

# VCARC / Radio Club Newsletter



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## SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) Nets

by Paul (N7EKY)

As most members know, Andy (N9NBC) has taken control of the Midwest Territory weekly SATERN net on 7.265MHz. The net meets every Saturday morning at 10:30 am. In addition to the Wisconsin / Upper Michigan Division, the Midwest Territory covers ten other states and is headquartered in Hoffman Estates outside of Chicago. This net is just for training but could become a disaster coordination and traffic handling net if the need arose. Good job Andy!

The other “local” division net is the SATERN net conducted on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm on the WeComm system. Nearly all VCARC members can reach WeComm on the Sayner tower 145.130 MHz. If Sayner doesn’t work for you then check this out: [https://www.repeaterbook.com/repeaters/feature\\_search.php?system=WeComm%20System&state\\_id=%&type=systems](https://www.repeaterbook.com/repeaters/feature_search.php?system=WeComm%20System&state_id=%&type=systems).

## The Salvation Army at the Patriot Exercise

The National Guard and Air National Guard were impressed by the efforts of the Salvation Army during the two exercises in June and July this year at Volk ANG base and Ft. McCoy and have invited the Salvation Army back next summer for the next Patriot exercise which is scheduled for July 17-20. I am told that the 17th is reserved for check-in and setup with participants arriving in the afternoon.

Last summer our division had a low turnout and units from Michigan and Nebraska assisted the Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division but this year our SATERN members are striving to provide communications with better representation from Wisconsin / Upper Michigan SATERN staff.

## Wisconsin / Upper Michigan Division slated to receive Trailer

A Salvation Army Disaster Services Trailer has been approved to be stationed in Vilas County. This trailer will be available for food service as well as SATERN emergency communications. It is currently planned for renovation in Illinois and afterwards will be transported to the Eagle River area. It will then be equipped with all the necessary equipment.



### Inside this issue:

Northland Pines	3
October 16 meeting	4
State ARES conference	5
Sponsors	6

### Club Membership

The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. now can count **94** members!

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### **SATERN Nets** — *continued*

It is envisioned that it will be equipped with heating, air conditioning, and generator. In addition, the local SATERN group will provide suitable tower/antennas, operating positions, power outlets and anything else needed for SATERN operation. This trailer would then be made available to deploy in support of the Salvation Army during a disaster. Local SATERN operators are seeking a heated garage where they can store and work on the trailer.

### **Salvation Army to Support the Ironline Sled Dog and Fat Bike Races**

Ms. Terri Leece, Disaster Services Coordinator for the Wisconsin / Upper Michigan Division, recently stated that she intends to deploy one of the division's canteens to Iron River during the annual Ironline Sled Dog and Fat Bike races this January.

### **SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) Preparing Division Canteens**

Pre-wiring the Wisconsin / Upper Michigan Division Canteens for Amateur Radio operation is a priority. Each canteen would be wired with Anderson PowerPole connections directly from the vehicle battery into the cab, providing two connections. Many hams use PowerPoles for their radios, but if they don't, then a pigtail will be provided. This pre-wiring will allow any SATERN member to bring their VHF mobile radio to a disaster and connect to a canteen. These canteens are equipped with their own generators.

### **Volunteers are Needed for The Salvation Army!**

The Wisconsin / Upper Michigan Division of the Salvation Army is seeking volunteers. People who have their amateur radio license might qualify to be a part of SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network). VCARC currently has 11 members who are part of SATERN and at least some of whom will deploy for the exercises this summer. Becoming a member requires a background check and filling out a little paperwork but the rewards can be tremendous! Please contact Paul (N7EKY) [pclay@nnex.net](mailto:pclay@nnex.net) if interested.

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### **ARRL Membership**

Members of the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. wishing to become an ARRL member should see Ray Bob (KD9DDE) who will handle your membership application. Applying for membership in the ARRL this way earns our club \$15. In addition, if you renew your ARRL membership through our club, we make \$2. Although this doesn't sound like very much, we currently have 94 members. Imagine if they all renewed their ARRL membership through our club.

## Northland Pines Amateur Radio Club Update

by Paul (N7EKY)

Northland Pines ARC was able to report much progress since last month. John (KD9DQZ) was able to obtain a clubhouse storeroom and cart for club equipment. This will allow us to safely store the club's gear and be readily available for classroom use. Good job, John!

Andy (N9NBC) met with the school maintenance supervisor to ask permission for the installation of a wire antenna on the roof. Andy reported that he wants to make the antenna design and installation a school club project, which will immediately engage them in the reality of antenna design and its importance. Good job, Andy!

Paul (N7EKY) and John (KD9DQZ) offered a presentation on "What is Amateur Radio" to six science classes on Friday, October 14. John was a substitute teacher the entire day and it was fun watching him take control of the classes. Believe me, they weren't getting away with very much.

The next Northland Pines ARC meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 25 at 3 pm in Mrs. Price's room. The current format is to start the meeting with a training session to help members prepare for license examination, then go to a project or presentation.

The current schedule of presentations is as follows:

10-11-16 Tech Exam Prep – Andy (N9NBC)  
 Communicating with the International Space Station  
 (Available Modes / Required Equipment / Digital / Voice / Slow Scan TV, etc) – Paul (N7EKY)  
*Note that this will require two sessions including a fairly close pass by the ISS during a club meeting, unless we have externally mounted antennas*  
 – Paul (N7EKY)

10-16-16 No club meeting

10-25-16 Tech Exam Prep – John (KD9DQZ)  
 Club design and install the new club 20 meter dipole antenna  
 – N9NBC

11-1-16 Tech exam prep – Roger (KD9EPX)  
 Basic Electricity – Roger (KD9EPX)

11/8/16 Tech exam prep – Paul (N7EKY)  
 Connecting to the World using the Repeater and EchoLink – TBD

11/8/2016 Tech Exam Prep – Tony (KC9SZW)  
 Adventures with Digital Modes – Part I – Slow Scan TV (SSTV)  
 – Paul (N7EKY)

11/15/2016 Tech-Exam Prep – N7EKY  
 Communicating across the state of Wisconsin on the WeComm System – N7EKY



Front Row L-R: Advisor Andy Falkenstern (N9NBC), student Nicholas Rausher, Rotary President Val Dreger, student Daniel Evensen, advisor Roger Schutt (KD9EPX). Back row L-R: Advisor Paul Clay (N7EKY), advisor John Bigley (KD9DQZ), teacher Peter Aerts.



Andy (N9NBC) works with student Nicholas Lofy to build a ham radio antenna that will be installed on the Northland Pines High School building roof, while teacher Peter Aerts watches.

## Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. October 2016 Meeting

by Paul (N7EKY)

Members gathered at the Eagle River Area Fire Station for the October 2016 Tech Talk session and general meeting. Vince (KA8FFM) and Roger (KD9EPX) showed members how to terminate coax with various connectors. Vince made a point of making sure good solder connections are made without overheating the connection. Both Roger and Vince stressed making sure that the coax was prepared properly to make sure the connection was not compromised. This presentation was very well received by all who attended. Thanks, Vince and Roger!

The highlights of the general business meeting were the proposal that the next club repeater be installed in Land O' Lakes at the water tower. Tony (KC9SZW) had previously explored the idea with town officials and, although the town board would have to approve, the consensus was that nobody expected any problem with permission. Paul proposed that the idea be explored further and that possibly something other than hardline may be possible since hardline is so expensive. Bob Barnum (KC9RF) offered to pay for the feedline if the club became a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Thanks, Bob! Further research will be conducted to see what is required to put an antenna on the water tower.

The club voted not to loan club owned equipment, at least for the foreseeable future and that the club officers will bring a recommendation forward to either sell some of the equipment or retain it for use in a possible club house. Paul mentioned that once the club is a 501(c)(3) he will make a new pitch with the owner of the manufacturing incubator.

The club had a drawing for four Yaesu 60-Year Anniversary or System Fusion ball caps. This was a popular drawing as the hats were excellent!



Vince (KA8FFM) and Roger (KD9EPX) conducting the coax connector Tech Talk

# LIFE IS SIMPLE



## State ARES Conference Held in Wisconsin Rapids

by Tony (KC9SZW)

Four VCARC members attended the 18th Annual Wisconsin ARE/RACES Conference/ARRL Conference on October 22 in Wisconsin Rapids at the Mc Millan Memorial Library. The doors opened at 9 am and they mean 9 am. There were about 75 people in attendance.

The four members Ray (KB9CBL), Mike (KC9ZJF), Ryan (KD9ANT) and Tony (KC9SZW) made the two-hour drive from Minocqua and thanks Mike for driving. There is no charge for this event, club members should plan to attend next year's conference on October 21.

WeComm gave a very good presentation by Kyle Schafer (KC9SDK) the new president. The backbone of the system is in place with the new Brussels repeater coming on line soon. The main focus for WeComm will be to maintain the equipment and upgrade as needed going forward. It was noted that south western Wisconsin is not covered by the WeComm system. Kyle did acknowledge this and added that they are going to look at the south east corner of the state as well for better coverage. The system was designed for a 50-watt radio with a 30-foot antenna to be able to get into the system from most of Wisconsin.

Patrick Morett (KA1RB) gave a PowerPoint presentation on ARRL with a focus was on the ARRL Headquarters (WIAW) in Connecticut. If you are going to the East Coast you should plan on checking it out. If you know what day you are going to be there call ahead for a personnel guided tour. They also identified a problem with retaining members after their first year belonging to ARRL. They are exploring ideas to help keep people as members of ARRL.

Several sessions addressed how to use ICS forms. The main form is the ICS 215. This is a general information form that will be used up

and down the command ladder. With the training on the ICS 215 emergencies may be managed smoother. Another source of information was the Auxiliary Communication Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG) put out by Homeland Security. The main purpose of the AUXFOG is to gather the necessary information that will be needed in an emergency. The guide emphasizes pre-planning for small to large incidents. The session on Recruitment, Membership and Retention was interesting in how few people are in ARES in other counties in Wisconsin. We are fortunate to have many people involved in ARES. The main idea was to give members positive projects - inactivity is one of the problems with retaining members.

Brian Jansen (KC9GMW) showed the use of APRS on a bike race in southeastern Wisconsin. The Med units and chase vehicles were the APRS units. When a bike rider had problems they called a phone number that went to the Emergency Center for the race. The call taker assessed the call and dispatched the closest appropriate unit to the scene. They are looking at ways to improve the system, but they have a very good start on covering the bike race.

Emma Schafer (KC9YGJ) displayed the Wisconsin ARES apparel. The store is open until November 27, 2016 and then will be shut down and items will be ordered. You can shop at: <https://co-store.com/WI-ARES/RACES>. Another note about KC9YGJ. She attended the ERRA this year and interviewed people about the event. Her article will be in the December issue of QST. Make sure to read it!!

The conference committee is already planning on next year's Conference, hopefully you are too!

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**LAKE LAND**  
*graphic design*

## Our Supporters for 2016

by Paul N7EKY

These fine businesses have decided to support the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. for 2016:



**Eagle River Tire**  
126 E Division Street  
Eagle River, WI 54521  
715-479-8820

**Stateline Accounting  
& Tax Service LLC**  
4366 County Road B  
Land O Lakes, WI 54540  
715-547-6212

**Mrs. Karen Schluter**  
Minocqua, WI

### Eagle River Roasters



**Eagle River Roasters**  
339 W. Pine St.  
Eagle River, WI 54521  
715-479-7995  
800-285-8806  
www.eagleriverroasters.com  
for Northland Pines ARC

**George (NV9T) and Sue (N9KPQ) for  
Northland Pines ARC**

**Jim Joyce — Heathkit General Cover-  
age Receiver for Northland Pines ARC**

**Jeffrey Kitz (KD9FYU) — Amplifier  
and Band Pass Filter**

**Paul Clay (N7EKY) — Raspberry Pi,  
USB Audio Adapters, Power Supply,  
USB Extension Cable, Etc.**

**Watercraft Sales, Inc. , Three Lakes,  
WI**

**Dr. Richard Reinhart**



**Boat Sport Marina**  
3624 WI 70  
Eagle River, WI 54521  
www.boatsport.com



**American Board of Surgical Assistants**  
**Paul F. Weeks MD, CEO**  
(Northland Pines HS Club)



**Mr. Craig Farrell**  
**State Farm Insurance**  
9429 County Road J  
P.O. Box 1150  
Minocqua, WI 54548-9318

**Debbie Wendorf (KD9DYL)**

**Mike Hamman (W9BHL) — Equipment Rack,  
Henry Amplifier and Motorola PS**

**Dick Albrecht (KC9FKH)**

**Andrew F. Davis, CPA**  
1451 N Stevens St  
Rhineland, WI 715-362-5131  
111 W Genesee St  
Iron River, MI 906-265-9946

**D&B Auto Radio, Inc.**

**Triangle Motel, Three Lakes, WI**

**Chain O Lakes Resort and Campground**

**Rotary International, Eagle River chapter  
for Northland Pines ARC**

**Anonymous \$500**

**Anonymous \$500**