



The Wisconsin EC Newsletter

September 2005

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Wisconsin ARRL/ARES Section Emergency Coordinator and EC Newsletter Editor

RACES Chief Radio Officer

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, Bill Niemuth, Editor".

ARES Leadership Changes

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

For the first time in the history of Wisconsin ARES we have an EC for Menominee County! **Micah Eldridge, KC9HWF**, has been appointed Menominee County EC! Micah has worked in the broadcast communications area and data fields for several years. We are very fortunate to have him fill a big hole in Northeast Wisconsin. Welcome, Micah!

I am happy to welcome **Roger Lebakken, AA0KU**, as Burnett County EC! Roger is taking over for **Ed Jacobsen, KB9KJE**, who is stepping down to concentrate on his DEC responsibilities. Roger has been extremely active in Skywarn and NorWesCo RACES for several years. Please join me in welcoming Roger to his leadership position.

Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day

By Don Michalski, W9IXG, WI ARRL SM

AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC AWARENESS DAY EMERGENCY POWER OPERATING EVENT SET FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Amateurs will participate in a 15-hour operating event on emergency power. On that day, amateurs make contacts with others who are also using only emergency power to demonstrate preparedness for emergency communications for the public. Emergency power can be any source that is completely separate from commercial mains: solar panels, generators, storage batteries, alternators powered by bicycles, battery packs in HTs, and wind power, for examples. Operation can be from home or field.

Times: 9 AM Eastern (6 AM Pacific) on Saturday, September 17, 2005, until 12 AM Eastern (9 PM Pacific). All bands and modes included. The exchange is up to the individual operators but can include the traditional signal report, location, and the type of emergency power being used, for examples. W1AW will be QRV on generator power. A special QSL card will be available to those stations using emergency power that contact W1AW. (A regular QSL card will still be available to those stations that wish to contact W1AW, but who are not using emergency power). Please include an SASE with your card request, and please indicate the power source that was used (if applicable).

Walworth County ARES/RACES Update

By Gary Oaks, KB9VGD, EC Walworth County

Editors Note: Gary publishes an excellent county monthly ARES/RACES newsletter. As you can see, he has gotten behind like we all do, but he is still communicating with his folks. For ECs who do not know how to effectively communicate, this is a good example. If you can do a professional newsletter, that is even better, but this should be the baseline. Written communications like this, weekly on-air nets and frequent meetings (monthly, or quarterly) should be all you need regarding communications and training.

Greetings Everyone;

I've gotten way behind on my monthly newsletters and will send current information out in this email.

Walworth Co. ARES

Effective on August 12, 2005, we have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Walworth County! It has been many years in the making and is now complete and signed by myself and Lt. Williams.

I now have on my desk a pager the Sheriff's Department will contact us with and also the set of keys to the Communications Trailer. If Walworth County needs our services they will page us and we will call back to the Dispatch Center to get the details of the assignment. We will also contact Lt. Williams to notify him of our status. The pager and keys will be the responsibility of the WalCo. ARES leadership.

There will NOT be an ARES/RACES meeting this month at the Peoples Bank. The next monthly meeting will be held on September 15 at 7:00 pm and will be held in the Huber Administration Conference room at the Sheriff's Department building. This will be our new home for meetings and training. Any training that needs to be done with the Comm. trailer will be handled also.

Lt. Williams is checking into getting a television set and antenna for the Comm. Trailer. This will allow us to monitor any media coverage at an event we might be working and also allow us to start using ATV (Amateur Television) in our operations.

Upcoming Events

On August 16, next week Tuesday, we will be taking the Comm. Trailer to Whitewater for an exercise with fire departments. We will be patching communications for them and possible Red Cross operations. ALL ARES MEMBERS are asked to attend this operation. We will need to be in operation at 5:30 PM in Whitewater. I will forward more information as I receive it. If you are not an ARES member and would like to be involved in the ARES operations, be sure to attend this exercise and we can get you registered in WalCo. ARES. All Amateur Radio Operators are invited!

More information will be coming by email and on our Monday Night Net at 8:00 PM on the W9ELK repeater in Elkhorn at 146.865 MHz.

Skywarn

Dave - KC9EFS is putting the finishing touches on our Skywarn activation plan and scripts for use during severe weather events. The plan is to have this completed very soon and to hold a surprise drill sometime yet this month. As soon as it is completed I will forward it to everyone. Print it out and keep it handy!

Net Operations

Here we go again - Net operators are NEEDED! We can't run our weekly nets, Skywarn nets, or any other operations without a net operator. PLEASE help out! We will give any training that you need and supply all the net control scripts you may need. Contact me or any of our present net operators. August 1st was a prime example of what happens when there is no NCS available.

Example of a Good Report

By Dan Cole, N9NCU, EC Manitowoc County

Editor's Note: The following report was supplied to me by Dan. Travis Waack, KB9YRC, is a young man who epitomizes the type of folks who should be involved with the Amateur Radio Service. This fall Travis starts a metrology program in Ashland, Wisconsin. East Central Wisconsin's loss is Northwestern Wisconsin's gain.

Hi Guys,

The following stations participated in the SkyWarn net on Aug. 18th:

K9WL
N9QFY
N9JZZ (Spotted mobile for a time due to personal obligations)
AA9LV
KB9VLS
KB9KXF
KB9GRC
KB9YRC

The net began at 9:03 PM and ended at 9:54 PM. During the net no watches or warnings were issued or in effect for Manitowoc County; however severe weather was occurring. There was one tornado, which touched down in the Newton area. This tornado touched down at approximately 9:40 PM and was on the ground for only a brief time. It destroyed half of a barn, a silo, and several farm implements. KB9KXF reported an abrupt 180 degree wind shift minutes before the tornado touched down. This was promptly reported to the National Weather Service at 9:29 PM. I met with National Weather Service personnel as they conducted their damage survey on August 19th and we discussed the wind patterns reported during our net. In addition, N9JZZ estimated a 60 mph wind gust in Mishicot. This was promptly reported to the National Weather Service at 9:40 PM.

This storm complex produced nearly 30 confirmed tornadoes in the afternoon and evening across the southern half of Wisconsin. The average yearly total for tornadoes touchdowns in Wisconsin is 21; this number was topped in just one evening. August 18th will go down in the record books as the largest tornado outbreak the state has ever experienced, breaking the daily total of 24, set in 1988.

The following is the National Weather Service storm survey conducted on August 19th:

ANOTHER SHORT-LIVED TORNADO FORMED NORTH OF NEWTON NEAR INTERSTATE 43 AND HIGHWAY C AROUND 940 PM ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 18, 2005. IT APPEARED TO TOUCH DOWN INITIALLY IN A WOODED AREA NEAR A CONVENIENCE STORE CLOSE TO THE INTERCHANGE. THE TORNADO TRAVELED EAST NORTHEAST CROSSING A CORN FIELD BETWEEN NORTHEIM ROAD AND HIGHWAY LS NEAR THE LAKE MICHIGAN SHORE. WHEN IT CROSSED HIGHWAY LS...IT CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO A FARM NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY LS AND CARSTENS LAKE ROAD. THE TORNADO DESTROYED A CONCRETE SILO...AND PARTIALLY DESTROYED ANOTHER. THE ROOF OF A BARN WAS ALSO NEARLY DESTROYED. PORTIONS OF THE BARN AND SILO WERE FOUND IN TREES NEARLY A THIRD OF A MILE AWAY. SEVERAL HAY WAGONS AND TRAILERS WERE OVERTURNED...AND ABOUT 50 LARGE TREES WERE SNAPPED OR UPROOTED. RESIDENTS REPORTED HEARING A LOUD WHISTLING SOUND BEFORE THE STORM. THE WIDTH OF THE DAMAGE WAS ABOUT 100 YARDS WITH A LENGTH OF ABOUT 1 1/2 MILES. THE DAMAGE SURVEYED APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A TORNADO OF STRENGTH F1... I.E. A TORNADO WITH WINDS OF 73 MPH TO 112 MPH.

Travis, KB9YRC

Dodge County Donates Equipment to WI ARES/RACES

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

On Saturday, August 27, 2005, **Greg Ramlow, KB9SZZ**, Winnebago County EC, **Steve Gasper, KB9IKO**, Waupaca County AEC, and I traveled to Dodge County to pick up a large amount of Motorola two-way radio equipment. **Dale Marks, WB9ADB**, Dodge County EC, facilitated the donation which was endorsed and enthusiastically supported by Mark Fritsche, Dodge County Emergency Management Director. Mark and Dale were able to convince the Dodge County Board to donate this equipment to our organization.

The equipment included several repeaters, duplexers, cavities and a remote base. Winnebago and Iron Counties are the recipients of two of the repeaters. Because this equipment was picked up yesterday, I am trying to determine what we have and how it will be deployed. One repeater will be used in the statewide repeater project.

We graciously thank Dodge County for this donation and think other counties will follow suit. As most of you know, governments are being required to upgrade their equipment to narrow band, which means their current equipment will become surplus. We are interested in pursuing these opportunities wherever they exist.

We will have more information and photos following in future newsletters.

Help Wanted!

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

When I took over as SEC, I said, I would run ARES/RACES like a business. This is another example of that.

With the resignation of **Jeanne Bargholz, N9VSV**, we have an opening for the position of ASEC for Marketing and Recruiting. This is a very important position and one we need to leverage. As a result, I am taking applications to fill this position.

The preferred candidate will:

Be involved and dedicated to ARES/RACES

Have good people skills

Have good presentation skills

Have good writing skills

Have good computer skills

Have past experience in Sales, Human Resources, or Marketing a plus

Have completed at least EmComm Level I

Enthusiastically embrace his/her new responsibilities

If the above describes you or someone you know, please send his/her/your resume to me at bn Niemuth@new.rr.com and express your desire to serve in this position. I will contact you and send an application. I look forward to filling this position by the WI ARES/RACES Leadership Conference on October 29.

Wisconsin ARES/RACES
Seventh Annual Leadership Conference
Saturday, October 29, 2005, 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Dale's Weston Lanes, 5902 Schofield Ave - Weston, WI 54476

<http://westonlanes.2gobowl.com/>

Weston is in Marathon County, just southeast of Wausau
Talk-in – 146.820

Please join us for the seventh annual ARES/RACES Leadership Conference! This year's conference is open to all ARES/RACES Leadership, including ECs, AECs and other interested parties. In addition, we are extending the invitation to EMs, NWS and private disaster relief personnel. Weston was selected because of its central location. Lunch will be a buffet served at noon. Cost for the conference is \$10.00, which includes the meal, tip and beverage. You do not need to prepay. Payment will be collected at the conference. Your registration is required, however. It needs to be received by October 22, 2005. Please complete the registration form online at <http://www.wi-aresraces.org/2005confreg.htm> or on the attached. A registration should be completed for each attendee, including nonARES/RACES personnel.

This conference will be different from the 2004 Conference. We will get back to basics and provide time for more discussion. Executive and senior leadership wants to hear from the leadership to determine what needs to be done to make the organization stronger. It is important you attend this conference with an open mind and learn as much as possible. We will also have the opportunity for networking, which is extremely important. Take the opportunity to talk with someone you don't know and learn from each other. Tomorrow, you may be reliant upon them for emergency communications support.

Please invite your County Emergency Management Coordinator or your Red Cross or Salvation Army's Director to this year's Conference. It will be well worthwhile and give you the opportunity to display the strength of Wisconsin ARES/RACES! See you there!



SEC Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO:

bniemuth@new.rr.com

920-779-0611

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