

VCARC / Radio Club Newsletter



This newsletter uses only 100% recycled electrons.

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Northland Pines ARC On the Air

by Paul (N7EKY)

Much has happened since our last report. For starters, the club has erected a 20-meter inverted V dipole on the roof of the Northland Pines High School. Andy (N9NBC), Roger (KD9EPX), and Paul (N7EKY) set up the dipole on Monday, November 7. Facilities Maintenance was a big help as they routed the feedline through the east facing greenhouse, into the building, and into Mrs. Price’s science classroom. Andy (N9NBC) did an outstanding job preparing for the installation of an inverted V for 20 meters. He brought the wire, baluns and insulators into the school for the November 1 meeting where he and Roger worked with club member Nick Lofy to build the antenna.

The new antenna was tested to 1.2:1 SWR across the entire band and at the next club meeting on November 8 the club station went on the air. Andy, using only 100 watts, was able to work V51WW in Namibia, Africa. Then young Nick got his chance and was able to do a third party QSO with KE4MU in North Carolina. So, Nick helped build the antenna and was able to talk to a ham in North Carolina in the span of two weeks. Not bad!

Since the new club membership desired their own call sign, it was necessary to build a constitution, by-laws, and elect officers for the club. Paul prepared the constitution and by-laws and during the November 8 meeting the club held their first formal meeting. Andy (N9NBC) was elected President, Roger (KD9EPX) Vice President, Nick Lofy Treasurer, and Paul (N7EKY) Secretary. The constitution and by-laws were adopted

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Club members and advisors display the club's FCC license KD9HID.

Club Membership

The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. now can count **95** members!

Northland Pines — *continued*

and the entire bunch of paperwork, along with the trustee's license, was sent to W5YI.

On Thursday, November 10, Andy reported that he had received the new call sign for the Northland Pines ARC, KD9HID. **Congratulations** to all who have worked very hard to get this club off to a great start!

The presentation schedule has taken a hit and is probably over a month behind schedule, so club advisors are going to try to get back on track towards an eventual goal of getting student members licensed. Additionally, some have expressed an interest in the Raspberry Pi, so Paul will try to offer a primer on the Pi at a different day. Before one starts ham radio projects on the Pi, they need to become familiar with the hardware and operating systems and how to maneuver around the Pi. The club is attempting to find donors who will provide enough Raspberry Pis for the student club members who are interested.



Roger (KD9EPX) stands by the high school club antenna.
Insert: Closer view of the 20-meter inverted V dipole.

Vertigo Inc. Tower Climbing and Rescue Presentation

This three-man firm of tower climbers is also qualified for rescue operations for stranded or sick climbers. They presented at the last Iron Range club meeting and will present to VCARC at the January meeting.

Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. November 2016 Meeting

by Paul (N7EKY)

Members gathered at the Eagle River Area Fire Station for the November 9 Tech Talk session and general meeting. Mike (KC9ZJF) presented "Digital Modes" and explained the four major offerings available today, including P-25, D-STAR, DMR, and C4FM. Mike went into a little of the history of each digital format and it was rather amazing to find many were based on the same standards but possess enough differences to make them totally incompatible.

Mike drilled down to show the features and possible advantages and disadvantages with each offering, as well as networking, reflectors, and servers. It was enlightening to find that there is an effort to bring all the modes together through BrandMeister. Mike believes that there will be very little demand for the type of product, like the DV4 Mobile from Wireless Holding, which reportedly will automatically support nearly any digital format because of efforts of BrandMeister and others.

Digital formats and how they network is certainly not for the faint of heart, but it is something that appears to be gaining popularity in the ham world. Additionally, we already have some in the Northwoods. Michigan Tech's repeater is a Motorola DMR repeater on 70cm and our own Vilas County ARC repeater on 145.150MHz is a C4FM repeater configured for Auto in (meaning digital or analog) and Analog only out. Two Yaesu C4FM repeaters are alive and well in Iron River, including the 145.170MHz repeater on Ski Brule Mountain. That repeater is configured Auto in and Auto out. So, want to test your Yaesu Digital?

Terri Leece, Disaster Services Direc-

tor for the Salvation Army Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division, updated the club on what has been happening in her Division. She confirmed that the trailer in Hoffman Estates will be painted and repaired before being brought to Eagle River. At that point the SATERN members will be able to determine what is needed to bring the trailer up to the point where it can be used as an emergency SATERN communications trailer. We are hoping to get this trailer before the two events we have been asked to support, the Arctic Warrior in St Germain on January 17 and the Ironline Sled Dog races January 28-29 in Iron River.

Terri also talked about the upcoming Patriot exercise next summer at Volk Field and Fort McCoy, where approximately 1,500 personnel from several states deployed last summer. SATERN has been asked to include connecting communications with the Army National Guard and Air Force Air National Guard. There certainly will be pre-exercise planning to determine just how this will be handled.

Finally, Terri asked for more SATERN volunteers. She emphasized that SATERN is an essential part of the Salvation Army's response to a major disaster and Paul remarked that Salvation Army volunteers do not deploy for more than two weeks before being sent home to rest. Terri left her contact information for anyone who may be interested, but in case you missed the presentation and need more information please contact Paul pclay@nnex.net.

In other club business, Tony (KC9SZW) reported that he was still working with Land O' Lakes public works to obtain permission to install a repeater on the town water tower. He handed off the meeting to Paul (N7EKY) with the Land O' Lakes Sanitary District. Paul reported that the meeting went very well with the Sanitary District. The Sanitary District owns the water tower and controls usage such as radio equipment. They asked for and received a copy of the club's liability insurance certificate and also asked for a copy of the club's lease agreement with Ministry. Fred was tasked with attempting to get permission to provide the lease agreement. Instead, Fred will put something together that is based on the Ministry agreement, but for the Land O' Lakes Sanitary District. When Paul receives the agreement he and Tony will meet with the Land O' Lakes folks.

Paul (N7EKY) has submitted a Coordination request to the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR) and hopes to hear back before too long. The club really needs the frequency pair in order to tune the antenna and duplexer for the installation.

RayBob (KD9DDE) reported that there is a glitch in that we should have filed a tax return for 2015, which may hold up our 501c(3) filing. Paul (N7EKY) said that he had contacted Andy Davis, CPA, a club supporter and personal friend. He said that an incorrect

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The Further NPOTA Adventures of WA9STI

by Fred (KD9CCE)

Club member Scott (WA9STI) spends his time between Eagle River, Wisconsin and the Los Angeles area. Inbetween he finds time for National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) adventures both out West and here in the Midwest.

The two photos are one of his remote stations during a recent trip to activate Sequoia, King's Canyon, Yosemite, and Pinnacles National Parks. The station in the photos was at an elevation of 6,500 feet and "a little chilly."

Next stops are Canton and other National Parks in Utah. Please bring back photos to share! Scott is also featured on the 2017 ARRL Straight Key Night page in the December issue of QST.



VCARC November 2016 Meeting — *continued*

box may have been checked on our IRS filing and that, as a Wisconsin non-profit corporation, we should not have to file the requested IRS form. He volunteered to file for us and get things straightened out. Thanks Andy! Paul reported that since he did all the incorporating paperwork, including the IRS form, he was the one who most likely

checked the wrong box.

Welcome to our newest and 95th club member, Dale Brix (N5QH) from Assumption, Illinois. Dale is a retired farmer who also spends time in our neck of the woods. He has already checked into our Monday night net. Welcome, Dale!

Ham Holiday Get-Together

by Mike (KC9ZJF)



The Rhinelander Repeater Association will host a Ham Holiday Get-together Saturday, December 10 at The Haven in Rhinelander. The event is from 5 -9 pm in their party room. There will be a charge of \$5 per person, food is served from 6 to 8 pm. Featured is a variety of pizza, garlic bread, cheese curds and other deep fried munchies. Soda is included; there will be a cash bar for other beverages. Their full menu is available in the dining room.

The Haven is located on Lake Julia Road on the south side of Rhinelander.

Directions here:

<http://www.thepizzahaven.com/location.html>

We look forward to seeing everyone at our holiday get-together. Catch everyone down the log!

Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 2016

By RayBob (KD9DDE)

As of the end of October our cash assets available were at \$2,427.10 with a bank balance of \$2,452.10. There is one outstanding check for \$25.00. Our current bank balance as of this writing (11-23-16) is \$2,539.10.

The club is doing okay financially right now and this should improve as 2017 dues are received.

Effective as of December 14, 2016, I will no longer be acting as Treasurer. It has been my pleasure to serve you and I appreciate your continued support of the club.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Job Posting: Treasurer

As RayBob (KD9DDE) will complete his tenure as club Treasurer at the end of December, we are looking for someone who will take over the position effective January 1, 2017. This is a volunteer position and requires the receiving and accounting for funds donated to the club, to include donation in the form of dues.

The Treasurer will also pay bills approved by the club membership. The Treasurer is a club officer and makes a monthly report to the club membership the status of the club's account.

If interested please contact Paul at (715) 891-0157.

For Sale by Members

New LDG Electronics KT-100 Tuner for Kenwood radios. HRO price is \$199.95, asking \$125. Collins KWM-380 HF transceiver with crystal CW filter. Upgraded for WARC bands and has an added cooling unit. Excellent condition asking \$2,700. Contact Bill Shillington (W9ZCL) at 847.274.8433.

Elecraft KX3 160-6M, factory assembled with internal 10-W ATU, internal NiMH charge with Real-Time Clock (factory assembled), accessory cable set, hand microphone for KX3, Simple 49.380 MHz Signal Source Kit, connector, BNC M-binding posts, BNC right angle M-F, KX3 Special Book (Large), Precision Keyer paddle for KX3, an extra KX3 power cord, and Pelican Protective Case (worth \$75.) Like new has been in service ten hours asking \$1,150. (Paid \$1,812. new). Contact Bill Alton (KG9RH) at 715.356.5692.

ARRL Membership

by Paul (N7EKY)

Members of the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. wishing to join ARRL should see RayBob (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 95 members. Imagine if they all renewed their ARRL membership through our club.

So, please see RayBob, our treasurer, for details on how to join or renew your ARRL membership.

Club Membership Dues

Annual club membership dues are due December 31. A 2017 membership application was circulated to the membership via email. If you do not have it contact Paul pclay@nnex.net.

2017 dues:

- \$15. individual
- \$20. family
- \$150. lifetime individual

SATERN Net

A few of us have missed the Saturday SATERN net since the time change. The net is 15:30 UTC, 09:30 Central Standard Time and 10:30 Central Daylight Time on 7.265 MHz. Net control Andy (N9NBC) begins taking early check-ins 15 minutes before the net. 73 and see you there.

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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.**

RayBob Heuer (KD9DDE)

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 — Two-day
stay**

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

Bill Shillington (W9ZCL) for Northland Pines ARC

Anonymous \$500

Anonymous \$500