



The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Newsletter



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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

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **David Hoff, Jr., KC9JDZ**, as the new Lincoln County EC replacing interim EC **Mike Hamman, W9BHL**. David will benefit from his time with Marathon County ARES/RACES. Please join me in welcoming David and thanking Mike for stepping in for a few months!

Mike Baker, KB9TWI, has resigned from the La Crosse County ARES EC position. We thank Mike for his contributions to the Service. Replacing Mike is **Eric Papenfuss, WX9EP**. Eric has been an AEC for La Crosse County and should come into the position well equipped to continue to move the organization forward. Please join me in welcoming Eric!

After a couple years developing the Racine County ARES/RACES organization, **Dave Voss, WB9USI**, has decided to step down. Dave stepped in when the organization needed steady, confident leadership and did a great job. When he was appointed, I asked Dave to develop someone to take his spot. That day has come. I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Jim Markstrom, KB9MMA**, as Racine County EC! Jim has been very active, not just in Racine County, but also with WI ARES/RACES on the Winlink 2000 front. Please join me in welcoming Jim to our leadership and thanking Dave for all of his hard work!

2007 Amateur Radio Proclamation

By Mack Brophy, WEM Hamshack Manager

Attached is the proclamation signed by Governor Doyle for Amateur Radio Recognition Days on June 23 and 24, 2007 (Field Day Weekend).

The photo of the Proclamation can be found here:

<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/category.asp?linkcatid=38&linkid=30&locid=18>



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, during times of national, state and local emergencies, amateur radio operators continue to provide communication resources at no cost to Wisconsin taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, there continues to be a need for amateur radio operators to provide emergency communication capabilities as a primary and backup resource during local, state and national emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) work with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services to provide emergency communications support to medical facilities throughout Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, amateur radio clubs throughout Wisconsin provide courses of instruction in the radio art, encourage and assist with grade school and high school programs about amateur radio, and in the process, enhance student interest in science, geography and physics, thus providing the opportunity to become a licensed amateur radio operator; and

WHEREAS, amateur radio operators, participating in SKYWARN provide trained and radio equipped severe weather spotters to assist the National Weather Service and the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, amateur radio organizations such as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) are organized and trained in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to most effectively provide emergency communication support; and

WHEREAS, amateur radio organizations such as Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) provide communication support for community and public service events to help ensure the safety of attendees, participants and observers alike; and

WHEREAS, amateur radio operators test their capability to operate "in the field" using alternate power sources during "Field Day" each June;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim June 23 and 24, 2007

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR RECOGNITION DAYS

In the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all citizens.



By the Governor
Douglas LaFollette
DOUGLAS LAFOLLETTE
Secretary of State

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty ninth day of January in the year two thousand seven.

Jim Doyle
JIM DOYLE

Allocating Resources

By Skip Sharpe, W9REL, ASEC for Training

ECs, how many communicators are at your disposal? Who are your served agencies? Whose requests will you be able to fill and whose will you have to turn down?

These interesting questions are ones that, as an ARES/RACES Emergency Coordinator or Assistant Emergency Coordinator, you may be faced with in an emergency or even some public service events. Don't feel as though you're all alone, though. These are some of the questions any emergency manager, fire chief, or other public safety official routinely faces.

Resource allocation is that science, or art, or black magic that involves dividing up available people and equipment among the immediate requests for service. It involves categorizing what you have, prioritizing the demands for your service, and dividing the former among the latter! It's not as easy as it sounds.

The best tool in your EC toolbox for this job is planning. First, plan for what types of assets, people and equipment, are available and what are their strengths and weaknesses? In NIMS jargon, that's called typing. Include your neighboring ARES/RACES teams in your planning. When your resources are depleted, you can call on them for help. Then, consider what the various served agencies are likely to need. For instance, a year or so ago, we did a major planning project with hospitals. In that project, we asked who the hospitals needed to talk to in an emergency (that's item number 9 of the hospital activation plan) and what equipment they need to set up a ham radio station in the hospital (items 5 and 6 of the plan)? Likewise, what are the communications requirements are for other served agencies? If two or more served agencies ask for support at the same time, which one gets the goods first? That's prioritization. Consider your options if an incident or event runs beyond several hours. In that case, the first shift of communicators will need to be relieved. That's when the DEC will be really useful in obtaining help from neighboring teams.

Once you know what you have to work with and what you're likely to be called upon to do, you'll be far less likely to be in a bind when the calls for communicators start coming in.

There's been an email thread recently about the possibility of providing redundant backup communications for Emergency Alert System commercial broadcasters. I was happy to read that several of you are prioritizing served agencies and considering how or even if, you'll be able to support this mission when asked.

A few extra words about resource typing. I've written some standards on typing communicators, communications teams, and communications vehicles. I'll be asking our fearless webmaster to post them on our website. I'll be happy to email them to anyone who wants to see them.

It looks like summer is finally getting here. Field Day is just around the corner. Enjoy the good weather and get out and join a group at a Field Day site. Its great practice and a lot of fun. See you on the bands.

Special Olympics Summer Games at UWSP June 7, 8 & 9

By Rick Abbott, WX9M, EC Portage County

The Wisconsin Special Olympics Summer Games will be held in Stevens Point on June 7, 8 and 9 on the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point campus. We want to thank you and other hams from all over Wisconsin who helped last year making the 2006 games a success. Please consider volunteering your time and effort again. Volunteer orientation will be June 4 at 7:00 P.M. at the UWSP Depot Center. This is not required for Ham Communication Service yet good to get a feel for the games and athletes.

For more information, or to sign up for your favorite times, call Rick Abbott, WX9M, at 715-345-7124.

So charge those HT batteries, dig out the sunscreen and your favorite hat! Hope to see you at the games!

ARES/RACES Computers Need a Home

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, SEC Emeritus, WI, skaplan@mcw.edu

I have on hand two desktops:

1. Dell Optiplex GX1P, 500 MHz, plenty of RAM and hard drive space. Fresh copy of Windows 2000 Professional (just like XP, but better), with all security and other updates installed.
2. (UNUSUAL, for you Mac lovers) Power Mac G3, PCI Graphics, 400 MHz Power PC G4 processor, 320 MB RAM, 38Gb hard drive, Mac OS 10.3.9 installed, with all software updates available as of 16 May. Has modem and MS-Office installed, too. Comes with measured 18" diagonal View Sonic E790 monitor, keyboard and mouse. Everything seems to be working perfectly, insofar as this non-Mac user can tell.

As usual, you must be an EC or higher, or get your EC to make the request, for these free machines. We'll manage to get it to you if you cannot pick it up. Great for packet, Winlink 2000, or other ham emergency communications use, including training.

Forget about laptops for now – I already have 11 ECs on the waiting list, from as long ago as 2004. If there is a sudden laptop windfall so I can supply those on the list, I will advertise the fact here. BUT, for desktops, contact me now. I'll put you on the list in the order I receive requests, and will fill the requests in the same way. Have a great Field Day!

WeComm, Ltd. Update

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

There are certainly not enough hours in the day recently! It has been a while since I have given you a WeComm, Ltd. update and I thought it would be timely to do so.

WeComm has completed its first year of operation. 2006 was an organizational development year. In 2007, we are beginning to work on some projects. While we are still waiting for the IRS to rule on our 501(c)(3) status, we have been awarded a \$72,000 grant, which will be used for the development of our statewide communications networks. We have also been selected for another \$75,000 grant to continue the construction and maintenance of the statewide voice and wireless networks. Securing adequate insurance and ensuring the organization is sound have taken time as well.

We have three stand alone voice repeater projects slated for 2007. One is an existing system we are working to acquire and the other two are new construction projects. After these three systems are online, they will serve all of southern WI and most of northeast WI. We continue to discuss what equipment is best to use for the data network and the second grant will address networks for certain metropolitan areas in WI. WeComm's goal is provide communications for ARES/RACES served agencies and organizations. Some of these systems will probably not use the amateur spectrum, but will be hardened devices capable of transmitting large amounts of data very quickly, which is becoming a requirement by hospitals, the Department of Health and Family Services and WEM. Over the next couple of months, we may be asking some of you for your assistance, especially as it relates to securing sites for communications equipment.

While it is possible some of the voice systems may be linked in 2007, I expect this will occur in 2008. There are several technologies available to provide the type of inter and intralinking required and we need to assess which is right for our application.

These are exciting times and I look forward to communicating via voice or data from any part of the state for our served agencies and organizations.

Thank you for your continued support!