



The Wisconsin EC Newsletter

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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

Earlier this year, **Walt Gossfeld, N9LLS**, notified me of his desire to retire as Washington County EC. After a long search we finally identified his replacement. **Larry Puza, WB9BVB**, has become the new Washington County EC. We wish Walt well in his retirement and look forward to working with Larry in his new endeavor. Best wishes to you both!

Gerry Thorpe, N9FZH, steps into the Shawano County EC position. Gerry is the second law enforcement officer appointed to an EC position in the past month. He is communications director and wears a number of other hats for the Shawano County Sheriff's Department. Gerry is an incident command trainer, so the group is off to a good start. Welcome Gerry!

I am pleased to announce **Tom Kucharski, W9TJK**, has joined the Executive Leadership team as Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for the National Weather Service. For the time being, Tom will remain EC for Sullivan Weather. We are still identifying Tom's overall responsibilities, but he has worked directly with the Sullivan National Weather Service office since 1989 and brings a wealth of experience to the position. Please join me in congratulating Tom!

MORE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, former SEC WI

While I am temporarily out of standard desktop computers, some items have come in that may be of interest to you. (I never know what will come in the door!)

I have received a number of very nice monitors. These are flat screen CRTs measuring 16 inches diagonally, which means they are 17 inch the way manufacturers calculate things. They all are in excellent shape, and of course, I have tested each to make sure each is operating correctly. They were donated by a business that switched to LCD monitors. I have a few of these left, so this is a good chance to get a decent monitor for your EOC or other emergency communications site. I also have a good supply of spare network cards, if you can use one or two or more.

As usual, I will accept orders from ECs and above only, although ECs and DECAs are perfectly welcome to request items for subsequent distribution to a member of their unit. Items 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. Send your requests for monitors or cards to me at skaplan@mcw.edu, and remember, the request must come from an EC or above, and the items will be delivered to the EC or above. Delivery typically takes a couple of weeks to a month or so, depending on the travel schedule of our ARES/RACES couriers.

The Cottonville Fire

By Rosie Maybee, KB9PZK, EC Adams County

Thursday, May 5, 2005

At 5:45 p.m. I received a call from Adams County Emergency Management requesting our help with communications between the Incident Command Post at the Big Flats Fire Department and Pineland School. I called my people who were able to respond right away. They were:

Barb Maybee, KB9VYY, Logan Maybee, KB9VYZ, John Maybee, KB9PZL, Tabitha Maybee, KB9PZJ.

We met at Pineland School at 6:45 p.m. After setup, Wayne Hembrook, KB9NLQ, came to Pineland and told me he would be available later in the evening.

I let a man call his wife on my cell phone to see if she was ok. He got to talk to her and she brought over his medication. He could not get into the area.

John went home to get our travel trailer to use as our main communication at Pineland School. I went to the Command Post and communicated between both sites. Our communications were critical because some cell phone coverage was poor. People needed medication that was located at the shelter. Messages were being carried out so they would have their needs met. Most of the people at the shelter had pets and they slept outside with them. All the rest of the people found shelter at a friend's homes or at a local motel.

Barb and Logan went home to sleep to be able to return the next day. Wayne stayed with Tabitha for awhile until things quieted down. Wayne went home to sleep to be there the next day. John took over Wayne's position.

The fire was under control at approximately 12:45 a.m. Friday, May 6.

Our communications service secured at 1:00 a.m. Friday, May 6. John, Tabitha and I stayed on site and slept in our communications trailer.

Friday, May 6, 2005

ARES/RACES Members:

John Maybee, KB9PZL, AEC, Barb Maybee, KB9VYY, Logan Maybee, KB9VYZ, Wayne Hembrook, KB9NLQ, and Ross Swinehart, KB9NEL

The Red Cross needed to find out where the Rescue Squad was located to determine their availability and to let dispatch know when they would be there. Red Cross set up teams to do damage assessments of the area.

A Net was called. Barb was net control.

Damage assessment teams left for the fire area. Wayne found a dog that survived the fire. He brought the dog to the shelter and had the Red Cross locate its owner. Both dog and owner reunited and were happy to see each other! Everyone came back to Incident Command and checked out. The Net was closed at 11:40 a.m.

Both days went very well. Four thousand acres burned and 200 people were evacuated. There was no loss of human life.

On the May 8, John, Tabitha and I drove through the damaged area. The fire was very selective on what it burned. Some houses were burned to the ground while their neighbor's house was not touched.

Thank you very much to everyone who was on stand-by for the event!



WEM E-Mail Server Problems

By Mack Brophy, N9NTB, Manager WEM Ham Shack

The WEM e-mail distribution list was corrupted when the WEM e-mail servers crashed Wednesday night. If anyone wants to remain on the list, be added to it or deleted from it, they should send me an e-mail message at: mack.brophy@dma.state.wi.us. They should include their first & last names, their call sign, and their e-mail address. Thanks.

2005 ARES/RACES Leadership Conference

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

The 2005 ARES/RACES Leadership Conference will be held this year on Saturday, October 29, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. This year's conference will be held at Dale's Weston Lanes, 5902 Schofield Avenue, Weston, Wisconsin. We have a room to accommodate 225, which means more space than last year! Please mark your calendars. More information will appear in the July EC Newsletter.

Wes Jones, N9PHS/SK

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

I am sorry to report Wes Jones, N9PHS, EC Burnett, Washburn and Sawyer Counties and DEC Northwest Wisconsin, passed away on Saturday, May 28, 2005. We will tremendously miss Wes. Please keep Wes and his family in your prayers.

We are pursuing Wes's replacements.

Dodge County Grant

By Dale Marks, WB9ADB, EC Dodge County

Dodge County Emergency Management was awarded a \$35,000 grant from FEMA to purchase NOAA All-Hazards Weather alert receivers for placement in schools, special-needs facilities, parks, campgrounds and large public gathering areas. One thousand receivers were purchased.

On May 24, Dodge County ARES, along with numerous members of the Watertown ARES group, attended a "Weather Radio Programming Party" in the basement of the Dodge County Administration Building. Batteries were installed, and all radios were programmed with the Dodge County SAME code. Dodge County Emergency Management provided food and refreshments. Each ARES member was presented with a weather radio in appreciation for their help.



EC Resources Acquires Sayner Repeater System

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI and President, EC Resources, Ltd.

On Sunday, May 15, 2005, EC Resources, Ltd., a nonprofit tax exempt organization created to support ARES/RACES communications, acquired the 145.130 Sayner repeater system. After initial reprogramming, the repeater will be rebuilt in the Fall 2005. The repeater is being made available for Vilas County ARES/RACES and general ham radio use. A future link may be explored to route critical weather information from North Central Wisconsin to the Green Bay National Weather Service.

Special thanks to all who helped with this transaction and to Northway Communications for providing the tower space.

Door County ARES Exercise

By Ken Meyer, K9KJM, EC Door County

Door County had a full scale exercise on May 14, 2005. The EOC was activated from 800 a. m. to 11:00 a.m., but the actual event started much earlier.



From left: Door County Board Chairman Charlie Most Jr., Door County Administrator Jude Genereaux, A Northern Door County Fire Department representative, Door County Emergency Management Director Ann DeMeuse, and Kewaunee County Emergency Management Director Lori Hucek (Both starting to smile as the exercise starts to wind down!) A representative from Wisconsin State Emergency Management is also shown.

The above photo was taken by Ken Meyer, K9KJM, from his vantage point as the main communications "switchboard operator" routing all traffic into the EOC.

Unlike the drill two years ago when ham radio "saved the day" providing communications between the EOC and the emergency staging area, this event used secure phone lines for communications between the EOC and the command post.

Amateur operators got a chance to test VHF/UHF repeater systems communications in and out of the new Sister Bay, WI Fire Station that was used for the EOC.

Ham check-ins included: John McCoy, Jr., KB9QNG; Thomas Ciha, KB9EWK, John Ruck, KB9MLU; Carol Larsen, KA9HFA; Charles Mahnke, K9HXI; William Schaefer, N9STB; John Roff, W9UE; Robert McGrath, K9QL, out of county check-ins from James Pearson, KS8O; Ed Engleman, KG8CX; Pete Johnson, AB9PJ, and James Smith, W4IJR.

Cross-band repeat operation saved the day from the low location of the EOC below the Door County Bluffs. Testing was done on the Sister Bay 147.180, Egg Harbor 146.730 and Door County 147.210 repeaters with full county-wide coverage of communications.

The drill centered on several explosions during a peak tourist day in northern Door County. The National Guard provided a communications truck and troops for security, the U. S. Coast Guard came and cleared the harbor, and the FBI became a prime investigator for the cause of the explosions. Many Door County fire

departments, emergency first responders, Door County Sheriff's Department, Sturgeon Bay Police Department and others took part in this drill that has to be one of the largest ever conducted in Door County.

A Day in Madison

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Last month, a copy of the Wisconsin proclamation declaring June 25, 2005, Amateur Radio Recognition Day was included in this newsletter. As procedure would have it, the formal signing was after the release of the proclamation.

On Friday, May 20, 2005, a number of us got to meet Governor Jim Doyle and witness the official proclamation signing. Governor Doyle had some nice things to say about ham radio and we discussed the communications services we provided.

This was a great experience for those who attended. The message I bring to you is, ham radio is very special. Providing communications support to government and private agencies does not go unnoticed. If the Wisconsin Governor can be impressed and complimentary, anyone can.

Congratulations to all of you and make June 25, 2005, your day to be recognized! Special thanks to Mack Brophy, N9NTB, WEM Hamshack Manager, for submitting the proclamation application!



From left to right: Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, WI SEC, Don Michalski, W9IXG, SM, Governor Jim Doyle, Joe Senulis, N9TWA, Dane County EC, Jim Lattis, K9REO, Sam Rowe, KG9NG, ASEC for WEM, Paulette Quick, WB9VHF.

Fond du Lac County ARES Response

By Andy Martin, KB9ZLL, Member Fond du Lac County ARES/RACES

The Fond du Lac County ARES team was active on Friday May 20th, 2005, due to a large gas leak in the downtown area of the City of Fond du Lac. Approximately 125 residents were evacuated out of a two-block area. Approximately 75 residents were elderly and from a nearby apartment building.

The Fond du Lac Fire Department was paged at approximately 4:45 p.m. to the leak, with ARES members Andrew Martin, KB9ZLL, and Tim Nintzel, KC9DGV, hearing the page over their police scanners. They had a conversation on the 145.430 repeater about the situation. Tim went to the scene as an immediate response for possible need, and I went to the Local American Red Cross chapter to alert them to the leak. At this time, no evacuation had started.

I made contact with the Red Cross alerting them to their possible need, with a "Heads up" phone call being made to their Disaster Action Team (DAT) Leader for their possible activation. At approximately 5:10 p.m. the evacuation of residents began, and at 5:30 p.m. the Red Cross was officially activated by police to set up a shelter at the Covenant United Methodist Church. It was at this time I started an official ARES net.

Several ARES members were on the 145.430 repeater and began activating to the shelter, including Peter Nintzel, KB9ZLK, Mike Miller, KC9DOA, and Aaron Whittaker, KC9GNG. Peter Fox, KB9WZD, responded to the Red Cross to assist net control, and then left with the Red Cross Vehicle they were sending to the shelter. Tim was able to secure a spot at the Fire/Police command post giving us information directly from their Incident Commander and other officers.

Peter rolled with the vehicle and became the field commander at the shelter. At this point, we continued to pass information that included missing person's reports, a request for feeding materials, and a request for foodstuffs. Justin Buell, KB9YET, arrived at the scene around 7:00 p.m. and shadowed the Red Cross Public Relations officer.

Communications became less frequent, and operations moved to assisting Red Cross volunteers at the shelter. NCS's focus turned to logging information correctly, and reviewing information already passed. At approximately 8:30 p.m. residents were allowed back into their homes. A section of buildings were unable to return, however, they were businesses, and no residents were affected.

We closed the net at 9:18 p.m. when the last person from the ARES team reported to the Red Cross for our debriefing. The last Red Cross volunteers returned approximately 15 minutes later.

