

The SkyWave Vilas County Amateur Radio Club



New VCARC Officers Elected for 2024-2025

The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club has elected new Officers for 2024-2025. The New Club Officers include:

President	Kyle Ruesch, AB9AX
Vice President	Bob Barnum, KC9RF
Secretary (Interim)	Marie Beckholt, KD9VUB
Treasurer	Ray Bob Heuer, KD9DDE
Board Member	Kirby Giampa, W8DCD

New to the Board are Marie Beckholt, KD9VUB who will be the new Secretary (Interim) and Kirby Giampa, W8DCD who will be the new Board Member at Large.

Dave Stott, N9DBS, will be stepping down as Secretary. Thanks, Dave, for a job well done for these past 5½ years!

Bob Barnum, KC9RF will be stepping aside from the President's role but taking on more technical issues and handling the Website editing. Thanks, Bob, for your 6 years of service as President!

VCARC FIELD DAY FINAL SCORE

The VCARC Field Day final claimed score is 1830 points. In addition to QSO's made, the score also includes bonus points for 100% emergency power, media publicity, a public location and submitting the Filed Day entry via the web. Thanks Bob KC9RF for summarizing all the Field Day information and doing the math!

VCARC AUGUST MEETING

The next VCARC meeting will be held on Wednesday August 14, 2024, starting at 6:00 pm at the Eagle River Fire Station. This will be an in person and Zoom meeting. Zoom Instructions will be sent with the meeting reminder.

The August Meeting Tech Talk will be presented by Dave Stott, N9DBS. Dave will discuss Ham Radio Logging software. Please join us for what will be a very useful topic.



VCARC JULY MEETING MINUTES

July 10, 2024, 6:10 PM – Meeting called to order by President Bob Barnum, all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasury Report: June beginning balance: \$6982.62, Dues Paid \$20 Total: \$7002.62. Total Expenses Paid: \$504.87 ending balance is \$6497.75

Old Business: Wires X On the Eagle River Repeater and the internet connection needed from Aspirus is still in the works.

Field Day: 771 contacts were made. most were state side including Alaska and Hawaii. Ray got one contact from Eastern Russia

Next field day ideas include possibly switching everyone around to try different stations for a set period

New Business: Kyle could still use some help with the Triathlon in Phelps.

Kirby W8DCD will purchase a new replacement antenna for the Eagle River repeater.

VCARC Officer Election: New 2024-2025 VCARC Officers were elected unanimously by the attending members.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:05pm.

PHELPS TRIATHOLON

Please contact Kyle Ruesch, AB9AX, on how you can assist with this annual event on Saturday August 3rd.

SILENT KEY

With sadness we report the passing of Sam Faulls KA9NDU of Arbor Vitae, WI. Sam's wish was to donate his equipment to the VCARC. Once an equipment inventory is completed, the equipment will be offered to the club for a recommended donation to help support the organization. Our condolences go out to his family.

ARRL NEWS

The ARRL Central Division Convention will be held in conjunction with the Elkhart East Hamfest in Elkhart Indiana, on August 3, 2024. Technical Sessions will include:

- DX Propagation During High Sunspot Times.
- Propagation, Antennas, and Equipment.
- Emergency Communications Forum.

Special Event Station W1AW/9 will be operating during the Hamfest on 20- and 40-meter SSB, CW, and FT8.

Upcoming ARRL VHF/ UHF Contesting

VHF contesting season is in full swing! Summer weather brings with it enhanced propagation. With good conditions, stations hundreds of miles away can be worked via tropospheric ducting, E-skip, and perhaps even meteor scatter.

If you have an HF rig that includes 6 meters or VHF/UHF capability, you've got just the tools you need to take advantage of these enhancements! US amateurs of all license classes may participate in these events, so they are a great way for Technician Class hams to compete in contests.

The first of the VHF Fall Sprints, the 6-meter Sprint, will be held from 1800 – 2200 UTC on Saturday, August 20. The sprints continue in September with single-band events on 144, 222, and 432 MHz. The final sprint, held on the first weekend of October, includes all bands 902 MHz and above.

Closing out the VHF contest season is the ARRL September VHF Contest, which will be held from 1800 UTC on Saturday, September 14 through 0259 UTC on Monday, September 16. All amateur frequencies above 50 MHz may be used.

For activities on the higher VHF and UHF bands, there are two contest opportunities coming up.

The ARRL 222 and Up Distance Contest begins at 1800 UTC on Saturday, August 3 and concludes at 1759 UTC on Sunday, August 18. Operation is allowed on all bands from 222 MHz through 241 GHz.

The ARRL 10 GHz and up Contest will be held the weekends of August 17-19 and September 21-23, from 0900 UTC Saturday through 0759 UTC Monday. Any amateur band from 10 GHz through light may be used.

If you need an antenna for the VHF contest season, ARRL has a space- and budget-conscious solution, with two antennas in one. The ARRL Dual-band Momobeam 6/10 Antenna features a 10-meter Moxon (28 MHz) and 6-meter Yagi (50 MHz). The antenna is made of aluminum tubes, galvanized steel hardware, UV-resistant POM-C driver insulators and polypropylene clamps. Assembly is easy, and all tubes are labeled. It comes with two sets of hardware – one for permanent installation and the other for portable use.

The antenna retails for \$299.95 and is available in the ARRL Store. It is designed to get Techs active on 6 and 10 meters while Solar Cycle 25 is near its peak.



POTA NEWS (Parks-on-the Air)

Dave N9DBS and Bob KC9RF will be doing POTA most Tuesdays weather permitting until Late fall. Contact either Dave or Bob if you would like to join in with the fun.

The Parks on the Air® Book explores the process of activating a park unit and hunting those activations. Through the experiences of 14 operators, it offers advice and motivation for taking your radio out to the park and becoming active in the growing POTA community. See the POTA website for ordering.

TECH TALK

Bob KC9RF provided information at the July meeting regarding advances in noise reduction for receivers. The updated SDR software for Thetis which runs on all Apache Labs (Anan), Hermes Lite II and Square SDR radios is a leap forward in noise reduction. A link to a 6-minute video to see the radio/software in action.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAg_T754Rhk

But wait there's more. Other radios besides those listed above can be set up using cloud-based AI software. The software is called RM Noise client, and it runs on your home computer and is processed via cloud-based AI (yep that's right Artificial intelligence) which should work with most of today's radios. There is a program to download from the website.

<https://ournetplace.com/rm-noise/client-v0-21-9-7/>

A short video link shows how much the noise is reduced in a transceiver.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqQPq7rGlxM>

The new method for removing noise is the next huge step for amateur radio in removing noise filled environment. In the future we will see radios that will have a built-in feature to reduce noise internally.

Right now, the Thetis software running the above discussed radios already has this noise reduction built in. Because Thetis is open-source software more development will be done to improve this landmark software. In the future a Tech Talk demo may be given to show noise reduction and other capabilities.

VHF and UHF Antennas.

Antennas for the VHF and UHF bands are similar in many ways to HF antennas. The main differences are that VHF/UHF antennas are smaller, and the losses caused by poor feed lines and elevated SWRs (or both) are more critical.

Height is critical to the performance of all antennas at VHF and UHF frequencies. Higher is always better, whether that means putting the antenna on a flagpole, tower or a rooftop.

Omnidirectional Antennas

This type of VHF antenna transmits and receives in

all directions at once (the same is true of the dipoles, loops and vertical antennas for HF use). All commonly used mobile antennas are omnidirectional.

Omnidirectional antennas are also found in base stations where the goal is to transmit and receive from any direction with minimal hassle and expense.

Common omnidirectional antenna designs for base stations include ground planes, loops and J-poles, but there are others.

An omnidirectional antenna spreads your signal over a broad area, depending on how high you install it.

If the advantage of an omni is that it radiates in all directions, that can be its disadvantage as well. An omnidirectional antenna can't focus your reception or transmission.

Directional Antennas

As the name implies, directional "beam" antennas focus your power and reception in a single direction. Just like HF antennas, directional VHF designs work by canceling the energy that radiates toward the back of the antenna and reinforcing the energy going toward the front. The result is a beam of RF power (and concentrated receive sensitivity) not unlike a searchlight or a magnifying glass.

Directional antennas are ideal at VHF and UHF when you want maximum distance and minimum interference. They are almost mandatory for VHF DX work and satellite operating. Directional antennas also help tremendously on VHF FM when you're trying to communicate with a distant station.

Common directional antenna designs include Yagi, quad and Moxon. Parabolic dish antennas—the kind you've likely seen for satellite TV reception—are also directional antennas.

However, directional antennas tend to be more complex and difficult to assemble. They can be quite large in some configurations. They also require rotors to point the antenna in the desired communication direction. (edited from ARRL)

Vilas County Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL Affiliated Organization

VCARC OFFICERS

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Vice President	Bob Barnum, KC9RF
Secretary (Interim)	Marie Beckholt, KD9VUB
Treasurer	Ray Bob Heuer, KD9DDE
Board Member	Kirby Giampa W8DCD
Newsletter	Bob Barnum, KC9RF, Ray Protich WB9OCO



CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address:
W9VRC
Vilas County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1141
Eagle River, WI 54521

Website: <https://vcarc.net/>

MONTHLY MEETINGS

VCARC Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The meetings can be attended in person or via Zoom. The Zoom meeting information is:

Log in to Zoom at www.zoom.us

Join the meeting with meeting # 881 9483 6234.

Password is 328355

MONDAY NIGHT NET INFORMATION

The VCARC operates a weekly Net every Monday night starting at 7:30 PM local time. Net Control is via the VCARC Eagle River repeater on 145.150/ PL 114.8.

VCARC REPEATER INFORMATION

The VCARC operates amateur radio repeaters in Eagle River and Land O' Lakes Wisconsin.

Eagle River Repeater
145.150 PL 114.8
Echolink Node 691369

Land O' Lakes Repeater
145.390 PL 114.8
Wires-X Room 80110 Linked to Yooper net Room
6538

THE SKYWAVE NEWSLETTER

The SkyWave is the Official publication of the Villas County Amateur Radio Club. If you wish contribute articles or other newsworthy items regarding Amateur Radio for publication, please contact Bob KC9RF at

rwb1636@gmail.com or Ray WB9OCO at reliablepwr@aol.com.