



The Wisconsin EC Newsletter

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Wisconsin ARRL/ARES Section Emergency Coordinator and EC Newsletter 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 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, Bill Niemuth, Editor".

ARES Leadership Changes

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

With the passing of **Wes Jones, N9PHS/SK**, we have to find replacements for three counties and a district. This is no small undertaking, however, I have good news. **Ed Jacobsen, KB9KJE**, has been appointed Burnett County ARES EC. Ed has been involved with the Northwest District for many years and assisted Wes during many exercises, events and disasters. Welcome, Ed. We are glad to have you!

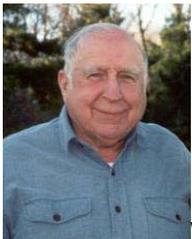
For the past few months **Rich Willett, WD9GNK**, has been the editor for this newsletter. After considering both of our schedules and the efficiency with which the newsletter is produced, we have mutually agreed I would take the editor's position back. We will continue to produce a high quality product, which is getting a lot of attention from ARRL Headquarters. Thanks for volunteering, Rich!

Because of increased workload **Jerry Leeman, AB9DI**, decided to step down as Winnebago County EC. Jerry worked diligently as EC for one of the most active ARES/RACES programs in the state. Thanks for your hard work, Jerry! Taking over for Jerry is **Greg Ramlow, KB9SZP**, who at one time served as Waupaca County EC. Greg has served as an AEC and a ADEC, so he brings a wealth of experience to the position. We are fortunate to have him as an EC. Welcome back, Greg!

Jim Staatz, KI9H, has resigned as Rusk County EC. A search for his replacement is underway.

Wes Jones, N9PHS/SK

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Wesley R. Jones, 81, of Shell Lake died Saturday, May 28, 2005, at Spooner Nursing Home. He was born July 8, 1923, in Naugatuck, CT to Watson and Selma (Peck) Jones. He graduated from

Naugatuck High School in 1940. He was a veteran of WWII and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Bronze Star. Wesley obtained degrees from the University of Connecticut and University of Massachusetts. As a wildlife biologist, most of his career was spent working for the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, either in National Wildlife Refuges Program or the Animal Damage Control Program. Wesley was married in Plymouth, CT on April 27, 1957, to Barbara Hungerford.

His special interests were bird banding, fly fishing, hunting and amateur radio. He was one of the founding members of NORWESCO RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) and also of the NORWESCO RACES Skywarn volunteer network. He is survived by his wife, Barbara of Shell Lake; his daughter, Lisa (Jim) Thompson of Sandy, UT; his son, Douglas Jones of Willard, UT; twin granddaughters, Cheyenne and Hannah Thompson.

A celebration of Wesley's life will be held at 10:00 AM Thursday at Pockat Funeral Home, Shell Lake with Waldo Asp officiating. Burial of cremains will be in Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Spooner. Military honors will be accorded by Wisconsin Military Honors Team. Friends may call from 5-8 PM Wednesday at the Pockat Funeral Home in Shell Lake, and for one hour prior to services.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to charity of choice.

Training Is For Humans

By Skip Sharpe, W9REL, ASEC for Training

In past articles, I've talked about a training program for Wisconsin ARES. I have addressed why a program is important, about how a training program can increase the credibility of the whole ARES program in the eyes of our served agencies. I've talked about how the program needs to be consistent so ARES members statewide get the same information. At the same time, the program needs to be flexible enough to accommodate district and county concerns.

In this article, I will address the human element in training. After all, training is for humans. It sculpts human behavior. We, humans, create, administer, and participate in the training. In the end, the success or failure of the training program rests with us.

The Section Emergency Coordinator is responsible for the section-wide ARES organization. Since training is a critical part of the organization, the SEC is responsible to see there is a training program and it meets the needs of the organization.

The SEC has created the position of Assistant SEC for Training. That's me! My job is to spearhead the creation and administration of the program, and to make sure it meets the priorities set by the SEC. It's also part of my job is to create tools to help with training. Those tools include videos and PowerPoint presentations, outlines and scripts, and tools to record member training.

District Emergency Coordinators and Emergency Coordinators have training responsibilities, too. The DEC job description says DEC's, "Coordinate the training...of Emergency Coordinators and their units". Emergency Coordinators take the training program to their organizations. They administer and document the training.

Individual members have the most important job of all. Each ARES volunteer communicator will take part in the training program. It's the members who will sit in the training sessions, see and hear the material and absorb the content. And, it's the members who will take the material they've learned into the field and put the training program into action during communications drills and actual emergency situations.

So, the Wisconsin ARES training program is really for all of us. We create it. We administer it. We learn from it. It all works if we all do our part. I'm counting on all of you for your help.

Required Training

By Skip Sharpe, W9REL, ASEC for Training

“Required” is one of those words that always demands attention. It means there’s something expected. It means there is work to do!

The Section Emergency Coordinator is announcing certain training will be required of all ARES members in leadership positions. I’ll explain what training will be required and when, shortly. But, deciding to require more training didn’t come quickly or easily. I want to explain why the decision was made.

As ARES leaders, we need to understand certain concepts and initiatives, like the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS), so we have common ground with our served agencies. Requiring consistent training also puts us on ‘the same page’ within our organization. That’s important so individuals and groups can blend and work together smoothly on short notice.

Also, documented NIMS and ICS training help make Wisconsin ARES/RACES eligible for grant monies from FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. Grants are an important source of funds to support ARES/RACES initiatives like a statewide linked repeater system and WinLink 2000 deployment.

So, what training is required and when?

For Emergency Coordinators: By December 31, 2006, ECs shall have completed:

- FEMA IS-700 “NIMS, An Introduction”
- ICS-100 “Introduction To ICS” or an equivalent course.

For District Emergency Coordinators and Assistant Section Emergency Coordinators: By December 31, 2006, ASECs and DECs shall complete the training required for ECs plus:

- FEMA IS-800 “National Response Plan (NRP), An Introduction”
- ICS-200 “Basic ICS” or an equivalent course.
- ICS-300 “Intermediate ICS” or an equivalent course.

For the Section Emergency Coordinator: By December 31, 2006, the SEC shall complete the training required for ECs, ASECs and DECs plus:

- ICS-400 “Advanced ICS” or an equivalent course.

No training is ‘required’ for general ARES membership. But, all members should also have some NIMS and ICS training. So, all members are strongly encouraged to take the FEMA IS-700 “NIMS, An Introduction” and ICS-100 “Introduction to ICS” courses.

Most of the courses are available through the FEMA training website at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>. Each course has several lessons with a final exam at the end. These aren’t particularly long or demanding courses. Each one should take only a few hours to complete and they are all free!

Course materials can be downloaded as .pdf files or the courses can be taken on-line through FEMA’s Virtual Classroom. Details for registration and taking the courses are available at the website.

Documenting our training is important. Please email me a copy of each course completion certificate you receive at skip-sharpe@wi.rr.com or W9REL@arrl.net.

This is important training. There are benefits on several fronts. The sooner we have documented results, the sooner we’ll see the fruits of the effort. I’m looking forward to hearing from you and receiving copies of those course completion certificates.

2005 ARES/RACES Leadership Conference

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

The 2005 ARES/RACES Leadership Conference will be held this year on Saturday, October 29, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. This year's conference will be held at Dale's Weston Lanes, 5902 Schofield Avenue, Weston, Wisconsin. We have a room to accommodate 225, which means more space than last year! Please mark your calendars. Invitees this year include; all ARES/RACES leadership personnel, AECs, other interested ham radio operators, and for the first time, emergency management coordinators and directors, Red Cross and Salvation Army and National Weather Service personnel. We look forward to a great conference. Conference Registration will be kept at \$10, which includes lunch.

If you are looking to make a family weekend out of it, the Wausau area offers a plethora of activities compiled by Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, AEC Marathon County ARES, and ADEC, Northeast Wisconsin.

For October 29, there is "Thrillville" which is tagged as "fun galore with pumpkin painting, scarecrow making, a costume parade and lots of other fun things for participants. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the City Square, downtown Wausau."

October 29 also has "Thriller: A Dance Spooktacular". The Wausau Dance Theatre performs a "hip-hopping, foot stomping display of skeletons, witches, and mummies along with a few surprises." 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Grand Theater, downtown Wausau.

September 10 through November 15 is the "Birds in Art" exhibit at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum on Wausau's east side (corner of Franklin and 12th Streets). The museum is open from noon until 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Free admission.

Wausau also has the Center for the Visual Arts, located in the same block as the Grand Theater (427 Fourth St.). On Saturday and Sundays, their hours are noon to 4:00 p.m. Free admission.

Along with the artsy stuff going on, Rib Mountain State Park will be open as well at the Mountain-Bay trail for hiking and biking. The trail head for Mountain Bay is almost directly behind Weston Lanes-it's about a block northwest of the building.

Winlink 2000 Demonstrates Its Robustness!

By Jim Darrow, KB9MCC, WI ARES/RACES Digital Communications Coordinator

The Great Midwest Relay was held on June 10 and 11. The relay was a running event, which started in Madison, traveled east to Milwaukee and then on to Chicago. During the event we wanted to link the three net-control stations, and the Digital Coordinator with packet. The packet system used for the event consisted of 10 stations all linked via RF. A test was conducted before the event, which consisted of each NCS sending traffic. During this test a total of 15 test messages were sent. None of the test messages that were entered made it to their intended destination. If our system would have worked, it would have taken an hour and a half or longer from the time the message was sent until you received a reply.

After the first test it was decided to switch to the WinLink 2000 system for the event, and use the stations that were currently in place. Out of all the NCS stations three were WinLink capable, had a connection to the internet backbone, and an RF packet connection to the nearest Telpack Node. The station in Libertyville, IL used a web mail address. All the Telpack Nodes in WI that might have been needed for the event were reconfigured to use the Milwaukee PMBO as the central server. During the event we passed over 116 digital messages between all the NCS sites and the Digital Coordinator, and all of the messages reached their destinations in three minutes or less.

Traffic passed during the event consisted of runner and weather information. With the lessons learned from this year's event, we hope to expand and refine our messaging skills using WinLink 2000.

2005 Simulated Emergency Test

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

The 2005 Simulated Emergency Test will take place this year on Saturday, October 1, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the statewide component. This year we will concentrate on benchmarking against last year. One change we will make is the switch from a state scenario to a county or local scenario. We believe this is a better way of controlling these exercises because each area has different threats. Skip Sharpe, W9REL, ASEC for Training, will be coordinating this SET and he will have an more informative article in an upcoming newsletter. We will provide you as much information as possible for you and your groups to plan for the best exercise possible.

An ARES/RACES Net Reminder

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Check-ins to the Wisconsin ARES/RACES net have fallen over the past two months. This net is your opportunity to participate in the only statewide ARES/RACES net and hear what is happening around Wisconsin. Over the past few months we have started to have theme discussions about emergency communications, which have proven to be popular. The net begins at 6:00 p.m. on 3977.5 in the 75 meter band. Wally Kruk, N9VAO, is the net manager and does a superb job! This is a great net, please take the opportunity to check in and participate. If you want to hear something on the net which is not there, please let me or Wally know and we'll get it incorporated. We want to hear as many people as possible every week. Remember, HF is our only way to communicate on a statewide basis.

I hope to hear you on the next net!

Kewaunee County ARES/RACES Gets Some Press

Provided by Dan Heinrich, N9JKX, EC Kewaunee County



Amateur radio operators recognized

Gov. Jim Doyle has proclaimed June 25 as Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Day. Amateur radio operators provide emergency communication capabilities as a backup resource during local, state and national emergencies.

Kewaunee County Emergency Management is also recognizing the amateur radio operators that are a resource for the county. The amateur radio operators in Kewaunee County are Kevin Brun, Rick Deering, William Draeb, Dennis Dworak, Dan and Bobbie Heinrich, Mike Huber, Bob Klein, Lawrence Lang, Kurt Mueller, Andy Nemeck, James Parma and Joe and Terrie Yedynak.

This group is involved in many events

throughout the year. Some of the activities the "hams" will be involved with in the county this year include: the Duathlon, which is a running and biking event on July 16; the Leukemia Bike-A-Thon on July 23-24; the Wisconsin Off-Road Bike Race at the ATV Park; and the FEMA-evaluated exercise with the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant on Nov. 1.

The amateur radio operators also coordinate with the National Weather Service in weather spotting and tracking dangerous thunderstorms or tornadoes. This public service is known as SKYWARN.

Anyone interested in becoming a part of the group should contact Dan Heinrich (N9JKX) at 487-5948.

Marathon County's Wild Week of Weather

By Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, AEC Training/Operations, Marathon Co. ARES and ADEC Northeast Wisconsin

During the week of June 4-11, 2005, Marathon County's ARES group had six activations to provide ground truth weather reports to NWS Green Bay. This breaks down to one activation on June 4, two on June 5, one on June 7, one on June 10 and one final activation on June 11. Of these nets, I was NCS for four of them, Rich Maier, KC9NW, EC Marathon County and WI ARES/RACES Linked Repeater Coordinagtor, was Net Control for the June 4 weather event (I was NWS Liaison) and the June 10 weather net was coordinated over the air via discussion because an NCS was not available. Of the four nets I ran, I handled 374 radio reports ranging from check-ins/check outs to out, for fuel, to the tornado that hit east of Colby, multiple wall and funnel clouds and multiple damage reports. Fortunately, for the residents of Marathon County, there were no injuries or deaths as a result of the wild weather.

Once all was said and done, Marathon County ARES had a meeting on Thursday, June 16, to discuss the weather nets and do a "show and tell" of storm pictures and actual video of the Athens tornado from June 4 and Colby tornado of June 7.

As a group, we learned from the week's events through discussion at that meeting. The biggest thing we learned as a group is the importance of having many stations trained to serve as Net Control and Liaison for Marathon County Emergency Management and NWS Green Bay. Of the seven trained NCS stations Marathon County ARES has, all were not available because most were at work and one was out of town on June 10.

Another important thing we learned was to get familiar with the range of the repeaters in the county. During the course of the June 7 Colby tornado, the 146.820 failed and an emergency escape order was not heard by a spotter near the Marathon/Clark/Taylor County lines. That spotter had the quick thinking ability to switch to a UHF frequency and relay information from there. All other stations near the county line were given the opportunity to come east to ensure repeater coverage on 146.820 and the rest of the operation was smooth.

Training is on the roster in July to get more Net Control Stations on the air and further training will be coming to check the ranges of all three VHF repeaters in Marathon County. Some of this future training will be conducted with Shawano County ARES so they can become familiar with the operations of Marathon County ARES.



Call for Operators July 23 - 24th - Leukemia Society Scenic Shore 150

By Mike Musiel, K9SJ, EC Sheboygan County

Operators needed that can work any part of the route either day, especially from Keewaunee to Potawatomi State Park on Sunday. The route on Saturday is from MATC Mequeon to UW Manitowoc. The route on Sunday is from UW Manitowoc to Potawatomi State Park.

At last night's radio club meeting, we were informed there was not a communications coordinator available on Sunday for the Leukemia Society SS150 event. This is a critical problem for the event, and in light of this, I am pulling out as a rider, and plan on helping with coordination for the entire route. (In addition to the Saturday coordination that Sheboygan has provided in the past.)

Chris, KB9VLS will be coordinating the communications from Hika Bay up to UW Manitowoc on Saturday afternoon. (Thanks Chris!)

Due to these new developments, we will need additional operators for both Saturday, and Sunday, July 23 - 24th. Any segment, any part of the day that you could volunteer would be greatly appreciated. We will need operators at all rest stops, as well as volunteers, to drive the course and look for issues (gravel on curves, mechanical breakdowns, medical problems, etc.)

Since I will now be driving a SAG/Communications vehicle in the event, I will be able to shuttle operators from rest stop to rest stop if needed.

If you can help on either day, on any segment, or if you would like more information, please contact me directly at mike@musiel.com, or via cell phone at 920-377-0035.

If you are sure you will be able to work the event, please also include your T-Shirt size so I can order volunteer shirts for you prior to the event.
