



Wisconsin ARES®/RACES Newsletter

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The WI ARES/RACES Newsletter is published quarterly 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.

Submittals: Articles and information should be submitted to Bill Niemuth, KC9ENO, at bniemuth@new.rr.com. 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

John Lindberg, N9QWH, has moved to the Eau Claire area and as a result has resigned as Douglas County EC. John did a great job developing the ARES/RACES program in our northwest most county. We wish John well and hope he stays involved.

The Douglas County team is in good hands, however, with the appointment of **Dave Miller, W0NWO**, as EC. Dave is fairly new to ham radio and ARES/RACES, but has many leadership talents. Dave has excellent support from his team and Emergency Management and will continue to build the group. Welcome Dave!

A. J. Van Beest, KC9LPO, resigned as Bayfield County EC to pursue other interests. We wish A. J. well and thank him for getting the Bayfield County group active again.

Replacing A. J. is **Joe Belany, AI9Z**. Joe is a career fire fighter and paramedic. He also has 21 years of law enforcement experience and is well positioned to be successful in the role. We look forward to working with Joe and wish him the best.

Dave Cooley, N9VPZ, has stepped down as Calumet County ARES EC. We thank Dave for his nearly five years of service and wish him well.

Replacing Dave is **Brian Turkiewicz, KF9LFR**. Brian has been very active with Wisconsin REACT and the Salvation Army for many years. He is now ready to take on the leadership of the Calumet County ARES team. Please welcome Brian when you hear him.

Leadership changes continue in Eau Claire County with **Bert Spangler, W9ZZI**, stepping down as EC. Thanks for Bert for his service.

Replacing Bert is **Ron Larson, W9RLL**. Ron is retired and has been very active in ARES/RACES and ham radio. Please welcome Ron to our leadership team.

After a prolonged vacancy we have filled the Iowa County ARES EC position with **Brad Holcomb, W0WDX**. Brad has been working with the local hospital for about a year and **Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB**, DEC for

Southwest WI convinced him to take on the EC position. Thanks for coming aboard Brad. We look forward to working with you!

In recognition of our growing partnership with the Department of Health Services, we have named **Tom Pierce, WA9CBR**, to the position of ASEC for the Department of Health Services. In this position Tom will be the point person for this important served agency. Tom is well known and respected in the Madison area and we look forward to his help in continuing to make the relationship stronger.

In a continuing effort to strengthen our organization we have appointed **Kathy Schramm, KB9UAZ**, as ASEC for Marketing and Recruiting replacing **Gary Sorenson, W9ULK**. Gary has assumed a position as Public Information Officer with WI ARES/RACES supporting ARES and ARRL PIO **Keith Lodahl, KB9NUM**. Kathy brings a great deal of professional marketing experience to the position and has a tremendous amount of passion surrounding better marketing of WI ARES/RACES and recruiting new and diverse members to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

In the senior leadership reorganization, **Gary Payne, N9VE**, has identified his successor as Southeast WI DEC. **Jon Gilmore, KB9RHZ**, EC Ozaukee County, is promoted into the position. Jon has been very active not only in Ozaukee County, but throughout Southeast WI. With Gary's continued presence in the Southeast part of the state, this transition will be very smooth. Welcome to the Senior Leadership Team, Jon!

Dave Goddard, W9DWG, decided to step down as Marinette County EC. Thanks to Dave for leading the program.

Replacing Dave is a familiar name and face, **Bill Becks, WA8WG**. You will remember Bill as former Marinette County EC and Northeast District Emergency Coordinator. For the past two years Bill has also served as Technical Director for WeComm, Ltd. We look forward to working more closely with Bill and learning from his knowledge. Please join me in welcoming Bill back to the leadership of WI ARES/RACES.

Jim Markstrom, KB9MMA, Receives Presidential Volunteer Service

Award

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Congratulations to **Jim Markstrom, KB9MMA**, EC Racine County, for his receipt of the President's Volunteer Service Award! Jim was recognized for his leadership of the response to the January 2008 Kenosha County tornados.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Congratulations on receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. Through service to others, you demonstrate the outstanding character of America and help strengthen our country.

In January 2002, I called on all Americans to dedicate at least two years, or 4,000 hours, over the course of their lives to serve others at home or abroad. I congratulate you and all Americans who have answered this call and have earned a Gold Award from the President's Council. Americans of all ages can serve others in countless ways, such as mentoring a child, caring for an elderly neighbor, teaching someone to read, cleaning parks, and creating safer neighborhoods.

My Administration encourages every American to help their communities and our country. Through the USA Freedom Corps and the President's Council, we are building a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in America that will last for decades to come. Americans continue to serve and are part of the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency that are changing America, one heart and one soul at a time. Your actions are part of this change. I urge you to continue serving your neighbors and earn the President's Call to Service Award. I also hope that you will ask your friends, family, and colleagues to join you in serving your community and our Nation.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush".



Presented by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to

Jim Markstrom KB9MMA

In recognition and appreciation of your commitment to strengthening our

Nation and for making a difference through volunteer service.

An initiative of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation in conjunction with



Through the generous support of



WI ARES/RACES Holds Its 10th Annual Conference

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Our 10th Annual Conference was a great success. We had 90 attendees on Saturday and 65 on Sunday. Conference presentations and photos are located the WI ARES/RACES web site http://www.wi-aresraces.org/info_08_conf.htm, so I won't include them here. Instead, I will summarize the Conference.

Introductions, Awards and New SEC Announcement

Keeping with tradition every attendee introduced him or herself; even our great registration group who was still doing registration!

We then moved to awards. This year, instead of naming EC and DEC of the year recipients, we recognized the leaders who were directly involved with June's historic flooding. Those award recipients included:

Denny Rybicke, K9LGU, WI Traffic Manager	Nick Luther, K9NL, EC Winnebago County	Dan Lenz, KB9IME, DEC East Central WI
Rich Green, KC9FNM, EC Colombia County	Kevin Graham, KC9FWE, EC Marquette County	Dan Spangler, KC9IKI, EC Jefferson County
Rick Plouffe, N9ROY, EC Sauk County	Joe Senulis, N9TWA, ASEC for WEM	Gary Payne, N9VE, DEC Southeast WI/SEC Appointee
Melody Owen, N9ZWZ, EC Vernon County	Steve Smith, W9GPI, EC Fond du Lac County	Bob Naegele, W9MZ, EC Richland County
Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB, DEC Southwest WI		

We also presented two special recognition awards. One went to **Don Michalski, W9IXG**, WI Section Manager, for his 10 years as Wisconsin Section Manager and his tremendous support of WI ARES/RACES. **Jeff Schmeichel, KB9BYP**, ASEC for Administration, was recognized for his working behind the scenes support of WI ARES/RACES.

Don Michalski, W9IXG, WI Section Manager, then announced I would be retiring as SEC on December 31, 2008, and **Gary Payne, N9VE**, DEC Southwest WI, will succeed me. Don presented me with an ARRL Special Service Award I will always cherish.

Presentations

I did a presentation about WI ARES/RACES and what keeps us together.

Next **Steve Haskell, KC9JRL**, Emergency Management Director, Shawano County and **Jerry Thorpe, N9FZH**, EC Shawano County, did a great presentation about their EM/ARES/RACES relationship and what makes it work. Steve surveyed the ARES/RACES leadership and had some extremely interesting information about out experience and capabilities.

We then broke for lunch and had a simple exercise intended to create unity and trust among attendees.

After lunch **Skip Sharp, W9REL**, ASEC for Training, talked with us about NIMS and why it is important to ARES/RACES teams. Skip is always an entertaining, engaging speaker who lightens the subject and makes us laugh.

We then moved into the panel discussions where the leaders who coordinated the response to Wisconsin historic flooding provided their perspectives and experiences to the session attendees. As it turns out we could have dedicated more time to these sessions. They were the most popular part of this year's Conference.

Door Prizes Galore!

Door prizes and closing comments finished out Day One. Thanks to all of those who provided door prizes, specifically to **Steve Smith, W9GPI**, and the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club for donating a Yaesu FT-150 HT!

Bus O'Rama

The first ever Bus O'Rama started on Sunday morning with a cold front having moved through Wisconsin Rapids. The weather was cold and windy, but the Bus O'Rama provided attendees the opportunity to view emergency communication vehicles in one location. Everyone got great ideas and shared their experience with building their buses.



Photo Courtesy of Dan Lenz, KB9IME, DEC East Central Wisconsin and Phoenix Studios

After a great brunch provided by the Hotel Mead, it was onto the Bus O'Rama review. We reviewed the vehicles, but the session turned into more of a roundtable discussion where we talked a lot about media relations and marketing. These important areas are critical for ARES/RACES and the future of ham radio.

Winlink

Finally, we wrapped up the Conference with a Winlink update by **Jim Darrow, KB9MMC**, ASEC for Digital Communications. In retrospect, we should have done this session on Saturday. Jim has done a great job with leading the revitalization of digital communications in Wisconsin, which will be a staple of WI ARES/RACES communications well into the future.

Summary

The 10th annual WI ARES/RACES Conference was a big success. Can we do things better? Yes. Overall, it is one of the best conferences of its kind. If you have never attended one, please consider attending the 2009 Conference and sharing your skills and knowledge. See you next year!

Innovative Recruiting Idea From Grant County ARES/RACES

By Dana Wilson, KC9KOQ, EC Grant County and John Kuntz, KB9RYI, PIO Grant County

Editor's Note: The following is a very unique recruiting idea and something others may consider.

The following is from **Dana Wilson, KC9KOQ**, Grant County ARES EC, for your consideration as a way to promote Ham Radio in the area.

WGLR, a radio station in Lancaster, is having a Holiday auction for local charities. I copied the following from the **WGLR** web site.

This year's **WGLR** Holiday Auction will be Saturday, December 6th.

The 2007 **WGLR** Holiday Auction raised over \$22,000, thanks to the generous donations of businesses and individuals, and especially YOU, our wonderful listeners!

You opened your hearts and wallets to help people in need, right here in the Tri-State area.

100% of the money raised was used to purchase food, clothing, and gifts for people in need, specifically children, families, and the elderly.

Money raised from the **WGLR** Holiday Auction has also helped with medical expenses for families with children who have cancer.

And also for area families who have lost everything, such as in the case of a house fire, flooding, or other tragedies.

Please help us this year to reach our goal of \$23,000 for the 2008 **WGLR** Holiday Auction!!!

Find more information about this auction at **WGLR's** web site:

<http://www.wglr.com/newSite/holidayAuction.php>

If anyone is so moved to make a donation to the auction and help local area people in need and to also promote Amateur Radio, here are some ideas to consider.

- Donate a current Technician Study Guide.
- Offer to pay the \$14.00 testing fee.
- Offer to be a mentor to help someone study for their Ham license.

Of course you could make this into one package something like this.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE PACKAGE: Could include:

- 1 – The current Technician Study Guide
- 2 – Pay the \$14.00 testing fee for that person
- 3 – Be a mentor to help that person study for their Ham license

If anyone feels motivated to help local area people who are in need, promote Amateur Radio at the same time and possibly gain another active Ham in the area. Here is your chance to do all that with one event.

Also, this could be an auction item for the Badger Camp fundraising event coming up on Dec. 6th.

The UW-Platteville Christmas Telethon in Support of Wisconsin Badger Camp is Saturday, December 6, 2008. 12 p.m. - 10 p.m.

The location is the Lower level of Pioneer Tower at UW-Platteville.

Join us live or tune in to your local cable access channel from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. for the annual Christmas Telethon which will include interviews, local entertainment, and a live auction!

If you are interested in being a part of something like this please email Dana or me and we will put something together.

Thank you very much for you time.

Dana Wilson - KC9KQO – kc9kog@yahoo.com Grant ARES EC
John Kuntz - KB9RYI – kb9ryi@tds.net Grant ARES/HVARC PIO

Editor's Note: The auction resulted in two ham radio recruiting packages being donated and sold!

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, is Recognized

By Jeff Last, KC9ESR, Warning Coordination Meteorologist Green Bay Weather Forecast Office

National Weather Service Green Bay Office net control operator **Andy Nemec, KB9ALN**, was presented a Public Service Award for more than 15 years of dedicated service to the National Weather Service. The award was signed by NWS Central Region Director Lynn Maximuk.

Andy never missed a severe weather outbreak during his tenure as net control operator of the Green Bay National Weather Service amateur radio station, **WX9GRB**.

In the photo, Andy is receiving the award from NWS Green Bay Meteorologist-in-Charge Gary Austin. Andy also received a framed photo montage and a gift card from the NWS office staff.



Farewell and Hello

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI and President, WeComm, Ltd.

Six years ago **Stan Kaplan, WB9RQQ**, SEC Emeritus, called me and asked if I would become the next Wisconsin Section Emergency Coordinator. For whatever reason, this was a challenge I wanted to take. At the time I was only six months into the East Central Wisconsin District Emergency Coordinator role and making headway. I was traveling 80 percent of the time for my job and gaining a lot of international experience. Needless to say, it was not the best time for me to accept, but when opportunities come along, if we pass on them, we don't know if they will ever present themselves again. So I accepted.

After a year of training and transitioning, in January 2004, I became your SEC and CRO. The first three months I was overwhelmed, but I kept working at it and in the summer of 2004 I finally got it down to something manageable. We started making progress.

I am proud of what we have accomplished as an organization. I would have liked to do more, but after working 60 or 65 hours a week and spending another 30 hours a week on volunteer activities, I found there are not enough hours in each week to do everything I wanted to do. I thank my great Senior Leadership team for helping keep the organization moving forward.

So, it is with a heavy heart I say farewell to you as SEC and CRO. I have intensely enjoyed serving you and our state. It has been one of my best experiences. I look forward to continuing to serve under new SEC and CRO **Gary Payne, N9VE**. I plan to be more active in the field in support of ARES/RACES and the majority of my volunteer time will go to building WeComm's communications networks. This is a large undertaking and cannot be done with a working person who is dividing his time among four different volunteer roles.

I bid you all farewell from one aspect and hello to other opportunities. Thank you for enthusiastically supporting me! We have done a lot of good work, but still have a lot to do.

