The Wisconsin ARES/RACES
Emergency Coordinator

VOLUME 3   NUMBER 10   **OCTOBER 2001**

6 Oct: Statewide SET

By now, all ECs have should have received an envelope with instructions for the statewide portion of the SET (mailed 4Sep). Also in that envelope is an authentication string – its use is explained in the instructions. That Saturday morning, your DEC will contact you to activate your group.

This statewide activity will not take much of your time. You can still plan for a local SET without worrying that there will not be time to do a local activity. Indeed, you are encouraged to plan a local SET. DECs (or Acting DECs) have also received instruction sets in the mail by now.

As mentioned last month, the aim of the statewide SET is to exercise and promote inter-county communications as a prelude to possible mutual aid activity. Mutual aid can be exceeding important in the case of an emergency that crosses county borders, or that overwhelms the ARES/RACES group in a single county. We saw mutual aid in action recently in connection with the Siren tornado. The mutual aid in this incident even extended across state borders – even Minnesota hams pitched in. Wes Jones (N9PHS, DEC for NW WI and EC for Burnett, Sawyer and Washburn Counties) organized the services of 65 hams during that event. We must be prepared to efficiently and quickly call for help, and receive it, when we cannot meet the need for communications support within our own county. The statewide portion of the SET should reveal if we can do that. And, it should be fun! Remember to have you ops pass messages (and the authentication strings) exactly as received.

The exercise was designed by Jack Morrison (N9SFG), Ozaukee's AEC for Training (and Captain of Ozaukee's "Navy" – the Rescue Boat). Thanks, Jack!

WEM EOC Radio Room (Hamshack) Activation Plan (Current as of 9Jul2001)

By Mack Brophy (N9NTB), State Hamshack Manager

[Editor's Note: Beginning immediately, the latest version of this document will always be posted on the ARES/RACES website, in .pdf format for quick access and ease in downloading. See the masthead in the column left for the address of our website.]

In case of a national or state emergency, the following Activation Plan will be implemented, upon the request of the Administrator, Wisconsin Emergency Management or the WEM Duty Officer.

1. The hamshack callsign is **WC9AAG**.

2. The hamshack will be staffed by ARES/RACES/MARS volunteers. HF radio operator support for the Wisconsin National Guard will be coordinated through the WEM Communications and Warning Officer.

3. Initially, the HF frequency 7277 kHz LSB will be monitored during the period 1200Z through 2400Z.

4. Initially, the HF frequency 3993.5 kHz LSB will be monitored during the period 2400Z through 1200Z.

5. PacTOR will be available, as needed, on HF frequency 3584 kHz USB.

6. VHF full time packet MSYS BBS (wc9aag@wc9aag.en53ja.wi.usa.noam) is available on the ARES/RACES packet network frequency, 145.610 MHz. The node is ARWEM.

7. VHF voice will be on the Madison Area Repeater Association 147.150 MHz (PL 123.0) repeater, the Baraboo 146.880 (PL 123.00) repeater and the Manitowoc 145.190 (PL 107.2) 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 and the like will be disseminated using the Badger Emergency Net (BEN). Check the primary frequency of 3985 kHz LSB or alternate frequency 7283 kHz LSB, if it is activated.

10. Email will be utilized, when it is available. Address email to the Hamshack at races@dma.state.wi.us. The Hamshack telephone number is 1-608-242-3323 (with Voice Mail), if operational or 1-800-344-9219. When the voice answers, enter 23323.

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

12. For additional ARES/RACES information, contact the State RACES Officer/WI ARRL SEC Dr. Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, skaplan@mcw.edu or 262-284-9346. The ARES/RACES website is http://wi-aresraces.org.

13. For general WEM EOC Hamshack information, send an inquiry to the Hamshack email address or call the Hamshack telephone number. Check the WEM internet web page at http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dma/wem/index.htm.

14. Air Force MARS point of contact is Christopher J. Lehner, AFA3VB/AFF3WI\N9SBQ, clehner@execpc.com or 920-863-8442.

15. Army MARS point of contact is Mike Sajdowitz, AAA5WI\N9RTJ, mjs@pitnet.net or 262-544-1486.

16. Navy - Marine MARS point of contact is Robert Knutson, NNN0JSW, bknutson@execpc.com or home 715-834-8530.

17. WEM point of contact is Alan Wohlferd, Communications and Warning Officer; wohlfa@dma.state.wi.us or 608-242-3250.

Calling All Calls

By Denny Rybicke, K9LGU, Section Traffic Manager

When my wife and I were married, some 36 years ago, I remember the minister calling me David several times before I interrupted him. We still joke that, had I not said anything, the ceremony might not be valid. I suppose he just didn't know me well enough to remember my name. When we use a person's name, we demonstrate that we care enough to remember it. That's why even salespeople try to endear themselves to us by learning our names and then repeatedly using them as they sell. Although I'm not a big believer in that technique, I do believe it's a good idea to learn and use someone's name appropriately. And, in Amateur Radio, name = call letters.

The importance of getting calls correct has been mentioned before in terms of a net control paying attention to details. True, if the call isn't right, the station may not answer. Records reflecting station activity will be inaccurate. Perhaps most importantly, getting the call right shows we care about the holder of the call.

Recently, I had occasion to service an undeliverable message to a station on the East Coast, address inaccurate, phone not listed. As I attempted to look up the address of the originating station, I discovered that the call had never been assigned. Hmmm. Using those handy databases now available on the Internet, I checked a list of hams in the city of origin and discovered some letters in the call had been transposed. Then, again with the help of cyberspace, I found a listed phone number for my return traffic. It was gratifying to solve the mystery, but a little care in copying the call letters as the message was passed along could have saved some time as I prepared my message.

Every detail counts. Yes, we are amateurs, but we should still be precise in what we do. This becomes especially important in ARES/RACES operation. The particulars in a message take on greater importance in times of need. Does a message number matter? It does if there should be a record or if there is going to be a reply. It does if someone needs to check the sequence in which it was sent. Does the priority matter? It certainly makes a difference when a net control organizes how traffic will be sent. Handling instructions? Read them and decide. Every item in a formal message is there for a reason -- station of origin, place of origin, time, date, etc.

Without these essential parts, without the right call letters, the right name, everything might be different. Even today, my wife might be married to David instead of to me.

Columbia, Monroe Vacant

Ken Ebneter (K9EN, Columbia) and Scott Hurd (KB9GCV, Monroe) have stepped down from their positions as EC. We are looking for capable hams to take these positions and build vibrant, active ARES/RACES groups. Know of someone? Let Stan know.

Why PDF?

Adobe Acrobat is a product of a proprietary (private, for-profit) company. Yet, it has become a standard file format for a huge proportion of both business and governmental bodies. Even the US Government uses it extensively. We use it for documents posted on the ARES/RACES website intended for you. Why?

1. Documents produced in .pdf format are typically smaller than the word processing documents from which they were derived. For example, one of my randomly selected small Microsoft Word documents was 37kb in size, while the .pdf version was only 16kb – less than half the size of the original. This is an attractive feature for both space savings and quicker download times on the Internet.

2. A feature especially appealing to governmental bodies is security. An official document cannot readily be changed and the changed version presented as official without having the original word-processing document. The .pdf file cannot readily be altered.

3. Wisely, the company has made the reader free. Thus, anyone can get a copy of the reader without paying a fee, and once you have the reader, you can open, read and print any .pdf document. It is convenient, too. Most websites that provide documents in .pdf format also have a link to a site where you can download and install the free reader.

4. The program works on all major platforms. That is, a .pdf document created on a Macintosh can be read on a Windows machine, and vice versa. Indeed, .pdf stands for Portable Document Format, which indicates this cross-platform capability.

Accordingly, Wisconsin ARES/RACES will use this convenient tool extensively. Every newsletter is converted to .pdf and posted on the website for all to read or download. Other documents (such as the Hamshack Activation Plan printed in this issue) will also be posted in this way. Ray Meyer (N9PBY, our webmaster) has posted a link on our site to permit you to download the reader. If you don't have it, get it. It is safe, convenient, and saves resources. There is no downside to Adobe Acrobat, which is why everyone uses it.

New Appointments

You may know **Jim Lackore (AD9X)** as the Wisconsin Section's State Government Liaison person, but he is now also a District Emergency Coordinator. Jim has taken over the **South Central DEC** position from Tom Fleming (N9SZF), who stepped down owing to business and family obligations. Tom's other position as EC for the Central Wisconsin Repeater Association is still open. Know a good candidate?

Bruce Micales (WA2DEU) is the state's first **Liaison Emergency Coordinator (LEC)**. Bruce has a long history of having one foot in ARES/RACES and the other in the Red Cross, so he was a natural to arm twist for the **LEC for the Red Cross** position. The new LEC positions are all at the same level as District Emergency Coordinator.

Another natural for LEC is **Tom Kucharski (KA9EWJ)**, currently EC for NWS-Sullivan. Tom will continue in that position, but has also been appointed as **LEC for the National Weather Service** throughout the state.

A hearty welcome to Jim, Bruce and Tom!

Five more of the new LEC positions remain open at this writing, for **APCO, FEMA, NCS, REACT** and the **Salvation Army**. We are seeking a ham active in ARES/RACES who also is active in, for example, the Salvation Army. In the case of APCO, an ex-dispatcher would be excellent. In the case of FEMA, an ex-FEMA officer or a ham who has extensive experience and contacts in FEMA. Get the idea? It is pretty simple – each of these people will help keep things going smoothly, by keeping each organization informed of happenings in the other. Information is power, and it should always be shared between working partners. A detailed overview and a specific job description can be found on our website. Click on LEC in the upper left corner of the opening page.

Two On A Two-By-Four: A Novel Design For a 2 Meter Antenna

By Jeff MacDonald, KF9QC

[This article is a slightly modified version of one published in the 1994 issue of the OZARES newsletter, and recently republished in the Ozaukee Radio Club Newsletter. The antenna is simple, easy to build using readily available materials, and best of all, it works! Your editor built one of these and auctioned it off at a recent ORC meeting. A

hint: use insulated staples to hold the wire around the periphery of the 2X4.]

Here is a little project for those of you who like to experiment with antennas. It is simple and effective. Built on a short length of 2x4, the signal is vertically polarized when standing on its end and horizontally polarized when lying on a side. It is easy to store in your car's trunk, it can be quickly tied to a tree or propped up on a shelf, and it can even be used for protection in a pinch (hi)! Materials: a 2x4, a little over 6 feet of wire, a hunk of coax and connector, 2 screws and some electrical tape or tie wraps.

1. Cut a 2x4 to 33 inches.

2. Cut a piece of bare solid copper wire about 75 inches long.

3. Exactly 18 inches from one end of the board and ½ inch in from the edge, start a wood screw (preferably brass).

4. Mount a second screw exactly ½ inch away from the first (making it a total of one inch from the board's edge, as shown in the drawing).

5. Make a small loop in the end of the wire and mount it under screw #1.

Run the wire over to the edge of the board, then around the perimeter (centered along the 2-inch side). Bring it back near the screws. Make another small loop, and mount this loop under screw #2. Make the wire tight. You can take up any slack with an extra screw or two mounted near #1 and #2.

6. Prepare one end of a 12 foot length of RG-58 coax with a connector of your choice (PL-259, BNC or Type N) on one end. Strip the other end back an inch or two and separate the center conductor from the shield. Solder the center conductor to screw #1 and the shield to #2.

7. Run the coax along the 18-inch board face, on the SAME SIDE AS THE SCREWS, parallel with the edge, ½ inch in (in line with screw #1). Use electrical tape, tie wraps or other dielectrics to secure the coax all the way to the end of the board. This is important because the coax orientation plays a role in the circuit.

That's it! The SWR should be 1.5:1 or better. My working model barely moves the needle on reflected power. Moreover, it is broad banded - less than 1.5:1 from 144 to 148 MHz! It performs every bit as good as a copper J-pole I recently constructed, but it is less than a yard long. This makes it handy for emergency use, as well as for mounting in an attic, on an apartment shelf or even in a boat. Use of lightweight woods such as cedar or balsa, or even plastic is possible. The prototype I built is a simple cedar 2x4.

This design is a twist on a folded dipole/J-pole and/or quad combination. It works!
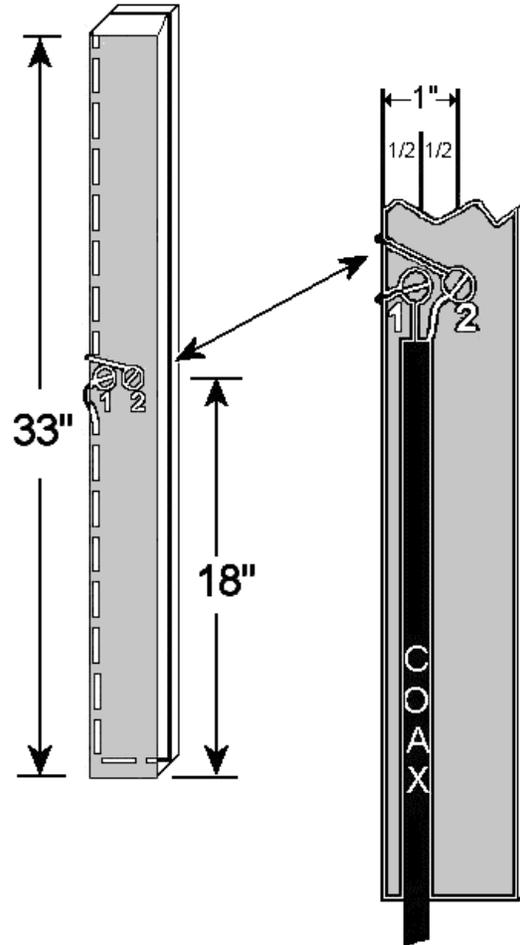
Have fun with our upcoming

SET

Saturday, 6 October 2001