

The SkyWave Vilas County Amateur Radio Club



Field Day Results 2024

The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club again held Field Day in the park at Sugar Camp on the 22-23 of June. The rain started to diminish about 1pm which was the starting time for Field Day.

The off and on rain didn't suppress the attitude of the operators during the event. The shelter at the park protected us from the rain and provided a place to keep the equipment dry.

The picnic went well with Tom WB9TBZ furnishing hamburgers and brats while others brought a dish to pass. We all enjoyed the picnic with many goodies to devour. Thanks to all who provided food for the picnic.

Five Stations were set up for 10-80 meters and a bonus 6m antenna was used for a few contacts on the magic band. Total Contacts Made was 771.

Band	Phone	Digital	Total
80M	0	0	0
40M	146	36	182
20M	407	94	501
15M	74	7	81
10M	0	4	4
6M	0	3	3
Totals	627	144	771

VCARC JULY MEETING

The next VCARC meeting will be held on Wednesday July 12, 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.

Included are the proposed VCARC New Officers:

President Kyle AB9AX
Vice President Bob KC9RF
Secretary Seeking Nominations
Treasurer Ray Bob KD9DDE

The Officers will be elected for a 1-year term starting in July of 2024.

If there is anyone else that would like to run for office, please bring your nominations to the Meeting.



Field Day 2024 Picnic at Sugar Camp.

VCARC JUNE MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2024, 6:00 PM – Meeting called to order by President Bob Barnum, all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The May Minutes and Treasurers Reports were read and accepted as read.

Tech Talk was presented by Jeff N9NIC on WSPR mode which was very informative. Thanks Jeff.

Old Business:

The Land O Lakes Repeater antenna was replaced on the water tower by Kirby W8DCD and Son. The old antenna had internal damage which has caused most of the issues with the repeater. The coax jumper was replaced between the hardline coax and the new antenna. A big thanks goes out to the crew who replaced the antenna.

New Business:

A discussion took place concerning Wires X mode on the Eagle River repeater. A motion was made to proceed with Wires X and seconded and passed.

Ray Bob KD9DDE will be contacting Aspirus about a wired connection for equipment needed to make the Wires X mode possible.

Election of officers will be held in July 2024 and will be voted on and approved for the upcoming year.

7:25 PM- A Motion was made to adjourn.

Land O Lakes Repeater Update

Thanks to Kirby W8DCD and Son Skyler the antenna was replaced on top of the water tower.

Thursday June 20th, Kirby W8DCD and Skyler replaced the Diamond antenna on the water tower which is at a height of approximately 160FT.

The replacement antenna is an all-aluminum antenna made by Comet with about 6db gain and is only about 8-9 ft tall. The strategy was to see if the existing antenna was a problem. The answer was "Yes".

The center element in the Diamond antenna has a brass rod, almost 24ft with various coils and couplings built into the fiberglass antenna case. Bob KC9RF took the antenna apart and found that the internal brass rod antenna was broken in at least 4 places.

This explains some of the issues the repeater has been observing. The bottom part with a coil and rod about 6-7 ft long was intact but had separated from the rest of the rod. The antenna was resonant at about 1:5 to 1 and had poor gain.

Also found was a questionable coax jumper that connected the hardline coax and the antenna. The coax jumper had a connector that was not crimped nor soldered. The jumper was replaced.

The repurposed Comet Antenna from a SK was tuned last fall and has a flat SWR as recorded at the repeater site.

If you have a chance test out the repeater and report the results either to this email or at the next meeting.



Installation Team. Thanks Kirby & Skyler.



VCARC Repeater antenna is shown at the top.



Nice view up there. Those are not our antennas.

ARRL NEWS

It was a successful 2024 ARRL Field Day, despite severe weather and extreme temperatures impacting much of the country. Social media has hundreds of photos and stories from the United States.

By Wednesday morning, nearly 2200 log entries had been received, with more arriving hourly. Just a reminder, the deadline for entries is July 23, 2024. Check out the ARRL Field Day website for the latest updates and information.

ARRL member volunteers on the Board of Directors, along with Section Managers and other Field Organization staff fanned out to visit as many of the sites as possible in their areas. We've collected some of their photos and reports from the road on 2024 ARRL Field Day.

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.

TECH TALK

Jeff Hammer, N9NIC gave a great presentation entitled "WSPR in The Northwoods". It was interesting to see how far a 200-milliwatt signal can propagate with varying band conditions.

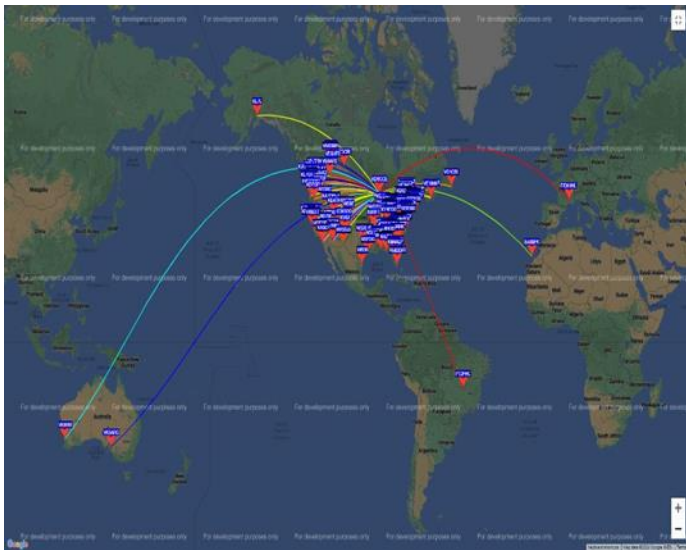
WSPR (pronounced "whisper"). WSPR is an acronym for Weak Signal Propagation Reporter. It is a protocol, implemented in a computer program, used for weak-signal radio communication between amateur radio operators.

WSPR is active worldwide. WSPR aids ham radio and other radio operators in determining real time propagation. WSPR is also used to Aid the scientific community through HamSci. WSPR data was used from the recent Solar Eclipse.

WSPR transmission and reception specifications & characteristics have been standardized.

WSPR utilizes dedicated ham radio band frequencies from 2200 meters through 23 cm.

Below is one of the slides from Jeff's presentation from his 200-milliwatt WSPR transmitter being heard.



One of the best transmit antenna to use for WSPR communications can be an EFHW 80 - 10 meters, The antenna is simple and effective.

WSPR software packages can be interfaced with your HF radio and computer. The software provides Real-time visualization, allows for more control and operates in both transmit & receive modes. It also allows the use of the HF radio's antenna tuner.

However, the drawback is that it can tie up an expensive radio and related equipment or it may not be online all the time.

Inexpensive WSPR units are available from manufacturers with independent transmitters and receivers.



In conclusion WSPR is a great way to contribute to the Amateur Radio hobby and the scientific community on a 24/7 basis.

For more information regarding WSPR and to view Jeff's full presentation, and related website links, please go to the VCARC website.

Vilas County Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL Affiliated Organization

VCARC OFFICERS THROUGH JULY 2024

President	Bob Barnum, KC9RF
Vice President	Kyle Ruesch, AB9AX
Secretary	Dave Stott, N9DBS
Treasurer	Ray Bob Heuer, KD9DDE
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 Yoooper 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.