



# 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the date shown on the issue. Thus, the February issue is mailed on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of January. Articles and notices must reach the editor no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of January to be considered for the February issue.

Permission is granted to reprint articles from this newsletter provided credit is given as follows: "Reprinted from The Wisconsin Emergency Coordinator Newsletter, WB9RQR, Editor".

## Pocket Response Guide to Terrorist Incidents

That is the title of the 3-fold card pamphlet enclosed for you with this newsletter. Now get this: **Wisconsin Emergency Management wants a copy of this pamphlet in the hands of every one of our 1,300+ ARES/RACES members in the state.** You can get enough for every one of your unit members, plus a few extras. All it takes is a simple email message, sent to: sheryl.smith@dma.state.wi.us. Tell her how many copies you want, and your mailing address including ZIP code. While you are at it, pass this information on to your local radio club president. WEM would like **every** ham, not just ARES/RACES members, to have one. Tell your radio club president to also fire a request to Sheryl. Thanks! Stan

## Now Is The Time

By John Leekley, WB9SMM, DEC, SE WI

Recent documents forwarded from Wisconsin Emergency Management describe the gearing up of our state to combat terrorism. For example, there has been talk of spending up to \$2 million for developing a "Citizen Corps" and "Community Emergency Response Teams". I suggest that we take the opportunity during this gearing up process to upgrade some equipment using some of the funds that will be available. Here is my suggestion.

At the very least, each EC should write to their respective Emergency Management Director with a flat out request for funding. Do it **NOW**, because something tells me that the earlier, the better!

Use your official letterhead, and compose your letter with very polite and circumspect language, but set out the case in clear terms. It seems to me that best and most reasonable case for money is a new or refurbished repeater. Each case will be different and will have to be stated in the context of your specific local needs, but the request doesn't have to be overly complex or complicated. You might want to include the following elements in your letter.

1. Repeaters are the lifeblood of our emergency operations.
2. We have a repeater, but it is xx years old (If you don't have a repeater, your story line will change here to a request for a new system).
3. The repeater needs to be refurbished and upgraded.
4. These are the items needed (with a detailed list including individual item costs).
5. The total cost is estimated to be so-and-so.
6. Is there any money in the homeland security programs that can be allocated for such purposes?
7. If so, please advise us concerning how we may apply. Alternatively, will you please apply on our behalf?

I have always been an advocate of having an ARES repeater separate from the "club" repeaters. However, this may no longer be possible because of the lack of available, unused frequencies in your local

area. Therefore, a good, wide-area coverage club repeater could be the candidate for use of the funds. Consideration might be given to asking for funds for ALL of the club repeaters in the area because each and every one is a resource and will be called into service if a wide-area terrorist incident actually does happen.

A similar case can be made for the statewide ARES packet system. In fact, it seems to me that a very strong case could be made for this candidate.

Then, if you get lucky and get your foot in the door, have one or two additional items ready that you can ask for. You may not get them initially, but you have at least stated your case. A portable repeater and a mobile command post are just two such items that come to mind. Remember, the worst they can do is to say "no". They won't take your firstborn male child in retribution! **Do it now!!!**

## It's the Spirit

By Dennis Rybickie, K9LGU, STM

Whether you learn to send a message in NTS format, SHARES format, MARS format, or another protocol such as for severe weather spotting -- you are practicing a discipline that is transferable. When you follow the directions of the net control station, or serve as a net control yourself, you are responding in a way that can be utilized in lots of situations.

Hams, by their nature, seem versatile. We have varied interests within the hobby of Ham Radio and plenty of interests beyond. We experiment; we explore; we try to find new and more efficient ways of doing things. That characteristic is certainly one that makes us more valuable as an organization to support agencies in times of need. We learn quickly and we know how to adapt.

When conditions require it, we change modes or change procedures. If SSB doesn't work, we aren't above trying old, reliable CW to get a message through. When packet or some other mode would be more effective, we use it. If the static crashes are terrible, we willingly use a relay or double talk the text of a message - just to be sure.

And we practice. Even if there's nothing special about a routine message, we count the check when sending and check the check upon reception. We remember to pace our speaking of a message and listen often in case the receiving operator needs fills.

The times during which we are not called upon to serve in emergencies are the times we use to sharpen our skills. We do all this because it is a good part of what Ham Radio is about. We serve by learning and practice just as we do in the application. Keeping that spirit alive is as important to the hobby

as maintaining our frequencies. Please pass along your understanding of how we serve to new hams in classes, meetings, and first QSOs. Show them how we care about them and about those we serve so they, too, will carry on the spirit. Next month: FAQ on traffic handling. Any suggestions?

## HAZMAT: Did You Know?

Did you know that all police officers and fire fighters are required by federal law to be HazMat trained at the Basic Awareness level? Did you know that this 4-hour course is given very frequently all over the State of Wisconsin? (That's not hard to figure out, since EVERY new police officer and fire fighter must take it!) Did you know that a person trained at this Basic Awareness level is one who is likely to witness or discover a hazardous substance release, and who is trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities? Did you know this person is not authorized to take any further action beyond notifying the authorities of the release? Doesn't that sound like what we ARES/RACES hams might do? You bet!!! Well then, why not get the training? It is free, and consists of:

1. What hazardous substances are, and the risks associated with them.
2. Potential outcomes associated with an emergency created when they are released.
3. How to recognize the presence of hazardous substances, and if possible, how to safely identify them.

Clearly, this is information of use to almost anyone. So, how can you get the training? There are several ways. First, if only one or two hams are involved, contact your Emergency Manager with a request to "plug into" an upcoming course. The addition of a couple of people to a course at the local cop shop or firehouse will not usually strain the system. Second, if you have a whole batch of hams interested, ask your Emergency Manager if they can set up a course to be held at one of your unit's monthly meetings. That can often be arranged, and when your hams successfully complete the training, they'll get some new *federal* wallpaper for the shack in addition to becoming better able to protect themselves if they encounter a HazMat incident. Don't forget to invite the EM to "plug in" one or two police officers or fire-fighters who need the training, too. Sometimes, that can solve a problem in the Police Chief or Fire Chief's training schedule.

If there is some reason that the training cannot be worked out in your county, what about holding it in a neighboring county? Yes, you can do that! Talk to your neighboring EC. Maybe you can have a com-

bined course with them in their county, or even in yours. What a great chance to get neighboring units together for a mutual training goal! Check it out.

## Wisconsin Proud

By Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV, EC Milwaukee County

A few weeks ago, I was putting together a quick promotional piece that would describe our ARES/RACES services. I wanted the information to strike a chord – to spark some familiarity when read. I wanted to include a list of headline Wisconsin events, in which ARES/RACES members played significant roles. I do think that a county emergency manager can relate to the work done during the aftermath of the Siren tornado much more than they can relate to work done after an earthquake in Mexico.

I thought this would be an easy task but I was wrong. I searched both local and national sites on the Internet for almost three hours with no payoff. While there were lists of events that spanned the world, not one Wisconsin list was to be found.

So, I improvised and created a list from memory:

1. 2002 Sep: Tornado in Ladysmith
2. 2002 May Search for a missing child, Alexis Patterson, Milwaukee
3. 2001 Jul Plotting of downed aircraft for Mitchell Field Fire Department, Milwaukee
4. 2001 Jun Tornado in Siren
5. 2001 Apr/May Flooding along the Mississippi River
6. 1998 Dec Search for the vessel, *Linda E*, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Sheboygan Counties
7. 1998 Flood, Milwaukee County
8. 1997 Flood, Milwaukee County
9. 1996 Mar Train derailment in Weyauwega

I believe we all could benefit if the list was expanded and accurate. Please send fills or corrections to me at: n9vsv@wi.rr.com. The list will be posted on the Wisconsin ARES/RACES web site in the near future, and will be updated as new information is received. In that way, it can serve as a resource for all of us.

## EmComm ??

By Jack Morrison, N9SFG, Asst SEC for Training

“We do nets all the time” or some variation of that statement is generally heard whenever the EmComm course is being discussed. That statement is followed by “Why do we need to learn more, we can do the job”.

Yes, we do nets, but the question is, are we doing them the same way as the group in the next town, county or state? Are we getting the job done as effi-

ciently or as accurately as it could be done? Do the local emergency agencies know our capabilities, our shortcomings? Where do we fit into the ICS structure, or for that matter what is ICS? Why do we need to know something about HazMat? What is a Jump kit?

The answers to these questions as well answers to many more items are contained in the EmComm courses. Level I provides the basics. Not only will it show you several different types of nets, but it will also explain how to select a type to use to fit your specific needs. Level I also covers training, the ICS system, MOU's and a variety of other topics in short, easy lesson units. When you have completed Level I, hopefully your appetite is whetted and you will continue on with Level II, and later even Level III.

The world of emergency communications is a changing one due to improvements in technology and the needs of our communities. At present, there is a critical need to improve our ability to interact with the next county or state. The EmComm courses provide us with the means to do so using a uniform set of methods and procedures that everyone can understand.

## Emergency Power Plant for Sale

By Tom Kinney, KE9UE

A local friend has a complete stand-alone power system he wishes to sell. It was purchased new about three years ago for a cabin that was never built. It would be wonderful for an ARES station on complete emergency power. His cost was about \$4500.00 and he would sell it for \$2800 or so, with or without the batteries. All components are located in Tomahawk, where it is set up and available for inspection by appointment. He has no phone, so please make your contacts through me, Tom Kinney, KE9UE, tkinney@klinktech.net, (715) 453-1939. Items included:

- Honda 2500 W generator
- Heart Total 2KW Inverter and solar interface
- Solpan Panel and control unit
- Link 1000 Digital Status Unit
- TC 2+2 Battery control unit
- 4 Deep Cycle golf cart batteries
- Miscellaneous: boxes, vents, documentation, etc.

## Leadership Changes

It is official! **Stan Piekarczyk, KE6IFC**, is the new EC for **Outagamie County**, effective 1 December. Stan was Bill Niemuth's AEC, and took over to fill the vacancy when Bill moved up to District Emergency Coordinator, East Central Wisconsin. That is the

way it should be – smooth – and with the EC training their replacement. Nice job, guys! And welcome to Stan (he has an unusually good first name, too).

After a 5-year stint as EC for Adams County, **Ed Wagner, AB9FN** is stepping down, effective 1Jan03. Ed has done a good job under difficult conditions, for which we owe him many thanks and several attaboys, too. Replacing him as EC is **Rosanne Maybee, KB9PZK** (kb9pzk@yahoo.com). Rosie comes with considerable experience as a past member of OZARES, when she and her family lived in Port Washington. She is in the new edition of the roster, available on our website, but I've included her email address above so you can send her a welcome right now. By the way, hers is a total ham family. Daughter Tabitha, Rosie, and husband John are KB9PZJ, KB9PZK, KB9PZL, respectively. Moreover, Rosie's in-laws Barb and Logan Maybee are KB9VYY and KB9VYZ. Alphabet soup! Welcome, Rosie, to the fray.

## A New Training/Emergency Aid for ECs and EMs

N6NKO has struck again! Clever Richard Polivka, while taking the EmComm III course (Jack Morrison, N9SFG, our state Asst SEC for Training, was his online mentor), did an assignment for Learning Unit 19 that will be of value to Emergency Coordinators and Emergency Managers throughout the state.

Now posted on our website as Ham Volunteer Instructions (in the Other Downloadable Documents of Interest section, available to all), it is a Microsoft Word 2000 document that when printed should occupy both sides of one sheet of paper. When properly folded as a 3-part pamphlet, one outside cover lists **ARES & RACES OFFICIALS** and the other cover lists **HAM RADIO VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTIONS**. Blanks are present on the latter side for name, callsign, tactical callsign, agency, agency contact, phone number and location, as well as frequencies and telephone numbers important in an incident. A How To Use document is also posted on the site.

Thus, the outside of the folded pamphlet lists the most important information of use to the ham while working an emergency in the field. Inside are **Key Operating Procedures**, a primer on the **Incident Command System** and general **Operating Guidelines**.

The pamphlet is designed to be distributed to hams and filled in at the initial call up meeting, before operators are deployed in the field to work an incident. Alternatively, they could be distributed and partially filled in at a training meeting, and kept with each ham's grab-n-go kit or in their vehicles, ready to be

completed on the air as assignments are made for an incident.

The pamphlet is a great idea, and we thank Richard for his ingenuity and willingness to share it. ECs, go get your copy!

## How Can I Help the NTS?

By Dennis Rybickie, K9LGU, STM

If you haven't seen the Tools for Traffic Handling web page, check out this site:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~k7bfl/tfctools.html>

In keeping with the suggestion from W9CBE, here's the first of what, on some websites, would be called the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions). And the question for today is: What can I do to help the National Traffic System? The answer is: Send some traffic.

Help keep the NTS alive and well by feeding it, testing it, and giving it plenty of exercise. Sending one message as part of your EmComm 1 course is great practice -- but only one meal in a lifetime would starve anyone.

If you're worried about the format, just use FSD-218, the famous pink card. Feel free to ask for assistance on any traffic net, from any known traffic handler, or contact your Section Traffic Manager on the air or via email at [k9lgu@arri.net](mailto:k9lgu@arri.net).

What should you send? Almost anything of a non-commercial nature will do. Send birthday greetings, congratulations, thanks for a QSO, thanks for a gift, or for a visit. Send Season's Greetings to your cousins and your aunts. Send a message of appreciation to a good net control operator. Send a meeting notice to club members. Send a comment to the author about an article in QST. Better yet, send a message from a third party – a note from your aunt to her friend in another state. Use your imagination.

Promise yourself you will send at least five messages per month. You can help. The NTS is too good to let it die for lack of sustenance.

This newsletter is being mailed mid-December, so it is time to wish you and yours:

BEST WISHES FOR  
THE HOLIDAY SEASON  
AND A VERY HAPPY,  
HEALTHY  
AND PRODUCTIVE  
NEW YEAR