



# 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

**Mike Hamman, W9BHL**, has been appointed acting EC for Lincoln County. We are searching for a permanent EC and expect to fill the position by the end of March. Thanks to Mike for filling the gap!

I am both happy and sad to report **Al Wohlferd, KA9TYT**, former Warning Communications Officer for WEM, has retired. We are going to miss Al, who has been the RACES boss for many years. Hopefully, retirement will allow Al to concentrate on ham radio and his other interests. Thank you Al, for your support of WI ARES/RACES and enjoy retirement!

## **Wisconsin Emergency Management Web Site**

By Mack Brophy, N9NTB, WEM Hamshack Manager

<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/>

Hams can find the WEM Hamshack Activation Plan under the Warning and Communications Section in the right hand side of the web site. In addition, there are many items of interest on the WEM web site.

## **New ARRL Emergency Radio Web Site**

Offered by Don Michalski, W9IXG, SM WI

Editor's Note: Please check out the ARRL's new Emergency Radio web site. In 2007, the ARRL is making Emergency Communications a priority and we will see many exciting marketing tools ARES/RACES teams can use as a result.

<http://www.emergency-radio.org/>

## **WI ARES/RACES WinLink Digital Traffic and Training Net**

By Jim Darrow, KB9MMC, ASEC for Digital Communications

On February 6, 2007, we started the Wisconsin ARES/RACES WinLink Digital Traffic and Training Net. The net meets every Tuesday at 9:00 pm. You can check into the net by sending a message with the word Check-

In, along with your city, or town in the subject line, and whether or not you have traffic to our net control operators, kb9mma@winlink.org and kb9uaj@winlink.org. Operators should check into the net through their Telpac Nodes.

Here is a listing of local Telpac Nodes; KB9BYP-10 Appleton, N9UDO-10 Baraboo, KA9KJE-10 Burlington, N9BYS-10 Burlington, N9EOW-10 Friendship, KB9ZPV-10 Genoa City, KB9UNX-10 Janesville, W9YYZ-10 Lodi, WC9AAG-10 Madison, W9KD-10 Manitowoc, KB9MMC-10 Milwaukee, W9WK-10 Milwaukee, KB9MMA-10 Racine, KC9EOW-10 Racine, N9NTB-10 Sun Prairie, WB9USI-10 Village of Mount Pleasant, K9LUK-10 Watertown, AA0KU-10 Webster.

NTS traffic into the net should be formatted as follows:

*28 R HXG KB9MMC 15 MILWAUKEE, WI 15:06 FEB 19*

*JAMES DARROW 2930 NORTH 77TH STREET MILWAUKEE WI 53222 BT*

*This is the way a properly formatted NTS Message should look for the digital net.*

*BT JAMES K. DARROW, KB9MMC/EX*

Stations participating in the net should keep in mind the digital net moves a little slower than your average voice net. And you should adjust your PacLink settings so you're connecting to your Telpac Node for traffic every 5-7 minutes.

### **WinLink 2000 Training Seminar**

There will be a WinLink 2000 Training Seminar held at Wisconsin Emergency Management, in Madison from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, April 28, 2007. The seminar will cover the setting up and operation of the AGW Packet Engine, WinLink 2000 Telpac Nodes, PacLink Stations, the use of BPQ32, Wisconsin ARES/RACES Standards for operation. If time permits we will also take a look at the use of Airmail.

Seating is limited, and for security reasons anyone wishing to attend should register by sending me an e-mail at kb9mmc@arrl.net. A CD with all the software discussed during the seminar, along with the PowerPoint presentations will be available for \$5.00 to cover the cost and burning of the CD. Please indicate when registering if you'd like to have a CD.

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## **2007 Skywarn Frequencies**

By Skip Voros, WD9HAS, Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association (MASA) President

A statewide database of mostly ham radio repeaters hosting weather nets has been managed and maintained by the Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association for a number of years. In preparing for the 2007 weather season we need your help in verifying and updating its accuracy. In addition to being submitted to a national database, the list helps promote the presence of area clubs and ARES operations. Follow link at: [www.mke-skywarn.org](http://www.mke-skywarn.org).

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## **WeComm, Ltd. Gets A Vanity Call Sign!**

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

WeComm, Ltd. is pleased to announce it has been assigned the vanity call sign of **WE9COM**. This call will be used for all WeComm owned systems in its network.

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## **Computers Available**

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, SEC Emeritus, 715 N Dries Street, Saukville 53080 [skaplan@mcw.edu](mailto:skaplan@mcw.edu)

Another few desktops have come in, and as of 23 Feb, I have five for distribution. These machines are for ARES/RACES use, which means packet, WinLink 2000, PSK-31 or other digital modes, logging, administration in connection with emergency communications, or training for emergency communications, including Field Day. They are also available to upgrade older, slower machines you may have received from me in the past (but please pass those older machines on to a ham who can use them, or recycle them properly).

The CPUs are plenty fast for our ham programs, including WinLink. Hard drive sizes vary, but all have adequate space – usually from 80 to 95% free space when you get them. Each has a CD-ROM drive, 3½-inch floppy drive and a sound card, as well as the usual serial, parallel and USB ports. Each has been physically cleaned inside and out. The hard drives have been DOD wiped (NO viruses or root kits can be left to bug you later!), repartitioned and reformatted, and a fresh copy of Windows 2000 Professional has been installed, along with every Microsoft update available on the day of rebuilding. Each has .NET Framework 1.1 and 2.0 (both are needed), including updates, and several ham programs that may be of use are there for your use. WinZip, Foxit pdf Reader and other such essential utilities have been installed. Each comes with a keyboard, mouse and power cord (you supply the monitor). These units are workhorses; each has been tested and should give you many years of additional service.

I will distribute these units to ECs and above only, although ECs and DECs are perfectly welcome to request machines for subsequent distribution to a member of their unit. They may be used in EOCs, in ham's homes, or anywhere else that would suit their intended purpose. How can you get one? Send me an email request at [skaplan@mcw.edu](mailto:skaplan@mcw.edu). If possible, I will send units to you via our fine ARES/RACES "Computer Courier" – **Keith Lodahl, KB9NUM**. If Keith cannot do it, we can probably find some ham going to your area, or perhaps one of your people can stop by my QTH (Saukville, near Port Washington) on their way to or from Milwaukee. First come, first served, so fire off that email soon! Any orders not filled will be kept on a list for the next batch that comes in.

Once again, ECs, DECs or other WI ARES/RACES leadership officials must make the request and receive the computers, though they can certainly distribute computers to members of their units.

I get requests from ECs for laptops fairly frequently, and these go on a numbered wish list to be filled in sequence. Unfortunately, laptops come in rarely, and I have well over a dozen unfilled requests going back to late 2004 as of this writing. Just to let all of you know who placed themselves on my laptop list in the past, I will contact you when one comes in and your number comes up.

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## **WeComm, Ltd. Network Design Teams 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) met to begin initial designs for the WeComm, Ltd. Statewide Voice Repeater and Digital Data Networks. We had great interaction and a lot of ideas generated. The initial requirements have been drafted and we will now begin building the system design.

A lot of discussion centered on the linking technology, which will use high speed data systems and perhaps some high speed wireless systems. More information will be forthcoming, but we had a great first meeting!

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

<b>Statewide Voice Repeater Committee</b>	<b>Digital Data Committee</b>
<b>Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO - Chair</b> <b>Bill Becks, WA8WG</b> <b>Dave Kaun, N9KMY</b> <b>Dave Own, N9TUU</b> <b>Rich Maier, KC9NW</b> <b>Dale Marks, WB9ADB</b> <b>Gale Sorum, WD9HFT</b>	<b>Jim Darrow, KB9MMC - Chair</b> <b>Jim Markstrom, KB9MMA</b> <b>Tim Piece, KB9UAJ</b> <b>Dan Spangler, KC9IKI</b> <b>Todd Dorschner, N9MY</b>

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## **Fantastic Special Event Communications Opportunities**

By Scott Winter, KB9PVI

Members of the ARES/RACES community are requested to assist with numerous public service events throughout the year. One of these events many might be familiar with is the Bike Northwoods Tour **Don Michalski, W9IXG, SM WI**, requests amateurs for annually. This tour is a week long, cross state, bicycling event, where amateurs communicate health and welfare traffic regarding cyclists, pass information regarding course hazards, provide logistical support, inform of severe weather and provide a link to emergency services if needed.

**Kathy, KB9UAZ, and Eric, KB9UAY, Schramm**, the coordinators for the Bike Northwoods Tour, will be taking over the GRABAAWR® and SAGBRAW™ bike tours starting in 2007. With the addition of these tours the Schramms are requesting additional support from the Amateur Radio community. Like the Bike Northwoods Tour, the GRABAAWR and SAGBRAW tours are also week long events. Operators may volunteer for a single or multiple days or entire week covering any of the three Ham radio operators are 20 days of operation the course of the summer. are provided the opportunity in camping, meal, shower plans and can receive reimbursement for the cost during their travels with the be an opportunity for you to amateurs from as far away and we invite Wisconsin hams to join us even if we are not going through your home towns.



week events. needed for throughout Volunteers to participate and towel of fuel tours. It will meet as Texas

The GRABAAWR, Bike Northwoods and SAGBRAW tours cover approximately 400 miles as they cross the state and involve as many as 1200 riders. As the tours progress amateurs continually adjust frequencies utilizing various 2-meter repeaters throughout the state. We recommend amateurs use a mobile radio with a minimum of 25 watts because some areas we travel through have poor repeater coverage for handhelds. For the first time this year we will be utilizing the statewide APRS network, although this equipment is not required for your participation. There are many positions in which we are looking to fill with Amateur Radio Operators, including:

- Motorcycling Hams
- Mobile SAG Hams
- Bicycling Hams
- Water Stop and Rest Stop Hams
- Net Control Hams
- Home Base Station Hams
- Camp Hams

**Special Needs Include:**

- We are also in desperate need of a Communications Director for the SAGBRAW tour.
- We have a need for an amateur operator who can volunteer for an entire week and has a large passenger van with a trailer hitch.
- Local Hams who are able to assist with communications at the towns in which our overnight locations are in.

You can find additional information regarding these positions at: [http://bikewisconsin.com/Volunteers/HAM\\_Radio.html](http://bikewisconsin.com/Volunteers/HAM_Radio.html)



This is an excellent opportunity for your ARES/RACES groups to come out and exercise your communications trailers or vehicles and for Ham clubs to set up field stations and do public relations events.

The dates of the tours and their overnight locations are listed below. There are also opportunities to volunteer pre and post tour for those who wish to. There will also be post-tour debriefings scheduled in the fall so please take notes about best practices and suggestions for new ideas.

<b>GRABAAWR®</b>	<b>Bike Northwoods Tour</b>	<b>SAGBRAW™</b>
June 23-30, 2007	July 7-14, 2007	July 29 – August 3, 2007
Eagle River	Wautoma	Sturgeon Bay
Rhineland	Stevens Point	Luxemburg
Wausau	Auburndale	Manitowoc
Wisconsin Rapids	Rib Lake	Sheboygan
Mauston	Park Falls	Port Washington*
Portage	Mellen	
Spring Green	Washburn*	* Finish – not an overnight
Prairie du Chien*	All location are tentative at this time	

If you would like a tour coordinator to provide a presentation to your ARES/RACES team or ham radio club feel free to inquire about availability. For questions and additional information regarding Amateur Radio resources needed for these events or to obtain a Ham Radio Volunteer brochure please contact **Scott Winter, KB9PVI**, at [kb9pvi@arrl.net](mailto:kb9pvi@arrl.net)

Additional information regarding any of the bicycle tours please visit their web site at [www.bikewisconsin.com](http://www.bikewisconsin.com).