



The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Emergency Coordinator



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WISCONSIN SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR, CHIEF RACES RADIO OFFICER AND EDITOR:

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The WEC Newsletter is sent monthly to all American Radio Relay League Emergency Coordinators in the State of Wisconsin. It is intended to provide a forum for ECs to share ideas concerning the organization and training of their respective groups, and as a source of news concerning ARES and RACES activities in the state.

Comments, suggestions and articles (finished or in rough form) are solicited from the readers.

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RACES Registration Marches On

The push is almost over to complete integration of ARES and RACES in the state. In January, to be a registered RACES operator, a ham must be a member of the ARES group in their county. If they live in a county without an EC or ARES group, they may become a member of a neighboring county's group, or they may contact WB9RQR for direct registration. Direct registration will be afforded

only in special cases, such as for longstanding members of the Wisconsin RACES net.

ECs, you MUST get your rosters in this month, if you have not done so already. Data needed is call, name, address, city, state (some ARES groups on the border may well have out-of-state members) zip, home phone and class of license. If you are in a bind for any reason, call WB9RQR on the phone to discuss it. Otherwise, submission of your roster is a requirement, not an option, and it is expected that you will get it in well before the 31st. Whom do you include in your list of ARES members? Those hams which YOU consider active members of your group. Whom do you exclude? Those hams which YOU consider not to be active members of your group. The decision rests with each EC.

When your data is received, WB9RQR personally enters it into the official RACES database. The only item added to the data you submit is the date of registration, which is the date that Stan receives your data. A printed copy of the database records for your county will reach you soon after, which you can check and file. Once in the database for your county, a ham is a registered RACES operator. Those who are not in the database are not RACES ops.

Any EC can request a copy of their group's data at any time, and I will be glad to print a copy and send it to you via snailmail, or I can email it to you if you prefer. When the data for a ham changes, a simple note to me via email or snailmail

will suffice. I will update the record as you indicate and send you a new report for your group. The process is very simple and easy.

Updated copies of the Wisconsin RACES database are shared with Mack Brophy (N9NTB), WI State Hamshack Manager in Madison, who will make the info available to Al Wohlferd, the Communications and Warning Officer, during emergencies. No one else gets copies of the database. On the other hand, there is no information in the database can't be had by anyone with the latest copy of Buckmaster or some other callbook program, so confidentiality is not really much of an issue. Counties with an EC/ARES group that have NOT completed registering their ARES members as RACES operators are:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Barron | 15. Monroe |
| 2. Chippewa | 16. Pierce |
| 3. Clark | 17. Price |
| 4. Columbia | 18. Sain Croix |
| 5. Crawford | 19. Sauk |
| 6. Fond du Lac | 20. Shawano |
| 7. Forest | 21. Sheboygan |
| 8. Green Lake | 22. Taylor |
| 9. Iowa | 23. Trempealeau |
| 10. Kenosha | 24. Vilas |
| 11. Lincoln | 25. Waukesha |
| 12. Marathon | 26. Waupaca |
| 13. Marinette (S) | 27. Waushara |
| 14. Milwaukee | |

Newsletters Available

Dave Barrow, N9UNR, Ozaukee County EC has all issues of this newsletter available in PDF (Adobe Acrobat) format. Just fire him a request at n9unr@execpc.com and he will return what you need via

email. The files are small, well under 50kb each, so it will not take long to transmit them. Don't have the Adobe Acrobat reader? It is free on the web at many sites. Let Dave know and he will point you to one. Thanks to Dave for this service.

Plans are also underway to create a Wisconsin EC website, where these files and others will be posted for your benefit. Expect one to be up and running sometime in the next few months.

FLASH:

WISCONSIN ARES/RACES EC/RO CONFERENCE

WHEN: Sat 1999 Dec 04, noon to approximately 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Department of Military Affairs Auditorium, Department of Military Affairs Building (Houses Wisconsin Emergency Management), 2400 Wright Street, Madison

OPEN TO: ECs, AECs, and DECs (ARES), Radio Officers and Alternate Radio Officers (RACES), American Red Cross Amateur Radio Representatives, Army, Air Force and Navy MARS Directors and Amateur Radio Club Board Members of clubs providing emergency communications support during Y2K

This is your chance to tour the Wisconsin State Hamshack, discuss issuing of picture ID cards by supported agencies, share problems and solutions with fellow ECs and ROs, hear talks on the latest developments with EMWIN, and discuss ham preparations for Y2K.

Talk in on the 146.88 Baraboo and the 147.15 Madison repeaters (both 123.0 PL). Enter the building at the southwest entrance and register with the receptionist (security requires that you sign in and out).

For further information email Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR), WI SEC: skaplan@mcw.edu, or Mack Brophy (N9NTB), Hamshack Manager: races@dma.state.wi.us.

If you can attend please let Mack know via email or leave him a voice mail message at 1-608-242-3323, so that we may plan accordingly.

This is the first in what we hope is a continuing series of conferences for the leaders in the ham community who are involved in emergency communications. Please try hard to make it!

Jackson County Gets An EC

Get out your brand new rosters, folks, and pen in an update for Jackson County:

John Elliott, KB9SHK
307 Main Street
Black River Falls 54615
H: 715-284-1507 W:715-284-0263
P: 715-299-1703
jacoemer@co.jackson.wi.us

John is not only an EC, he is also an EM. John is the Director of Jackson County Emergency Management. As a ham, he has developed a weekly 2-meter net, has held meetings with local amateurs to interest volunteers, and is moving toward monthly meetings with a newly gathered group. In other words, he is moving along nicely to build a group where none existed before. That certainly describes the activities of a vigorous new EC! Welcome, John, we are glad to have you.

And Our New Guy in Outagamie

Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, has taken over the EC position for Outagamie County from John Morack. Data for Bill:

William Niemuth, KB9ENO
W8088 Hillcrest Court
Hortonville 54944
H:920-779-0611 W:920-721-6278
M:920-702-0201 P:800-411-0867
bniemuth@execpc.com

Welcome, Bill!

BULLETIN: Coast Guard Desire for Amateur Wireless Support during Y2K Event

*[Edited slightly. Note carefully that the USCG is asking us to communicate with our state EOC, **not** directly with them. Do you have the State Hamshack frequencies handy? Just in case, the EOC/Hamshack Activation Plan, with frequencies, is reprinted again in this issue. Also, be prepared to give essential information concerning spills or releases: who you are, what happened, where it happened, when it happened and how it happened. For details, scope out the web site mentioned in the article, and print out the Standard Report Form they make available there.]*

1999 October 28:

The U.S. Coast Guard would like the United States amateur radio community to assist us during the Y2K event (Dec 31, 1700Z - Jan 02, 2400Z) by accepting any reports destined for our National Response Center (NRC) and forwarding them to your respective

State Emergency Operation Center (EOC). Contact with the State EOC may be made using RACES/ARES or other available methods. The State EOC is requested to pass these reports to the Coast Guard using one of the following EOC to NRC contact methods:

1. Telephone: 1 800 424-8802
2. Web site: <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil>
3. HF radio to FEMA's net control located at Mount Weather Emergency Assistance Center (MWEAC) Berryville, VA, to the Coast Guard CAMS (NMN or NMC) on the FEMA net-control frequencies of either 5211KHz or 10493KHz USB.

Background: The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) operates the National Response Center (NRC) which is the sole national point of contact for reporting all oil, chemical, radiological, biological, and etiological discharges into the environment anywhere in the United States and its territories. During normal operations the primary method of reporting incidents to the NRC is via their telephone at 1 800 424 8802. The secondary reporting method is via the NRC Internet Web site: <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil>. In the event that a Y2K outage may cause localized Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) outages both of these reporting methods could be unavailable. In order to prepare for possible PSTN and/or power outages that may result during the Y2K event, the NRC is seeking assistance from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). State EOCs and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide a link with the civil community. Assistance requested includes, supporting a wireless path for relay of any hazardous material spill and/or incidents to the NRC from

an area where there is a PSTN outage. The HF path between FEMA and the USCG will be the FEMA HF radio calling frequencies shown above. Both USCG Communication Area Master Stations (CAMS) will be monitoring one of these frequencies, depending on time of day, and can be contacted on them should other landline methods of delivery be unavailable.

The two USCG CAMS are 1. U.S. Coast Guard Communication Area Master Station Chesapeake, VA, call sign: NMN, and 2: U.S. Coast Guard Communication Area Master Station San Francisco, CA, call sign: NMC. The minimum information which must be gathered and included in any report to the National Response Center is included in incident report form that may be found on the National Response Center's Web Site: <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil>.

W.E.M. EOC Radio Room (Hamshack) Activation Plan

In the event of a National or State emergency, the following W.E.M. EOC Radio Room (Hamshack) Activation Plan will be implemented upon the request of the Administrator Wisconsin Emergency Management or the W.E.M. Duty Officer.

1. The hamshack callsign is WC9AAG.
2. The hamshack will be manned by ARES/RACES/MARS volunteers. HF radio operator support for the Wisconsin National Guard will be coordinated through the W.E.M. Communications and Warning Officer.

3. Initially HF frequency 07.277 MHz LSB will be monitored during the period 1200Z thru 2400Z.

4. Initially HF frequency 03.993.5 MHz LSB will be monitored during the period 2400Z thru 1200Z.

5. PacTOR will be available, as needed, on HF frequency 03.584 MHz USB.

6. VHF full time packet (wc9aag@wc9aag.en53ja.wi.us.na) MSYS BBS is available on the ARES/RACES packet network frequency 145.610 MHz. Node is ARWEM.

7. VHF voice will be on the Madison Area Repeater Association 147.150 MHz (PL 123.0) repeater, linked (if needed) to the Milwaukee MAARS 145.130 MHz (PL 127.3) repeater.

8. UHF\6M voice will be on the Southern Wisconsin Repeater Group (443.400\443.675\53.090) and the UHF Backbone Network.

9. Emergency bulletins, frequency updates, situation reports, etc., will be disseminated using the Badger Emergency Net (BEN) on 07.283 MHz LSB, if it is activated.

10. E-mail will be utilized, when available. Hamshack e-mail address: aces@dma.state.wi.us.

11. The hamshack telephone number is 1-608-242-3323 (with Voice Mail), if operational.

12. HF voice frequencies will be adjusted for changing band conditions.

13. For additional ARES/RACES information, contact the State RACES Radio Officer/WI ARRL SEC Dr. Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, at e-mail: skaplan@mccw.edu or at 262-284-9346.

14. For general WEM EOC hamshack information, send an inquiry to the hamshack e-mail address or call the hamshack telephone number. Check the

W.E.M. internet web page URL:
<http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dma/wem/index.htm>

15. Air Force MARS point of contact is Phillip Rebensburg, AFA3FMVAFF3WIKC9CI, e-mail address: phillipr@execpc.com; telephone: 262-251-6250.

16. Army MARS point of contact is Gustov Bonow, AAR5BSW9IHW, e-mail: bsmarswi@wctc.net; telephone: 715-887-3962.

17. Navy MARS point of contact is Robert Barker, NNN0GCE/WI, e-mail: dchief@ticon.net.

18. W.E.M. point of contact is Alan Wohlferd, Communications and Warning Officer, e-mail wohlfa@dma.state.wi.us or telephone: 608-242-3250.

Routing Messages during Y2K

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) has established the following procedure for EOC amateur radio message routing during the time that the WEM EOC is operational for Y2K.

All amateur radio messages from a county EOC hamshack will be sent to its WEM Region hamshack for necessary action.

If the WEM Region Director cannot resolve the problem he/she will forward the message to the state WEM EOC hamshack.

At a minimum, each WEM Region Hamshack should have VHF capability.

The WEM Region hamshack should inform the counties it provides support as to what VHF repeater it will be monitoring. The county EOC hamshack should inform the WEM Region hamshack as to what VHF repeater they will be monitoring, e.g., SE Region tells

the counties it will be monitoring the 146.820 Delafield repeater; Milwaukee County EOC tells SE Region that it will monitoring the 145.130 repeater; EC Region tells its counties it will be monitoring the Manitowoc 145.190 repeater and the counties tell NC Region on what repeaters they will be operating.

The state WEM EOC hamshack will be monitoring those frequencies listed in the WEM EOC Radio Room (Hamshack) Activation Plan. In addition to those frequencies listed in the plan the WEM EOC hamshack will be monitoring the Manitowoc 145.190 repeater. All Regions and county EOC's are asked to establish an HF path to the WEM EOC hamshack and WEM Region hamshacks in the event the repeaters and/or the Region hamshacks become non-operational.

A copy of the WEM EOC Radio Room (Hamshack) Activation Plan is included in this issue.

73 de Mack N9NTB

Amateur Radio Liaison/State Hamshack Manager

1-608-242-3323 (with Voice Mail)

E-mail: aces@dma.state.wi.us

“This is a Drill”

Some groups are making the above announcement every 10 minutes or so during the course of an exercise. Bad idea!!!

The commonly accepted practice during tests and drills is to BOTH **BEGIN** and **END EVERY** message with the statement that “THIS IS A DRILL”. This practice is followed at every level of government, and we hams should do it too.

Why? It is the only way to be sure that anyone listening clearly understands that the message is

not associated with a real emergency. Sending the qualifier statement at the end of the message as well as at the start insures that even someone who tuned in after the message began also understands that a real emergency is not underway.

A dispatcher forgot to announce “This is a Drill” when sending an “officer down” message during a recent exercise in our state. The county sheriff, purposefully not pre-warned of the exercise, was beside himself in his effort to get out of his house, into his car and on his way to see what happened to one of his officers. He sped off with siren and lights going. Fortunately, the dispatcher quickly remedied the situation and calmed the sheriff down almost immediately. But what if the sheriff had an accident on his way to the incident?

You can see the negative possibilities, and it is not too hard to extrapolate a bad situation developing among us hams if the qualifier is not used. So please, remember to announce at the beginning and end of every message that “This is a Drill. Make it “This is Just a Drill” if you like. Also remember that this qualifier should be used no matter what mode you are using...voice, packet, CW or even TV!

**A Happy
 Thanksgiving
 To All of You!**

ARES-ARRL RACES-WEM
WISCONSIN