



## WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

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Issue Date: August 2024  
WI Section Manager, Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

### From the Section Manager

Greetings all!

The summer season is starting to wrap up and there is getting to be fewer and fewer events on the calendar. It's been a busy summer, but we have a few big events still coming up. Soon, registration will be open for the Wisconsin ARES Conference and State Convention. Of course, the HRO Superfest, and a couple other remaining local fests, are on the schedule, too. Oh, and for those involved in ARES, the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is being planned for the first part of October. I hope to see many of you at some of these events.

The **ARRL IT Security Incident Recovery** is still in progress. Each week, additional systems and services are coming back online. If you need help with anything that you cannot get done through an ARRL online service directly, let me know. I may be able to help you out a bit.

The following is the most recent statement directly from the ARRL on 8-22-2024:

Sometime in early May 2024, ARRL's systems network was compromised by threat actors (TAs) using information they had purchased on the dark web. The TAs accessed headquarters on-site systems and most cloud-based systems. They used a wide variety of payloads affecting everything from desktops and laptops to Windows-based and Linux-based servers. Despite the wide variety of target configurations, the TAs seemed to have a payload that would host and execute encryption or deletion of network-based IT assets, as well as launch demands for a ransom payment, for every system.

This serious incident was an act of organized crime. The highly coordinated and executed attack took place during the early morning hours of May 15. That morning, as staff arrived, it was immediately apparent that ARRL had become the victim of an extensive and sophisticated ransomware attack. The FBI categorized the attack as "unique" as they had not seen this level of sophistication among the many other attacks, they have experience with. Within 3 hours a crisis management team had been constructed of ARRL management, an outside vendor with extensive resources and experience in the ransomware recovery space, attorneys experienced with managing the legal aspects of the attack including interfacing with the authorities, and our insurance carrier. The authorities were contacted immediately as was the ARRL President.

The ransom demands by the TAs, in exchange for access to their decryption tools, were exorbitant. It was clear they didn't know, and didn't care, that they had attacked a small 501(c)(3) organization with limited resources. Their ransom demands were dramatically weakened by the fact that they did not have access to any compromising data. It was also clear that they believed ARRL had extensive insurance coverage that would cover a multi-million-dollar ransom payment. After days of tense negotiation and brinkmanship, ARRL agreed to pay a \$1 million ransom. That payment, along with the cost of restoration, has been largely covered by our insurance policy.

From the start of the incident, the ARRL board met weekly using a continuing special board meeting for full progress reports and to offer assistance. In the first few meetings there were significant details to cover, and the board was thoughtfully engaged, asked important questions, and was fully supportive of the team at HQ to keep the restoration efforts moving. Member updates were posted to [a single page on the website](#) and were posted across the internet in many forums and groups. ARRL worked closely with professionals deeply experienced in ransomware matters on every post. It is important to understand that the TAs had ARRL under a magnifying glass while we were negotiating. Based on the expert advice we were being given, we could not publicly communicate anything informative, useful, or potentially antagonistic to the TAs during this time frame.

Today, most systems have been restored or are waiting for interfaces to come back online to interconnect them. While we have been in restoration mode, we have also been working to simplify the infrastructure to the extent possible. We anticipate that it may take another month or two to complete restoration under the new infrastructure guidelines and new standards.

Most ARRL member benefits remained operational during the attack. One that wasn't was Logbook of The World (LoTW), which is one of our most popular member benefits. LoTW data was not impacted by the attack and once the environment was ready to again permit public access to ARRL network-based servers, we returned LoTW into service. The fact that LoTW took less than 4 days to get through a backlog that at times exceeded over 60,000 logs was outstanding.

The board at the ARRL Second Board Meeting in July voted to approve a new committee, the Information Technology Advisory Committee. This will be comprised of ARRL staff, board members with demonstrated experience in IT, and additional members from the IT industry who are currently employed as subject matter experts in a few areas. They will help analyze and advise on future steps to take with ARRL IT within the financial means available to the organization.

We thank you for your patience as we navigated our way through this. The emails of moral support and offers of IT expertise were well received by the team. Although we are not entirely out of the woods yet and are still working to restore minor servers that serve internal needs (such as various email services like bulk mail and some internal reflectors), we are happy with the progress that has been made and for the incredible dedication of staff and consultants who continue to work together to bring this incident to a successful conclusion.

## New Central Division Director

Brent Walls, N9BA, will be the new Central Division Director, effective January 1, 2025. Brent is the current Vice-Director under Carl LuetzelSchwab, K9LA, who made the personal decision not to run for another term. I have worked with Brent since becoming the Wisconsin Section Manager and I know he is well prepared to take over for Carl. He will represent our division very well. I look forward to working with him.



**Finally**, in some cases it is said that no news is good news. This doesn't apply when writing a NEWS-letter! Send me your news stories and other things to share with the entire section.

**Until next time... 73!**

## General Announcements, Events and Reminders

### ARES Group Registration

Much like the club listing, the ARRL has a place for ARES groups to register their organizations. I encourage each of your ARES organizations to register and remember to keep the information up to date. This will provide a good place for people to find ARES organizations in their area with accurate contact information. Registration only takes a couple minutes.

Register at: <https://www.arrl.org/ares-group-registration>



If you're having issues renewing your **FCC Amateur Radio license**, check out these helpful resources:

- Easy to follow website with instructions and screenshots by W0IS: <https://w0is.com/LicenseRenewal/FCCRenewalInstructions.htm>
- ARRL Website: <https://www.arrl.org/cores-uls-registration>
- Video featuring 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: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DI8nmjRJg4>

## News From Around the Section

### Section Emergency Coordinator / ARES Report

**Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK**, Wisconsin SEC:

### Public Information Coordinator Report

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

Happy August Wisconsin Hams! We've made it most of the way through summer and the many radio-centric events that take place. Many of you participated in Field Day and National Night Out, and for that we thank you. Your participation in community events is key to growing amateur radio in your respective area.

With school starting soon and autumn coming shortly after, it's time to think a bit about things we can do inside when the mercury starts to drop below a comfortable range. For some of us, that'll be sitting comfortably at our desk, spinning the dial and chasing down DX. For others, it's taking the opportunity to participate in fall and winter on-air contests or special event stations. For others still, it's the chance to work on creating messaging and public relations initiatives to engage the public and promote amateur radio. Whatever option you choose, you're right. That's the beauty of being a ham.

With the cooler months starting to think about maybe showing up in ol' Wis before mid-December, there is always the option for self-betterment and educational things you can do during the times when it isn't advisable to go outside. There are always the FEMA EMI self-study courses to help you understand how the Incident Command Structure works, to teach you how to properly fill out FEMA forms and learn how to be a better communicator. There are ARRL based courses as well including the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced EmComm as well as the PR-101 public relations course. The PR-101 from ARRL coupled with FEMA's host of public relations related courses can really help give you a well-rounded toolkit to help you and your local group to effectively share information about amateur radio.

Before I wrap this month's PIC section up, I wanted to take a moment to remind all of you that assistance is available to help you get your message out on events you have coming up and then help with any follow-up information dissemination you may need. The trick is that while we're usually pretty good at trying to keep up on what's happening and will jump in to help, it doesn't hurt to drop an email or message the ARRL Wisconsin Section Facebook page and mention something simply to make sure it's on our radar. If we know about it, we can definitely help. After your event has concluded, we can help with sharing the news of the impact of your event both in the amateur radio community or even with print and television media through press releases and such if you'd like. It's the quintessential "one call does it all" move.

Please have a safe and happy Labor Day weekend in early September, and we'll talk again next month.

## Section Traffic Manager Report

Wisconsin Section

*Copy*

July 2024

FAQ # 276 When sending messages of any type in any mode, it's important to know your receiver. If you send faster than *you* can write, it's probably too fast for the receiver. If you are hearing interference on frequency, your receiver probably does, too. If you wouldn't understand something without explanation in an operator's note, your receiver will be puzzled as well.

Putting yourself in the place of your receiver helps insure the message will get through and have the same meaning as intended when it was originated. For example, if the check is wrong to start, it will be confusing all along the way. If the spelling of the addressee's name is a guess – it will be on delivery, too. If the text refers to a specific message or a questionable phone number, the text should give that message number it's about or include the phone number in question. If a text includes homonyms, they should be spelled out when the message is sent. Ask yourself - with no other background - if you were to read the message for the first time, would it make sense to you?

The Incident Command System requires use of common terminology or the use of “clear text”—that is, communication without the use of agency-specific codes or jargon. In other words, use of plain English that can be understood by individuals from all responder disciplines. Plain language replaces coded substitutions with common terminology and definitions.

Plain text wording, short sentences, and easy-to-understand terminology can help as messages are composed. Clear, methodical sending will eliminate errors. In other, less famous, words – send unto others as you would have them send unto you. - K9LGU/STM

*Help Wanted: Functional CW operator to check into 9<sup>th</sup> Region late session (9:30 PM) and bring traffic to Late WIN at 10 at least one night per week. Five nights available. Generous Benefits: Vacation plan, digital board access, copious gratitude from the NTS in Wisconsin. Contact K9LGU or N9VC on any net to apply.*

**...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	<a href="#">K9LUK</a>	KB9GO	K9LUK	N9NBC	W9CPY	W9IHW	AG9G	WB9WKO
Badger Emergency Net (BEN) 3985 KHz, 1200 ALT 7270 KHz	<a href="#">NX9K</a>	WJ9L	WJ9L NX9K	W9RTP	KB9IME	WD9FLJ	NX9K	N9VC
Wisconsin Side Band Net (WSBN) 3985 or 3982.5 KHz, 1700	<a href="#">AG9G</a>	NX9K KA9BAE	N9VC	KC9FXE	KB9GO	WB9WKO	AG9G	AC9F
Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN) 3555 KHz, Daily 1800	<a href="#">KB9ROB</a>	KB9ROB	N9VC	*	*	*	AG9G	*
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Early (WIN-E) 3555 KHz, 1900	<a href="#">WB9ICH</a>	WB9ICH	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9CK	N9VC	AG9G	WB9ICH
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Late (WIN-L) 3555 KHz, 2200	<a href="#">W9RTP</a>	AG9G	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9VC	N9VC	W9RTP	W9RTP
ARES/RACES Net 3967 KHz, 0800 Sunday ALT 3977.5 or 7250	<a href="#">WB9WKO</a>	*						
WI ARES/RACES Digital Net Tuesday on WINLink 7PM Mon - 7PM Tues	<a href="#">KB9MMC</a>		KB9MMC					
WI ARES/RACES VHF Net on WECOMM Frequencies Last Thursday of the month 7PM	<a href="#">KA9KJE</a>					KA9KJE		

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

2/22/2024



## Section Youth Coordinator Report

From Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Section Youth Coordinator:

### School coming up, how to make school club

As Labor Day weekend rolls around, schools are lining up to start on September 3rd. Among other clubs, an Amateur Radio club is a fantastic way to engage youth into amateur radio, with 39%\* of youth hams stating they were introduced through a school club.

I'd like to give a few pointers on how you can get an amateur radio club started:

Creating the Club - Make sure you understand the guidelines for creating a club at your school. It is essential to confide in a teacher with your plans, particularly teachers that lead things like robotics or science teachers. Ham Radio clubs require space, so you'll also need to find an applicable area to set up a station and also an antenna.

Develop a plan for recruitment - It is essential to have a solid recruitment plan to get members into your ham radio club. From personal experience, there are two things you need to watch for. 1) Open-house, or other events where clubs to get to show off. Typically, high schools will have an event a week or so into the school year to show off their different clubs. If you're really wanting to have an outreach on the community, organize events outside of school to talk about ham radio. (I.E. a local farmer's market) 2) Directly speaking to people is how you develop interest. Posters, or other various non-direct verbal methods are not nearly as effective as directly talking to a person.

Leadership - Make sure to establish solid leadership. Appoint whoever you feel is necessary, whether it be President, Secretary, or whatever other positions. Ham radio clubs hold a wide range of admittedly expensive equipment, so having solid leadership is both good for the club and necessary for things like ARRL scholarships.

Get ARRL Club Grant - One of the best ways to get finances for amateur radio equipment is by getting an ARRL grant. Club grants can be worth up to \$25,000, and clubs don't have to be ARRL-affiliated or (501(c)(3) non-profit organization. <https://www.arrl.org/club-grant-program> is a website linking to the club grant program, and questions can be emailed to [clubgrants@arrl.org](mailto:clubgrants@arrl.org). (\*\*\*)Applications are currently closed. You will have to wait until next year to fill out your application(\*\*\*)).

**As a reminder, these are the ways you can help a local school amateur radio club that's already been created:**

- Help volunteer for the club -

One of the best ways you can support a local school radio club is volunteering to assist! While this would need to have a school club already created, once it is, consider asking the school principal of the school in question if you can help out. Mentorship, as established by the aforementioned survey, is a great way to boost youth in amateur radio. Teaching kids how to operate radios, finding contests for them to compete in, and helping talk to the ARRL to get scholarships (which is surprisingly easy) for more equipment is a great way to volunteer for a club.

- Encourage local schools to create clubs -

Many schools do not have an amateur radio club. If you have grandkids or kids in school, encourage them to ask about creating an amateur radio club. Many teachers are happy to support this type of club, and it looks great on college resumes. Also, the ARRL offers plenty of scholarships, where creating a club would be a huge impact on attaining those scholarships.

- Donate old equipment -

If you have old equipment lying around collecting dust, consider donating it to a local school club! While the option of applying for funds from the ARRL exist, things such as tuners, antennas, radios, or even minor things such as coax can be extremely expensive for a school club and donating even a small amount of equipment can greatly help out a local school club.

\*This data is from a survey that was conducted 1.5 years ago

**Contact Me:**

Please email me at [et.k9zn@icloud.com](mailto: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

EAA AirVenture 2024 Special Events Station  
Tom Czaja (KG9EE) Wisconsin Assistant Section Manager



Andy (left), AJ9L, and Mike, (right), KD9QHQ



Anne, KC9YL, working the 20 meter station.20



W9ZL Special Events Station at EAA Airventure 2024



The Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, W9ZL, has been sponsoring a special events station at the EAA AirVenture at Whitman Field in Oshkosh since 1989. The Fox Cities ARC is a very active club, sponsoring many events throughout the year and draws members from a large area in the Fox Valley area and beyond.

I had the honor of operating the station with the members of the club this year. The station was operational from July 22 to July 27, 2024. Although propagation was marginal, many contacts were made, and a lot of networking took place. The location of the station is on the North end of the airport and is part of the KidVenture program. It was a pleasure to see many young people stopping at the station and asking questions about ham radio. Kudos to Chairperson Jon Oldenburg, AB9AH, FCARC Special Events Coordinator who coordinated the special events station.



ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF



## Upcoming Fests and Conventions

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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-arri.org/events/>

**March 16, 2025 – Tri County WI Hamfest**

Location: Fort Atkinson, WI

Sponsor: Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://www.W9MQB.org>

**April 26, 2025 – ORC 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Indoor Swapfest**

Location: Cedarburg, WI

Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club, Inc

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

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

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**ARRL Wisconsin Section**

**Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE**

**[kc9fxe@arri.org](mailto:kc9fxe@arri.org)**  
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**WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY July 2024**

<b>NET</b>	<b>QNI CHECK- INS</b>	<b>QTC TRAFFIC</b>	<b>QTR TIME</b>	<b>SSNS SESSIONS</b>	<b>NM</b>
<b>BWN</b>	<b>1032</b>	<b>1528</b>	<b>3198</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>K9LUK</b>
<b>BEN</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>NX9K</b>
<b>WSBN</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>AG9G</b>
<b>WSSN</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>KB9ROB</b>
<b>WIN/E</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>WB9ICH</b>
<b>WIN/L</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>W9RTP</b>
<b>WRACES HF</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>WB9WKO</b>
<b>WRACES VHF</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>KA9KJE</b>
<b>WRACES- DIGITAL</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>2355</b>	<b>7200</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>KB9MMC</b>
<b>totals</b>	<b>2629</b>	<b>4736</b>	<b>12519</b>	<b>196</b>	

**WISCONSIN SECTION P S H R SUMMARY July 2024**

<b>POSSIBL E POINTS &gt;</b>	<b>40 nets</b>	<b>40 tfc</b>	<b>30 appt</b>	<b>5 /hr. sked even ts</b>	<b>5 /hr. emrg event s</b>	<b>10ea bbs/ web pg</b>	
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>N9VC</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>KC9FXE</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>WB9WKO</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>K9LGU</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>AG9G</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>NX9K</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>KB9GO</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>KC9UC</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>

**WISCONSIN SECTION STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY July 2024**

<b>STATION</b>	<b>ORIG</b>	<b>RCVD</b>	<b>SENT</b>	<b>DLVD</b>	<b>ATT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>NX9K</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1816 - BPL</b>
<b>WB9WKO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>699 - BPL</b>
<b>N9CK</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>637 - BPL</b>
<b>AG9G</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>452</b>
<b>N9VC</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>KB9GO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>223</b>
<b>KC9UC</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>K9LGU</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>WJ9L</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>KC9FXE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>KB9ROB</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>KA9BAE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>W9RTP</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>WB9ICH</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>KA9KJE</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>W9RNA</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>