



The Wisconsin EC Newsletter



Volume 06 Number 09

September 2004

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

Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO
W8088 Hillcrest Court
Hortonville, WI 54944
920-779-0611
920-475-4819 (Mobile)
bniemuth@new.rr.com

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 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

John Springer, KC9JS, has been named Wisconsin ARES/RACES Winlink 2000 Coordinator. John has already done a terrific job helping us understand how this network might be the consolidated answer to supplemental digital emergency communications. Welcome John!

Les Larson, AB0GT, has chosen to step down as Douglas County EC. Thanks for your good work Les. We'll miss you. John Lindberg, N9QWH, has been appointed the new EC for Douglas County. John will continue to move the program forward.

Sam Rowe, KG9NG, stepped down as EC for Dane County. Sam has had his plate full for a long time. We have been trying to find ways to relieve Sam of some of his responsibilities and we finally did so. Joe Senulis, N9TWA, has taken over the reigns of the Dane County ARES/RACES team. Joe has been Sam's understudy for several years, and is well qualified to assume this important position. We tend to lump all counties together, but Dane and Milwaukee County ARES/RACES teams are two of the most important in the state because of the jurisdictions they cover. Please thank Sam for his hard work and thank Joe for stepping up. Sam will continue as my assistant for Wisconsin Emergency Management, and Deputy Radio Officer.

Jim Burow, KC9EZT, has been appointed EC for Waushara County. We nearly discontinued this group, but Jim stepped up to the plate. Waushara County ARES has a long way to go, but a lot of opportunity. Welcome Jim!

Rich Maier, KC9NW, has stepped down as Northeast Wisconsin DEC after many years of service. Rich has found he does not have the time to do justice to the position. Thanks to Rich, a communications link between central Wisconsin and the Green Bay National Weather Service now exists. Rich and I are discussing other ways he might help Wisconsin ARES/RACES.

Bill Becks, WA8WG, Marinette County EC, becomes the Interim DEC for Northeast Wisconsin. Bill has been an EC for a short time, but has done a tremendous job. I'll be assisting Bill with the district until we determine who will serve as the permanent DEC. Thanks for stepping up, Bill!

Richard Lee, W9DMH, has decided to step down as Crawford County EC. Thanks for your efforts Richard! I am working with Southwest DEC John Kuntz, KB9RYI, to name a replacement. Hopefully, by next month we'll have a new EC.

2004 Wisconsin ARES/RACES Simulated Emergency Test

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

You will find information about the 2004 Wisconsin ARES/RACES SET attached to the end of this newsletter. This year's SET is different than those we have had in the past. We are providing you the scenario and information about the SET. It will not be a surprise. The goal to this SET is not as much of a test as it is an exercise. We want to exercise the system to make it better. Place yourself into this scenario, try to live it and imagine it. Think through and talk about the scenarios and ramifications should we lose commercial power for days or weeks. Do some planning and make this exercise real for your folks. Use it to test all your capabilities. Use your next meeting to discuss your system or organizational weaknesses and develop and implement plans to solve them, if you can. This is Wisconsin's first statewide SET.

Some of us have not had a good experience running exercises without a government or private disaster relief organization sponsor. As ARES we do not have to be activated. We can self-activate and help whoever needs it. We are an organization and you are the boss for your county or district. Leverage this power and think about it in those terms. Use this SET to test and exercise your communications. It is up to you if you want to do a low level exercise or a high level one where you try to break your resources. Be creative. Above all, learn from this opportunity. If you are like me, just thinking about this scenario makes you think about all of the things that could be done to better prepare.

Finally, you might think this scenario is not probable or not possible. Millions of U.S. and Canadian residents in the eastern part of the continent thought the same last year before the lights went out for several days. How long can you, your family and your ARES/RACES group survive and be of service should the same thing happen for one hour, day, week or even a month. Think about the scenario and learn from it. Above all, have fun with it! Thanks to Jeff Ramlow, N9WBR, ASEC for Training for developing it.

ARES/RACES Membership Standards

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

I have spoken with several ECs recently about creating ARES membership standards. I am sure several more of you are thinking and considering establishing membership standards and requirements. Although we are not going to require that at the state level just yet, I thought it is valuable for you to know where I stand on the issue.

As an EC I struggled with this, as I am sure most ECs today do. You don't want to offend people by placing requirements on them, but on the other hand you want volunteers who are professional and effective while providing service. During my second term as EC, I separated members into two groups, active members and resource members. Resource members were those who were not active, but expressed a desire to be part of the ARES/RACES team. As DEC and now as SEC, I am beginning to believe requirements and standards are required of all ARES/RACES members. I worry less, and you should as well, about having a lot of members on the roster, and am more concerned about having highly effective communicators who are trained and you can trust. Think about your groups. You might have a very large roster, but who is always there? These are your core members you would go to war with. These are the folks who will be there when that big disaster hits. Every county has these core, or hard core, members. If you have five, then you take five to the party. If you have 25, then you have 25. If you need more, then we deploy a mutual assistance team (MAT) from other counties to help you.

As many of you know, I have coordinated communications for many large and challenging events over the years. It is something I enjoy doing, and we have had a lot of success. That success was only possible because of the folks who were part of those events. Recently, I have been coordinating communications for eco-challenge events, which take place over courses 50 to 100 miles long in very remote areas. We tend to use small, highly efficient communications teams for these events, and use them as training exercises to develop skills for emergencies or disasters. These teams are made up of "core" ARES/RACES members. With 10 of these communicators one can do the work of 50 untrained, questionably motivated communicators.

So, this takes me back to membership standards. Perhaps in 2005, we'll implement them from the state level. They will not be hard to obtain, but will be minimal requirements for ARES/RACES folks. As an EC, if you want to implement standards now, I'll support you as long as the standards are well thought-out and reasonable. Membership standards will be an agenda item at the February 2005 ARES Senior Leadership meeting. If you want to implement standards now, go for it!

Northwest Wisconsin ARES/RACES Prepares for Exercise

By Wes Jones, N9PHS, NWW DEC and EC, Burnett, Washburn and Sawyer Counties

I may or may not have told you about our upcoming mock fire exercise with WDNR on 9/11. It will encompass parts of two counties and two DNR Districts. 27 community fire departments have been invited -- not all of which will be participants. We haven't had one of these for two years.

We have set up a new field ICP with permanent antennas, including VHF, UHF, and ATV capabilities, and were able to test the ATV signal from the DNR aircraft last Saturday. It greatly exceeded our expectations, because we are in a level, tree-bound location, and we got a beautiful picture from about 30 miles!

Editors Note: Wes told me about this a couple weeks ago during the Adventure North Trekkineer in Northern Michigan. It is a good example of innovative thinking and providing services to a client we may not normally consider.

ARES/RACES Teams Provide Public Service Communications

Submitted by Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

ARES/RACES teams from East Central, Northwest and North Central Wisconsin contributed to the success of Adventure North's Trekkineer, which was held August 14 and 15, in Northern Michigan. We have provided communications for this 100-mile eco-challenge event for the past three years. Continuous communications services were provided from 8:30 a.m. Saturday, August 14, to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, August 15. Fortunately, there were no injuries or emergency communications necessary this year. The weather was incredible, the views fantastic and the communications excellent! As many of you know, I have coordinated communications for large-scale events over the years, and these types of events have been the best communications experiences I participated in. Many members have commented they are the best emergency communications training opportunities they have ever been involved in. Special thanks to the Blackjack Repeater Association and Lake Superior Amateur Coalition for the use of their great repeaters.

This year's communications team consisted of the following:

Dan Lenz, KB9IME	Carol Lenz, KB9WPH	Stan Piekarczyk, KE6IFC
Dominick Piekarczyk, KF6HCG	Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO	Jeff Schmeichel, KB9BYP
Lester Morse, KA9LAR	Wes Jones, N9PHS	John Armata, KC9AMX
Kevin Berrett, KC9FDL	Steve Breese, KB9MBC	Steve Gasper, KB9IKO
Todd Dorschner, N9MY	Brian Brunelle, KB9VRT	Diane Brunelle, KC9FSD

We had a great time, as you can see. If you get the opportunity to assist with one of these events, take it!



ARES/RACES Leadership Conference – Plover, Wisconsin!

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC Wisconsin

The 2004 Wisconsin ARES/RACES Leadership Conference will be held in Plover, Wisconsin on Saturday, November 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided with your registration fee. Please register online or see the attached announcement and registration form. You will find the registration here <http://www.wi-aresraces.org/2004confreg.htm>.

Former Wisconsin ARES/RACES Member Home Hit By Charlie!

By Dave Boland, W9NWX, and his wife Lee, Charlotte County, Florida ARES

Editor's Note: Dave and Lee sent this informational letter to me, and I asked for their permission to use it here. It is an example what dealing with a major disaster is like. I only included the photos of Dave's tower and their solar panels.

First, we want to thank all of our friends and family for their concern and prayers and offers to help - knowing people were there for us helped. We are sending out this letter to all of you since there isn't time to thank each of you individually.

As you have seen on TV, Punta Gorda became more popular than we wanted it to be. Charley went from a Cat2 (top wind 91mph) to a Cat 4 (145mph) in less than 2 hrs. Wind speed of 167 was measured at the airport before the unit blew away (as the crow flies we are 4 - 5 miles from airport). The local TV weathermen forecast it correctly and disagreed with the National Hurricane Center.

We rode out the hurricane in the back hallway next to the master bath - had covers and sleeping bags to pull over us if anything started to fall - both windows in those rooms were blocked with plywood (1 window still covered in photos). As the wind howled we prayed. Lightning struck a tree next door and was really loud in the house, also the power pole at the end of the block snapped and landed on the end house.

We were not injured and have no major interior damage - some wet rugs where the rain blew in under the windows. We lost the pool cage, some roof tiles (whole roof will be replaced), solar panels, cover off the boat and both doors and flipped the AC off its pad (you can see in picture). We also lost some fascia, soffit, TV antenna and blew away of twisted my ham antennas (tower is fine). In the yard, part of the fruit trees were uprooted or snapped off, one of the Mr. Lincoln roses (8 ft tall) from the front of the house blew away. All of the front roses survived (just wind damaged). The car was parked outside on the drive and a few pieces of roof tile hit it denting the roof and breaking the windshield. Our motor home was in the shop for repairs at the time of the hurricane and received minor damage when the doors of the stall we were in blew in. Compared to many in the area we had very little damage.

We lost phone service, electric and water. Originally, we were told 5 weeks before power would be back - actually got it back in 10 days. Two nights ago was the first night we didn't hear generators running on our block. There were power company trucks here from everywhere - the crew on our street was from KY. Wisconsin power even had trucks down here.

We got phone service back on Monday night and we got water back within a few days but we still cannot drink it - system if not fully functional.

Last year when Gene was in Richmond and went through Isabel we bought him a 6000-watt Generator. When he moved to Butte, MT in May we brought it home just to have if we would ever need it. We used it for 10 days (lots of gas went thru it).

Our son Gene was at a meeting in St. Pete Beach and was going to spend a couple of days visiting after the meeting. We picked him up on Wed 8/18 and he helped get stuff cleaned up. Also our nephew Scott Fuller from Ft. Lauderdale came over on Wednesday (he is a licensed electrician in Dade County). He wired our generator into the power panel so we didn't have extension cords all over (we were using the extension of #10 wire Gene made last year to get into his house). He and Gene up righted the AC, found parts to get it going so that Thursday PM we had AC (with the generator we had to turn the house off before starting the AC or we pulled the unit down and dropped one leg of the 220). Both Scott and Gene also helped the neighbors with electrical problems, etc. We really saw neighbor helping neighbor (2 local neighbors who haven't talked to each other in 6 - 7 yrs were helping each other). Scott went home Thursday night and we took Gene

back to the airport on Sunday. Without the two of them we wouldn't have gotten the area cleaned up so fast.

Our daughter Beth wanted Lee to come to her home in Gainesville since we had no AC power, etc and she was going to take the week off so Dave could stay with the house. After Gene and Scott got the AC running Lee stayed here.

Since all of our gas stations were out of service we had 40 to 60 mile roundtrips to buy fuel (took 10 - 15 gal per day for the generator)

The Red Cross, Salvation Army and Church of Latter Day Saints were in here with water, ice and food - even hot meals. Other groups were here as well. We had police and fire units from all over the U.S. besides, lots of Florida National Guard units. All 3 hospitals in the county were damaged and the National Guard set up hospitals at all locations as soon as they could.

The Red Cross set up a kitchen in our hall parking lot (across the street from the church) and the team serving the food is a Southern Baptist Disaster team. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Venice has set up a distribution center in our hall. Everyone is helping everyone.

The church we go to - Sacred Heart - had all the stained glass windows boarded up but the windows on the east side all blew in and dumped lots of rain and debris into the church (the next day there was still over ankle deep water throughout the church) One amazing thing is that the tabernacle doors never blew open and the sanctuary lamp continued to burn even though the altar area had debris and water. Also, part of the roof support structure was blown away. The church is totaled and will be torn down soon so we can rebuild.

For the hams getting this note - the IsoPole antennas are basically gone and the beam has had it (see picture) but the 2mt/440 vertical stayed put. It will be a while before I'm back on the radio.

Again thanks for all the phone calls and emails.

Dave and Lee



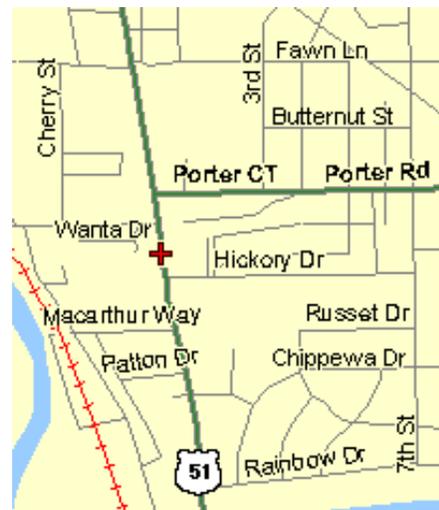
Wisconsin ARES/RACES
Sixth Annual Leadership Conference
Saturday, November 6, 2004, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Spiedini's Restaurant, 1010 Post Road, Plover, WI 54467
(715) 344-0160

Plover is in Portage County, just south of Stevens Point
Talk-in - 146.670 (PL 114.8)

Please join us for the sixth annual ARES/RACES Leadership Conference (formally the EC Conference)! This year's conference is open to all ARES/RACES Leadership, including ECs, AECs and other interested parties. Plover was selected because of its central Wisconsin location. Plover is in Portage County, just south of Stevens Point. Lunch will be served at noon, and will consist of Chicken Parmigiano with Pasta. Cost for the meal will be \$10.00, which includes tip and beverage. A vegetarian dish will also be available for those who desire it. You do not need to prepay. Payment will be collected at the restaurant. Your registration is required, however. It needs to be received by October 23, 2004. Please complete the registration form online at <http://www.wi-aresraces.org/2004confreg.htm> or on the attached. A registration should be completed for each attendee, including non-ARES/RACES personnel.

This conference will be different than those you have experienced in the past. We will be spending time on ideas to help ARES leadership appointees, and future appointees, be more effective in his/her role. It is important you attend this conference with an open mind and learn as much as possible. We will also have the opportunity for networking, which is extremely important. Take the opportunity to talk with someone you don't know and learn from each other. Tomorrow, you may need to be reliant upon them for emergency communications support.

You might even consider inviting your County Emergency Management Coordinator or your Red Cross Director to this year's Conference. It will be well worthwhile and give you the opportunity to display the strength of Wisconsin ARES/RACES! See you there!



SEC Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO: bn Niemuth@new.rr.com

920-779-0611

Please fill out the fields below:

Name:			
Call Sign:			
ARES Position:			
County:			
Menu Item:	Standard: <input type="checkbox"/>	Vegetarian: <input type="checkbox"/>	No Meal: <input type="checkbox"/>

October 2004 Simulated Emergency Test “TakeDown Virus”

1. Purpose

This Simulated Emergency Test is designed to test the readiness of the ARRL Wisconsin ARES/RACES Section to handle emergency communications during a communications blackout.

2. Exercise Date

Saturday October 16, 2004 1000 Hrs to 1300 Hrs CST

3. Goal

To test the strengths and weaknesses of the Wisconsin Section ARES/RACES system under a communications blackout and to identify improvements needed on the local, district and state level.

4. Objectives

- a. Maximize ARES/RACES participation.
- b. Activate all 72 local county nets.
- c. Activate and identify district nets.
- d. Activate ARES/RACES HF net.
- e. Use as many modes as possible, including but not limited to: VHF, UHF, Packet, APRS, ATV, SSTV, PacTOR, PSK31, Winlink 2000, etc.
- f. Operate as many stations as possible on emergency power.

5. Scenario

National terrorism has taken on a more technical face. A computer virus has been created to cause as much disruption to national communications and computer equipment as possible. As a result, the virus has effectively shut down the following: The power grid, cellular and PCS systems, telephone systems, the internet, state and local police computer systems, and commercial communications systems. Basically, if it is networked, it's been taken out. Amateur Radio remains the only visible communications resource.

Only repeaters and digipeaters operating on emergency power can be used. You do not have to physically cut power to these systems unless you wish to test them. Participating stations should operate on emergency power if they have the capability. Remember, participation is our goal! If you must use commercial power, this is acceptable in order to increase participation in the exercise; however, stations with emergency power should use it.

6. General Instructions

All stations should check in with their respective County nets during the SET. Please remember that any existing District nets, as well as statewide nets, primary purpose is to coordinate communications between the counties and the state.

Use portable and mobile communications where possible at shelters, etc.

Utilize and experiment with different modes of communications.

For the purposes of this SET, we will assume most personal computers are not affected. Use of personal computers to communicate over the Internet will not function. Repeater links utilizing the Internet will also be down.

Use established emergency communication and frequency plans. The ARES/RACES HF net will be on 3996 KHz, the Badger Emergency net will be active on 3.985, and be the NTS message traffic outlet.

Use the “Simulated Emergency Test” designation in each and every message. Identify tactical communications as Drills or Tests as often as possible.

Attempt intra-county communications and log successful attempts. You must also log local participation as well.

Each EC or AEC should send to his/her District Emergency Coordinator at least:

- a) One formal message announcing the startup of their local emergency net.
- b) One formal message announcing the closing of their local emergency net.

The scenario provided here is a basic outline, provided statewide. Each county should expand this scenario and use other available resources. Two of the important goals are to have fun and be creative with this exercise.

Each EC or AEC should submit the following information so we can review participation on a statewide level:

- 1) County Name
- 2) Time of Net Activation
- 3) Number of Check-ins
- 4) Time of Net Deactivation
- 5) Provide a description of the customized testing scenarios done in your county
- 6) Any additional information such as:
 - a. Testing of repeaters on Emergency Power
 - b. Activation of mobile command centers
 - c. Use of any digital modes (Type & Number of stations)

This information will drive future state SET's. Note that basic information may be posted in the monthly state newsletter and detailed information will be sent to the District Emergency Coordinators. You may email this information to Jeff Ramlow at the following address: n9wbr@yahoo.com. If you do not have access to email within your county ARES group, you may mail your results to Jeff Ramlow, 9231 Lake Emily Rd, Amherst Junction WI 54407.
