

The SkyWave Vilas County Amateur Radio Club



VCARC Field Day 2025 Was A Success!

The VCARC Field Day 2025 was a success in many ways this year. Over 700 contacts were made on 80-meters thru 6-meters during the Field Day event.

A number of interested Visitors and Officials visited the site including Katie Bauknecht, Chair of Sugar Camp, Jackey Postuchow, Chair of Plum Lake, Jake Postuchow, Vilas County Township Representative and their family, and Scott W9JU, SATERN Central Territory Coordinator. Thanks for all your support!

The VCARC Field Day activities began earlier in the week with Bob KC9RF and Kirby W8DCD being interviewed by WJFW Channel 12 Rhinelander live in their studios. Bob and Kirby discussed the history and objectives of the ARRL Field Day. The full interview is available on YouTube: The Ham Radio 2-day Field Event (6-25-25) Thanks Bob and Kirby!

Field Day Saturday began with breakfast at Dee Dee's Diner in Sugar Camp finalizing Field Day plans. Once at the Field Day site, set up was completed in a few hours and W9VRC was on the air by 1:00 pm.

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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 JULY MEETING

The next VCARC meeting will be held on Wednesday July 9, 2025, starting at 6:00 pm at God's Gathering Place at 1695 Hwy. 45N Eagle River, WI.

The July meeting will include election of 2025-2026 Officers and a Technical Presentation by Bob KC9RF on SDR. Please join us for this important Meeting.

VCARC JUNE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

June 11, 2025, 6:00 PM – Meeting called to order by Kyle AB9AX, all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.



Bob KC9RF and Kirby W8DCD at WJFW Channel 12 studios in Rhinelander WI discussing Field Day 2025.

Treasurers Report

Beginning Balance	\$7571.14
Expenses	0.00
Membership Dues	0.00
Donations	0.00
Ending Balance	\$7571.14

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

Old Business

RayBob KD9DDE updated the VCARC regarding the hospital internet connection, still moving forward.

The Eagle River repeater is still having receiving and interference issues, need to identify the problem(s). Additional troubleshooting is required. Antenna SWR seems good. Tuned cavities also appear good. A temporary radio or repeater is the next step in isolating the problem. RayBob KD9DDE, Jeff KD9FYU, and Kirby W8DCD will lead the repair efforts

New Business and Announcements

It was discussed to revise the VCARC Bylaws and move to a minimum quarterly meeting schedule. Tom W9TBZ presented the proposed Bylaw revisions and modifications were made.

Quarterly Meetings will allow the opportunity for more focused Tech Talks and other related Club activities. An additional meeting will likely be added in June for Field Day preparations. Additional meetings can also be scheduled with advanced notice.

July 2025

The Bylaw revisions will be voted on at the July 9, 2025, Meeting. The proposed Bylaw changes have been posted on the VCARC website.

The Nomination Committee presented its slate of 2025- 2026 Officers and Board as follows.

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

The proposed Officers and Board will be voted on at the July 9, 2025, Meeting.

The motion to adjourn was made at 7:00 PM

ARRL NEWS

ARRL Logbook of The World Returns to Service

We are happy to be bringing the upgraded LoTW servers online, as we know radio amateurs around the world rely on LoTW to receive QSLs and apply for awards.

The improvements we have made will make no change in the visual appearance of LoTW but will provide enhanced performance and continued reliability of the system.

Logbook of The World® -- LoTW® -- is a web-accessed database and repository that enables you to submit electronic logs for amateur radio contacts (QSOs) and for confirmation (QSLs).

Users can view submitted QSOs and resulting QSLs online. Radio amateurs can use LoTW to track their progress toward achievements and awards, such as The ARRL Worked All States Award, and amateur radio's premier award, DXCC®, in which membership is achieved by confirming on-the-air contacts with 100 countries.

LoTW was introduced by ARRL in 2003. Today, over 2.1 billion QSO records have been entered into the system.

If you are not a member of ARRL, please join! There's no better way to support LoTW.

ARRL CONTESTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

IARU HF World Championship (Contest)

Objective: To support amateur self-training in radiocommunications including improving amateur operating skills, conducting technical investigations, and intercommunicating with other amateurs around the world, especially IARU member society headquarters stations, using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10-meter bands.

Contest Dates/ Period: July 12-13, 2025. Contest begins at 1200 UTC Saturday and runs through 1159 UTC Sunday. Both Single and Multioperator stations may operate the entire 24-hour period.

36TH Anniversary of SATERN (Special Event)

(Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network)
Jul 19-Jul 20, 1500Z-1500Z, KD9NJR, Hoffman Estates, IL. Salvation Army SATERN. 3.820 7.265. Certificate & QSL. Salvation Army Central Territory Headquarters. SATERN TEAM Don Dewar, 5550 Prairie Stone Parkway, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192.

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>.

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.

South Milwaukee ARC Hamfest

Date: 07/05/2025
Location: Oak Creek, WI
Sponsor: South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.wi9sm.org>

W9UDU Free Fest

Date: 8/09/2025
Location: Racine, WI
Sponsor: W9UDU
Website: <http://w9udu.org>

Circus City Swapfest

Date: 08/23/2025
Location: Baraboo, WI
Sponsor: Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://yellowthunder.org>

VCARC FIELD DAY 2025 (Continued)

The VCARC stations(s) operated 80-meters thru 10-meters with a VHF station operating 6-meters under the call sign W9VRC. Station operators rotated between bands and radios to make contacts.

Contacts were a little slow on Saturday due to band conditions. However, Saturday evening into Sunday morning band conditions improved and many more contacts were made.

The unofficial tally of stations contacted include the following:

Band	FT8 Contacts	Phone Contacts	Total Contacts
80 Meters	3	2	5
40 Meters	51	204	255
20 Meters	88	316	404
15 Meters	22	14	36
10 Meters	2	7	9
6 Meters	23	0	23
Total	189	543	732

Field Day Operators included Bob KC9RF, Tim KC9JCH, Jeff N9NIC, Dennis KC9SKA, Dave N9DBS, and Ray WB9OCO.

Kirby W8DCD, KC KG9JP, Tom W9TBZ, and Ed KB9AL assisted with the setting up of Field Day equipment and antennas.



Kirby W8DCD, Katie Bauknecht, Chair of Sugar Camp, Bob KC9RF.



Tim KC9JCH operating 20-meter phone while keeping cool in the shade. Tim also had an hour+ long run on 40-meters early Saturday evening.

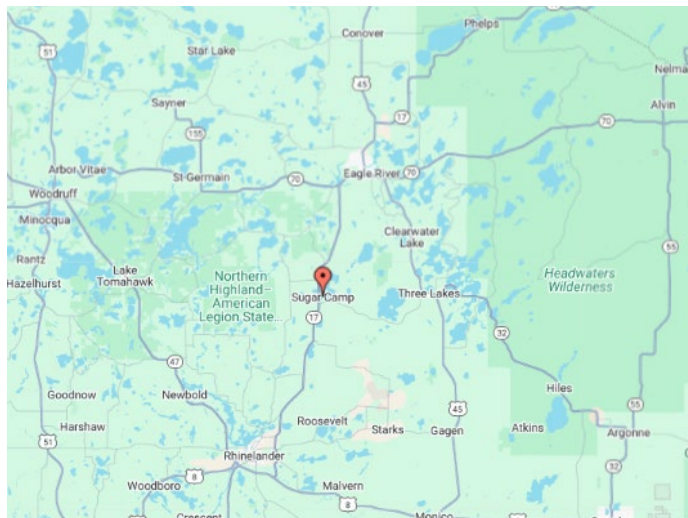


Dennis KC9SKA operating 10-meters and Jeff N9NIC operating 15-meters. Their stations ran on solar power and batteries. Jeff also generated and handled a number of messages/ traffic which were sent throughout the Midwest.





Bob KC9RF and Scott W9JU, SATERN Central Territory Coordinator with one of SATERN's emergency support vehicles.



The VCARC was one of only a handful of stations in the Northwoods indicated on the ARRL Field Day 2025 Station Locator.



Dave N9DBS operating 40-meter phone and logging another contact. Note Dave's "Go Box".



The KC9RF "POTA" Mobile and antennas. When Bob is not participating in Field Day, you can find Bob weekly along with Dave N9DBS operating POTA from various Northwoods locations. Their favorite bands are 20-meters and 40-meters.



One of the several antennas used at Field Day included is a 6-meter beam and 40-meter Vee.

Thanks go out to all that participated and visited the VCARC Sugar Camp Field Day site this past weekend. Special thanks to:

- Tom W9TBZ as the Official VCARC Field Day Grill Master.
- KC KG9JP for handling W1AW message traffic and related ARRL communications.
- Ray KB9CBL for posting the VCARC Field Day event on the Rhinelander Repeater Association (RRA) Facebook page.

See everyone for ARRL/ VCARC Field Day 2026!

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 on 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.

Passcode 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 (Temporarily Offline)

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.