



The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Newsletter Number 2

August 2015

The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club Repeater #1

We recently paid off the amount owed on the future Vilas County Amateur Radio Club Repeater. The Repeater was moved to Red's house (N9GHE) in Three Lakes and shortly afterward Red and Dave (KC9ZJO) tested the repeater using Red's Tower and antenna. Dave reported that the signal was full quieting and sounded beautiful.

We now have to secure an appropriate tower, mount our antenna which Red has already tuned for our frequency of 145.150 MHz and install the repeater. Red has started making a wooden box to house the duplexer and has located a small wooden box with casters on it for the repeater rack. Red does need some casters for the plywood box he is making for the duplexers so, if you believe you have something that will work let Red know.

Ministry Tower

As most of you know, we have been working to secure permission to install our antenna on the tower located behind the Ministry Eagle River Hospital Ambulance Garage. Thanks to Fred (KC9CCE), our request has progressed through Ministry management and is now ready to go to their Legal Department for review. It is now in a format that Ministry has approved in the past so we are hoping for a quick approval.

Other Tower Options

Although he located the Ministry Tower which is looking promising, Tony (KC9SZW) has continued to research Tower opportunities in Vilas County and has found two Wisconsin State Towers where our club may have an opportunity. As they are State Towers, however, the cost to the club would be sizeable; costing many times more than what the club has available. Additionally, we have been offered space on Vilas County towers in Conover and Presque Isle. Like the State towers, installation on these towers would incur much higher costs.

ARRL Affiliation

The ARRL recently approved our application to be an Affiliated Club. This means that our club is eligible for affiliation benefits from the ARRL. This includes reduced cost liability insurance and income from ARRL membership fees. We immediately took advantage of this program and purchased our liability insurance. This policy will cover our club and members when they are taking part in club activities. This insurance does not cover the use of automobiles, however.

The program allows for our members to join or renew their membership with the ARRL through our club. For every renewal, the club keeps \$2 and for a new ARRL membership the club receives \$15. Since we now have 50 club members, this income could really help us. If you would like to obtain a new membership or renew your membership with the ARRL please contact Paul (N7EKY) at pclay@nnex.net for the form. You can renew your membership at any time, even if you have months remaining in your current membership.

ARISS: Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL), The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) have joined in a venture to facilitate Amateur Radio contacts between crew members onboard the ISS and school classrooms.

Goals of the program include:

- Inspire an interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects and in STEM careers among young people
- Provide an educational opportunity for students, teachers and the general public to learn about space exploration, space technologies and satellite communications
- Provide an educational opportunity for students, teachers and the general public to learn about wireless technology and radio science through Amateur Radio
- Provide an opportunity for Amateur Radio experimentation and evaluation of new technologies.
- Provide a contingency communications system for NASA and the ISS crew.
- Provide crew with another means to directly interact with a larger community outside the ISS, including friends and family.

The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is exploring avenues for partnering with schools and other youth education entities to prepare a proposal for this program.

Our club would be instrumental in assisting in several areas including:

- Assisting with the design and installation of a possible future Amateur Radio Club at one of the schools in the area.
- Teaching Amateur Radio Classes.
- Provide expertise and support for the Equipment phase of the ARISS process.

- Obtain and install necessary base station and antennas to facilitate communication with the ISS.
- Provide expertise and operators during the ISS Contact.

This is an exciting program that will challenge us and be good for our hobby, local schools and the community.

Tech Talk

Roger Schutt, and John Bigley (KD9DQZ) have been working on what they call Tech Talk, designed to provide expertise, mentorship and learning experiences for our members and anyone else interested. Questions from our membership may range from how to provide proper grounding to how to properly attach a PL259 connector on COAX. The sessions may be held after regular club meetings as well as special workshops evenings or weekends. We expect to have more information at our next meeting.

October 1st Joint Rhinelander Repeater Association and Vilas County Amateur Radio Club Meeting

We will meet on October 1st at the Newbold Fire Department at 6:30 to hear a presentation by Bill Niemuth (KB9ENO) on WECOM. WECOM links several repeaters around the State of Wisconsin and this is our chance to learn about the system. Don't miss it.

Membership

As of this newsletter, the club has 50 members. This is great progress in such a short time since the club's formation and we encourage everyone to make sure they get the word out about our great club.