountain Radio Rig Blaster Plus

Kenwood M-C 60

Kenwood SP-940

Heathkit RF Oscillator Model 1G-5280

MFJ Deluxe VHF/UHF Peak Reading SWR/Watt Mwter

BK Model 2050 RF generator

The Hallicrafters co. Model SX-111

The Hallicrafters co. Model HT-37

BK precision 30 MHz Oscilloscope 1479B

Micronta Adjustable Dual-Tracking Power Supply

There may be other odds and ends in the shack and there are also 2 very large towers. As for the towers, if anyone were to want them they would have to be dismantled and I would have to contact my insurance company to assure that I would not be liable for any injuries or mishaps. I don't really have any specific info on the towers. He also had something he called a "windom" but had to take that down a couple of years ago when the tree he had it attached to was removed.

SHACK OF THE MONTH

Here is a guaranteed "easy act to follow" ... The "Shack of the Month" this month belongs to Skip, N1RRW. As you can see by the picture it is a basic set-up. ... What you can't see is that the set-up is actually ... not set up ! Yes his shack is in a state of "regeneration". He says that in addition to other things he is trying to replace the "black spaghetti" under the counter with a more logical arrangement. This in combination with a new cabinet to house the gear in a more "user friendly" arrangement.

The "gear" consists of an IC-736, a Kenwood TS-700A and a Yaesu FT-8500 as well as power supplies, antenna rotor control and the usual switches, clocks and "junk". ... The antenna arrangement is a Cushcraft A50-S (5 element 6M) stacked over an A4S (3 element 10,15,20,40M) and another Cushcraft AR-270 Ringo 2M/75CM vertical. Another important contributor to the operation is the location. At 1400 ft with an unlimited horizon sweep of about 225 degrees from SSE to NNW the "Radio View" is great.

Skip has promised to provide a "re-do" of this article once the 'renovations are complete. In the meantime you are invited to share your "shack" with your fellow club members. Keep in mind that nothing is too fancy and more importantly nothing is too simple. ... The KISS principle is definitely good when it comes to arranging your shack. (Especially if it has to pass muster with the XYL.)



The SOVARC Report

Southern Vermont Amateur Radio Club
Bob Hain - WA2VYZ Editor
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The
Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

Next **SOVARC** Sponsored VE Exam Sessions (TBD, 2008)

Bennington Library
Bennington, VT 05201

Please bring the following items:

Photo ID and copy of current license (if li-
censed)

All original CSCE's
Check for exam cost

For additional information Contact:

Art Haytko K2IIR 802-442-1563

Next **SOVARC** Meeting

April 23, 2008 7 PM
(Regular Meeting)

Come Out Support Your Officers

Regular **SOVARC** Club Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at the Bennington Free Public Library on 101 Silver St. in Bennington, VT. Meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio

For more information Contact:

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802-447-3254 crowsnst@sover.net