

The SkyWave Vilas County Amateur Radio Club



September Is National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is in September. This is a nationwide effort to encourage everyone to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, workplaces, schools and communities.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security works with a wide variety of organizations to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and to promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation.

We encourage you to consider this year's ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (and all preparations for it) as a demonstration of amateur radio's readiness. More information on National Preparedness Month is found at www.ready.gov/.

See Tech Talk Regarding the ARRL Simulated Emergency Tests on October 3 - 4, 2026.

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 SEPTEMBER BREAKFAST

A VCARC Breakfast is planned for Saturday September 19, 2026, 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 SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

The VCARC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday September 9, starting at 6:00 PM local time Via Zoom.

This is an open Board Meeting, and all VCARC Members and Guests are welcome to attend. We value everyone's thoughts and ideas for 2026!



VCARC AUGUST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

August 12, 2026, 6:00 PM – The Meeting was called to order by Bob KC9RF.

Treasurers Report (July Ending)

Beginning Balance	\$5655.19
Expenses:	214.20
Membership Dues	40.00
Donations	0.00
Ending Balance	\$5480.99

Old Business

Kirby W8DCD has been in contact with Vilas County regarding future repeater site locations, waiting for feedback. No new updates to report currently.

The Land of Lakes repeater new antenna should be installed within the next few weeks.

New Business and Announcements

Discussions centered around linking the Eagle River and Land of Lakes repeaters. Options included an internet connection (costly at this time). Wires X or Echolink.

Implementing an Echolink connection for the Land of Lakes would be the easiest. Several locations for the Echolink and Wires X equipment were discussed.

RF linking the repeaters is also a good option and continues to be investigated.

Linking both repeaters would provide extended range for both repeaters for central Vilas County

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

September 2026

VCARC NEWS

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

VCARC/ Member Activities	Date(s)
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
January Member Meeting	01/13/26

Silent Key

With sadness we report the passing of Gordon Rush N9GUH on June 13, 2026. Gordon was one of the original Members of the VCARC. Gordon was always passionate about Ham radio.

Gordan served in the Army from February 3, 1945, until November 15, 1946. He then served in the Air Force from November 24, 1948, until May 31, 1967.

After retiring from the military Gordon made his home in Eagle River working as a TV repairman. Gordon enjoyed puttering with electronics. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and snowshoeing.

Our condolences go out to Gordon's family.

Parks On the Air (POTA) Update

It's not too late to get some practice in for the upcoming Wisconsin POTA (WIPOTA) contest. Bob KC9RF and Dave N9DBS are continuing their POTA adventures around the Northern Wisconsin and Upper Peninsula parks. If you would like to join Bob and Dave, please contact Bob KC9RF via rwb1636@gmail.com.

Wisconsin Parks On the Air (Contest)

This year's Wisconsin Parks On the Air (WIPOTA) will be held on Saturday September 19, 2026, from 11 am to 6 pm local time.

The purpose of the WIPOTA contest is to promote public awareness of ham radio within Wisconsin's beautiful state park system.

The objective of WIPOTA is to have competing stations operate from as many Wisconsin parks as possible and work hams in other WI parks, as well as hams not located in a park in any state, province or country.

The WIPOTA contest is sponsored by the Fox Valley Amateur Radio Club. For more information regarding the WIPOTA contest via wipota.com.



VCARC Breakfast Club

VCARC Saturday Breakfast Club met at the Friendship House Restaurant in Eagle River, on August 15, 2026. In attendance were Bob KC9RF, Dave N9DBS Greg N9GJ, Jenni N9GCJ, and Troy KE9AMI.

The VCARC Breakfast Club is a great way to meet and greet other ham radio operators from the area. The Breakfast Club meets monthly every 3rd Saturday morning at 9:00 am.

For more information regarding the VCARC Breakfast Club or to make a reservation please contact RayBob KD9DDE via rmh2992@aol.com.

The Land of Lakes Repeater Is Back on The Air

The VCARC Land of Lakes repeater (145.390) is back on the air with a new Hustler G6-270R 2 meter/ 70 cm dual band antenna. The dual band antenna was selected to provide future repeater operational flexibility.

The antenna upgrade was performed in conjunction with the Land of Lakes water tower maintenance. The Land of Lakes repeater antenna elevation is 160 feet above ground level (AGL). The repeater provides strong coverage for northeastern Vilas County and southern parts of the UP.

A special thanks to Bob KC9RF for coordinating the Lake of Lakes repeater antenna upgrade.



New Hustler G6-270R antenna mounted in place



View from the top of the Land of Lakes water tower

ARRL NEWS

Amateur Radio Supports Wisconsin Tornado Recovery

On July 27, July 30, and August 1, 2026, members of the Green Bay Mike and Key Club, who are also members of the Brown-Kewaunee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), deployed to Winnebago County, Wisconsin, following a tornado that struck on July 27. The tornado hit Appleton and caused severe damage in Menasha, Fox Crossing, and nearby communities, with peak winds estimated at 140 mph and a 12.1-mile path up to 1,500 yards wide.

Pamela Evenson, KDØGPH; Sam Reid, W9SJR, and Sam Martin, KN9SAM, responded to a request from the Winnebago County Emergency Management Office for ARES radio assistance.

When they arrived, team members were paired with other volunteers from Community Emergency Response Teams and local officials to form damage assessment teams assigned to specific areas.

While deployed, Evenson, Reid, and Martin conducted damage assessment operations. There were no deaths and only 60 injuries reported because of this tornado. Amateur radio provided radio communication between team members and the net control station at the volunteer coordination center.

ARISS Receives Challenger-7 Recognition

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, has been honored with the prestigious Challenger-7 Recognition, a national honor celebrating organizations whose work reflects the spirit, vision, and values of the seven crew members of the Space Shuttle Challenger mission STS-51-L.

“This recognition is a tribute, not a competition,” says the Challenger Center. “It honors those who embody the Challenger crew’s values of exploration, learning, and inspiration, while also celebrating trailblazing organizations and programs that will carry this mission forward into the future.”

Nominations from nonprofit STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs that have a national-level impact on STEM learning and other STEM advocates were submitted by members of the broader Challenger Center community, with honorees selected by an appointed committee. The recognitions are part of the Challenger Center’s 40th anniversary celebrations.

"The ARISS team is humbled to receive the Challenger-7 recognition," said ARISS-USA Executive Director and ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. "We thank the Challenger Center community for this honor as well as treasure our long-standing partnership with them."

The outcomes of our ARISS on-board astronaut experiences emulate the exploration and education spirit of the Challenger crew—to engage and educate our next generation of explorers in STEM while giving them the tools and inspiration to prepare them for future STEM careers."

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the International Space Station (ISS). In the United States, participants are ARRL.

The National Association for Amateur Radio®, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT), the ISS National Lab-Space Station Explorers, Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), and NASA's Space communications and Navigation program.

The primary goal of ARISS is to promote exploration of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics topics.

ARISS does this by organizing scheduled contacts via amateur radio between crew members aboard the ISS and students.

Before and during these radio contacts, students, educators, parents, and communities take part in hands-on learning activities tied to space, space technologies, and amateur radio.



ARRL CONTESTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Route 66 100th Anniversary (Special Event)

Sep 5-Sep 6, 1700Z-2100Z, W9SPI, Springfield, IL. Sangamon Valley Radio Club. 7180 khz 14250 khz 21325 khz 28400 khz. QSL. Sangamon Valley Radio Club, PO Box 9162, Springfield, IL 62791-9162. SASE to: Sangamon Valley Radio Club Box 9162, Springfield IL 62791-9162. Primary operating hours are from 17UTC to 21 UTC on both days.

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: September 5-6, 2026.

Contest Period: 0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.

September VHF 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. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada.

Dates: September 12-14, 2026.

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

10 GHz and Above Contest

Contest Objective: For North American amateurs to contact as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in North America on bands from 10-GHz through Light. Amateurs are encouraged to operate from more than one location during this event. See the detailed rules for restrictions.

Dates: September 19-21, 2026.

Contest Period: 0900 UTC Saturday and runs through 0759 UTC Monday. Participation is limited to 42 hours of operating time in each of the two contest weekends.

September 2026

National Mashed Potato Day (Special Event)

Oct 17-Oct 18, 0917Z-1207Z, W9P, Plover, WI.
Central Sands Amateur Radio. 14.320MHz 40m
depending upon band cond. 15M band conditions.
Certificate. Phil Schobert, 300 Polk St, Stevens Point,
WI 54481.

51st Anniversary, Sinking of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald (Special Event)

Nov 1-Nov 14, 0000Z-2359Z, W8F, Livonia, MI.
Livonia Amateur Radio Club. 14.260 7.260 7.050
14.050. Certificate. Electronic Only See QRZ page,
145.350 MHz, Livonia, MI 48151.
<https://livoniaarc.com>.

USS Cobia Veterans Day (Special Event)

Nov 14-Nov 15, 1420Z-1420Z, NB9QV, Manitowoc,
WI. NB9QV Cobia Club. 7.240 14.240. Certificate. E-
certificate only, kc9yl@arrl.net, Manitowoc, WI
54220. Send contact information to kc9yl@arrl.net to
receive PDF certificate via email.
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
Hamfest is a great way to accomplish both.

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

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>.

Copper Country Hamfest

Date: 10/03/2026

Location: KBIC Senior Center
208 Main Ave. Baraga, MI 49908

Sponsor: Copper Country Radio Clubs: KCRA,
CCRAA, BARA.

Hidden Valleys Amateur Radio Club

Date: 10/17/2026

Location: Grant county Fair Grounds, Youth and Ag
Building 916 East Elm Street (County Road A)

Lancaster, WI 53813

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

FCARC Hamfest

Date: 11/08/2026

Location: Sunnyview Exposition Center Parking Lot
500 E. County Rd. Y Oshkosh, WI 54901

Sponsor: Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club W9ZL

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



TECH TALK

ARRL's Simulated Emergency Test

ARRL's Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is October 3 – 4, 2026, 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).

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.



Establishing Relationships

The ARRL has longstanding relationships with several national organizations including the American Red Cross, the National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Salvation Army (among several others). More information on these and other nationally served agencies may be found at www.arrl.org/served-agencies-and-partners/.

Let this year's ARRL Simulated Emergency Test be a chance to reach out to these partners to establish or review plans and develop working relationships.

In consideration of local and section wide schedules and relationships with partners, agencies and many others, ARRL Field Organization Leaders have the option of conducting their local or section wide SET at another time besides the focal-point weekend of October 3 and 4, 2026.

SETs should be conducted no later than the end of the fall season or the calendar year. Check with your local ARRL Field Organization leadership for the exact date or dates of the SET in your area.

To find out how to get involved in this year's SET, please contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager. Check on upcoming planned activities through local, state or section wide nets. Contact your local club or other area clubs to find out who the Emergency Coordinator is and/or when and where the nearest ARES net or NTS net meets and their frequencies. In addition, refer to the ARRL Section Web pages at www.arrl.org/groups/sections. Your ARRL Section Manager can assist, too.

Wisconsin ARES Conference

The 28th annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference is scheduled for October 10, 2026, at the McMillan Memorial Library located at 490 E. Grand Ave. in Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

This is a well-attended and worthwhile event and is held in conjunction with the ARRL Wisconsin State Convention. All are welcome to attend!

The Sponsor of the Conference is WeComm, Ltd., for Wisconsin ARES/RACES. For additional information please contact Myron Oestreich KB9STB via kb9stb@arrl.org or our local ARES/ RACES EC Ray Mark KB9CBL via KB9CBL@yahoo.com.

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. 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. Access can also be requested thru Bob KC9RF at rwb1636@gmail.com.

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.