

VCARC / Radio Club Newsletter



This newsletter uses only 100% recycled electrons.

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rmh2992@aol.com

Land O' Lakes Repeater Update

by Tony (KC9SZW)

VCARC has signed an agreement to install an amateur radio repeater onto the Land O' Lakes water tower. The agreement is with the Land O' Lakes Sanitary District I. With the water tower being 150 feet high, this would give the repeater and with the land being 1,720 feet above sea level the repeater should reach out. The tip of the antenna should be around 1,890 feet above sea level! A site evaluation was done last week and a location of the equipment at the tower site was approved by staff. On site preliminary work has been completed for now.

Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR) has assigned a pair of frequencies that we expect to be approved following approval from the U.P. Michigan repeater group. Vince, KA8FFM, has looked at the frequencies and does not see any issues in the U.P. so work has started with the repeater, duplexer and antenna to tune the performance of the repeater system. (Thanks Jeffrey, KD9FYU). The club will announce the frequencies upon their approval. We will be purchasing coax between the repeater, duplexer and coax to put in a lightning arrester. We have been given a generous donation to purchase feedline from the duplexer to the antenna. We are currently shopping for coax hardline.

This repeater will be valuable addition to Vilas County communications. Not only being so high it is also on the WeEnergy utility power system. With the Ministry repeater on WPS we have repeaters on different utility systems. Hopefully in the time of an emergency, both power grids will not go down. Once the system is up and working we will issue a press release about the repeater and I bet we could hold a VE class in Land O' Lakes that would be full. There is a potential to have some new people in the amateur radio field for our club.



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Land O' Lakes Repeater Site Visit

by Roger, KD9EPX

On Thursday February 23, Tony, KC9SZW, Jeffrey, KD9FYU, and Roger, KD9EPX met at the Land O' Lakes water tower for internal area review and planning. We also met with Tom Ripp from the city water department. We identified space for our repeater cabinet, power line routing, and hardline routing. Roger climbed to the first level to document cable routing. The ladder from the first level up is vertical, about a 120-foot climb. A safety harness on steel cable is on scene. We also determined

Land O' Lakes Repeater Site Visit — continued

an excellent spot for the antenna on the NE sector of the railing. If mounted on a 10-foot mast, the antenna base would be about 160 feet up. The railing area is about 152 feet across with two-inch pipe for rails and verticals. All existing antennas are mounted to this railing structure.

It has been determined that the old antenna owned by the club cannot be retuned, the minimum is 152.00. The recommendation is to purchase a Diamond similar to the antenna on the Ministry tower. This will be an agenda item at the next club meeting Wednesday, February 8. There may also be other options for hardline sources, and negotiations are in progress.

There are only two existing RF systems on the tower, one on VHF low, one VHF high. By the way, low-band duplexers are VERY large, with cans about five feet tall and six inches in diameter! Just in case you're thinking of a six-meter repeater [grin].



Left: Land O' Lakes Comms tower is also used to store water.

Above: Land O' Lakes tower and existing antennas.

Photo credit: Tony, KC9SZW

Tech Talk

The upcoming Tech Talk, scheduled for 6 pm, Wednesday, March 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.

Here is the contact information for Vertigo Climbing LLC: Matt - cell 910-381-8925; e-mail - matt@vertigoclimbingllc.com

VERTIGO
CLIMBING LLC

Local Resident Donates Generator for Disaster Services Trailer in Vilas County

by Paul, N7EKY

Paul Clay, Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network Coordinator for the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Division of The Salvation Army, announced that Ms. Barbara Ann Just of Boulder Junction has made a significant donation to The Salvation Army which was more than sufficient to purchase a needed generator. The new Emergency Disaster Services Trailer will be used for hydration and food service for local emergencies such as structure or wild fires and will be available as a communications center in the event of a major disaster

such as wide-spread flooding or severe storm.

Ms. Just commented that she has always tried to support the Salvation Army so when she heard about the need for a new generator, she took action. She is proud to live in the Northwoods where she says she has seen so much volunteerism and generous giving.

The new Generac generator is made in Wisconsin and provides enough power for food service as well as emergency communica-

tions equipment. Ms. Just's donation was very welcome and timely and will allow SATERN to activate the trailer much earlier than originally anticipated. We really appreciate her generosity.

At this time the trailer project is in need of microwave oven and emergency communications equipment. For more information about how to donate to The Salvation Army SATERN trailer project contact Paul at (715) 891-0157.

Barbara Ann Just displays the new generator made possible by her generous donation.



IronLine Sled Dog Race Another Success

The 2017 IronLine Sled Dog race was a great success again this year with the assistance of the Iron Range Amateur Radio Club of Iron River, Michigan, and the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club (VCARC) headquartered in Eagle River, Wisconsin. VCARC volunteers included Dave McMaster, KC9ZJO; Scott Hanley, WA9STI; Karla Hanley, KB6LAS; Andy Falkenstern, N9NBC; Bob Parsons, N9HSQ; Dick Volland, W9RGV; Paul Clay, N7EKY; and Lorin Johnson, KD9CXC.

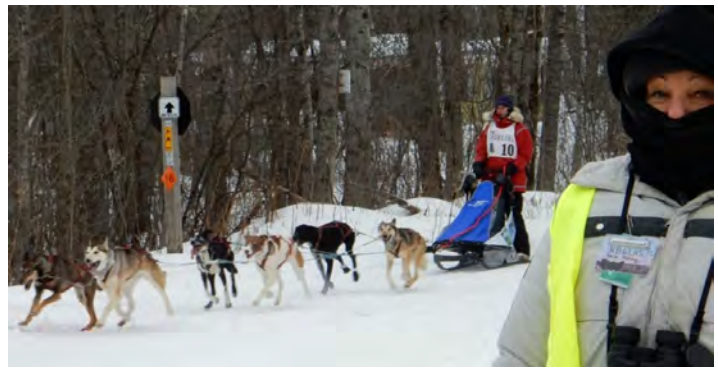


Photo credit Scott, WA9STI

Northwoods Net Report

by Tom, KC9UDA

Nets: The nets are doing great, thanks to all who have been checking in. Everyone is doing a good job of turning down background radios during the nets.

SSTV: Thanks to everyone who have been checking into the SSTV on Tuesday nights at 7:30 pm. A reminder - the 3rd week there is no SSTV, that is the Iron Range club SSTV, so please check in to that net.

A special thanks to Ray, KB9CBL, for stepping in as a net controller for SSTV, Ray has useful information that he brought to the Northwood's ARES meeting on February 2.

New Antigo Net: A new net is starting March 7 on the 147.255 PL 114.8 repeater at 8:30 pm. Please check in to support this new net.

We are looking for net controllers please contact Joe, KD9CJX or Tom, KC9UDA. Anyone wishing to step up as a net controller for both the Monday night nets or for SSTV please contact me at kc9uda@yahoo.com or drop me a phone call at 715-360-4003.

Memo from your Treasurer....

by RayBob, KD9DDE

Again at the end of January 2017 I am happy to report we have a bank balance of \$2890.10. Renewals have been steady and for those who have not renewed please do so at your earliest convenience.

As of February 25, with renewals and donations we now have a bank balance of \$3715.10.

I would personally like to thank Bob Barnum for his donation of \$500 of which \$15 was his membership renewal and a donation of \$485 toward the purchase of the hard line for the Land O' Lakes repeater.

I also would like to thank all the members who have renewed. We now have 44 current members. Re-member, promote our newly approved tax exempt status IRS 501(c)(3).

Another New Ham in Eagle River

by Paul, N7EKY

Joseph Dillon of Eagle River recently passed his examination to earn the Technician class amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). The examination covers everything from rules and regulations to electricity and radio wave propagation. The examination was administered by members of the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Paul Clay, N7EKY, Roger Schutt, KD9EPX, and Dave Stott, KD9DRG at the Vilas County Economic Development classroom on Enterprise Way in Eagle River. Joe was issued the call sign KD9HWO. This will allow him to use certain radio frequencies allocated for amateur radio use by the FCC.

For information on becoming a licensed amateur radio operator contact Paul Clay, N7EKY, at 715-891-0157.

Renowned Naturalist and Animal Tracking Guru and Ham Radio

by Scott, WA9STI

In the February 2017 issue of QST in the "Member Spotlight" column is an article about Jim Halfpenny, K9YNP. Jim is a wildlife researcher and animal tracker who lives just outside of Yellowstone National Park. The article highlights how Jim initially got his ham license when he was in Boy Scouts, let it lapse, and now has gotten back into amateur radio.

On Jim's trips to the Arctic, Greenland, and Canada, he has been getting on the air. I met Jim back in December of 2013 when I took one of his wildlife tracking seminars at Treehaven, a satellite campus of the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, located near Tomahawk. I did not know that Jim was a ham when he took the class. Since finding this out after reading the article, I emailed him and he replied that the next time he teaches a course at Treehaven, he will try to get on the local repeaters. Check out the call sign Jim used while on his last trip to Greenland in qrz.com: OX/KG7VER.

Northland Pines Amateur Radio Club News

By Paul, N7EKY

Monday and Tuesday, February 20 and 21 proved interesting to the NP ARC members. On Monday, Paul, N7EKY, and freshman Nick Lofy set up and ran DireWolf on a Raspberry Pi 3 Model B. DireWolf was configured as an IGate and was connected to an ICOM IC-7000 through a SignaLink USB interface. This wasn't the first experience with DireWolf on the Pi as they had previously setup the Pi to work with RTL-SDR, a software defined radio USB device, as a receive only IGate with great success.

The regular club meeting day on Tuesday featured a demonstration of slow scan TV (SSTV). In the classroom Paul set up his Kenwood TM-D710GA connected to a laptop computer through the SignaLink. The computer was running MMSSTV, the free slow scan application in use by many in the Northwoods. Ray Mark, KB9CBL, was a big help as he parked outside of the school building and did slow scan from his "shack on wheels." This is the second time Ray helped out the club in this manner. Thanks, Ray!

Nearly every regular NP ARC meeting includes a brief Q&A session to help the students prepare for their Technician class examination. Nick believes that he will be ready to take the examination soon and when ready, Paul, Andy, N9NBC, and Roger, KD9EPX, will administer the examination in the classroom.

73 from the NP ARC Advisors

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

**Bob Barnum, KC9RF. Hardline for the
new Land O' Lakes repeater**

**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

St. Germain United Church of Christ Thrift Store

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