



# 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".*

## **ARES Leadership Changes**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

Roger Reader, KA9BKK, has taken over as Emergency Coordinator for LaCrosse County after the resignation of Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ. Thanks Tom for your long service. Tom continues as EC for LaCrosse National Weather Service. Roger is working with Mark Smick, N9UNW, West Central Wisconsin DEC, to advance the LaCrosse County group. Please welcome Roger when you hear or see him.

John Wagner, KB9ULF, is now Emergency Coordinator for Dunn County. John takes over for Andrew Wagner, KB9TAC, who had to step down after moving from the area. Thanks to Andrew for his years as EC. John is going to work closely with the surrounding ECs to share resources and develop a small, but effective group. Thanks for taking the reigns, John!

Don Adkins, KC9COH, stepped down as Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARES/RACES Web site in May. Don created our fantastic Web site and we are indebted to him. He has done fantastic work in support of Wisconsin ARES/RACES, for which I am extremely grateful. We'll miss Don.

Assuming Don's role as ARES/RACES Webmaster is Todd Dorschner, N9MY. Todd is a young ham who has already done wonderful work in furthering the service. Todd becomes ARES/RACES Webmaster, which is equivalent to an EC position. Todd and I will share responsibility for Web site maintenance, with Todd doing all of the redesign and difficult work. With me posting directly to the site, it will save time, effort and energy and provide a quicker turnaround time. Please join me in welcoming Todd!

Richard Polivka, N6NKO, has decided to step down as ARES/RACES HF Net Manager. Under Richard's leadership, the ARES/RACES HF Net has grown from one with little organization to a highly organized and valuable net furthering the service. With the integration of ARES/RACES and NTS, this net will continue to become more important to the function of emergency communications in Wisconsin, and beyond. Thanks to Richard for his hard work and dedication. Richard's replacement will be named soon.

## **Marinette County ARES Provides Search and Rescue Comm**

### **Assistance**

By Bill Becks, WA8WG, EC Marinette County

Editors Note: The following is Bill's report from the search and rescue operation their ARES group helped with. It exemplifies the type of work ARES can do.

A joint team consisting of Marinette and Oconto County ARES/RACES members joined the search effort on Saturday for a 39-year old Porterfield Township woman missing since last October and presumed deceased here in Marinette County.

Our mission was to provide the communications necessary to coordinate the search activities of the Bay Area Mounted Search and Rescue Team from Menominee County, Michigan who were limited to the use of Garmin Rhino short range GPS/UHF radios. We accomplished this by assigning ARES members to drive into areas adjacent to the riders and equipped them with similar low power radios to maintain contact with the riders using two meters as the backbone to communicate information among search units as well as to and from the command post.

This method worked very well as we were able to keep one or more ARES units in contact with the rider teams at all times to maintain safety, command, and control. Although the body of the missing woman was not recovered during the search, the riders were able to radio in two reports that required deputies of the Marinette County Sheriff Department to investigate with one of them regarding the discovery of criminal activity not related to the target of the search.

This served as an excellent training opportunity for our members having a very positive impact on the importance of reliable radio communications to the members of the Bay Area Mounted Search and Rescue Team as well as leaving a very good impression with officials of the Marinette County Sheriff Department in command of search operations.

Perhaps in the future we'll be called upon directly to assist on a broader scale having established our credibility and demonstrating that amateur radio is a valuable resource.

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### **Flooding Hits Home, Literally!**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin, with contributions from Dan Lenz, KB9IME, DEC East Central Wisconsin, Robin Cleveland, K9MOO, and Greg Ramlow, ADEC East Central Wisconsin

On early Friday morning, June 11, extraordinary weather hit Oshkosh again, but this time it was major flooding as opposed to the severe windstorm on the same date three years earlier. The saturated ground and high rivers and tributaries could not take anymore rain, so the two to three inches of rain on Thursday, June 10 and Friday, June 11, had no place else to go but in the backyards, streets and basements of Oshkosh residents, including Dan Lenz, KB9IME, and his wife Carol, KB9WPH.

I was in Seattle, Washington, when Mack Brophy, N9NTB, WEM Ham Shack Manager, called my cell phone and told me WEM asked for the WEM Ham Shack and for Fond du Lac County ARES/RACES to activate and provide flood reports to WEM. I immediately called Dan Lenz to tell him about the request for service when he told me he had five feet of water in his basement! He explained the situation and the phenomenal flooding taking place. With all of this going on Dan did a stellar job in coordinating the activities of the district. Both Fond du Lac and Winnebago County ARES/RACES groups were activated and provided reports to WEM and the Red Cross. They did a great job under the circumstances. On Saturday, June 12, Winnebago County ARES/RACES provided damage assessment assistance to Winnebago County Emergency Management. These types of activities show the value of ARES/RACES.

Here are some photos of the flooding. Thanks to everyone for their dedicated service!



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## **WinLink 2000**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

You have heard a little about Winlink 2000, and sometime in late July or early August you will be hearing more. What you probably do not know is we already have a Winlink operation in the state. John Springer, KC9JS, of Kenosha County ARES/RACES has been using Winlink for some time as a communications mode to keep in touch with his family, via e-mail, while traveling. I have asked John to become our Winlink 2000 liaison and he happily accepted. So far, John has gotten some great information about the operation of Winlink 2000, and has talked with Winlink 2000 experts and learned more about it. Among Denny Rybicke, K9LGU/STM, John and I, we will be devising a deployment plan for Winlink 2000 for Wisconsin ARES/RACES. I am still unclear about several areas, but am confident John will help fill in the holes. Winlink 2000 deployment will become an ARES/RACES priority during the second half of 2004 and into 2005.

If you want to learn more about Winlink 2000 in the interim, please visit <http://www.winlink.org>. Deployed properly Winlink 2000 will become **THE** standard for advanced digital communications. You might begin thinking about dusting off those TNCs for packet, which will provide the "last mile" of communications. More to follow.

## **Dane County ARES EmComm Hybrid Course – The Graduating Class!**

By Don Michalski, W9IXG, SM Wisconsin



Back row (starting from the left):  
KB9CSW, N9LHR, KB1FMA, N9TWA, W9GOC (instructor), WA9CBR (instructor), KOZYA

Front row (starting from the left):  
AB9FN, W9CWD, KC9FKV, W9IXG

Congratulations Guys!

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## **Wisconsin ARES/RACES Simulated Emergency Test!**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

Please mark your calendars for our SET, which will take place on Saturday, October 16, 2004. It will be the first statewide SET we have run. There will be no surprises, but the SET will be challenging for all. The test label is a misnomer because it is really an exercise designed to make us better and improve areas where required. An overview of the SET will appear in next month's EC Newsletter.

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## **ARES/RACES Leadership Conference – Formerly the EC Conference**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

The 2004 Wisconsin ARES/RACES Leadership Conference will be held in Wausau on Saturday, November 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided with your registration fee. This year's Conference is designed for ARES/RACES leadership, including assistant emergency coordinators. From 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. we will hold an ARES Senior Leadership meeting. Please plan to attend, we are going to have a great time and learn a lot. Additional details will follow next month!