



WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: March 2024

WI Section Manager, Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

From the Section Manager

It's officially spring here in Wisconsin and parts of the state are preparing for a significant winter storm (or two) this weekend. If anyone is surprised by this, you are likely new to the state of Wisconsin. I almost made the rookie move of removing my plow too early, but it turns out that I'm ready to go. Maybe, that alone will keep the snow to a minimum.

With the start of spring, we already have two hamfests in the books; Mississippi Valley Amateur Radio Club in La Crosse, and the Tri-County Amateur Radio Club in Jefferson. I didn't get a full report, but I've heard that each was a success. A few photos are included later in the newsletter.

I was not able to attend either of these fests as I was practicing "family first". That said, I'd like to break away from radio for a moment and congratulate the UW-River Falls Women's Hockey Team on winning the NCAA Division III National Championship and doing it with a new national record of a 31-game win streak! I couldn't be more proud of my niece (on the right in photo) and her team. It's been a great four years and what a way to finish. ...*And now back to regular programming...*



In April, we have two fests scheduled: one in Stoughton and the other in Cedarburg. The details are posted later in the newsletter. I have reservations to attend both of these events and I'm really looking forward to getting back out around the section and seeing you all.

In other news, lately, I've been striking out! I receive a lot of club newsletters from around the section, and many of them are very well written. Sometimes I find articles that I think would benefit the section and want to include them in this newsletter, but I've had trouble getting permission from the writer. It's not that they are saying "no", is just that they are not saying "yes". Other contributions are a little light too. So, if the Member Contribution section of this publication is a little empty, this is why. I would love to include some of your best material from newsletters or contributions specifically for this newsletter.

One last thing for those of you who haven't already scrolled away. I've been advised by ARRL Headquarters that I will be serving a second term as your Section Manager. Together, we have done a lot of good work, and I am happy to be able to continue serving you as do great things in Wisconsin. Most of the credit goes to all of you who participate, in any way, to support amateur radio in Wisconsin. I'm surrounded by great people. Thank you!!!

Until next time... 73!

General Announcements and Events

The **Central Division Convention** will be held in Elkhart, Indiana on August 3rd. For more information, visit: <https://elkharteasthamfest.com/convention.html>



The **Wisconsin ARES VHF Net** is looking to net control stations for each of the WeComm repeaters to run the monthly net. Currently the WeComm system is not linked, so the monthly net will run on each of the repeaters individually until the link is fixed. If you are interested in helping out, Contact [Tom Burger, Net Manager](#).



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>

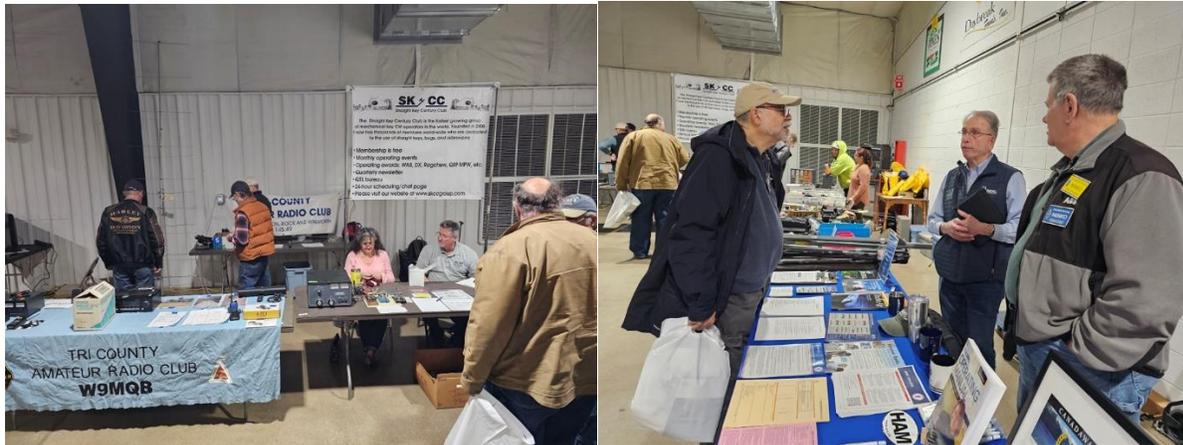
News From Around the Section

Here are some photos from the MVARA Swapmeet that took place on March 2nd:



...And some photos from the Tri-County Hamfest in Jefferson on March 17th:





Thanks to **Myron Oestreich, KB9STB**, for attending these events and providing the photos.

Section Emergency Coordinator / ARES Report

Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, Wisconsin SEC:

February was a wild month for us all weather-wise. Wisconsin saw its first tornado reported in the month of February ever! Temperatures and precipitation totals were all over the map depending on where you live. This is just a further reminder to us all that we need to remain vigilant to respond to the needs of our served agencies and communities at any time of the year. As the saying goes, "This is Wisconsin, if you don't like the weather just wait a little while and it will change!"

This is the second month of using a new online reporting tool for the old Form2 monthly EC and DEC reports. This form used to be a fillable PDF form and before that was a printable form that had to be scanned and sent (or mailed). The new Reporting form is an online fillable form that must be filled out ONLINE by the EC or DEC doing the reporting. The system uses the callsign of the person logged in to submit the report when it reports the list of those filing a report. I will not submit the data online for you as you will not get credit for having submitted the form.

We currently have 40 EC and 6 DEC appointments in the section with many of the ECs covering multiple counties for various reasons. For the first month of this reporting year we had 34 of 46 appointments provide data for the reporting period (that is 4 less than last month and approximately 74%), which is still pretty good but I am convinced we could do better as a section at getting the data submitted. There are still some errors and some hiccups that need to be corrected. Following this report will be some of the totals for the sections of the reports. One of the details you will not find on this version of the report is the "Volunteer Value"; this is essentially the hourly "wage" value of your volunteer efforts across the state based upon the reported person-hours of service. For the months of January and February, WI totalled \$145,252.

Thank you again for all you do and let's continue to strive for 100% reporting in the months to come.

Form 4 - ARES Monthly SEC Report

The following information was submitted by Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, WI SEC for Wisconsin, February, 2024 at 2024-03-21 15:35:38

Total number of ARES members:	441
Member total change from last report:	N/D
Number of DECs/ECs reporting this month:	34
Total number of DECs/ECs in section:	46
Number of ARES net sessions held:	135
Number of ARES net sessions held with NTS liaison:	39
Number of participants in nets:	751

	Number Person-Hrs	

Exercises this month:	18	170.90
Training events this month:	44	627.10
Public service events this month:	4	64.00
Community service events this month:	2	69.00
Emergency events this month:	0	0.00
SKYWARN events this month:	10	230.30
Meetings this month:	30	451.50
Unclassified events this month:	28	182.80

Public Information Coordinator Report

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

Happy March Wisconsin! March has been a busy one across the section, with the spring hamfest season in full swing. It was so nice to meet and visit with those who attended the hamfests in LaCrosse and Jefferson. Admittedly, it had been a while since I've attended a hamfest because of work and family commitments, but after getting back into the swing of hamfests I realized how much I missed going to them. There are photos from both hamfests on the ARRL Wisconsin Section Facebook page, @ARRLWisconsin. Please stop over there, give the page a like and visit often. This is your source for information related to happenings in or effecting the Wisconsin Section.

This month, let's dig a little deeper into crafting a public message. The first thing we need to remember are the "rights" of public information. That's the right *message* at the right *time* for the right *audience*. A simple yet effective way to think about the "rights" is breaking the concept down to its simplest form. For example, Mr. Smith is planning a one-day festival that celebrates the apple harvest. Whomever is in charge of the public relations and messaging for the festival wouldn't send out a press release that talks about the orange harvest in Florida this season.

Let's pivot back to amateur radio after the quick rabbit hole dive and tie this to a couple current events. On April 8, there is a solar eclipse happening over portions of the United States. This event won't happen again until about 2044. The American Radio Relay League is partnering with HamSCI to promote a Solar Eclipse QSO Party that'll be taking place on that day. This

would be a golden opportunity for your local group to send out a short presser about how amateur radio can help with scientific understanding during the eclipse. The timing on getting this message out to the media would be about a week before the eclipse, in case a reporter has any questions to ask the point of contact on the press release.

Another big amateur radio event coming up is the annual Field Day exercise. Field Day is officially designated as an emergency preparedness *exercise*, not a contest. The beauty of Field Day is that your local group can participate in any fashion you see fit. For some groups, Field Day is the one big outing a year to get visibility and try to recruit potential new hams. For other groups, it is a heavily planned and organized event with lots of side activities. Ultimately, it's up to each group to determine how much public exposure they're looking for and plan Accordingly. ARRL has a great public relations packet for Field Day, and that along with all things Field Day can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day> . There is also a Facebook group for Field Day, and that is at [facebook.com/groups/arrlfd/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/arrlfd/)

If you would like more information about the eclipse event, would like a hand with drafting a press release for your group for anything coming up or need assistance with anything public information or public relations related, please drop me an email and I'll work to get you the assistance you need.

If you have questions or comments for Myron, please don't hesitate to reach out to him. He can be reached at kb9stb@arrl.net.

*** Editor's note: Direct links to the Facebook pages are on the section website's home page. You do not need to be a member of Facebook to view the pages, just X out of the log in screen and you can see the rest. ***

Section Traffic Manager Report

STM Report Wisconsin Section February 2024

Uncommon Courtesy

FAQ # 271 Just how polite are we? We say, "Please" and "Thank you." Our net controls are decisive and directive, but they're never rude or insensitive. We welcome and assist newcomers. You can hear it in a phone NCS's voice. A good CW NCS will always slow to the speed of the station checking in. We compliment, comfort, and congratulate each other when the occasion arises. If there's a significant need for correction, suggestions are made privately, not on net frequency. Small suggestions, such as a reminder to say your call at the end of an exchange, are made politely.

We ask if a frequency is in use. If it is, we use a different frequency.

If an assigned net control can't fulfill the duty, he or she will let someone know ahead of time, so a substitute can be found. Orderly check-ins are complimented. Volunteers are treasured.

Being a relay station a day or two each week makes an operator an integral part of the system.

It's in that spirit of teamwork that we present our recurrent pleas. We need more net control operators and more designated liaisons to other nets – especially on CW. We need folks to fill in as substitutes. We need as many operators in as many modes as possible to get the training and the practice of being a net control or relay station. A good traffic net is part of the service we provide and extended emergency sessions may need many net controls.

Serving as NCS is fun. It's satisfying to make a contact with each check-in. There's a fulfillment in knowing it's been a good net and traffic has been handled efficiently. And when directing stations to handle traffic off frequency, it's even kind of fun to tell 'em where to go – so to speak. It's not difficult. It only requires a good signal, positive attitude, a little organizational ability, and some basic record keeping. There are scripts to follow and plenty of instructional materials available such as

<https://wi-arrrl.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Volume-1.pdf>

Similarly, we also need one Vara HF digital operator in each Wisconsin ARES/RACES District (if not the DEC, then an appointee) to test the special MBO at N9VC once a month to be sure our system *without* the infrastructure works. Contact your DEC or KB9IME to help.

Please? Thank you. 73 – K9LGU/STM – WI

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

WISCONSIN TRAFFIC NETS

Name Of Net, Frequency, Local Time	Net Manager	Net Control Stations						
		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Badger Weather Net (BWN) 3984 KHz, 0600	K9LUK	KB9GO	K9LUK	N9NBC	W9CPY	W9IHW	AG9G	WB9WKO
Badger Emergency Net (BEN) 3985 KHz, 1200 ALT 7270 KHz	NX9K	WJ9L	WJ9L NX9K	W9RTP	KB9IME	WD9FLJ	NX9K	N9VC
Wisconsin Side Band Net (WSBN) 3985 or 3982.5 KHz, 1700	AG9G	NX9K KA9BAE	N9VC	KC9FXE	KB9GO	WB9WKO	AG9G	AC9F
Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN) 3555 KHz, Daily 1800	KB9ROB	KB9ROB	N9VC	*	*	*	AG9G	*
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Early (WIN-E) 3555 KHz, 1900	WB9ICH	WB9ICH	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9CK	N9VC	AG9G	WB9ICH
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Late (WIN-L) 3555 KHz, 2200	W9RTP	AG9G	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9VC	N9VC	W9RTP	W9RTP
ARES/RACES Net 3967 KHz, 0800 Sunday ALT 3977.5 or 7250	WB9WKO	*						
WI ARES/RACES Digital Net Tuesday on WINLink 7PM Mon - 7PM Tues	KB9MMC		KB9MMC					
WI ARES/RACES VHF Net on WECOMM Frequencies 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:

Welcoming Someone New to Our ARRL Section...

I'm afraid this newsletter I do not have any sort of ideas to expand upon regarding the spread regarding creating growth in youth ham radio operators, so this will be one of my shorter, if not shortest newsletters to date. However, I mainly wanted to dedicate this March newsletter to a new member of the WI ARRL section...

Max, KD9NZZ, will be the newest addition to the section under my leadership as the Assistant Section Youth Coordinator.

I've known Max since the day he got his technician, even being in the same exam room as him right as I got my extra back in September of 2019. He is one of the most ham radio driven people I know despite his young age, and whilst my move into the Manitowoc County made it difficult for me to keep a good grasp in youth in the Milwaukee area, the opportunity provided

Max with (what I believe to have been something he has deserved for a long time) a chance to help manage youth events in the Greater Milwaukee area. Both him and his father are highly involved ham radio operators in the Milwaukee area, and not only do I have exceeding faith in him being able to perform well but having been former co-managers of a local youth net in the Milwaukee area, I know he will exceed in his roles.

With that being said, Max will begin to write small excerpts about how he has helped manage events in the Milwaukee area that will be in this newsletter. I'm excited to see his growth in the coming years, and his skillset will highly help the entire ARRL WI section as a whole.

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

April 13, 2024 – Madison Hamfest

Location: Stoughton, WI
Sponsor: Madison Area Repeater Association
Website: <https://w9hsy.org>

April 27, 2024 – ORC 44th Annual Spring Indoor Swapfest

Location: Cedarburg, WI
Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club, Inc.
Website: <https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org>

May 4, 2024 – ARAC Hamfest

Location: Superior, WI
Sponsor: Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club
Website: <https://www.thearac.org/>

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

Location: Green Bay, WI
Sponsor: Green Bay Mike & Key Club
Website: www.k9eam.org

June 15, 2024 – Riverland ARC Swapfest

Location: Stoddard, WI
Sponsor: Riverland Amateur Radio Club
Website: www.rarc.qth.com

July 6, 2024 – South Milwaukee ARC Hamfest

Location: South Milwaukee, WI
Sponsor: South Milwaukee ARC WI9SM
Website: www.wi9sm.org

August 10, 2024 – CVARC 2024 Hamfest

Location: Chippewa Falls, WI
Sponsor: Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club
Website: <https://w9cva.org/hamfest>

August 24, 2024 – Circus City Swapfest

Location: Baraboo, WI
Sponsor: Yello Thunder Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://yellowthunder.org>

September 7, 2024 – ORC Annual Regional Fall Swapfest

Location: Cedarburg, WI
Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club
Website: <http://www.OzaukeeRadioClub.org>

September 20-21, 2024 – HRO Superfest

Location: Milwaukee, WI
Sponsor: Ham Radio Outlet

Website: Not Provided

October 19, 2024 – Hidden Valley ARC 1st Annual Hamfest

Location: Lancaster, WI

Sponsor: Hidden Valley Amateur Radion Club

Website: Not Provided

November 2, 2024 – ARES Conference / State Convention

Location: Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Sponsor: Numerous

Website: <https://wi-arrrl.org/events/>

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

ARRL Wisconsin Section

Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

kc9fxe@arrrl.org

WISCONSIN SECTION

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY FEB 2024

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLV D	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	637	455	1352	0	0	2484 - BPL
WB9WKO	0	586	395	2	0	983 - BPL
N9CK	0	307	303	0	0	610 -BPL
N9VC	0	446	40	0	0	486
AG9G	0	281	188	0	0	469
KB9GO	0	312	107	0	0	419
KC9UC	0	155	183	1	0	339
K9LGU	0	49	67	0	0	116
WJ9L	0	50	47	8	1	106
KC9FXE	0	24	61	4	0	89
KB9ROB	0	44	14	11	0	69
KB9IME	0	27	11	18	3	59
K9STN	0	8	34	1	0	35
KA9BAE	9	16	15	0	0	31
WB9ICH	0	23	2	0	0	25
W9RTP	0	19	4	0	1	24
W9RNA	0	11	2	7	3	23
KA9KJE	3	6	3	0	0	12
KK9D	0	5	1	5	0	11

WISCONSIN SECTION P S H R SUMMARY FEB 2024

POSSIBLE POINTS >	40 nets	40 tfc	30 appt	5 /hr. sked events	5 /hr. emrg events	10ea bbs/ web pg	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
N9VC	40	40	30	240	0	20	370
KB9IME	40	40	30	25	0	0	135
KC9FXE	40	40	20	25	0	10	135
AG9G	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
K9LGU	40	40	30	5	10	0	125
WB9WKO	40	40	30	5	0	0	115
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 MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY - FEBRUARY 2024

NET	QNI CHECK- INS	QTC TRAFFIC	QTR TIME	SSNS SESSIONS	NM
BWN	1246	1769	3059	29	K9LUK
BEN	353	353	524	29	NX9K
WSBN	513	262	751	29	AG9G
WSSN	175	56	370	29	KB9ROB
WIN/E	154	244	281	29	WB9ICH
WIN/L	189	74	255	29	W9RTP
WI ARES/RACES HF	70	9	135	4	WB9WKO
WI ARES/RACES VHF	24	0	90	1	KA9KJE
WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL	260	1834	5760	4	KB9MMC
totals	2984	4601	11225	183	