

The SkyWave Vilas County Amateur Radio Club



New VCARC Officers Elected for 2025-2026

The Vilas County Amateur Radio Club has elected new Officers for 2025-2026. The New Club Officers include:

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

New to the Board is Ray Protich, WB9OCO who will be the Board Member at Large.

Kyle Ruesch, AB9AX will be stepping down as President. Thanks, Kyle, for a job well done for the past year!

The new VCARC Officers and Board agenda for the upcoming year will focus on a variety of items. Some of those items include more focused Membership Meetings, Tech Talks and improvements to the VCARC repeater system and coverage.

Please welcome the new VCARC 2025-2026 Officers and Board of Directors.

VCARC MONDAY NIGHT 2 METER NET

The VCARC 2 Meter Net meets every Monday night starting at 7:30 PM local time. Net Control is via the W9VRC Eagle River repeater on 145.150/ PL 114.8. A digital Net immediately follows.

VCARC OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next VCARC Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday October 8, 2025, starting at 6:00 pm at God's Gathering Place at 1695 Hwy. 45N Eagle River, WI.

Please note the change to a VCARC Quarterly Member Meeting Schedule. More on Page 2.

VCARC JULY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

July 9, 2025, 6:00 PM – Meeting called to order by Kyle AB9AX, all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.



Treasurers Report

Beginning Balance	\$7571.14
Membership Dues	20.00
Donations	0.00
Expenses: Insurance and Filters	540.86
Ending Balance	\$7050.28

The Treasurers Report and Meeting Minutes were moved, seconded, and accepted by all.

Old Business

The Eagle River repeater is having receiving issues, need to identify the problem(s), continue with troubleshooting. See Repeater Update on Page 2.

New Business and Announcements

Voting on the Bylaws change to have a minimum of 4 Membership meetings per year was voted on and approved. See Page 2 for more details.

The new 2025-2026 Officers and Board Member Election was voted on and approved.

Kirby W8DCD has contacted local EMA services regarding repeater relocation to one of their towers for enhanced coverage. Possible sites include Conover and Boulder Junction. More to follow.

The Monthly Tech Talk was on Software Defined Radio (SDR) by Bob KC9RF.

The motion to adjourn was made at 7:15 PM

Just in...The VCARC submitted a preliminary 2025 Field Day Total Score of 3242. A total recap will be in the September Newsletter. Congratulations to all who supported the VCARC 2025 Field Day!

VCARC NEWS

VCARC Revises Membership Meetings Schedule, Adds Open Board Meetings.

At the July VCARC Membership Meeting the Bylaws were amended, moved and accepted by all to have a minimum of 4 Membership Meetings per year, which is a reduction from 6 meetings per year.

Historically the VCARC has had in-person and Zoom monthly Membership Meetings. This has been revised to have 4 quarterly Membership Meetings plus a June Membership Meeting for final Field Day planning. Additional Membership meetings can also be scheduled with sufficient meeting notice.

Added to the VCARC Meeting Schedule, are now open VCARC Board Meetings. The Board Meetings are scheduled for the off month Quarterly Members Meetings.

The VCARC Board Meetings will be held via Zoom. All VCARC Members are welcome to attend.

Included is the revised VCARC Meeting and Event Schedule thru January 2026.

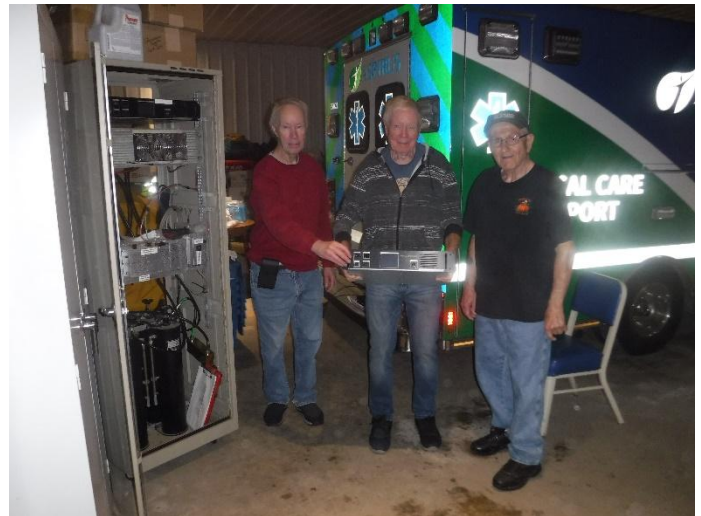
VCARC/ Member Activities	Date(s)
August Board Meeting	08/13/25
September Board Meeting	09/10/25
Wisconsin POTA Contest	09/20/25
October Member Meeting	10/08/25
WI ARES/ RACES Conference	10/11/25
November Board Meeting	11/12/25
December Board Meeting	12/10/25
January Member Meeting	01/14/26
Winter Field Day	01/24- 01/25/26

VCARC Eagle River Repeater Update

The problem has been found! Thanks to the additional and thorough troubleshooting by RayBob KD9DDE, Fred KD9CCE, Jeffery KD9FYU, and Bob KC9RF. The interference problem has been identified as the tower LED beacon light which operates 24/7.

It was not clear if the interference was caused by a new LED or the existing LED beacon having a driver failure issue. Hospital Maintenance Personnel are being contacted, and a remedy will be forthcoming.

LED's are known to cause EMI interference to radio and other electronic equipment. The interference is often mitigated by filters, proper grounding, and shielding.



Jeffery KD9FYU, Bob KC9RF, and RayBob KD9DDE working on the Eagle River repeater in the Aspirus Ambulance Barn.

ARRL NEWS

ARRL Files Comments to Protect 70-Centimeter Amateur Band

The ARRL National Association for Amateur Radio has filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to oppose part of an application that would impact the 70-centimeter amateur band for telemetry, tracking and command (TT&C) of satellites.

The application, from AST & Science, LLC (AST), requests "unprecedented authorization to 430-440 MHz for a constellation totaling 248 satellites to communicate with five ground stations using up to five channels with up to 256 kHz bandwidth."

The formal opposition, filed by ARRL's Washington Counsel, asserts that the permission AST seeks to use the 430 – 440 MHz band "should be denied because AST does not demonstrate need for TT&C spectrum beyond that available within existing allocations."

The 70-centimeter band is also used in emergency communications.

As recently as early July, ARRL volunteers serving in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) made headlines for providing critical communications in flood-ravaged areas of the Texas Hill Country.

Allowing the 70-centimeter band to become overrun with TT&C operations could impact the ability for the Amateur Radio Service to be used in future disasters.

TT&C operations in the 430 – 440 MHz band are capable of causing harmful interference to radio amateur communications, including to amateur satellites operating in the 435-438 MHz sub band,” the comments state.

The comments go on to outline why the application would be non-compliant with the ITU Radio Regulations Treaty.

Reply comments to the application are due by August 5, 2025. ARRL will continue to promote and protect amateur radio spectrum.



ARRL CONTESTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The following are upcoming ARRL Contests and Special Events in the Wisconsin area.

ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest

Objective: Work as many stations as possible on the 222 MHz through 241 GHz bands using any allowable mode. A station in a specific grid locator may be contacted from the same location only once on each band, regardless of mode.

Contest Dates/ Period: August 2-3, 2025. Begins at 1800 UTC Saturday and ends at 1759 UTC Sunday.

ARRL EME Contest

Contest Objective: To work as many amateur stations as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz.

Contest Dates for 2025 are:

Weekends 1 and 2: 2.3 GHz & Up - August 16-17, 2025; September 13-14, 2025.

Weekends 3 and 4: 50 to 1296 MHz - October 11-12, 2025; November 8-9, 2025

Contest Period: (0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday).

Antique Power Show (Special Event)

Aug 1-Aug 3, 1300Z-2359Z, W9R, Beaver Dam, WI. Rock River Radio Club. 14.275 28.375 7.275 21.275. Certificate & QSL. Rock River Radio Club, PO Box 26, Juneau, WI 53039. To get a nice Certificate, send a QSL card, two stamps and a \$1.00. <https://www.dcapclub.org>.

International Lighthouse Weekend - Eagle Harbor Lighthouse, MI (Special Event)

Aug 16, 1300Z-1800Z, K8L, Calumet, MI. KCRA, CCRAA Copper Country Radio Clubs. 14.270. QSL. Jeffrey Stricker W9GY, 59624 Dextrom Rd., Calumet, MI 49913. SASE Please.

WISCONSIN AREA HAMFEST CALENDER

If you are looking for a new piece of radio equipment or just trying to get rid of that “Old Boat Anchor” a Summer Hamfest is a great way to accomplish both.

The following are the upcoming Wisconsin Area Hamfests.

U.P. Hamfest 2025

Date: 08/02/2025

Location: American Legion Post 301

10584 N. Main St. Rapid River, MI 49878

Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society

W9UDU Free Fest

Date: 8/09/2025

Location: Greater Racine Kennel Club

6320 6 Mile Rd. Racine, WI.

Sponsor: W9UDU

Website: <http://w9udu.org>

Circus City Swapfest

Date: 08/23/2025

Location: Badger Steam and Gas Engine Club

Property S3347 Sand Road Baraboo, WI.

Sponsor: Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://yellowthunder.org>

ORC Annual Regional Fall Swapfest

Date: 09/06/2025

Location: Fireman's Park W65N796 on Washington Ave. Cedarburg, WI.

Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC)

HRO Milwaukee Superfest

Date: 09/19/2025 thru 09/20/2025

Location: Ham Radio Outlet Milwaukee Event

5710 W. Good Hope Rd. Milwaukee, WI.

Sponsor: Ham Radio Outlet



TECH TALK

SDR Radios and Pan Adapters

By Bob KC9RF

SDR radios typically use a high-speed analog-to-digital converter to sample incoming RF signals. Most high-end radios use a FPGA (Field programmable Gate Array) to process data. The data is then processed internally in the radio or by a PC running some type of SDR software.



A FlexRadio SDR transceiver.

Some transceivers have built in pan adapters while others are run by specialized application software such as Smart SDR for Flex radios or Thetis for Anan and other compatible radios.



An Anan G2 SDR transceiver.

A software designed radio can be updated with firmware and software enhancements which keeps the radio up to date without feeling outdated soon after your purchase.

During the July meeting, slides were presented highlighting the different types of SDR radios available and the use of a spectral display or pan adapter.

A demonstration of the Anan G2 SDR transceiver running Thetis software remotely was shown via a Chrome remote desktop at the meeting.

SDR pan Adapters allows the operator some unique features over a radio with a VFO, Frequency display and signal strength meter.

Some Pan Adapter features include:

- Provide an intuitive, visual experience that transforms the way hams operate.
- Real-time view of a range of frequencies. Makes band monitoring much faster than tuning manually.
- Finding a clear spot to operate
- Ability to spot and zero in on rare DX stations by operating split to see who the DX station is working over a range of frequencies.
- See adjacent stations interference and the ability to use filtering, IF shift or band pass adjustments.
- See the really strong or weak signals across the band in a glance.
- Visually spot signals, activity, and interference
- Apply special multi tracking filters to null out interference.



Pan Adapter kit installed in an ICOM 9700 transceiver for additional operational features.

A number of Pan adapter kits, configurations and software are available for a variety of ham radio transceivers.

A special thanks to Bob KC9RF for his very informative and interesting demonstrations of SDR Radios at the July 9, 2025, Members Meeting.

If you are interested in submitting a [TECH TALK](#) article to the VCARC Newsletter, please contact Ray WB9OCO.

Vilas County Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL Affiliated Organization

VCARC OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

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Vice President	Kirby Giampa W8DCD
Secretary	Marie Beckholt, KD9VUB
Treasurer	RayBob Heuer, KD9DDE
Board Member	Ray Protich WB9OCO
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/>

MEMBER AND BOARD MEETINGS

VCARC Member and Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month starting at 6:00 PM. The Member Meetings can be attended either in person or via Zoom. The Board Meetings are Zoom only. Please check the Member Activity Schedule for the dates each meeting is held. Zoom logins will be sent out to those on the VCARC email list.

MONDAY NIGHT 2 METER 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 (Temporarily Offline)

Land O' Lakes Repeater

145.390 PL 114.8

Wires-X Room 80110 Linked to Yoooper net Room 65384

THE SKYWAVE NEWSLETTER

The SkyWave is the Official publication of the Vilas 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 WB9OCO@gmail.com.