

## VCARC / Radio Club Newsletter

### Ministry Tower and Vilas County Amateur Radio Club Repeater #1 Update

**Special points of interest:**

- HAMS on the International Space Station
- Five new area Technicians
- Raffle October 14

We are waiting for word from Ministry Health Care on our application to use their tower in Eagle River. Use of the 85-foot tower could save the club hundreds of dollars in tower costs. The last information received from Ministry was that their Legal Department is looking at the agreement. If given the go ahead, we believe there is still plenty of time to get our antenna up and the repeater on the air before winter. However, if permission is not received by the October 14 club meeting, other alternatives will be presented.

While we are waiting for the decision on the Ministry

Tower, Tony (KC9SZW) and Red (N9GHE) have been working on preparing the repeater for its new home. Red has constructed a wooden enclosure to protect the Duplexers, installed metal handles on the **heavy** repeater, and provided a box with casters for the repeater. Tony has been working on programming the repeater with the clubs' call sign KD9DXK/R.

Once the location of the Repeater Antenna is determined, an application will be made to the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR) for approval to use the frequency of 145.150 MHz, which is already set up.



### STEM: Science Technology Engineering and Math

By now most club members are aware of efforts to support Rouleen Gartner, Director of the Northwoods Children's Museum, in her efforts to win the ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) competition to provide local young people with the opportunity to actually talk to hams on the International Space Station.

This project was brought to the club by Fred (KD9CCE) who has been the initial interface between the club and the Northwoods Children's Museum. Now the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. has pledged support to Rouleen at any time

she needs it, but especially during phase two when the planning, installation and operation of the equipment necessary for the ISS contact would occur.

In addition to the ARISS project, John (KD9DQZ) has been working on his project of generating interest in the Northland Pines High School for an Amateur Radio Club. He has made some progress by getting the attention of faculty and staff, and scheduling meetings in October to plan next steps. This project could possibly involve members of the club in many ways in forming and supporting a high school club.

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## Vilas County Amateur Radio Club Conducts Technician Class



*HAM radio training class held in August in Eagle River.*

Members of the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. conducted an intensive two-day class designed to prepare students to pass their Technician Class Examination. Members Andy (N9NBC), Tony (KC9SZW), Debbie (KD9DYL), Dave (KD9DQP) and Paul (N7EKY) taught the 19 sections in the class using the text “Ham Radio License Manual” and training materials supplied by the ARRL and other sources. Five members of the class took the VE Ex-

amination conducted by Paul, Andy and Tony and all five passed! Congratulations go to Roger Schutt, Gabriel Kohls, and Terry Burns of Eagle River, Chris Nelson of Iron River, MI., and Donald Korbas of Wabeno. This is the second class conducted by members of the club and there is hope there will be more classes in the future. If you know of someone who wants to become a ham have them contact Paul (N7EKY).

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## SATERN Visits the VCARC

*“SATERN is the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network “*

Members of the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) visited the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club at the September 9th Meeting. Terri Leece, Disaster Services Director was accompanied by Bill Shillington (W9ZCL), Central USA Coordinator.

Bill and Terri presented SATERN to the club and showed how the Salvation Army has responded to local, regional and major disasters including Hurricane Katrina. SATERN is the communications arm of the organization and relies on Amateur Radio volunteers. Terri and Bill

invited VCARC members to join SATERN. Several reportedly did join SATERN and have been provided the opportunity to attend training in Wisconsin and other neighboring states.

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## Tech Talk

The first Tech Talk session will take place at 6:00 PM, Wednesday October 14th. Bob Barnum, KC9RF, plans to hold a live demonstration of PSK31 just before our regular Wednesday meeting. If you are interested in Digital Modes this might be something you are interested in. Don't miss it!

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## Club Equipment Insurance

Members agreed to insure the Club Repeater and Duplexer for \$2,000 through the ARRL insurance program. The insurance costs the club \$28 a year and covers the equipment for a variety of ills including theft, fire, and lightning strikes.

## Joint Meeting on October 1st

- Rhinelander Repeater Association
- Vilas County Amateur Radio Club
- Iron Range Amateur Radio Club

The Rhinelander Repeater Association is hosting a presentation by Mr. Bill Niemuth (KB9ENO) on WeComm. The presentation will take place at the Newbold Fire Department at 6:30. WeComm links several repeaters

around the State of Wisconsin and reportedly has garnered much attention from the Federal Communications Commission and hospitals throughout Wisconsin due to possible emergency communications

## Income from ARRL Dues

Since the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is an affiliated club with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), any ARRL new or renewal memberships conducted directly through the club qualify VCARC for a rebate which goes directly into the club treasury.

Some members have taken advantage of this program and not only simplified their new/renewal ARRL membership, but helped the club earn money at the same time. Remember that ARRL dues

go up \$10 per year starting January 1st. Renew now and save!

Contact Paul (N7EKY) at [pclay@nnex.net](mailto:pclay@nnex.net) for the form. You can renew your membership at any time, even if you have months remaining in your current membership.

To remain eligible for affiliated status, VCARC must have 51 percent voting members of the ARRL.

## Raffle

The club will hold a raffle for a new Baofeng HT Radio at our October 14 meeting. This is a great chance to win a new HT. Don't miss it!

## Submit a newsletter article!

If you would like to contribute an article to this newsletter, and you are encouraged to do so, please contact Paul (N7EKY) at [pclay@nnex.net](mailto:pclay@nnex.net)

## Club Membership

Club Members have been very active in recruiting members from around the Northwoods. The current membership stands at 56 members. There is strength in numbers so keep up the good work. There is something to interest every ham at the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.