

VCARC / Radio Club Newsletter

The VCARC Repeater KD9DXK/R Goes Live

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Ministry Healthcare and the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. have inked the Tower Lease Agreement, giving the club the authority to utilize the 85-foot level of the tower for the club antenna. Also included is the entire feedline from the 85-foot level to the inside of the Ambulance Garage where the repeater and duplexer will be housed.

On Tuesday, November 10, the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Repeater #1 was placed on the air on the Ministry Tower. The existing antenna was left in place as it had an excellent SWR and Ministry has agreed to allow the club to use it. Fred (KD9CCE) and Red (N9GHO) worked very hard on this project and did an outstanding job!



Ministry Repeater Tower

A Call for Help

The Iron Range Amateur Radio Club needs our help with communications during the annual Ironline Sled Dog Race and Fat Bike Races to be held on January 29 and 30, 2016. The Iron Range Club does not have enough members to staff the check points needed to cover the races and has asked if VCARC members can

support their club in these important Northwoods events.

Please contact Paul (N7EKY), who is also a member of the Iron Range Club, if you are interested at pclay@nnex.net or (715) 891-0157. Several members did sign up at the meeting but we can always use more.

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STEM: Science Technology Engineering and Math — ARISS

Although the Phelps School has shown interest in the ARISS project, they did not have the time or resources to put something together before the proposal deadline the first of November. The Phelps School Administrator and employees Jason Pertile and Todd Riha have indicated that they would like to investigate a submission during the next proposal window, possibly in four months or so.

In the meantime the club has suggested that the Amateur Radio portion of the proposal should start as early as possible as it will take so time to execute properly. This could possibly include some or all of the following items:

- Form an Amateur Radio Club for Phelps School
- Fund raising for the new school club
- Assist those teachers, staff and students in operating the club
- Bring in guest speakers to club meetings
- Teach classes which will lead to obtaining an Amateur Radio License from the Federal Communication Commission (FCC)
- Administer examinations for all classes of Amateur Radio Licenses
- Assist with special projects, such as tracking the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) signal from the International Space Station or even short communications with astronaut hams using equipment donated to the new school club
- Conduct long range communications using amateur radio satellites
- Host guest speakers from school clubs like Michigan Tech's Husky Amateur Radio Club

We believe we have sparked interest at the school and have asked them to determine the level of interest in their staff and student body. Information about ARISS can be found on the ARRL website: <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-on-the-international-space-station>

The club also conducted a presentation to the SOAR School Principle, Mr. Scott Foster, in Land O' Lakes. Mr. Foster has expressed an interest in the program and has been referred to Ms. Rouleen Gartner, Director of the Northwoods Children's Museum who has pledged her support for the program.

Amateur Radio HF Nets — Part 2

The Great Lakes Emergency and Traffic Net (GLETN) This NET has been around since 1958 when it was formed by Casey Cole (K8BMU). It meets on 3932 KHz every day at 20:00 Central Time but one can check into the Pre-NET at 19:30 hours. The purpose of this NET is to pass traffic using

the National Traffic System (NTS) format, but rag chewing usually takes place after any traffic is passed. HAMs from Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and Canada are regularly heard on this NET. Information about the NTS can be found on the ARRL website or by following this link: [\[www.w7arc.com/files/fsd218.htm\]\(http://www.w7arc.com/files/fsd218.htm\). Message forms are available from the ARRL. Some members of the club attended the Rhinelander Repeater Association meeting on Thursday, November 5, when the NTS Message format was presented by Ray \(KB9CBL\).](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Tech Talk

Andy (N9NBC) presented Contesting at the November 11 meeting. Contesting is a favorite with many HAMs and Andy has provided the necessary information for a good start for those who haven't experienced this part of the hobby. The next Tech Talk Session will be held at the club classroom in the Manufacturing Incubator when Paul (N7EKY) will conduct a live Demonstration of SSTV on HF (conditions permitting). The exact time and date will be announced. Paul (N7EKY) and Fred (KD9CCE) will present APRS including a live presentation at the December meeting.

The current 2016 Tech Talk Schedule is as follows:

DATE	SUBJECT	PRESENTERS
January 13, 2016	Setting up the HAM shack	Andy (N9NBC), Roger (KD9EPX), Paul (N7EKY)
February 6, 13, 2016	Building stuff for the shack	Andy (N9NBC), Roger (KD9EPX)
March 9, 2016	Solar Winds * Atmosphere Layers	Andy (N9NBC), Roger (KD9EPX), Paul (N7EKY)
April 9, 16, 2016	Using Test Equipment, Building for the Shack	Andy (N9NBC), Roger (KD9EPX)
May 14, 21, 2016	Towers Part I – Antenna Design and Build, Installation Locations	Andy (N9NBC), Roger (KD9EPX)
June 4, 11, 2016	Towers Part II – Climbing Safety, Antenna Installation Practical Demonstrations	Andy (N9NBC), Roger (KD9EPX)
July 13, 2016	Grounding the Shack	Andy (N9NBC), Roger (KD9EPX)
August 10, 2016	The Inns and Outs of DXing	

This schedule is a suggested list of topics and dates. Different topics may be inserted and dates changed as the board wishes. Certain topics could be ongoing, for example: soldering techniques and practice, building stuff for the Ham Shack, grounding equipment and using testing equipment. Field days and other such activities have not been included. Additional topics to be scheduled: Basic radio operations, Tools for the Ham Shack and Good sources of information. For more information or to suggest a presentation contact John Bigley (KD9DQZ).

Looking for newsletter articles!

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

Two-Day Technician Class

Members of the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. conducted a Technician Class at the Manufacturing Incubator Classroom Saturday and Sunday, November 14 and 15. The class continued with the same format with all-day sessions starting at 8 am each day.

This format appears to be successful with a very high percentage of passing scores on the examinations following the class. Club VEs conducted

the exam session on Sunday afternoon immediately after completion of the class.

Members wishing to participate as instructors or who know people interested in taking future classes should contact Paul pclay@nnex.net or (715) 891-0157.

VCARC specifically invited any Phelps or SOAR school students or staff interested in Amateur Radio to attend.

Recommended Reading

Recommendations from Fred (KD9CCE):

Radio Monitoring A How To Guide by T.J. "Skip" Arey N2EI is available free of charge by visiting the NASWA.net website at <http://www.naswa.net/journal/areybook>.

PODCAST "HAM RADIO-LISTENING TO THE SPECTRUM" <http://amateurradio15.com/>

Club Membership

The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. now can count 62 members! This is considerable given the short life of the club and relative numbers of HAMs in the Northwoods. The members approved a suggestion that the club offer lifetime memberships. The cost of this membership will be \$150. It will possibly save a member a considerable amount over regular annual dues, not to mention that costs always seem to go up and annual membership fees are probably no exception.

December Elections

The nominees for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer were named by the Club Nominating Committee (Red - N9GHE, Ray Bob - KD9DDE, and Tom - KC9UDA) at the November monthly meeting. The nominees are: Andy Falkenstern for Vice President, Paul Clay for President, Tony Campion for Secretary, and Dave McMaster for Treasurer. Elections will be held at the December 9 monthly meeting. Additional nominees can be brought to the floor at the December meeting just before the secret ballot election.

Rhineland Repeater Association Breakfast

The RRA Club invited the VCARC members to join in the first HAM Breakfast at the Friendship House in Rhineland on Saturday, October 24. Turnout was terrific and everyone appeared to have a good time. This was a purely social gathering so no pressure! Members have voiced an interest in making this a regular monthly gathering so club will try to work out a schedule with the RRA to make this happen.