



# The Wisconsin EC Newsletter

March 2005

Volume 07 Number 03

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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, WD9GNK, Editor".

## **ARES Leadership Changes**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

**Jim Staatz, KI9H**, has stepped back into the Rusk County EC spot. Things are going well with Jim and he decided to continue on and develop the group. Welcome back, Jim!

## **From the Editor**

By Rich Willette, WD9GNK, EC Newsletter Editor

I am looking forward to working with everyone. Hopefully, everything will go along well. I will always be looking for new articles for the Newsletter each month. I was filmed by NBC Channel 12-Rhineland my ham radio shack, talking about ham radio. Also, Larry Melau, W9ZZZ, was filmed and the entire discussion was put together for the evening news broadcast. Larry gave a lot of credit to the work the amateur radio operators do during emergency situations.

## **WI ARES/RACES Apparel – Last Call!**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

If you have not ordered your WI ARES/RACES apparel at our Web site, [http://www.wi-aresraces.org/apparel\\_ordering.htm](http://www.wi-aresraces.org/apparel_ordering.htm), please do so by **Tuesday, March 15**. You can browse the site 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 (each). Hats are available at the listed pricing if we have an order of 576, so get your orders in! 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! There is not much time left. 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.

Please check out the site and order your merchandise!

## **WISCONSIN 2005 STORM SPOTTER TRAINING SCHEDULES**

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South-Central & Southeast Wisconsin Updated: 2/23/05  
 Contact: [rusty.kapela@noaa.gov](mailto:rusty.kapela@noaa.gov)

[2005 HAM RADIO INFO](#)

[SPOTTER MAP](#)

Date	County	Location	Time
March 1	Milwaukee	City of Milwaukee - Red Cross Bldg at 26th and Wisconsin (for HAMS only)	7-815PM
March 2	Milwaukee	Wauwatosa - Carmelite Home for Boys 1214 Kavanaugh	10AM-12PM
March 2	Milwaukee	City of Milwaukee - Hillside Community Center, 1452 N. 7th	2-4PM
March 2	Milwaukee	City of Milwaukee - Milwaukee Fire and Police Academy, 6680 N. Teutonia Ave	7-9PM
March 3	Fond du Lac	City of Fond du Lac - In basement of County Courthouse (for law enforcement officials, firefighters, HAMS and emergency responders only)	630-830PM
March 7	Rock	Janesville - Rock County Job Center on Hwy 51	1-3PM
March 7	Rock	Orfordville - Fire Dept. at 173 North Wright St.	630-830PM
March 8	Milwaukee	Oak Creek Fire Station #3, 7000 S. 6th	2-4PM
March 9	Columbia	Portage - Law Enforcement Center, John Roach room, 711 East Cook	630-830PM
March 10	Sauk	Baraboo - West Square Bldg, 3rd floor county board room	10AM-Noon (Basic) 2-4PM (Advanced)
March 14	Ozaukee	Port Washington - Sheriff Bldg in basement	630-830PM
March 15	Sheboygan	City of Sheboygan - UW Sheboygan Campus - Lecture Hall room 2109 - Large Bldg on southwest side of campus	630-830PM
March 16	Green Lake	Markesan Fire Department	630-830PM
March 17	Dane	Sun Prairie - City Hall, 300 E. Main St.	6-8PM
March 19	Milwaukee	Wauwatosa - Mayfair Shopping Center, lower level Room G110, enter from rear. Hwy 100 & North Ave. (for HAMS only)	7-9PM
March 28	Dane	Monona - Monona Community Center (old city hall), 1011 Nichols Rd.	7-9PM
March 29	Green	Monroe - Blackhawk Tech College on Hwy 69, Room 413-414	1230-230PM
March 29	Green	Broadhead Fire Department	630-830PM
March 30	Iowa	Dodgeville - Courthouse 2nd floor	630-830PM
March 31	Lafayette	Darlington - Courthouse board room	630-830PM
April 7	Washington	West Bend - Sheriff Department on Hwy 33	2-4PM 7-9PM
April 11	Kenosha	Kenosha County Center at Intersection of Hwy 50 & 45	630-830PM(Basic)
April 12	Waukesha	City of Waukesha - County Admin Center on Pewaukee Ave	7-9PM
April 13	Marquette	Montello - Sheriff Bldg	630-830PM
April 14	Walworth	Location and time to be determined	
April 18	Racine	Gateway Tech in Racine, Racine Bldg (For dispatchers only at 3-4PM)	3-4PM (restricted) 630-830PM
April 19	Dodge	Juneau - County Admin Bldg (in city square)	7-9PM
April 20	Jefferson	City of Jefferson - Courthouse	630-830PM
April 25	Kenosha	Kenosha County Center at intersection of Hwy 50 & 45 (Refresher only for dispatch, law enforcement, first responders)	10-11AM 2-3PM
April 25	Kenosha	Kenosha County Center at intersection of Hwy 50 & 45 (Advanced)	630-830PM

April 28	Dane	Madison Red Cross at 4860 Sheboygan Ave, west of mall, in basement	630-830PM

**Statewide Tornado Drill - You need a weather radio to hear this. Drill Day is from 1 to 2 PM.**  
 April 18-22, 2005 is  
[Wisconsin Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week](#)

## **New Wisconsin ARES®/RACES Group Formed**

By Rick Williams, KV9U, Electronic Communications Coordinator

A new discussion group, Wisconsin ARES/RACES EmComm, has been formed on yahoogroups for the discussion of emergency communications.

All modes and techniques that can enhance our ability to provide communications to our served agencies are welcome. This includes everything from CW, digital, image, packet, and voice to the new possibilities of WiFi, WiMax, WinLink 2000, and more.

If it can benefit our ARES/RACES mission, please help us share with other Wisconsin members throughout the state. Broad basic issues can be covered, as well as help with technical issues, so there is something for everyone.

If you don't have a yahoogroups account, go to [www.yahoogroups.com](http://www.yahoogroups.com) and sign up under "New Users."

Once you sign up, or if you already have an account, do a search for "wi-ares" from the search box in the center of the yahoogroups sign-in screen and follow the sign-in procedure to join the group.

We are looking forward to your ideas, suggestions, knowledge and recommendations. Your input is needed to have a successful group.

## **More Good Computers Available**

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR

The last batch of 15 computers now are all spoken for, and the last few will be picked up for delivery this week (14Feb05). Meanwhile, a new batch of 10 has come in, and 8 have been rebuilt and are ready for distribution.

This batch was donated to me by the Medical College of Wisconsin. As always, they are earmarked 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 DECAs 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. Title passes to the recipient ARES/RACES unit.

All in this group are Pentium 500 or 550 MHz, with 64 to 128 MB of RAM. These CPUs are plenty fast for our ham programs. Hard drive sizes vary, but are all around 10 GB, more than enough space. Each has a CD-ROM drive, 3½-inch floppy drive and sound capabilities, 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 Professional has been installed, along with updates. Each comes with a keyboard, mouse and power cord (you supply the monitor) and a set of setup and emergency repair floppies. These units have 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 Professional is the system of choice, unless notified otherwise (with a slight delay in shipment so that I can redo the hard drive with the alternate system).

How can you get one? Send me an email request at [skaplan@mcw.edu](mailto: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.

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## **Grant-sponsored Reimbursement Ending**

By Dan Miller, K3UFG, ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager

Please help us spread the word that our grants are ending this year. **In June, the last seat to be offered** under the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)-sponsored grant will open. After that, only a small number of reimbursable seats in each course will be offered under the United Technologies Corporation (UTC) grant through October.

At this time, no further grant-sponsored reimbursement for EmComm course students is on the horizon. The monthly registration calendar is found online at <http://www.arrl.org/cce/calendar.html>. Registration can be done on-line during the applicable registration window at <https://www.arrl.org/forms/cce/>. As stated at <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>, registration via regular mail is also an option. Please include the course you wish to enroll in, your age group, gender, veteran status, preferred email address, and telephone number.

This has been a very successful program, thanks chiefly to the support and participation of the ARRL Field Organization. We sincerely appreciate your efforts and hope that with your continued support, these grants will conclude on a successful note.

If you have any additional questions, please send them to [cce@arrl.org](mailto:cce@arrl.org) <mailto:cce@arrl.org>.

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## **West Central District EC Quarterly Meeting**

By Mark SmicK, N9UNW, WCW December

U.S. Postal Service employees do not have an exclusive franchise when it comes to getting through and getting the job done.

On likely the heaviest snowfall of the 2004-2005 winter season with accumulations ranging from 6-14 inches accompanied by strong winds, ECs and ARES/RACES members from the West Central District, County Emergency Management Directors, and NWS personnel from Chanhassen, MN, met at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport in Eau Claire.

Weather service personnel met with ARES/RACES members to identify the best locations and coverage of repeaters that the Chanhassen office could contact for their service area in Western Wisconsin for SkyWarn Storm Spotter purposes.

Other items discussed included; establishing a ARES/RACES net for the West Central District which will be held monthly on the first Sunday of each month. Also discussed was keeping rosters updated, recruiting new members, holding multi-county training sessions and sharing training resources.

Fifteen hardy individuals attended the meeting. While traveling to the meeting was a bit challenging, the drive back home was greeted by sunshine, plowed/salted and cleared highways; typical of winter in Wisconsin. The next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting is April 30, 2005; again at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport in Eau Claire. More favorable traveling weather is being predicted/expected.