

VCARC / Radio Club Newsletter



This newsletter uses only 100% recycled electrons.

VCARC contacts:

President **Fred Bouwman** – KD9CCE
bouwmanf@gmail.com

Vice President **Andy Falkenstern** – N9NBC
n9nbc@arrl.net

Secretary **Tony Campion** – KC9SZW
an.campion@gmail.com

Treasurer **Robert Heuer** – KD9DDE
rmh2992@aol.com

VCARV Repeater News

by Tony (KC9SZW)

The Ministry repeater located at Eagle River Memorial Hospital is working well. Roger (KD9EPX) is planning for the installation of a backup power supply for the repeater. The repeater is located in the hospital ambulance garage which is not connected to the hospital emergency power system. A power outage in the Eagle River area could power off the repeater. Knowing Roger, he will come up with a very good back up power supply.

Work on a second repeater has been moving forward. Paul (N7EKY) met with the Land O' Lakes Sanitary District and we are working together to install a repeater on the water tower in Land O' Lakes.

We have the repeater, duplexer and an antenna for the project that can be tuned to the frequency once we have coordination from WAR. We need hard line from the repeater to the antenna. We will try to find out next week what the height of the tower is so we can specify the length we need. Once things fall in place we should be on the air soon in Land O' Lakes. We are also looking into the future for repeaters in the southwest and northwest corners of Vilas County. We are always looking for high places for an antenna. We do like to stay off the county towers because if something happens we have a better chance of being on the air. If there is anybody that has any ideas for these projects or any other projects let us know. We are always looking for ways to help communications in the area.



Inside this issue:

Tech Talk	2
NPOTA	2
SATERN	3
New Mailing Address	4
Sponsors	6
And More!	

VCARC President Change

On November 30, Paul Clay (N7EKY) suffered a major heart attack. Paul said that early that morning he didn't feel well so his wife drove him to the Ministry Eagle River Memorial Hospital. Paul was stabilized and transported to Ministry St. Clare's Hospital in Wausau where he spent a week after undergoing some procedures.

Paul is on the road to recovery, but has decided to back away from what can be a hectic pace with the operation of the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. For that reason, he resigned as club president. The normal term of office is 24 months and the club elected officers in December 2015, which means that elections are scheduled for December 2017.

At a special club Executive Committee meeting on Sunday, December 11, Fred Bouwman was elected as the new club president by a unanimous vote. Fred and the team will work to build on the outstanding achievements of Paul Clay during his term.

Andy (N9NBC) remains Vice President, Tony (KC9SZW) Secretary, and RayBob (KD9DDE) Treasurer.

Club Membership

The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. now can count **95** members!

December Tech Talk

Vince (KE8FFM) and Roger (KD9EPX) presented Alternative Power Options: Generation, Storage, Distribution, Safety and Maintenance. The presentation featured two backup radio shack alternative power configurations by members Dave (KC9ZJO) and Roger (KD9EPX), and the full, off-grid solar and generator powered homestead of RayBob (KD9DDE). The presentation addressed types of solar panels and ancillary devices, wiring, how to calculate the power needs of a site, safety, and everything you need to know for alternative power packed into one hour. The PowerPoint presentation is available from club members on storage media; it is too large to email. It is a great how-to guide for anyone implementing alternative power.

NPOTA Trip Update

by Scott (WA9STI)

With the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event coming to an end on December 31, many hams have been on the air recently to reach the goal of 1,000,000 QSOs — which has been accomplished. Scott (WA9STI) reports doing his part with a five-day, four-

state trip this month by activating nine park units for a total of 443 contacts. Included as one of his activations was the Cedar Breaks National Monument in Utah, which involved driving up to 10,500 feet just before a blizzard hit. By the time he left two hours later, the snow was coming down so heavy that he could not see the road and had to

navigate by staying between the snow poles on the road. Scott hopes to finish NPOTA with 50 activations to include hiking up to a peak on the 31st for a Summit on the Air (SOTA) in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area where he began on January



Castle Mountains California Remote Operation Site



Top: Castle Mountains California Remote Operation Site
Bottom: Operating in a Utah blizzard

SATERN Update

by Paul (N7EKY)

The Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Division of the Salvation Army includes the entire state of Wisconsin and the Western Michigan Upper Peninsula. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) is the communications arm of the Emergency Disaster Services of the division and currently numbers 13 credentialed members with another six who are in the process of application. Of these credentialed hams, eight are members of the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

The efforts of members of the VCARC have been noticed by the Salvation Army territory headquarters staff so, with Terri Leece's support, the decision was made to deploy an emergency trailer to the Eagle River area. The trailer was a corporate donation to the Salvation Army but was not being used. Since the decision to move the trailer from the Chicagoland area, efforts have been made to repair any mechanical problems and either paint or cover the trailer with the Salvation Army and SATERN emblems.

Since the trailer will be dual purpose, that is, available for food and hydration support as well as SATERN work, some members attended a Canteen Operations class on Saturday, December 3, taught by Terri Leece and territory headquarters staff. Terri also brought up one of her division's newer canteens for the class from Wausau. It is hoped that the trailer will be in Eagle River at some time in January. When it does arrive, it will be temporarily housed in the Vilas County Economic Development Manufacturing Incubator for fitting out. It is not known exactly what work, other than the installation of radio equipment, wiring, and provi-



sion for outside tower and antenna connections will need to be accomplished.

Paul (N7EKY) retained his position of Division SATERN Coordinator and hopes to continue to build up the division's SATERN team. Paul said, "There is a large resource of amateur radio operators in the Upper Peninsula as well as down-state in Wisconsin. The trailer can act as a flagship for recruitment efforts to the SATERN team."

Fred (KD9CCE), the club's new president, has said that he will look into the possibility of keeping the small trailer in the Ministry Eagle River Memorial Hospital ambulance garage, which would be an ideal place for it. It is heated and has easy access, which would be important. Once the local fire departments learn of the existence of the trailer, there is a good possibility of being dispatched for a wild fire or structure fire. This is especially important to the county as a canteen will no longer be several hours away.

Our club SATERN members are distinguishing themselves on SATERN nets. Andy (N9NBC) has taken over as net control

manager for the central territory HF net, which includes 11 states, on Saturdays at 1530Z on 7.265 MHz. Roger (KD9EPX) is net control operator for the monthly SATERN net on the WeComm system. This net takes place at 7:30 pm, on the third Thursday of each month. It is linked state-wide on the WeComm system.

The other pending project in the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan division is the pre-wiring of all of the division's canteens. This will provide a powerpole connection in the cab or other appropriate place for quick connect of amateur radio equipment. During last summer's Patriot exercise, it became a stumbling block for hams wishing to use their mobile radios in the canteens. The canteens are moving around to different areas on Volk Field and Fort McCoy so the powerpole connections would make mobile operation realistic with the addition of a mag-mount antenna or even something permanently affixed to the canteen.

If you believe you are interested in joining the Salvation Army, please contact Paul (N7EKY) at (715) 891-0157 or pclay@nnex.net.

Net Update

by Tom (KC9UDA)

Repeater and Simplex Nets: The nets are going great. We had a good turnout for the simplex net on December 12. Ray (KB9CBL) checked in from his mobile on simplex in Lake Tomahawk. I was able hear him like he was in the driveway at my house. Thanks to everyone for their job in relaying the ones I could not hear.

We are getting an average of close to 12 to 15 check-ins on the net. With the cold temperatures and the snow many are staying indoors and listening to the nets and checking in.

We are getting new hams into the area. When you hear of a new ham that just moved into the area, remind them about our area nets. And welcome them to check-in. This is how we can welcome them to the Northwoods.

SSTV Net: We have experienced some low turn outs for SSTV. We will keep plugging it as the second week of the month when Iron River has their meetings. As a reminder, Iron River has their SSTV each Monday. If you join in on their SSTV, please remind others about our SSTV.

HF Net: As many of you know HF bands are really bad. We are going to hold off on the HF nets until after the first of the year. Joe (KD9CJX) will look into moving it to 40 meters to see if that will help. Fred (KD9CCE) offered to help out when we do this. If there is anyone that will like to help out please let me know and we will add you in.

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.

A message from your Treasurer....

by RayBob (KD9DDE)

We end this year with a balance in the bank of \$2615.10 plus club renewals of \$295.00 which will be deposited after the first of the year. Financially, the club did well this year and we are looking for a great year in 2017. As a reminder, renewals for 2017 are now due. Please submit your renewals to our new club address:

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

The IRS 501-c3 filing is on a short hold until we get notification of our corporate income tax filing. I expect to hear from the IRS shortly. 501-c3 documents will be submitted to the IRS for approval sometime in January 2017. The filing fee has been reduced from \$400.00 to \$275.00. This saves the club some monies, which is good.

I wish you all a prosperous New Year.

Note About Previous Treasurer Job Posting

The November newsletter included a job posting for the position of VCARC treasurer. This is retracted – we have the great news that RayBob (KD9DDE) has agreed to remain as treasurer. RayBob has brought considerable expertise and energy to the role and we are very happy he will remain.

For Sale by Members

LDG IT-100 100 watt automatic tuner with ICOM IC-7K interface cable and instruction manual. 125 watts peak power. 1.8 to 54 Mhz coverage and much more. Virtually brand new and only used a few months. It has a few scratches on the top. Works Great! Selling at Giga Parts for \$159.95 and the cable an additional \$9.00. Price to you...\$ 75.00 Contact RayBob (KD9DDE) 715-219-4090.

Amp Supply 10 to 160 manual antenna tuner rated at 1200 watts. \$250.00. LDG 1000 tuner \$400.00. Two Am-Com Clear Speech base units \$125.00 each. Astron 35 amp power supply \$125.00. Bird 43 watt meter with 9 slugs \$400.00. Contact Red (N9GHE). rpajula@frontier.com

.

Our Supporters for 2016

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



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