*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

After 28 years as Kenosha County EC, **Ray Wolfe, K9RI**, has announced his intention to retire! Ray is the longest tenured EC in Wisconsin and has seen many changes. We are in the process of identifying Ray's successor. We will miss Ray, but hope he continues to be an active ARES/RACES member. Watch the March newsletter for additional information.

After a long draught, WI ARES/RACES has a new ASEC for Marketing and Recruiting! **Gary Sorensen, W9ULK**, expressed an interest in the position in December and he is now our newest ASEC! Gary's career has spanned many different disciplines, all of which I believe will help him be extremely successful in his new role. Gary will be developing marketing and recruiting ideas to help us promote the service and recruit new people into it. Welcome Gary!

National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliance Q&A

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

As published in this newsletter in March 2006, Wisconsin ARES/RACES committed to being NIMS compliant as of December 31, 2006. In this article, let's explore exactly what that means.

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was formed. As a result, it evaluated the responses to the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C. What they found was the response was inefficient and fraught with problems because there was little standardization. Enter the incident command system or ICS. ICS has long been recognized as a terrific standard for responding to and recovering from disasters. It originated in the early 1970s as an effective method of operations for California wildfire fighting teams. Later, it was further refined and started to be widely used during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Interestingly enough, the military has used its own form of incident command for many years.

Fast forward to 2002. The standard selected by DHS was the ICS and something they called the National Incident Management System or NIMS. NIMS was to provide the framework for a common, expandable system designed for all types and sizes of events and incidents.

Beginning in 2004, NIMS training requirements were issued by the DHS and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). In October 2004, WI ARES/RACES adopted the ICS as our standard for

responding to emergencies and disasters to be in synch with other emergency responders. These requirements also included training, but those requirements did not hold until 2006 when they became mandatory.

What is required?

Audience	Required Training	ARES/RACES Audience
Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Private Sector & Non-governmental personnel to include: *Entry level first responders & disaster workers* • Emergency Medical Service personnel • Public Works/Utility personnel • Other emergency management response, support, volunteer personnel at all levels	• FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction • ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent	All members and leadership personnel
Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Private Sector & Non-governmental personnel to include: *First line supervisors*, single resource leaders, field supervisors and other emergency management/response personnel that require a higher level of ICS/NIMS Training.	• FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction • ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent • ICS-200: Basic ICS or equivalent	First level leadership personnel, including ECs and equivalent
Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Private Sector & Non-governmental personnel to include: *Middle management* including strike team leaders, taskforce leaders, unit leaders, division/group supervisors, branch directors and multi-agency coordination system/emergency operations center staff.	• FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction FEMA • IS-800: National Response Plan (NRP), An Introduction* • ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent • ICS-200: Basic ICS or equivalent • ***ICS-300: Intermediate ICS or equivalent*** (FY07 Requirement)	Senior leadership to include ASECs and DECs and equivalent
Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Private Sector & Non-governmental personnel to include: *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.	• FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction • FEMA IS-800: National Response Plan (NRP), An Introduction* • ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent • ICS-200: Basic ICS or equivalent • ***ICS-300: Intermediate ICS or equivalent (FY07 Requirement)*** • ***ICS-400: Advanced ICS or equivalent (FY07 Requirement)***	Section Emergency Coordinator

Why is the training required?

So all emergency responders use the same system, speak the same language and operate as efficiently as possible for the everyone's safety.

What does this mean to your ARES/RACES organizations?

It is quite simple, in addition to the above training being incredibly valuable and beneficial; it is also required for the applicable membership and leadership personnel. If an ARES/RACES member has not or will not take the training, which takes about four to five hours either in class or online (and it is free), they can no longer be an ARES/RACES member. I realize this may not be popular with some, but those committed to the Service understand the value and necessity to get the required training.

Some ARES/RACES teams serve a social purpose in addition to their emergency service purpose. Understanding this, some groups may prefer to have a resource group. This resource group cannot be official ARES/RACES members or respond to emergencies or disasters. It is up to the EC if he or she wants to maintain a separate list, but it needs to be clear these folks are not members, only additional resources.

We and the emergency management community still have not figured out how to effectively deal with walk-up volunteers who are guaranteed to show up after a major disaster. From our perspective, can we expect someone to sit through a 30-minute orientation and be effective in a highly stressful situation? The person will be a warm body at best and a major liability at the worst. During the Weyauwega train derailment in 1995, having untrained responders, some who displayed unacceptable and in one case, criminal behavior, was the biggest challenge of the entire incident. We cannot allow this to happen.

What is next?

Of course individuals can still take the training. ICS-100 and IS-700 are available at http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp. I have taken many FEMA courses over the years and in 2006 completed ICS-200, 300 and IS-700 and 800. I have to take ICS-400 in 2007. Both ICS-300 and 400 require 16 hours in the classroom. The completion of EmComm Level I fulfills the ICS-100 requirement.

Will this training benefit us?

It already has. The respect from our served clients continues to increase each day, much of it attributed to our success in becoming NIMS compliant. It will also benefit us in the future through government grants which will help build the systems we need to continue to provide valuable service.

The future is as bright as we make it! If you have not already taken the training and want to continue to contribute to the safety of your community, please take the training online or contact your EC about how you can get the training locally. Thank you for your continued commitment! I know it is a sacrifice, but well worth it.

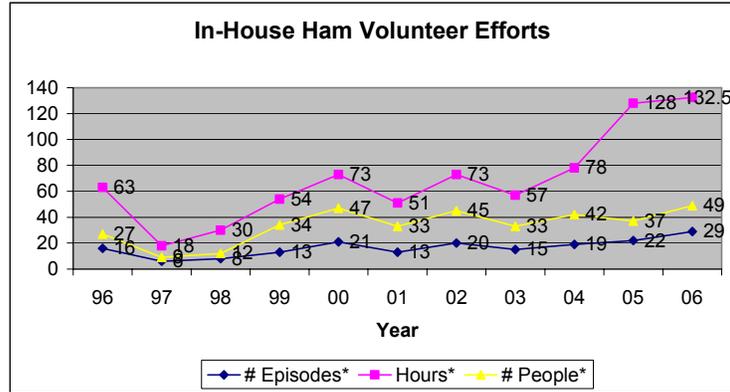## MKX Summer Weather Program Sets Another Record

Offered by Tom Kucharski, W9TJK, ASEC for NWS

Editor's Note: These are the types of metrics, which get people's attention. Notice the graph and the increase in services to the National Weather Service's Sullivan Office! Great job by the MKX (Sullivan) support group!

	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
# Episodes*	16	6	8	13	21	13	20	15	19	22	29				
Hours*	63	18	30	54	73	51	73	57	78	128	132.5				
# People*	27	9	12	34	47	33	45	33	42	37	49				
Est. Man Hrs- field**	3000	1313	2500	3900	6300	3900	6600	3923	5865	1580	1950.5				
Est. Man Hrs- field + 10%	3300	1444	2750	4290	6930	4290	7200	4315	6452	1738	2145.55				

* Net Controllers who reported to MKX   (Total time that staff was at office is shown in the chart. Man-hour total for MKX Amateur Staff was 269.5 for 2006)
** Field Team Man-Hours reported are based on actual measurements starting in 2006. Estimates are given for prior years.
Field = hams at home, work, or vehicle. In spotter status
%10 addition would take care of training sessions, and other deployments not reported by the field teams.

Text/Values Shown in Red was Updated 2 January 2007 TJK

In-House Ham Volunteer Efforts

Vilas and Iron County ARES/RACES Gets Some Press!

Offered by John Armata, KC9AMX, EC Vilas and Iron Counties

The November 23, 2006, issue of the *FYI Northwoods* featured an article called Emergency Communications which detailed the activities of the Vilas and Iron Counties joint Simulated Emergency Test (SET). The article featured large photos of **Dave Hicks', N9DTH**, AEC Vilas County, mobile operation and **Bill Niemuth's, KB9ENO**, SEC WI, mobile unit. At the end of the article John had his contact information. Good press!

Manitowoc County ARES/RACES Use of CallingPost

By Dan Cole, N9NCU, EC Manitowoc County

Manitowoc County ARES/RACES has been subscribing to CallingPost (www.callingpost.org) for two years now, and are happy with their service. If you go to their link, you'll find various packages available.   We subscribe to what they call their "Silver Option", and pay a little extra to get extended calling time service (0600 to 2400). Because of some quirk I haven't figured out, they do not cover the remaining six hours of the day.

The service allows a user to set up any number (as far as I know) in separate calling groups; we cost share the service with Kewaunee County, which has a different list for ARES/RACES and Skywarn; we use a common list. Each calling group uses a specific announcement at the beginning of the call (mine, for instance starts with "This is **Dan Cole, N9NCU**, Manitowoc County EC/RO"), and then adds a specific announcement for the purpose of the CallingPost callout (for example, "Red Cross has requested us to activate"). The added on specific message can be up to 30 seconds. Each calling group has pre-entered names and telephone numbers (modifiable via the internet) which are simultaneously called. The service will repeatedly call each telephone number until someone answers, or finally goes to an answering machine. Each call (regardless of area code) costs a little over $0.07 per call. CallingPost will give you an introductory sample of their service at no cost, so you can try it out for a limited number of people and find out how they like it.

There is an annual renewal fee for the service that costs about $15.00, and will service several hundred telephone calls. Service extension for additional calls can be done through the internet. They say unused calls expire after 12 months, but our experience has been they roll over the unused balance. We also maintain

a manual calling tree if the service is unavailable, but we have not had to use it. I have no vested interest in this service. We found it via an ARRL e-mail from one of the Florida ARES/RACES groups and decided to give it a try. I would be glad to provide further detail if you contact me at my e-mail address cathyanddan@lakefield.net.

WI ARES/RACES Digital Communications Update

By Jim Darrow, KB9MMC, ASEC for Digital Communications

At one of the last ARES/RACES meetings I attended. I shared with the group how exciting it was to see what the various groups are doing with digital communications across the state, and to share those ideas with other groups. This is one of those news items that was hard for me to keep quiet while it was being developed.

Brian Smith, KG9OG, has been working on a project that will allow Airmail (a WinLink 2000 client program) to work with the AGW Packet Engine. Airmail supports only a limited amount of packet TNC's where the AGW Packet Engine supports just about all of them. Brian's program, AMPE 1.6, works in providing a software bridge between the AGW Packet Engine and Airmail version 3.2.035. Both programs can be downloaded from http://www.wi-aresraces.org/downloads/ampe16.zip   and http://www.wiaresraces.org/downloads/amhc32035.exe.   Just a quick note; this is an older version of Airmail, which does not support the use of SSID's, and is only recommend for use with a straight call signs.

What Airmail will allow you to do is send traffic point-to-point to another Airmail user without having to go through a Telpac Node. If you have any questions you can e-mail Brian at smith.b@juno.com.

WeComm, Ltd. Network Design Teams to Meet

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI and President of WeComm, Ltd.

On Saturday, February 16, 2007, the WeComm, Ltd. Network design teams (voice repeater and digital data) will meet to begin initial designs for the WeComm, Ltd. Statewide Voice Repeater and Digital Data Networks. Although WeComm, Ltd. has already begun work on one major voice repeater project, this design meeting will lay the groundwork for both networks as the program moves forward. The keys to the robustness, reliability and performance of the system will be a well thought out and planned design and sticking to the plan throughout the construction process.

WeComm, Ltd. expects the construction of the voice repeater system to take three to five years to complete and the digital data system will be constantly improved upon.

After the design meeting, a document will be published which outlines the initial plans. A subsequent meeting will likely be held in 2Q 2007 to finalize the plans and the technology selected.

The Statewide Voice Repeater and Digital Data Committee members follow.   Thanks to them for their dedication!

Statewide Voice Repeater Committee	Digital Data Committee
Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO - Chair	Jim Darrow, KB9MMC - Chair
Bill Becks, WA8WG	Jim Markstrom, KB9MMA
Dave Kaun, N9KMY	Tim Piece, KB9UAJ
Dave Own, N9TUU	Dan Spangler, KC9IKI
Rich Maier, KC9NW	Todd Dorschner, N9MY
Dale Marks, WB9ADB	