



**Wisconsin
ARES®/RACES**



Welcome to the St. Croix County ARES/RACES Newsletter

A new way to share news from our organization!

Welcome and thank you for reading! This is the first issue of the St. Croix County ARES/RACES Newsletter. Why a newsletter you may ask?

That is a great question and one that can be answered with a simple statement: to spread news and information about our organization with other organizations.



Our mission within St Croix County ARES/RACES is to help served agencies with communication needs. While we seem to know a lot about the agencies we serve how much do they know about us? This is how this newsletter will come into play and help spread the word.

Our organization is made up amateur radio volunteers that

have taken the time to learn and work with emergency communications on a volunteer basis. No one receives any form of payment for the services the organization provides.

All members must adhere to set training standards and training requirements which include participation in so many sessions each year, minimum of bi-yearly SKYWARN training, and active involvement within the organization.

At current our membership includes a total of 18 trained and ready to serve amateurs who live throughout St. Croix County. They are ready and waiting to serve when requested to do so.

For more information about amateur radio or St. Croix County ARES/RACES please feel free to contact Emergency Coordinator—John Kruk N9UPC.

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Do you have news for the group?

Are you a member of the St. Croix County ARES/RACES organization or work for one of our served agencies and want to be heard? Then we want to hear from you!

The newsletter is always open to having different people submit news, stories, or information which can help with the purpose of emergency communications or working together.

If you want to submit a story, news piece, or letter please

feel free to contact John Kruk N9UPC at: coordinator@stcroixaresraces.org.

At current the newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis. It will be retrospective of any items from the last quarter and take a look forward at the next quarter. It will be published by the last day of the first month in the quarter.

Any submissions for the newsletter will be reviewed for content and maybe edited, if

needed, for length. All submissions become part of the newsletter history. Submissions are also due by the 1st Monday of the 1st month in the quarter. Any late submissions maybe used in the next issue if they are not time sensitive.

In addition we welcome your comments, thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. Please do not hesitate to offer them up as many minds are better than just one!

St. Croix County ARES/RACES

Articles in this issue:

- Rule change sought to allow encryption in the ham bands.
- Is your radio programmed to the current channel layout.
- Canadian ARES responds to Alberta floods.
- September is Emergency Preparedness month.
- Colorado ARES helps with communications during the wildfires.

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Find us on the web:
www.stcroixaresraces.org



St Croix County ARES RACES



@wiares_stcroix

Up and Coming ARES/RACES events or items

July 2013

- July 8th 6pm–8:30pm St. Croix ARES/RACES Training @ RFAH.
- July 20th 10am–12pm WC Regional Mtg. @ Chippewa Valley Airport Eau Claire, WI

August 2013

- Aug. 14th 7am–3pm St. Croix County drill. Location will be Somerset School.
- No TRAINING for Aug. due to drill session with St. Croix County
- Date TBD—Equipment move at the Government Center from old EOC to storage area.

September 2013

- Sept. 9th 6pm–8pm St. Croix ARES/RACES Training @ Hudson Hosp. (unless otherwise noted)



Proposed rule change to allow encryption in the amateur band

“not having the ability [encryption] has impacted the relationship of amateur radio volunteers and served agencies.”

The FCC was taking public comments, till July 8th, in regards to a Petition for Rule-making from Don Rolph, AB1PM, and put it on public notice.

Designated as RM-11699 seeks to allow additional exceptions to Part 97.113 to allow for “encrypted communications when hams are participating in emergency service operations or related training exercises which may involve information covered by medical privacy requirements or other sensitive data.”

At current Part 97.113 only covers the usage of encryption or obscuring their meaning for the purpose of controlling

remote control crafts or satellite command/control signals.

Rolph states that “not having the ability [encryption] has impacted the relationship of amateur radio volunteers and served agencies. Also that it has significantly limited the effectiveness of amateurs in supporting emergency communications where secured communications is required.”

This has obviously struck a chord with many amateurs, for and against, this proposed rule making. Some amateurs are against this stating that it will be the start to the destruction of amateur radio and turning it into another business band or CB.

Others are in favor stating that it does have it’s place under strict guidelines and procedures that would need to be put into place.

At this point St. Croix County ARES/RACES is neither for nor against this issue and currently will not be taking a stance.

After the July 8th deadline the FCC will review and determine the future of the request and possible purposed rule making.

- John Kruk N9UPC



Marshall KA9PKK, Net Manager, runs a ‘net’ from the St. Croix County E.O.C. station during the yearly statewide emergency communications drill.



Colorado ARES helps with communications during wildland fires.

Colorado Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers mustered to support emergency communications after wildland fires broke out in June.

"For the second summer in a row the entire state of Colorado seems to be on fire," said North Central Colorado Region ARES Emergency Coordinator Perry Lundquist, W6AUN. "Currently there are 16 wild-fires burning within Colorado."

Several Colorado ARES districts activated in the wake of the Royal Gorge and Black Forest fires June 11.

Members provided communication support for sheltering activities. Later the same day, the Black Forest Fire erupted close to the Waldo Canyon area in Colorado Springs, where a similar wildfire caused widespread destruction last year. "The Black Forest Fire has now become the most destructive fire in Colorado history," Lundquist said. It ultimately consumed 14,280 acres and 507 homes and caused two deaths.

During the fire's peak, eight shelters were opened for both people as well as animals large and small,

Lundquist reports. More than 35,000 residents had to evacuate, he said, which placed a very heavy burden on the American Red Cross, which immediately requested ARES communication support between its eight various shelters and the Pikes Peak Red Cross headquarters. ARES volunteers responded by providing around-the-clock radio operators for several days.

– Reposted from the ARRL Letter for July 4th, 2013.

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September is National Preparedness Month

Since its inception in 2004, National Preparedness Month is observed each September in the United States of America. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) within the Department of Homeland Security, National Preparedness Month encourages Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools, and communities.

As of 2009, the Citizen Corps National Survey revealed that only 57% of Americans surveyed report having supplies set aside in their homes just for disasters, and only 44% have a household emergency plan.

The biggest steps for anyone to get ready is to 'make a plan' and to 'build a kit'. The FEMA website: www.ready.gov has links which can help you with these tasks.

Some free ways that you can be informed about emergencies is through: Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), Emergency Alert System (EAS), and NOAA Weather Radio.

An example that a plan was not made and needed in the State of Wisconsin dates back to June 5th, 2008. On that day heavy rains battered Milwaukee and would continue for ten days.

In turn this caused the worst flooding in 15 years for the state. This was in addition to reports of several tornados hitting the south-central area.

The storm and flooding caused hundreds of roads across the state to be closed (even part of the Interstate) and required over 2,600 people to go to emergency shelters. 31 counties were declared federal disaster areas by FEMA.

This is one example of how bad weather can affect us and is the most common response that ARES/RACES would respond. But, how would we respond when it comes to our families and a request for help?

As ARES/RACES members we also need to make sure we are prepared for a possible communication deployment. While it is important to make sure we have all of our radio equipment ready to go, are we ourselves.

Remember that an ARES/RACES activation does not only affect us, as operators, but also our families. While you are making a plan it is important to make sure that if you plan to deploy for an emergency that your family plan can reflect that and manage.



Pictured (from left to right): Allie KC9NMH, Ben KC9PFA, and John N9UPC train using NIMS City for a radio drill dealing with flooding.