



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 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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Waukesha County Gets New EC

As reported last month, John Leekley, WB9SMM, has expressed a desire to gradually step back from his previous jobs as EC of Milwaukee/Waukesha. These two counties have been separated each with its own EC. I reported the appointment of Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV, as EC for Milwaukee County in last month's newsletter. Now, it is with pleasure that I announce the appointment of Greg Wolfe, K9ZZZ as EC of Waukesha County. Greg took this slot effective March 21st.

Greg and Jeananne will be working closely together to separate the roster into two. They have also pledged to work closely in all other aspects of ARES/RACES, including cross-county training and operations. We look forward to their efforts in managing these two large SE Wisconsin units.

Greg is a member of MAARS, Green Bay Mike and Key Club, LeFrog and other area clubs. He is APRS capable. Welcome, Gregg!

Lafayette County Now Has EC

Ray Laverty (KB9AKM), EC of Iowa County, has agreed to cover Lafayette County as well, for which we thank him. Dual coverage such as this is a wonderful way to cover counties that have few people, few hams, or both. It is the ultimate "mutual aid" arrangement, and prevents these counties from falling through the cracks, either in emergency preparations or in actual incidents. Thanks again, Ray, from all your colleagues!

You might be interested in the following statistics. There are five ECs who are acting as EC for more than one county. There are three DECs that are also EC of one or more ARES/RACES unit.

Field Day Cometh!

Quicker than you think! Always held the fourth full weekend in June, this month's dates are 24-25 June 2000. Lots of fun, lots of contacts, and little sleep, this annual event is actually a bang-up emergency communications exercise. Indeed, that is its primary

purpose – testing and demonstrating Amateur Radio communications capabilities. As such, it is the largest annual training event for hams. So, ECs, make sure your folks are planning to attend with one group or another, somewhere. This year groups can earn an extra 100 bonus points by using a non-traditional amateur radio mode such as APRS, ATV or SSTV.

You can download a complete Field Day information package at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms> in PDF format, or send a large SASE with four units of postage to Field Day Information Package, ARRL, 255 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

The package (I am looking at my downloaded and printed copy right now) contains rules, W1AW Field Day Bulletin Schedule, an excellent document on how to plan and set up for the event, all the forms you will need (log, dupe and reporting sheets), tips, media releases and more.

FCC ID Rules

[For your information. Be sure your ops ID with their call signs every 10 minutes or at the end of a series of transmissions, even when using tactical call signs. Thus, "WEM Hamshack/KG9NG" would be a valid way to end a series of transmissions, while just "WEM Hamshack" would not. Lets all keep within the spirit of the rules!]

[Code of Federal Regulations]

[Title 47, Volume 5, Parts 80 to end]

[Revised as of October 1, 1998]

PART 97--AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, Subpart B--Station Op-

eration Standards, Sec. 97.119 Station identification.

(a) Each amateur station, except a space station or telecommand station, must transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication, for the purpose of clearly making the source of the transmissions from the station known to those receiving [[Page 591]] the transmissions. No station may transmit unidentified communications or signals, or transmit as the station call sign, any call sign not authorized to the station.

(b) The call sign must be transmitted with an emission authorized for the transmitting channel in one of the following ways:

(1) By a CW emission. When keyed by an automatic device used only for identification, the speed must not exceed 20 words per minute;

(2) By a phone emission in the English language. Use of a phonetic alphabet as an aid for correct station identification is encouraged;

(3) By a RTTY emission using a specified digital code when all or part of the communications are transmitted by a RTTY or data emission;

(4) By an image emission conforming to the applicable transmission standards, either color or monochrome, of Sec. 73.682(a) of the FCC Rules when all or part of the communications are transmitted in the same image emission; or

(5) By a CW or phone emission during SS emission transmission on a narrow bandwidth frequency segment. Alternatively, by the changing of one or more parameters of the emission so that a conventional CW or phone emission receiver can be used to determine the station call sign.

(c) One or more indicators may be included with the call sign. Each indicator must be separated from the call sign by the slant mark (/) or by any suitable word that denotes

the slant mark. If an indicator is self-assigned, it must be included before, after, or both before and after, the call sign. No self-assigned indicator may conflict with any other indicator specified by the FCC Rules or with any prefix assigned to another country.

(d) When transmitting in conjunction with an event of special significance, a station may substitute for its assigned call sign a special event call sign as shown for that station for that period of time on the common data base coordinated, maintained and disseminated by the special event call sign data base coordinators. Additionally, the station must transmit its assigned call sign at least once per hour during such transmissions.

(e) When the operator license class held by the control operator exceeds that of the station licensee, an indicator consisting of the call sign assigned to the control operator's station must be included after the call sign.

(f) When the control operator is a person who is exercising the rights and privileges authorized by Sec. 97.9(b) of this part, an indicator must be included after the call sign as follows:

(1) For a control operator who has requested a license modification from Novice Class to Technical Class: KT;

(2) For a control operator who has requested a license modification from Novice or Technical Class to General Class: AG;

(3) For a control operator who has requested a license modification from Novice, Technician, or General Class operator to Advanced Class: AA; or

(4) For a control operator who has requested a license modification from Novice, Technician, General, or Advanced Class operator to Amateur Extra Class: AE.

(g) When the station is transmitting under the authority of a reciprocal permit for alien amateur licensee, an indicator consisting of the appropriate letter-numeral designat-

ing the station location must be included before the call sign issued to the station by the licensing country. When the station is transmitting under the authority of an amateur service license issued by the Government of Canada, a station location indicator must be included after the call sign. At least once during each intercommunication, the identification announcement must include the geographical location as nearly as possible by city and state, commonwealth or possession.

[54 FR 25857, June 20, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 39535, Sept. 27, 1989; 55 FR 30457, July 26, 1990; 56 FR 28, Jan. 2, 1991; 62 FR 17567, Apr. 10, 1997]

EC Website in the Works

Ray Meyer, N9PBY, a member of OZARES (Ozaukee County ARES/RACES) and guru of the OZARES website and OZARES Packet BBS has consented to help your SEC design and post the EC Website. It should be up and running well before Field Day. You'll be able to log on to this site for all sorts of information. A partial list: Each EC will be listed, along with an email address (but home addresses and phone numbers will not be listed). Of course, the SM, SEC, ASEC will also be listed for contact purposes. All past issues of this newsletter will be posted there in PDF format, available for downloading. Eventually, there will be a list of county Emergency Managers and county RACES Radio Officers. The FCC rules printed in this month's newsletter will be there. There will be links to all sorts of ARES/RACES sites, in Wisconsin, in other states and even in other countries. I will try to develop these links over time so they are quite comprehensive. In this way, they will serve as a useful tool for you in gathering all sorts of information relevant to your job as EC. Eventually, the site should even be effective as a self-paced

training tool for both you and your operators. It will be a big job, but worth it!

You should realize that sometime in the not too distant future, printed newsletters like the one you are currently reading will be outdated. This newsletter and others like it will not be mailed, but rather posted on the web and emailed to those who subscribe. Our new website to come will herald the beginning of this transitional period for the Wisconsin Emergency Coordinator Newsletter. Those of you who are not currently on the web should take note – it will not be many years before not being connected to the web is like not having a telephone!

A Training Test Matrix

[This interesting and useful article is taken from the ACS Newsletter, of the Auxiliary Communications Service of the State of California. Your SEC finds their web-based publication an extremely valuable source of information. Its purpose is to share common ideas and introduce new technology among those who are in the emergency services community. It is a virtual community with representatives from many different kinds of organizations, all with the common goal of emergency response. You can subscribe and receive their weekly newsletter too, if you wish:

<http://acs.oes.ca.gov./subscribe/html>

will show you how. This article came from the 20 March 2000 release.]

This training endeavor can be used to show how the unit can assist a local agency.

In numerous areas - due to the success of cellular, internet, telephone and agency trunking systems - it has become difficult for Amateur Radio licensees to show local officials just how their services can be beneficial. This is especially true where there has not been a local emergency of a serious nature for a decade or longer; or new systems have replaced the

Amateur Licensee in the minds of local officials.

A TEST MATRIX is the printout of an area test of point-to-point radio communications. It is conducted, tabulated, and then presented to appropriate authorities.

The purpose is to determine and show the effectiveness of radio communication on certain frequencies (Amateur, Government or Agency) from specific points or locations in the area.

For example, Orange County RACES did a test for 12 physical sites in their area to determine how well the various locations within the County could communicate with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Amateur Radio frequencies. They used it to show their local Fire Authority how Amateur Radio could communicate from the locations to the Incident Commander during brush fires.

The Orange County test results consisted of a columnar report of 13 columns across the top and a list of frequencies down the left-hand column. Below that was other data relative to the specific location such as a parallel comparison of Cellular Service, name of who did the test, area and telephone numbers for a person at the site from which each test was conducted. They used Park locations, listing the Park Ranger by name and phone number and any pay phone at the tested site. Results were listed as good, marginal, not usable, not tested.

In thinking about what they did, it seems that the idea could be used by other units for several purposes. Fortunately the Orange County Fire Authority had recognized the use of Amateur Radio as an alternate means of communications during emergencies and had used RACES during past events.

However, in other areas of the country where such acceptance has not occurred, it may be necessary to include media coverage (of the actual field-testing) to gain exposure and get officials interested.

This is tricky, but if done in a quiet, effective way with skillful news coverage (newspaper, TV, public radio, etc.) it can work. Media coverage must be carefully done to put subtle and seemingly indirect pressure on public officials to recognize and use alternative communications. However, if done incorrectly it can have the harsh result of turning them off.

Consider the needs of YOUR area.

- Flood reports and control?
- Road reports (evacuation of an ADJACENT area; hurricane?)
- Large parades and public events - public control, anti riot?
- Special needs in your area?
- Storms (tornadoes?)

If you've done that test, was a published written summary report handed to appropriate agency officials? If not, do a Test Matrix and present it. The approach to use is this: seek NOT to convince local authorities of YOUR need to use your unit, but show how it can assist them in a real-world way, preferably ongoing rather than as a doomsday response.

[Now, it seems to your SEC that this would be a clever way to approach your county Emergency Manager, if you do not already have a tight working relationship with Emergency Management. What better way to show your ARES/RACES group's usefulness than to present hard data on where you can communicate within the jurisdiction? Even if your relationship with EM is already quite good, this kind of matrix data could prove quite valuable in an emergency. We did this in Ozaukee County as an exercise during the first year after OZARES organization. Maybe that is why my Emergency Manager came to feel that we were a very valuable resource, incorporated us into his department, and shortly thereafter got his own ham license! A word to the wise...]

Some Interesting Facts Concerning WI ARES/RACES

You ECs have done a wonderful job of feeding your SEC with information for the RACES database. Well, that data is also a perfect reflection of the state of ARES in Wisconsin. Here is some summary data that might be of interest to you.

There are 1,049 hams registered as RACES ops (and, therefore, they make up our ARES groups). Here is a breakdown by class of license (though this will probably change markedly after 15 April):

Novice	4
Technician	374
Technician +	132
General	164
Advanced	180
Extra	195
Total	1049

Currently, the ARES/RACES unit with the largest number of hams is Milwaukee/Waukesha (79), though these counties will split into two independent groups now that each has a new EC. The next largest is Dodge (70 hams).

A further summary:

70 or more	2
60 or more	2
50 or more	0
40 or more	4
30 or more	2
20 or more	10
10 or more	13
9 or fewer	27

All these numbers are changing weekly, as new hams are added or removed, and as new ECs are appointed and begin building their groups. Therefore, all this is a "snapshot". Nevertheless, I thought you'd like to know.

Are We Prepared?

[Yet another interesting article from the ACS Newsletter, 19 Mar 2000 edition.]

If we have never experienced it, do we REALLY comprehend the results of a major disaster? Amateur Radio licensees and those active in Emergency Response or Communications Units may have their equipment prepared, but what about the family and the family home?

We may think we have prepared, but it's a real shock when there is no water, no electricity, no heat, no transportation and no way to get them. Consider JUST the loss of electricity. Do we realize:

1. that public and private wells may not pump water?
2. that service stations have no means to deliver gasoline?
3. that grocery stores close because computer connected cash registers and bar-code readers cannot function?
4. that refrigerators and freezers won't keep food
5. that traffic and streetlights don't work?
6. that sewerage disposal system pumps may not function

Can we internalize the effect such events will have on us and our family? Few can, so we ignore the travail, the trauma and tragedy.

Yet, any moderate disaster can cause significant destruction, injury and death, whether earthquake, hurricane, severe winter storm or extended flooding. Partial or entire systems - roads, water, electricity, gas - can be disrupted or destroyed. There may be days, weeks, months or years without public services.

Disasters are not selective and occur anywhere, anytime - no matter how lulled to sleep we may be in communities that have not suffered such events.

We read about these events and watch them on TV, yet how do we interpret that to our own lives? More often that not we don't.

It's just too much to think about contaminated water sources, or wells that won't work, about no electricity or no gasoline, no heating oil, gas or propane; of life being totally changed. We shrug it off and go about our daily lives, particularly if we live in an area that was NOT affected.

Yet, questions do arise. Some officials who were saying, "prepare for at least 3 days" (i.e., loss of public services) are now saying, "prepare for a month." One official recommended storing 200 small garbage bags for human waste disposal, intending they be put over 5 gallon buckets, then closed and disposed of by digging a hole in the ground. This is likely a reaction to massive disasters around the world causing the realization that nature is in control, not humanity, and that massive events WILL leave some communities without services for extended periods.

So, let's sit down and review our situation. How will we heat the family in the dead cold of winter, or store food in the stifling heat of summer? How can we have water for a self-sustaining family for, say, thirty (30) days? Maybe 50-gallon storage drums? (One source predicts a 55-gallon drum will supply a family of four for 2 weeks, just squeaking by.) Think solutions and implement.

Once we solve that, then let's help a friend or neighbor do likewise. Yes, it may never happen, but who knows, tomorrow the preparation that we do may help in ways we least expect!

[Shades of Y2K! Perhaps, though, now is the time to consider these things again, lest we become too complacent after the peace and quiet of New Year's Eve. Another word to the wise? Only you can be the judge.]