



# 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

Oconto County has a new EC. **Pete Johnson Sr., AB9PJ**, DEC for Northeast WI, recruited **Jared Alfson, KC9IPS**, as his replacement so he can concentrate on his DEC responsibilities. Although Jared is new to ham radio, he has been extremely active in Oconto County ARES/RACES. Please welcome Jared when you hear him. Thanks also Pete for assuming the reins and quickly finding your successor!

In Adams County, long-time **EC Rosie Maybee, KB9PZK**, has decided to step down. You might recall Rosie's involvement with the Adams County wildfire a couple years ago. Thanks to Rosie for her many years of service! Filling the Adams County ARES EC spot is **Gerry Parks, N9OEW**. Gerry has been involved with Adams County ARES/RACES for several years and has been extremely involved in ham radio for many years. We look forward to working with Gerry. When you hear Gerry, please welcome him to WI ARES/RACES leadership!

Leadership changes continue in Polk County where **Steve Jacobs, N0XC**, has stepped down. Thanks to Steve for his hard work in Polk. Replacing Steve is **Mark Wien, KC9GHQ**, who has been an assistant to Steve. Thanks for taking on the EC role Mark and we look forward to meeting you!

For the first time in history, we have ARES/RACES leadership in Florence County! **Dennis Beurjey, K8SWX**, EC for Dickinson County MI, has assumed the Florence County EC position. Dennis will work with NEW DEC **Pete Johnson Sr., AB9PJ**, to form a small, effective group for the county, which can work with his Dickinson County team. This arrangement will help not just Florence County, but both WI and MI because of the mutual assistance that will be necessary to support communications service when called upon. Please join me in welcoming Dennis!

**Todd Lindert, KB9TWL**, requested to resign his position because, like many of us, his job responsibilities are growing to the point where they do not allow him to do justice to the EC position. Todd has been instrumental in completing a number of initiatives in Jefferson County and leaves an active, sound organization. We will miss Todd, but he assures us he will remain active with the local team. Replacing Todd is **Dan Spangler, KC9IKI**. Dan is a fairly new ham, whose profession is the computer and networking business. Dan is extremely interested in public service and has a lot of support in Jefferson County. Please welcome Dan to his new role!

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## **What is INFLOW-WI?**

By Dave Levorson, N9KNY, AEC for Skywarn, Marathon County

The INFLOW concept began in late 2004 when a group of weather enthusiasts from around central Wisconsin felt there was a need to take all the great information the NWS Storm Spotter training taught us and build on it. We knew the National Weather Service, Storm Prediction Center and other agencies provided large amounts of great material for those interested in weather, but the study of weather itself can be confusing with all the terminology, theory, charts and graphs.

After months of discussion and planning and with the help and encouragement of many talented people, we present this site to the weather enthusiasts of Wisconsin! <http://www.inflow-wi.org>

Our goals; to help you and your love for Wisconsin weather, to receive up-to-date weather information concerning Wisconsin weather, to help you become a better spotter or amateur forecaster, to elevate your current knowledge to the next level and if we make a few friends along way, we would love that too!

We currently have 53 members in the INFLOW-WI online community and we invite you to come in and check us out.

- Please come in, read, learn and share.
- If you have ANY questions please ask them, we are more than willing to help find your answer, or find someone who can.
- If you have something to share about weather this is the site to visit.
- If you have suggestions for the site please share them.
- Please help INFLOW-WI to be a conduit for information and education about weather in Wisconsin.

The INFLOW-WI website is moderated by **Dave Levorson, N9KNY, Travis Augustine, KC9JVC, and Joseph Mullan, KC9GRD**. The INFLOW-WI staff thanks those who contributed their time and talents to the site as well as those who aided in building and making this website possible including; **Aaron Wesson, Jeff Lake, K8JSL, Lance Dickinson, W9SWX, Jeff Last, KC9ESR, Skip Voros, WD9HAS, Todd Applegate, and Len Fields, KG9KL**.

Thank you all.

<http://www.inflow-wi.org>

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## **Waterspouts!**

Provided by Ray Wolfe, K9RI, EC Kenosha County

Pictures of waterspouts on Lake Michigan 8/29/06 taken by a friend of Ray's! Enjoy!



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## **Bits, Pieces and Reminders**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

### **Have You Updated Your Roster Lately?**

The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Newsletter

If you are an Emergency Coordinator, updating your ARES/RACES roster with **Jeff Schmeichel, KB9BYP**, ASEC for Administration, is extremely important to ensure each of your members are registered as RACES members with the State of Wisconsin. Our representatives at Wisconsin Emergency Management keep the database on hand to reference and verify individuals as RACES members.

To update your roster, contact Jeff who will send you the official roster and ask you to update it (adds and deletes) accordingly. Jeff can be reached at [kb9byp@new.rr.com](mailto:kb9byp@new.rr.com). Thanks!

### **NIMS Reminder**

WI ARES/RACES is required and committed to being compliant with the Department of Homeland Security mandate to ensure its members have taken the appropriate National Incident Management System (NIMS) training in order to respond to emergencies or disasters. For most members, this requires taking two courses, both of which are online and free. Numerous counties have also had fun with this by getting their Emergency Management Director to sponsor the courses with a certified trainer in a classroom setting. My understanding is both courses done together can be completed in four to five hours. Taking them online takes about the same amount of time. Leadership officials need to take more courses. I have to take all of the NIMS required courses, so I am in the same position.

Why is this training so important? As emergency responders, we need to have the same understanding and be on the same page as other emergency responders so our responses can be safer and more efficient. The Incident Command System, which NIMS is based, is a proven structure for dealing with emergencies and disasters. It is even effective in business in certain situations if you can get others to use it!

What is the status of the training? Many counties have done a great job getting ARES/RACES members trained, but there is still work to do. In October 2004, WI ARES/RACES made a commitment to use the Incident Command System when responding to any emergencies or disasters. When these training requirements were issued it was easier for us to attain than for some others. The professionals have done a lot the past year to get compliant, but there are still pockets which are struggling to complete the training. When we meet with our Emergency Management representatives and tell them we are NIMS compliant they are impressed with the initiative that has taken. In Wisconsin, I believe we have done as well with fulfilling this requirement as nearly any other volunteer organization. If you have not completed your NIMS requirements, please do so by December 31, 2006. If you need to understand your requirements, please go to this web site. <http://www.wi-aresraces.org/NIMS.htm>

Great job to everyone for working so hard on this initiative!

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## **2006 Simulated Emergency Test (SET)**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Normally, you see communications from **Skip Sharpe, W9REL**, ASEC for Training, about the SET, but I felt the need to write one.

The SET is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and is designed to test our skills and abilities in an exercise situation to make us better responders and communicators. It is also designed to publicize our communications abilities and ham radio. For ARES/RACES, it is the most important training event we conduct each year.

This year, the State scenario will be very high level to allow the counties to be creative and make the local scenario more realistic. I have seen the scenarios from several counties and know many more counties are gearing up to make this the best SET yet. Last year Wisconsin was ninth in the nation in points (listing in the July 2006 edition of QST). I know this year we can crack the Top Five, but it will take everyone getting involved, completing the SET forms and sending them to the ARRL and to Skip. I am not a contester and have never been into numbers, but this is about being recognized for all of your hard work. WI ARES/RACES already has a tremendous amount of respect and showing we can complete with the big dogs of ARES/RACES in the nation will only enhance that respect.

Please participate, learn and have fun! After that, take a few minutes to complete your paperwork and send it in! Have a great SET!

## Eighth Annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference

**Saturday, October 28, 2006, 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

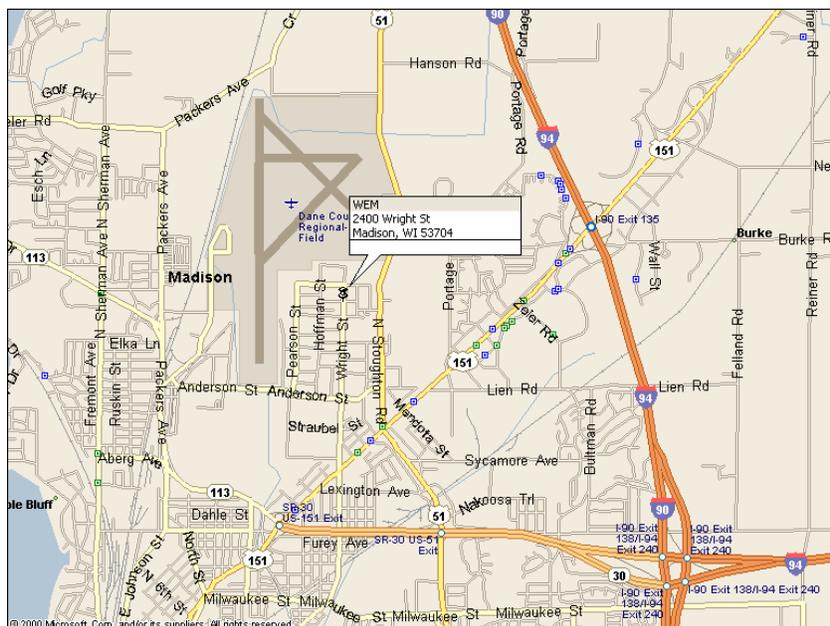
**Department of Military Affairs, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM)  
2400 Wright Street  
Madison WI 53707-7865**

**Talk-in – 147.150, PL 123.0**

Please join us for the eighth annual ARES/RACES Conference (formerly the Leadership Conference)! This year's conference is open to everyone interested in ARES/RACES. The invitation is open to EMs, NWS and private disaster relief personnel, etc. We will have the opportunity to tour the remodeled WEM Emergency Operations Center. Box lunches will be served at noon. Cost for the conference is \$8.00, which includes the box lunch and beverage. Payment will be collected at the conference and registration is required.. It needs to be received by **October 21, 2006**. Please complete the registration form online at <http://www.wi-aresraces.org/2006confreg.htm> or on the attached. **A registration should be completed for each attendee, including nonARES/RACES personnel.**

In addition to the WEM EOC tour, informational sessions, and for the first time, select workshops will be offered. Updates on the 2006 WI ARES/RACES priorities will be also provided. 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! It will be well worthwhile and give you the opportunity to display the strength and professionalism of Wisconsin ARES/RACES! See you there!



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Please complete the fields below and return to [bniemuth@new.rr.com](mailto:bniemuth@new.rr.com).

<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Call Sign:</b>			
<b>ARES Position:</b>			
<b>Other Position/Organization:</b>			
<b>County:</b>			
<b>Menu Item:</b>	<b>Standard:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No Meal:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	

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