



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

There are several changes currently taking place within WI ARES/RACES leadership and they will be published here next month.

E-Sponder News

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI, with Contribution from Gary Payne, N9VE, DEC Southeast WI

As reported after the WI ARES/RACES Senior Leadership Conference in April, we have decided to use E-Sponder for our resource typing and other emergency, disaster and special event needs. Essentially, everything we can use it for, we should use it for. Recently, you have seen several e-mails with training classes being offered to learn about E-Sponder. These classes are valuable, but probably not required for you to use the system. In the very near future, key ARES/RACES members will hold a conference call with Wisconsin Emergency Management personnel to discuss how we can best customize and use the E-Sponder site. We will also assign the appropriate user managers and system administrators. Essentially, all leadership personnel, including assistants, will have some level of administration capability. Generally members, unless assigned by an EC, will have read only access to their designated areas.

As I have said before, E-Sponder is not perfect and I still have questions about its speed and reliability, but it is better than anything we have the resources to create and as taxpayers, we have all bought it. The flexibility of the system is impressive and we can customize it to our liking.

Please try to get into at least one of the training courses, which you can find here. <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/section.asp?linkid=841&locid=18>.

If you would like to create an E-Sponder account, you can go do so here. <http://www.wiesponder.com/>. Remember to remember (good grammar, huh!) your password because you will need it each time you log-in. You will be hearing more about E-Sponder in upcoming articles.

WEM Hamshack Mailing List

By Mack Brophy, N9NTB, WEM Hamshack Manager

Please do not to use @ARRL.NET e-mail addresses if you are on the WEM Hamshack e-mail distribution list. The ARRL is bouncing e-mail back. Thank you.

Outagamie County ARES/RACES Activity

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Over the past two months Outagamie County has been active with several events. Because Outagamie is my home county, I participate in as many things as I can. Outagamie County EC **Stan Piekarczyk, K9STN**, has been extremely creative getting involved with some nontypical organizations and has been very successful forging relationships and getting new people into the service.

On Saturday, May 12, 2007, Outagamie County ARES/RACES participated with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) in a CAP exercise which tested communications and the CAP's operations. The CAP used their mobile command center and their new facility at Outagamie Airport. Outagamie County ARES/RACES deployed the EC Resources, Ltd. Mobile Communications Center (MCC). A great relationship was formed because of the exercise. It is interesting to note, most of the CAP participants were also licensed hams, so they fully understood the role ARES/RACES plays.



EC Resources, Ltd. Mobile Communications Center



CAP Mobile Command Center with Ryan Eleury at the mic!



WI Civil Air Patrol Mobile Command Center

On Saturday, June 16, 2007, Outagamie County ARES/RACES participated in Kids Day in Hortonville, WI. Although there was a light turnout, it provided another chance to deploy the MCC and operate some HF and VHF. A good relationship is being formed with ARES/RACES and the schools in Outagamie County and the Fox Cities as a result.



Pictured; Stan Piekarczyk, K9STN, EC Outagamie County, John Morack, N9ZXR, AEC for Skywarn, Scott Brielmaier, KB9OBQ, Bob Zalewski, W9RNA and Dominick Piekarczyk, KF6HCG.

Winlink 2000 during the GMR

By Jim Darrow, KB9MMC, ASEC for Digital Communications

Thought you might be interested in how we did (digitally) during the 2007 Great Midwest Relay (GMR).

Figures from the 2006 GMR were;

Total Number of Messages Originated 335

Total Amount of data 1,112,485 bites

Figures from the 2007 GMR are ;

Total Number of Messages Originated 466

Average Message Size 5,315.5 Bytes

Total Amount of Data Passed 2,477,036 Bytes

2007 will also go down in the books with the one piece of traffic that traveled the greatest distance. The course is only 190 miles, but during the event on Friday night a station within Racine County was having problems with his AGW Packet Engine talking to his TNC. He switched over his WinLink software to talk to the Racine HSMM Network and sent a piece of traffic to SV2AGW in Greece. George was awake on the other end, replied to his message, and got his AGW Packet Engine working. WinLink is truly an amazing system when you have trained operators.

Langlade County ARES/RACES Responses to EF3 Tornado

By Dennis Schmidt, W9DMS, EC Langlade County

Editor's Note: This tornado crossed Highway 64 between Mountain and Langlade. A couple weeks after the tornado I went through there and was in awe of the width of this tornado. Nearly a mile-wide swath of trees on either side of Highway 64 is gone. I have never seen such a wide tornado damage in Wisconsin. It is a miracle no one was killed. The following is Dennis's excellent situation report.

At approximately 1800 on June 7, 2007, the Langlade County ARES group was request by the Wolf River Fire Department to help support communications, if needed. I was first on the scene from the group and was asked if we could provide one or two operators to supplement and rotate with the Department's primary communications team. The incident involved a tornado touchdown in Eastern Langlade County. The tornado completely demolished the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort. I was joined on scene by **Helmut Kiesling, KC9GGY** and **Randy Wolinski, KB9TKB**.

After their arrival I asked Helmut as AEC to take over as the lead ARES member on scene, so I could return home to handle a domestic situation. At about 2010 Helmut and Randy where released from the scene as more accurate reports of damage and incident needs came in. Thankfully, no fatalities occurred with the severe weather incident and all parties are accounted for.

2007 WI ARES/RACES Conference

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

The 2007 WI ARES/RACES Conference will be held this year in Neenah, WI on Saturday, October 27 and Sunday, October 28. On Saturday the conference will last from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We are completing logistics plans for the event, but there will be a preferred hotel near the Fox River Mall and the announcement will tell you more about the conference and location.

I realize a two-day conference is beyond what many of you will be able to commit to, but numerous members have requested more networking time and the Saturday night of the conference will provide that. It also gives us the advantage of getting to know each other better on Sunday through highly interactive events and activities.

We look forward to record attendance again this year. Cross your fingers that gas prices go down some! Look for the Conference registration in next month's newsletter.
