



The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Emergency Coordinator



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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.

This newsletter and other important documents are posted on the Wisconsin ARES/RACES web page at:

<http://www.execpc.com/~skaplan>

in PDF format, shortly after each issue is published.

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Correction

The Local SKYWARN and Severe Weather-Related Radio Channels listed in last month's issue had an important omission. Somehow, one line was dropped from the list Skip Voros sent me when converting his text file to the MS-Word format of our newsletter. The missing line is:

Major City	County	Freq/Class
Menomonie	Dunn	146.610/A

My apologies! Please pen it in on your copies.

ARRL and REACT Step Together

[From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 19, No 31, 18Aug2000. Reprinted with permission. ECs, you should note that REACT's Larry Fry (K9FRY) had a hand in developing the new state VECS Plan. Please try to cooperate in every way with any REACT groups in

your area. You will likely find that it is to the advantage of both their group and yours.]

ARRL and REACT-Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams--took some first steps together this summer. The ARRL Board of Directors approved a memorandum of understanding between the two radio organizations at its July meeting.

The ARRL was on hand July 26-28 for the REACT 2000 International Convention in Kissimmee, Florida. The event included attendees from the US as well as from Canada and Trinidad and Tobago. ARRL Southern Florida Section Manager Phyllisan West, KA4FZI, coordinated activities for ARRL's representation at the event with Walt Young, convention chair for the 25th annual REACT gathering.

"REACT folks are dedicated to public service, responding dependably to cover emergencies, marathons and other charity events," said West, who set up and staffed an ARRL exhibit table at the REACT event. "They operate mainly on GMRS and FRS to avoid problems of unlicensed CB channels, and are excited about working more closely with hams."

West said that copies of the ARRL Public Service Communications Manual at the ARRL table were snapped up. "REACT folks were interested in how hams handle NTS and tactical messages," West said. While many REACT members already are amateurs, West said she encouraged those who were not to get ham licenses "to enhance their ability to participate in emergency communications."

While REACT has been associated primarily with Citizens Band in the past, the organization has widened its focus to embrace amateur and other services. Young called REACT "just another radio group that is doing the same basic job as ham radio operators" that provides emergency communications when and where needed. "The trick is to get various groups to work together," he said.

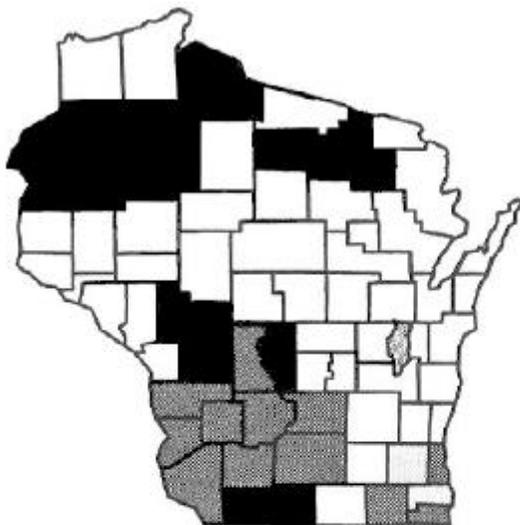
Approximately one-quarter of the REACT conventioners were ham operators, and one of the official events at the convention was the Amateur Breakfast, at which West and her husband, Art, were guests. FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, presented an FCC seminar during the REACT convention.

REACT International has a Web site at <http://www.reactintl.org/>.

Summer Storms Take Their Toll

Since 26 May, heavy rains winds and tornadoes did more than \$28 million dollars in damage in our state. Forty- percent (29) of Wisconsin's 72 counties were affected, according to the July/August issue of the WEM Digest. The map and list below shows those that were affected.

Disaster Declaration *FEMA DR 1332*



- Individual & Public Assistance**
 Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Grant, Iowa, Juneau, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Richland, Sauk, Vernon, & Walworth

- Public Assistance Only**
 Adams, Ashland, Barron, Burnett, Forest, Green, Iron, Jackson, Lafayette, Monroe, Oneida, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn

- Individual Assistance Only**
 Racine and Waukesha

Acting on Acronyms

By Dennis Rybicke, K9LGU (STM)

To save time, the hobby often makes use of abbreviated forms. Of course, there are the standard abbreviations in electronics, E, I, R, P, Hz, etc., and when using Morse code (CUL, BCNU, AGN, TU) but the traffic part of the hobby makes use of some acronyms as well. They are most evident on the CW (there's a good one) nets, but their equivalent can be a shortened phrase on SSB, FM or AM as well (and I just used three more).

We know that a Net Manager (NM) appoints each Net Control Station (NCS) in a section net, and the NCS checks in a station coming or going to the Ninth Region Net (9RN REP), as well as a representative going to the Wisconsin Intrastate Net (WIN) in the evening. The WIN, by the way, comes in two flavors -- WIN/E (the early session at 7 p.m.), and WIN/L (at 10 p.m. when the late 9RN traffic comes in). See how handy those abbreviations are?

While handling traffic, some common prosigns - and their voice equivalent - are

- AA - All after (Please send all of the text before...)
- AB - All Before (Send all of the text after...)
- ARL - used in the check to show there is an ARRL numbered radiogram in the text
- BK - Break (a pause for a quick check on phone or separation between address and text, text and signature)
- CFM - Confirm (Did I get this right?)
- CK - Check (the number of words in the text)
- N - Nope -- or no more messages to follow
- R - Roger -- or a decimal point in CW [This makes for a little confusion when messages are numbered with a decimal point, since it gets mixed up with the precedence (usually Routine). So Message number 3.2 Routine with a check of 3 on CW starts "NR 3 R 2 R 3." An Operator needs to be alert - - but then, the world needs more lerts].
- WA - Word After
- WB - Word Before

Abbreviations and standard terms, just like net procedures, help because we all agree on what they mean.

SUMMER VACATION TIME!

By Rick Swierczyski, N9TPY, Assoc. Dir. MASA

[While this was written for the July 31st issue of the MASA Newsletter, there are plenty of people still camping and the advice Rick gives us is good. Thanks to MASA for permission to reprint.]

ITS SUMMER!! The gas prices went sky high (\$2.30) thanks to good old American greed, and thankfully have dropped again (\$1.36), schools out, and most 9-5 workers are planning or taking their vacations. Just look at the freeways and roads; they are loaded with the seemingly endless sights of campers, cars, trucks, boat trailers, and car top carriers heading to all points on the compass and the many favorite secluded spots for a week of R&R.

As a camper myself, I can easily identify the usual last minute planning and necessities; tent, sleeping bags, credit cards, kiddy toys, cooler, flashlight, spare batteries, cameras, film, two-way radio and frequency lists, cash and WEATHER RADIO. That's right...do not forget that weather radio! A good radio with an external antenna is essential for the best reception of some of those far away weather radio stations.

Over the last several years of camping, I can rarely remember a week of 'perfect' weather. Moreover, being an old (OK...very old) Boy Scout, the words be prepared still echo in my mind. Its annoying enough to wake up to the steady drip in the tent from an all night rain, but the thought of severe weather should keep ALL campers in the "heads up" mode especially when you are in a somewhat unfamiliar area, responsible for the family, or the entire camper group.

When tent camping, you are very vulnerable to the elements (especially if you are unprepared and in a 3:00 a.m. sleep). Going back to the definition of a Severe Thunderstorm...a storm producing hail 3/4 of an inch or larger or winds 58 mph or greater, a relatively thin piece of nylon or canvas will do little to protect you. All this, not to mention, many tents still incorporate the use of metal tent poles which can easily double as neat little lightning rods. All the more reason to prepare yourself ahead of time for any possible situation.

As preached by MASA crew repeatedly "play keep up, not catch up" is the best strategy. Although not every area may be covered by a strong NOAA Weather Radio signal (including my favorite hideaway in Northern Wisconsin, North of Eagle River) I have found that listening to the short range forecast or Hazardous/Severe Weather Outlook while "running into town" for supplies can be a life saver.

I suggest when arriving at your campsite or even when nearing your destination, turn on the radio and try to locate "hot spots" for the best Weather radio reception. This is also where a radio with external antenna capabilities comes in handy. If reception is just too difficult, try to familiarize yourself with the local AM/FM stations just in case the weather decides not to cooperate with your plans. With many small town AM Stations, make sure they do not sign-off at sunset.

To determine the coverage of the NOAA Weather Radio Station in your area, go to our MASA ["May-sah"] homepage/front page and click on the NWS logo just below the main menu. Then click on the NWS office nearest your area. (Wisconsin readers: this newsletter lists our area transmitters and the counties covered)

Next, I would suggest a plan of readiness if severe weather is anticipated. Learn the general area (buildings, shelters and terrain) if it becomes necessary to find protection. Also, have an escape plan if conditions warrant and make sure to be ready to move quickly if needed. Remember that tornadoes can occur without warning and can be especially dangerous during the night, in unfamiliar territory, with limited horizons because of forested area.

Most importantly, remember that planning can make all the difference between a fun family vacation and a deadly disaster. Your safety depends on you and how much effort you put forward to protect yourself and your loved ones. The road rage idiots are one problem, but as severe weather responders, we should and do know better.

I wish all of you who venture out this summer for a family campout or outing a safe and relaxing vacation. Also, I invite anyone who has an interesting weather related event to share it with other MASA ["May-sah"] readers. Got a story, or a close call? masa@execpc.com

From The MASA ["May-sah"] STORM SPOTTER DICTIONARY

[We again thank MASA for permission to reprint. From the July 2000 MASA Newsletter, Skip Voros (WD9HAS), editor.]

COLD AIR FUNNEL: A funnel cloud or rarely a small, relatively weak tornado that can develop from a small shower or thunderstorm when the air aloft is relatively cold (hence the name).

DOWNDRAFT: A small-scale column of air that rapidly sinks toward the ground, usually accompanied by precipitation as in a rain shower or thunderstorm.

DOWNBURST: A strong downdraft resulting in an outward burst of damaging winds on or near the ground.

FUNNEL CLOUD: A violently rotating column of air NOT IN CONTACT with the ground. (This column of air is invisible until the air cools and condenses into a visible cloud feature shaped like a funnel)

MISSILES: Refers to debris and other objects picked up by the wind and moved with enough force to damage or penetrate windows, doors, walls, and other parts of buildings. Nails, stones, glass, rock, steel beams, wooden 2x4s, siding, and tree branches are some examples.

MULTI-VORTEX TORNADO: A tornado that has two or more funnels, debris clouds, or circulations on the ground around one common center.

RAIN-WRAPPED TORNADO: A tornado that is partially or completely surrounded by rain.

TORNADO: A violent rotating column of air IN CONTACT with the ground. (This column of air is invisible until it condensed into a visible feature or when it starts to ingest large quantities of dirt and debris that act as visual tracers)

TENDER, LOVING CARE?

Nope. **Time, location and condition.** In an effort to practice proper reporting conditions during severe weather events (primarily) and other events in which field operators need to provide information to the NCO, OZARES operators are using a brand new format for checking into their Thursday night nets. In past, when the NCO spoke a call, the ham simply responded with their call and location. Now, TLC is the watchword. Thus:

- NCO: "WB9RQR".
- REPLY: "WB9RQR, 8:05 p.m., Port Washington – Highways 33 and LL, clear and sunny".

OK, but why do it during routine nets when there are no adverse conditions? We humans learn most easily by repetition. When we do something over and over again, it becomes second nature and we tend to do it without thinking. Have you ever inadvertently given your call sign during a land line conversation with another ham? I have! One gets so used to identifying at the end of the conversation, it sometimes slips in even when not called for! So that's the reason. OZARES hams will do it three times a month (the fourth is a meeting) from now

on. Instituted by EC Abe Galonski (KC1W) and AEC Matt Singer (KG9NH), it is a good idea. Practice makes perfect!

EZ Audio Amp for In-Car HT Use

By Mike Greenfield, N9JIY

[Published simultaneously in the June 1996 issues of WorldRadio and the OZARES Newsletter.]

It's easy enough to hook your 2m handheld to a mobile antenna and 12v power supply. But how do you get enough audio volume out of the tiny thing? It's a pain and a problem!

Here is a very easy solution ... if you have a cassette player in your car radio. Radio Shack offers a device that lets a portable CD player dump audio into an in-car cassette player. It has a 1/8" stereo plug on one end. The other end looks like a tape cassette. It uses no batteries!

To use it, you slip the "fake" cassette end into your car cassette player, plug the stereo plug into your portable CD player, then let your car radio's audio amp do all the hard work.

You can also plug the stereo plug into the earphone jack of your HT! You'll get 2m audio out of half your car's speakers, but that is plenty, and you'll have all the amplification you can stand.

Radio Shack calls the device a "Compact Disc Cassette Adapter", stock #12-1951. It will set you back about \$20. A deal!

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Rick Elsener, W9RCW	Asst Section Manager
Hale Blakely, W9CBE	Asst Section Manager
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Richard Regent, K9GDF	Technical Coordinator
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Dennis Rybicke, K9LGU	Section Traffic Manager
Richard Elsener, W9RCW	Official Observer Coordinator
Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ	Public Information Coordinator

