



# 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 published monthly in .pdf format to the Wisconsin ARES/RACES Web site <http://wi-aresraces.org>. 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 Wisconsin ARES and RACES. Comments, suggestions and articles (finished or in rough form) are solicited from the readers.

**Deadlines:** The newsletter is published between the 15th and the 31st of the month preceding the date shown on the issue. Thus, the February issue is published in late January. Articles and notices should reach the editor no later than the January 1 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".

## **ARRL/ARES District Realignment**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

As announced last month, the ARRL/ARES districts will be realigned on May 1, 2004. As a result, our nine districts are reduced to six. This results in the elimination of two DEC (North Central DEC position was not filled), and the movement of several counties. Rich Maier, KC9NW, becomes the DEC for the expanded Northeast District. Thanks to Jeff Rymer, KE9S, for holding the position since 2001. The Northeast District was large; on May 1, it will be huge.

Also leaving the ranks of District Emergency Coordinators is Sam Rowe, KG9NG. Since Sam is also Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for WEM, RACES Deputy Radio Officer, and EC for Dane County, in addition to six or seven other hats, he could not give the position up fast enough! John Kuntz, KB9RYI, will continue as Southwest DEC in the expanded district. We are searching for an assistant for John now.

All of the DECs assume expanded areas and responsibilities. On May 1, I am asking all of the ECs to contact their DEC before contacting me. If your DEC is unable to assist you, then please contact me. The goal with this change of reporting practice is to give the DECs more of a hands-on role and get them to know the ECs in their counties so there can be more ownership and better service and support. It will also allow me to concentrate more on strategic issues and on mutual assistance agreements with my counterparts in Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana and Northern Michigan. There are several exciting initiatives coming from the ARRL, which we need to embrace as well, and I plan on working on them. I will still appoint ECs, but will expect more input from the DECs into those appointments than in the past. I am looking forward to the new configuration, and believe it will be good for our relationship with WEM and local and regional emergency management.

The new Wisconsin ARES Leadership Map is attached.

## **Grant/Crawford County ARES Assistance**

By John Kuntz, KB9RYI, DEC Southwest Wisconsin, EC Grant County

The 229th Engineers unit of the Wisconsin National Guard returned home from deployment in Iraq today, April 8, 2004. The unit is based in Prairie du Chien and in Platteville, Wisconsin. The 229th has been in Iraq for

about 14 months. They were right in the middle of everything that's been going on there, representing the United States of America with the coalition forces as they work and fight to help another country gain its freedom. The 229th Engineers have worked day in and day out for 14 months to restore roads, bridges, buildings, hospitals, schools, local government buildings, and homes. They worked in severe conditions of 140 degree+ temps, to freezing rain. They worked seven days a week, including holidays. Enduring these conditions would be difficult enough but at the same time they were shot at, bombed, and subject to incoming mortar and rocket fire. Through all this the 229th Engineering unit preformed their mission without faltering. The 229th had a mission and completed it under the most severe conditions imaginable. Through blinding sandstorms and freezing rain and engaged in combat with the enemy, all at the same time. The 229th preformed their mission with professionalism and we are proud of the excellent way they represented the Wisconsin National Guard and the United States. I want to take this time to say THANK YOU to the members of the 229th Engineer unit and Welcome Home! We are proud of you all.

When we heard they were coming home, Hap, KC9BGA, asked if we could set up a radio net for their return to let the families waiting at the armory know where they were as they traveled from Fort McCoy. I thought this was a great idea, so we started planning how to actually do it. I contacted Nikki Wetter, the contact person for the Prairie du Chien unit, and the dependants to secure permission from the Guard unit. Permission was granted and the planning began. After several meetings, dozens of emails and phone calls, and surveying the armories for antenna locations, we had a plan.

Today was the day the plan came together, April 8, 2004. Hap, KC9BGA, set up a station at the Platteville armory, Roy, N9NUZ, and Larry, KC9CSQ, were mobile reporting the progress of the Platteville unit as they traveled home. I set up a station at the armory in Prairie du Chien, Jim, KC9CSS, Char, KC9DEI, Bradley, KC9EJP, and Britney were mobile, reporting the location of the Prairie du Chien unit as they traveled from Fort McCoy home. Art, N9KQ, was net control for both nets, part of the time operating on the same frequency. Thanks Art!

It was great to hear about all the people, flags, signs, fire departments and police units that were escorting them as they made their way home. It was great to be a part of the reunion of soldiers and their families and friends. It was really an awesome experience!

I would like to thank the 229th Wisconsin National Guard for allowing us to be a part of the Welcome Home celebration, and for providing a great location to set up our radio equipment. I also want to thank Art, N9KQ, Hap, KC9BGA, Roy, N9NUZ, Larry, KC9CSQ, Jim, KC9CSS, Char, KC9DEI, Bradley, KC9EJP, and Britney for all the help making the 229th Welcome Home Net a wonderful success. THANK YOU!

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## **Getting to Know Your County Emergency Management Coordinator**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

Over the past several months we have had a few instances where various ARES/RACES representatives have talked with county emergency managers who did not know their county ARES Emergency Coordinator. Since Emergency Management is our second most-served client, it is critical these individuals know their Emergency Coordinator. If you have not met with your county Emergency Management Coordinator within the past six months, schedule a 45-minute meeting with him/her and ensure he/she knows who you are. Business cards are great way to professionally introduce yourself. They don't have to be fancy and can be made and printed using most home computers. A 45-minute meeting can help open doors and when the EM hears your name at least he/she will recognize it.

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## **Leadership Changes**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

We have all kinds of leadership changes this month! It has been faster and furious with at least three more counties upcoming!

Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV, has accepted my offer to become Assistant Section Emergency coordinator for Marketing and Recruiting. Jeananne's efforts will be dedicated to marketing ARES/RACES to our current customers and potential new customers. The recruiting part will concentrate on recruiting new people to ARES/RACES, many of who are not currently ham radio operators, but individuals who want to serve the public in a special way. These two initiatives will be new to ARES/RACES. If Jeananne calls on you to assist her, please do so.

Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, has decided to retire as West Central District Emergency Coordinator and LaCrosse County EC, and concentrate on the EC role for the LaCrosse National Weather Service Office, a position he has informally held since 1996. I appointed Tom to the position in April, and he will continue in that role. Mark Smick, N9UNW, assumes the West Central District Emergency Coordinator position. We are currently accepting applications for the LaCrosse County EC position, which will be filled soon.

Mark Smick, N9UNW, decided to step down as Pepin County EC and recommended Stephen Fisher, WB9NTO, for the position. I am happy to say Stephen accepted and has been appointed Pepin County EC. Welcome Steve! I am sure Mark is glad to be down to only one county, and will continue as Buffalo County EC. In addition, Mark volunteered to become the West Central DEC, so his reprieve was short lived. Thanks Mark!

Mike Melnik, N9PMO, has decided to step down as EC for Racine County. Thanks for your efforts Mike! John Rusfeldt, KA9RZL, has been appointed EC, replacing Mike. They are in the process of transitioning now. You may recognize John as former Racine County EC. He is back for more! Welcome back John!

Jim Staatz, KG9RA, resigns as Chippewa County EC effective May 1, to concentrate on Eau Claire County. Ron Anderson, W9RMA, has agreed to assume the Chippewa County EC post. Please welcome Ron when you hear him.

Dan Williams, KB9VLG, has resigned as EC for both Waupaca and Waushara Counties. Dan was one of the first ECs to embrace the idea of recruiting service-minded people to ARES; people who were not previously ham radio operators. Dan worked with local volunteer examiner groups to offer exam opportunities for these folks. We'll miss Dan. Gilbert Van Raalte, KC9FGH, has been appointed EC for Waushara County, and will coordinate the group from his home in Coloma. Additionally, Tom Meronek, KB9PQD, has been appointed as EC for Waupaca County. Tom has been a long-time AEC for Dan Williams, and I am confident the Waupaca County team will not skip a beat. Welcome Tom and Gil!

Keith Lodahl, KB9NUM, becomes the ARES Public Information Officer, or PIO. This is a new position for ARES and Keith will work with Don Michalski, W9IXG, and me to define it. If you don't know Keith, he is from Mayville, in Dodge County, and is well qualified for the position. This position will be valuable during disasters in working with Wisconsin Emergency Management because I plan on being at the disaster site, and Sam Rowe, KG9NG, and Mack Brophy, N9NTB, will manage the operations at WEM, unless my presence is required in the EOC. Say Hi to Keith when you hear him.

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## **Weather Spotter Training in Western Central Wisconsin**

By Jim Staatz, KG9RA, EC Eau Claire County

**125** people attended the **National Weather Service Advanced Weather Spotter Training** held on April 19, 2004 at Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire, WI. The training was hosted by Chippewa Valley ARES/RACES.

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## **Meet Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Recruiting and Marketing**

By Jeananne!

I am looking forward to the challenge of my appointment as ASEC for Recruiting and Marketing, and can't wait to get started! Let me begin with some information about myself. When I first opened the study guide for amateur radio ten years ago, it wasn't for me; I was helping my husband study for his exam. However, when I began reading the book, I was hooked! I used to listen to amateur radio and short wave radio, sitting on my father's lap. I was so young that I wasn't allowed to touch anything but I remember the excitement when something came out of the speakers. I felt that same excitement when I began studying for my license.

Once I got my Technician license, I became a member of ARES and participated in numerous public service events and training as a result. I was AEC for a little over a year and during that time, coordinated the "Y2K" coverage for Milwaukee County on New Year's Eve 2000. Although we'd been participating in exercises for a long time, this was the first official activation of Milwaukee County ARES since I became a member. Deploying teams to fifteen "911 centers" and to other locations was a huge undertaking! Soon after, I was appointed EC for Milwaukee County and held that post for just over four years.

I've lived in Milwaukee County all my life. I am married to my closest friend, Gary (N9UUR). I work at Marquette University as the executive administrative assistant to the vice president for the Division of Student Affairs. There, we oversee just about everything that affects our students outside of the classroom. My days are always diverse and rarely quiet. In my spare time, I enjoy contesting, and live for field days and DXpeditions. My favorite band to operate is 6 meters. Other interests include traveling, reading and stamp collecting.

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### **Wisconsin RACES/ARES Net**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

It is time for a reminder about this net! The Wisconsin RACES/ARES net takes place each Sunday morning at 7:45 a.m. on 3.996 KHz primary, or 7.250 KHz secondary. This is your opportunity to hear what is going on around the state and tell others what is going on in your county. We also have periodic training exercises. Check-ins average 25, but we need more. Richard Polivka, N6NKO, is the net manager, and the net is open to handling NTS traffic. During state disasters, I'll be monitoring these frequencies, along with others, if we need to commence a net, or if affected counties need resources. We'll look forward to your check-in!

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**Wisconsin ARES Leadership Map**  
 Including districts and counties  
 ARRL Districts Realigned May 2004

Last Updated: May 1, 2004

