



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.

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

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in PDF format, shortly after each issue is published.

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Words of Wisdom from N6NKO/9

By Richard E. Polivka, N6NKO/9, New Berlin, WI
Wisconsin ARRL Technical Specialist

[Richard sent this as an email message to me and several other recipients concerning a comparison of ARES in our state with a neighboring state. The comparison itself is not important here. What is important is Richards reply. It is an excellent assessment of problems that we (and many other regions) suffer from. All of us should read this and do a little soul-searching. Please share it also with your groups. Edited slightly. Stan]

Greetings to all...

Talking percentages puts the problem into relative terms. Absolute numbers need to be discussed versus coverage demands. Disparate coverage will exist in any population because of the law of averages. This is something that we have to work around or with by mutual cooperation.

One of the largest barriers that needs to be overcome is the general complacency that is rampant in this hobby - "Someone else will do it, why should I?" The problem here is that we should all be doing it (Emergency Communications - ECOM) but of course societal demands have changed drastically since the inception of the Amateur Radio Service. Two-income families and different work schedules hinders participation, especially if there are little children involved. Work schedules hinder the participation during the day and many companies are reticent in being flexible in this respect. Our society has become so complex by choice and nature that spur-of-the-moment operation is extremely hard to organize - the "Excuse me while I check my Day-Planner" mentality. We are all guilty of this - me included. Balancing the current lifestyle that we have built for ourselves versus ECOM needs is not an easy one.

Another issue that shows up is when the situation really demands help, such as during an earthquake or tornado that results in severe infrastructure destruction. Then, the problem is brought out and, for a lack of a better term, the "me-too's" come out. These are people who have finally decided to get going to help because they have a gap in their ego that can be filled, or for some other reason. They usually have no training whatsoever in ECOM, and can actually hinder the participating trained personnel. Yet, when there is no emergency, the "me-too's" that are so eager to help out in an actual emergency are never around for a training exercise, if one is ever held, to learn the intricacies of ECOM.

Until the general complacency is killed off, or new blood is brought in with people who have the desire to participate and the abilities/resources to do it, this will always be a festering problem.

So how can the problem be minimized in the near and long term? Long term and short term goals have the same targets; just the timings are different. We need people to help that are available when they can be. These people have to be trained and trained regularly. Signing up to be available when you feel like it does not make you proficient in emergency communications. If one does not continually reinforce skills, you lose the skills. Best example - listen to a well run MARS net. I used to be in

NAVMARCORMARS many years ago and that is where I learned great traffic handling skills.

Public agencies cannot wait for people to come and assist when they feel like it when an emergency hits. They need to know that immediate help is a phone call or pager call away (but what if the phone system is not working at the time....????). We can have one of the best ARES/RACES services in the country but if there is no way to get the personnel notified or "I'm too busy to help", then we become all show and no go.

I do not mean to be on a soapbox on this issue but this is one that is close to the heart here. I have been through too many calamities (Landers-Big Bear, Northridge, Whittier Narrows - all big earthquakes; Aeromexico v. private plane - 1/2 mi. from where I used to live - many lives lost) to let this slide by.

This is not an easy subject to rectify but it has to be addressed in real terms and dealt with the same way - smooth salesmanship will not make the problem any better. We are all to blame but at the same time, WE are the answer to the problem.

I am willing to help. Are you?

Lincoln Gets New EC

Welcome to veteran ARES member Paul Werner, KA9YTK, who took over as EC in Lincoln on 15 Feb. Paul was an ARES member in Lincoln when Norm Winters was EC. He is also VP of the Tomahawk Repeater Association. His data is on your new copy of the EC Roster.

Salvation Army Needs Liaison Arrangements

In February, I received a request from Patrick McPherson (WW9E), National Director of SATERN. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) provides support during local, regional or national disasters in which the Salvation Army is working as a disaster relief organization.

In his message, Pat said: "I think a viable project would be attaching an operator to each SAC as a liaison. We have a number of SATERN operatives all over the nation who have dual memberships and it works well and doesn't impede their help to ARES/RACES or other communications organizations. It would help our agency tremendously to interface and put your folks on the front line assisting when the time came. I have seen it work in a number of places and the results were good for the entire emergency community and enhanced our ability to meet the needs of those impacted by the tragedy."

Recall that the ARRL has an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Salvation Army, in which it recognizes it as an agency whose corporate charter merits sanction by the federal government to provide community aid in times of disaster. In other words, we can expect the Salvation Army to be present and working in times of emergency, and it behooves us to help them in any way we can, as we would any other disaster relief agency.

Therefore, I ask that you examine your local emergency plans and include the Salvation Army in them. In addition, it would be a good thing if you could designate a liaison op to interface with them. That doesn't necessarily mean that you need to send an op to their office, just that you include provisions to interface with their operations during emergencies when they are present. We do not want any "holes" where additional resources are suddenly needed and we did not plan for them, just because of an oversight!

So, please look at the contacts below, and if any are in your jurisdiction, contact them and work out reasonable plans for our interface during emergencies. It might also be good to think about them during exercises, so that both organizations get practice in this interfacing. Here are the contacts:

There are 24 Salvation Army Corps in the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division. Below are just the Wisconsin units. While there are three units in Milwaukee, the logical point of reference is the Divisional Headquarters there.

Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Headquarters

Ken Tregallis, Service Extension and Disaster Services Director 414.462.5226

Appleton:	Captain Robin Barnett	920.734.3324
Beloit:	Captain Timothy Miller	608.365.6572
Eau Claire:	Captain Scott Spicer	715.834.1224
Fond Du Lac:	Captain Brian Davis	920.923.8220
Green Bay:	Captain Robert Fay	920.497.7053
Janesville:	Captain David Taube	608.757.8300
Kenosha:	Lieutenant Michael Wolfe	262.564.0286
LaCrosse:	Captain Brian Burkett	608.782.6126
Madison:	Major Paul Moore	608.256.2321
Manitowoc:	Captain Paul Logan	920.684.7117
Marinette:	Lieutenant William Welch	715.735.8935
Oshkosh:	Lt William Walters	920.223.7660
Racine:	Maj Cynthia Shellenberger	262.632.3147
Sheboygan:	Captain Alan Hellstrom	920.458.3723
Superior:	Captain Rosemary Matson	715.394.7001
Waukesha:	Captain Dale Hunt	262.547.7367
Wausau:	Major Ronald Lemirand	715.845.4272

Any Repeater Updates?

Skip Voros, WD9HAS, requests that you peruse the following repeater/frequency list that shows stations

involved in reporting severe WX. If there are additions or changes, report them directly to him at svo-ros@execpc.com. Now is the time! Remember the Milwaukee tornado last year? 8March! Skip will share any updates with us, so stay tuned.

Adams-Frdship	Adams	145.290 A
Algoma	Kewaunee	146.805 A
Antigo	Langlade	145.310 A
Ashland	Ashland	147.315 A
Baraboo	Sauk	146.880* AW
Bayfield	Bayfield	146.610 A
Big Flats	Adams	146.460 A
Crivitz	Marinette	145.470 A
Crystal Lake, IL	McHenry	145.330 A
Dubuque, IA	Dubuque	147.240 A
Earl	Washburn	147.390 A
Eau Claire	Eau Claire	146.91/147.24 AW
Elkhorn	Walworth	146.865* A
Fennimore	Grant	147.360 A
Fond du Lac	Fond du Lac	147.090/145.430 A
Granton	Clark	146.775 A
Green Bay	Brown	146.835 A
Green Lake	Green Lake	?
Greenwood	Clark	145.490 A
Hayward	Sawyer	147.255 A
Hixton	Jackson	146.940 A
Hollandale	Iowa	146.655 A
Hudson	St.Croix	145.130 A
Janesville	Rock	145.450* A
Juneau	Dodge	146.640* A
Kenosha	Kenosha	224.800* A
Manitowoc	Manitowoc	146.610 A
Marinette	Marinette	147.000 A
Mauston	Juneau	146.850 A
Medford	Taylor	147.150 A
Menomonee	Dunn	146.610 A
Milwaukee	Milwaukee	146.910* AW
	(Backup	146.67)
Milwaukee	Milwaukee	VHF BB IG
Mt.Sterling	Crawford	147.360 A
New Holstein	Calumet	147.300 A
Oshkosh	Winnebago	147.240 A
Packwaukee	Marquette	146.595* A
Park Falls	Price	147.000 A
Port Washington	Ozaukee	147.330* A
	(Backup	146.97)
Racine	Racine	147.270* A
Roberts	St.Croix	147.330 A
Shawano	Shawano	145.350 AW
Sheldon	Rusk	145.470 A
Shell Lake	Washburn	147.045 A
Siren	Burnett	146.625 A
Solon Springs	Douglas	145.490 A
Stevens Point	Portage	146.985 A
Sturgeon Bay	Door	147.210 A
Superior	Iron	146.760 A
Tomah/Monroe	Monroe	145.390/
Tomahawk	Lincoln	145.430 A
Wabeno	Oconto	145.110 AW
Waukesha	Waukesha	154.040/
Waupaca	Waupaca	147.165 A
Wausau	Marathon	146.820/

Wisconsin Rapids Wood 146.790 A

Camping Season???

Well, not quite yet, though most of us are hoping for winter to END, END, and END. Nevertheless, here is a tip from Dale Marks (WB9ADB), our EC in Dodge County.

Camping is usually done away from home. This means it may well occur in an area covered by a different SAME code for WX radios. If you carry a new style WX radio with you, it is important to program the radio for the SAME code of the area you are visiting. Another thought might be that since we are all buying new WX radios, a good place to store the old one permanently is with the camper.

A good tip, Dale. So folks, dig up that old beater WX radio and put it by the door to go in the camper ... as soon as it thaws out.

WC9AAG Callsign Confirmed

With the demise of RACES calls, there was some question concerning our Wisconsin State Hamshack call when the current license expired. Mack Brophy (N9NTB), State Hamshack Manager, took the initiative and, with the help of the ARRL, nailed the old call down. It has now been converted to a club station callsign effective 4Mar2001, and will be ours for as long as we want it. The official entity holding the call is Wisconsin ARES/RACES, and your SEC/RO is the trustee. Thanks, Mack, for taking the initiative and pushing the papers for us all.

MASA Severe WX Program

TV Meteorologist Paul Joseph will be the Master of Ceremonies at this MASA-Sponsored program on April 21st. This general severe WX training and awareness meeting will be held at the Greenfield High School Auditorium, 60th and Layton Avenue, about 2 blocks south of the highway 894 - 60th Street exit in Milwaukee. The program starts at 12:45 p.m. and is scheduled to end by 5:00 p.m.

THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!

New EC in Marinette

After many years of service and a new business venture to look after, Dottie Staffeldt (WB9NCT) has retired from the EC position in Marinette. Taking over effective March 1st is Jeffrey Rymer, N9PQU.

Jeffrey is an ARRL VEC and Field Checker and is a trained storm spotter and SKYWARN op. Welcome, Jeffrey! His data is in the new EC Roster.

PASS Conference a Success

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, Secretary, PASS, and EC, Outagamie County

On Saturday, February 10, 2001, the Packerland Amateur Skywarn Society (PASS) held its first annual conference in Shawano, Wisconsin. Despite a heavy ice storm the day before, 17 ARES Emergency Coordinators, Assistant Emergency Coordinators, and Skywarn Coordinators attended. The PASS is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization dedicated to furthering Skywarn activities in the Green Bay National Weather Service Office jurisdiction, which covers an area of 23 counties.

The conference began with the usual welcomes and introductions and an informative introduction by PASS President Andy Nemecek, KB9ALN. This introduction of PASS spurred excellent dialog between the attendees and provided much food-for-thought on PASS matters.

Next Bob Sanders, N9LXM, Green Bay NWS and fellow PASS Board Member, gave an interesting presentation on the new Doppler Radar products now available via the Internet. This presentation included live demonstrations of the various radars including the Green Bay Doppler Radar.

Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, PASS Secretary and Outagamie County EC, provided an overview of the Outagamie County ARES group and discussed the importance of a good relationship with the County Emergency Management Coordinator, training and providing ARES service. Al Vandynhoven, Outagamie County ARES Skywarn Coordinator, provided an excellent overview of Skywarn activities and preparation in Outagamie County.

Concluding the presentations was a thoughtful overview of the 1995 Weyauwega train derailment given by Jeff Ramlow, N9WBR, Portage County EC, and then EC for Waupaca County. Jeff's account of the disaster was informative as well as thought-provoking. Many lessons Jeff learned from that event made for good discussion of the group.

Rounding out the day was an open discussion by all attendees. Everyone was open and honest about the operations of the PASS Skywarn nets. The information shared will ensure the service PASS provides to the National Weather Service, Emergency Management groups and ARES organizations will improve our reporting and accuracy. We are already

looking forward to next year when the Conference will probably be expanded to include all interested Skywarn participants in the PASS area.

[Your SEC/CRO was supposed to attend this event, and I had a short talk all prepared. However, the NWS reported badly iced roads that Saturday morning, and I had to abort the trip, which I truly regret. Thanks, Bill, for an excellent summary]

The New EC Roster is Out

By now, you should have received it, so place it in your emergency notebook and toss the old one immediately. That way, you will not accidentally use out-of-date data. Please also take a very careful look at your own entry. Check the snailmail and email address. Above all, check the phone numbers. It is vital that your data be up-to-date and accurate, for it is the only way I have to contact you for routine or emergency matters. Let me know ASAP if any changes are needed. Thanks!

Winnebago Consolidated

Until now, Winnebago County has been divided into two – a north and south half. Pat LaTour was EC for north and Dan Lenz for the south. Owing to an increased demand in his work schedule, Pat has found it necessary to resign the EC position, though he will stay on as a member of the newly consolidated group to help as he can. Dan is officially EC of all of Winnebago effective 8 March.

This change occurred **after** the printing of your new roster, so please pen in the change. Simply line out Pat's entry on page 6, and the (South) designation by Dan's entry on the same page. You might want to also modify the map to reflect the change.

Thanks to Pat for his past service as EC, and for his willingness to continue service as a member of the newly merged group.

While at it, let me mention to all ECs that I greatly appreciate your efforts. You have made great strides in the organizing and training of your ARES/RACES groups. This can only be attributed to you, and your readiness to give of your time and hard work. Moreover, your success is a testament to your leadership abilities. Thank you all!

Stan