



# The Wisconsin EC Newsletter



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Wisconsin ARRL/ARES Section Emergency Coordinator, RACES Chief Radio Officer and Editor

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*The WEC Newsletter is sent monthly to all Wisconsin American Radio Relay League Emergency Coordinators. It is intended to provide a forum for ECs to share ideas concerning the organization and training of their respective groups, and as a source of news concerning ARES and RACES activities in the state. Comments, suggestions and articles (finished or in rough form) are solicited from the readers.*

*This newsletter and other important documents are posted on the Wisconsin ARES/RACES web page at:*

<http://wi-aresraces.org>

*in PDF format, shortly after each issue is published.*

**Deadlines:** *The newsletter is mailed between the 15th and the 30th of the month preceding the date shown on the issue. Thus, the February issue is mailed in late January. Articles and notices must reach the editor no later than the 1st of January to be considered for the February issue. Permission is granted to reprint articles from this newsletter provided credit is given as follows: "Reprinted from The Wisconsin Emergency Coordinator Newsletter, KB9ENO, Editor".*

## Traffic Nets Provide Practice

By Dennis Rybicki, K9LGU, Section Traffic Manager

In the event of an emergency, ARES members may be asked to handle all kinds of messages – logistics, support, welfare, etc. Some of those types can most easily be conveyed using ARRL's formal radiogram format. It's easily downloadable from the ARRL web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/fsd218.pdf>. URL too long? Just search for FSD-218. If you'd like a hard copy (yes, it's on card stock) just ask W9IXG or K9LGU and we can mail one to you.

For more information on Wisconsin nets, procedures, and hints on traffic handling, check out the Wisconsin Section page or the Public Service Communications Manual on the ARRL web site.

In Wisconsin, a statewide or large-area emergency would prompt activation of the RACES HF net on 3.996 KHz. (alternate 7.250 KHz.) as a primary net and a special session of the Badger Emergency Net on 3.985 KHz. All the other section nets would meet on schedule and liaison would be maintained with the National Traffic System through the sessions of the Ninth Region Traffic Net. We would handle messages into, out of, and within the state under direction of the net control stations on each net.

So how can we be assured our system will work? How can we prepare operators to handle traffic efficiently? How will we train net control operators? Time will be of the essence. We may not have time to explain ARRL message format or net procedures. Because we don't know where in the state a disaster may strike, we need back-up stations for the back-up stations. We need to build in redundancy so any station could serve as NCS or liaison to another net. How can we prepare? Practice on local and section nets.

Wisconsin has seven daily traffic nets offering training in net procedures and traffic handling every day of the year. Every EC should designate several ARES operators who are able to check into HF nets and handle traffic. These stations can check in to the section nets daily or a few times each week to maintain contact with other traffic handlers, to see how traffic is efficiently passed, and to offer their services in receiving and delivering traffic in their area. ECs can also invite the Section Traffic Manager to come to an ARES meeting and present a program on traffic handling. It's been done for ARES groups in many counties including,

Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Kenosha, Sauk, Sheboygan, Milwaukee, and more. Contact K9LGU to schedule. In the meantime, check in to one of the section nets.

LOCAL TIME	WISCONSIN SECTION NET	MODE	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGER
6 A.M.	BADGER WEATHER NET	SSB	3985 KHz.	W9IXG
NOON	BADGER EMERGENCY NET	SSB	3985 KHz.	KE9VU
5:15 P.M.	WISCONSIN SIDE BAND NET	SSB	3985 KHz.	K9FHI
6:00 P.M.	WISCONSIN NOVICE NET	CW	3723 KHz.	KB9ROB
6:30 P.M.	WISCONSIN SLOW SPEED NET	CW	3645 KHz.	WA9ZTY
7:00 P.M.	WISCONSIN INTRASTATE NET	CW	3662 KHz.	WB9ICH
10:00 P.M.	WISCONSIN INTRASTATE NET	CW	3662 KHz.	W9UW

## **EmComm Courses**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, Wisconsin SEC  
From the ARRL Web Site

June is fast approaching! By the end of June 2004, each EC, DEC and ASEC must have completed EmComm Level I. Levels II and III must be completed by June 30, 2005. These courses are free of charge and fairly easy. Since they are online they can be completed at your leisure as long as you do so in the allowed eight weeks. The bottom line is, they are extremely worthwhile. You are guaranteed to learn something. Below is some information about the courses. This is a good time of the year to complete Level I or the other two levels.



**ARRL Emergency Communications course registration** -- Registration for Level I opens the first Monday of each month at 12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time (0501 UTC) here <http://www.arrl.org/cce/>. For Level II, registration begins the second Monday of each month, and for the Level III Emergency Communications on-line course (EC-003) registration begins the third Monday of each month and remains open through the following weekend or until all available seats have been filled, whichever comes first. Each class usually begins two weeks after registration closes. Thanks to grant sponsors, the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation, the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment is reimbursed after

successful completion of the course. During this registration period, approximately 50 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. Those interested in taking an ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) course in the future can sign up to receive advance notification of registration opportunities. To take advantage, send an e-mail to [prereq@arrl.org](mailto:prereq@arrl.org). On the subject line, indicate the course name or number (eg, EC-00#) and the month you want to start the course. In the message body, provide your name, call sign, and e-mail address. Please do not send inquiries to this mailbox. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) Web page and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager [Dan Miller, K3UFG](#), 860-594-0340.

## **Additional Leadership Changes**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, Wisconsin SEC

Sam Rowe, KG9NG, has accepted my appointment as Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Wisconsin Emergency Management. Sam's ties to the ARES/RACES community are deep. He will be of great assistance as our direct liaison to WEM.

## **Sam Rowe, KG9NG, ASEC for Wisconsin Emergency Management**

By Sam Rowe, KG9NG, ASEC, WEM

My extra is the last of six license classes beginning with novice (WN4OAD) in the early '70s. Even before then I was a regular SWLer and remember listening to hams on North Carolina's outer banks handling traffic during the all too familiar hurricanes. During the Vietnam era, I was a Coast Guard Reservist serving as a radioman in the north Atlantic. My real profession, if I have one, is broadcasting. It was at WTVI, educational television, in Charlotte, that one of my co-workers said "You know the code. Now is the time to finally get your amateur ticket," so I came away with my novice. Soon afterward I moved to Hershey, Pennsylvania's WIFT, which at that time was a production station for NET, later known as PBS. As director of sound services, one major job was building the studio and control portion of a new FM radio station. After Hershey I freelanced for several networks and worked in commercials and feature films. Arriving in Madison shortly after the ice storm of '76, I planned on being here only two weeks. A fall in my house sometime ago resulted in my spinal cord injury. Since the 1980s I have worked at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin first dealing with Television news film and later in the microfilm lab where I am still filming newspapers and developing and duplicating film with new duties for scanning the microfilm for the web and CDs.

While visiting a friend in Oak Ridge, Tennessee I met a friend of her father, Doc, W4ITJ, a long time ham who encouraged me to return to the hobby. Since taking W4ITJ's advice and returning to the fold, I have served as net control for the MARA, INFO and public service nets, been VP of MARA (Madison Area Repeater Association) and FLARC (Flour Lakes Amateur Radio Club), a board member of CRA (Cambridge Repeater Association) and the emergency coordinator (EC) for Dane County ARES and the deputy state radio officer for Wisconsin RACES. I also hold memberships in QCWA & WAR.

Only female friends who are hams are allowed in my living room, which is mostly a ham shack and you can spot my house by the j-pole, Ringo Ranger and inverted V on the roof.

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## **Repeaters and Net Times**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, Wisconsin SEC

One of my goals is to assemble a schedule of county ARES/RACES nets. As we all travel around the state, it would be great if we knew when other counties held their ARES/RACES nets so we could check in, meet and learn from each other. Please send me the time, day and repeater(s) when your net meets. We'll assemble this information into a database and publish it on the Web site for all to see. As you already know, I prefer e-mail [bn Niemuth@new.rr.com](mailto:bn Niemuth@new.rr.com), but you can also mail the information to me at W8088 Hillcrest Court, Hortonville, WI 54944. NTS traffic works as well! Thanks in advance.

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## **Membership Administration**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, Wisconsin SEC

We are fortunate to have combined ARES/RACES organizations in Wisconsin. This combination will make the switchover seamless when we have to change from an ARES service to a RACES service. In order for this transition to be as seamless as possible we need to have an up-to-date state roster. The means the county rosters are up-to-date. In order for this to occur this needs to be as easy for you to maintain as possible. We'll be modifying this process over the next several months, but for now, you may get your updates to me in any written form you would like. I prefer e-mail, but will accept fax, or regular mail. Once I receive your update, it will be sent to Jeff Schmeichel, KB9BYP, ASEC for Administration, who will update the database and, preferably, e-mail your county roster back to you. If you require it to be sent via regular mail, Jeff will do that as well. We are working on developing an electronic form to make this easier for you, but from now until we release the form, please send me the following information when adding a new member:

County	Call Sign	Name	Street
City	State	Zip Code	Home Telephone Number
License Class	Change or a New Member Y/N		

If you are deleting members, just submit a delete list with the member's name and call sign. With the leadership transition, we'll certainly have a couple of bugs to work out with the system, but I am confident you'll find the new process efficient and user-friendly. This is an extremely important aspect of what we do, so you'll find we'll be quite flexible.

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## **ARES Senior Leadership Meeting (ASEC/DEC)**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, Wisconsin SEC

As previously announced, we will have two ARES Senior Leadership meetings each year. One will be immediately following the EC Conference and the other will be in late winter. The first meeting will be held on Saturday, February 28, from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Hereford and Hops in Wausau. Rich Maier, KC9NW, DEC Central Wisconsin, will be our host. Please mark your calendars and watch for additional information via e-mail.

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## **Newsletter Changes**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, Wisconsin SEC

The electronic age has arrived! As previously announced, we are going to make some changes to the EC Newsletter. Beginning with the April 2004 edition, we will be going to an electronic format, meaning the newsletter will no longer be mailed to your home, but available to you via the ARES/RACES Web site. An e-mail will be sent to you each month notifying you the newsletter has been posted to the Web site and is available for your review and printing. This change

will allow your leadership to dedicate more time in posting other informational items of interest to the Web site and getting into the field, meeting and working with you and your teams. We will work with anyone who does not have Internet access or who finds this unworkable. This will be only one of the areas where the Web site will be leveraged and recreated. Our Webmaster Don Adkins, KC9COH, will have more information next month.

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## **ARES RACES NEWS AND RENEWAL**

By Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB, EC Sauk County

*Editor's note: I asked Pete for permission to post this to the Newsletter after he shared it with me. I think it is an appropriate "call to action" letter, which reviews the year and inspires for higher participation and excellence next year! More and more counties are requiring annual renewal for their members.*

The end of another year has come. Well, we made it through another one, ready to start over with renewed energy and purpose. It is a pleasure to review where we have come from, where we are, and where we are going. I will then ask each of you to check your heart and commitment, to see if you want to go ahead with this group to our new adventure, or pursue other goals for the coming year. In the past year we have seen new things; new message forms, new municipal associations, and new members. We have also seen improvements. We have a good, ongoing, relationship with our surrounding counties. Our meetings averaged 8 members, and our net had an average of 14 check-ins.

However, there is room for improvement. We need more interest in outside projects. This is good training and good fun. We need more participation in meetings and nets. Our meetings were attended by only 33% of our members. Our Sunday night net had only 50% of our members. Last, but far from least, only 2 of our members have participated in the E-Com courses. This is free training; all it takes is a little time.

What about 2004? We have 3 outside activities lined up and more to follow. We will be doing fundraising and public relations work. We will have a tax-exempt status for contributions to our group.

The question is, do you want to be part of this? Think about it. We will expect you to make as many training meetings as you can, even if it means some sacrifice. We will expect you to check into the net, even if it means getting off your favorite soft chair. We will expect you to come out for projects whenever possible for you.

You need to let me know if you want to renew your membership. John F Kennedy said it well, "don't ask what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your county".

Only those who contact me will be renewed. Contact me between now and December 25 so I can have the new roster ready for you, and for my superiors at the state level.

Thank you for your service in the past year,

Pete

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## **EC Change**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, Wisconsin SEC

After 20 years as EC for Calumet County, Mike Ortlieb, KN9P, has decided to step down. Special thanks to Mike for all his years of service! Dave Cooley, N9VPZ, is the new Calumet County EC, and will do a great job. Please thank Mike for his service and welcome Dave.