

The SkyWave Vilas County Amateur Radio Club



VCARC Field Day 2026 June 27-28 Sugar Camp

The VCARC 2026 Field Day will be held on June 27 thru June 28 at the Municipal Complex Fields in Sugar Camp WI. Ham radio operator or not all are welcome to attend this annual ARRL National Event.

The following is the VCARC Field Day 2026 Weekend Event Schedule.

Friday June 26, 2026

- 3:00 PM Tribute Brewery, Eagle River:
Kick off Field Day Weekend, grab a craft beer with RayBob KD9DDE and Fred KD9CCE

Saturday June 27, 2026

- 9:00 AM Dee Dee's Diner, Sugar Camp:
Field Day Breakfast (All are welcome)
- 10:30 AM Sugar Camp Municipal Complex:
Field Day Site Set Up
- 1:00 PM Field Day Operations Begins
- 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Open to the Public, Tours
- 5:30 PM Field Day Cookout and Pot Luck
- Field Day Continues All Night

Sunday June 28, 2026

- Field Day Continues All Morning
- 1:00 PM Field Day Operations Wrap Up
- 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Pack Up And Go

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VCARC JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next VCARC Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday June 10, 2026, starting at 6:00 pm at God's Gathering Place at 1695 Hwy. 45N Eagle River, WI. The Meeting is also available thru Zoom, contact Bob KC9RF for login instructions. Members or just interested, all are welcome to attend.

The June Meeting Tech Talk will be presented by Bob KC9RF discussing the upcoming VCARC Field Day 2026, equipment, operations, and participation. Please join us for this interesting and informative presentation.



VCARC May MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

May 13, 2026, 6:00 PM – The Meeting was called to order by Bob KC9RF.

Treasurers Report (May Ending)

Beginning Balance	\$6135.11
Expenses	0.00
Membership Dues	65.00
Donations	80.00
Ending Balance	\$6280.11

Old Business

Kirby W8DCD has been in contact with Vilas County regarding future repeater site locations, waiting for feedback.

Vilas County has reserved space on one of their towers for an ARES antenna. Unfortunately, the tower is 5 miles West/ Southwest of the existing Land of Lakes repeater location and is at a lower AGL elevation. At this point this site would not offer any additional area coverage benefit compared to the existing Land of Lakes repeater location.

Echolink is running well. Tom W9TBZ will add Chrome remote desktop software to the Echolink laptop for ease of service. He will also look at removing the CW ID from Echolink at our local location.

New Business and Announcements

Lots of local Special Events requiring Ham participation are going on in June. Check the Newsletter calendar for the specific events and dates. Volunteers are always needed!

The motion to adjourn was made at 7:05 PM.

VCARC NEWS

Included is the VCARC Meeting and Event Schedule for 2026. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the scheduled events.

VCARC/ Member Activities	Date(s)
Ride for Research Wabeno WI	06/06/26
June Member Meeting*	06/10/26
InSayner Bike Ride Support	06/13/26
ARRL Field Day 2026	06/27- 06/28/26
July Member Meeting	07/08/26
August Board Meeting	08/12/26
September Board Meeting	09/09/26
Wisconsin POTA Contest	09/19/26
WI ARES/ RACES Conference	10/10/26
October Member Meeting	10/14/26
November Board Meeting	11/11/26
December Board Meeting	12/09/26

* Field Day Discussions and Preparation

VCARC Field Day 2026

The VCARC Field Day Site will operate under the Club call sign W9VRC. The ARRL Field Day category will be 4A with a maximum power limit of 100 watts output.

As in recent years the Club will also operate on 100% battery power making this a true Field Day experience. Some solar power will also be incorporated into the battery systems.

The VCARC Main Field Day station operation will be primarily on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters during the day. Depending on the propagation the operation will likely shift to primarily to 40 and 20 meters with operations on 160 and 80 meters during the evening hours.

Antennas used for the main station will utilize a combination of dipoles, Moxon and inverted L antennas depending on the bands operated.

The VHF station will operate 6, 2 meters and 70 cm utilizing a combination of SSB, FT8 and FM modes. The VHF station will utilize Yagi beam antennas.

New this year will be a separate "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station. This allows Novice, Technician newly licensed operators, to develop their operating skills.

The GOTA station will primarily operate 40 and 20 meters. However, the station will be capable of operating on other bands as propagation permits.

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. Fred KD9CCE, RayBob KD9DDE and Kyle AB9AX are Net Controls.

VCARC JUNE BREAKFAST

A VCARC Breakfast is planned for Saturday June 20 at 9:00 AM at the Friendship House Restaurant in Eagle River WI. Please contact RayBob KD9DDE via rmh2992@aol.com if you are planning to attend.



VCARC Saturday Breakfast Club at the Friendship House Restaurant in Eagle River May 16, 2026.

Pictured are RayBob KD9DDE, Greg N9GJ, Virginia N9GCJ, Scott W9JU, Troy KE9AMI, Mark (Guest), KC KG9JP and Scott WA9STI.

InSayner Mountain Bike Ride Volunteers Needed

On Saturday, June 13th, the 2026 The InSayner Mountain Bike Ride is being held. If you are able to assist, contact Blue Poupart KD9FIO. His email is: bluejakt@gmail.com

Ride for Research Ham Volunteers Needed

The Ride for Research will be held on June 6, 2026, in Wabeno WI. If you are interested, please contact Ray KB9CBL via email KB9CBL@gmail.com

Special Events Station K3FBI/9

Special Events Station K3FBI/9 was in operation Sunday May 10, 2026, at the Wisconsin Historical Marker in Manitowish Waters WI commemorating the shootout in 1934 between the FBI and the John Dillinger Gang. The location is right along US Hwy 51 by the Manitowish Waters Visitors Center.

Hams present were Scott WA9STI, Paul KD9FM, Roger KF9D, Ray KB9CBL, Tom W9TBZ, and Bruce W9GN. Several Town Officials and members of the public stopped by and the excellent hospitality from the Town of Manitowish Waters was much appreciated.

Voice and CW Contacts were made using 40, 20 and 17 meters on HF and many locals got in the log using the Rhinelander/Willow linked repeaters and the Sayner WeComm repeater.

Band conditions were good despite the cool temperatures, and it even snowed enough requiring the equipment be covered up for a while.



Paul KD9FM making SSB Contacts for Special Event Station K3FBI/9

ARRL NEWS

What is ARRL Field Day? You're Invited!

ARRL Field Day is a radio communications event that brings together amateur radio operators (also called "hams") within your community. The theme for 2025 Field Day is "Radio Connects" – highlighting the many ways that wireless technology connects people across distances near and far.

The event is part picnic, campout, practice for emergencies, informal contest, and most of all, fun! ARRL Field Day is the most popular ham radio activity held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend in June each year, more than 31,000 hams get together with their radio clubs, schools, or friends to operate from remote locations.

For many radio clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights on their annual calendar. A typical Field Day site will show off many aspects of amateur radio and its many roles.

Some groups use Field Day as an opportunity to practice their emergency communications readiness. ARRL Field Day is an annual demonstration and invites the general public and organizations to see how amateur radio can serve in an emergency, When All Else Fails®. Hams are well-known for their communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

Despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they are so complex — ham radio has been called into action, again and again, to provide communications in crises when it really matters.

Amateur radio also inspires the next generation of technical leaders by providing a hands-on sandbox where students gain experience in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

For those with a competitive spirit, Field Day stations compete to make radio contacts with as many other stations as possible while learning to operate radio equipment in challenging situations and less-than-optimal conditions.

These same skills are used by hams who volunteer to help with large, preplanned, non-emergency events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fundraisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades, and malls, and museums.

ARRL CONTESTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The following are upcoming ARRL Contests and Special Events in the Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula Michigan Areas.

International Digital Contest

Contest Objective: Amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using any digital mode (excluding RTTY) that supports the 4-digit Grid Square exchange — attended operation only -- on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meter bands . Any station may work any other station. Stations may only be worked once per band, regardless of mode. Automated operation is not permitted -- each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact.

Dates: June 6- 8, 2026

Contest Period: Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 2359 UTC Sunday.

USS Cobia Museum Ships (Special Event)

Jun 6-Jun 7, 1400Z-2000Z, NB9QV, Manitowoc, WI.
USS Cobia Amateur Radio Club. 7.240 14.240.
Certificate. KC9YL, kc9yl@arrl.net, n/a.
<https://www.qrz.com/db/NB9QV>.

June VHF Contest

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.

Dates: June 13-15, 2026

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

20th Anniversary of the Museum Ship Icebreaker Mackinaw (Special Event)

Jun 20, 1400Z-2359Z, W8AGB, Mackinaw City, MI. CCECPSCO. 14.250. QSL. W8AGB, P. O. Box 844, Harbor Springs, MI 49740.

ARRL Field Day 2026

Contest Objective: To contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less-than-optimal conditions.

Dates: June 27 - 28, 2026

Contest Period: Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 2059 UTC Sunday

EAA Airventure Airshow (Special Event)

Jul 20-Jul 25, 1300Z-2000Z, W9ZL, Oshkosh, WI. Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club. 7.250 14.275 50.150. Certificate. FCARC W9ZL special event station, PO Box 2346, Appleton, WI 54912. FCARC.Club

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 Hamfest is a great way to accomplish both.

The following are the upcoming Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula Michigan Area Hamfests.

LARS 2026 Yooper Hamfest

Dates: 06/05/2026 and 06/06/26

Location: Luce County Fairgrounds

11555 N. County Road 399 Newberry, MI 49868

Sponsor: Luce County Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://w8nby.org>

Riverland ARC Hamfest

Date: 06/06/2026

Location: La Crosse American Legion

711 6th St S La Crosse, WI 54601

Sponsor: Riverland Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://rarc.qth.com>

FCARC Sunshine Swapfest

Date: 06/20/2026

Location: Sunnyview Exposition Center Parking Lot

500 E County Rd. Y Oshkosh, WI 54901

Sponsor: Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club Website:

<https://fcarc.club/>

WI9SM Hamfest

Date: 07/11/2026

Location: American Legion Post 434

9327 S. Shepard Ave. Oak Creek, WI 53154

Sponsor: South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://wi9sm.org>

Circus City Hamfest

Date: 08/29/2026

Location: Badger Steam & Gas Engine Club Property

S3347 Sand Road Baraboo, WI 53913

Sponsor: Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://yellowthunder.org>

CVARC 2026 Hamfest

Date: 08/29/2026

Location: Bloomer Fair Grounds

1609 9th Ave. Bloomer, WI 54724

Sponsor: Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://w9cva.org/hamfest>

20th Annual ORC Fall Swapfest

Date: 09/12/2026

Location: Cedarburg Firemen's Park

W65N796 Washington Ave. Cedarburg, WI 53012

Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club, Incorporated

Website: <https://ozaukeeradioclub.org>

Top of Michigan Amateur Radio Club and Thunder Bay Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Date: 09/26/2026

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall

2573 Wilkinson Rd. Gaylord, MI 49734

Sponsor: Top of Michigan ARC Gaylord and Thunder Bay ARC Alpena

Website: <http://www.nm8rc.org>

TECH TALK

Field Day Safety – Tips From an Experienced Compliance Officer

One of the many ways to earn bonus points during ARRL Field Day is to have a Safety Officer on site who makes use of the Safety Officer Checklist. Safety shouldn't stop there! Many pictures of Field Day sites indicate that running that checklist alone is inadequate.

Having been involved with safety professionally in the United States Air Force and in the offshore oil industry, I have experienced what good safety discipline can accomplish and the results when it fails.

As a very competitive Field Day organizer and operator, I firmly believe safety comes ahead of points! Watching for and mitigating hazards must occur for the entire event—setup, operating, teardown. Why do so few pictures show personal protective equipment (PPE) in use? Where are the hard hats, gloves, fire extinguishers, and Safety Officer with his or her checklist?

The typical rationalization is “all that is a waste of time,” “it's quicker to ignore what might happen,” and “nothing happened last year.” I always return to the 4 Ps of safety: people, places, personal protective equipment (PPE), and personal accountability. What do they mean?

Safety is everyone's responsibility, regardless of our roles. Everyone needs a safety briefing, in general, and for specific tasks, such as raising a tower. One person ignoring their responsibility can lead to an accident — sometimes a tragic accident.

Even at home, our stations can contain hazards, and most are unfamiliar with added ones in the field. It's everyone's responsibility to identify and mitigate—if not, eliminate—hazards. Warning tape and signs help make places safer—use them!

PPE—insist upon hard hats where anything (tools, parts, towers, and masts) could fall. Even when on the ground, they are tripping hazards. I once stopped a tower operation when, after being warned, another ham showed up in the drop zone without a hard hat!

Except when operating rotating equipment, gloves are essential in preventing injuries. Let everyone know that they should bring their PPE (or club-provided PPE) if they do more than simply operate a radio—no exceptions!

Personal accountability is simple but often overlooked. Everyone involved in using hazardous materials or tools must know and follow the safety rules.

Do not allow anyone to take part in a task until they are briefed and know how the entire task is to occur. Stop the task if someone is inattentive. It takes less than a second for a hazard to become a mistake that causes an accident.

I lost a high school classmate on the nuclear submarine that sank—the Thresher. The Navy completely redid their nuclear safety program. It was used as an example after the Deepwater Horizon disaster, which led to my final career, focused on safety compliance.

As our local sports car racing club's motto states: “Be Safe and Have Fun.” Let that be your theme for every ARRL Field Day.

From ARRL Bill Mader, K8TE, Section Manager of the ARRL New Mexico Section.

ARRL Field Day Safety Checklist

The following is from the ARRL Field Day Safety Officer Checklist. It is a great starting point for Field Day site safety. The list is not intended to be all inclusive. The Checklist items include:

- Fuel for generator properly stored.
- Fire extinguisher on hand and appropriately located.
- First Aid kit on hand.
- First Aid - CPR - AED versed else trained participant/s on site for full Field Day period.
- Access to NWS alerts to monitor for inclement weather.
- Tent stakes properly installed and marked.
- Temporary antenna structures are properly secured and marked.
- Site secured from tripping hazards.
- Site is set up in a neat and orderly manner to reduce hazards.
- Stations and equipment are properly grounded.
- Access to a means to contact police/fire/rescue if needed.
- Minimize risks and control hazards to ensure no injuries to public.
- As necessary, monitoring participants for hydration and ensuring an adequate water supply is available.

Vilas County Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL Affiliated Organization

VCARC OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

President Bob Barnum, KC9RF
Vice President Kirby Giampa W8DCD
Secretary Marie Beckholt, KD9VUB
Treasurer RayBob Heuer, KD9DDE
Board Member Ray Protich WB9OCO
W9VRC Trustee Tom Bahr W9TBZ
Newsletter Bob Barnum, KC9RF, Ray Protich WB9OCO



CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address: Website: <https://vcarc.net/>
W9VRC
Vilas County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1141
Eagle River, WI 54521

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.

VCARC REPEATER INFORMATION

The VCARC operates W9VRC/R amateur radio repeaters in Eagle River and Land O' Lakes Wisconsin. The VCARC operates a weekly Informational Net every Monday night starting at 7:30 PM local time. Net Control is via the Eagle River repeater. A digital Net immediately follows.

Repeater Information	Eagle River Repeater	Land O' Lakes Repeater
Frequency	145.150 (-)	145.390 (-)
PL Tone	114.8	114.8
Operating Modes	Auto C4FM/ Analog	Auto C4FM/ Analog
Echolink	Node 691369	-
Wires X	-	Room 8011
Yooper Net (IRARC)	-	Room 65384
ARES/ RACES	Back up for W9RRA/R	-

THE SKYWAVE NEWSLETTER

The SkyWave is the Official publication of the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club. If you wish to 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.