



The Wisconsin ARES/RACES Newsletter

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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

This month we are saddened to see **John Everman, Jr., N9MDH**, EC Portage County, leave not just WI ARES/RACES leadership, but also Wisconsin and the U.S. for an appointment in Latin America. A fluent Spanish speaker, John got an opportunity to live and work outside the U.S. John is looking forward to the opportunity, but we will miss him. Good luck, John! Replacing John is a very familiar person, **Rick Abbott, WX9M!** Rick has agreed to take on the Portage County EC position and develop a successor. Rick is well qualified to do this, and excited to be back with the leadership of WI ARES/RACES. Welcome back, Rick!

A couple months ago, **John Kuntz, KB9RYI**, informed me he was resigning as Grant and Crawford County ECs. John has been extremely active for a number of years in Southwest WI, having once served as Southwest WI DEC. John is still going to continue to be involved with ARES/RACES, but will be taking a break from the EC duties. Thanks for all of your efforts John, and good luck to you! Replacing John is **Hap Daus, KC9BGA!** Hap has been Grant County AEC and has had significant life experience, which will help him be successful in these positions. Hap will work with Southwest DEC **Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB**, to develop a person in one of the counties to act as an EC to take some of the burden off Hap. Please welcome Hap when you hear him!

Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant Exercise Briefing

By Dan Cole, N9NCU, RACES RO and ARES EC Manitowoc County

Manitowoc County RACES was activated by Manitowoc County EM at approximately 0855 CST on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, via telephone call to RACES Radio Officer (RO), **Dan Cole, N9NCU**. RACES membership was notified of the activation at approximately 0858 CST using the CallingPost computerized calling service. A RACES emergency net was convened on the 146.610 MHz repeater, and field participants were dispatched to duty stations. Net Control at the Manitowoc County EOC was activated at approximately 0935 CST. Eleven (11) RACES members participated in the exercise and an additional four (4) checked into the net in response to the CallingPost notification.

Communications were conducted from the following locations:

- 1) The EOC established VHF voice communications with Mancorad Club station W9DK (146.610 MHz repeater), the Manitowoc Calumet Chapter Red Cross office (146.610 MHz repeater), the Kewaunee

County EOC (146.805 MHz repeater) and the Point Beach Plant EOF/JIC in Green Bay (146.610 MHz repeater). The VHF ability to also contact WI State EM RACES was verified through access to the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club 146.760 MHz repeater.

- 2) Mancorad Club Station W9DK (W9DK is the HF communications resource to the EOC) established HF voice communications with the State EOC on 80 Meters and with Kewaunee EOC RACES, also on 80 Meters. State EOC VHF voice communications was also established via the 146.760 MHz VHF repeater in Appleton. HF PSK63 digital communication was unsuccessful with the State EOC. W9DK successfully established 2-way PSK63 digital communications with the Kewaunee County EOC, and the Kewaunee County EOC reported it was having a similar problem as W9DK with the State EOC. The State EOC has HF PSK63 problems to this area of the state that need to be addressed by WEM; this is a repeat problem from 2005.
- 3) The EOC and the Manitowoc Calumet Red Cross Chapter office established VHF voice communications (146.610 MHz repeater) with a field unit dispatched to the Reception Center located at the Manitowoc County Highway Shop on Highway 310, and then the Congregate Care Center located at Manitowoc's Wilson Junior High School. Health and welfare messages were handled between the Chapter office and the Congregate Care Center.

RACES coverage of the nuclear exercise was terminated at 1330 CST.

Manitowoc RACES active participants were: **Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, John Meyer, NZ9Z, Christopher Dewane, KB9VLS, Walter Lukitsch, K9WL, Robert Marheine KC9HBA, Carl Demmin, Jr., KA9WYK, Theodore Dewane, KC9HYD, Dawn Hathaway, KC9JNK, Gerald Hathaway, KC9JNL, Martin Suettinger, KC9JGE and Dan Cole, N9NCU.** Additional emergency net check-ins received were **Shawn Kurschner, KC9AAH, Richard Swanson, N9QFY, Francis Goettl, KA9SCX and Charlette Goettl, KA9SCY.**

At the FEMA exercise debriefing, there were three strengths identified for the Manitowoc County Emergency Response:

- 1) The strong leadership of the EM Director, Nancy Crowley,
- 2) The effective response provided by the American Red Cross Chapter (the new disaster director is **Travis Waack, KB9YRC**), and
- 3) The effective RACES organization in the county (good organizational response, good equipment and effective interface with the American Red Cross).

We were delighted to hear that!

Editor's Note: Manitowoc and Kewaunee County RACES also received accolades via Johnnie Smith, Administrator for WEM, for their fine work. FEMA evaluators identified both groups' RACES organizations as exercise strengths! Not bad for a bunch of volunteers, huh? If you ever question the training requirements and the time, effort and energy we put into the service, use FEMA's evaluation of the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant exercise as an example. With the appropriate training, we can be measured with the professionals any day. Great job, folks!

Northeast WI ARES/RACES Leaders Visit the Green Bay NWS For Skywarn Recognition Day

By Pete Johnson, Sr., AB9PJ, NEW DEC

It was a great time at the Green Bay National Weather Service office.

Thanks to **Jeff Last, KC9ESR, Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Christian Reynolds, KC0ARF and Bob Sanders, N9LXM**, for great hospitality!



Northeast DEC **Pete Johnson, Sr., AB9PJ**, Oconto County EC **Jared Alfson, KC9IPS**, Shawano County EC **Jerry Thorpe, N9FZH** and Shawano County AEC **Tracy Ray, KC0LDE**, with **Christian Reynolds, KC0ARF**, at the mike.

WI Winlink PBMO Update

By Jim Darrow, KB9MMC, ASEC for Digital Communications

The Wisconsin Winlink 2000 PBMO cabinet is starting to look like something! I'm still waiting for the modified radios from **Rich Green, KC9FNM**, EC Columbia County, but I'll most likely start transferring over the existing equipment into the cabinet sometime in February. I currently have some serious programming to do.

I did manage to get a Compaq Proliant ML350 rack mount server, dual redundant power supplies, 32.4GB raid array, which can go up to raid 5, SCSI 3 ultra wide array, dual 1.4 GHz processors, 256 MB RAM memory which can max out at 2GB, floppy drive, CD ROM, NIC, video, and lots of PCI 32 and 64 slots. The thing sounds like a jet when you first turn it on! All of this for the fantastic price of FREE! The raid array in place of a standard hard drive is taking some getting used to but I've got the operating system loaded, which is probably the hard part. I'm also looking for a rack mountable HF Rig if you know of one.

I also think the server just out stripped my current back-up power so I'll need to take a hard look at that.



WI Winlink 2000 PBMO – KB9MMC

WI and MI Sections Sign MOU

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

In a landmark move, Wisconsin and Michigan ARRL Sections have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to provide mutual assistance between the Sections during times of need. The signing of this MOU is important because it will require the Sections to develop plans in case of ARES/RACE activation in either Section requiring outside resources. This is especially important in the far northern part of the state where the Amateur Radio population is small on either side of the border. However, it could impact any part of either state.

WI Section Manager **Don Michalski, W9IXG**, and MI Section Manager, **Dale Williams, WA8EFK**, signed the MOU on December 19, 2006. As a result, I have asked **Skip Sharpe, W9REL**, ASEC for Training, to begin to think about how to incorporate a joint SET with MI, which is traditionally the most active Section during the SET.

Stay tuned!

FCC Moves to Eliminate the Morse Code Requirement for Amateur Radio Licenses

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

The FCC has moved to eliminate the Morse code requirement for Amateur Radio licenses. Read <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/12/19/101/?nc=1> for the full story.

Although seen by some as the end of ham radio as it is known, the United States is one of the last major countries to eliminate the code requirement. The elimination of the code requirement was inevitable. It does not mean the code will go away and it not be used. As a matter of fact, those hams using and being proficient in Morse code may actually increase because of the personal sense of accomplishment learning and using it provides.

From an emergency communications perspective, I have no doubt this move will allow many no-code Technicians to upgrade to General class and use the HF spectrum. I look forward to having more ARES/RACES operators with HF privileges and capability. The new HF operators will need tutoring and it is the responsibility of present General class and higher license holders to teach them what we know about propagation and good HF operating practice. That is what Elmering and ham radio is about.

Some also believe this will result in ham radio becoming Citizen Band radio. I had that fear when the no-code Technician license was introduced in the early 1990s, but do you know what? It did not happen and some of our best operators and ARES/RACES members started as no-code Technicians.

I am a huge believer in self-fulfilling prophesy. If you believe something will happen (positive or negative), it most likely will from your perspective. If you believe Amateur Radio will fail as a result of the FCC's move, then for you it probably will. If you believe, Amateur Radio will benefit from this move and flourish then it probably will.

The fact of the matter is, the ARRL is trying to do whatever it can to give Amateur Radio a fighting chance to keep its spectrum. Like it or not, today's environment is about numbers. Corporations and now even government agencies have to support their positions through numbers. The ARRL recognizes the aging U.S. ham radio population and the value of the radio spectrum does not calculate into a positive formula, so our numbers and use of the spectrum needs to increase. The ARRL is doing everything it can to ensure future generations can provide a service to the U.S. and hams can continue to enjoy the radio spectrum resource. Hopefully, the FCC believes that to and is why they eliminated the Morse code requirement.

If you are a Technician class license holder, please get a hold of a General class license study manual, start studying and find a testing session. If you are interested in testing your proficiency for passing the General class exam before you take it, you might want to check out this web site www.aa9pw.com. We need you on the HF bands! The WI ARES/RACES net is held each Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. Central on 3977.5 KHz. **Wally Kruk, N9VAO**, is our great ARES/RACES Net Manager and EC Sayner County and is always looking for new folks to take on Net Control responsibility. See you there!
