The SkyWave
Vilas County Amateur Radio Club

VCARC ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2025

Mark your calendars now! It's never too early to start planning for ham radio activities and events in 2025. The following are the present VCARC and Member activities and events planned for 2025.

VCARC/ Member Activities	Date(s)
VCARC January Meeting	01/08/25
VCARC February Meeting	02/12/25
VCARC March Meeting	03/12/25
VCARC April Meeting	04/09/25
VCARC May Meeting	05/14/25
Dayton Hamvention	05/16 - 05/18/25
InSayner Bike Ride Support	June TBA
VCARC June Meeting	06/11/25
ARRL Field Day	06/28 - 06/29/25
VCARC July Meeting	07/09/25
Phelps Triathlon Support	August TBA
VCARC August Meeting*	08/13/25
VCARC September Meeting	09/10/25
Wisconsin POTA	09/20/25
VCARC October Meeting	10/08/25
ARES/ RACES Conference	November TBA
VCARC November Meeting	11/12/25
VCARC December Meeting	12/10/25

* Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

If there are any additional activities that you would like to see the VCARC and its Membership be involved with, please let us know.

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.

VCARC JANUARY MEETING
The next VCARC meeting will be held on Wednesday January 8 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 presentation on LiFePO4 batteries by Mike K9BBN. Please join us for this informative presentation.

VCARC DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
December 11, 2024, 6:00 PM – Meeting called to order by Kyle AB9AX, all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurers Report

Beginning Balance November	$5977.41
Expenses: PO Box	72.00
Membership Dues	40.00
Ending Balance for November	$5945.41

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

Old Business
RayBob KD9DDE, updated that the VCARC request is still being reviewed by the hospital. RayBob to contact the hospital next week regarding the status.

Bob KC9RF and RayBob KD9DDE are reviewing the use of the donated UPS for the Eagle River repeater. The UPS will need a new battery. The Land O'Lakes repeater will likely use AGM or equivalent battery backup technology.

New Business
Kyle AB9AX reviewed the VCARC sponsored activities from 2024 and future activities for 2025. After reviewing several possible additional events to support, it was suggested to add the InSayner Bike Ride for 2025 support. The support was based on event timing and availability. Jeff N9NIC will coordinate the InSayner activity for the VCARC.

January 2025

Field Day 2025 will again take place at the Sugar Camp municipal park. John KD9DQZ will make the VCARC arrangements with the Town of Sugar Camp.

Discussions
Dave N9DBS discussed the upcoming ARRL 10-meter contest on the weekend of Dec 14th. He suggested that it was a great way to add to your contact log especially for a DXCC. The exchange is a signal report and state. Bob said that 10 meters has been open worldwide with only 100 watts.

Announcements
Ray KB9CBL invited everyone to the RRA Ham Holiday Get Together at the Haven in Rhinelander on Saturday Dec. 14th starting at 4:30 PM.

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.

Tech Talk
Bob KC9RF played a video on SWR Basics by DX Engineering. A good review for all.

The motion to adjourn was made at 6:50 PM

ARRL NEWS
The ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program continues to accept applications for the 2025 scholarship cycle. The application period is open until 12:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on January 6, 2025. The scholarships are available to eligible amateur radio operators pursuing higher education. There are more than 100 scholarships ranging from $500 to $25,000.

In 2024, 135 scholarships totaling more than $715,000 were awarded. Young Hams throughout the country benefitted from scholarships ranging from $500 to $25,000 to assist them with college or university expenses.

ARRL CONTESTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS
The following are upcoming ARRL Contests and Special Events.

Kids Day (Special Event)
Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children.

Event Period: January 4, 2025, begins 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC.

RTTY Roundup (Contest)
Objective: Amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using only the Radioteletype (RTTY) mode on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. Any station may work any other station. Stations may be worked once per band, regardless of mode. Automated operation is not permitted.

Contest Period: January 4-5, 2025, begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 2359 UTC Sunday.

January VHF Contest
Objective: 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 stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada.

Contest Period: January 18-20, 2025. Begins 1900 UTC Saturday, ends 0359 UTC Monday.

REFORGER 85 40th Anniversary (Special Event)
Jan 17-Jan 31, 0001Z-2359Z, W9R, Salem, WI. W9AFB. 7.250. Certificate & QSL. Scott Grams, General Delivery, Salem, WI 53168. Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the 1985 REFORGER Exercise. REFORGER ("REturn of FORces to GERmany") was an annual military exercise and campaign conducted by NATO during the Cold War.

Winter Field Day 2025 (Contest)
Objective: To set up an amateur radio field station and successfully make multiple contacts. The designated Winter Field Day exchange includes your call sign, a category number, a class identifier, and a location identifier. There are multiple Operational Categories. 100% Alternate power is to be used.

Contest Period: January 25-26. 2025. Begins 1600 UTC Saturday, ends at 21:59 UTC on Sunday.

MRAC 108th Anniversary (Special Event)
Jan 25, 1400Z-2100Z, W9RH, Milwaukee, WI. Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. ~7.250 ~14.250 ~21.350 145.390. Certificate. MRAC, P.O. Box 26938, Milwaukee, WI 53226. The MRAC was started in 1917 and is celebrating its 108th year of continuous service to the amateur radio community.

TECH TALK
WiRES X Presentation Part 2

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

A typical C4FM mobile radio

To access WiRES X from a Repeater you will need to have a repeater frequency programmed on your radio. Then press and hold the X button on your radio to access the repeater. If successful, you should be able to take control of the repeater and access rooms within WiRES X.

Also, obtain the WiRES X manuals for your radio from the Yaesu Site for more details on how to use it. This method can also be used to access a known node station in your area.

Some area Repeaters that have C4FM include:

Eagle River Ministry	145.150	PL 114.8
Land O Lakes*	145.390	PL 114.8
Iron River, MI*	145.170	PL 107.2

* WiRES X capable

When accessing WiRES X through your Computer you need: Computer, Yaesu C4FM radio, Yaesu USB cable (SCU-19, or SCU-20), HRI 200 (only if you want to host a room or be an access point), and an internet connection.

Obtaining a Personal Node from the Yaesu Website usually takes 3 business days. Once received, then download WiRES X software, SCU-19 or SCU-20 drivers from the Yaesu Website.
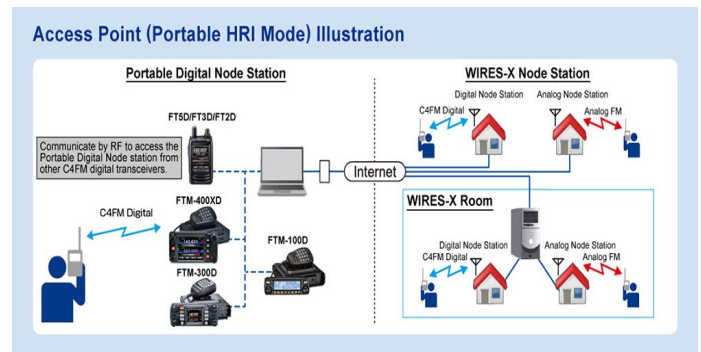
Several WiRES X Nets include the following:
- MNWIS Fusion Net 7:30pm Monday Nights (Technical net for Q&A)
- SATERN Regional Net 7:00pm Central Time Thursday Nights.
- Quadnet Array

To allow your HT or mobile radio to utilize WiRES X, you need to put it into either HRI or Portable Digital Node (PDN) mode. The HRI mode allows for both analog and digital signals (Recommended).

PDN mode allows for digital signals only (Digital Rooms only).

Consult your WiRES X manual for your radio on how to do this.

You don't need a fusion radio to access WiRES X. Hotspots like PiStar, Zumspot and RF Shark Openspot 4 can be used instead. This Allows access to WiRES X via the internet through any digital radio (Dstar, DMR, etc.).

There are now rooms on WiRES X that allow for all the digital modes to play together Example Kansas City Wide room.

Linking repeaters is now easier through WiRES X. Just need to put the repeater nodes into a common room. The Yooper net room is on WiRES X.

A full copy of Kyle's presentation can be found on the VCARC website.

January 2025

Vilas County Amateur Radio Club
An ARRL Affiliated Organization

VCARC OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

President	Kyle Ruesch, AB9AX
Vice President	Bob Barnum, KC9RF
Secretary	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 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

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

January 2025