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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

After 26 years as an EC, DEC or SEC, John Leekley, WB9SMM, has decided to step down as Southeast Wisconsin District Emergency Coordinator. John has been an extraordinary contributor to Wisconsin ARES/RACES. We will miss his leadership, but we will be able to continue to leverage his expertise and knowledge of emergency communications. John will remain active in certain areas of Wisconsin ARES/RACES, and will act as a personal advisor to me. Thanks for all of your contributions John!

Gary Payne, N9VE, Walworth County EC, succeeds John as Southeast Wisconsin DEC. Gary has been Walworth County EC and serves as Assistant Section Manager to Don Michalski, W9IXG. Gary has lead the way in the state in developing hybrid EmComm courses in Walworth County and has helped other ECs do the same. Please welcome Gary to his new job!

Gary Oaks, KB9VGD, replaces Gary Payne, N9VE, as Walworth County Emergency Coordinator. Gary has been active in Walworth County and is looking forward to doing his best to continue to push the county's program forward. Welcome to Wisconsin ARES/RACES leadership, Gary!

John Kuntz, KB9RYI, has also decided to step down as Southwest Wisconsin District Emergency Coordinator to concentrate on his EC position for Grant County ARES/RACES. John has lead the Southwest district in fine fashion. We'll miss his interaction and attention to detail. John will continue to do an outstanding job as Grant County EC.

Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB, takes over as Southwest Wisconsin District Emergency Coordinator. Pete has been doing a great job as Sauk and Richland County EC. He has a good knowledge of the Southwest District and knows just about everyone, and everyone knows him. Pete has hit the ground running and has some good ideas for improving the operations and interactivity of the district. Welcome to the senior leadership team, Pete! We are interviewing EC candidates for Sauk and Richland Counties now.

2004 Simulated Emergency Test FAQs

By Jeffery T. Ramlow, N9WBR, ASEC for Training

It is only mid September and we have already been able to use the upcoming 2004 Simulated Emergency Test (Scheduled for Saturday, October 16, 2004) as a learning tool. A number of excellent questions have come up since the announcement of this year's SET and with these questions I feel a number of us have learned some very important things.

What if the County EC is unavailable during the SET?

Obviously, any date we pick for the SET will conflict with someone. In this case the Badger Weather Net is having a meeting at the same time as the SET. Since a number of EC's are attending this meeting it will leave their respective counties without an EC. I look at this as an opportunity, not a stumbling block. Emergencies never happen when it is convenient and this is why we have Assistant ECs in our county leadership positions. AECs need to be able to handle situations like this if/when they arise and by doing so it will make the county organizations stronger.

What if my county ARES/RACES group has no personnel with HF privileges?

This is a very good question! One of the requests during this year's SET is to utilize the Wisconsin ARES/RACES HF net on 3996 KHz. Obviously, if your county has no HF capabilities this will be impossible to do directly. Fortunately, there are a number of avenues open to you, the simplest being the ability to relay your information via a neighboring county that has HF capabilities. There are also other avenues you can explore. This information is critical to your county's emergency plans and should be added if they do not already exist. Pre-arrangements with your neighboring county are also a must so that we are prepared for an actual emergency.

How do I get a hold of my District Emergency Coordinator?

Hopefully, your county EC has had contact with your DEC and he/she has worked out various methods to contact them, whether it is by the Wisconsin ARES/RACES HF Net or a monitored central repeater. This information is also very important in your county's emergency plan. If you do not have an answer to this, you should contact your DEC as soon as possible to discuss your options. DECs should also be proactive and open a line of communications with their county ECs and get them this vital information.

There have been a number of other questions that have been asked which I have not addressed here. Hopefully, with a little research and talking to your DECs and neighboring ECs you will be able to come up with solutions to your questions. If you can't get the answer to your question and/or concern, please feel free to email me at n9wbr@yahoo.com.

The Next Generation of LED Technology

By Jeffery T. Ramlow, N9WBR, ASEC for Training

Have you been looking for a decent flashlight to include in your ARES/RACES emergency kit? I've been very impressed with LED flashlights since they have been coming to market over the past few years. I was totally blown away with a new LED technology that has been recently introduced. More on that in a moment.

Why should you be looking for an LED flashlight for your emergency kit? One of the advantages of them is they tend to use much less battery juice than conventional flashlights. Also, since the main light source is an LED you do not need to put much worry into burned out bulbs. Both of these attributes make LED flashlights a very good option for your emergency kit.

The only problem I have seen with LED flashlights is they do not seem to provide as much light as conventional flashlights. While having a flashlight that doesn't eat through batteries and blow bulbs all of the time may sound like a great idea, if it doesn't produce the necessary light it is very difficult to justify the purchase of one.

My brother came back from the Dayton swap fest with a brand new LED flashlight that recently came onto the market. This unit had a single LED. After hearing this I was very skeptical that it would fulfill my needs, however, after seeing it in action my view of LED flashlights was completely turned around.

This new flashlight was based on a new technology called a Luxeon Star 1 Watt light source, which claims to provide 10-15 times more brightness then a standard 5mm LED. After seeing it first hand I agree with the claim. The Luxeon Star is available through a number of different manufacturers and in a number of different form factors.

You can read more technical information about the Luxeon Star LED at the following web address: http://www.lumileds.com/pdfs/protected/DS23.PDF. There are a large number of flashlight manufacturer's using this technology and a simple Google search for "Luxeon Star" will give you ample purchasing options.

Public Service Communications Opportunity

By Todd Lindert, KB9TWL, EC Jefferson County

WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!

How would you like to put your EMCOMM skills to use?

The Tyranena Brewery in Lake Mills is hosting a bike tour on Saturday, October 2nd. The bike tour will be going through Jefferson, Dodge and Dane Counties. Last year at this time they had 40 registrations and ended up with just over 700; this year they have 200 early registrations so far and plan on capping it at 1000 bicyclists. JefCARES, Jefferson County ARES, has been asked to provide communications for this event.

What we have done for other bike tours and will be doing for this ride also is to have a person (or two) at each rest stop, 1 or 2 net controls, and then other people riding in support vehicles (SAG's) driven by members of the bike club and the Trek Bicycle Company during this event. The ride starts in Lake Mills around 11 or 11:30am and ends around 5 or 5:30pm like it did last year. They have 3 different rides; one is a 25-mile, a 47-mile and a 65-mile ride (or it's a 25K, 47K and 65K, either way it's too much bike riding for me). You can view the DRAFT route at www.oktoberfestbikeride.com.

I'm organizing the communications support for this event and would like to get Dodge County, Dane County, Watertown and Jefferson County ARES members involved. I'm looking for volunteers to staff 4 rest areas, the start/finish line, possibly 8 SAG vehicles and 1 or 2 to act as net control. If you're one of the people at the rest stops, you only need to remain there until the last rider has cleared your rest area, then you are free to go home. You don't have to stay the entire time, but can break it into shifts if you want, but the rest area must be staffed until the last bike comes through. We will probably be using the 145.490- (PL 123.0) repeater in Jefferson for the most part, but if that doesn't cover Astico Park (north end of route) very well then we will need to use the Juneau machine 146.640- (PL 123.0) for that segment. I'd like to use the Cambridge machine 147.360+ (PL 123.0) as a backup repeater if it's available.

If you can help at this event, please let me know as soon as possible what position you can assist at so I can determine where everybody needs to go. You can email me at kb9twl@arrl.net if you need any more information. Please let me know by September 20th at the latest. This is the first time this bike tour has asked for communication support, so I would like to put on a good show.

What a perfect opportunity to test your EMCOMM skills!

Winlink 2000 Team Kickoff Meeting

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

On September 9, 2004, the Wisconsin ARES/RACES Winlink 2000 team met in Madison to discuss the digital system's capabilities for providing another communications resource for our client base.

John Springer, KC9JS, ARES/RACES Winlink 2000 Coordinator, led the group in healthy discussion. We saw a couple of presentations on Winlink 2000 and then talked about what we wanted to accomplish. The following outcomes were part of the meeting:

Outcomes
1. We decided Winlink 2000 is a system worth pursuing and would be extremely beneficial to our served clients, especially those in health care.
2. A pilot project utilizing a PBMO, and Internet and packet links through Telpac and PacLink software programs, for last mile communications is the best way to test and understand the system and how it could best be deployed for Wisconsin ARES/RACES. We are looking for a pilot county now.
3. A model or template of how a system should be deployed will be developed and shared with Wisconsin ARES/RACES leadership. ECs will be the key to deploying this system in Wisconsin, and a simple, easy to follow template will help us implement this network efficiently. A focused strategy will be the key.

It is important to remember this is not a perfect system. There is no perfect system, but this is the best legitimate system for providing redundant and supplemental digital communications available today. The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services is extremely interested in learning more about this system and deploying it to provide redundant communications for their health care network throughout the state. The Department is so interested in this digital network, they are willing to fund equipment purchases in strategic hospitals. John Springer is going to conduct a Winlink 2000 presentation at the ARES Leadership Conference, so this will be your opportunity to learn more about it. The pilot and configuration template will be developed in the fourth quarter of 2004.

The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Winlink 2000 Team follows. Thanks for everyone's contributions thus far.

> **Don Michalski, W9IXG, ARRL Section Manager**
> **Alan Wohlferd, KA9YTY, WEM Warning and Communications Officer**
> **Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, State RACES Chief Radio Officer, ARRL/ARES SEC**
> **Sam Rowe, KG9NG, Deputy State RACES Officer, ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator for WEM**
> **John Springer, KC9JS, WI WinLink 2000 Coordinator**
> **John Leekley, WB9SMM, ARES/RACES Senior Leadership**
> **Dennis Rybicke, K9LGU, WI ARRL Section Traffic Manager**
> **Todd Dorschner, N9MY, WI ARES/RACES Webmaster**
> **Paul Wittkamp, WA9TFG, Dept. of Health and Family Services**
> **James Darrow, KB9MMC, Milwaukee Chapter American Red Cross Communications, Milwaukee/Waukesha ARES Packet, and AMSAT**
> **Mack Brophy, N9NTB, WEM Amateur Radio Liaison/State Hamshack Manager**
> **MSgt David Owen, N9TUU, Dept. of Military Affairs**
> **Tom Pierce, WA9CBR, Dane County AEC**

ARES/RACES Leadership Conference – Plover, Wisconsin!

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

The 2004 Wisconsin ARES/RACES Leadership Conference will be held in Plover, Wisconsin on Saturday, November 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided with your registration fee. Please register online or see the attached announcement and registration form. You will find the registration here http://www.wi-aresraces.org/2004confreg.htm.

We have 43 registrants thus far and still have a long way to go to reach 100. You have less than one month to register. Please register as soon as possible and get the word out to your ARES/RACES teams. We want to make this year's conference the best yet! See you there.

Wisconsin ARES/RACES HF Net

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

Since changing the Wisconsin ARES/RACES net to Sundays at 6:00 p.m. on 3996 KHz, we have had the most check-ins for any three-week period. We are averaging 30 check-ins, but that is still below where we should be for this net. This net is our opportunity to communicate throughout the state and discuss ARES/RACES activities. Since changing the net time, we have seen more ARES leadership participation. This was a significant consideration for changing the net time. There has been a feeling for years, the ARES/RACES HF net was not really an ARES/RACES net. There should be no question in anyone's mind this is now a Wisconsin ARES/RACES activity. If you have not done so already and your license class allows you to check-in, please do so.
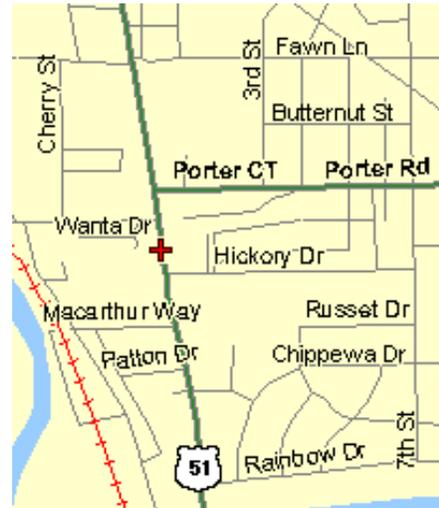
Wisconsin ARES/RACES
Sixth Annual Leadership Conference
Saturday, November 6, 2004, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Spiedini's Restaurant, 1010 Post Road, Plover, WI 54467
(715) 344-0160

Plover is in Portage County, just south of Stevens Point
Talk-in - 146.670 (PL 114.8)

Please join us for the sixth annual ARES/RACES Leadership Conference (formally the EC Conference)! This year's conference is open to all ARES/RACES Leadership, including ECs, AECs and other interested parties. Plover was selected because of its central Wisconsin location. Plover is in Portage County, just south of Stevens Point. Lunch will be served at noon, and will consist of Chicken Parmigiano with Pasta. Cost for the meal will be $10.00, which includes tip and beverage. A vegetarian dish will also be available for those who desire it. You do not need to prepay. Payment will be collected at the restaurant. Your registration is required, however. It needs to be received by October 23, 2004.   Please complete the registration form online at http://www.wi-aresraces.org/2004confreg.htm or on the attached. A registration should be completed for each attendee, including non-ARES/RACES personnel.

This conference will be different than those you have experienced in the past. We will be spending time on ideas to help ARES leadership appointees, and future appointees, be more effective in his/her role. It is important you attend this conference with an open mind and learn as much as possible. We will also have the opportunity for networking, which is extremely important. Take the opportunity to talk with someone you don't know and learn from each other. Tomorrow, you may need to be reliant upon them for emergency communications support.

You might even consider inviting your County Emergency Management Coordinator or your Red Cross Director to this year's Conference. It will be well worthwhile and give you the opportunity to display the strength of Wisconsin ARES/RACES! See you there!

SEC Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO: bniemuth@new.rr.com   920-779-0611
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Please fill out the fields below:

Name:	
Call Sign:	
ARES Position:	
County:	

Menu Item:	Standard: ☐	Vegetarian:☐	No Meal:☐

October 2004 Simulated Emergency Test
"TakeDown Virus"

1. Purpose
   This Simulated Emergency Test is designed to test the readiness of the ARRL Wisconsin ARES/RACES Section to handle emergency communications during a communications blackout.

2. Exercise Date
   Saturday October 16, 2004 1000 Hrs to 1300 Hrs CST

3. Goal
   To test the strengths and weaknesses of the Wisconsin Section ARES/RACES system under a communications blackout and to identify improvements needed on the local, district and state level.

4. Objectives
   a. Maximize ARES/RACES participation.
   b. Activate all 72 local county nets.
   c. Activate and identify district nets.
   d. Activate ARES/RACES HF net.
   e. Use as many modes as possible, including but not limited to: VHF, UHF, Packet, APRS, ATV, SSTV, PacTOR, PSK31, Winlink 2000, etc.
   f. Operate as many stations as possible on emergency power.

5. Scenario
   National terrorism has taken on a more technical face. A computer virus has been created to cause as much disruption to national communications and computer equipment as possible. As a result, the virus has effectively shut down the following: The power grid, cellular and PCS systems, telephone systems, the internet, state and local police computer systems, and commercial communications systems. Basically, if it is networked, it's been taken out. Amateur Radio remains the only visible communications resource.

   Only repeaters and digipeaters operating on emergency power can be used. You do not have to physically cut power to these systems unless you wish to test them. Participating stations should operate on emergency power if they have the capability. Remember, participation is our goal! If you must use commercial power, this is acceptable in order to increase participation in the exercise; however, stations with emergency power should use it.

6. General Instructions

   All stations should check in with their respective County nets during the SET. Please remember that any existing District nets, as well as statewide nets, primary purpose is to coordinate communications between the counties and the state.

   Use portable and mobile communications where possible at shelters, etc.

   Utilize and experiment with different modes of communications.

   For the purposes of this SET, we will assume most personal computers are not affected. Use of personal computers to communicate over the Internet will not function. Repeater links utilizing the Internet will also be down.

   Use established emergency communication and frequency plans. The ARES/RACES HF net will be on 3996 KHz, the Badger Emergency net will be active on 3.985, and be the NTS message traffic outlet.

   Use the "Simulated Emergency Test" designation in each and every message. Identify tactical communications as Drills or Tests as often as possible.

   Attempt intra-county communications and log successful attempts. You must also log local participation as well.

   Each EC or AEC should send to his/her District Emergency Coordinator at least:
   a)   One formal message announcing the startup of their local emergency net.
   b)   One formal message announcing the closing of their local emergency net.

The scenario provided here is a basic outline, provided statewide. Each county should expand this scenario and use other available resources. Two of the important goals are to have fun and be creative with this exercise.

Each EC or AEC should submit the following information so we can review participation on a statewide level:

1)   County Name
2)   Time of Net Activation
3)   Number of Check-ins
4)   Time of Net Deactivation
5)   Provide a description of the customized testing scenarios done in your county
6)   Any additional information such as:
a.   Testing of repeaters on Emergency Power
b.   Activation of mobile command centers
c.   Use of any digital modes (Type & Number of stations)

This information will drive future state SET's. Note that basic information may be posted in the monthly state newsletter and detailed information will be sent to the District Emergency Coordinators. You may email this information to Jeff Ramlow at the following address: n9wbr@yahoo.com. If you do not have access to email within your county ARES group, you may mail your results to Jeff Ramlow, 9231 Lake Emily Rd, Amherst Junction WI 54407.