

The SkyWave Vilas County Amateur Radio Club



2025 ARES Conference & WI State Convention

The 27th Annual Wisconsin Section ARES/RACES Conference/ARRL State Convention! will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2025. And we want you to attend!

The Annual Wisconsin Section ARES/RACES Conference will be held at the same location as last year at the McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

What better way to get updates from the last year, reconnect with fellow hams, obtain some awesome new information, and have a chance at winning some great prizes.

For more information and registration see the WI ARES/ RACES website at wi-arrl.org.

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 OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next VCARC Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday October 8, 2025, starting at 6:00 pm at God's Gathering Place at 1695 Hwy. 45N Eagle River, WI.

The October Meeting Tech Talk will be presented by Bob KC9RF and Dave N9DBS discussing Successful Parks On The Air (POTA) operating. Please join us for this interesting and informative presentation.

VCARC OCTOBER BREAKFAST

A VCARC Breakfast is planned for Saturday October 18th at 9 AM at the Friendship House Restaurant in Eagle River. If you are interested in attending, please contact RayBob KD9DDE for more information. Hope to see everyone there!



VCARC SEPTEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

September 10, 2025, 6:00 PM – The Board Meeting was called to order by Bob KC9RF.

Treasurers Report (September Update)

Beginning Balance	\$7108.08
Expenses: Insurance and Filters	0.00
Membership Dues	0.00
Donations	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00
Ending Balance	\$7108.08

Old Business

The Eagle River repeater has been fitted with a newer filter. The hospital has replaced the LED beacon. The interference has been greatly reduced.

Kirby W8DCD continues to work with Vilas County and local EMA Services regarding future repeater locations. Musky Mountain and Conover are the 2 sites being considered at this time.

New Business and Announcements

Future VCARC Tech Talk were discussed for the next several meetings. Tentatively:

- October 2025 Meeting will discuss POTA Operations.
- January 2026 Meeting will discuss AllstarLink
- April 2026 Meeting will be a hands-on demonstration of coax connector assembly.

The motion to adjourn was made at 6:50 PM.

VCARC NEWS

Included is the VCARC Meeting and Event Schedule thru January of 2026.

VCARC/ Member Activities	Date(s)
October Member Meeting	10/08/25
WI ARES/ RACES Conference	10/11/25
November Board Meeting	11/12/25
December Board Meeting	12/10/25
January Member Meeting	01/14/26
Winter Field Day	01/24 - 01/25/26

Repeater Update

With the LED beacon interference reduced, that has made the receive on the repeater a bit better. However, we still have a de-sense issue. The previous testing shows that the antenna, coax and repeater sensitivity and SWR are to specs and is not an issue. The duplexers were bench tested on 9/29 with 80db separation. It appears that when tested at the repeater site the duplexers or cabling may change the tuning a bit because of impedance of the cable, connectors or duplexers not being 50 ohms. Hopefully within the next few weeks the person with the service monitor will be in the area again soon to test and make cable length or duplexer adjustments.

There is Still Time This Year for POTA Activities

Bob KC9RF and Dave N9DBS are still active weekly in the field most Tuesdays. Bob generally operates 20 meters with Dave operating 40 meters. If you haven't had a chance to operating POTA this year, consider joining Bob and Dave some Tuesday.

VCARC Member Becomes IEEE Life Member

Ray WB9OCO recently became an IEEE Life Member. Ray is presently the IEEE Chicago Section Chairperson for the Industry Applications and Industrial Electronics Societies. Ray is also a Member of the IEEE Power and Energy Society. Congratulations to Ray for his dedication in electrical industrial applications and power systems.

ARRL NEWS

ARRL's Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is October 4 - 5, 2025, and this nationwide exercise is the chance to test your personal emergency-operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment and accessories in a simulated emergency-like deployment.

ARRL Field Organization Leaders at the section and local levels, and many other volunteers that are active in public service and emergency communications are

developing simulated emergency-like scenarios in consultation with a variety of agencies and organizations for whom radio amateurs are known to provide service during emergencies.

Please remember that station readiness and personal training and practice are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service. Any time we spend on the air will contribute to developing and practicing our personal radio communication capability.

The ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service ® (ARES®), the National Traffic System (NTS), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), SKYWARN ™, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and other allied groups and public-service oriented radio amateurs are among those who are eligible to participate in the simulated exercise and to practice emergency operation plans, nets and procedures.

For the 2025 Simulated Emergency Test, there will be bonus points for cooperation with Army MARS stations and sharing information between MARS and amateur radio stations. Please refer to the reporting form to calculate the bonus points.

ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

ARES consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public interest when disaster strikes.

Membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is not required to join ARES or participate in ARES activities. ARRL membership is required for the leadership appointments described.

Because ARES is an Amateur Radio service, only licensed amateurs are eligible for membership.

For more information regarding ARES for Oneida and Vilas Counties in Wisconsin, please contact Raymond Mark KB9CBL. Ray is the Emergency Coordinator for Northwoods ARES / RACES. Ray's contact information can be found on the Northwoods ARES / RACES website at NorthwoodsAres94.com.



October 2025

ARRL CONTESTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

EME Contest

Contest Objective: To work as many amateur stations as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz.

Dates: October 11-12, 2025; Begins 0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.

US Navy Birthday (Special Event)

Oct 13-Oct 14, 1000Z-0300Z, K9NBH, Salem, WI. Great Lakes Radio Club. 7.225 14.250. Certificate. Great Lakes Radio Club, General Delivery, Salem, WI 53168. Celebrating the establishment of the US Navy in 1775. See K9NBH QRZ page for additional event details. Digital certificate available, no QSL cards. <https://www.qrz.com/db/K9NBH>

National Mashed Potato Day (Special Event)

Oct 18, 1500Z-2200Z, W9P, Plover, WI. Central Sands Amateur Radio. 14.320MHz 40m depending upon band cond. 15M band conditions. QSL. Phil Schobert, 300 Polk St, Stevens Point, WI 544815841. Celebrating National Mashed Potato Day from the World's Largest Potato Masher located at the Food and Farm Exploration Center. CSARC2022@gmail.com

JOTA (Special Event)

October 17-19, (All 48 hours)
Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually on the third full weekend in October. JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community.

This jamboree requires no travel, other than to a nearby amateur radio operator's ham shack. Many times, you can find the hams will come to you by setting up a station at your Scout camporee, at the park down the block, or perhaps at a ham shack already set up at your council's camp.

There are no official hours, so you have the whole weekend to make JOTA contacts. The event officially starts Friday evening during the JOTA Jump Start and runs through Sunday evening.

For more information and participation see the ARRL/JOTA website.

Operation Able Archer '83 (Special Event)

Nov 1-Nov 14, 0001Z-2359Z, K9NBH, Salem, WI. Great Lakes Radio Club. 7.225 14.250. Certificate. Great Lakes Radio Club, General Delivery, Salem, WI 53168. Commemorating the 1983 Cold War Able Archer Exercise. See K9NBH QRZ page for additional event details. Digital certificate available. No paper certificate or QSL cards. <https://www.qrz.com/db/K9NBH>

NB9QV USS Cobia Veteran's Day (Special Event)

Nov 8-Nov 9, 1500Z-2100Z, NB9QV, Manitowoc, WI. USS Cobia Amateur Radio Club. 7.240 14.240. Certificate. E-certificate only, email QSL information to, kc9yl@arrl.net. <https://www.qrz.com/db/NB9QV>

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 Fall Hamfest is a great way to accomplish both.

The following are the upcoming Wisconsin Area Hamfests.

20th Annual Central Wisconsin SwapFest

Date: 10/04/2025

Location: Colby Lions Pavilion

103 W. Adams St. Colby, WI 54421

Sponsor: Black River Amateur Radio Association

Copper Country Hamfest

Date: 10/04/2025

Location: KBIC Senior Center

208 Main Ave. Baraga, MI 49908

Website: <https://kcra-mi.net/>

Sponsor: KCRA CCRAA BCRA

Hidden Valleys Amateur Radio Club Free Hamfest

Date: 10/18/2025

Location: Grant County Fair Grounds, Youth and Ag Building

916 East Elm Street, Lancaster, WI 53813

Website: <http://kc9kq.net>

Sponsor: H.V.A.R.C.

FCARC Annual Hamfest

Date: 11/02/2025

Location: Sunnyview Exposition Center

500 E. County Rd. Y Oshkosh, WI 54901

Website: <https://fcarc.club/>

Sponsor: Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club

TECH TALK

About Your “Ready Kit”

The following is an excerpt from the ARRL/ ARES Field Resources Manual regarding Ready Kits. A complete downloadable copy of the Manual is available online via the ARRL website.

Power

About Your “Ready Kit” Power. Your 72-hour kit should have several sources of power in it, with extra battery packs and an alkaline battery pack for your handheld.

For mobile VHF and UHF radios, larger batteries are needed. Gel-cell or deep cycle marine batteries are good sources of battery power, and you must keep them charged and ready go.

It is also wise to have alternative means available to charge your batteries during the emergency. You can charge smaller batteries from other larger batteries.

You can build a solar charging device. If you’re lucky, you may have access to a power generator that can be used in place of the normal electrical lines. Have more battery capacity than you think you might need. Have several methods available to connect your radios to different power sources.

Gain Antennas

You can expect to need some kind of gain antenna for your handheld, as well as an additional gain antenna that can be used on either your handheld or your mobile rig.

The extra antenna might be needed by someone else, or your first antenna might break. For VHF and UHF, you can build a J-pole from TV twin lead for an inexpensive and very compact antenna.

Have several lengths of coax in your kit, totaling at least 50 feet, and barrel connectors to connect them together.

Personal

Include staples: water, or a reliable water filtration and purification system; enough food for three days; eating utensils, a drinking cup and, if needed, a means of cooking your food.

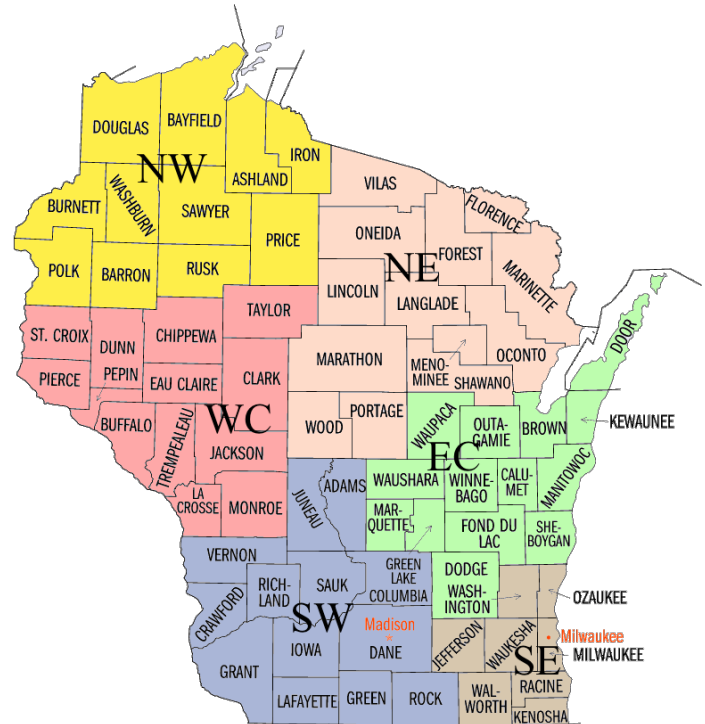
Shelter is also important. Here, you are only limited by the size of your kit and the thickness of your wallet. Some hams plan to use their RVs as shelter, conditions permitting.

Other disaster conditions may make the use of an RV impossible, so you should have several different plans for shelter.

Light is important psychologically during an emergency. Make sure that you have several light sources available. Various battery-powered lights are available, and lanterns that use propane or other fuel are also good possibilities.

Additional Wisconsin ARES Information

Wisconsin ARES is divided into six districts, each having its own District Emergency Coordinator.



Emergency Coordinators:

- Florence Co - VACANT
- Forest Co - VACANT
- Langlade Co - VACANT
- Lincoln Co - Raymond Mark, KB9CBL
- Marathon Co - VACANT
- Marinette Co - VACANT
- Menomonee Co - VACANT
- Oconto Co - VACANT
- Oneida Co - Raymond Mark, KB9CBL
- Portage Co - Nick Proulx, KC9YLK
- Shawano Co - VACANT
- Vilas Co - Raymond Mark, KB9CBL
- Wood Co - Michael Krohn, W9BBF

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
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/>

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.

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 Yoooper 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.