



The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Newsletter

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Wisconsin ARRL/ARES Section Emergency Coordinator and ARES/RACES Newsletter Editor

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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

There are a few leadership changes pending in the state and we are about ready to add another EC to a county where there is not currently a program. Please see the September Newsletter for those changes.

Oconto County ARES/RACES to Hold NIMS Training Course and VE Session

By Pete Johnson, AB9PJ, Oconto County EC and DEC NEW

Fellow ECs,

This email is being sent to various ECs in the WI NE District. In addition, Menominee, MI County, Dickinson County, MI, Brown County and Kewaunee County are included due to interest.

Please contact all of your ARES/RACES members and any others who may be interested. When you have a list of all individuals who plan to attend, please forward that information to me via email on or before August 1. I need to have an approximate headcount.

We have planned a training class for the FEMA courses ICS-100 & IS-700 to be held in the Oconto Falls Community Memorial Hospital on Saturday, August 12, 2006. In addition, we are planning to hold a VE exam session for those wishing to test and/or upgrade. Steve Haskell, the Shawano County Emergency Management Director, will be the instructor.

The VE exam session will hold registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. Then, ICS-100 is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. Grilling burgers and brats for lunch may be around 12:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m., which will last about an hour. IS-700 will follow from 2:00 p.m. to about 4:00 p.m.

Again, the VE Exam session will run 8:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. The FEMA classes will run 11:00 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m.

PREVIOUSLY ISSUED INFORMATION:

It is **highly requested** all members of the Michigan and Wisconsin Cooperative ARES/RACES Network attend this training session if you have not tested for ICS-100 and IS-700. That includes members from Oconto County, Marinette County, Menominee, MI County, Florence County and Dickinson County. All other counties are welcome as well.

Please note: These courses are free, however, please contact your local EC and let him/her know you will be participating so I may obtain a headcount.

Addition note: There is a \$14 fee for those of you wishing to test at the VE exam session for a Technician license or an upgrade.

More details will follow soon. Please monitor the 147.000 repeater Sundays at 8:15 p.m. for more ARES updates.

DIRECTIONS: US Hwy 141 to County Trunk Hwy I. West on CTH I approximately three miles and the hospital will be on your left. Note that CTH I is approximately 1 to 1.5 miles south of Hwy 22.

Thanks for your participation, which is greatly appreciated.

Peter Johnson, Sr., AB9PJ

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My Activities

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Between travel for my job, travel to our cabin and travel for WI ARES/RACES I have been extremely busy this summer.

On Sunday, July 23, 2006, I had the opportunity to give a talk at the WI ARES/RACES Southwest District meeting in Richland Center, which was extremely well attended. Richland County EM Darin Gudgeon was the keynote speaker. Darin was extremely complimentary of Richland County ARES EC **Bob Naegele, W9MZ**, and his team. Eighteen months ago, there was an ARES/RACES team of four. Today, the team is 30 and still growing. Darin also spoke of the team's assistance after the tornadoes affecting the county and specifically Viola on August 18, 2005. Congratulations to Bob for his and his team's efforts and the fantastic relationship he has forged with Darin and to **Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB**, DEC SWW, for scheduling and coordinating this meeting!

On Wednesday, July 26, I drove to Oconto County where I evaluated and surveyed what will be the first site to the WeComm, Ltd. statewide repeater system. We have secured the top of a 929-foot broadcast tower, the modeling of which is awesome. We are partnering with the tower owner and another nonprofit ham radio organization, which will also be placing at least one repeater on the tower. We are hopeful to have this system working by Fall, but those of you who own, operate and maintain repeaters know how that goes. Stay tuned.

On Thursday, August 3, I was invited to speak at the Watertown Amateur Radio Club meeting. Although this was a club meeting, most of the club members encompass the Watertown ARES/RACES team. This was a great opportunity to meet new friends. It was an extremely receptive crowd and I did not even put them to sleep! Preparing for this meeting gave me the opportunity to update and adjust the WI ARES/RACES presentation I have and update at least once a year. Thanks to the Club for inviting me and also thanks to **Lucky Lasanske, K9LUK**, for scheduling and coordinating this meeting.

Finally, I had the opportunity to assist the Outagamie County ARES/RACES team in a technician's class on Saturday, August 5. The three extremely interested potential new hams who attended received a tremendous amount of information about ham radio. The session was a well done. Thanks to Outagamie County EC **Stan Piekarczyk, K9STN**, for coordinating the class. I am looking forward to having three more ARES/RACES interested new hams in the area!

In addition to those major undertakings, I continue to run the business of WI ARES/RACES, WeComm, Ltd., another nonprofit, tax exempt group and all sorts of other issues. I accepted a five-year appointment when I took over for **Dr. Stanley Kaplan, WB9RQR**, in 2004 and have passed the halfway point. Beginning in 2007, I will be recruiting my successor and training him/her throughout 2008. My how time flies!

We also completed two other undertakings in July. First, the Hospital Bioterrorism program Phase II period came to an end on July 31. **Skip Sharpe, W9REL**, ASEC for Training and Director of this program, has assembled the closeout report and after I write a cover letter, it will be submitted to the Department of Health and Family Services. As a result of this program, participating hospitals were able to use grant money to install ham radio equipment into their sites to improve emergency and disaster communications. WI ARES/RACES, through WeComm, Ltd., will also benefit from a grant which will be used to improve statewide communications. This has been an enormous project and for those of you who helped develop it, a huge thank you! We now have a new served client, more robust communications and improved respect for our service. I am also indebted to Skip Sharpe for directing this program. Skip will not take credit for it, but he got this program off the ground and was its champion. With my schedule, there is no way I could have done anything close to what Skip did. That is organizational effectiveness when the leader can delegate responsibilities and they are done better than the leader could have ever imagined doing them. Great job Skip and everyone else!

Finally, in another team contribution, we wrapped up the second WI ARES/RACES apparel sale. This time **Jeff Schmeichel, KB9BYP**, ASEC for Administration, and my long time friend and colleague, skillfully ran the program with the help of **Todd Dorschner, N9MY**, WI ARES/RACES Webmaster. Jeff coordinated the promotion, ordering and printing of this apparel. He is now in the process of working to distribute the apparel as efficiently as possible. Excellent job Jeff and Todd! Thanks also to everyone who ordered apparel!

WI ARES/RACES Net

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Please remember to check the WI ARES/RACES Net each Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. Central time on 3977.5 KHz. **Wally Kruk, N9VAO**, does a superb job as Net Manager and is always looking for more folks to train as Net Control Operators. This net is our only routine information exchange and training opportunity through the State of Wisconsin. It is also what we will use in a statewide emergency or disaster.

Not licensed to operate on HF? How about upgrading? Although we are developing statewide repeater and digital networking systems, we will continue to use and train on HF. When all else fails, HF and VHF/UHF simplex are the only fail-safe communications methods we have at our disposal. See you there!



Simulated Emergency Test 2006

“Bioterrorism Hospital Activation”

1. **Purpose:**

This Simulated Emergency Test will: Test the readiness of the ARRL Wisconsin ARES/RACES Section to handle emergency communications during a bioterrorism event. Then, evaluate the effectiveness of hospital/ public health agency amateur radio activation plans and other improvements made in the Wisconsin ARES/RACES organization and practices during the preceding year.

2. **Exercise Date:**

October 7, 2006 0900-1200 Central time

3. **Goals:**

This SET has the following goals:

- a. Test the effectiveness of hospital/ public health agency ham radio activation plans.
- b. Test the effectiveness of the statewide communications structure.
- c. Encourage each district and county to design and execute a local scenario within the scope of the statewide SET.
- d. Pass the maximum number of messages using standard message formats.

4. **Objectives:**

- a. Maximize participation by ARES/RACES communicators.
- b. Activate a ham radio station in at least one hospital or public health office in each county with an ARES organization.
- c. Activate as many Emergency Operations Center (EOC) stations as possible.
- d. Activate all county nets and assign a liaison station to their respective district nets.¹
- e. Activate all district nets, coordinate county nets in the district, and assign liaison stations to the state nets.
- f. Activate ARES/RACES HF net and coordinate the district nets.
- g. Activate the Badger Emergency Net and move traffic to and from the National Traffic System (NTS).
- h. Operate as many stations as possible on emergency power.
- i. Use as many modes as possible (HF, VHF and UHF phone, Winlink 2000², ATV, PacTOR, PSK63, etc.)
- j. Encourage served agencies such as Red Cross and emergency government to participate by passing message traffic.
- k. Encourage media coverage by sending press releases to local print and broadcast outlets.

5. **Exercise Scenario:**

Terrorists have launched a biological attack. As a result, hospitals throughout the state have put their amateur radio activation plans into effect. While some victims have been treated, officials fear that numbers of victims may soon dramatically escalate. Ham radio operators are being asked to set up their stations and prepare to handle messages relating to this attack.

Since this is a bioterrorist attack, commercial power and communications resources are available, although landline and commercial wireless systems are operating beyond capacity resulting in delays in getting dial tones and wireless phone connections. Wherever possible, stations should operate on emergency power, but emergency power is not required to participate in the SET.

Emergency Coordinators and District Emergency Coordinators are encouraged to design and implement local scenarios to exercise communications for their served agencies. Local scenarios should compliment the statewide scenario.

6. **General Instructions:**

- a. **ARES/RACES Members:** should:
 - i. Have some fun, experiment with different modes, try something new.
 - ii. Check in with their respective County nets during the SET.
 - iii. Respond to and operate portable and mobile equipment at hospitals and EOCs where possible.
 - iv. Transmit and receive message traffic using standard message formats.
 - v. Utilize and experiment with different modes of communications.

¹ If no district net is activated, try to check in with an adjoining district net. If no adjoining district net is available, check in with the statewide ARES/RACES net.

² Wisconsin ARES/RACES encourages section stations to implement and use WinLink 2000.

- vi. Report your station's activities to your EC for inclusion in his/her SET activity report.
- b. Emergency Coordinators should:
 - i. Prior to the SET:
 - 1. Arrange with at least one hospital to set up and operate a ham radio station in accordance with their amateur radio activation plan.
 - 2. Arrange to operate from at least one community and/or the county EOC.
 - 3. Encourage and train all hams in his/her county to participate in the SET.
 - 4. Send a press release to print and broadcast outlets in his/her county.
 - ii. During the SET:
 - 1. Implement a local scenario.
 - 2. Send his/her DEC a formal message announcing the activation of their local emergency net.
 - 3. Send his/her DEC a formal message announcing the closing of their local emergency net.
 - 4. Ensure that message traffic passes into and out of their county.
 - 5. Evaluate how well his/her net(s) operate and handle traffic.
 - iii. After the SET:
 - 1. Submit SET Form A to the ARRL and Skip Sharpe, W9REL, Asst. SEC, Training.
 - 2. Ensure the net mgr submits SET Form B to the ARRL and Skip Sharpe, W9REL, ASEC, Training.
- c. District Emergency Coordinators should:
 - i. Prior to the SET:
 - 1. Coordinate local and district SET activities with the ECs in their districts.
 - 2. Provide assistance as requested to implement the SET.
 - 3. Ensure one or more district nets provide communications between county nets and the state nets.
 - ii. During the SET:
 - 1. Handle message traffic to and from the counties.
 - 2. Send a formal message announcing the activation of their district emergency net.
 - 3. Send a formal message announcing the closing of their district emergency net.
 - 4. Evaluate how well his/her net(s) operate and handle traffic.
 - iii. After the SET:
 - 1. Ensure the district net mgr submits SET Form B to the ARRL and Skip Sharpe, W9REL, ASEC, Training.
- d. Use established emergency communication and frequency plans.
 - i. The ARES/RACES HF net will be on 3977.5 KHz LSB,
 - ii. The Badger Emergency net will be the NTS traffic outlet and will operate on 3985 KHz.
 - iii. The WEM Hamshack will be on 3628.5 KHz USB using PSK63.
- e. Use the "Simulated Emergency Test" designation in each and every message. Identify tactical communications as "drill" or "test" often.
- f. Attempt in-county communications and log successful attempts. You must also log local participation.
- g. This scenario is a basic outline and is purposefully vague. Each county should expand the scenario and use all available resources. And remember: Have fun and be creative with this exercise!

Skip Sharpe, W9REL

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