



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 is 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://wi-aresraces.org>

in PDF format, shortly after each issue is published.

Deadlines: The newsletter is mailed on or about the 15th of the month preceding the date shown on the issue. Thus, the February issue is mailed on or about the 15th of January. Articles and notices must reach the editor no later than the 1st of January to be considered for the February issue.

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The Federal Method of Message Handling

By Ron Henry, N9KWW (NAVMARCOP MARS call NNNOVAG)

Last month, we looked briefly at a message to note the similarities and differences between the Federal Format and that used by the ARRL. This time, we'll look at some of the message handling procedures and techniques, which keeps the passage of information from station to station accurate and reliable.

Operators who pass messages using the Federal Format use **pro words** to help maintain proper message format and instill a degree of reliability during passage. These pro words play an integral part in the actual transfer of the message. Here they are.

PRO WORD	MEANING
OVER	Used at the end of a voice transmission when a reply is expected from the other station.
OUT	Used at the end of a voice transmission when you do not expect a reply to your transmission and communications have ended.
WAIT	Indicates to the other station that something has occurred that is going to cause some delay in your response.
WAIT OUT	Same as above but a much longer delay can be expected.
I SPELL	Used to spell a word, or anything that begins with a letter such as "N9kww I SPELL November Nine Kilo Whisky n9kww".
FIGURES	Used to communicate numbers or number groups such as "FIGURES two three one seven" or "FIGURES FOUR ALPHA TWO BRAVO".
INITIALS	Used to communicate a person's Initials.
FIGURES ROMAN	Used to indicate roman numerals will follow.
RELAY	Used to communicate to the receiving station that the message is not for them, but rather it is to be relayed to another station.
MESSAGE FOLLOWS	Used to indicate that the message is for the receiving station, and is not to be passed further.
ROGER OUT	The receiving station uses this as a receipt for the message.
THIS IS	The pro word used to identify a station

With this list, we now have all we need to send a message. Here is how a voice exchange might go. The punctuation added here is to help you understand the rhythm, but it is of course not part of the message.

"This is KB8XXX WB9XXX call N9BBB".

N9BBB would answer, "This is N9BBB, over".

(If the receiving station cannot hear the sending station, the receiving station would answer, "This is N9BBB relay over". In this case, the net control station (NECOS) would then ask another station to relay).

KB9XXX would then pass the message in this way:

" This is KB9XXX, message follows:

Routine Time 020155z MAR 02

FM AmCross, I SPELL: Alpha Mike Charlie Romeo Oscar Sierra Sierria, AmCross

TO Mr. John Smith

FIGURES 12477 West FIGURES 7th Street

Milwaukee WI 54452

FIGURES 414-331-4413

BT (BREAK)

Then the sending station unkeys, and waits a few seconds for the receiving station to answer with one of the following possibilities:

- Nothing* (the receiving station does not key up at all, which means all is well).
- "SEND SLOWER".
- "SEND FASTER".
- "I NEED A RELAY".

If the response is a. (nothing is heard) the sending stations continues with the message body.

"In reference to your message of (FIGURES) 01 2355z Mar 02, the manifest number is as follows. (FIGURES) 259 (I SPELL) TWO Tango Whiskey Oscar, FIVE Foxtrot India Victor Echo, NINE November India November Echo and it will contain (FIGURES) 5 (I SPELL) Foxtrot India Victor Echo tons".

"BREAK" (BT when written or in code)

"OVER"

Then the receiving station replies:

- "SAY AGAIN" (if he needs a fill), or
- "ROGER OUT" (when all fills are received and understood and when the message is acknowledged).

Thus, the *pro words* help the message move along from station to station intact and in the original format. Since everyone uses the same pro words and sequence, all stations know what to expect next as the message is transmitted.

The real key in the accurate and timely transmission of messages is training. Training does not merely mean a one-time certification, but rather, daily practice, practice, practice, which is really a rehearsal for a real event. Messages are passed on the MARS, NCS or SHARES nets every day, and the operators

who practice daily become very good at message handling. Of course, for many Amateur Radio operators, daily practice is not realistic. On the other hand, weekly practice in transmitting random messages will increase proficiency over a long period of time.

Do They Still Do That???

By Tim Willoughby (KB9TJI), EC Ashland and Bayfield Counties

When talking to members of the general public about Amateur Radio and ham emergency services, many times the initial response I get is: "Ham Radio! Do they still do that?"

I think for this Field Day at every location that is set up in a public place a sign should be put up that reads: **HAM RADIO – YES, WE STILL DO THAT**. It is the perfect answer to the most often asked question.

The second most asked question in my particular location is "Why do we set up those antennas at the local beach that one weekend in June?" Of course, this is the perfect entry to the explanation for Field Day as a practice for emergency communications under field conditions. It is also a perfect time to extend an invitation to visit the site this year. Who knows? The person you are talking to may be a future ham! At the very least, a visit to your site by a member of the general public is excellent public relations.

Wisconsin Severe Weather Frequencies

By Skip Voros, WD9HAS, Milwaukee Area SKYWARN Association (MASA). **Please send corrections and final verification to: svoros@execpc.com.**

1. Local Frequencies.

Major City	County	Freq/Class/Notes
Adams-Friendship	Adams	145.290 A
Algoma	Kewaunee	146.805 A
Antigo	Langlade	145.310 A
Appleton	Outagamie	146.655 A
Ashland	Ashland	147.315 A
Baraboo	Sauk	146.880* AW
Bayfield	Bayfield	146.610 A
Belvidere(IL)	Boone	147.375 A
Big Flats	Adams	146.460 A
Crivitz	Marinette	145.470 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
Fort Atkinson	Jefferson	145.490 A*
Granton	Clark	146.775 A
Green Bay	Brown	147.120A (Backup 145.190)
Green Lake	Green Lake	146.955 A
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	147.075* A (Backup 146.715)
Juneau	Dodge	146.640* A
Kenosha	Kenosha	224.800* A
Kenosha	Kenosha	155.490 EG
Libertyville(IL)	Lake	147.180 A
Madison	Dane	463.875 SC
Manitowoc	Manitowoc	146.610 A (Backup 145.190)
Marinette	Marinette	147.000 A
Marshfield	Wood	463.875 A
Mauston	Juneau	146.850 A
Medford	Taylor	147.150 A
Menomonie	Dunn	146.610 A
Milwaukee	Milwaukee	146.910* AW
Milwaukee	Milwaukee	152.375 U MASA
Monroe County	Monroe	154.115 EG (Backup 155.925)
Mount 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*/442.000 A
Rhinelander	Oneida	27.065/Ch8 CB
Rochester(MN)	Olmsted	146.820 A
Roberts	St Croix	147.330 A
Rockford(IL)	Winnebago	147.195 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 A
Tomahawk	Lincoln	145.430 A
Wabeno	Oconto	145.110 AW
Waukesha	Waukesha	462.675 R
Waupaca	Waupaca	146.925 A
Wausau	Marathon	146.820/462.550 AW/R
Woodstock (IL)	McHenry	146.835 A (Backup 145.410)
Wisconsin Rapids	Wood	146.790 A

Backbone/Coordination Frequencies:

NWS Chicago and NE IL	442.975
NWS Duluth and NW WI	444.975
NWS Green Bay and NE WI	147.120/147.270
Local support NCS	147.075
West hub	146.820
Far Northwest hub	145.430
NWS La Crosse and West WI	146.970
NWS Milwaukee SC WI	146.685 Madison Area
SC WI	147.360 Cambridge area
SE WI	145.130
NWS Minneapolis and Western WI	147.210 146.670

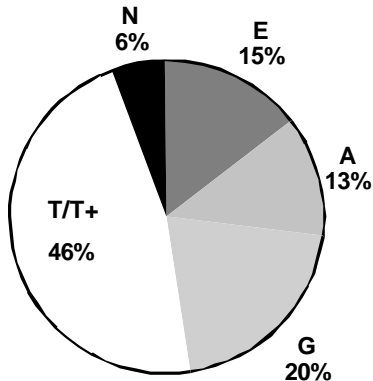
New Call for Jeff Rymer; “For ECs” Website Access

Jeff Rymer (ex N9PQU), DEC for NE WI and EC for Marinette County, has changed his call to **KE9S**. He also has a new cell phone number. These changes are NOT reflected in the roster mailed to you in April. However, they are already posted, with several other changes, in the latest EC Roster on our website in the For ECs section (which takes a password to access). You can easily download and save/print the latest version whenever you wish. If you don't have a password yet, email our Webmaster: n9pby@wi-aresraces.org and Ray will return one to you. Everyone in the roster is eligible for a password, so just identify yourself in the email you send Ray. Please keep your password to yourself; access is for ECs and higher only.

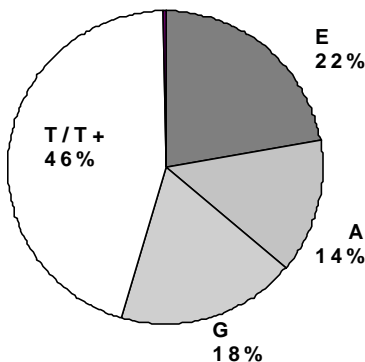
ECs are encouraged to download the latest version of the EC Roster whenever significant changes occur. Of course, ECs cannot know when significant changes have been made, so I will give you a “heads up” in the newsletter when you should consider a download. This is the first such notification.

Ham Tickets: A Comparison

Here is some interesting data: There were 683,165 hams in the FCC database as of this April. Of those, 100,153 were Extra, 85,690 were Advanced, 138,980 were General, 319,768 were Technician or Technician Plus and 38,574 were Novice holders. The percentages are shown in the pie graph below.



Now, let's look at Wisconsin ARES/RACES members. Right now, we have 1,272 members in the state; 283 are Extra, 178 Advanced, 233 General, 574 are Technician or Tech Plus, and 4 are Novice ticket holders. Again, the percentages are shown, below, except for Novices. There are too few to show, except for a slightly thickened line between the Technicians and Extras.

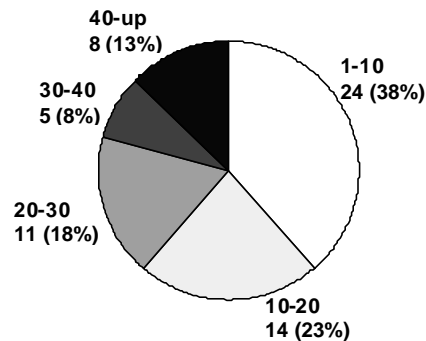


As you can see, the Tech populations in WI ARES/RACES are exactly the same proportion as the national average, and the same is nearly true for the Advanced (13% versus 14%) and General (20% versus 18%) classes. Where we differ from the nation is in the Novice class (6% nationally, versus nearly nil in WI), and especially in Extras (15% nationally, versus 22% in our state). Clearly, Wisconsin ARES/RACES has a higher percentage of Extra Class hams than the general population in the nation. Does this mean that we in Wisconsin are better

trained for emergency communications? The answer is probably not, since the class of ticket does not reflect EmComm training. It might indicate that we in Wisconsin are somewhat better technically prepared, though.

Are we comparing apples and oranges? Perhaps. A better comparison would be Wisconsin ARES/RACES ops versus ARES/RACES ops nationally, but many states do not combine ARES and RACES, or they do not have RACES at all. Other states do not have an active ARES program. The upshot is, that such data is not available nationally. Because each Wisconsin ARES member is also a RACES op (and vice versa), our data is quite complete and accurate. But we have to compare our data with all hams nationally, not just those active in ARES/RACES. Nevertheless, it is an interesting comparison.

As long as we are looking at our Wisconsin ARES/RACES data, below is the current range of sizes (number of members) among our county units.



Notice that the smaller groups predominate. As you might expect, groups with a smaller number of members tend to be located in counties with lower populations, with large memberships tending toward counties with larger populations. For example, Milwaukee has 70 registered members, the largest unit in the state. On the other hand, this does not always hold true. There are some units with relatively high numbers of registered hams located in lower population areas, too.

GET READY FOR
FIELD DAY
2002