



The Wisconsin EC Newsletter



Volume 06 Number 12

December 2004

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

Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO
W8088 Hillcrest Court
Hortonville, WI 54944
920-779-0611
920-475-4819 (Mobile)
bniemuth@new.rr.com

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 Darrow, KB9MMC, has been appointed ARES/RACES Digital Coordinator. This position is an extension of the old Packet Coordinator position and is in recognition of the need for ARES/RACES to look beyond packet and consider and implement new technologies and modes. Jim will work closely with John Springer, KC9JS, Winlink 2000 Coordinator, and report to me.

Rich Maier, KC9NW, has been appointed to the position of ARES/RACES Linking Repeater Coordinator. This position will become one of significant importance in 2005. Rich's goal is to help create a statewide voice network utilizing repeaters and all types of links. I have been talking with Rich for a couple months about this opportunity, but the need came to the forefront a few weeks ago when an aurora made 40 and 75 meters useless during our weekly ARES/RACES net. We cannot afford to be without statewide voice communications. If you think we are moving away from HF, think again. It is the most efficient way to communicate over long distances, but a statewide linked repeater system will give us redundancy and another tool for us to use when other modes and parts of the spectrum do not work. We hope to begin some limited testing in January 2005.

I am pleased to announce Bill Becks, WA8WG, will drop the interim from his District Emergency Coordinator title and become the permanent DEC for Northeast Wisconsin. Bill has already begun making good progress in the district and I am looking forward to more good things.

Rick Deering, WB9RJB, has decided to step down as Kewaunee County EC and RACES Radio Officer. Rick has been the RO for 20 years. We wish Rick our best in his new endeavors.

Dan Heinrich, N9JKX, will become the new Kewaunee County EC. Dan will be baptized by fire since the Point Beach Nuclear Power Facility annual exercise is December 7. Welcome aboard Dan!

2004 WI ARES/RACES Leadership Conference

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

On Saturday, November 6, 2004, the Leadership Conference was held in Plover, Wisconsin. We had a record 79 attendees and an enthusiastic group. On hand were ARRL Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG, and Wisconsin Emergency Management Warning Communications Officer Al Wohlferd, KA9YTY. ARES/RACES leadership officials

from around the state were in attendance, including two county emergency management coordinators. We had a great conference and everyone learned and shared a lot of good information.

A chronological overview of the conference follows:

We kicked off with awards. Dan Lenz, KB9IME, DEC East Central Wisconsin, and Mark Smick, N9UNW, DEC West Central Wisconsin, shared the DEC of the Year award.



Mark Smick, DEC of the Year



Dan Lenz, DEC of the Year

Next, Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB, was recognized as EC of the Year for his work as EC for Sauk and Richland Counties. Pete has taken over as DEC for Southwest Wisconsin and has stepped down as Richland County EC, but his dedication and tenacity this year assured him of this award.



Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB, DEC Southwest Wisconsin and EC Sauk County

Occasionally, we have the opportunity to recognize excellence and dedication in special people, and that is what we did with a special recognition award for John Leekley, WB9SMM. John has held EC, DEC and SEC for 26 years before retiring as Southeastern Wisconsin DEC in 2004. John continues to be active in ARES/RACES and is part of the Senior Leadership team as an advisor to me. Congratulations John!



John Leekley, WB9SMM, Distinguished Service Award Winner

After the awards, it was learning time. I gave a presentation on Personal Sensitivity and Conflict Resolution. This area is a challenging one for all of us. Hopefully, it helped provide attendees with some ideas on how to handle difficult situations and people.

Next Denny Rybicke, K9LGU, Section Traffic Manager, gave us an update on how the National Traffic System and ARES work together. He even threw in a quick refresher on traffic handling.



Denny Rybicke, K9LGU, Section Traffic Manager

Jeff Ramlow, N9WBR, Assistant Section Coordinator for Training, provided an overview of this year's Simulated Emergency Test and a peek at next year's test.



Jeff Ramlow, N9WBR, ASEC for Training

Dan Lenz, KB9IME, DEC East Central Wisconsin, introduced our next topic before lunch and then facilitated a discussion about five main issues facing ECs. Districts were seated together to develop rapport and familiarity among the group.



Dan Lenz, KB9IME, DEC East Central Wisconsin

After Dan's talk we heard from Mark Smick, N9UNW, DEC West Central Wisconsin, on WI ARES/RACES Objectives and Mission.



Mark Smick, N9UNW, DEC West Central Wisconsin

Rick Abbott, WX9M, EC Portage County, volunteered to fill in for John Springer, KC9JS, ARES/RACES Winlink 2000 Coordinator, and told us about Winlink 2000. Although we did not have time to go into detail about the technology, Rick provided a good overview. It is important to remember Winlink is another tool or resource we can use to help our clients.



Rick Abbott, EC Portage County

Finally, we wrapped up the conference with Sam Rowe, KG9NG, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Wisconsin Emergency Management, telling us about WEM and its ham shack. Door prizes were also awarded with the help of Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV, ASEC for Marketing and Recruiting. Thanks to everyone for making this conference great! If you missed it, you will have another chance next year. Next year's will be even better!



Sam Rowe, KG9NG, ASEC for WEM



Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV, ASEC for Marketing and Recruiting, and part of the group!

Leadership Conference/Winlink 2000 Update

By John Springer, KC9JS, Winlink 2000 Coordinator

I was not able to attend this year's Leadership Conference held at Plover, Wisconsin because of medical reasons. Hopefully I'll be able to attend next year's conference. I want to thank Rick Abbott, WX9M, for volunteering in my absence and giving the Winlink 2000 Presentation. From the feedback I'm getting he did a superb job. Thanks Rick.

Part 97 of the Federal Registry (Legal Stuff)

I understand there were a couple of legal questions raised during the conference presentations. This is welcomed and is all well and good. I will try to answer them here. You will also find the same answers on the Winlink 2000 web site, [Emergency Communication Page under Guidelines](#).

Q1- What are the legal ramifications of a non-ham-served agency user sending an e-mail through the system (over the air)?

A1- Rick believes this is a non-issue as long as the ham radio hardware (PC-TNC-Radio-Antenna) are assigned to a valid ham licensee/club. It should just fall under the rules that govern unattended packet operations. I tend to agree with him on this.

Third-party traffic is any traffic transmitted over the Amateur bands that is either from or to a non-amateur. In the Western Hemisphere (with a few exceptions) there is no restriction on third-party traffic being passed over amateur radio. Many countries outside of the Western Hemisphere also now permit third-party traffic over amateur radio. Messages between amateurs, even if they originate or are delivered over Internet, are not considered third-party traffic. Third-party traffic only deals with that portion which is transmitted over the radio spectrum.

Since there is no limitation on third-party traffic over Internet itself, messages passed between WL2K participating stations, or a participating station and the Internet are *not* restricted. Only when the message involves a non-amateur and is passed over a radio link is the issue a concern. For example: If a message originates in the U.K. on the Internet but is delivered to a U.S. amateur over the radio from a U.S.-based station no third-party rule is broken even though the U.K. does not allow third-party traffic over amateur

channels. Likewise, a message originating over the radio from a U.S. amateur and passed to a U.S. station is legal even if it is addressed to the Internet address of a nonamateur in the U.K.

Users must make themselves familiar with these third-party rules for the country in which they are operating as well as linking with if they are exchanging messages with nonamateurs. See the [country list](#) for countries known to permit third-party traffic for U.S. stations and their reciprocals.

Q2- What are the legal ramifications of someone sending encrypted files/messages?

A2 - All messages must be in plain language over a publicly posted format. Attachments to messages must be of file types with extensions that can be viewed with commonly available software such as .doc, .rtf, .jpg, .bmp, etc.

The system will not accept executable files from Internet with extensions such as .exe, .com, .vbs, etc. This not only reduces the chance of an encrypted message but also is another protection against an unwanted virus.

Winlink 2000 Future Enhancements

CMBO & Backup will become multiple "CMSs" or Central Message Server

PMBOs will become "RMSs" or Radio Message Server

Less complex RMSs will randomly route to CMSs

Ability to alternate route from Internet to RF only during EmComm.

Telpac: Add HF forwarding.

Paalink: Add HF forwarding.

Additional High-speed protocol.

Wisconsin ARES/RACES Initial Deployment

I envision, at least initially, that NonPublished RMS's (nonpublished outside of the State of Wisconsin) would be located at the Madison WEM EOC with an alternate location at Camp Douglas, Volk Field WEM EOC. Each of the RMS's will have the ability to function as an independent VHF/UHF and HF gateway and packet-to-Internet gateway utilizing WL2K software modules. The RMS's would be updated on a daily bases and linked to the National Winlink 2000 System only when necessary.

Each Wisconsin County or District ARES/RACES Group shall develop their own network, which should have at least one Official Emergency Station (OES) --- two is preferred --- with VHF/UHF and HF digital capabilities utilizing the Winlink 2000 software.

Note, none of this has been cast in stone and the WI ARES/RACES WL2K Team is open to other ideas and suggestions.

WI ARES/RACES Apparel Items Now Available

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

This was a long time in coming, but we finally have Wisconsin ARES/RACES apparel items available via the Web site. http://www.wi-aresraces.org/apparel_ordering.htm. You can go here to browse and find a hat, t-shirt, sweatshirt or polo or dress shirts. We have engaged Createch, Inc. of Kimberly, Wisconsin, to develop our logo and embroider or silkscreen it on the above listed items. Our pricing is contingent upon 72 items of embroidered and silk-screened. Hats are available at the listed pricing if we have an order of 576. I envision general ARES/RACES members being interested in the hats, t-shirts, and perhaps the sweatshirts. Leadership personnel will probably be interested in those items in addition to the polo and dress shirts. Leadership personnel, please share this information with your membership. Because we need to order in bulk, the first order will not be placed until the end of March 2005. All orders and payments need to be received by

March 15, 2005, or your order will not be processed. We will distribute the orders in the most efficient way possible. EC and DEC's may be asked to help with distribution.

Having common apparel provides our group with legitimacy. During tabletops, service events or exercises, if all of our team members have a "uniform" we are recognized and identified as communicators. When I was an EC, we had these chartreuse ARES hats, which were ugly as sin, but everyone knew who we were and what we did. Our apparel is much more professional now, but it will more identifiable than the ugly hats.

Please check out the site and order your merchandise!

Help Wanted!

By Keith Lodahl, KB9NUM, ARRL WI Public Information Officer, ARES PIO

Wisconsin ARES/RACES and Wisconsin Section ARRL are looking for a few people willing to share a great story. Do you know someone willing to become a PIO?

Public Information Officers are an important part of the work of ARES. They provide a link to local and regional media sharing our story. They also deal with requests for information from the press during activation, allowing others to stay at their assignments. PIOs also act as public relations for Amateur Radio, supplying human-interest stories to media outlets informing the public of the human side of our hobby.

Currently, we have less than ten PIOs in Wisconsin, mainly clustered in the south and east parts of the state. Since what we do is mainly of interest to local media outlets we need to have more coverage around the state. The best case would be for each county to have a PIO. We need to start toward this goal with a PIO or two in each ARES district.

What does it take to be a PIO? The main ingredient is the desire to do this work. By the nature of our hobby we are interested in communications. It is a plus to be able to write well, but writing news stories and press releases is a skill that is easily taught. Some time is necessary to get to know the local media people prior to an emergency. PIOs need to be comfortable talking with people, and must be able to stay calm and communicate with non-technical folks when emergencies occur. Wisconsin PIOs need to spend some time each year at a conference/training session to make sure we are ready when needed. They also need to be a member of ARRL.

Does this sound like anyone you know? If so please make sure that they see this article and understand this need. Any interested person can contact me at kb9num@charter.net, or 414-218-0684. Thanks for your interest.

Happy Holidays!

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

We have improved our organization significantly in the past year, and I thank you for that. We have had a lot of changes since I took over for Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR. I know change can be difficult and stressful. I ask everyone in the organization to do a lot and coupled with the changes, I know it is not easy. I am fortunate to have an excellent supporting staff all the way from my assistants to the newest ARES/RACES member. I think our ARES/RACES organization is one of the best in the U.S. because of you and your teams.

My holiday wish is for you to pat yourself on the back and think about and enjoy what you have accomplished this past year. Have a social gathering with your ARES/RACES folks, and tell them you appreciate their hard work. Every group in the state has those dedicated souls who will do anything, anytime, anywhere. They are your core group and you cannot do anything without them. Take those folks aside and extend a special thank you.

Take some downtime and think about what you want to accomplish next year. In the January newsletter I will list the five priorities WI ARES/RACES will pursue in 2005. It will be a busy year and this time next year we will have made more progress.

Most of all, enjoy the holiday season with your friends and family.
