

# The SkyWave Vilas County Amateur Radio Club



## Advanced Snowmobile Challenge Ham Support

The Advanced Snowmobile Challenge is a yearly snowmobile event where Collegiate teams build and modify production snowmobiles and compete in multiple events based on improvements in emissions and performance.

The Advanced Snowmobile Challenge was also a successful Ham Radio communication event. The use of repeaters operated by the Iron Range Amateur Radio Club and the Vilas County Amateur Radio Club was critical. If you are not already a Member please consider joining and supporting these groups.

(Continued in Tech Talk)

### 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.

Echolink is also available for Ham Operators outside of the Eagle River repeater coverage area.

A digital Net immediately follows. Fred KD9CCE, RayBob KD9DDE and Kyle AB9AX are Net Controls.

### VCARC MARCH BOARD MEETING

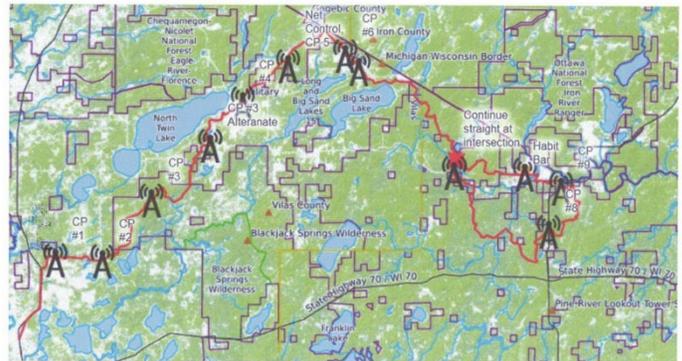
The VCARC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday March 11, starting at 6:00 PM local time Via Zoom.

All VCARC Members are welcome to attend. We value everyone's thoughts and ideas for 2026!

### VCARC MARCH BREAKFAST

A VCARC Breakfast is planned for March 21, at 9:00 AM at the Friendship House Restaurant in Eagle River WI. Please contact RayBob KD9DDE via [rmh2992@aol.com](mailto:rmh2992@aol.com) to reserve your spot.

This is a great opportunity to "Meet and Greet" VCARC Members and other Ham Operators from the area. See everyone there!



Ham Radio support along the Snowmobile course

### VCARC FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February 11, 2026, 6:00 PM – The Meeting was called to order by Bob KC9RF.

### Treasurers Report (February Update)

Beginning Balance	6961.82
Expenses: Library Donation	(250.00)
Membership Dues	40.00
Donations	0.00
Ending Balance	6751.82

The Treasurer's Report and Meeting Minutes were approved.

### Old Business

Plans are proceeding to locate the repeater Echolink equipment to the Eagle River Olson Memorial Library. RayBob KD9DDE will be installing the equipment in February due to the weather.

Fred KC9CCE will be giving the April Member Meeting Tech Talk. Future Tech Talk program topics were also discussed for the remainder of the year.

### New Business and Announcements

A motion was made and approved to donate \$200.00 to God's Gathering Place for the use of their facilities for the VCARC meetings.

A motion was made and approved to donate \$250.00 to Olson Memorial Library in Eagle River for their support of the Eagle River repeater Echolink project.

The motion to adjourn was made at 6:40 PM.

## VCARC NEWS

Included is the VCARC Meeting and Event Schedule for 2026. As you can see 2026 is shaping up to be a very busy year for the VCARC. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the scheduled events.

<b>VCARC/ Member Activities</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
March Board Meeting	03/11/26
Wisconsin QSO Party	03/15/26
<b>April Member Meeting</b>	<b>04/08/26</b>
Demmer Library Hobby Day	04/22/26
May Board Meeting	05/13/26
Dayton Hamvention	05/15 - 05/17/26
<b>June Member Meeting*</b>	<b>06/10/26</b>
InSayner Bike Ride Support	TBA
<b>ARRL Field Day 2026</b>	<b>06/27- 06/28/26</b>
<b>July Member Meeting</b>	<b>07/08/26</b>
August Board Meeting	08/12/26
September Board Meeting	09/09/26
Wisconsin POTA Contest	09/19/26
<b>October Member Meeting</b>	<b>10/14/26</b>
WI ARES/ RACES Conference	TBA
November Board Meeting	11/11/26
December Board Meeting	12/09/26

\* Field Day Discussions and Preparation

### Demmer Three Lakes Library Presentation

Final VCARC preparations are being made for a Ham Radio presentation at the Demmer Library in Three Lakes, WI. The Ham Radio presentation is planned for April 22, 2026, at 1:00 pm at the Library.

The presentation corresponds with the Demmer Library National Library Week. It also corresponds to Earth Day 2026.

VCARC plans to feature a "live" Ham Radio station, ARRL videos and promotional material. We will also discuss how ham radio helps in the community and how to get your Ham Radio license.

This is a great opportunity to promote Ham Radio in the Oneida and Vilas county areas.

Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, please contact Bob KC9RF or RayBob KC9DDE.

### VCARC 2026 Membership Dues Being Accepted

Membership Renewals are now being accepted. The Annual Membership cost is \$20 per Individual and \$25 for a Family Membership. Please send renewals and new applications to VCARC P.O. Box 1141, Eagle River, WI 54521.

## W9VRC/R Eagle River Echolink Is Online

The Eagle River repeater Echolink is online at the Olson Memorial Library in Eagle River. This will provide full-time and a more reliable Echolink connection to the repeater. Thanks to RayBob KD9DDE, Fred KD9CCE, and Tom W9TBZ for their technical expertise with the installation and overcoming several operational issues.

We would also like to thank the Olson Memorial Library for their assistance with the Echolink installation. The VCARC has donated \$250.00 to the Library as a small token of our appreciation.

### Wisconsin QSO Party: Ready... Set...Go!

It's that time of year again for the annual Wisconsin QSO Party sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club. This year's QSO Party be held on March 15, 2026, from 1 PM to 8 PM CDT.

The contest objective is for stations anywhere to contact Wisconsin stations for points. Wisconsin stations contact stations anywhere for points. Everybody has fun!

A number of VCARC Member stations participated in 2025 with good results. Let's make this year's participation even better!

More QSO Party information can be found on the West Allis Radio Amateur Club website [warac.org](http://warac.org).

## ARRL NEWS

### FCC Requires That FRN Contact Information Be Updated Within Ten Days of a Change

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® reports that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted changes to its rules to require that every holder of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) update their contact information in the CORES system (email and postal addresses) within ten business days of a change.

Because every FCC licensee—including amateur radio operators, must have an FRN to file applications, this requirement applies to all licensed amateurs. FRN contact information is handled separately and apart from contact information related to a license in the License Manager System. Both records must be kept up-to-date, and each requires a separate update.

Until now, no specific deadline existed for updating FRN or license contact information.

Instead, the amateur rules at sections 97.21 and 97.23 provide that a license may be suspended or revoked "if FCC correspondence is returned as undeliverable because of an incorrect address/email." These provisions remain in effect as well as the 10-day deadline applicable to FRN information.

If your FRN information is current and has not changed, no immediate action is required, but you must adhere to the 10-day rule for future changes. It is recommended to periodically check both the CORES and License Manager Systems to ensure contact information is accurate, even if no changes have occurred.

### **ARRL CONTESTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

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

#### **International DX (Contest)**

Contest Objective: To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations. One contest period is CW-only and one is Phone-only. Use only the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands.

W/VE amateurs: Work as many DX stations in as many DXCC entities as possible.

Phone: March 7-8, 2026.

Contest Period: 0000 UTC Saturday thru 2359 UTC Sunday.

#### **Wisconsin QSO Party (Contest)**

Contest Objective: Stations anywhere contact Wisconsin stations for points. Wisconsin stations contact stations anywhere for points.

Date: March 15, 2026

Contest Period: Sunday 1:00 pm to 8:00 PM CDT

### **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.

#### **MVARA Spring Fever Swap Meet**

Date: 03/07/2026

Location: American Legion

419 1st Ave. Holmen, WI 54636

Sponsor: Mississippi Valley Amateur Radio Association

Website: <https://www.mvara.net/>

#### **Tri-County Hamfest 2026**

Date: 03/15/2026

Location: Activity Center, Jefferson County Fair Park

503 North Jackson Ave. Jefferson, WI 53549

Sponsor: Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.W9MQB.org/SwapFest>

#### **Madison Area Repeater Association Hamfest**

Date: 04/18/2026

Location: Mandt Community Center

400 Mandt Parkway Stoughton, WI 53589

Sponsor: Madison Area Repeater Association

Website: <http://w9hsy.org>

#### **ORC 46th Annual Spring Indoor SwapFest**

Date: 04/25/2026

Location: Cedarburg, WI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club Incorporated

Website: <https://ozaukeeradioclub.org/>

#### **A.R.A.C. Hamfest**

Date: 05/02/2026

Location: Head of the Lakes Fairgrounds.

4700 Tower Ave. Superior, WI 54880

Sponsor: A.R.A.C - Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club

Website: <http://THEARAC.ORG>

#### **Green Bay Hamfest**

Date: 05/30/2026

Location: Our Saviour Lutheran Church

120 South Henry Street Green Bay, WI 54301

Sponsor: Green Bay Mike & Key Club

Website: [www.k9EAM.org](http://www.k9EAM.org)



## TECH TALK

### Advanced Snowmobile Challenge (Continued)

Thanks to the Hams operating in the Snowmobile Challenge. In no particular order: Peter N9KWU, Jim WD9BCR, Jim KD9DDC, Tony KC9SZW, Randy N9JUU, Ron K9RDB, Loran KB9UGA, Tim KC9FNF, Chuck KC9KAK, Scott W9JU and Ray KB9CBL.



Advanced Snowmobilers on the course

A special thanks to Ray KB9CBL, ARES Emergency Coordinator for Oneida, Vilas and Lincoln counties for organizing the Snowmobile Challenge support.

To get involved with ARES/ RACES activities, contact Ray KB9CBL for more information about upcoming events. There are several more ARES/ RACES activities planned throughout 2026.

You can contact Ray via [kb9cbl@yahoo.com](mailto:kb9cbl@yahoo.com) or just leave a note on his windshield. (Hi-Hi)



The KB9CBL "ARES Mobile" at Checkpoint 5

### Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

ARRL affiliated volunteers, particularly through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and local clubs, provide communication support for non-emergency public service events like marathons, parades, and bike-a-thons.

These events help train operators in radio procedures, equipment management, and coordination, typically using VHF/UHF repeaters or simplex.

#### Key Aspects of Non-Emergency Event Support:

1. **ARES Involvement:** Local ARES Emergency Coordinators (ECs) often organize participation in community events to maintain readiness.
2. **Event Preparation:** Local Volunteers should understand event details, including location, frequency, and equipment requirements (e.g., 2 meters, 440 MHz).
3. **Role of Volunteers:** Local Operators provide essential communication for organizers, ensuring smooth logistics, monitoring safety, and reporting on event progress.
4. **Training Opportunity:** These events act as practical training, improving communication skills that can be applied to emergency situations.

Get involved: Support the Wisconsin ARES/ RACES



# 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 contribute articles or other newsworthy items regarding Amateur Radio for publication, please contact Bob KC9RF at [rwb1636@gmail.com](mailto:rwb1636@gmail.com) or Ray WB9OCO at [WB9OCO@gmail.com](mailto:WB9OCO@gmail.com).