

VCARC / Radio Club Newsletter

The VCARC Repeater KD9DXK/R

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On Monday, November 16 the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. held their first Net on 145.150 MHz, Tom (KC9UDA) was Net Control and recorded 18 stations checking in. One of the purposes of the first Net was to get an idea of the reach of the new repeater. Dave (KC9ZJO) and Ray (KB9CBL) listened on other frequencies for people who could hear the repeater but couldn't reach it. Many thanks to all who participated in the first VCARC Net. The second Net was also successful and the club has decided to keep the same schedule as it doesn't appear to interfere with any other Net.

The club had previously applied to the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR)

for coordination using the frequency of 145.150 MHz with a PL of 123. This is how the repeater was configured when it was purchased. WAR responded by approving our Coordination request with the exception of the PL, which they said should be 114.8, which is the standard PL for Vilas County. Paul (N7EKY) wrote to the previous repeater owner to find out why the PL of 123 was used in Rhinelander and to determine if it was due to local interference. The club had not heard back in time for the December 9 meeting so the club voted to change the PL to 114.8 in accordance with the coordination. Tony (KC9SZW) will make the change on January 4 at 12 pm. Notices will be sent to club members of the scheduled change.



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 im-

portant 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. A field trip to Iron River is planned to view all the check points that have been identified as needing a HAM.

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STEM: Science Technology Engineering and Math — ARISS

The club handed off coordination of the SOAR School and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program to Rouleen Gartner who was to work directly with the SOAR School in their preparation of curriculum and supporting events. The club's participation in this program will depend on what the school decides to do, if anything.

With the next ARISS proposal window opening on February 1, 2016, the club contacted the Phelps School, as requested, to see if they have the interest and will devote the necessary resources to the proposal. The two designated science teachers were provided an update and asked to allow the club to pay them a visit to discuss ARISS and answer any questions they may have. Additionally, there has been preparatory work on projects to help spark interest in Radio Communications. For example:

- Successful Contact made with the ISS Russian call RS0ISS using Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS)
- Demonstrated ability to text other APRS stations through the ISS Digipeater
- Prepared tripod-mounted Arrow 2 meter – 70cm YAGI antenna in preparation for Satellite Communication Modes

Amateur Radio HF Nets — Part 3

The Midwest Amateur Radio Service (MIDCARS)

This net was founded by Marv Cook (W9WWE) and Nick Geer (K9DDT) in 1968. It was originally a mobile monitoring service on 40 meters (7.258 MHz) where hams could get assistance if needed. MIDCARS evolved into a NET for hams of many varied interests but retained its primary goal of assisting Mobile hams in need of assis-

tance. The net works closely with similar nets on the East and West coasts (ECARS 7255 MHz and WCARS 7255 MHz). Due to the time difference between the East and West coast, the fact that the frequency is the same has not been a problem.

MIDCARS is a directed net and runs from 8:30 to 2:00

pm Eastern Time or later as conditions permit. You don't need to be mobile to check in as all are welcome. The MIDCARS web site is <http://midcars.net> and has a wealth of information. By the way, they are looking for net control operators who will devote a couple of hours a week.

Husky Amateur Radio Club Visit

Members will visit Michigan Tech University to tour the Husky ARC facilities and meet with some of their ham students. The date will be announced as soon as details are worked out.

Club completes Two-Day Technician Class

Members of the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. conducted a two-day Technician Ham class November 14-15 at the Vilas County Manufacturing Incubator classroom. The instructors were Andy (N9NBC), Tony (KC9SZW), Roger (KD9EPX), and Paul (N7EKY). The class included people from Iron River and Crystal Falls, Michigan, and Green Bay and Rhinelander, Wisconsin. For the first time there were no students from Vilas County. The class was thought to be successful as four new Amateur Radio licenses were earned.

Two Day Technician HAM Class set

The next Ham class is set for January 16-18, 2016 at the Vilas County Business Incubator Manufacturing Building, 555 Enterprise Way, Eagle River. Pre-registration is necessary to reserve a seat in the class. Contact Paul (N7EKY) for more information.

First Christmas Party!

Members of the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. joined hams from the Iron Range Club, The Rhinelander Repeater Association and other clubs further South at the first Christmas Party hosted by Tim (KC9FNK) and his daughters Samantha and Ashly at

Dina Mia Pizza Joint in Rhinelander. Dina Mia provided pizza and soft drinks at no cost which was very much appreciated by all who attended the party. It was a good time for all and everyone remarked about how

generous Tim and his daughters were for hosting the party. It was also good to find a really good pizza restaurant in the area!



One of the tables where HAMs were obviously having a good time.



Tim (KC9FNK) and his daughter Samantha while Ashly was cooking.

VCARC members Attend SATERN Presentation

Several club members attended a special Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) presentation at the Iron Range Club meeting on Tuesday, November 17. Bill Shillington and Terry Leece had conducted a presentation on SATERN to the VCARC club during the September meeting. They returned to the Northwoods to continue their efforts to build interest in the Salvation Army SATERN organization. Terri indicated that she planned to offer classes over the winter that will be convenient for both Iron River and Vilas County hams. Terry told the club that SATERN planned on participating with the Army and Air Force National Guard during two important large exercises summer 2016. SATERN will return to Eagle River on January 23, 2016 to conduct required classes for those who have signed up to volunteer for SATERN. Those interested in SATERN should contact Paul pclay@nnex.net who will direct you to the correct resources.

Tours of the Vilas County 911 Center Offered

Tony (KC9SZW) has offered to provide tours for VCARC Members on an appointment basis. Due to the confined area and the need for quiet during tours, the numbers must be kept to two people at a time. Contact Tony if you are interested in this interesting tour.

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. Unfortunately there was a video interface problem so most of those attending could not view the presentation.

Andy repeated his presentation during a special Tech Talk session on Thursday evening, November 19. This time everything went well as the event was conducted at the Classroom. Paul (N7EKY) conducted a presentation on Slow Scan TV (SSTV). The necessary and recommended Computer and Transceiver connections were covered including the Signalink USB Sound Card. A live demonstration was conducted on 20 Meters using the free program MMSSTV to call CQ. Nasty weather prohibited some from attending but if there is sufficient interest the subjects can be presented again at another time.

The next Tech Talk session was conducted just before the December 9 meeting when Paul (N7EKY) and Fred (KD9CCE) presented APRS including a live demonstration. The primary focus of the presentation was a very basic overview of APRS, including some examples of how APRS could be implemented by the average ham at little or no cost using existing equipment. The poor video connection to the overhead projector prevented view of the UZ7HO Soundmodem TNC and APRSISCE/32 Configuration but the club has a video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBO0isGj8W0> for those interested in one way to get on APRS using existing equipment.

The club has a tremendous wealth of knowledge and experience in it's' members who are encouraged to share their special expertise with the club during an upcoming Tech Talk session. Contact John Bigley to see how you can help fellow club members.

Tech Talk continues next page

Tech Talk continued

The current 2016 Tech Talk & Training Schedule is as follows:

DATE	SUBJECT	PRESENTERS
*January 9, 2016	Setting up the ham shack	Andy (N9NBC), Roger (KD9EPX), Paul (N7EKY)
January 13, 2016	Headwaters Search & Rescue	Tony (KC9SZW)
January 16-17, 2016	Technician Amateur Radio Class	Tony (KC9SZW) Andy (N9NBC) Roger (KD9EPX) Paul (N7EKY)
*January 23, 2016	SATERN Training	SATERN
**February 10, 2016	US Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS)	Richard Peltso (AAA5WI) WI State MARS Director
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	Summits on the Air (SOTA)	Scott (WA9STI)
July 13, 2016	Grounding the Shack	Andy (N9NBC), Roger (KD9EPX)
August 10, 2016	The Ins and Outs of DXing	

*Offered in the Manufacturing Incubator classroom

**Tentative Date to be confirmed

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

Club Membership

The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. now can count 62 members!

National Parks on the Air – NPOTA

Have you heard of National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) which the ARRL is sponsoring for the 100th anniversary of the Park Service for the year 2016? It is similar to Summits On The Air (SOTA) but one only has to be within the boundaries of a National Park or other park unit, such

as the Pictured Rocks or Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and could even operate from their vehicle.

Scott (WA8STI) who is very active with SOTA is planning to participate and has provided a link to the ARRLs information page at [http://](http://www.arrl.org/npota)

www.arrl.org/npota. According to Scott, it may be possible for club members to operate (with club permission) using the club call sign KD9DXK if desired. Information and rules can be found at the ARRL website address above.

VCARC Receives Donated Equipment

The club received a Kenwood TW-4000 dual band mobile transceiver from Paul (N7EKY). Thanks go to Roger (KD9EPX) who went through it to make sure it is working as designed and

ready for club use if needed. This is becoming a regular thing Roger, thanks. The club also received a 22 element 2 meter Cushcraft model AI47-22 YAGI antenna from Bill Shillington (W9ZCL). As

many may recall, Bill is a SATERN Manager and has a summer home in Eagle River. Thanks to Bill, the club now has an antenna suitable for a variety of purposes, including ARISS.

Vilas County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Working on Website

Fred (KD9CCE) announced that he would reserve the domain VCARC.net so that work on a web site for the club could start. This is good news and it will provide wider coverage for the club calendar and events as well as results of activities of members.

December Elections

The elections for club President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer were conducted by secret ballot during the December 9 meeting. The results showed Andy Falkenstern was re-elected for Vice President, Paul Clay for President, Tony Campion for Secretary, and Dave McMaster for Treasurer. Members also voted on the top three club members who they felt should be recognized as outstanding contributors to the club and community for 2015. Results will be announced at the January Meeting when 2015 Certificates are awarded.

VCARC First Monthly Breakfast Meeting

The Club had their first monthly social breakfast meeting on November 28. The members of the Rhinelander Repeater Association and Iron Range Clubs were invited to attend the Breakfast and all future VCARC events. Although hunting season was still in full swing, six members attended the breakfast. Due to the Christmas holiday, there will not be a ham Breakfast in December and the January Breakfast will take place on Saturday, January 9, due to training or scheduled events on other days.