

VCARC / Radio Club Newsletter



This newsletter uses only 100% recycled electrons.

VCARC contacts:

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rmh2992@aol.com

VCARC Second Repeater

by Tony (KC9SZW)

Work continues on what will be the second VCARC repeater, to be located on the Land O’ Lakes water tower. The agreement between VCARC and the Land O’ Lakes Sanitary District is ready and will be signed this week. Tony (KC9SZW) is waiting for a response from the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters on our frequency assignment. The next step after receiving the frequency is for the antenna to be evaluated by the club technical team, Jeffrey (KD9FYU) and Roger (KD9EPX) to determine if it can be tuned to that frequency. Please contact the project lead Tony with any questions.



2017 Arctic Warrior Obstacle Course Race Report

by Dave (KC9ZJO)

Now, that was an experience! Thanks to all the hams that donated their time, talent and gasoline to make this event safe and happen! I’m sure we all learned a lot. Now, let’s look at the event as it went down.

The hand-helds performed well, unless you happened to turn and put yourself between your antenna and the Sayner repeater tower. One had to find the perfect spot (or almost) and NOT move! Andy (N9NBC) suggested putting an “X” on your hot spot. Also, maybe a ‘rollup’ antenna might be a better choice if you can’t be in your mobile or an extended antenna directly on the hand-held. I think I would use my “antenna helmet” next time like I did at the Iron Line.

It was suggested that the race coordinator be assisted by a “shadow” ham radio operator to stay with the race coordinator for the entire event so as to have immediate communication (with him/her) for urgent traffic and such. Cell calls and text seem to slow the coordinator down unnecessarily! We like instant communication!

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Tech Talk

The upcoming Tech Talk, scheduled for 6 pm, Wednesday, February 8, preceding the regular VCARC monthly meeting, will feature a presentation from the Vertigo company. Vertigo provides professional tower climbing services and tower rescues. They are EMT-trained climbers.

Amateur Radio License Class and Exams

by Paul (N7EKY)

Members of the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. conducted a two-day amateur radio class January 21 and 22 in Eagle River. The class was designed to prepare students to pass their Technician class amateur radio license examination. It included everything from Basic Electricity to Modulation Theory.

Four students, William Grabowski of Crystal Falls, MI, Daniel Fix of St Paul, MN, Ronald De Bruyne Jr. of

Arbor Vitae, WI and Peter Aerts of Eagle River, WI passed their examination for the FCC Technician class amateur radio license.

In addition, Martha Weeks of Harshaw passed her examination to upgrade to General class and Dr. Richard Reinhart of Minocqua and Robert Parsons of Eagle River passed their examination to upgrade to Extra class, the highest level of amateur radio license and the most difficult test. Teaching the class were Andy Falkenstern (N9NBC) of St Germain, Roger Schutt (KD9EPX) of

Eagle River, Tony Campion (KC9SZW) of Phelps, Vince Tarnowski (KA8FFM) of Iron River, MI, and Paul Clay (N7EKY) of Watersmeet, MI.

Volunteer Examiners, who are authorized to administer the examination leading to licensure, were Paul (N7EKY), Andy (N9NBC) and Dave Stott (KD9DRG).

For more information about future classes, please contact Paul Clay at pclay@nnex.net or (715) 891-0157

Net Update

by Tom (KC9UDA)

Nets: The nets are still going great. We hope to have more check ins as there are new people getting their tickets. A request when you check into the nets—please turn down any other radios that you have running in the background. This will stop the feedbacks on the repeater.

SSTV: There will be no SSTV nets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month due to low turnout, the time conflicts with the Iron Range club meeting.

During this month of February, I will be addressing some family medical issues and may not be available for some nets. In my absence please contact Andy (N9NBC) or Fred (KD9CCE) with any issues.

Repeater Backup Power

by Fred (KD9CCE)

The current VCARC repeater, the Ministry repeater located in the ambulance garage at Ministry Eagle River Memorial Hospital, does not have a backup power system at this time. The hospital emergency generator power system does not extend to the garage.

There was considerable discussion at the last club meeting around repeater emergency power. The ongoing dialog revolves around the duration of an outage, different battery systems, and costs. No decisions were reached for action. Please share any thoughts or knowledge you have in this area with the club technical team, Roger (KD9EPX) and Jeffrey (KD9FYU).

Salvation Army to station Disaster Services Trailer in Vilas County

by Paul (N7EKY)

Ms. Terri Leece, Disaster Services Director for the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division of The Salvation Army, has announced that they have stationed a dual purpose Emergency Disaster Services trailer in Vilas County. The trailer is designed to provide meals and hydration to emergency workers, affected residents and volunteers after a localized disaster or emergency such as a structure fire or wild fire.

This means that a canteen trailer will be much closer to the Northwoods. Currently, the closest canteen is located in Wausau and is about a three to four-hour response time away from Vilas County. The trailer was donated to The Salvation Army by the Squincher Company and is currently being prepared for service by local Salvation Army volunteers in the Vilas County Economic Development Manufacturing Incubator in Eagle River.



In addition to food service, the trailer has a specialized emergency communications function as part of The Salvation Army's communications arm, the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN). Licensed amateur radio operators who volunteer their expertise in radio communications and message handling as part of SATERN would deploy in the event of a large scale disaster requiring

emergency communications support to The Salvation Army during their mission.

The project needs a suitable permanent home for the trailer and communications equipment for the trailer. For more information or to find out how you can help, contact Paul Clay, SATERN Coordinator for the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Division. at (715) 891-0157.



The Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) group has announced their **first division-wide meeting** which will be held in Eagle River, WI on February 14th at 12:00 PM, location to be confirmed. The Wisconsin-Upper Michigan SATERN organization is comprised of about 15 amateur radio operators from across Wisconsin and the Western U.P. To learn more about SATERN contact Paul (N7EKY) at (715) 891-0157.

SATERN trailer designated for Vilas County.

Memo from your Treasurer....

by RayBob (KD9DDE)

I am happy to report a current bank balance of \$3165.10. Member dues and donations through January 28 were \$799. My thanks to all of you who have renewed. We now have 36 members who are current with their dues.

I will be filing our IRS 501(c)3 application this week and hopefully we will be approved within a month barring no complications with the IRS. The cost to the club will be \$275.. This is \$125. savings as the IRS reduced the fee for filing. These monies were raised through donations.

I thank the entire member base for their support.

VCARC New Mail Address, / Club Membership Dues / ARRL Membership

VCARC has a new mailing address. Please forward membership dues and other mail correspondence to:

Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 1141
Eagle River, WI 54521

Thank you to Treasurer RayBob (KD9DDE) for taking care of this

Annual club membership dues are due December 31. Membership applications are available for new members; they are not needed for renewals. Please email Fred (KD9CCE) for application forms for new members. Please forward dues to the new club address "Attention RayBob."

2017 dues:
\$15 Individual
\$20 Family
\$150 Lifetime Individual

ARRL Membership

VCARC members joining ARRL can benefit the club financially at no cost to themselves by applying through VCARC as opposed to directly to ARRL. New memberships earn the club \$15 and renewals \$2. Please contact Treasurer RayBob for details.

For Sale by Members

Amp Supply 10 to 160 manual antenna tuner rated at 1200 watts. \$250. LDG 1000 tuner \$400. Two Am-Com Clear Speech base units \$125. each. Astron 35 amp power supply \$125.00. Bird 43 watt meter with 9 slugs \$400. Contact Red, N9GHE. rpa-jula@frontier.com

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 \$1,050.00. (Paid \$1,812.00 new). Contact Bill Alton (KG9RH) at (715) 356-5692

Hamfest – Feb.18 – St. Cloud, MN

The St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club presents the annual Cabin Fever Reliever Hamfest. Details are on this web page – cut and paste into your browser: hamfest.w0sv.net

Our Supporters

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

**St. Germain United Church of Christ
Thrift Store**



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