



WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

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

From the Section Manager

Greetings all!

I hope everyone has enjoyed our extended fall season. I know a lot of areas finally got a little snow last week, but I think we've fared pretty well, so far.

I was able to attend the ARES Conference and State Convention, earlier this month. It was nice to see a lot of you there. The conference committee did another fantastic job putting this event

together for one of the best ones yet. A huge thank you to that team (pictured): Amber Craft, KD9KKY, Shelly Dorshorst, KD9GIY, Nick Proulx, KC9YLK, Tom Burger, KA9KJE, and Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK. There were some great presentations that you can watch, or listen to, from links on the events page our website. Also, congratulations to Dan Lenz, KB9IME, who received the Don Michalski Leadership Award, and to David Owen, N9TUU, who received the EC of the Year Award. Well deserved, gentlemen!



The holiday season is upon us and it's a good time to send a radiogram message to family and friends. This is a great way to practice skills and is a lot of fun! If you are unfamiliar with traffic handling and/or our nets, there are always people willing to help. All you have to do is ask.

You will see that the 2025 event schedule is already starting to fill in. As usual, it looks like we will start out with three nice hamfests, all within fairly close proximity to one another. Two are even scheduled on the same date. I know this doesn't help with attendance, but as I tell the ARRL leadership when asked, "I guess that's how we do things in Wisconsin." I'm looking to another great year.

And finally, it is that time of year that we recognize those things we are thankful for over the last year. Here are just a few of mine... Kyle Schaefer and his ARES/RACES team; Denny Rybicke and his team of net managers, net controls, and traffic handlers; our PIC, Myron Oestreich; Assistant Section Manager, Tom Czaja; all the leaders and members of our various amateur radio clubs and organizations; and all those who make amateur radio fun, educational, purposeful and successful across the Wisconsin Section. Thank you!

Until next time... 73... and....



General Announcements, Events and Reminders

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. Contact me, or the Affiliated Club Coordinator, if you need help.



25th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day December 7, 2024



SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) is December 7, 2024. The annual event is celebrating its 25th anniversary. SRD was established in 1999 by the National Weather Service (NWS) and ARRL® to commemorate the contributions of SKYWARN volunteers. Using amateur radio and other means of communication, SKYWARN spotters provide real time ground truth to NWS offices. The ham-volunteers can also provide vital communications between NWS and local emergency management officials when other means go down. For more information, visit:

<https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>



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>

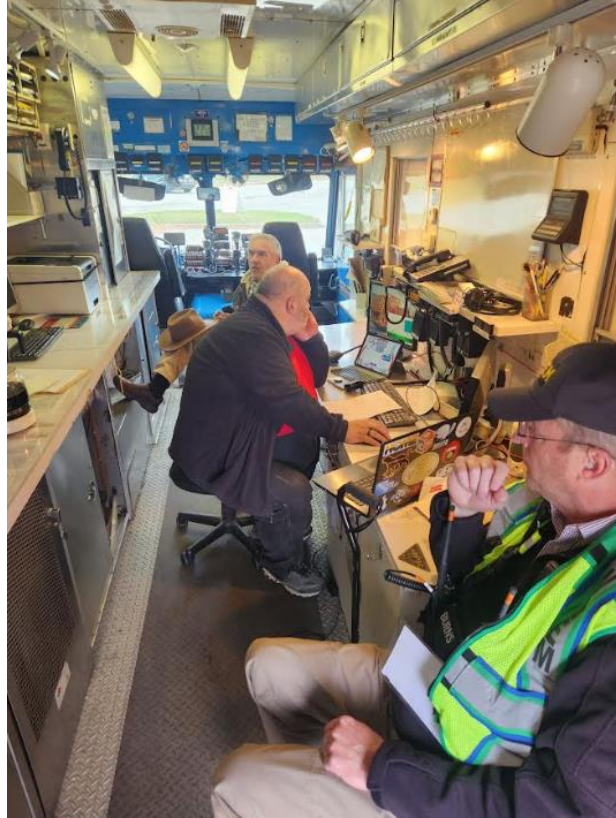
News From Around the Section

Southeast Wisconsin ARES Teams Test Emergency Communication Systems in Regional Simulated Emergency Test

West Allis, WI – November 13, 2024 —

On November 9, 2024, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members from across Southeast Wisconsin participated in a regional Simulated Emergency Test (S.E.T.) at Greenfield Park in Milwaukee County. The exercise, hosted by the Milwaukee/Waukesha ARES group, simulated a major flood event in the Root River area, which knocked out power and cellular communications.

In the scenario, ARES volunteers provided essential radio communications support at emergency shelters and relayed health and welfare messages for residents affected by the disaster. The exercise showcased the ability of ARES teams to maintain communication when traditional networks are down, ensuring that emergency responders and shelter staff can continue to coordinate relief efforts. Teams from Racine/Kenosha, Walworth, Washington, and Ozaukee counties joined the exercise, deploying various communication platforms, including the Milwaukee ARES Emergency Communications Van and Racine/Kenosha communications trailer. Participants used multiple communication methods,



including FM Simplex, VHF repeaters, and the OASIS (WiPSN) P25 trunked radio system to test coordination across different agencies.

A key feature of the exercise was testing the Winlink digital system, which allowed teams to send emails over radio frequencies. This technology is essential for communicating in areas where internet and phone service are unavailable. "During this exercise, we were able to transmit critical messages, such as emails from victims trying to reach their families," said Brian Jansen

(KC9GMW), Emergency Coordinator for Milwaukee County ARES.

The exercise also highlighted the need for better interoperability between ARES and public safety agencies. "Public safety agencies often lack shared communication channels with ARES, which can delay responses in large-scale emergencies," noted Jim Burns (KD9CIV), Emergency Manager for New Berlin. Burns emphasized the importance of systems like the OASIS network, which bridges this gap by providing a shared platform for both ARES and public safety teams.

After the exercise, participants gathered for a debriefing session to discuss lessons learned and areas for improvement. Tom Burger (KA9KJE), Southeast District Emergency Coordinator, expressed the value of such exercises in strengthening coordination. "Regular drills are crucial for ensuring we are fully prepared for future emergencies."

The S.E.T. reinforced the vital role that ARES plays in community resilience, ensuring that reliable communication remains intact when traditional systems fail.



Brian Jansen, KC9GMW
Emergency Coordinator
Milwaukee/Waukesha Co ARES/RACES



Section Emergency Coordinator / ARES Report

Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, Wisconsin SEC:

Thank you all once again for a great Annual Conference earlier this month. If you were in attendance, please don't forget to fill out the survey so we can continue to provide relevant content in future conferences.

ARRL has asked us to submit any after action reports that we produce for any kind of activation or event. This not only serves to inform them of what is going on, but they are also hoping to create a library of AARs for use as ideas for exercises or to help incorporate lessons learned from other exercises and events to create more up to date best practices.

ARRL has indicated that the newly repaired Form 2 and Form 4 should be available online by the end of the year and most likely in the next week or two they were fixing some formatting issues to better align the forms.

Thanks again for all you do! If you are a hunter stay safe in the woods, and happy holidays to everyone!

Public Information Coordinator Report

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

Happy November, Wisconsin hams! It was nice to see so many of you at the Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference earlier this month. Much good discussion was had between sessions, and the sessions provided a little something for everyone. If you missed the conference or would like to hear the presentations again just in case you missed something (trust me – I know what that feel like), no worries. All the presentations with the exception of the lead-off state of the section presentation were recorded and are available for streaming at the ARRL Wisconsin Spotify channel. The link is creators.spotify.com/pod/show/arrlwisconsin. It doesn't cost anything to subscribe, and we will post podcasts from time to time. Whenever possible, we will have local content like contributed segments from local hams and local organizations, interviews/visits from hamfests and events and news that's important to Wisconsin hams. Okay, it can be important to the U.P. too. They have to give us pasties though. Anyway, while podcasts won't necessarily be posted regularly, they will be up from time to time and your best place to find them (aside from Spotify) are social media pages run for the Section and Wisconsin ARES/RACES. Those pages on Facebook @ARRWisconsin and @wiresraces. The annual Simcom event also has a page, and that one is on Facebook at @SimcomWisconsinAB.

As we settle into the holidays, please indulge me for a moment. The holidays are fast approaching. We have the opportunity to do fun radio activities like Santa on the Air, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day nets for the sole purpose of spreading goodwill (although some would argue it's a reprieve from our families), and of course the get togethers that yield treats endorsed by Wilford Brimley. However you choose to celebrate the holidays, please make the most of it.

If your organization has any fun holiday events on the horizon (or events after the holidays) that you'd like to share, please pass them along. It's always nice to see what your organization is up to, share your achievements and celebrate your victories.

Section Traffic Manager Report

Wisconsin Section October 2024

FAQ # 279 How do I get on the Public Service Honor Roll? There are six categories in which you can earn points each month. Scores of 70 or above are printed in QST. All scores submitted in our section go in the monthly STM Report. Here the categories are explained.

1) Participation in a public service net -- 1 point, maximum 40.

A public service net is one that is regularly scheduled and handles Amateur Radio formal messages. Here are examples of public service nets: Local and section nets (e.g. BWN, BEN, WSNB, WSSN, WIN) that are affiliated with the National Traffic

System (NTS); NTS region, NTS area, and independent nets that handle traffic; ARES, RACES, SKYWARN nets that meet on a regular basis; net sessions that are activated during emergencies and threats of potential emergencies; public service and safety nets; nets that are established for training radio amateurs in public service and emergency communications.

2) Handling formal messages (radiograms) via any mode -- 1 point for each message handled; maximum 40.

A "handled" message is defined as a message that is originated or sent or received or delivered. PSHR will follow the same method as Brass Pounders' League to count an individual operator's traffic total (also known as station activity report) to reach the figure for the PSHR Category 2. *There is one point granted for each message handled; maximum 40 points per calendar month.*

Here is a reference from the *Public Service Communications Manual* on how to count messages.

Originated--One point for each message from a third party for sending via your station. This "extra" credit is given for an off-the-air function because of the value of contact with the general public.

Sent--Every message (e.g. NTS or ICS213 format) sent over the air from your station to another amateur receives a point in this category. Thus, a message that is eligible for an Originated point as above receives another point when it is sent on the air.

Likewise, a message that is received on the air conveys a Sent point when it is relayed to another station. A message that you initiate yourself, while it gets no Originated point, gets a Sent point when cleared. All Sent points require **on-the-air** sending.

Received--A message received over the air gets a Received point, whether received for relaying (sending) or for delivery to the addressee. Any message received which is not eligible for a Delivery point (such as one addressed to yourself) still gets a Received point.

Delivered--The act of delivery of a message to a third party receives a point in this category, in addition to a Received point. This is strictly an off-the-air function and must be coupled with receipt of the message at your station. Thus you can't get a *Delivered* point unless you first get a *Received* point.

Here's an example for clarification: If I send a message originated on behalf of myself, I know I get only one point for a message SENT. However, if I originate a message on behalf of a third party, and then send it, I get TWO points, (origination and sending), even though ONE message was handled.

3) Serving in an ARRL-sponsored volunteer position: ARRL Field Organization appointee or Section Manager, NTS Net Manager, TCC Director, TCC member, NTS official or appointee above the Section level. -- 10 points for each position; maximum 30.

ARRL Field Organization appointees include the following: Assistant Section Managers, District Emergency Coordinators, Assistant District Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, Assistant Emergency Coordinators, Local Government Liaisons, Net Managers, Official Bulletin Stations, Official Emergency Stations, Official Observers, Official Observer Coordinators, **Official Relay Stations**, and NTS Digital

Stations, Public Information Coordinators, Public Information Officers, Section Emergency Coordinators, Section Managers, Section Traffic Managers, Assistant Section Traffic Managers, State Government Liaisons, and Technical Specialists. More information about the structure of the NTS and the positions and nets that are mentioned may be found in the ARRL's [Public Service Communications Manual](#).

4) Participation in scheduled, short-term public service events such as walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, parades, simulated emergency tests and related practice events. This includes off-the-air meetings and coordination efforts with related emergency groups and served agencies. -- 5 points per hour (or any portion thereof) of time spent in either coordinating and/or operating in the public service event; no limit.

This category recognizes the value of public safety communication events that Amateur Radio is often called to participate in. Simulated emergency tests, exercises such as SIMCOM, and drills are covered by this category. Points are gained by the amount of time that an Amateur Radio operator spends directly involved in operating the event. This also recognizes the value of off-the-air time it takes to meet with the organization or public service agency to plan and coordinate Amateur Radio involvement.

5) Participation in an unplanned emergency response when the Amateur Radio operator is on the scene. This also includes unplanned incident requests by public or served agencies for Amateur Radio participation. --5 points per hour (or any portion thereof) of time spent directly involved in the emergency operation; no limit.

This category recognizes an Amateur Radio operator who is directly involved in an actual emergency operation. This includes the operator who is on the scene or out in the field, in the shelter, at the emergency operations center, at the hospital, or other served agency's headquarters or their temporary command center.

The second sentence of Category 5 invites the Amateur Radio operator who is an active participant in an unplanned incident -- or in other words, an emergency operation -- to take credit for his/her participation even though he/she is not physically at the emergency scene.

The intent behind Category 5 is to also include the Amateur Radio operators -- like net controls, net operators and other radio amateurs that support communications in unplanned incidents-- that are not actually on the emergency scene or at the shelter, etc, but are spending time and efforts for supporting the same emergency communication efforts.

As an example, if the National Weather Service activates SKYWARN, Amateur Radio operators serve as weather spotters from their home (or car, or work, or other locations) during the weather event. Then, a tornado strikes, and the Red Cross calls out the ARES members to serve in shelters and to provide support for damage assessment communications. These operators would be among those to qualify for points under Category 5.

There would likely be several net control operators, net liaison operators, traffic handlers, etc, who are away from the disaster scene, but are spending time to support the Amateur Radio emergency communication effort on behalf of the served agencies

(Red Cross and National Weather Service, in this example). They, too, would qualify for points under Category 5.

6.) Providing and maintaining a) an automated digital system that handles ARRL radiogram-formatted messages; b) a Web page e-mail list server oriented toward Amateur Radio public service -- 10 points per item.

The portion, "a," subcategory recognizes the efforts it takes to provide and maintain an **automated** digital system (like a packet bulletin board or a PACTOR system) that handles ARRL radiogram-formatted messages.

Portion, "b," deals with newer technologies like Web pages and e-mail list servers which have become popular and effective ways to communicate news and information to the community of radio amateurs that are involved in emergency and public service communication operations and preparedness.

Before the 7th of the month, report your PSHR activity to your STM with a radiogram. Your sample message text (with a check of 10) could look like this:

PSHR NOV 1/40 2/32 3/10 4/5 5/0 6/0 T/87 73

Looking forward to your reports – 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	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:

Winter Field Day

Winter Field Day, taking place January 25–26, offers a unique opportunity for students and young amateur radio operators to engage in hands-on STEM learning. This event challenges participants to explore the technical and environmental aspects of radio communication in winter conditions, fostering problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

By experimenting with antennas, portable power sources, and cold-weather operations, students can gain practical experience in emergency preparedness and communication technology. Whether operating indoors or outdoors, Winter Field Day is an excellent chance to apply classroom knowledge to real-world scenarios.

Geminid Meteor Storm

The Geminid meteor shower, peaking annually around December 13–14, offers a unique opportunity to engage students in the STEM principles underlying amateur radio. By observing and utilizing the effects of meteors on radio wave propagation, students see how atmospheric science, communication technology, have applications in amateur radio.

Meteor Scatter Propagation and Its Educational Value

Meteor scatter propagation occurs when meteors entering Earth's atmosphere create ionized trails in the E region of the ionosphere. These trails act as temporary reflectors for high-frequency radio signals, particularly in the VHF range (30–300 MHz). The Geminid meteor shower, with its consistent and dense meteor activity provides a highly predictable and accessible platform for studying this phenomenon.

For youth, this presents a tangible example of how natural atmospheric events influence ham radio. By working with ham radio equipment during the Geminids, operators can witness how meteor trails enable communication over distances of 500 to 2,300 kilometers, making it possible to connect with stations far beyond normal line-of-sight limits.

Hands-On Learning Opportunities

The Geminid meteor shower aligns perfectly with creating workshops, making it an excellent introduction to amateur radio for students. This can include:

- Using Digital Communication Tools; Kids can experiment with modern digital modes like MSK144, designed specifically for meteor scatter. These modes offer a clear, measurable way to observe the fleeting effects of meteor-induced ionization while introducing them to the digital side of ham radio,
- Building and Experimenting with Antennas; Designing antennas optimized for VHF frequencies (e.g., 50 MHz or 144 MHz) gives students hands-on experience in engineering and physics. Understanding how antenna placement and design impact signal quality adds a layer of technical expertise youth may find useful in other aspects of ham radio.
- Exploring Space Science and Propagation; By linking meteor scatter to broader atmospheric phenomena, students can see how amateur radio intersects with space

science and geophysics. The Geminids provide a clear example of how celestial events influence ham radio.

In my opinion, the Geminid meteor shower offers an opportunity for students to intertwine astronomy with ham radio in a hands-on way and provides plenty of opportunities to create workshops.

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

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club Swapfest

November 3, 2024

Tom Czaja, KG9EE, Wisconsin Assistant Section Manager



Even though it was a dreary day, approximately 200 hams and over 50 vendors were at the Fox Cities ARC Swapfest on Sunday, November 3, 2024 in Neenah. It was a pleasure talking to everyone who stopped at the ARRL table and to those who joined the ARRL or renewed your membership.

Tony Mach, AB9IO, has been the Chairperson of the swapfest for many years and he decided to pass on the torch to Carol Young, W9PIO. Thank you Tony for your many years of hard work and making each swapfest a successful event. I had the opportunity to meet and speak with Carol about ideas for future swapfests. Thanks for stepping up to the plate Carol!



ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF



In Memoriam

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

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 45th Annual Spring Indoor Swapfest

Location: Cedarburg, WI

Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club, Inc

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

April 26, 2025 – Madison Hamfest

Location: Stoughton, WI

Sponsor: Madison Area Repeater Association

Website: <https://w9hsy.org>

September 20 - 21, 2025 – Central Division Convention

Location: Chillicothe, IL

Sponsor: Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://www.w9uvi.com/midwest-superfest/>

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

ARRL Wisconsin Section

Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

kc9fxe@arrl.org

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY OCT 2024

NET	QNI CHECK- INS	QTC TRAFFIC	QTR TIME	SSNS SESSIONS	NET MANAGER
BWN	1095	1574	3234	31	K9LUK
BEN	353	421	622	32	NX9K
WSBN	474	208	686	31	AG9G
WSSN	137	57	339	31	KB9ROB
WIN/E	150	247	294	31	WB9ICH
WIN/L	183	89	280	31	W9RTP
WI ARES/RACES HF	46	10	111	4	WB9WKO
WI ARES/RACES VHF	28	0	36	1	KA9KJE
WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL	303	2354	7200	5	KB9MMC
totals	2769	4960	12802	197	

WISCONSIN SECTION P S H R SUMMARY OCT 2024

POSSIBLE POINTS >	40 nets	40 tfc	30 appt	5 /hr. sked events	5 /hr. emrg events	10ea bbs/webpg	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
N9VC	40	40	30	345	0	20	475
KC9FXE	40	40	20	55	35	10	200
WB9WKO	40	40	30	40	0	0	150
AG9G	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
K9LGU	40	40	30	15	0	0	125
NX9K	40	40	20	20	0	0	120
KB9GO	40	40	10	0	0	0	90
KC9UC	40	40	10	0	0	0	90

WISCONSIN SECTION STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY OCT 2024

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	439	428	910	1	0	1778 -BPL
WB9WKO	0	613	503	2	0	1118 -BPL
N9CK	0	227	225	0	0	452
AG9G	0	242	165	0	0	407
KB9GO	0	238	106	1	0	345
N9VC	0	293	48	0	0	341
KC9UC	0	94	141	0	0	235
K9LGU	0	73	88	0	0	161
WJ9L	0	35	44	5	1	90
KC9FXE	0	26	51	7	0	84
KB9ROB	2	47	9	7	1	66
W9RTP	0	24	7	0	0	31
KA9BAE	0	15	14	0	0	29
WB9ICH	0	25	2	0	0	27
W9RNA	0	5	1	2	3	11
KA9KJE	2	5	1	0	0	8