



The Wisconsin EC Newsletter



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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 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

Jim Staatz, KI9H, formerly KG9RA, is the new EC for Rusk County! Jim recently moved to Rusk County from Eau Claire County where he was EC. Thanks for all your work in Eau Claire, Jim, and good luck with developing the Rusk County program! Jim becomes EC for Rusk County where there previously was no EC.

After an extensive search Richard Kelly, W0ZUP, will become the new Eau Claire County EC. Thanks Richard and we look forward to working with you.

Gil Van Raalte, KC9FGH, has resigned as Waushara County EC because of a new job in the Madison area. We are trying to find a replacement for Gil. Good luck in your new position, Gil!

Tom Luetscher, N9MXW, has also stepped down as EC for Columbia County. Thanks for your efforts, Tom. Good luck and good health!

Wayne Burgess, W9YYZ, steps forward as the new Columbia County EC. Wayne will continue building the program and provide the Southwest District with another strong ARES/RACES program!

Simulated Emergency Test

"Takedown Virus"

By Jeff Ramlow, N9WBR, ASEC for Training

We have scheduled the 2004 Statewide Simulated Emergency Test for October 16th, 2004. The exact time of test will be variable based on the district your county falls under. Detailed information about this SET will be mailed out to your District Emergency Coordinators and will be in next month's EC Newsletter.

This year's simulation scenario will be a terrorist attack on the nation's computer infrastructure. As we have seen in 2003, computers control everything from the national power grid to the cell phone hanging on your belt.

The primary focus for this year's SET will be to:

- 1) Attempt to maximize local ham participation.
- 2) Activate all 72 local county nets.
- 3) Activate and identify any district nets.
- 4) Activate the state HF net.
- 5) Use as many communications modes as possible within your county.
- 6) Operate as many stations/repeaters on emergency power as possible.
- 7) Utilize proper NTS formatted messages.

Next year we will run a similar statewide exercise to measure how far we have come in comparison to this year.

Wisconsin Leadership EMCOMM Reminder

By Jeff Ramlow, N9WBR, ASEC for Training

The December 31, 2004, deadline is quickly approaching for all EC's, DEC's, ASEC's and the SEC to successfully complete the EMCOMM Level I course. I am happy to report 91.7 percent of the State/District Emergency Coordinators and 56.7 percent of County Emergency Coordinators have successfully completed at least one of the EMCOMM courses.

With five months left in the year, time is running short for everyone to meet this deadline. If you have any questions regarding EMCOMM courses, please contact me at n9wbr@yahoo.com.

WinLink 2000, Wisconsin Moves Closer

By John Springer, KC9JS, ARES/RACES WinLink 2000 Coordinator, Wisconsin

What is it and what can it do for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery?

Winlink 2000 – What Is It?

The Winlink 2000 network is an Enhanced Digital Messaging System for Amateur Radio. What does this mean? It means that Global High Frequency (HF) and/or V/UHF E-mail are now an option on the Amateur bands.

Earlier this year my wife and I decided we wanted to do a little traveling around the country by auto. Why not, we're both retired; her children are all adults now and on their own, so let's go for it. As we made our plans, I became interested in trying to keep in touch with our friends and family here at home and tried to determine the feasibility of communicating via HF mobile. I figured I could arrange a sked with our Ham Radio friends, but what about our non-Ham friends, and my step kids, of which only one is a ham? I wondered if a normal phone patch over SSB voice would work given that I would be limited to just 100 watts PEP power output from a Yaesu FT-847 and a mobile HamStick antenna.

Enter Winlink 2000

While surfing the ARRL web site, I came across an article entitled, WinLink 2000--Internet E-mail from Anywhere, <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/tis/info/winlink-2000.html> . After reviewing the article, it became apparent this is just what I needed to keep in touch with family and friends. Here was a digital mode (PacTOR), which only required low to medium power and a not-so-perfect antenna system.

After further study, it became apparent the Winlink 2000 system would enhance our ability to handle Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery traffic in conjunction with the NTS. A system could be deployed on site, communicate with members of a team regardless of their location and provide effective, reliable and accurate communications for served agencies. Sound intriguing? Check out these sites.

Links:

<http://www.winlink.org/>

<http://www.airmail2000.com/>

<http://www.airmail2000.com/pprimer.htm>

<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/tis/info/pdf/0206031.pdf>

Organizations Cooperate in Community Service, Complete the Hat Trick!

Submitted by Bernie Hengels (N9YMC), Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club/Secretary

The Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club (FCARC), in conjunction with the Outagamie County ARES and EC Resources, complete three events in a row. Cooperation has allowed three amateur radio groups to get together and offer a complete communications package to Northeast Wisconsin communities. In each of the following events, the EC Resources MCC (Mobile Command Center) was used as the base of operations.

The organizers of the 1st annual Aurora High Cliff Triathlon approached the FCARC to provide race communications for the 52-mile bicycle event after seeing the FCARC folks provide a similar service for the American Cancer Society "Sole Burner" walk/run held earlier this year in Appleton. A high-profile spot near the Ranger's station was secured for the MCC, and the Calumet County Sheriff's command center was located nearby. Through a two-person net control/runner set-up, coupled with 20+ operators on the course, a constant communication link was established. Goodwill with the Sheriff's Department was maintained, with the officers commenting that by having our eyes and ears on the course, a safe event was ensured. In addition to the fixed operators for the event, mobile hams were in the Pace Car and two sag vehicles.

Only six days later on June 26 and 27, these groups united again to work Field Day 2004. Co-event chairs, Stan Piekarczyk (KE6IFC) and Andy Palm (N1KSN) organized an event drawing over 75 operators and guests for this annual 24-hour event. Operating as class 2A, the club(s) partnered in providing a well organized event securing a new high in point totals. In addition to the MCC housing the main HF CW station, a GOTA station was set up drawing some new operators to the world of HF phone contacts.

You would think that after back-to-back events, the operators would want to rest their HTs. Well, not this group! They joined once again in offering a communications package for the City of Neenah at their annual Communityfest celebration. This time chaired by Darlene Hengels (KB9JGW), the use of the MCC was offered by Jeff Schmeichel (KB9BYP) as a base of operations. Darlene secured 14 amateur operators in handling communications for the event, in addition to the 33 community service volunteers handling traffic and other tasks. Eileen McCoy, Director of Parks and Recreation for Neenah commented, "...the radio club was GREAT, they made a big difference." Further testament to the success of the cooperation is that the Mayor of Neenah personally wrote to each of the volunteers to thank them for contributing to a successful event weekend.

Community service events such as these thrive with dedicated people. It looks like these three groups can look forward to working together often in the future!



Andy (N1KSN), Brian (KB9LRD), Bernie (N9YMC), Michael (KB9JGX) and John (N9RJZ) meet with Gloria West, Executive Director of Midwest Sports Events, to map out operator locations for the Triathlon.



Gathering spot of operators and guests for Field Day 2004.



Darlene (KB9JGW) seen handing out volunteer shirts and assignments at Communityfest.

ARES/RACES Leadership Conference – Plover, Wisconsin!

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

The 2004 Wisconsin ARES/RACES Leadership Conference will be held in Plover, not Wausau, as reported in last month's newsletter. It will be held on Saturday, November 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided with your registration fee. We are going to use an online registration process via our Web site. If you want to view the demo you can find it here <http://www.wi-aresraces.org/2004confreg.htm>. I'll send an e-mail to ARES leadership when we are ready to go live. Added to the site will also be the meeting announcement which will be in next month's EC Newsletter. You will also be able to register via regular mail. All ARES leadership, including AECs and other interested parties, will be welcome to attend. 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! Our goal is to reach 100 attendees this year, which is still only about seven percent of our total membership.

Manitowoc ARES/RACES Provides Support After Tornado Hits

By Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, ARES EC/RACES RO, Manitowoc County

Editor's Note: Fred passed this report onto me via e-mail and I thought it was good to share with everyone.

Just a short note to let you all know that our ARES group was called out by the Manitowoc County Red Cross late this afternoon to help with their damage assessment field teams in the Clark Mills area where the tornado touched down. A net was started from the Red Cross Chapter building in Manitowoc and a lot of radio traffic requests were handled between the damage assessment teams(2) and the headquarters' chapter. The net was closed around 8:45pm after the assessment teams returned from the field. The following ARES members participated:

W6BSF(EC) - radio operator for damage assessment team #1 and also net control later on.

KB9YRC(AEC) - radio operator for damage assessment team #2

W9NPX & N4WGK - net control operators from the Red Cross chapter

Excellent communications were provided utilizing our local repeater in helping the Red Cross do their work.