



# The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Emergency Coordinator



VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2000

## 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 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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## EC/RO Conference a Success

Our very first ever Emergency Coordinator/Radio Officer Conference was hosted by Mack Brophy, N9NTB, at the headquarters of Wisconsin Emergency Management in Madison, on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. After opening comments by SEC Stan Kaplan and SM Don Michalski, General Blainey of the Wisconsin National Guard asked to address the group. General Blainey heads up not only

the Army and Air National Guard units, but also Wisconsin Emergency Management itself. He applauded our group for volunteer efforts in the public good, and pointed out the importance of ARES/RACES emergency communications in the mission of WEM.

Stan then spent some time going over the integration of ARES and RACES in the state, including how and why it is a top priority for the SEC/Chief RO position. He then announced the availability of free computers (see the separate article on this) for ECs and ROs in the state.

Mack Brophy then outlined the communications plans for Y2K, including the role of the WEM Hamshack in taking information from districts, which in turn receive reports from individual counties. A question and answer period cleared up any misconceptions for the attendees.

Tom Fleming (N9SZF) took the podium and asked each EC to do a self-introduction and to give a thumbnail of their Y2K preparations and staffing plans. Tom then directed an "ask your questions/voice your concerns" session from those present.

After a few closing comments by Stan, the meeting was closed so that tours of the EOC and Wisconsin State Hamshack could begin. At the same time, distribution of the computers took place in the parking lot.

Feedback indicated that the conference was a positive learning

experience for attendees and that they enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Hamshack and EOC at WEM. We hope that this was the first in a long series of such conferences over the years! Thanks to all who traveled to attend: Those present included:

1. Don Michalski W9IXG, SM
2. Stan Kaplan WB9RQR, SEC
3. Mack Brophy, N9NTB, Hamshack Mgr
4. Art Evans KA9KLZ, SW DEC
5. Ed Wagner, WA9SZH, Adams EC
6. Tom Fleming N9SZF, CWRA EC
7. Sam Rowe KG9NG, Dane EC
8. Dale Marks, WB9ADB, Dodge EC
9. John Kuntz, KB9RY, Grant EC
10. Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, La Crosse EC
11. Brian Martin, KB9PCU, Marquette EC
12. John Leekley, WB9SMM, Milw/Wauk EC
13. Tom Kucharski, KA9EWJ, NWS EC
14. Bill Niemuth KB9ENO, Outagamie EC
15. Dave Barrow, N9UNR, Ozaukee EC
16. Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB, Sauk EC
17. Mike Musiel, KF9SJ, Sheboygan EC
18. Gary Payne, N9VE, Walworth EC
19. Walt Gossfeld, N9LLS, Washington EC
20. Abe Galonski, KC1W, Ozaukee AEC
21. Matt Singer, KG9NH, Ozaukee AEC
22. Jack Morrison, N9SFG, Ozaukee AEC
23. Bruce Micales WA2DEU, Red Cross
24. Ron Henry, N9KWW, Navy MARS
25. Joseph Williams, KA9ZBI, ARMY MARS
26. Conrad Eggert, N9WNT, CAP
27. Don Evenson, K9JYX, BSSS
28. Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS
29. Bob Aspinwall, WB9RND
30. Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV
31. Joe Imilkowski, W9CWD
32. Bob Koepp, KB9UAR
33. Bill Shimer, N9ZXP
34. Peter Schaettle, N9XVG
35. Dave Owen, N9TUU
36. Melanie Owen, N9ZWZ
37. John Nagler, N9GGZ
38. Christain Reynolds, KC0ARF
39. David Shank, KA9WXN
40. Mike Sajdowitz, N9RTJ
41. David Parker, WB9WHG
42. James Westover, KB9KKB
43. Richard Kelly, KB9RBN
44. Kevin Kolpitcke, WB9YHB
45. Jim Lattis, KB9REO
46. Jim Staatz, KG9RA
47. Brad Kleemann, WB9WHI
48. Charles Campbell, KA9BDX

## New Additions

Pen in more names and data on your Emergency Coordinator rosters:

Tom Fleming, N9SZF, Central Wisconsin Repeater Association (CWRA) EC has taken on the added responsibility of **District Emergency Coordinator for South Central Wisconsin**, effective 5 December. Tom's district includes Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Dane, Jefferson, Green Rock and Walworth Counties. Tom's data:

Tom Fleming, N9SZF  
3201 Clove Drive, Madison 53704  
H: 608-246-0282 W: 608-246-6140  
P: 608-578-1034 n9szf@arrl.net

Rich Dailey, W9IBL, has accepted the **EC position for Jefferson County**, also effective 5 December. Data for Rich:

Richard Dailey, Sr., W9IBL  
709 Jackson Street, Fort Atkinson 53538  
H: 920-563-6582

David Owen, N9TUU, has been appointed to the position of **EC for Richland County**, effective 11 December. David is State Communications Chief for the Army National Guard. His data:

David Owen, N9TUU  
S1960 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Wonewoc 53968  
H: 608-983-2264 W: 608-647-7104  
P: 608-376-2292 M: 608-647-3220 x088

Welcome to all! The addition of Rich as EC for Jefferson places the South Central District as the only one with a full complement of ECs. That is, all EC positions in the counties comprising the district are filled. And, just in time, Tom Fleming is the new DEC for that district, too! Good stuff. Look for the addition of more new leaders in our Wisconsin Section. One of the SEC's goals outlined in this newsletter last March is to fill all vacant EC and DEC positions in the state. Target date: Jan 2001.

We are definitely moving toward that goal!

You can help in the process. Do you know of a leadership-capable ham in a neighboring county that has no EC? Talk to them and to me. We want to build viable ARES/RACES groups in each county in Wisconsin. The ultimate goal: doing what we do best – providing communications when others cannot!

## Free Computers!

During my ten year stint as EC of Ozaukee County, I collected junked computers (mainly from the Medical College of Wisconsin, where I worked), rebuilt them, and turned them over to my OZARES members to encourage the use of packet radio in emergency communications. After distribution of about 150 rebuilt computers, OZARES hams were pretty much saturated!

Recently, Ozaukee County Government replaced all of the computers in the county. Well, guess what they did with the old ones? Yep, they gave them all to WB9RQR (reputation for putting them to good use, plus the fact that I am Deputy Director of Emergency Management did not hurt). And, guess what else? I am going to distribute them (after rebuilding) to ECs throughout Wisconsin who will give them to their members for use in packet and other digital or general ham use in emergency communications. Free. No strings attached. Eleven of the units were already rebuilt and distributed to ECs at the First EC/RO Conference in Madison on 4 December.

OK, so what are they? The units are mainly either 486 class computers, or IBM PS/2s. Don't scoff at the PS/2s. Because of the Microbus architecture used in these

models, there are double the number of bus lines. To see this for yourself, if you look at an edge connector of a PS/2 plug in board, you will see double the number of gold contacts compared to a standard board. Every other contact is a ground line. That means that PS/2s are unusually RF quiet (turn one on next to your HT and you won't hear a thing, but do that with a standard computer and the RF garbage will break squelch on the HT). Not only that, they are unusually RF proof. You can use a PS/2 much closer to transmitters than you can a standard computer. Therefore, the PS/2s are wonderful for packet or general ham use.

Whatever model, they come with varying amounts of memory and varying sizes of hard drives. However, what is there is sufficient to run packet or most anything else.

Each is rebuilt. I open each unit and clean it thoroughly. Then I use FDISK to remove any existing partition on the hard drive and reinstall a new one. That kills any viruses that might be lurking in a dark corner on the drive. Next, I format the drive, and add software:

- MS-DOS 6.22
- Windows 3.1
- Microsoft Word 6.0a
- CALLS (a little logging program I wrote)
- F-Prot (the best virus scanner there is)
- Norton Utilities 8
- WordStar 4
- General Utilities
- YAPP (Yet Another Packet Program, the simplest and best in the world)

Finally, the COM ports, printer ports, clock, floppy drives and other hardware items are tested to be sure they all work within specifications. When everything tests OK, the cover is replaced and a Norton Rescue Disk is prepared (which allows you to boot and access the hard drive if the battery fails and the CMOS data is lost).

Each unit comes with power cables and a keyboard. A VGA monitor will be provided until they run out (I was not given enough to go with all the computers).

So, who gets one and how? I will not distribute these machines to individual ARES members; only to ECs. ECs, send me a simple, separate email or snailmail note telling me how many you would like (don't inflate the number you can really use). I will rebuild them as I can, and notify you when they are ready for pickup. No, I will not ship them; they must be picked up at my QTH in Port Washington. Pickup is up to you...we can surely find a mutually convenient time.

Strings? None. Just use them for packet, other digital or other ham radio use, for ARES/RACES, CAP, MARS, Red Cross or other operations which involves training or actual emergency communications, or administration thereof. Note that they are not intended for use by Aunt Sue to get on the Internet (unless she is a ham radio operator and member of your ARES group). Cost? Free, nix, nada. Enough said? Get your requests in early.

## Change in Advisories by NWS

{This information comes to us from Milwaukee Skywarn, headed by Skip Voros, WD9HAS. You can view the official Skywarn newsletter at [masa@execpc.com](mailto:masa@execpc.com). Edited slightly.]

Public Information Statement:  
National Weather Service,  
Milwaukee/Sullivan, Wed Dec 1 1999.

## CHANGES IN ADVISORIES AND WARNINGS FOR WINTER WEATHER

The National Weather Service in Milwaukee/Sullivan will make a change to the winter weather advisory and warning program, effective this winter weather season, by introducing the "Simplified Weather Advisory product" or "SWAP."

In the past, the Milwaukee/Sullivan office issued 15 types of weather advisories and warnings for winter precipitation events (for example: snow advisory, sleet advisory, freezing drizzle advisory, etc.).

This season, we will issue only two types of winter weather advisories:

1. Winter Weather Advisory
2. Winter Weather Advisory for Lake Effect Snow

and four types of Winter Storm Warnings:

1. Winter Storm Warning
2. Winter Storm Warning for Lake Effect Snow
3. Ice Storm Warning
4. Blizzard Warning

Simply put, winter weather advisories are used for winter weather precipitation events that cause significant inconveniences, but are not life threatening if caution is exercised. Warnings are used for events that could cause death, injury or significant property damage.

Reducing the number of winter precipitation advisories and warnings (or "headlines") from 15 to 7 will not only simplify our job, but will make "keeping track" of the winter weather headlines easier for you. We will continue to put a high level of detailed, specific information in the winter weather statements and the forecasts themselves.

The Milwaukee/Sullivan NWS office will continue to issue winter storm watches, when needed, for the 20 counties found in its South Central and Southeast Wisconsin area of responsibility. The "swap" concept has no effect on winter storm watches.

After the winter season ends, we will ask you for your opinion of the "SWAP," and use your comments to plan for next year.

If you have any questions about the upcoming change, please contact Rusty Kapela, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, at the Milwaukee/Sullivan NWS office-NOAA, N3533 Hardscrabble Road, Dousman, WI 53118.

## REPEAT

This newsletter is being mailed in mid-December, so it is the last chance to get info to you before Y2K is upon us. Accordingly, just in case you misplaced last month's issue, the following two articles are being reprinted again. May all of us have a quiet and peaceful New Year's Eve!

## 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: races@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@mcw.edu or at 262-284-9346.

14. For general WEM EOC hamshack information, send an inquiry to the hamshack email 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 Reensburg, AFA3FM\AFF3WI\KC9CI, e-mail address: phillipr@execpc.com; telephone: 262-251-6250.

16. Army MARS point of contact is Gustov Bonow, AAR5BS\W9IHW, 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 EOCs 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: races@dma.state.wi.us

**MAY YOU AND  
YOUR FAMILIES  
HAVE A  
WONDERFUL  
HOLIDAY  
SEASON**

(AND MAY Y2K TURN OUT TO BE AN UNEVENTFUL NON-PROBLEM!)