



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

Work pressures have forced **Gary Oaks, KB9VGD**, to resign as Walworth County EC. Gary produced one of the best County ARES newsletters in the state and did good things for Walworth County until his job got in the way. We are going to miss Gary. Replacing Gary is **Bill Shimer, N9ZXP!** Bill is a graduate of all three EmComm courses and inherits a very active, but small group. Please welcome Bill to WI ARES/RACES Leadership!

Pete Johnson, Sr. AB9PJ, continues to develop the Northeast District with the appointment of **Bill Peterson, KB9URW**, as Assistant District Emergency Coordinator (ADEC) for Administration. As a result, Bill has resigned as EC for Marinette County. Replacing Bill as Marinette County EC is **Dave Goddard, W9DWG**. Dave is fairly new to ham radio, but is a long-time Marinette County resident who has many good contacts. Dave is enthusiastic about the role and has either taken or in the process of taking his EC training requirements! We look forward to working with Dave and continuing to work with Bill!

Leadership changes continue in Winnebago County with **Curt Poeschl, KC9COI**, replacing **Greg Ramlow, KB9SZP**. This completes Greg's second term as EC; the first was for Waupaca County. Greg has been instrumental in driving many of the initiatives in East Central Wisconsin and hope he continues to be involved with the Winnebago County ARES/RACES organization. Curt has been extremely involved with the Winnebago County team since he was licensed. Curt has a good base on which to build his team and is well positioned to do extremely well. Welcome Curt!

Free Daily Training Available for ARES/RACES

By Denny Rybickie, K9LGU, Section Traffic Manager

Several times each day, the Wisconsin ARRL Section provides free training for ARES/RACES operators in traffic handling and net procedures. These sessions are the Wisconsin Section Nets. Each of them helps operators learn net protocol and efficient operating techniques that would be essential in an emergency. They all connect with the National Traffic System, and all welcome new members. Here's a look at each net.

The Badger Weather Net meets on 3.985 MHz. every morning from 5:00 a.m. until about 7:15. Weather data is collected and delivered to the National Weather Service to assist with their records and predictions. This is the most efficient net in our section in terms of how much traffic is passed (25,534 pieces in 2005). The BWN

has the most check-ins of any Wisconsin net and sometimes operates with excellent relays during times of poor conditions. Listening to one session will give an operator a good idea of what's going on, and the Net Manager, **Don Michalski, W9IXG**, SM WI, is always pleased to help a newcomer participate.

The Badger Emergency Net meets every day at noon on 3.985 MHz. Luckily, we don't have an emergency every day, but if we do, this net would be called into simultaneous session with the Wisconsin ARES/RACES Net. Typically, the BEN handles traffic coming into the state from the previous night's Ninth Region and WIN/Late sessions as well as traffic within the state. As with all nets, it gives participants a chance to test their equipment, sharpen their traffic-handling skills, and get accustomed to the voices and patterns used by others in the net. It, too, is the basis of many strong friendships. For more information, contact the Net Manager, **Wayne Schanke, KE9VU**.

The Wisconsin Side Band Net also meets on 3.985 MHz. every day. During the winter months (standard time) it starts at 5:15 p.m. to be finished before 6:00 p.m. when long skip might create interference for a Florida net on the same frequency. During the summer (daylight savings time), the WSBN starts at 5:30 p.m. As Net Manager, **Roy Pederson, K9FHI**, will tell you, this net handles the second-most traffic in the section and has the second highest number of check-ins. This friendly group covers much of the state so it's another good outlet for traffic. Listen to a session, join in, and you can easily get hooked on the camaraderie. You'll also learn a lot about traffic handling. A representative from WIN/E will usually take traffic bound for out-of-state from the WSBN.

The Wisconsin Novice Net – slow and steady on 3.723 MHz. at 6:00 p.m. every day will help you hone your CW proficiency. The Net Manager, **Dean Herriges, KB9ROB**, will attest this mode truly supports the concept of "When all else fails. . ." Net control stations are trained to slow down to the speed of the station checking in and there's great joy and celebration for new stations added to the roster.

The Wisconsin Slow Speed Net, under the direction of Net Manager **Mike Greenfield, N9JIY**, is called up every day at 6:30 p.m. local time on 3.645 MHz. True to its name, this CW net maintains a controlled speed and, like the WNN, will slow to your check-in speed. Traffic is handled here, and on other CW nets, even when the static crashes crash and the sunspots are spotty.

The Wisconsin Intrastate Net/Early - Notice the name. *Intrastate* means *within* the state. But don't be fooled. Here's where traffic gathers that's bound for out-of-state through the National Traffic System, too. A representative from WIN at 7:00 p.m. on 3.662 MHz. will take a piece of outbound traffic to the Ninth Region Net and get that message on its way. WIN/E is a good example of how to say a lot in a few characters. Typical CW speed here may be 13 – 20 W.P.M., but many stations are welcomed at slower speeds. **Larry Guthu, WB9ICH**, WIN/E Net Manager, would especially like a few more stations to serve as net controls and 9RN reps.

The Wisconsin Intrastate Net/Late – Net Manager **Ron Tlachac, W9UW**, meets at 10:00 p.m. on 3.662 MHz. A 9RN rep will bring NTS traffic for Wisconsin here. What can't be handled here will be taken to the SSB nets the next day. Even when there's traffic, it's rare if this net lasts over 15 minutes. It is efficient.

The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Net - If you are reading this and are not familiar with this HF net on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. on 3977.5 KHz., you should be. Tune in and hear what's new in ARES activity throughout the state. Learn who is where. Volunteer as NCS. This section net, with Net Manager N9VAO, is also part of the National Traffic System.

Finally, here's a small chart to print, clip, and keep near your operating position. It will help you remember when and where there's a lot of free training in our section.

Wisconsin Section Nets	
	LOCAL TIME
BWN	~ 3985 ~ 0600
BEN	~ 3985 ~ NOON
WSBN	~ 3985 ~ 1715/1730
WNN	~ 3723 ~ 1800
WSSN	~ 3645 ~ 1830
WIN/E	~ 3662 ~ 1900
WIN/L	~ 3662 ~ 2200
WRACES	~ 3977.5 Sun 1800

WEM Presentation and the WI ARES/RACES Conference

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

A full report will appear next month, but we had a very successful last weekend of October! On Friday, I had the opportunity to make a presentation about WI ARES/RACES to the WEM leadership and several other agency representatives. Total attendance was between 30 and 40. Johnnie Smith, WEM Administrator, who heads Emergency Management in Wisconsin, had some very good questions and was extremely interested in the services we provide. He pledged his support in furthering the solid partnership we have with his agency.

On Saturday, Johnnie provided a welcome to our Conference attendees, which numbered about 100! We had many tremendous presentations and the staff of WEM was extremely hospitable. Special thanks to **Don Michalski, W9IXG**, SM, **Mack Brophy, N9NTB**, WEM Ham shack Manager, **Joe Senulis, N9TWA**, ASEC for WEM and EC Dane County, and his support folks and **Micah Eldridge, KC9HWF**, EC Menominee County, for the door prizes he was able to secure.

I think we made some significant strides and are looking forward to more of the same in the upcoming year.

Name Badges for AECs and Other Personnel

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

The WI Section purchases only one name badge for leadership personnel. If a badge is lost, the leader must pay for the replacement. Periodically, we get requests from ECs about getting name badges for his/her AECs. The following is the information about the vendor Don Michalski, W9IXG, uses for the name badges. Prices are reasonable and they have the standard ARRL format. If you are interested in obtaining a badge for your AECs, please contact this firm directly:

**ARRL logo name tags engraved with name, call sign and appointment; including a pinback
\$5.17 each**

**Optional magnet attachment \$3.20 each
Optional bulldog clip attachment \$1.33 each**

Postage and handling \$2.45 per name tag

**If you should have any questions or comments
please let me know.**

Regards,
Kent Carter

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2006 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Update

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Skip Sharpe, W9REL, ASEC for Training, will have a full report in a subsequent article, but I wanted to update you on the SET.

The 2006 SET was by far the most active in Wisconsin history. In 2005, WI ranked ninth in the nation in points. As of Saturday, we had over 3100 SET points and 1400 net points. If we compare the 2005 points and believe those will be reflective of the 2006 points, WI will be ranked third! In population, WI ranks 18th in the U.S. It should be noted, the large states are broken into smaller sections, but that should not diminish the results. If you have not yet completed your SET forms, please do so as soon as possible and get them to Skip and **Steve Ewald, WV1X**, sewald@arrl.org, at ARRL HQ.

Points are recognition for your hard work, but it is really the experience and the learning that makes the SET worthwhile. From what I heard there was a lot of learning in this SET and we are getting better and more efficient. Winlink 2000 was a win for us as was NTS traffic. We have not discussed this in any detail, but in 2007, the SET may exercise how we work within the incident command system and concentrate more on tactical traffic (nonformal), which is what most incidents involve. It is important to note; however, even though there is may not be formal traffic, which is written and documented, the Net Control Stations must document the tactical traffic in summary form or stronger, if needed. Another exercise option in 2007, is to ensure ECs either act as the incident commander for their ARES/RACES unit or appoint someone to do this. An EC cannot be the incident commander and Net Control Station at the same time.

Congratulations to all of you for a great SET and a learning experience. Your WI ARES/RACES is now one of the big dogs in the United States!
