



# The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Newsletter



Volume 08 Number 04

April 2006

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*The WI ARES/RACES 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 WI ARES/RACES leadership and members 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 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 ARES/RACES Newsletter, Bill Niemuth, Editor".*

## **ARES Leadership and Organizational Changes**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

**Dave Witt, WD9W**, has stepped down as EC after nearly three years in the helm. Thanks for your work, Dave!

Replacing Dave is **Stephen Smith, W9GPI**. Steve was originally from Fond du Lac, but his career took him all over the country. When it came to retirement, Steve decided to return to Fond du Lac and we are glad he did! Look for Steve to be very active in East Central WI.

Because of job pressures, **Wayne Burgess, W9YYZ**, has stepped down as Columbia County EC. Wayne was one of the WI ARES/RACES members who deployed to the Gulf Coast last year in the Katrina support. I am sure he will agree, that was an eye opening disaster response experience! Wayne will continue to be part of the Columbia County team. Thanks Wayne!

Replacing Wayne is **Rick Green, KC9FNM**. Rick will lead an ARES/RACES team, which is one of the most active in the state. Please send your greetings and support to Rick as he gets comfortable in his new position!

Leadership changes continue this month with the retirement of **Sam Rowe, KG9NG**, as ASEC for Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM). I think we burned Sam out when he was an EC, DEC and ASEC! Sam's work demands have intensified and he want to travel a bit more, so that is what prompted his decision. He will still continue to be involved with Dane County ARES/RACES. Thanks to Sam for holding it all together behind the scenes and for backing me up during my first two years as SEC. We'll miss Sam in his roles, but wish him the best!

Replacing Sam as ASEC for WEM is **Joe Senulis, N9TWA**! Joe was our 2005 EC of the Year and steps into the position as equipped to handle it as anyone. Joe has passed all three EmComm courses and is well on his way to completing his NIMS requirements. Joe has a good team under him in Dane County and will be working to identify his successor over the next few months. Please lend your support to Joe when he calls!

**Jim Richardson, K9AAR**, requested to step down as Monroe County EC. Thanks to Jim for getting the Monroe program up running after a long hiatus.

Jim's replacement as Monroe County EC is **Marshall Kiel, KF9SU**. Marshall has spent his career in law enforcement and corrections and should bring a good experience-set of command and control to the team. Welcome Marshall!

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## **Southeast District Names Assistant District Emergency Coordinators**

By Gary Payne, N9VE, SEW DEC

I am pleased to announce that over the past few months three highly qualified individuals have agreed to assist me and the SE WI District as an Assistant District Emergency Coordinator (ADEC).

They are:

- **Jon Gilmore, KB9RHZ** - Ozaukee County EC
- **John Pickhard, AB9KL** - Jefferson County
- **Daniel Thompson, KC9IK** - Walworth County

Please join me in welcoming them to their new positions.

The ADECs will continue to have a primary commitment to their own group in an emergency situation. However, we will be working on a system wherein they can assist me in organizing a District response to other groups who have an emergency situation or other activation.

Thank you Jon, John, and Dan for accepting these positions and your willingness to help the SE WI District, it is much appreciated.

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## **WI ARES/RACES Members Join in St. Croix Valley Radio Amateurs 30-Year Anniversary**

By Dave Kaun, N9KMY, EC St. Croix County, Mark Smick, N9UNW, DEC WCW and Ed Jacobsen, KB9KJE, DEC NWW

Editor's Note: Thanks to Dave, Mark and Ed for attending this event on behalf of WI ARES/RACES. They had a great turn out and it sounds like a good time! Please see the article below.

St. Croix County - On Monday evening, February 20 in Hudson, Wisconsin an exciting event took place. The SCVRA celebrated 30 years with 36 attendees. Today, we are called St. Croix Valley Radio Amateurs but 30 years ago the group was a repeater association. The photo contains many of the active amateurs and their spouses with many who have been active for the entire 30 years. **Jeff Iverson, WB9DAN**, and **Al Murray, K9ZMA**, did a great job of painting the history of the now 147.330/930 repeater.



Jeff dedicated his recollections to **Thorvald C. "Tip" Nelson, W9LQC**, a crotchety and stubborn old Norwegian, the Elmer who just would not give up on the organization and assisted in creating the first repeater in far western Wisconsin. Sometime about 1975, Al, Jeff and **Jim King, K9HDF**, with a number of other hams, did the impossible. They put a two-meter repeater on the water tower in Hudson with the city mayor actually doing the necessary electrical wiring himself.

In 1976, the St. Croix Valley Repeater Association was officially formed. For a \$25 membership fee, a set of crystals for the repeater were provided. The repeater has had a number of different locations and was not always operated on 147.330 MHz, though it is still on the air operating just south of I-94, at the home of **Ken Kraft, K9IKB**.

Thanks to all who made this great repeater possible and for all who joined us for the event. Thanks again to Al and Jeff for the program and to **Connie Klecker, KC9GYM**, for organizing this absolutely great event.

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## **La Crosse National Weather Service Office Holds Seminar**

By Todd Shea, KB9YXS, WCM La Crosse National Weather Service

On Saturday, March 4th, I hosted a meeting of various ham radio club representatives from around the region. We had 32 attend so our little conference room was pushed to the limit, but I think the meeting was very productive. The meeting, which included an office tour, last approximately three hours.

Representatives included the following groups: (divided by state - IA, MN, WI)

- Fayette Co. ARES (Fayette Co., IA)
- Tri-State Amateur Radio Club (Cresco, IA)
- Winneshiek Co. SKYWARN (Frankville, IA)
  
- Houston Co. SKYWARN (La Crescent, MN)
- Rochester Amateur Radio Club (Rochester, MN)
- Wabasha Co. SKYWARN (Wabasha, MN)
- Winona Amateur Radio Club (Winona, MN)
  
- Black River Amateur Radio Assn (Taylor Co., WI)
- Clark Co. SKYWARN (Clark Co., WI)
- Jackson/Trempealeau/Monroe Co. SKYWARN (Eau Claire, WI)
- Juneau Co. Amateur Radio Club (Mauston, WI)
- La Crosse Co. SKYWARN (La Crosse, WI)
- Marquette Co. Amateur Radio (Marquette Co., WI)
- Richland Co. SKYWARN (Richland Co., WI)
- Southwest WI (Grant Co., WI)
- Vernon Co. ARES/RACES (Viroqua, WI)
- Independent Group (Prairie du Chien, WI)

The meeting covered basics about:

- NWS Operations
- NWS La Crosse amateur radio operations
- Spotter activation
- Communication During SKYWARN
- Reporting
- Other misc. topics
- Office Tour

I am hoping those who attended found the meeting useful, shared some ideas, and return to pass the information on to their respective clubs or clubs they routinely work with.

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## **Governor Signs Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Day**

### **Proclamation**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI, with contributions from Don Michalski, W9IXG, SM WI

On Tuesday, March 14, 2006, Governor Doyle signed the 2006 Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Day Proclamation honoring Wisconsin's Amateur Radio Operators on June 24 and 25, 2006. In attendance at this year's signing were:

**Don Michalski, W9IXG, SM WI**  
**Sam Rowe, KG9NG**  
**Carolyn Kammen, KC9HHX**

**Joe Senulis, N9TWA, ASEC for WEM and EC Dane County**  
**Rich Plouffe, N9ROY, EC Sauk County**

Thanks to these folks for taking time out of their day to attend. I was unable to attend this year because of work commitments, but I was honored to be part of the signing last year.

Special thanks for **Mack Brophy, N9NTB**, WEM Hamshack Manager, who always completes the documentation necessary to get the proclamation to the Governor's desk. Mack works behind the scenes and is an extremely strong ally to not just WI ARES/RACES, but to ham radio in general in Wisconsin.



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## **Great Midwest Relay Update**

By Jim Darrow, KB9MMC, ASEC for Digital Communications

On March 27, 2006, a few others and I from Wisconsin ARES/RACES attended a communications meeting for the Great Midwest Relay in Libertyville IL. The race is June 9 and 10. It starts in Madison, WI and ends in Chicago, IL. On the Wisconsin side we are going to try to staff four Van Transfer Areas, the start of the race, and the NCS with a digital station (WinLink 2000). If anyone has any interest please drop me a line at [kb9mmc@arrl.net](mailto:kb9mmc@arrl.net). You don't need to be from the counties the race is going through to participate.

The digital station operator would send out a message when the first three and last runner leave their area. Also, we are sending a spreadsheet (provided by the race officials before the race) every hour with the times that runners leave the area. The spreadsheet should be about 100 entries long. All the digital operators need to do is fill in a time for each team and send the document to the NCS stations and the digital coordinator once an hour.

I'll be assessing VTA locations a couple weeks prior to the race, and each digital operator is being asked to go to that location and send me a message prior to the race. This is a great chance to scope things out a head of time.

## **WI ARES/RACES Apparel Is Back!**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

By popular demand, WI ARES/RACES apparel is again available on the WI ARES/RACES web site. Thanks to **Jeff Schmeichel, KB9BYP**, ASEC for Administration, and **Todd Dorschner, N9MY**, WI ARES/RACES Webmaster, apparel can be purchased on our web site from April 1, 2006 through May 31, 2006, or two months.

Jeff has worked with our vendor, Createch, and Todd has refined the apparel site and ordering process. Some of the prices went up, but the good news is the cost of the more expensive items went down. We also added a patch. You can access the apparel site here [http://www.wi-aresraces.org/2006\\_apparel\\_ordering.htm](http://www.wi-aresraces.org/2006_apparel_ordering.htm).

The apparel is designed to be worn by ARES/RACES leadership and members whenever you are participating in ARES/RACES activities, exercises, events or incidents. This apparel is our standard attire and provides a marketing value our clients and the general public can identify with. The apparel is professional without being over the top.

Please share this information with your ARES/RACES teams and encourage them to order something they can wear to represent the organizations. We will distribute the apparel in as efficient and inexpensive manner as possible.

Remember to order by May 31, 2006!

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## **WI ARES/RACES Issues Training Requirements**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Please see the attached letter, which outlines new training requirements for all WI ARES/RACES members.

### **National Incident Management System (NIMS) Required Training for WI ARES/RACES Personnel** **Issued March 25, 2006**

The table below is the training required by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) for all personnel responding to emergencies or disasters, including paid personnel and volunteers. ARES/RACES members and leadership must complete the appropriate training by December 31, 2006.

This training is generally free and easily achieved. It provides an overview of the Incident Command System and National Incident Management System, which all responders must use.

The following resources will help you and your organizations be compliant with NIMS.

- Your County's Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC)
- FEMA's Emergency Management Institute web site <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/>
- Wisconsin Emergency Management training web site <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/sublink.asp?linksubcat2id=25&linksubcatid=53&linkcatid=79&linkid=30>

If you choose to have your EMC put on the basic training, it can be done in a two-hour ARES/RACES meetings. FEMA's online courses are free and generally well done. WEM courses are free, less mileage and meals, if you have to travel.

Although this training is required, it can be fun to achieve and will make us better emergency and disaster communicators. If you have not used the ICS for public service communications events, doing so will make them function better and be more efficient.

So, make this a fun activity and approach it as a learning opportunity!

<b>Audience</b>	<b>Required Training</b>	<b>ARES/RACES Audience</b>
<p><b>Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Private Sector &amp; Non-governmental personnel to include:</b>  <i>Entry level first responders &amp; disaster workers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Medical Service personnel</li> <li>• Public Works/Utility personnel</li> <li>• Other emergency management response, support, volunteer personnel at all levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction</li> <li>• ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent</li> </ul>	<p>All members and leadership personnel</p>
<p><b>Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Private Sector &amp; Non-governmental personnel to include:</b>  <i>First line supervisors, single resource leaders, field supervisors and other emergency management/response personnel that require a higher level of ICS/NIMS Training.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction</li> <li>• ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent</li> <li>• ICS-200: Basic ICS or equivalent</li> </ul>	<p>First level leadership personnel, including ECs and equivalent</p>
<p><b>Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Private Sector &amp; Non-governmental personnel to include:</b>  <i>Middle management</i> including strike team leaders, taskforce leaders, unit leaders, division/group supervisors, branch directors and multi-agency coordination system/emergency operations center staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction FEMA</li> <li>• IS-800: National Response Plan (NRP), An Introduction*</li> <li>• ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent</li> <li>• ICS-200: Basic ICS or equivalent</li> <li>• <b>ICS-300: Intermediate ICS or equivalent (FY07 Requirement)</b></li> </ul>	<p>Senior leadership to include ASECs and DECAs and equivalent</p>
<p><b>Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Private Sector &amp; Non-governmental personnel to include:</b>  <i>Command and general staff, select department heads with multi-agency coordination system responsibilities, area commanders, emergency managers and multi-agency coordination system/emergency operations center managers.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction</li> <li>• FEMA IS-800: National Response Plan (NRP), An Introduction*</li> <li>• ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent</li> <li>• ICS-200: Basic ICS or equivalent</li> <li>• <b>ICS-300: Intermediate ICS or equivalent (FY07 Requirement)</b></li> <li>• <b>ICS-400: Advanced ICS or equivalent (FY07 Requirement)</b></li> </ul>	<p>Section Emergency Coordinator</p>

Issued By:

William M. Niemuth  
 ARES Section Emergency Coordinator, WI  
 RACES Chief Radio Officer, WI

## **WI ARES/RACES Brochure**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Thanks to **Michael Martens, KB9VBR**, EC Marathon County, WI ARES/RACES has a catching marketing brochure! Michael donated his time to develop the brochure from some rough ideas I had. As you can see, he did a great job! [http://www.wi-aresraces.org/downloads/ares\\_brochure0329.pdf](http://www.wi-aresraces.org/downloads/ares_brochure0329.pdf). The brochure is available for your use. If you would like to save the file and have brochures printed, please do so.

Michael is marketing director for Martech Systems, Inc. They are a software development company which specializes in applications for ticketing and box office management. It is a family business. Additional details can be found at their web site, [www.martechsys.com](http://www.martechsys.com). When you talk with or meet Michael, thank him for his excellent work!

Thanks also to **Jeff Schmeichel, KB9BYP**, ASEC for Administration and his wife **Martha, N9JAD**, for donating the printing costs on the initial 500 brochures. We needed the brochures to fill a short-term need and they stepped it!

In a good cooperative team effort, **Stephen Smith, W9GPI**, EC Fond du Lac County, has contacts with a Los Angeles based mega printer, which has extremely reasonable rates for large printing jobs. We will be having a large number of the brochures printed and available for numerous events.

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## **WeComm, Ltd. Creates A Logo!**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Thanks to **Todd Dorschner, N9MY**, WI ARES/RACES Webmaster, we have a logo for WeComm, which will be used for all organizational marketing and correspondence. We have begun construction of a web site. <http://wecomm.org/>. Please watch for updates.



WECOMM, LTD

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## **WI ARES/RACES 2006 SET**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI with contributions from Skip Sharpe, W9REL, ASEC for Training and Program Director

The 2006 Simulated Emergency Test for WI ARES/RACES will be held on Saturday, October 7. The scenarios will be up to the individual counties and jurisdictions, but this year's SET will feature the testing of the Hospital Bioterrorism plans we have spent the last year working on. Please mark this date on your calendar and look for updates coming from Skip.