



WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: December 2023
WI Section Manager, Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

From the Section Manager

Greetings, and Happy Holidays!



If you were dreaming of a white Christmas, it looks like you might be out of luck, but here's to a happy and safe holiday season for all our Wisconsin Section amateurs anyway!

There isn't a lot of excitement to report from my "office" this month. Just plenty of administrative stuff, meetings, and responding to questions and concerns from the membership. That said, I did have the pleasure of joining the Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club's regular meeting on Wednesday evening, along with our Division Director, Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA. We chatted with their group a bit and offered up some news and information from the ARRL and Wisconsin Section. It's

always nice to interact with people from around the section.

One of the things we discussed, and if you were at either of the recent conventions, you may have heard me talk about this as well, is a stronger focus on clubs in 2024. More to come on this topic, but for now, one thing for you to consider is offering up information about your club for our section website. I'd like to list your club's website, information, and perhaps regular nets that you hold. Another thing to think about is sending me your club newsletters if you have one. This is an easy way to share some of your activities and accomplishments with the rest of the section in this newsletter. Of course, I'm always open to ideas and discussion, but these two things would be a great start.



I'd like to formally announce that we have a new Section Public Information Coordinator. **Myron Oestreich, KB9STB**, has accepted this appointment and will begin his new role in January 2024. In speaking with Myron about the position, I think he is more than qualified to assume the task. He is well connected with the amateur radio community in Wisconsin and has experience in public relations and public information. Congratulations to Myron and thank you for stepping up to help make our section the best it can be!



On The Air magazine gave a little shout out to our Section Youth Coordinator, **Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN**, this month (see it on the right). Etienne does a lot of great work. If you ever get a chance to meet him in person, I'm sure you will be impressed. Thank you, ET, for your overall stellar performance.

Wisconsin Section SYC Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, regularly offers youth-related ideas and resources to hams in his community, including providing insight on how to attract more young hams based on a survey of youth in amateur radio, as well as assisting with advertising for a youth-related Parks on the Air (POTA) balloon launch, among other things. In 2022, Robitaille took part in a September POTA event where he showed a group of kids how ham radio worked. "The weather was great, and overall, a lot of fun was had," he shared.



Before I release you to the rest of the news and information that follows, I want to say that it has been a pleasure serving as your Section Manager in 2023. I look forward to continuing that service in 2024 and beyond. Have a happy and safe New Year!

That's it for now. Until next time... 73!

General Announcements and Events

The **Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club** will be celebrating its 107th anniversary of continuous operation in January 2024. A Special Event Station will operate on Saturday, January 6, 2024 from the Ham Radio Outlet (Milwaukee) showroom between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. MRAC is simultaneously celebrating 105 years of affiliation with the ARRL and is the oldest club affiliate. Contacts made on HF, VHF via the club repeater (145.390 MHz), or WiRES-X (room #43588) during the Special Event Station operation are eligible for a Certificate by sending an email confirmation of the contact to specialevent@w9rh.org.

"Being one of the oldest clubs in the country puts a little pressure on the Board of Directors to maintain a high level of member retention each year (~ 97% the past four years). We do it by being relevant to our club members' needs and desires in the hobby," stated Dick Strassburger, N9EEE, President of the MRAC. "Just three years ago, we changed the focus from "come join us" to "how can we make ham radio fun for you?" and membership swelled. While we do have an educational program to help new hams get on the air, we have plenty of workshops, presentations, and on-air activities to fill any member's calendar."



The following was reprinted from the December issue of Hamtrix, the official publication of the West Allis Radio Amateur Club, by Michael Johnson WO9B:

Winlink VARA FM VHF in the Milwaukee Metro is Up and Running.

After a year of effort, the goal to provide 24/7 VARA FM Winlink service to MKE is online. Admittedly I am a Winlink fanboy, but to my amazement the MKE area had limited VARA FM VHF service a year ago.

I was fortunate to link up with Mark, AC9DE at some point and with his determined help and drive we now have (3) 24/7 Winlink VARA nodes on the air (and the internet) serving all of MKE county and near-in the western suburbs. All three stations are on the same frequency, 145.610 simplex and operate with VARA FM. They are all digipeater capable. The nodes are:

- AC9DE-10 (Narrow Mode)
- WO9B-10 (Wide Mode)
- WI9HRO-10: (Narrow Mode)

Mark, AC9DE, was the main driver in securing and setting up the WI9HRO-10 node, which is the HRO Employee's Club Station. HRO was very helpful in making this happen. Our mantra in carrying out this project was "Just Build It". So it is up and running and ready to be of service to the MKE ham community.

We are open to further integration with ARES and other users as well as individual hams. If you have any questions or ideas, both Mark and myself are all ears. We are both good in QRZ so, let the data fly!!



Have you ever thought about what might happen with your ham shack when you become a silent key? The ARRL offer this [Estate Planning Workbook](#) to help you make those decisions so that your friends and family don't have to. Check it out.



If you're having issues renewing your **FCC Amateur Radio license**, check out this video to get directions from ARRL VEC Department Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. You'll also hear from ARRL VEC "expert" Josh Nance on a few common issues he tends to help folks out with over the phone.

For more on how to register for FCC CORES (COmission REgistration System):

<https://www.arrl.org/cores-uls-registration>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DI8nmjRJg4>



VOTA: Only a few more days left in the ARRL yearlong operating event recognizing volunteers.

Special event scheduled: Badges on the Air – December 31 from 0000- 2359 UTC. This will be your last chance to get any points, and there will be several high point valued stations on the air. W1AW will also be operating during the week next week as well as during the event.

For more information and results, visit: <https://vota.arrl.org/>

Wisconsin's Top 20 on the VOTA Leaderboard:

WI Rank	Call Sign	Overall Rank	Country Rank	QSOs	Points
1	W9AV	73	38 (USA)	9648	74806
2	KA9FOX	197	116 (USA)	8697	49468
3	K9OM	221	132 (USA)	8205	46864
4	K9WO	334	202 (USA)	5636	39334
5	KB9S	369	228 (USA)	5499	37444
6	NE9U	382	238 (USA)	5197	36493
7	W9KEY	403	254 (USA)	4410	35488
8	K9MA	478	305 (USA)	4956	32926
9	AB9QT	536	348 (USA)	6220	31069
10	W9FMC	545	355 (USA)	5538	30861
11	KB9DED	722	476 (USA)	4161	26770
12	KG9JP	877	572 (USA)	5956	24155
13	KA9JCP	896	585 (USA)	4451	23859
14	KD9SZQ	963	618 (USA)	3856	22742
15	W9XT	1086	701 (USA)	3149	21282
16	KB9RP	1103	714 (USA)	3735	21127
17	WT9Q	1112	720 (USA)	2919	21048
18	KB9TYC	1155	747 (USA)	2740	20647
19	KZ9V	1238	805 (USA)	3407	19692
20	N9AAA	1313	851 (USA)	3269	19099



Affiliated Club Renewal: If you are an ARRL affiliated club, be sure to update and renew your affiliated status. Visit <https://www.arrl.org/club-update> for further instructions.

News From Around the Section

Successful Amateur Radio License Course by Waushara County ARES

George B. Lampere, AB9CQ
Waushara County ARES Emergency Coordinator

With immense pride and excitement, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the participants who attended the recent Amateur Radio Technician License Course organized by the Waushara County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), with invaluable assistance from Dan Berkeris, AC9JA, Cody Lind, KD9QXL, and Carol Young, KD9WRY, from the Waupaca County ARES Group.



Held at the Wild Rose Fire Department from November 28th to December 1st, this four-day course stands as a testament to the dedication and commitment of each individual who engaged in gaining vital skills in radio communication and emergency preparedness.

Our commitment to fostering a community of knowledgeable and skilled amateur radio operators was at the heart of this educational initiative. Guided by a comprehensive curriculum and conducted at the Wild Rose Fire Department, the course covered essential aspects of amateur radio, ranging from signal fundamentals to equipment handling and safety protocols.

Throughout the program, our emphasis on safety and responsible communication practices was paramount. Beyond technical expertise, participants embraced a culture of reliable and effective radio communication, aligning perfectly with the community-focused spirit of the Wild Rose Fire Department.

Looking ahead, participants are set to reconvene in January for a focused test preparation session ahead of their licensing examination. Eager to solidify their knowledge, these individuals are on the cusp of obtaining their Amateur Radio Technician Licenses, granting them access to

a broad spectrum of frequencies and modes to serve the communication needs of Waushara County and beyond.

Amateur radio operators are pivotal in augmenting communication capabilities, especially during emergencies and community events. Their skills and preparedness bolster community resilience by ensuring reliable communication channels, particularly in times of crisis.

The collaboration between Waushara County ARES and the Wild Rose Fire Department in hosting this course embodies our shared commitment to nurturing a robust amateur radio community. It's a testament to our collective dedication to fortifying communication infrastructure and enhancing emergency readiness within Waushara County.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Allen Luchini, the Waushara County Emergency Manager and the Wild Rose Fire Department for their support and partnership in making this course a resounding success. Together, we have paved the way for a more adept and prepared group of amateur radio operators ready to make significant contributions to the community's communication landscape.

In the future, we intend to hold more amateur radio classes. If you want to obtain a license or join the Waushara County ARES group, please contact George Lampere at 920-212-1466 or via email at AB9CQ1@gmail.com.

Section Emergency Coordinator / ARES Report

Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, Wisconsin SEC:

December is almost gone already and 2024 is right around the corner, so that means SIMCOM initial planning has begun!

SIMCOM is coming to Milwaukee County this year, so save the dates of June 4th and 5th, 2024. June 4th will be an abbreviated educational day with some hands on in the afternoon and June 5th will be the full interoperable exercise. This year the exercise will differ slightly from previous years in that it will have a primary focus on testing and validating communications and processes specific to security and communications operations for the Republican National Convention later this summer. This is a Federal requirement for the host. So, while ARES/RACES is always welcome to participate and continue to build those relationships with our local, state, and federal partners, many of the tasks will be specific to other communications groups and not focused towards our specific capabilities. However, we are still planning to have an Amateur Radio track and separate MSEL to continue to demonstrate our readiness and ability to work with our Local, State, and Federal served agencies in a professional manner. This will allow for us to participate and interact in a limited fashion with the exercise.

Look for more details to come in the months to follow along with a host of new leadership appointments in the new year.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Enjoy your Festivus, or whatever you do to celebrate this time of year!! Be safe and thank you for all you do for your communities!

Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK

WI Section Emergency Coordinator/
Chief Radio Officer for WEM



ARES Leadership: Be sure you are getting your monthly reports to Kyle either directly or through your DEC. We need those numbers (even if nothing) each month. It is the responsibility of all ARES leadership to be sure the monthly report is submitted and that it accurately depicts what we are doing.

Section Traffic Manager Report

STM Report Wisconsin Section November 2023

FAQ # 268 How is a cat like a comma? Okay, maybe that's *not* a frequently asked question – but the answer brings to mind an important concept in sending traffic. The answer? Old story. A cat has claws at the end of its paws, but a comma's a pause at the end of a clause.

Pauses are critical in sending traffic – in any mode. There are pauses between CW characters, pauses between words, pauses between parts of the preamble, pauses after each line of an address. Pauses may also be used to listen for interruptions while sending a message. Use of break-in keying on CW (QSK) or VOX on phone makes it easy for the receiving station to interrupt and ask for clarification.

When a receiving op hears pauses, he or she can anticipate what's coming next. On FM repeaters, where VOX would be difficult, the breaks before and after the text are considered mandatory. Taking a short listening break after each five words of the text can make things flow more smoothly, too, if that's your style.

Of course there are times to avoid long pauses. When the bartender said to the hesitant bear, "Why the long pause?" the bear replied, "Born with 'em." When the receiving station expects a response, a delay could cause concern. Maybe the sender wasn't heard. Maybe the station calling doubled and isn't recognized by a net control. Maybe there was equipment failure. Those confusing long pauses are to be avoided.

Remember, if you speak only as fast as *you* can write (try it), the copying station can keep up. Pauses are more than refreshing. They really help in traffic handling. 73 – K9LGU/ STM-WI

...and don't forget about our nets:

WISCONSIN TRAFFIC NETS

Updated 11/12/2023

Name Of Net, Frequency, Local Time	Net Manager	Net Control Stations						
		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<u>Badger Weather Net (BWN)</u> 3984 KHz, 0600	K9LUK	KB9GO	K9LUK	N9NBC	W9CPY	W9IHW	AG9G	WB9WKO
<u>Badger Emergency Net (BEN)</u> 3985 KHz, 1200 ALT 7270 KHz	NX9K	WJ9L	WJ9L	W9RTP	KB9IME	N9VC	NX9K	NX9K N9VC
<u>Wisconsin Side Band Net (WSBN)</u> 3985 or 3982.5 KHz, 1700	AG9G	NX9K KA9BAE	N9VC	KC9FXE	KB9GO	WB9WKO	AG9G	AC9F K9ILJ
<u>Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN)</u> 3555 KHz, Daily 1800	KB9ROB	KB9ROB	N9VC	*	*	*	AG9G	*
<u>Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Early (WIN-E)</u> 3555 KHz, 1900	WB9ICH	WB9ICH	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9CK	N9VC	AG9G	WB9ICH
<u>Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Late (WIN-L)</u> 3555 KHz, 2200	W9RTP	AG9G	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9VC	N9VC	W9RTP	W9RTP
<u>ARES/RACES Net</u> 3967 KHz, 0800 Sunday ALT 3977.5 or 7250	WB9WKO	*						
<u>WI ARES/RACES Digital Net</u> Tuesday on WINLink 7PM Mon - 7PM Tues	KB9MMC		KB9MMC					
<u>WI ARES/RACES VHF Net on WECOMM Frequencies</u> Last Thursday of the month 7PM	KA9KJE					KA9KJE		

* Net Control Operator needed. Contact Net Manager for information.

Section Youth Coordinator Report

From Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Section Youth Coordinator:

Congratulations:

The conclusion of the Intrepid “Youth Rig” Youth Essay contest is finally here. I’m proud to announce that 11-year-old Cameron Frey (KD9VGV) placed 3rd out of 30 contestants. He’s won a Icom ID-52A, and was praised as,

“The essay was unique in thought and very well written... Exceptional grammar as well as an interesting and unique perspective [on the prompt].” - W3UR, Bernie McClenny - Editor of The Daily DX

The prompt was about how they entered into the Amateur Radio. The essay is going to be posted on the Intrepid DX Facebook page shortly.

Nothing has made me prouder than the youth in the WI section. This was a contest open to the entirety of America as well as Canada, and Cameron out placed people who were college-aged. The work and passion placed into Amateur Radio by kids all across the state is truly sublime and gives me a large amount of motive to continue my work.

KOTA - Kids on the Air:

KOTA, Kids on the Air, is a recent proposal by Edward Blaha, VK1AAK (15), and Finn Barry-Smith, VK4ULA (17). The concept is similar to POTA (Parks on the Air) or SOTA (Summits on

the Air), with the general concept of instead of parks or mountains being activated, it's schools. Some of the specific aspects simplified include:

- Only one license required
- All schools accepted
 - Public, Private, Primary Schools (not applicable to US), and University
 - Only one person in the school needs to be licensed.
- Adults are allowed to make contact with youth under the age of 21, however, the following is required to have a person under the age of 21:
 - Register a school for their region
 - Are the only people that can operate transmission equipment for a KOTA Activation
- Schools are the only ones allowed to start a KOTA activation.

Adults will have the opportunity to log contacts and talk to KOTA activations, and it will be based on age and/or school (Which is dependent if the KOTA activator is transmitting from a home or a school). People who get 10 contacts per year of age is eligible for an award, as well as school contacts.

Considering this a project led by youth, I am doing everything I can to assist them. I recently found out about this, so movement has been slow. There is further documentation at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qZcAYMxIIDMq4vNRsiXymptoyo2TAGpwCfBuOB9Aiw/edit>. I will keep this section informed about progress.

Happy Holidays:

Happy holidays to everyone in the section! Thanks for another great year, and I genuinely wake up enjoying assisting this section. Enjoy your winter!

Contact Me:

Please email me at et.k9zn@icloud.com if you have any questions or issues about my Section Youth Coordinator work. Response times can range from an hour to a day.

Member Contributions

ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF



Upcoming Fests and Conventions

March 2, 2024 – Spring Fever Swapfest

Location: Onalaska, WI

Sponsor: Mississippi Valley Amateur Radio Association

Website: <https://mvara.net/>

April 24, 2024 – ORC 44th Annual Spring Indoor Swapfest

Location: Cedarburg, WI

Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club, Inc.

Website: <https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org>

June 1, 2024 – Green Bay Mike and Key Club Hamfest

Location: Green Bay, WI

Details: TBA

*** See these items and additional Section information on the [ARRL WI Section website](#). ***

ARRL Wisconsin Section

Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

kc9fxe@arri.org

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY - NOV 2023

NET	CHECK-INS	TRAFFIC	TIME	SESSIONS	NM
BWN	1268	1811	3187	30	<i>K9LUK</i>
BEN	275	250	440	30	NX9K
WSBN	442	201	689	30	AG9G
WSSN	177	62	369	30	KB9ROB
WIN/E	147	155	340	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	187	65	294	30	W9RTP
WI ARES/RACES HF	68	15	109	4	WB9WKO
WI ARES/RACES VHF *	7	0	20	1	KA9KJE
WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL	259	2148	5760	4	KB9MMC
totals	2830	4707	11208	189	

* WECOMM SYSTEM DOWN

WISCONSIN SECTION PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL NOV 2023

POSSIBLE POINTS >	40 nets	40 tfc	30 appt	5 /hr. sked events	5 /hr. emrg events	10ea bbs/web pg	
STATION	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
N9VC	40	40	30	240	0	20	340
K9LGU	40	40	30	65	0	0	175
AG9G	40	40	30	60	0	0	170
KC9FXE	40	40	20	25	0	10	135
WB9WKO	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
KB9IME	40	40	20	25	0	0	125
NX9K	40	40	20	0	0	0	100
KB9GO	40	40	10	0	0	0	90
KC9UC	40	40	10	0	0	0	90

WISCONSIN SECTION STATION ACTIVITY NOV 2023

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	326	110	617	0	0	1053 -BPL
WB9WKO	0	427	289	7	0	723 - BPL
KB9GO	0	366	137	0	0	503 - BPL
N9CK	0	235	228	0	2	465
AG9G	0	318	139	0	0	457
N9VC	0	241	64	1	0	306
KC9UC	0	66	90	0	0	156
WJ9L	0	60	51	12	1	125
K9LGU	0	53	68	1	0	122
KC9FXE	0	10	47	8	0	65
KB9ROB	0	40	12	0	10	62
KA9BAE	0	20	18	0	1	39
W9RTP	0	23	5	0	0	28
W9RNA	1	14	3	7	2	27
KB9IME	0	9	7	2	7	26
WB9ICH	0	22	3	0	0	24
KA9KJE	2	6	2	0	0	10