

The SkyWave Vilas County Amateur Radio Club



Field Day 2024

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2024 is June 22-23.

The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club will again participate in Field Day operating Club Station W9VRC. VCARC plans to operate 80 through 10 meters with a variety of modes and antenna configurations.

Keeping in the true spirit of Field Day, The Club station will limit its power to 100 watts output or less. The Club will be using the N3FJP logging software.

The Club Field Day location will be at the Sugar Camp Municipal Complex pavilion located just West of Highway 45 and Camp Road. Field Day set up will begin at approximately 10:00 am on Saturday morning.

VCARC is one of only a couple of dozen Wisconsin amateur radio organizations registered on the ARRL Field Day Locator website.

All are invited to attend this annual event to help set up, operate, or just meet other ham radio operators from the area.

For further information regarding the VCARC 2024 Field Day please contact Bob, KC9RF at rwb1636@gmail.com



Dennis, KC9SKA Operating Field Day at Sugar Camp

VCARC JUNE MEETING

The next VCARC meeting will be held on June 12, 2024, starting at 6:00 pm at the Eagle River Fire Station.

Final Field Day 2024 plans will be discussed.

The June Tech Talk will be presented by Jeff Hammer, N9NIC on 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.

This will be an in person and Zoom meeting.

VCARC MONDAY NIGHT NET

The VCARC meets weekly 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. All are welcome to check in!

VCARC MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2024

6:00 PM – Meeting called to order by President Bob Barnum. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made by all attendees.

Congratulations to Marie KD9VUB for passing her General License exam.



New Business:

Bob Barnum gave a brief presentation about the history of field day, reminding the club membership that the Field Day for 2024 will be June 22-23.

Old Business:

Tom(W9TBZ) has sent out 114 e-mails to local ham radio operators concerning setting up a remote station for usage by these

individuals gaining a response from 12 of these individuals. Seems to be little interest in the establishment of this type of station among the local area hams.

There followed a mass mailing to 136 operators as well as area clubs regarding a remote station with zero response. Because of the lack of interest in such a station, the possibility of the establishment of this kind of station has been dropped for consideration by the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club.

Land O Lakes Repeater:

The need for a new 2 meter antenna has been established. Because of the lack of availability of a person to climb the tower, this will not be accomplished until sometime in June.

The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club will be trying to access the Ministry hospital web connection. Ray Bob will be trying to contact the hospital source person to find out if they will allow the club internet access.

The club has decided to table the idea of attaining the hardware necessary for linking the Land O Lakes repeater with the Eagle River repeater.

7:00 PM- Motion to adjourn.

ARRL NEWS

ARRL is gearing up for the radio event of the summer: 2024 ARRL Field Day is June 22 – 23. The annual operating event is part contest, part emergency communications exercise, part public relations and outreach activity, and often a social highlight of the operating year.

Many ARRL Affiliated Clubs will be set up in visible locations to get together, get on the air, and to get the public involved in amateur radio. Find a location near you via the ARRL Field Day Site Locator. It's ham radio's open house!

The theme for 2024 ARRL Field Day is "Be Radio Active." On-air activity has been especially strong thanks to the rising Solar Cycle 25, which is still yet to peak. The theme encourages hams to get out and get involved. There has never been a better time to be active in amateur radio!

June is also the time of year for the ARRL VHF Contest. The contest is held 3 times a year in June, September, and January. With the present solar cycle peaking and the increased aurora activity this should be a good year for the "magic band" and the frequencies above.

The objective of the contest is for amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work amateur stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada.

Dates: The second full weekend in June. (June 8-10, 2024)

Contest Period: Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 0259 UTC Monday.

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 INFO ARTICLE

Portable generators are commonly used during Field Day and other activities. The following are Safety Tips from the NFPA when operating portable generators:

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas at least 20 feet from all doors, windows, and vent openings.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't

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enter the home through windows, doors, or other openings in the building. The exhaust must be directed away from the building.

- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
 - Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.
 - Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such.
 - Store the containers outside of living areas.
- In addition...
- Plug tools and appliances into the generator directly or using grounded (three-prong) extension cords that are appropriately rated for the amperage or wattage of those devices and suitable for outdoor use.
 - Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which help prevent electric shock, especially in damp conditions. The GFCIs can be integrated into longer extension cords.
 - Ensure that the generator is properly grounded.
 - Keep the generator dry. Don't use the generator if your hands are wet or you're standing in water.
 - Start and stop the generator only when there's nothing connected to it.
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VCARC proposed Officers for 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 June Meeting.

President	Kyle AB9AX
Vice President	Bob KC9RF
Secretary	Tom KD9JIB
Treasurer	Ray Bob KD9DDE

Bob KC9RF Will be stepping aside from the president's role but taking on more technical issues and handling the Website editing.

Dave Stott will be stepping down from Secretary. Thanks Dave for a job well done these past 5 ½ years.

Vilas County Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL Affiliated Organization

VCARC 2024 OFFICERS:

President	Bob Barnum, KC9RF
Vice President	Kyle Ruesch, AB9AX
Secretary	Dave Stott, N9DBS
Treasurer	RayBob' Heuer, KD9DDE
Newsletter	Ray WB9OCO and Bob KC9RF



CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address:
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.