



The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Newsletter



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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

An EC change has taken place in Rock County with **Dave Wendt, N9GQ**, replacing **Dave Deiler, KB9JQV**. We thank Dave Deiler for his work over the years as EC and welcome Dave Wendt to WI ARES/RACES leadership!

On February 28, 2006, **Earl Andre, KB9DSV**, stepped down as Oconto County EC. Thanks to Earl for running the Oconto program!

Replacing Earl is **Pete Johnson, Sr., AB9PJ**. Pete is extremely involved with all aspects of ham radio in Northeastern WI and has recently started a non-profit, tax exempt organization designed to fund ham radio communications projects. Please join me in welcoming Pete to WI ARES/RACES leadership!

Bill Becks, WA8WG, has stepped down as Marinette County EC. Thanks to Bill, there is an ARES/RACES presence in Northeastern WI again. Over the past two years, Bill has been instrumental in the redevelopment of activity there. WI ARES/RACES is indebted to his contributions.

Replacing Bill is another Bill. **Bill Peterson, KB9URW**, has assumed the reins as Marinette County EC. Bill was Bill Becks' AEC for a time and comes into the position well trained. Please join me in welcoming Bill!

Rick Abbott, WX9M, found he could not do justice to the Northeast WI DEC position, so he steps down on April 30, 2006. In a short period of time, Rick gained the respect of his ECs and the entire senior leadership team. We are going to miss Rick, but wish him well.

Replacing Rick is **Pete Johnson, Sr., AB9PJ**. Although Pete is new to the leadership of WI ARES/RACES he is well positioned to do a good job and will concentrate on meeting the leadership in his district. Please assist Pete when he calls.

Tri-County Exercise Update

By Rick Plouffe, N9ROY, EC Sauk County

This is a preliminary report of the activity from all participants at the Tri-County Winter Exercise, as gleaned from information received from the ECs involved.

Columbia County had 10 registered members, and one non-registered member, for a total 11.

Juneau County had seven members.

Sauk County had seven registered hams and one non-ham, all registered members present, for total manpower contribution of eight.

Columbia County passed a total of five messages to the Sauk County Command Post.

Juneau County passed one message to the Sauk Command Post.

Sauk County passed seven messages.

We encountered some problems with the passing of messages, however. The most notable was the keeping of a proper paper trail. The forms we use are very basic, and should be fairly easy to understand. The largest problem I see is the use of the received from, and sent to parts of the form. I should be able to follow the message from point of inception to the recipient, then from that person BACK to the beginning. This should be easy to follow with the forms. I am showing the County ECs the problems encountered with their respective forms. This in no way detracts from our exercise, as we did what I consider a very fine job.

In all, I think we showed ourselves we are capable of performing our main objective with message handling. If each county would now go back to a meeting and go over the concerns they have with their messages, and perhaps have a refresher course on message handling, I feel we will be extremely capable of performing in emergencies.

My deepest thanks to Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB, DEC SWW, Craig Smith, KC9FZD, EC Juneau County, and Bill Timme, N9NNN, AEC Columbia County, and Rich Green, KC9FNM, EC Columbia County, for all their help and support.

Please send any photos you might have to Craig Smith, KC9FZD, at pascas@verizon.net for inclusion in the media release he is working on.

Thank you all!!

Portage County ARES/RACES Request for Assistance

By John Everson, N9MDH, EC Portage County

Throughout the year, athletes across Wisconsin are practicing and competing with one thing in mind: the Wisconsin Special Olympics summer games in Stevens Point. Last year nearly 5,000 coaches, volunteers and spectators cheered on 1,900 athletes from every corner of the state. And each year, amateur radio provides the emergency communications backbone for this three-day event.

This year, the statewide summer games are being held June 8, 9, and 10. Quite possibly the fastest 44 hours in the state, the event begins Thursday evening with a welcoming ceremony and fireworks. Friday is filled with competition all across the UW-SP campus, and ends with a victory dance in the field house. Saturday's schedule has more competition and draws to a quiet close by early afternoon.

With very flexible assignments, amateur radio operators have a chance to demonstrate the finest traditions of our hobby, while watching a moment competition that is often the high point of years of competition. Being June, and Wisconsin, past games have seen Skywarn activations, with the need to direct people to storm shelter areas. Amateur radio operators, especially those trained in the Skywarn program, are crucial to the safety of all.

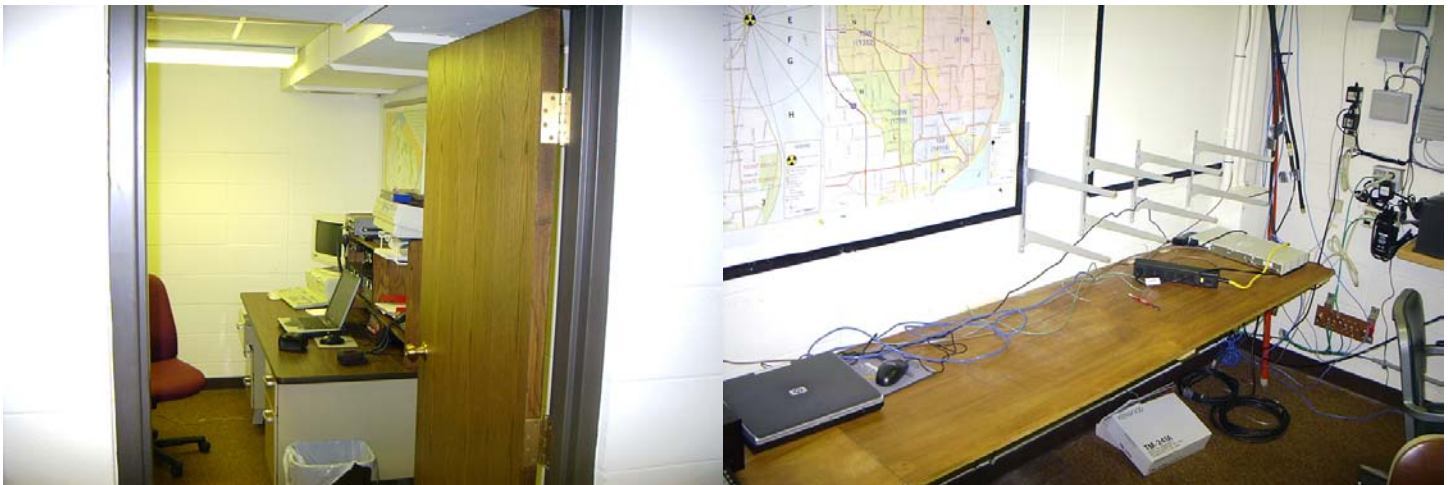
All that's needed is a two-meter portable radio, and a little bit of time. Hams volunteering receive a t-shirt from Wisconsin Special Olympics, and will also receive special commemorative ID badges for the event. The gratitude you'll see expressed by both athlete and spectator will leave you with the satisfaction that only comes from making a difference for the better at a time and place when it matters very much.

Amateur radio operators able to help in Stevens Point on June 8, 9, or 10 should contact **John Everson, N9MDH**, n9mdh@arrl.net, or **Rick Abbott, WX9M**, wx9m@charter.net.

Kewaunee County's New EOC Ham Radio Station

By Dan Henrich, N9JKX, EC Kewaunee County

Here is our new setup. We used to share the same room with Sheriff's Department and PIO Broadcasting. The setup should work great! That's me on the laptop's display!



Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant Alert

By Dan Cole, N9NCU, EC and RO Manitowoc County

Editor's Note: Manitowoc and Kewaunee County RACES teams were activated on Wednesday night, April 26, at 10:00 p.m. for an alert at the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant. This was NOT A DRILL! Both teams did an excellent job. The following is an excellent example of a debrief and request for input, which is intended to make the operation better.

Last night's RACES activation was due to an actual declared emergency event at the Kewaunee Nuclear Plant provided a wake up call to all of us. It certainly created an adrenaline rush for me when I got the Sheriff Dispatch call that the EOC was being activated and it IS NOT A DRILL. Several people told me last night that they had a similar reaction to my CallingPost message which relayed that the callout IS NOT A DRILL.

We train and practice for events such as last night. Even though we may feel we are prepared because of our training and practice, a real event flushes out undiscovered shortcomings we have to capture and correct. I need your help in capturing shortcomings we experienced, and your insights and suggestions for improvement. Here are the shortcomings I am aware of:

Difficulty was experienced by **Walter Lukitsch, K9WL**, and **Travis Waack, KB9YRC**, in obtaining access to the EOC because they were not on the access list used by the Sheriff's Deputy manning the door. I am pursuing this and would appreciate your thoughts. There are two lists in the Manitowoc E-Plan for RACES; one is a telephone list and the other is a callout list. Both have only the names and telephone numbers of me and our Assistant Radio Officers (RO's), and both have corrections needed which I'll take care of. I provide up-to-date rosters for ARES/RACES to EM, but all of our names, as contained on the roster, do not appear in the E-Plan. Because we take the ball on the run, and do what is necessary to get to a permanent, stable situation of radio station manning, the interim NCS last night assigned a volunteering member to set up the initial manning of the EOC. Not on the list? Then you have an access problem. My initial thought is to ask EM to use our roster as the RACES access list, or we could have the interim NCS contact the EM as to who is being dispatched to the EOC; I like the second idea a lot less than the first. ANY SUGGESTIONS?

1. We need to remember our emergency net participation skills. There was considerable doubling in calling the Net Control Station last night during the onset of establishing a net. I greatly appreciate the turnout, but doubling transmissions slows down the NCS in establishing the net. This is just a reminder on correct emergency net operation.
2. The Kenwood FM transceiver in the EOC has got to go as soon as possible; it emits annoying periodic beeps and has no PL to allow it to be used for transmission. The EOC NCS has to repeatedly alternate frequencies between the Kenwood and the ADI in monitoring 146.805, for example, and then communicating on 146.805 while still monitoring 146.610. My thought is to put one of the new Kenwood V708's there temporarily, or put a V708 at Red Cross and move the V7800 to the EOC for the interim. Any ideas? The club shack doesn't have any spare base stations with PL.
3. I was reminded about my own personal operating habits. I over-modulated early in the net (swallowing the mike) rather than remembering to keep it alongside my mouth. Signal copy is great, intelligibility suffers however. I have to work on this.
4. Do you have any other improvement opportunities to bring up? Any suggestions on the above are appreciated.

What went well?

1. A really great turnout for the activation; thanks for your support as ARES/RACES members. Great job **John Meyer, NZ9Z**, as interim NCS until the EOF was operational.
2. Strong support from ARES/RACES East Central District and the WI Section. Both **Dan Lenz, KB9IME**, and **Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO**, stayed with the net until closeout. Thanks for your support to Manitowoc County, Dan and Bill.
3. Strong support from Sheboygan County. **Mike Musiel, K9SJ**, stayed with the net until closeout. Thanks for your support to Manitowoc County Mike.

4. CallingPost worked very well again last night for us and also for Kewaunee County for delivering a message; any comments to me for future message content improvement?
5. Kewaunee County RACES supported Manitowoc County for Kewaunee EOF/JPIC manning. Thanks for the support **Dan Henrich, N9JKX**, and **Andy Nemecek, KB9ALN**.

Anything any of you can offer is appreciated.

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.

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!

2006 ARES/RACES Conference

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 28 when the WI ARES/RACES Conference will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Madison at Wisconsin Emergency Management. This will provide us an opportunity to tour the new Emergency Operations Center. We are also working on an outside speaker or two to help enhance our skills and abilities. Everyone interested in ARES/RACES is invited. Look for more information in the near future. See you there!