



# The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Newsletter



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*The WI ARES/RACES Newsletter is published quarterly 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.*

**Submittals:** Articles and information should be submitted to Bill Niemuth, KC9ENO, at [bniemuth@new.rr.com](mailto:bniemuth@new.rr.com). 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".

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## **ARES Leadership and Organizational Changes**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

2008 starts off with a flurry of EC changes. In Marquette County interim EC and ASEC for Marketing and Recruiting **Gary Sorensen, W9ULK**, has found his replacement! The new Marquette County EC is **Kevin Graham, KC9FWE**. Kevin has previous experience as an AEC in Waushara County. Please join me in welcoming Kevin to his new position and thanking Gary for stepping up and filling in!

**Hap Daus, KC9BGA**, has decided to step down as Grant and Crawford County EC. Although we are sorry to lose Hap, he has agreed to stay active and help the new EC in Grant County who is **Dana Wilson, KC9KOQ**. Dana has been active in public service communications and is looking forward to the opportunity. We are still trying to determine what to do in Crawford County. Please join me in welcoming Dana and thanking Hap!

After his second run as EC **Rick Abbott, WX9M**, has decided to step down and concentrate on his job and family. Rick has been extremely involved in various levels of WI ARES/RACES for many years serving previously as EC and DEC. Rick has vowed to stay involved and provide guidance to the group. Please join me in thanking Rick for all his effort and accomplishments!

Replacing Rick is **Scott Rossman, W9DKL**. Scott is enthusiastic and ready to take the reigns. There is a trifecta of three counties; Wood, Portage and Waupaca Counties with new ECs. I am sure they will all grow and learn together! Please join me in welcoming Scott to the WI ARES/RACES Leadership!

I am sorry to report **Jim Burow, KC9Ezt**, Waushara County EC, passed away this month. Jim had a great deal of enthusiasm for ARES/RACES, but unfortunately, his body did not cooperate. Jim will be missed by everyone who knew him.

**Gil Van Raalte, KC9FGH**, has again been appointed to the Waushara County EC position. Gil was EC before Jim Burow was appointed to the role, but had to step down because of a job commitment. We are looking forward to having Gil back in the position. When you hear Gil, please welcome him back.

In Waukesha County **Larry Noldan, N29I**, has replaced **Greg Wolfe, K9ZZZ**, as EC. We wish Greg the best and welcome Larry to his new position. Larry is an IT Director and has great experience to move Waukesha County to the next level. We look forward to working with Larry. Welcome Larry when you hear him!

**Frank Moss, KC9ILZ**, has stepped down as Kenosha County EC. We wish Frank the best in his endeavors. Replacing Frank is **Jeff Thompson, KC9KUF**. Jeff has a professional background in emergency response and preparedness. We welcome Jeff to his new position in what has become one of the most active disaster counties in Wisconsin!

After several months of inactivity we are pleased to reopen the Sheboygan County ARES/RACES program! **Phil Lodde, KB5ZJU**, has been appointed EC. Phil has a history of activity with Navy and Army MARS and is now ready to lead an ARES/RACES team. We are fortunate to have Phil and look forward to working with him!

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## **WeComm, Ltd. News**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

On Thursday, March 20, 2008, WeComm, Ltd. installed **WE9COM** repeater in Suring, WI. This repeater (145.290, PL 114.8) will cover most of Northeast and much of East Central Wisconsin from its 700-foot perch on the WRVM FM 107.2 tower. The installation consists of entirely new equipment (a long story), but it will be one of the flagship repeaters in the WeComm network. Special thanks to WeComm, Ltd. Technical Director **Bill Becks, WA8WG**, for his skillful site and RF design. Bill's use of NEC modeling products at this site takes best advantage of the site and antenna gain.



**WE9COM Repeater in Suring, WI**

In other news, WeComm, Ltd. has secured a donation of a complete D-Star repeater system (2-meter, 440Mhz, 1.2GHz voice and data). Although D-Star voice repeaters are not part of WeComm's strategy, we could not pass on this opportunity. We are beginning to work with a tower owner in Madison where this system will be installed. It may or may not be interfaced to the WeComm statewide voice network.

Negotiations continue with several other tower owners. Not every solicitation is going to be accepted and we are experiencing that now. We will be flexible and seek the best sites for the least amount of money.

# **Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Days Proclamation**

Provided By Mack Brophy, N9NTB, WEM Hamshack Manager



## **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

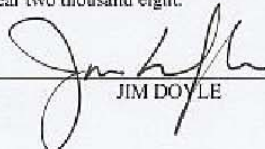
**WHEREAS**, amateur radio operators test their capability to operate "in the field" using alternate power sources during "Field Day" each June;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim June 28 & 29, 2008**

### **AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR RECOGNITION DAYS**

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

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 fifth day of February in the year two thousand eight.

  
JIM DOYLE



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## **A Wisconsin Tornado in January?**

Photos Provided by Jim Markstrom, KB9MMA, EC Racine County

Editor's Note: Jim provided the following photos of the support provided to Kenosha County after an EF3 tornado struck in January. Can weather get any crazier!? Thanks to Jim and everyone who helped with the recovery efforts!





Please see the following for more information:

[http://www.w9udu.org/wiki/index.php/Jan\\_8\\_2008\\_red\\_cross\\_activation](http://www.w9udu.org/wiki/index.php/Jan_8_2008_red_cross_activation)

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## **WI ARES/RACES Digital Update**

By Jim Darrow, KB9MMC, ASEC for Digital Communications

We had a new high record traffic month with 3,057 in messages in January 2008!

We have another new Telpac Node in Wisconsin. Welcome to **George Kasica, KC9AVZ**, in Jackson, WI. George sysops Telpac Node KC9AVZ-10. So if you are in the area give him a try. It appears his station hears quite well, and I can connect to him from Milwaukee very easily.

Around the holidays I asked everyone their thoughts about adding AGW Uldigi to the software used at Telpac Node sites. The response was very good. After talking to **Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO**, and a few others, the decision was made to replace the existing BPQ32 and Digiplex Node software with AGW Uldigi. There are a couple of reasons for this change. It is easier to setup PaLink to digi than it is to node hop. It will also give us the ability to use APRS to track assets on the ground during a local deployment. **Jim Markstrom, KB9MMA**, and I, through the sites which we have remote access, have already switched quite a few stations over. I will develop an MS PowerPoint presentation that will review the setup along with WI ARES/RACES standards for the Digi's. This PowerPoint will be available to those who would like to set up their own station.

For those who are members of the WI ARES/RACES WinLink Yahoo Group I will be disbanding it. The Yahoo Group worked well when we first started implementing WinLink. Lately, folks have been e-mailing their questions straight to me and the Yahoo Group has not seen any use in some time. So, I will shut the group down. It is also easier for me to upgrade the files we use on my http site which is <http://kb9mmc.ath.cx:8080>. If you have not visited I encourage you to check it out. In addition to the WinLink software there is A LOT of free ham radio software there I have posted.

February 2008 looks like another record breaking month for digital traffic. In February 2007 we had a total of 969 messages. February 2008, with four days to go, our total is 2825. Fantastic work guys!!!

Finally, I know this sounds a long way off but June 6-7 (Friday-Saturday) are the dates the Madison – Chicago 200 will be held. For those who are not familiar with the event, the Madison - Chicago 200 is a running relay race which travels from Madison to Milwaukee and then on to Chicago. During the event we staff each Van Transfer Area (VTA) with digital (WinLink) stations along with a digital operator and each net control station (there will be three in Wisconsin this year) along with a digital net control station (number crunching central). If anyone is interested in helping please drop me a line.

Keep up the good work!!

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## **Northland Amateur Radio (NARC) Club Helps with Sled Dog Race**

By A. J. Van Beest, KC9LPO, EC Bayfield County

Four members of the NARC and one guest ham worked at trail checkpoints and the race start-finish line throughout the two-day dog sled race to make sure mushers and dogs were safe.

Along with keeping race organizers apprised of teams passing through checkpoints, the NARC hams contacted the race veterinarian when one of the racers' lead dogs suffered a series of seizures. It was faster for the racer to finish the race than be evacuated, but because of the traffic passed by amateur radio, the race veterinarian was standing by ready to assist when the team crossed the finish line.

This was the first year the Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race had amateur radio communications. Race organizers tried to use cell phones and consumer-grade two-way radios to keep in touch during the race, but the course's terrain and distance from cell towers made their efforts challenging at best.

"In the past," said one of the race's organizers, Kristen Sandstrom, "we didn't really have a good way to keep track of what was happening on the course. Mushers would bring back word if someone needed help, but that could potentially take a couple hours. With the hams out there this year, we knew right away when a team needed help, and that let us take appropriate action at the trailhead. We're really looking forward to having help from the hams in the future."

For their part, the amateur radio operators were happy to help.

"This is what we do; we help by communicating" explained **A.J. Van Beest, KC9LPO**, one of the hams who helped at the sled dog race. "Ham radio starts as a hobby for most of us. And then it grows and becomes part of who we are. It becomes one of the ways we give back to the community; by being there to help out when we're needed."

Learn more about the NARC or get involved: [ajvanbeest@gmail.com](mailto:ajvanbeest@gmail.com)

Communications organizers for AISDR:

**A.J. Van Beest, KC9LPO**

**Jay Ferguson, KC9GSK**

Additional amateur radio volunteers:

**Tim Willoughby, KB9TJI**

**Chuck Perry, N9CZM**

**Dave Olson, KC9LJO**

**Dave Eplett, W9DJE**

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## **A Really Neat Idea!**

By Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB, DEC SWW, Dana Wilson, KC9KOO, EC Grant County and Bob Naegele, W9MZ, EC Richland County

Editor's Note: The following was routed to me via Dana, Bob and Pete. With potential flooding this year, it is a really neat idea and provides some quantitative information in which to provide to Emergency Management!

All the parts came from Ace Hardware. The post is an electric fence post; fiberglass I think. The reflective tape is carefully placed so it can be used for measuring the water depth from a distance. The rain gauge is held by zip ties. There must be access to dump the rain gauge.



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## **Wisconsin ARES/RACES Net**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Now that we are out of the winter doldrums on 75-meters, we are again starting to have success with the WI ARES/RACES Net. The net meets each Sunday at 6:00 p.m. on 3977.5 KHz. Our net manager **Wally Kruk, N9VAO**, does a great job keeping us in line, but more than that by scheduling net control operators, interfacing with everyone who checks in and creating interesting topics discussed each week.

On this net we exchange information about ARES/RACES matters and each net is a training session for activations we face. It is the training ground for ARES/RACES tactical or resource nets as well as a meeting place for amateur radio operators interested in EmComm.

If you have not checked into the WI ARES/RACES net and have a General class license or above, give it a try. We have a good group, talk about very interesting items, get great training and have a good time!

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## **Wisconsin ARES/RACES Net**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Wisconsin ARES/RACES provides an important service to the residents of Wisconsin, but we have also created a brand which needs to be marketed to get our message out to the public and our served agencies. One way to market effectively is to present our brand on our shirts, jackets and hats in the form of our logo.

Wisconsin ARES/RACES apparel is now available for sale here. <http://www.createchinc.com/store/wiaresraces/>. It can be ordered any time from any where.

So, why wait! Order your WI ARES/RACES apparel today.