

The SkyWave Vilas County Amateur Radio Club



ARES/ RACES MEET IN WISCONSIN RAPIDS

This year's 26th Annual ARES/ RACES Conference was held in Wisconsin Rapids WI on November 2, 2024. The Conference was held in conjunction with the Annual ARRL Wisconsin Convention.

Presentations included discussion on SIMCOM/ Prairie Island and Other Exercises and Drills, Setting Deviation Levels for FM Packet/ VARA FM, and Axillary Comm. Several Awards were also given out.

There was also ample time for networking opportunities and door prizes.

The event was a well-attended event and enjoyed by all who attended.

VCARC Members that attended the Conference included Kyle AB9AX, Ray KB9CBL, Tony KC9SZW, and Joel KD9RBY. Thanks for your support of the Wisconsin ARES/ RACES!

VCARC DECEMBER MEETING

The next VCARC meeting will be held on Wednesday December 11 starting at 6:00 pm at God's Gathering Place at 1695 Hwy. 45N Eagle River, WI.

The Tech Talk this month will be a Roundtable with VCARC Members discussing their latest projects.

VCARC NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November 11, 2024, 6:00 PM – Meeting called to order by Kyle, AB9AX, all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurers Report

Beginning Balance October	\$6252.41
Expenses	\$300.00
Membership Dues	\$25.00
Ending Balance for October	\$5977.41

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



Old Business

RayBob, KD9DDE, has been contacted by the new Aspirus IT Manager regarding connecting the Eagle River Repeater into the hospitals' internet system. The VCARC request is now being reviewed by the hospital.

New Business

Bob, KC9RF, presented to the group technical details and the cost of installing battery backup power at both the Eagle River and Land O' Lakes repeater locations. The estimated cost is approximately \$400 per location.

The battery backup system would utilize a West Mountain Radio Super PWRgate battery backup unit in conjunction with a lithium ion or AGM battery. Finalizing the technical details is planned for the next VCARC meeting.

Discussions

An APC UPS was donated by Ed Hubbard for Club use. The VCARC wishes to thank Ed for his generous donation. The UPS will be put to good use!

Announcements

VCARC 2025 Membership Renewals are now due. The cost is \$20 per Individual Membership and \$25 for a Family Membership. Renewals can be sent to the VCARC P.O. Box 1141, Eagle River 54521 or submitted at the meeting.

The motion to adjourn was made at 7:00 PM

SILENT KEY

With sadness we report the passing of Sherman (Paul) Clay, III, N7EKY of Onalaska, WI. Paul was the founding member of the VCARC.

Paul was a Navy Veteran and stationed on the USS Sacramento (AOE-1). He received his ham radio license while in the service. Paul moved to the Land O Lakes area and established his own computer and networking business.

With ham radio Paul was enthusiastic about repeaters and digital modes. Over the years Paul gave many presentations and was responsible for leading many to get their ham radio license through classes or individual instruction.

Paul operated MM and MARS while traveling the Pacific and Indian oceans He was also previously licensed VK6AKY while visiting Fremantle, Western Australia.

Our condolences go out to Paul's family.

ARRL NEWS

2024 Field Day Results: VCARC Did Well!

The ARRL 2024 Field Day results were recently published. The VCARC did well, placing in the middle of the pack in the 5A category with 2580 total points.

Category 5A (Number of Bands, Club) had a total of 81 entries operating on non-commercial power.

The VCARC was one of only three Wisconsin Field Day stations operating in the 5A category.

The 2025 ARRL Field Day is set for the weekend of June 28 and 29. Let's make 2025 a record year!

All 85 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Sections participated in Field Day, and we received 64 entries from 27 countries outside the US and Canada, which is a record high for DX participation in this event.

The total number of reported QSOs increased by 4% to almost 1.3 million, likely attributed to increased propagation as we near the peak of Solar Cycle 25. The number of phone and CW contacts increased from last year, with more than 522,000 phone contacts and more than 490,000 CW contacts. More than 283,000 digital QSOs were reported this year, which is a slight decrease from last year.

For full Field Day Results see the ARRL website.

ARRL CONTESTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The following are upcoming ARRL Contests and Special Events.

ARRL 160 Meter Contest CW

Contest Objective: For Amateurs worldwide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on 160-meter CW.

Contest Period: December 6-8, 2024. Begins at 2200 UTC Friday, ends 1559 UTC Sunday. This is a forty-two-hour period with no time limitation.

Chicago Suburban Radio Association 100th Anniversary (Special Event)

Dec 6-Dec 8, 1800Z-2359Z, W9SW, Berwyn, IL. Chicago Suburban Radio Association. 7.240 14.240. QSL. Andrew Martin (K9ASM), 1627 East Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402.

SKYWARN™ (Special Event)

Recognition Day is December 7, 2024. The annual event is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

There will be an SRD special event from 0000 – 2359 UTC on the day. The objective is for all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters and National Weather Service Stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Objective: For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10-meter band.

Contest Period: December 14-15, 2024. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday.

ARRL Straight Key Night (Special Event)

Objective: This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. Everyone who participates is a winner!

Event Period: January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.



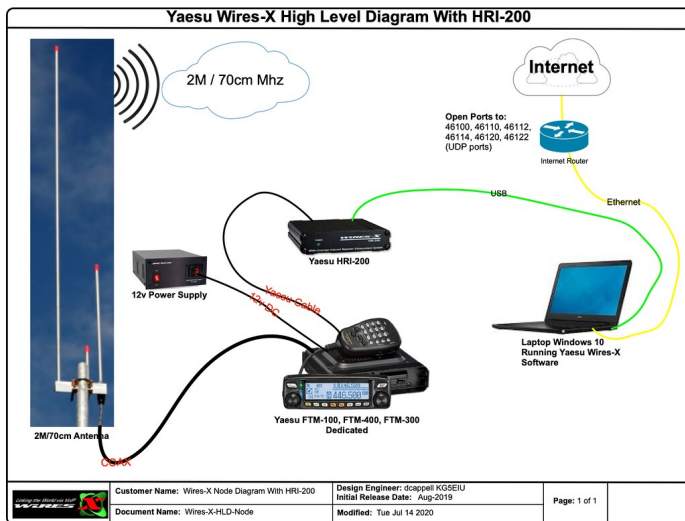
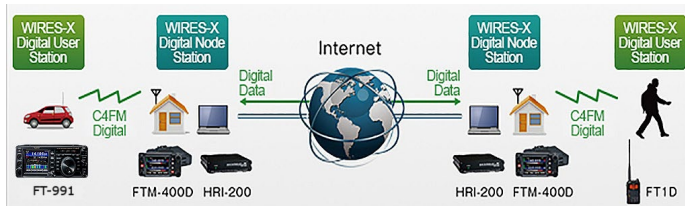
TECH TALK

WiRES X Presentation Part 1

Kyle AB9AX gave an excellent presentation on Wires X at the VCARC November meeting. The following is a summary of the presentation.

WiRES-X is the software that networks the System Fusion nodes together on the internet. WiRES X utilizes Yaesu's digital mode C4FM or System Fusion which enables digital access to repeaters.

Examples of a WiRES X setup:



To use WiRES X, you will need:

- a C4FM capable radio to access a C4FM repeater (DR-2X).
- Find an access point Node, tune to its frequency and access WiRES X.
- Obtain a personal node number through Yaesu to utilize WiRES X.
- Have a hotspot (e.g. Zumspot) and use software like PiStar which allows Fusion access with non C4FM radios.

Modes on C4FM Radios:

- Auto: The TX and RX are automatically selected based on the mode of the signal received (AMS). Options: DN, VW, DW, and FM On the radio the mode will be depicted by a bar over it.

- Manual: The TX and RX are manually selected from the options of DN, VW, DW, and FM. There will be no bar over it as the indicator.

When using C4FM on repeaters, you need to be in DN mode. If you are an analog user and don't want to hear the C4FM tones, set the PL tone for both RX and TX.

The WiRES X Presentation Part 2 will be continued in the January 2025 SkyWave Newsletter.

THANK YOU FOR A SUCESSFUL 2024!

The VCARC would like to thank all the VCARC Members, the following Individuals, and Groups for their support in making 2024 a very successful year!

Special Thanks To:

Bob KC9RF, and Dave N9DBS, for their past contributions as VCARC President and Secretary.

Tom WB9TBZ, the Official VCARC 2024 Field Day "Grill Master".

Kirby W8DCD, and Skyler KC9YDW for their tower climbing skills keeping the VCARC Repeater antennas operational.

Kyle AB9AX, Bob KC9RF, Dave N9DBS, and Jeff N9NIC for their excellent Tech Talk Presentations to the VCARC Membership in 2024.

The Eagle River Fire Protection District and God's Gathering Place for the use of their facilities for our Monthly Meetings.

The VCARC wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a Joyful New Year in 2025!



Vilas County Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL Affiliated Organization

VCARC OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

President	Kyle Ruesch, AB9AX
Vice President	Bob Barnum, KC9RF
Secretary (Interim)	Marie Beckholt, KD9VUB
Treasurer	RayBob 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

Quick Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88194836234>

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 Vilas County Amateur Radio Club. If you wish contribute articles or other newsworthy items regarding Amateur Radio for publication, please contact Bob KC9RF at rbw1636@gmail.com or Ray WB9OCO at reliablepwr@aol.com.