The Wisconsin ARES/RACES

Emergency Coordinator

They Checked Me Out!

By Tim Willoughby, KB9TJI

EC, Ashland and Bayfield Counties

[Tim handled this hospital security check in a novel and expeditious way, so I asked his permission to print his approach here for all to see. Thanks for sharing, Tim.]

While information gathering from our local hospital in connection with the SET, I ran into an interesting situation. I thought it might be useful to share this with other ECs as a "heads up", in case you also encounter a similar approach from your hospital. It started when I made my initial call to the hospital to determine whom the contact person might be.

Understandably, in this post 9/11/2001 world we live in, the hospital made a point of checking me out before they would give me any information regarding the questions to be answered for the SET.

The hospital representative I was speaking to had access to a computer, so I gave him the ARES/RACES web page address. He was able to look at the SET information required in the October EC Newsletter, and he also checked me out personally at qrz.com, confirming that I really exist and that I am a licensed Amateur Radio operator.

This cleared things up, and they were then willing to provide the information I requested, and to also take a look at how and if they could incorporate Amateur Radio into their emergency plan.

Leadership Changes

Raymond Galster, N9PQO, is our new **EC for Monroe County**, effective 23 Sep. Ray can be reached at **blkthunderhome@charter.net**. Ray is a graduate of the ARRL EmComm course, and is now tooling up to gather Monroe hams into a functional ARES/RACES unit. And, that's not all! Our new EC for **Barron County** is **Greg Hammerel, W9GDH,** of Cameron, WI, **w9gdh@chibardun.net,** appointed 25 Sep. Greg is a retired USAF radio tech, and holds a General Radio Operator license as well as a ham ticket. And that's still not all! Some of you already, know **Jim Staatz, KG9RA**, our newest EC – for **Chippewa County**. Jim (kg9ra@arrl.net) is President of the Eau Claire ARC, and holds the ARRL Public Information Officer job in Wisconsin. Jim's appointment on 7 Oct brings us to only 8 vacancies out of 72 counties. We're on a roll! As always, you can find data for new ECs in the latest EC Roster, posted on our website. Those of you in neighboring counties should especially take the time to send a note to the new ECs, to introduce yourselves. That is why I published their email addresses here – to make it easy for you!

ARES Speaker's Guide

In August 2002, Sacramento Valley SEC David Thorne (K6SOJ) sent a document to all SECs (via the SEC Reflector) called the ARES Speaker's Guide. It is an outline designed to be modified by leadership officials who give presentations to radio clubs or other local groups. It is a superb starting point if you

are organizing a talk. Although just two pages long, it really does cover most topics you might want to in-clude.   It is posted on our website under Other Documents of Interest, in Microsoft Word format so that you can easily modify it to fit your needs.

What You Don't Need to Do

By Dennis Rybicke, K9LGU, STM

Instead of my usual rants about what we should be doing with traffic handling and the nets in Wisconsin, I'm just going to list a few things that an operator **doesn't** need to do. Not doing something should be easier than doing something, right?

Save some of your time and effort. Omit any punc-tuation in the preamble of a message. Don't bother to include the commas and periods with the city and state in the place of origin; the spaces around them function as the punctuation. Same with the date. We know it's an abbreviation. No need for the period. You also don't need to label the parts as you send them - such as, "station of origin, place of origin, date." Just send 'em. The receiving station knows the parts.

When sending a message, you don't have to say or send "To."   Again, the receiving station already knows what's coming next. That's the beauty of a standard format.

Don't include a closing with the signature. The "73," "sincerely," or the like is included (and counted) as part of the text. The signature is just the name, some-times with a title, and what follows that name.

No need to spell everything out on phone. Just spell or use phonetics for homonyms (there, their, they're), the uncommon words (pterodactyl), or those that might be misunderstood (fight, flight). And spell out the ARRL numbered text (It's "ARL FORTY SIX," not ARL 46).

Unless there's a question about the check, some un-certainty about the text, or very bad conditions, there's no reason to read the entire message back to the sending station. Get confirmation on the parts you need. Leave the full reading of the message to the Department of Redundancy Department.

Finally, you don't need to hesitate to check into a traf-fic net - phone or CW. We need all the participation and practice we can get -- but I repeat myself…

Need a new pink card (FSD-218) with all you need to know about message formats, QN signals, and traffic procedures? Let me know on a net, send me an email, or - better yet - send me a radiogram. I'll be glad to send you a new card and the most recent list of ARRL radiograms.

The 2002 Wisconsin SET

ECs, you can run your **local SET** anytime between now and the end of November. Need help? Our As-sistant SEC for Training, Jack Morrison (N9SFG), would be happy to help, or just look over your plans.

In addition to your local plans for the SET, there is a **statewide component,** which needs to be completed by **31 October.** It is an information-gathering task, centered on the hospitals in your county. Gather the required information and send it so that it **reaches your SEC via email or packet**. However, the tickler is that it **must traverse HF** somewhere along the line.   Thus, you can send it via 2 meters to a neighboring county, who could send it via HF to an-other county, where it is transmitted to Stan via email. Other permutations and combinations are acceptable, just so long as Stan receives the message via packet or email **on or before 31 Oct**, and that it **travels by HF** part of the way. Stan's home packet station is on 24/7:

WB9RQR @ N9PBY.EN63BI.WI.USA.NA.

During the EC Conference in November, we will tabu-late which units participated, as well as describe the most unique message or the most unique pathway. Here are the six information items to gather and send:

1. How many hospitals are in your county?

2. Provide the name and address of any single hos-pital in your county. Pick one that you might want to (or be asked to) provide emergency communications services for.

3. Provide the name, title and phone number of a point of contact for the hospital picked in 2, above (Hospital Administrator, person in charge of the Emergency Room, etc.).

4. How many beds does the hospital have? *Note that you don't have to go count them!* This is a commonly used number that indicates how many patients a hospital is authorized to accommodate – your point of contact will know this number.

5. Is the hospital classed as Primary Care, Secon-dary Care or Tertiary Care? Again, your point of contact will know this. Tertiary care is the high-est, and there are only three such in Wisconsin (two in Milwaukee and one in Madison).

6.   Are there currently any Amateur Radio facilities in this hospital? For example, is a ham antenna installed? If such facilities exist, describe in a very few words.

If there is no hospital in your county, pick the largest health care facility (clinic, etc.) and use it.

A typical message might look like this:

1.   4

2. Healthy Heart Community Hospital, 523 E 4th Ave, Bratwurst, WI 54999

3. Joan Smith, R.N., ER Head Nurse, 414-345-6789

4. 23

5. Primary

6. Yes. A 2m antenna on roof with coax to ER; no rigs stored on site

Official ARRL Field Organization Appointment Description

District Emergency Coordinator

[I have published this before, but it has been a couple of years, and some recent inquiries show that it is time to do it again. The text of this document (FSD-47, 2/97) was downloaded from the ARRL website. The web page from which it was copied was last modified on 14Feb2002, so it reflects current ARRL policy. I reformatted it, but did not change the text. It adequately describes the job of a Wisconsin DEC. Stan]

The ARRL District Emergency Coordinator is appointed by the SEC to supervise the efforts of local Emergency Coordinators in the defined district. The DEC's duties involve the following:

1. Coordinate the training, organization and emergency participation of Emergency Coordinators in your district of jurisdiction.

2. Make local decisions in the absence of the SEC or through coordination with the SEC, concerning the allotment of available amateurs and equipment during an emergency.

3. Coordinate the interrelationship between local emergency plans and between communications networks within your area of jurisdiction.

4. Act as backup for local areas without an Emergency Coordinator and assist in maintaining contact with governmental and other agencies within your area of jurisdiction.

5. Provide direction in the routing and handling of emergency communications of either a formal or tactical nature, with specific emphasis being placed on Welfare traffic.

6. Recommend EC appointments to the SEC.

7. Coordinate the reporting and documenting of ARES activities in your district of jurisdiction.

8. Act as a model emergency communicator as evidenced by dedication to purpose, reliability and understanding of emergency communications.

9. Be fully conversant in National Traffic System routing and procedures as well as have a thorough understanding of the locale and role of all vital governmental and volunteer agencies that could be involved in an emergency.

Recruitment of new hams and League members is an integral part of the job of every League appointee. Appointees should take advantage of every opportunity to recruit a new ham or member to foster growth of Field Organization programs, and our abilities to serve the public.

Requirements: Technician or higher class; full ARRL membership.

EC Conference: Sat 9 Nov

Plans are final for 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wisconsin Emergency Management, 2400 Wright Street, Madison. Need directions? Email a query to Mack Brophy, N9NTB at: races@dma.state.wi.us and he will provide them. Stan will need several things from you, by the **absolute deadline of Monday, 4 Nov, in the noon mail**. First, provide your name and call and the name and call of any hams coming with you. Second, the make and license plate number of any car you will be parking in the WEM lot. Sorry to bother you with this, but the WEM security personnel require this info, owing to new security measures at the facility (which I am sure you can understand). When you enter the facility, you will need to stop by the Security Desk and initial a sheet containing your reservations for the event.

Third, Stan will need $6.00 per person (the tax is included in that sum) for a box lunch. Coffee is free; soda can be purchased in the break room machine.

Finally, let Stan know your lunch preference from one of two possible choices of a Cousin's Sub:

SUB 1: Club Sub – ham, turkey breast, cheese.

SUB 2: Turkey breast and cheese.

COOKIE 1: Chocolate chip.

COOKIE 2: Macadamia nut.

Both come with tomato, onion, lettuce and oil dressing on the sandwich, potato chips and the cookie. If you don't specify a choice, we will assume the Club Sub with a chocolate chip cookie.

An agenda will be distributed when you arrive. The SET, EmComm Courses, the State Hamshack, ID Cards, the ARES/RACES HF Net, Government – ARES/RACES Relationships, NWS – ARES/RACES Relationships and a Unit Profile are just a few items that are being developed for presentation.

Remember, money, names, calls and license plate numbers by Monday, 4 November, to Stan. See the masthead for his contact information**.**

Wisconsin Participates in Repeater Linking

By Ken Meyer, K9KJM, EC for Door County

There is a fairly new communications method that results in "linking" of RF repeaters and stations via the Internet into a single, large network. This results in the ability to participate in worldwide communications with just an HT. We participated in the very largest network ever assembled in this way, on the evening of the first anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Using a program called "EchoLink", I successfully connected the Sturgeon Bay UHF (444 MHz) repeater on 11Sep2002. We were one of between 100 to 300 repeaters and RF link stations worldwide. In turn, many of the linked repeaters themselves had over 40 or more operators checked in to them. Thus, thousands of ham radio operators were connected in a single, huge network, the biggest ever assembled.

A number of our local amateur radio operators checked in to this net, which worked very well indeed. After stations had checked in from all over the world, statements were read by the President of the ARRL, EMS personnel who had been at "ground zero" after the attacks, and other ARES/RACES and FEMA personnel. The link up lasted for more than three hours of continuous transmit time over the repeater, proving the durability of our local equipment.

Emergency Response Information Form

Enclosed with this issue is a single page document listing both the procedure and the information needed during actual emergencies. Don Michalski, W9IXG (our ARRL Section [State] Manager) and your SEC developed the document.

During a tornado or other local emergency, W9IXG and WB9RQR are often bombarded with requests for information from ARRL HQ, other national-level organizations of one kind or another, as well as offers to assist from neighboring ARES groups (including ARES groups from neighboring states). Of course, we would like to respond to these requests in a timely fashion. However, even more important from the point of view of our ham responders, we need the information to rapidly and adequately muster any additional resources that might be needed in the disaster area. If coverage and resources are adequate, we need to know that, too, so that neighboring hams do not respond unnecessarily.

Accordingly, it is now ARES/RACES policy that ECs follow the guidelines on the Emergency Response Information Form just as soon as is practical during real events (and feel free to practice using it during drills). ECs, please keep a copy in your grab-n-go kit, and remember to follow and use it ASAP when you respond. A copy is already posted on the web site (under Other Documents of Interest), should you need more for your AECs or for other purposes.

We are getting much better at responding during emergencies, and YOU are to be commended. This new form can help us keep the information flowing so that your response, and any support you might need, can be even better.

Positive Comments from Emergency Management

[This was extracted from an email message sent to Mike Melnik (N9PMO, Racine's EC) by an official in his Emergency Management Department, regarding an exercise held near the end of September. Your SEC thought it would be worth sharing. Isn't it nice to get kudos from a served agency? Way to go, Racine ARES/RACES!!!]

Mike,

Great job at the disaster exercise. I was proud of the way the amateur radio operators responded to and participated in, the event. Towards the latter part of the exercise, I saw and overheard many of the participating agencies remark that they were listening to the Amateur Radio operator's radios, because they were getting the full and more complete picture of what was going on. Most were impressed by the communication ability the amateur radio members brought to the disaster exercise.

SECTION MANAGER
   Don Michalski, W9IXG
ASSISTANT SECTION MANAGERS
   Gene Santoski, K9UTQ
   Rick Elsener, W9RCW
   Hale Blakely, W9CBE
   Gary Payne, N9VE
SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR
   Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR   *YOUR*
BULLETIN MANAGER   *WISCONSIN*
   Dale Johnson, WB9NRK   *SECTION*
TECHNICAL COORDINATOR   *LEADERSHIP*
   Richard Regent, K9GDF   *OFFICIALS*
STATE GOVERNMENT LIAISON
   James Lackore, AD9X
SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER
   Dennis Rybicke, K9LGU
OFFICIAL OBSERVER COORDINATOR
   Daniel Gomez-Ibanez, W9DGI
PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR
   Patrick Moretti, W9UQ