



The Wisconsin EC Newsletter



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Wisconsin ARRL/ARES Section Emergency Coordinator, RACES Chief Radio Officer and Editor

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The WEC Newsletter is published monthly in .pdf format to the Wisconsin ARES/RACES Web site <http://wi-aresraces.org>. 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 Wisconsin ARES and RACES. Comments, suggestions and articles (finished or in rough form) are solicited from the readers.

Deadlines: *The newsletter is published between the 15th and the 31st of the month preceding the date shown on the issue. Thus, the February issue is published in late January. Articles and notices should reach the editor no later than the January 1 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, KB9ENO, Editor".*

ARES Leadership Changes

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

We had another busy month of changes to ARES leadership in Wisconsin. Here is what happened.

Denny Rybicki, K9LGU, Wisconsin Section Traffic Manager, joins ARES Executive Leadership. Denny is a valuable resource who brings a wealth of experience and great qualities to us. With our strive to implement Winlink 2000, and leverage the National Traffic System, his close interaction with ARES/RACES will help us be better service providers.

Tim Willoughby, KB9TJI, has resigned as EC for Ashland and Bayfield Counties. Thanks to Tim for his years of service. Unfortunately, we have yet to find a replacement for either county, so those ARES/RACES programs no longer exist. If anyone knows of a candidate who is willing and would be a good EC, please have them contact Wes Jones, N9PHS, DEC West Central Wisconsin, or me.

Dan Workenaour, N9ASA, has been appointed Milwaukee County EC after Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV, decided to step down to concentrate her efforts on her new role as Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Marketing and Recruiting. Dan inherits the largest ARES team in the state. Please lend Dan a hand if he asks. Welcome Dan!

Jeff Rymer, KE9S, has resigned as EC for Marinette and Oconto Counties. Jeff was formerly DEC for the original Northeast District. We wish Jeff well in his new endeavors. Replacing Jeff as Marinette County EC is Bill Becks, WA8WG. Bill has been instrumental in creating a new communications network in Marinette County and is dedicated to enhancing the ARES/RACES program in our far northeastern county. Replacing Jeff in Oconto County is Earl Andre, Jr., KB9DSV. Earl has been involved in ARES/RACES for years, initially in Brown County, and more recently in Oconto County. Earl's 146.835 repeater system is now linked to Bill's 146.880 repeater system to create a terrific communications network in Northeast Wisconsin. Bill and Earl are dedicated to partnering their two counties for a strong ARES team.

A couple months ago Dave Owen, N9TUU, told me his schedule prevented him from doing an adequate job running Richland County's ARES/RACES team, and asked me to find a replacement for him. John Kuntz, KB9RYI, Southwest DEC, beat the bushes trying to find a replacement for Dave, without any success. One night I checked into the Sauk County ARES/RACES net and by chance started talking with Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB, Sauk County EC, about Richland County. He had been working with some of the folks there in

mutual assistance. As a result of our conversation, John and I discussed it and felt Pete would be an excellent candidate to assume the Richland County EC role. We talked to Pete and he volunteered to assume the role until he can develop a resident of Richland County to take the EC role. As you know, I think having one county is all someone can do justice to, but in Pete's case, he can handle both in the interim. Thank you, Pete. And thanks to Dave Owen as well!

Because Paul Iverson, AA9FW, moved out of Polk County, he asked to step down as EC. Thanks for your efforts Paul! As a result, Wes Jones, N9PHS, DEC Northwest Wisconsin, found a willing and able volunteer in Steve Jacobs, N0XC, to take the EC spot. Steve has been appointed to the position, and we are excited to have him!

Two other ECs are also stepping down and we are working with candidates to replace them now. More information will be forthcoming next month.

Outagamie County ARES/RACES Meeting/Hospital Test

By Stan Piekarczyk, KE6IFC, EC Outagamie County

The Outagamie County ARES meeting was held Tuesday, May 11, at 6:30 PM at AMC hospital in Appleton Wisconsin. The meeting was a change in schedule from our local exercise we were to have on Saturday, May 8. AMC called last week, and I was not going to turn down the chance to test our gear in the hospital, after waiting a year.

Six Outagamie and one Waupaca County members were present. We tested the use of HTs in the ER at the ER communications desk, the triage area (new garage at the back of the building), the main lobby and the Ironwood room, which would be the location for people to find the status of injured family members.

Difficulty occurred from the ER communication area, both on VHF and UHF. A ¼ wave antenna would be needed at that location and then an HT could be used. The Ironwood room, which is below the main lobby, could not hear the triage or ER sections, but a net control in the Incident Command room could hear all.

We were not allowed to test on upper floors because of possible interference with the wireless monitoring systems used throughout the hospital. Matt Digman, the AMC Safety Manager, said the equipment was being monitored for possible interference from our tests.

Lessons learned from the tests:

1. UHF would be the best asset in AMC for point-to-point communication.
2. A net control station in the Incident Command room (soon to be remodeled to the Communication room) would be necessary to relay information to other sections of the hospital to ensure 100% coverage of the hospital.
3. Not tested, but a most likely improvement, would be the use of a portable UHF repeater OUTSIDE the hospital. This can be tested with the upcoming fall multi-county exercise.
4. Six to eight operators per shift would be needed initially in the event of a mass casualty incident utilizing AMC. Most likely four operators per shift would be fine by the second day to the release of disaster event.

Some added good news: AMC will install an antenna, coax, and possibly a radio in the new Communication Room to match the gear in Theda Clark Hospital. New London Hospital would also install an antenna and coax.

ARES and the NTS in Wisconsin

By Denny Rybicki, K9LGU, STM Wisconsin

The FCC allows us the use of certain frequencies in part because we provide a public service – especially in times of disaster. Whether we enjoy our hobby by chasing DX, experimenting with digital modes, QRP, EME, or rag chewing, we recognize that we must offer something for the greater good. Public service is one of our major contributions.

If you look closely at the Public Service Communication Manual on the ARRL website, you'll notice that the two major divisions are ARES and the NTS. It's important to note that they are two parts of the same thing. In other words, they are not mutually exclusive; the National Traffic System is intended to support the ARES.

In the event of a wide-scale disaster in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin RACES Net would be established on 3.996 MHz. The Badger Emergency Net would be called up on 3.985 MHz. One could handle logistics traffic while the other could route health and welfare traffic to the NTS. Neither would be exclusive. Messages would be handled as each net's Net Control Station would determine – Emergency precedence first, Priority second, etc.

The NCS might direct a particular emergency management station to move to a separate frequency to send book traffic or establish a subsidiary net with receive stations for outgoing messages. Liaison between section nets would be set up and the number of liaison to other levels of the NTS (such as Ninth Region) could be increased. Emergency Coordinators from the disaster area could send representatives from their local nets to both section nets – RACES and BEN. Digital modes would be implemented when possible, and all sessions of the NTS and NTSD would continue to meet, providing nationwide distribution of messages.

There's another way the NTS supports the ARES in our state. On a daily basis, the section nets provide the opportunity for operators to practice. Practice being an NCS. Practice sending and receiving traffic. Practice net protocol. Practice serving as a liaison station. Local NTS-affiliated nets offer the same chances to learn when they meet.

Some would suggest that routine traffic is meaningless. I would submit that, when a sound technician walks up to the microphone and says, "Testing 1 – 2 – 3," it doesn't mean anything – but it's absolutely essential that he say it to test the system.

We will continue to test and enhance the system. In Wisconsin, the NTS and ARES organizations don't compete; they work together for the same goal – efficient public service. As they say on political ads, I'm K9LGU/STM and I approve this message.

EmComm Hybrid Course

By Don Michalski, W9IXG, SM Wisconsin

Editor's note: The following is an excerpt of an e-mail Don sent to Dan Miller, K3UFG, ARRL EmComm Coordinator.

Dan, we have 10 students in the Madison EC-001 class and I took some pictures of the group. The session, led by W9GOC, WA9CBR, KG9NG, is going extremely well and the discussions are adding more to the learning process. I think the hybrid course method is excellent and hope that others will do the same!

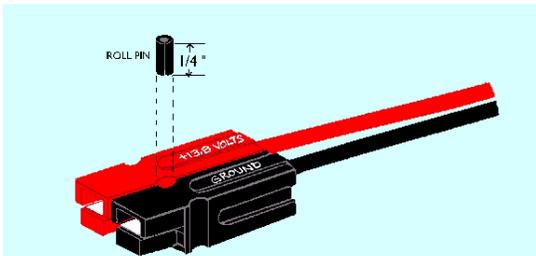


Anderson PowerPole Connector Answer

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

Wes Jones, N9PHS, DEC Northwest, asked if there was a standard for installing Anderson PowerPole connectors. The answer came from Fred Baguhn, W9GOG. An easy to remember formula, "Tongue top, Right red". Fred offered the following Web site as a good reference for these great connectors, which you should be making standard in your home and ARES/RACES stations.

<http://www.herd.org/races/powerpole.htm>. The following is excerpted from the site.



Housings should be mated according to the diagram above, viewing from the contact side (opposite the wire side), tongue down, hood up, RED on the LEFT, BLACK on the RIGHT. Use a 3/32-inch-diameter roll pin, 1/4 inch long, to keep the housings from sliding apart.