



# The Wisconsin EC Newsletter

May 2005

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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 WI

After a two-year absence, Clark County again has an Emergency Coordinator! **Jeff Parker, N9UWX**, has been appointed to the position. Jeff brings many years of law enforcement experience to the role. I am sure we will be able to learn a lot from him. Welcome, Jeff!

## **Milwaukee Ride for the Arts Needs Volunteers**

By Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV, ASEC for Marketing and Recruiting, WI

It is that time of the year to call for volunteers.

This year, the Miller Ride for the Arts is celebrating its 25th anniversary on Sunday, June 5th! We need your help in making one of the largest public service events in Southeast Wisconsin a success. Please spread the word that we need communicators.

The ride will be comprised of 5 routes (all starting at the Marcus Center):

1. 5 m route around Veterans Park
2. 25 m route south to Grant Park
3. 15 m route south to St. Francis High School
4. 50 m route north through Mequon
5. 75 m route north to the Allen Edmonds Factory in Port Washington

Last year, in an attempt to guarantee all the amateur radio operators had lunch, volunteers were treated to a special, after-the-event treat of grilled brats and other yummys, compliments of the coordinators. This will be offered again this year near the location of net control. We hope you will be able to attend when your duties are complete.

To sign up, please contact:  
Jeananne Bargholz

n9vsv@wi.rr.com  
Mark Tellier, ab9cd@arrl.net

As in the past, we will try to accommodate requests as best as possible for assignment preferences.

Sincerely,  
The Coordinators of Communications for the 2005 Miller  
Lite Ride for the Arts  
John Kopmeier, N9ZJD  
Mark Tellier, AB9CD  
Gary Bargholz, N9UUR  
Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV

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## **Annual Armed Forces Day Test**

By Skip Sharpe, W9REL, ASEC for Training, WI

Hello Everyone,

From the ARRL website:

The 2005 Armed Forces Day military/amateur cross-band communications test will take place May 14-15. The US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are cosponsoring the annual event in celebration of the 55th anniversary of Armed Forces Day, which is Saturday, May 21. The Armed Forces Day radio event is scheduled a week earlier to avoid conflicts with Dayton Hamvention, May 20-22. The annual Armed Forces Day on-the-air celebration features the traditional military-to-amateur cross-band communications SSB voice test and the Secretary of Defense message-receiving test. QSL cards will be provided to those making contact with the military stations. Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense. Full details, including stations and frequencies, are on the ARRL Web site.

The URL for full information on this event is: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/af-day/AF-Day-2005-SKED.pdf>. This is a most worthy event and I hope you'll participate.

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## **Note of Appreciation**

Provided by Bill Becks, WA9WG, EC Marinette County, DEC NEW

Bill,

Just a quick note to give you a huge thank you for the skywarn notices! We are owners of a trucking and truck repair facility in Wallace, Michigan. One of our drivers is a "Ham Radio" operator, and he called us after being informed of a bad storm, which included bad hail. We got down to our shop and opened all of the hoods on our semi trucks and saved the truck hoods from hail damage. We can't thank you enough!

Sincerely,

Bobby and Brenda Becker  
Custom Truck & Equipment, Inc.

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**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, during times of national and state emergencies, amateur radio operators continue to provide communication resources which are provided at no cost to the Wisconsin taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, there continues to be a need for amateur radio operators to provide emergency communication capabilities as a backup resource during state and national emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, amateur radio operators participate in the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) program as volunteers providing their communications expertise; and

**WHEREAS**, amateur radio clubs throughout the State of Wisconsin, provide radio courses of instruction, encourage and assist with grade school and high school programs about amateur radio, and in the process, enhance student interest in science, geography and physics, thus provide the opportunity to become a licensed amateur radio operator; and

**WHEREAS**, amateur radio operators, participating in SKYWARN provide trained and radio equipped severe weather spotters to assist the National Weather Service and the State of Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, amateur radio organizations such as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) are organized and trained to provide emergency communication support; and

**WHEREAS**, amateur radio organizations such as Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) provide communication support for community and public service events to help ensure the safety of all attendees, participants and observers; and

**WHEREAS**, amateur radio operators test their capability to operate "in the field" using alternate power sources during the June annual Field Day;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim June 25, 2005**

**AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR RECOGNITION DAY**

in the State of Wisconsin. I commend this observance to all citizens.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the this nineteenth day of April in the year two thousand five.

  
JIM DOYLE

By the Governor

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State

## **2005 WI Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, WI SEC

The following received Certificates of Merit for their efforts in staffing the WI ARES/RACES booth at this year's conference:

- Bill Shimer, N9ZXP
- Gary Oaks, KB9VGD
- Dan Thompson, KC9IK
- Bill Hollister, K9WH
- Gary Payne, N9VE

We had a great conference this year with the help of the above Walworth County ARES/RACES members! In addition to the above, also attending included:

- Mark Smick, N9UNW, DEC West Central Wisconsin
- Tom Kurcharski, W9TJK, NWS Liaison
- Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

I am sure plenty of other hams attended as well. We had a good time, made a lot of great contacts and were able to talk with our served customers with the goal of providing them with enhanced service. We are already looking forward to next year's conference!





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## **EmComm Courses & Training Notes**

By Skip Sharpe, W9REL, ASEC for Training, WI

The reimbursement program for the ARRL's Emergency Communications I, II, and III courses will end soon. Most reimbursable classes will end in June. After that, there will be only a few reimbursable seats available and those will dry up in October. I expect a lot of people will be applying for the remaining reimbursable courses. If you want to take an EmComm course, get your application in as soon registration opens. Registration for courses opens at 12:01am ET on the first Monday of each month for EmComm I, the second Monday of each month for EmComm II, and the third Monday of each month for EmComm III. You can register online or by snail mail. Here's the link to go to for full registration details: <https://www.arrl.org/forms/cce/>

I'm the new Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Training, or ASEC. My name is Skip Sharpe and my call is W9REL. I've been a ham since 1972. I'm a retired fire chief and have been interested in emergency communications for many years.

As ASEC, I'm responsible to Bill Niemuth, Section Emergency Coordinator. But, I work for everyone in the Wisconsin ARES organization. My goal, as ASEC, is to increase the credibility of the Wisconsin ARES organization by helping increase the credibility of our training program. There are several objectives to meet on the way to achieving this goal. Among them is a well documented, consistent but flexible, training program

so each ARES member receives the training he or she, needs to become part of a professional communications organization.

Why is that important? As someone who's been a public safety manager, I can confidently say emergency managers don't like surprises. When an emergency happens, managers want three things: 1) life safety, 2) property conservation, and 3) the emergency terminated, period. To accomplish these things, emergency managers rely on a team of players they know, trust, and have confidence in.

In order to earn a place at the emergency management table, ARES needs to be known by, enjoy the confidence of, and be trusted by the emergency management team. These things don't happen overnight and they don't come free of charge. Part of the price of admission is having a trained, competent, and disciplined membership. Developing that membership involves training.

How we go about increasing the credibility of the Wisconsin ARES training program will fill several future articles. For now, know that every member of the Wisconsin ARES organization has an important role to play. I need your help. I'm counting on your support. Stay tuned, there's more, much more, to come.

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## **A Consistent and Flexible Training Program**

By Skip Sharpe, W9REL, ASEC for Training, WI

In the previous newsletter article, I said my goal is to improve the credibility of the ARES training program. One of the objectives on the way to that goal is training program that is consistent throughout Wisconsin, but flexible, so that each Wisconsin district and county emergency coordinator can cover locally important topics. Here is what I mean.

In ARES, the 'rubber meets the road', so to speak, at the local level. By that, I mean most emergencies, weather events, public service and other operations where ARES gets involved, occur locally. But there is more, much more, to ARES than the local organization.

Most of Wisconsin's 72 counties have an ARES program. These are combined into six districts statewide. The districts are part of the Wisconsin ARRL section. Wisconsin, along with Illinois and Indiana, make up the Central ARRL division and so it goes up to the national level.

While most events are local, a larger or longer lasting event may need more communicators than the local organization can provide. In that case, the emergency coordinator calls for help from neighboring counties. In a really big operation, like the Great Midwest Relay for instance, neighboring districts get involved. In huge situations, like the 9-11 disaster or the Florida hurricanes, whole sections, even divisions, are involved. In the language of emergency management, this is 'interoperability'.

A common 'play book' makes interoperability possible. And, it's through training that everyone becomes familiar and comfortable with the 'play book'. Things like the Incident Command System, the National Incident Management System, Highway Watch, EmComm courses, and communications procedures and protocols are part of the 'consistent' part of the training program. These are the things everyone throughout the state needs to know. The 'flexible' parts of the training program are those locally important topics each district and county emergency coordinator needs to include. Things like storm spotter training and local public service events like the Great Circus Parade are in the 'flexible' part of the program.

None of this happens, without everyone's participation. The best training program is worthless unless everyone takes part in it. I need you, and every Wisconsin ARES member, to be part of the process. Help me design and deliver a quality training program. Help us continue to have a great statewide ARES program. Most of all, take part in the program. Thanks in advance for your help and participation.