

The SkyWave Vilas County Amateur Radio Club



VCARC Has New Monthly Meeting Venue

The VCARC October meeting was at God's Gathering Place with more room, a 65" monitor, comfortable seats and a good internet connection for Zoom. All enjoyed the new meeting facilities.



VCARC will now be meeting "in person" year-round, weather dependent. This is a departure from meeting only via Zoom during the Winter months. Zoom will still be available for those who are unable attend the in-person meetings.

Zoom Instructions and agenda will be sent with the meeting reminder. Zoom log-in information and instructions are also on the Newsletter back page.

VCARC NOVEMBER MEETING

The next VCARC meeting will be held on Wednesday the 13th starting at 6:00 pm at God's Gathering Place at 1695 Hwy. 45N Eagle River, WI across from the snowmobile derby track.

The Tech Talk will be presented by Kyle Ruesch AB9AX on Wires X. Please join us for this informative presentation!

VCARC OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 9, 2024, 6:00 PM – Meeting called to order by Kyle Ruesch, all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Old Business

Eagle River Repeater is now functional as of August 30th. Thanks to Bob Barnum, Kirby and Skylar Giampa. Thanks for a job well done.

New Business

A motion was made and seconded to pay Skylar \$300 for his work on the Eagle River repeater Antenna replacement.

WIRES-X needs a location in or near Eagle River, would you consider your home for the equipment.

Proposed having in-person meetings year-round. Zoom will be available as before.

Discussions

Standby power was discussed for the VCARC repeaters. It was suggested that the Land of Lakes repeater should be given priority. Bob KC9RF volunteered to research the equipment required and the cost to implement standby power at each repeater location. Battery technology would likely be utilized.

Future Topics

Bring in and show projects that club members are working on.

Announcements

On November 2, at the McMillan Library in Wisconsin Rapids, WI, there will be an ARES/RACES Conference from 9:00am - 5:00pm. The cost is \$15.00 for a bag lunch.

2025 Membership Renewal is \$20 per Individual Membership and \$25 for a Family Membership.

The motion to adjourn was made at 6:47pm.



ARRL NEWS

ARRL November Sweepstakes

Stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) exchange information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-meter bands. Dates include the following weekends:

CW: November 2-4, 2024

Phone: November 16-18, 2024.

Contest Period: Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday.

For more information see the ARRL Contest website.

FCC Rules, News and Ham Radio

During a disaster, media representatives sometimes use Amateur Radio as a source of information and news stories about conditions in the affected region.

Many Amateur Radio operators ("hams") are willing to provide interviews with reporters concerning information from the disaster site. In addition, reporters may wish to develop stories on Amateur Radio's role in disaster relief— handling health and welfare traffic out of the site, for example. Most local emergency services groups or clubs will have Public Information Officers who will help you with this.

However, under Federal regulations, Amateur Radio may not be used for active news gathering or program production purposes. For example, it would not be legal for a reporter to use Amateur Radio in a professional capacity to interview someone in another location.

Amateur Radio operators are permitted to assist news media representatives in gathering information to be relayed to the public from areas where normal communication have been disrupted, particularly when the information involves the safety or life of individuals, or the immediate protection of property and no other channels of communication are available.

The operator may ask questions of, or relay media questions to, Amateur Radio operators in the area. The responses may be electronically recorded by media representatives. However, Amateur Radio must not be used to assist the news media in gathering information when telephones or other commercial means of communication are available.

The news media may, of course, monitor Amateur

Radio transmissions. But recording and rebroadcast under certain conditions (in or from war zones, for example) may not be legal or prudent. Under no circumstances may Amateur Radio operators retransmit commercial radio and television broadcasts.

Applicable text of Section 97.113

Prohibited transmissions.

(a) No amateur station shall transmit:

(1) Communications specifically prohibited elsewhere in this part.

(2) Communications for hire or for material compensation, direct or indirect, paid or promised, except as otherwise provided in these rules.

(3) Communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer [with certain exceptions].

(4) Music using a phone emission except as specifically provided elsewhere in this section; communications intended to facilitate a criminal act; messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, except as otherwise provided herein; obscene or indecent words or language; or false or deceptive messages, signals or identification.

(5) Communications, on a regular basis, which could reasonably be furnished alternatively through other radio services.

(b) An amateur activity shall not engage in any form of broadcasting, nor may an amateur station transmit one-way communications except as specifically provided in these rules; nor shall an amateur station engage in any activity related to program production or news gathering for broadcasting purposes, except that communications directly related to the immediate safety of human life or the protection of property may be provided by amateur stations to broadcasters for dissemination to the public where no other means of communication is reasonably available before or at the time of the event.

(e) No station shall retransmit programs or signals emanating from any type of radio station other than an amateur station, except propagation and weather forecast information intended for use by the general public and originated from United States Government stations.

TECH TALK

Grounding Requirements for Portable Generators (Part 2)

There are grounding requirements for portable and vehicle mounted generators.

Under the following conditions, OSHA directs that the frame of a portable generator need not be grounded (connected to earth) and that the frame may serve as the ground (in place of the earth):

- The generator supplies only equipment mounted on the generator and/or cord and plug-connected equipment through receptacles mounted on the generator'
- The noncurrent-carrying metal parts of equipment (such as the fuel tank, the internal combustion engine, and the generator's housing) are bonded to the generator frame, and the equipment grounding conductor terminals (of the power receptacles that are a part of [mounted on] the generator) are bonded to the generator frame,

Thus, rather than connect to a grounding electrode system, such as a driven ground rod, the generator's frame replaces the grounding electrode. If these conditions do not exist, then a grounding electrode, such as a ground rod, is required.

If the portable generator is providing electric power to a structure by connection via a transfer switch to a structure (home, office, shop, trailer, or similar) it must be connected to a grounding electrode system, such as a driven ground rod.

Verification By Testing

The integrity of the connection between the generator's frame and the equipment grounding terminals of power receptacles is important to the safe use of the equipment. The connection may be confirmed via testing by a competent electrician with the correct equipment.

The ohmic resistance should measure near zero and must not be intermittent, which indicates a loose connection.

Bonding vs Grounding

Bonding and grounding are separate requirements for generators and other electrical distribution systems.

Grounding means the connection, or the establishment of a connection, of an electric circuit or

equipment to reference ground, which includes the generator's frame.

Bonding is the intentional connection between the grounded circuit conductor (neutral) and the grounding means for the generator, which includes the generator's frame.

Thus, effective bonding of the neutral conductor to the generator's frame is also a concern for the safe use of the equipment.

As with grounding terminal connections, proper bonding of the neutral terminal of a power receptacle may be confirmed via testing by a competent electrician with the correct equipment, and the ohmic resistance should measure near zero and must not be intermittent, which indicates a loose connection.

(From ARRL/ OSHA Fact Sheet)

ARRL's Book on Grounding and Bonding

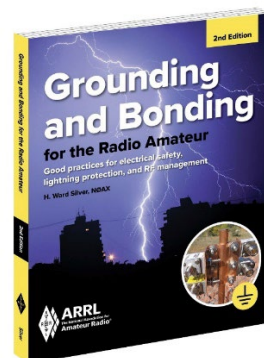
This book brings together material from numerous Amateur Radio and industry sources to present a comprehensive picture of basic grounding and bonding practices related to AC electrical safety, lightning protection, and the management of RF currents and voltages in the typical ham station.

The book is intended to be of the most use to new station builders and those upgrading an existing station.

In the Resources section, you'll find a list of articles, websites, and vendors for materials and techniques referenced in the book.

The Supplemental area extends discussions in the book or explores topics the book doesn't cover.

The Examples area features photos and comments by other amateurs intended to show how they solved a problem or implemented some of the suggestions in the book.



Vilas County Amateur Radio Club

An ARRL Affiliated Organization

VCARC OFFICERS

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