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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

Wally Kruk, N9VAO, has agreed to assume the Wisconsin ARES/RACES Net Manager position. We have changed the net a great deal over the past few months and I am sure it will continue to evolve under Wally's leadership. Please join me in welcoming Wally to this great role.

Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, has decided to retire as Manitowoc County EC. Fred has been instrumental in building the Manitowoc County group into a solid ARES/RACES organization. Fred will continue to be active in the group and continue to serve his community.

Taking over for Fred is **Dan Cole, N9NCU**. Dan is excited to assume the role as Manitowoc County EC. Dan has been involved with the group for a few years and will elevate the program with the support of the folks in Manitowoc County. Welcome Dan! East Central Wisconsin sure has its share of Dan's in leadership positions!

Winlink 2000 Updates

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

John Leekley, WB9SMM, recently donated an SCS-Pro II modem to EC Resources, Ltd., which will be used in a Winlink 2000 pilot project for WI ARES/RACES. **Rick Abbott, WX9M**, EC Portage County, has agreed to set up the first pilot project in the state where this modem will receive its first test.

There are several happenings, which could positively affect the rollout of Winlink 2000. The first, and perhaps the most significant, is the testing of a new communication protocol named SCAMP (Sound Card Amateur Message Protocol). SCAMP appears to have speeds near PACTOR III, as most of you know is a proprietary, patented technology and can only be done via a SCS modem like the one John Leekley donated. These modems work well with robust data rates, but the retail price for the units is about $1,200. If we are to properly roll out Winlink 2000, another, cheaper alternative needs to be found. Hopefully, SCAMP will be that alternative. SCAMP developers have said they would not market it commercially, and it would only be available to the amateur market. This means the technology will be inexpensive to use. Cross your fingers it works!

James Darrow, KB9MMC, WI ARES/RACES Digital Coordinator, will be adding a Telpac node to his node stack, thus laying the groundwork for Winlink implementation in the state. Jim is developing a baseline to determine where the state's ARES/RACES groups are with their packet networks and digital capabilities.

As I said before, Winlink 2000 is not the be-all and end-all, but it is a communication mode WI ARES/RACES will pursue. It is another tool to help us assist our served clients. As new modes, such as SCAMP, appear on the horizon, incorporation into the Winlink 2000 network is critical to its success.

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 shirt. 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. ECs and DECs 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!

COMPUTERS AVAILABLE FOR ARES/RACES USE

By Dr. Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR

Another batch of 40 came in on 22Nov04, and 15 were rebuilt into useful machines. As of now (28Dec) 10 excellent units are available, five having been distributed already.

This last batch was donated to me by Ozaukee County Government for use by Wisconsin ARES/RACES personnel for emergency communications. This means packet, WinLink, PSK-31 or other digital modes, or administration in connection with emergency communications, or training for emergency communications. They are also available to upgrade older, slower machines you may have received from me in the past (but please pass those older machines on to a ham who can use them).

I will distribute these units to ECs and above only, although ECs and DECs are perfectly welcome to request machines for subsequent distribution to a member of their unit. They may be used in EOCs, in ham's homes, or anywhere else that would suit their intended purpose.

All in this batch are Compaq Deskpro or IBM PC 300GL, Pentium II, 400 MHz, with 64 to 128 Mb of RAM. These CPUs are plenty fast for our ham programs. Hard drive sizes vary, but all have adequate free space. Each has a CD-ROM drive, 3½-inch floppy drive and a sound card, as well as the usual serial, parallel and USB ports. Each has been physically cleaned inside and out. The hard drives have been repartitioned and reformatted, and a fresh copy of Windows 2000 has been installed, along with updates. Each comes with a keyboard, mouse and power cord (you supply the monitor). These units are workhorses; each has been tested and should give many years of additional service.

End users should note that two other operating systems are available: 1. Windows 98 Second Edition, along with all security updates through February 2004. 2. Linux, either Fedora, core 2 or SuSe Professional version 9. I will assume

Windows 2000 is the system of choice, unless notified otherwise (with a slight delay in shipment so that I can mount the alternate system).

How can you get one? Send me an email request at skaplan@mcw.edu, and be sure to let me know if you want an operating system other than Windows 2000. I will send units to you via our fine ARES/RACES "Computer Couriers" – **Keith Lodahl, KB9NUM** and **Dave Parker, WB9WHG**. These two hams travel the state for their jobs, and will deliver the computers to you. First come, first served, so fire off that email soon! Any orders not filled will be kept on a list for the next batch that comes in.

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2004 at NWS Green Bay

Reprinted from the Green Bay National Weather Service Web site with the permission of Jeff Last, KC9ESR, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Green Bay National Weather Service Office

Net controllers **Andy Nemec (KB9ALN)** and **Christian Reynolds (KC0ARF)** helped WFO Green Bay celebrate the sixth annual SKYWARN Recognition Day.

Nearly one hundred contacts were made during the event with spotters and other amateur radio operators from northeast Wisconsin, the U.S., and as far away as Brisbane, Australia. Primary modes were phone (2 meter) and IRLP. Tours of the NWS Green Bay office were also conducted during the event.

SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day, amateur radio operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, EC for Green Bay National Weather Service, and Christen Reynolds, KC0ARF

ARES Traffic Workshop

By Bill Becks, WA8WG, DEC Northeast Wisconsin and EC Marinette County

Our debriefing session following participation in this year's 2004 SET revealed a serious weakness in our ability to interface with the National Traffic System, in understanding ARRL message format, and in traffic handling in general.

I am proud to report that 21 members of the Marinette/Oconto ARES Unit attended a traffic workshop held today, Saturday, December 11, 2004 to receive formal training led by **Tom Hellem, K0SN**, AEC for NTS, Marinette County.

Marinette County ARES/RACES NTS Workshop

Success at Last in St. Croix County!

By Dave Kaun, N9KMY, EC St. Croix County

Please find attached a copy of the article, as it appeared this evening in the local paper. What is not said is that the County Emergency Management through Homeland Security is also purchasing a new repeater and the necessary LMR400 for four roof mounted UHF-VHF antenna at the EOC in the government center.

County approves ham radio request

By Doug Stohlberg

The St. Croix County Finance Committee Friday approved a request from a ham radio group to install two antennas and use storage space at the St. Croix County Government Center.

Dave Kaun made the request. He represents the St. Croix County Amateur radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civilian Emergency Service group.

The ham radio operators are part of a network of ham operators across the state who are available to handle emergency communications during a communications blackout caused by a disruption of local, state or national communications systems and/or computers. The group recently ran a statewide test and determined that antennas on the county building could improve the performance of the ham radio system if an emergency arose.

The motion to provide antenna space in two locations and for a filing cabinet in the Government Center passed unanimously.

Doug Stohlberg can be reached at hsoeditor@rivertowns.net.