



# The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Newsletter

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Wisconsin ARRL/ARES Section Emergency Coordinator and ARES/RACES Newsletter Editor

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*The WI ARES/RACES 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 WI ARES/RACES leadership and members 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 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 ARES/RACES Newsletter, Bill Niemuth, Editor".*

## **ARES Leadership and Organizational Changes**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

**Craig Nicholson, KW9R**, has moved down state and resigned as Barron County. While Craig was not and EC for long, it was apparent he was skilled and active. We will miss him, but Colombia County will get another skilled operator. Replacing Craig is a familiar face. **Greg Hammerel, W9GDH**, was sweet-talked into assuming a second tour as Barron County EC. As I told Greg, I was a two tour EC, so perhaps one day he will be SEC! Welcome back, Greg!

## **WISCONSIN ARES/RACES Conference Recap**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI, with Photo Contributions from Micah Eldridge, KC9HWF, EC Menominee County and Don Evenson, K9JYX, Sauk County ARES/RACES

The 2006 WI ARES/RACES Conference enjoyed record attendance of 100 when it was held on October 28 at the Wisconsin Emergency Management facility in Madison! Each year this conference has grown in popularity and is getting harder to top with each successive one. Here is a recap.

### **Welcomes, Introductions and Awards**

I provided a welcome to the group and we had each member introduce themselves. We were extremely fortunate this year to have numerous emergency management coordinators on hand. Pat Ryan, KC6VVT, IL SEC, also attended again. It was extremely gratifying to hear all of the names, call signs and positions of the 100 attendees!

This year we presented four awards. Follows are the recipients:



**Bob Naegele, W9MZ, Richland County EC, being named the 2006 EC of the Year!**

In the past two years, Bob has taken an ARES/RACES organization with two members to one highly efficient unit of over 30! Bob's group has a great working relationship with their County EM and is respected throughout the state.



**Pete Johnson, Sr., AB9PJ, DEC Northeast WI, being named 2006 Rookie of the Year!**

In a short period of time, Pete has taken the Northeast District to new heights and continues to work toward making the district one of the best and most active in WI.



**Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB, DEC Southwest WI, being named 2006 DEC of the Year for the second year in a row.**

Pete continues to set the bar for DECs in WI. As Pete will tell you, it is not easy, but well worthwhile.



**Skip Sharpe, W9REL, ASEC for Training, making comments after being presented with a Special Recognition Award for his work on the Hospital Bioterrorism Program.**

**WEM Welcome**

We were honored to have Johnnie Smith, WEM Administrator, provide a WEM welcome to the group. Johnnie was impressed with the dedication of the participants and as he learns more about our capabilities feels we can provide a more proactive service to emergency response personnel in WI. We appreciate Johnnie's presence!



**Johnnie Smith, WEM Administrator, making comments to the attendees.**

### **The Program**

This year's conference offered many things to attendees. I reviewed our 2006 objectives and rated our overall performance this year a B+. Our most successful objective in 2006 was the Hospital Bioterrorism Program which provides many opportunities for the group.

We had a Bits, Pieces, Questions and Answers session, which helped answer attendees' questions they generated before the Conference. The three subjects covered were; Legal Protection for Volunteers, SHARES and an amusing presentation by **Skip Sharpe, W9REL**, about the ARES/RACES chain of command! Thanks to **Mack Brophy, N9NTB**, WEM Hamshack Manager, his information about SHARES.

Next **Skip Sharpe, W9REL**, facilitated a roundtable discussion offering an overview of the great 2006 WI Simulated Emergency Test (SET).

After the networking lunch, we tried something different and held the following concurrent workshops:

- The NTS and General Net Operation – **Denny Rybicke, K9LGU**, STM WI
- Digital Technology and its ARES/RACES Applications – **Jim Darrow, KB9MMC**, ASEC for Digital Communications
- Introduction to Incident Command – ICS-100 Equivalent – **Skip Sharpe, W9REL**, ASEC for Training

Attendees chose two sessions. These workshops seemed to be very popular and we will probably do this again.

Finally, we wrapped up the day with door prizes. This year's sponsors included:

- The American Radio Relay League – **Don Michalski, W9IXG**
- Wilson Cellular – **Micah Eldridge, KC9HWF**
- Ace Radio Shack of Shawano – **Micah Eldridge, KC9HWF**

- **Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO**

In 2007, the WI ARES/RACES Conference will be held on Saturday, October 27, at a location to be determined, but it will be up-state! We hope to reach 120 attendees! Thanks to those who attended and helped this year!

## **WeComm, Ltd. Completes IRS Application and Appoints Committee Members!**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

After several long months and numerous revisions, the IRS application to allow WeComm, Ltd. to function as an IRS 501(c)(3) public charity has been completed and sent to the IRS. The determination to allow WeComm to operate as a 501(c)(3) public charity is critical to the success of the Statewide Voice and Digital Networks being planned for primary WI ARES/RACES use. These systems will be open, however, for other Amateur Radio operators to use and enjoy.

Additionally, the WeComm Board of Directors approved the following committees and representatives:

<b><u>Statewide Repeater Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Digital Data Networking Committee</u></b>
Bill Becks, WA8WG	Jim Darrow, KB9MMC - Chair
Dave Kaun, N9KMY	Jim Markstrom, KB9MMA
Dale Marks, WB9ADB	Tim Piece, KB9UAJ
Rich Maier, KC9NW	Dan Spangler, KC9IKI
Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO - Chair	
Dave Owen, N9TUU	

A January/February 2007 meeting will be scheduled to do an initial design of the systems and determine initial path and timeline.

## **Portable HF Station Information on the WI ARES/RACES Web Site**

Offered by Andy Palm, N1KSN, AEC for Training Winnebago County, by Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

In 2005, Andy Palm, N1KSN, wrote an article describing his portable VHF station, which was placed on the WI ARES/RACES web site <http://www.wi-aresraces.org/emoppportvhf.htm>. After he built a similar package, but for HF, he asked if we would be interested in placing an article on the web site about it. I told him absolutely! This package is small and compact, with a lot of goodies to make your portable operating experience as efficient and enjoyable as possible.

Please check out the full article at [http://www.wi-aresraces.org/proj\\_hfportable.htm](http://www.wi-aresraces.org/proj_hfportable.htm).

This photo will help get your juices flowing.



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## **Dodge County Donates More Equipment**

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Dodge County continues to support WI ARES/RACES with further donations of Motorola base and repeater station equipment. This latest round includes a Motorola MSF-5000 repeater which will be used in WeComm's Statewide Repeater System and a couple of Micor repeaters two counties will receive. Through **Dale Marks'**, **WB9ADB**, EC Dodge County, help this equipment, along with additional Motorola Maratrac radios, will improve the communications ability of our groups. Special thanks to **Rich Green, KC9FNM**, EC Columbia County, for cleaning the Maratracs and then programming them for each of the recipients!

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