



## WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

---

Issue Date: October 2024

WI Section Manager, Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

### From the Section Manager

Greetings all!

It's been a fairly uneventful few weeks from my perspective, and I haven't heard a whole lot from around the Section. Sometimes no news is good news, but I think there's still a lot of interesting news out there. You all are just keeping it to yourselves!

The ARES/RACES Conference is November 2<sup>nd</sup>. I'm told that the sessions will be recorded and posted online, but nothing beats being there in person. It looks to be a pretty good day, once again.

On a slow news month, I usually go sniffing around the amateur radio world looking for things I might have missed. This time it finally paid off! I found the following article featuring one of our own, so instead of rambling on, I'll share this instead, in case you missed it too...

***Reprint from the August 2024 edition of The NTS Letter.***

#### ***Spotlight: K9GLU***

*Denny Rybicke, K9LGU, Section Traffic Manager for the ARRL Wisconsin section, is a ham with a most varied background. I had asked Denny to tell me about his work experience, particularly what may have contributed to his interest in amateur radio. His list, alphabetically, included adjunct college professor, audio system supervisor, bean picker, city mayor (12 years), clothing store clerk, drama director, electrician, exterior / interior painter, floral shop driver/dispatcher, grant writer, grave digger, high school teacher (34 years full-time; 20 years part-time), innkeeper (15 years), janitor/custodian, microprocessor salesman, novels and documents editor, potato warehouse worker, public speaking coach, roofer, stage lighting director, and tree trimmer. He adds, "Those varied*



*Denny Rybicke, K9LGU, Section Traffic Manager for the ARRL Wisconsin section*

*experiences have given me a true appreciation for the myriad of backgrounds of ham operators.”*

*He continues, “When I taught English and communications full-time to high school seniors for 34 years – specializing in written and spoken communications – my extra-curricular duties included sound and lighting supervision, senior class adviser, forensics coach, and adviser to the National Honor Society chapter. I was simultaneously an adjunct professor with the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh from 1986 to 1999. While teaching, I was elected mayor of the City of New Holstein and served six consecutive terms beginning in 1982. As mayor, I recognized that at times a bad city council meeting is not unlike a bad study hall or a raucous DX pile-up. On the other hand, working with other public servants brought a satisfaction not unlike being part of the NTS and relaying traffic even under poor conditions.”*

*Denny received his amateur radio license as KN9LGU in 1958 and has held his current Extra class call K9LGU since the 1970s. He says, “As a Boy Scout message runner for a RACES exercise in 1957, I sat next to the radio operator (W9CFO) for the full midnight shift. I was fascinated. He generously offered to tutor me.” Denny has now been serving as Wisconsin Section Traffic Manager for 25 years. He says “My STM management style is to enlist good net managers and let them do their work.”*

*Wisconsin has been a good example of cooperation between the ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) and NTS programs. When I asked Denny about this, he wrote, “In Wisconsin, ARES/RACES has combined membership and our NTS nets serve as an equal and supportive partner in their exercises such as SIMCOM, the SET, severe weather nets, tabletop and functional exercises, and regular testing of several communication media. N9VC has also established an infrastructure-independent BBS for our section's ARES/RACES leadership at the request of the state Office of Emergency Management. We try to have our regular NTS nets provide the models and training needed for deployment. As an example, during one inter-agency exercise (SIMCOM), hams were asked to handle a large mixture of NTS- and ICS213-formatted messages. Our traffic handlers switched forms smoothly and still maintained the accuracy and efficiency needed. Under some poor conditions, visitors from the National Guard were especially impressed with how we continued our operation even using CW when needed.”*

*“Our section is certainly indebted to NX9K and N9VC for their continual efforts to exercise the NTS and welcome new hams to the hobby. Our section's operators are proud to be part of that operation, which reflects the spirit of the hobby for new operators. New hams are grateful for the welcome they get from Jim, Kris, Glenn (VE1IJ), and others that reflect the broad base of the hobby and offer training and a chance for personal connection to a local operator.*

*I'm very pleased that our section operators accept all legal traffic and make extra efforts to deliver each message. Leadership? It's not me. It's them.”*

*Many thanks to Denny for his years of service to amateur radio. With ARRL's current emphasis on emergency communications, we might all learn a thing or two from the efforts of those folks in Wisconsin.*

*Denny will be making an appearance at the ARES/RACES Conference. He make take some time for autographs.*

**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

### Wisconsin ARES / RACES Conference 2024

Saturday, November 2, 2024 - McMillan Library, Wisconsin Rapids

More information at <https://wi-arrl.org/events/>



The **MRC91 Friendly Fest**, scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Milwaukee, has been cancelled.

## Section Emergency Coordinator / ARES Report

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

There is still time to register for the **Annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference** being held on November 2nd in Wisconsin Rapids. Here is the registration link: <https://wisconsinaresraces.regfox.com/wisconsin-ares-races-conference-2024>

One of the topics at the conference will cover what has been a much-debated topic, that of AUXComm and how it relates to Amateur Radio emergency communications. One of the best ways I can think of to explain why this is a good thing for us as Emergency Communicators is how it pertains to the PACE planning model used by WEM and many of the other emergency management organizations in our state. PACE planning is a method for establishing an order to deploy communication assets when there are disruptions or degradation to capabilities. PACE stands for Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency. The order of communication precedence is as follows:

- **Primary:** The primary method of communication, such as radios for day-to-day operations
- **Alternate:** The backup method to the primary, such as a different radio system
- **Contingency:** The fallback method, such as satellite phones
- **Emergency:** The last-resort method, such as a runner

The U.S. military originally developed PACE to ensure reliable communications. Today, PACE plans are used in many industries, including public safety agencies, first responders, local governments, and businesses.

So why is this a good thing for us? Currently ARES/RACES falls under the **E** in the PACE model (the old "When all else fails" mantra) which means the likelihood of us actually being utilized by our served agencies is minimal. Our served agencies realize we have a wealth of expertise and experience that we can bring to bear on a situation, but if it does not reach the EMERGENCY level of response, they are unable to activate us as a resource. However, AUXComm training and credentialing moves us up in precedence from the **E** to the **A** of the PACE model. Enabling the mobilization and utilization of our communicators and technical expertise at a much earlier phase (the ALTERNATE phase) of an incident response. This not only increases the likelihood of our activation and involvement in an incident response, but it also improves the visibility of our organization as a response organization.

I hope to see you at the Annual Conference where there will be more information discussed surrounding the implementation of the AUXComm Communicator in WEM incident responses and how it fits in with our current relationships with our served agencies. There will also be a lot of other valuable information and equipment on display this year, don't miss it!

### **From WECOMM:**

We continue to work on getting all of the linked system nodes back online and have identified a firmware issue with the linking modems that we are in the process of getting new FIRSTNET SIM cards to help resolve this error. We have also identified a potential issue with the SIP server that is causing sites to lose their connection shortly after establishing the connection in the first place. This results in site connections "bouncing" causing multiple messages to be

broadcast on the individual repeaters being affected. We are working on a resolution to this issue currently.

We thank you all for your continued support and patience as we work through these issues.

## **Public Information Coordinator Report**

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

Happy October, Wisconsin hams! This time of year is interesting on a few levels, between the autumnal color changes, fall festivals, the annual trips to the pumpkin patch and/or apple orchard many people take to continue traditions, and of course the seasonal changes with propagation and 160 meters waking up for the winter.

With the fall and winter months coming up, there are some opportunities for your local organization that could really help gain positive exposure if you participate. It sounds crazy to talk about events a few months off, but there's a method to the madness. With event planning, it's important to start getting the word out early. Once the initial "hey this event is coming so mark your calendar" word is out, then it's time to start going to work on details. Once details are confirmed, those details may need to be released to help build up to the event. Those details could include any VIP's that are confirmed to attend, a local entity donating something for the event or anything positive about the event that may help sway the public to attend.

The reason this topic is coming up in October is that there are festivals around the holidays that could be avenues for amateur radio organizations to participate in some capacity (on-site special event station operation for example). That helps to both spread word about their event and your operation at the same time. Depending on the event, some organizers really enjoy the prospect of their event being talked about on the air to hams in other parts of the country or the world. Along with that, operating on-site at their event gives the general public the opportunity to see firsthand how amateur radio works, ask questions and network.

Please remember. If your local organization is doing an event and you'd like a hand getting the word out about it or have questions about how to get the word out, help is available for the asking.

Almost forgot to mention. Have you signed up to attend the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference on November 2? The conference is a really great chance to network with fellow hams, get updates about what's happening in the section and gain some valuable educational tools for your toolbox of skills. Subject Matter Experts will be giving presentations throughout the day that may help show you a different perspective on a topic, help you learn a new way to do a process or even learn something entirely new. Then of course there's dinner at Savory after.....but that's another topic.

Hopefully I'll see many of you at the conference!

## Section Traffic Manager Report

September 2024

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

FAQ # 278 73. Best regards. Regards means respect. So how do you *pay your respects*? Er, maybe you don't have to wait until I'm a Silent Key. Imagine this. -- You have a message to send by voice to an operator near the destination who volunteers to take it. You are grateful, so you'll want to show your respect to the receiver by doing the following:

1. Let the receiver choose the frequency, check it, call you, and tell you when he's ready.
2. Start by actually saying the word, "number" and giving the preamble without identifying or labeling the parts. Show you respect the receiver for knowing what's coming next.
3. Spell the name of the addressee phonetically. The street name will need spelling, too. Give the phone number in three groups.
4. Say "Break" and listen before starting the text. If you hear no response, continue.
5. Speak clearly and pace yourself so the receiver can transcribe the message by hand or keyboard. Spell phonetically any homonyms, uncommon, or confusing words. Respect any problems you can anticipate the receiver might have.
6. There's no need to stop mid-message to ask how the receiver is copying. You'll be asked at the "breaks" for any fills.
7. Don't use phrases like "today's date," "my station," or "common spelling."
8. Say "Break" and listen again at the end of the text. Then say and spell the signature – but you don't have to SAY that it's the signature. The receiver knows what's next. Respect that.
9. Be cheerful and patient giving fills – especially under bad conditions. If you're asked to say each group twice, say each group twice. You don't know what the receiver has to deal with in copying your message. Showing respect for the receiver reflects your gratitude and encourages more traffic handling.

So --- if you just keep trying to to send messages with the receiver in mind, I can respect that.  
73 – K9LGU/STM

**...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:



### National STEAM Day

National STEAM Day on November 8 is a perfect chance to underscore how amateur radio connects with the exciting fields of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) to kids.

#### Science: Understanding Radio Waves

Amateur radio offers a hands-on approach to learning about radio waves and electromagnetic propagation. Operators can experiment with different bands, tracking how time of day, solar activity, and atmospheric conditions influence signal strength and clarity. This is a great opportunity to explore how radio waves interact with the Earth's atmosphere, and more specifically, Earth's ionosphere.

#### Technology: Building and Using Radio Gear

Radio technology is the heart of amateur radio. Albeit assembling kits or using cutting-edge software-defined radios (SDRs), young hams are able to dive into the electronics that drive

amateur radio. A simple DIY project like building your own antenna or creating a Morse code keyer offers an exciting and practical way to apply your tech skills.

#### Engineering: Hands-On Problem Solving

Engineering is a fundamental part of amateur radio. Whether you're designing antennas, assembling portable stations for field operations, or troubleshooting equipment, you're applying real-world engineering skills. National STEAM Day is a great time to challenge yourself to build a small radio-related project! For students involved in robotics, you may already see the connection between amateur radio and the very fundamentals of engineering a robot from the ground up. Consider integrating amateur radio into your STEAM projects or school club activities to expand your hands-on learning!

#### Arts: Creativity in Design

There is a lot of subtle creativity in amateur radio. Whether it's designing your own QSL card, creating a portable station setup, or even developing a unique signal-calling style, there's plenty of room for artistic expression in amateur radio.

Mathematics: Calculating for Radio Efficiency Math plays a key role in amateur radio, especially in antenna design and frequency selection. Simple equations can help you calculate the ideal antenna length for different bands. On National STEAM Day, challenge yourself to design and build an antenna based on these calculations, then test it out on the air.

There's a couple way young hams can use this day for amateur radio. For one, you can use this day to do something ham radio. Build a simple antenna, experiment with new radios, or even just join a local net. National STEAM Day is also great opportunity to introduce amateur radio to your classmates or teachers. If your school is doing an event for national STEAM day, consider asking to setup a table/booth showing off amateur radio.

National STEAM Day encourages curiosity and exploration, and amateur radio is the perfect way to apply STEAM principles in a fun, hands-on way.

#### **ARRL Sweepstakes**

The ARRL Sweepstakes are popular yet simple contests to get into in amateur radio, taking place in November. The exchange includes a serial number, operating class, and the year they were first licensed. The contest takes place in two modes: the CW event from November 2-4, and the SSB event from November 16-18. Operators are able to use all HF bands, from 10m to 160m.

For youth in amateur radio, the ARRL Sweepstakes offers an excellent opportunity to grow their operating skills and reduce microphone shyness. Since ARRL Sweepstakes are offered in both CW and SSB, young operators can practice all modes of communication. The relaxed contest atmosphere helps build confidence with contesting, and more importantly, the hobby as a whole, encouraging future growth in the amateur radio community.

#### **Contact Me:**

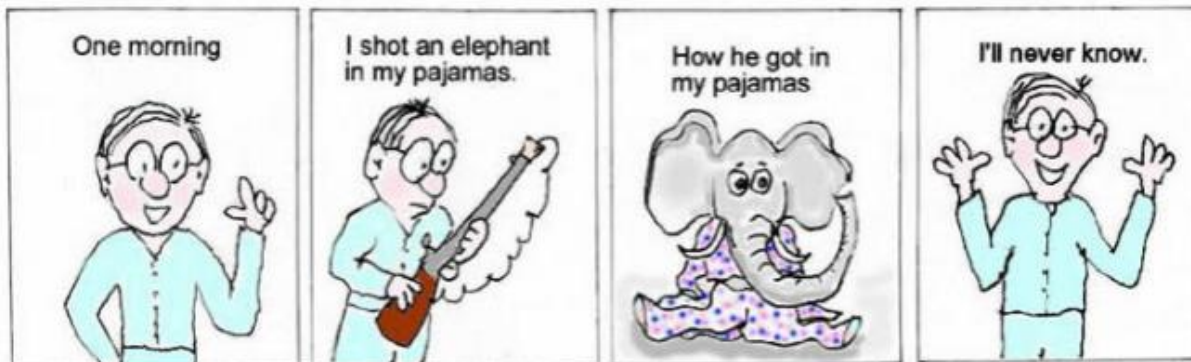
Please email me at [et.k9zn@icloud.com](mailto:et.k9zn@icloud.com) if you have any questions or issues about my Section Youth Coordinator work. Response times can range from an hour to a day.



## Member Contributions

Elmer

by Rich Regent



## In Memoriam

We have been made aware of the following members who have become silent keys since the last publication.

- James R Esser, WD9FRF, of Madison, WI – [view obituary](#)
- Dennis L Brager, K9ZYU, of Fitchburg, WI – [view obituary](#)

On behalf of the Wisconsin Section, our condolences go out to the family and friends of our fellow hams who have passed. May they all rest in peace.

If you become aware of a silent key, from our section, please contact the [Section Manager](#) or Assistant Section Manager, [Tom Czaja, KG9EE](#) with the details.

## Upcoming Fests and Conventions

### October 19, 2024 – Hidden Valley ARC 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Hamfest

Location: Lancaster, WI

Sponsor: Hidden Valley Amateur Radion Club

Website: <https://www.kc9kq.net/hamfest/>

### November 2, 2024 – ARES Conference / State Convention

Location: Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Sponsor: Numerous

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

**November 2, 2024 – MRC91 Friendly Fest **\*\*CANCELLED\*\*****

Location: Milwaukee, WI

Sponsor: Milwaukee Repeater Club

Website: <http://mrc91.org>

**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](#). \*\*\*

-----  
**ARRL Wisconsin Section**

**Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE**

**[kc9fxe@arrl.org](mailto:kc9fxe@arrl.org)**  
-----

**WISCONSIN SECTION  
STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY SEP 2024**

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	420	111	587	0	0	1118 - BPL
WB9WKO	0	380	273	3	0	656 - BPL
N9CK	0	254	234	0	0	488
AG9G	0	304	159	0	0	463
KB9GO	0	198	73	0	0	271
N9VC	0	184	39	0	0	223
KC9UC	0	86	110	0	0	196
K9LGU	1	74	82	1	0	157
WJ9L	0	44	46	5	2	97
KC9FXE	0	14	42	4	0	60
KB9ROB	1	37	9	8	1	56
KA9BAE	0	15	17	0	0	32
W9RTP	0	24	4	1	1	30
WB9ICH	0	21	2	0	0	23
W9RNA	0	6	2	3	1	12
KA9KJE	1	4	1	0	0	6

**WISCONSIN SECTION**

**P S H R SUMMARY SEP 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	270	0	20	400
KC9FXE	40	40	20	25	50	10	185
WB9WKO	40	40	30	35	0	0	145
AG9G	40	40	30	25	0	0	135
K9LGU	40	40	30	5	5	0	120
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 SEP 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>1086</b>	<b>1407</b>	<b>3114</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>K9LUK</b>
<b>BEN</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>NX9K</b>
<b>WSBN</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>AG9G</b>
<b>WSSN</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>KB9ROB</b>
<b>WIN/E</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>WB9ICH</b>
<b>WIN/L</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>W9RTP</b>
<b>WI ARES/RACES HF</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>WB9WKO</b>
<b>WI ARES/RACES VHF</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>KA9KJE</b>
<b>WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>2248</b>	<b>5760</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>KB9MMC</b>
<b>totals</b>	<b>2644</b>	<b>4487</b>	<b>11021</b>	<b>189</b>	