



WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

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

From the Section Manager

Greetings all!

Here we are, about to tie the ribbons on another year. It's always hard to believe how fast a year goes by. Every year, I attend the Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club's December meeting. As I met with them, last week, I was thinking, "didn't we just do this?" I guess it's the same thought I have each month as I prepare this newsletter. Anyway, it was great meeting with the WiARC. Before we know it, we'll be doing it again!



Looking back, it's been another busy year, and I would say, a pretty good year. As always, a lot of good things were accomplished throughout the section. I've been happy to share many of those things through this newsletter. Remember to share your news and accomplishments so they can be included here.

Since the last publication, winter arrived, so I decided to fly down to Arizona for a few days for some visiting and adventure. I usually travel on the road and therefore have all sorts of radio equipment along. For this little trip, I was equipped with only a handheld radio. This gave me a chance to revisit APRS as a mode of communication for utilizing Winlink, email, and the NTS. The enjoyment of amateur radio is the ability to do what you can with what you've got, and the variety of ways of accomplishing tasks.

As I conclude, I'd like to say thank you to all who are members of the ARRL and support the organization that supports our hobby. Please encourage others to join or renew their membership so we continue to get that support we need!

Until next time... 73

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.



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

Brian Vodvarka, WD9HXC, has been appointed Emergency Coordinator for Adams County. Adams County has been vacant for some time so it will be nice to have ARES representation there.

Section Emergency Coordinator / ARES Report

Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, Wisconsin SEC:

No report.

Public Information Coordinator Report

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

Since it's December and the end of calendar year 2024, I'm sitting here writing this and debating if I want to be one of "those" writers that will break out the shockingly cliché "best of/worst of" for 2024. I say verily unto thee, I won't be. I will take some time to reflect upon the year, deal some kudos, talk about what's on tap for 2025, and see how many one-liners and obscure movie or YouTube references I can sneak in under radar. So, let's pour a hot chocolate or coffee (Irish at your discretion) and see what we come up with.

It's safe to say that 2024 was a learning adventure on many levels for a lot of Wisconsin hams, both individually and collectively at the club level. Hats off to the Mississippi Valley Radio Amateur Club and Hidden Valleys Amateur Radio Club for hosting their inaugural hamfests. Events like that are nothing to sneeze at when it comes to planning, and both groups put in a ton of work getting the word out about their respective events. Hats off to everyone who earned their Technician license this year or traded in their current license for a new one with more privileges. The airwaves are yours to explore and learn as much as you can. Hats off to those who successfully completed FEMA trainings or any of the host of ARRL trainings that are available. Those courses are all challenging and help to provide you with great tools to use. Congratulations to the Central Sands Amateur Radio Club in Stevens Point for being awarded a grant from ARRL to help equip their operating platform. This should greatly assist them in being able to reach all the fars they can.

Shortly before this article submission was typed up, it was announced that Simcom 2025 will be held in Juneau County. I know the county Medical Examiner there (heck of a nice guy although kind of an odd cat I might add), and when we had lunch the other day, he told me that they're pretty excited about the event coming to the Southwest region and has high hopes about being able to provide a quality training opportunity for those attending. If you haven't checked out an event like that, it's definitely worth a look. It's a really great opportunity to learn new skills for your communications toolbox and possibly learn new tricks to help with the skills you already have.

There is one other event on the horizon to think about as well. That's Winter Field Day 2025. This year, it will be January 25-26. www.winterfieldday.org is their website, and there are some rule changes (including hours of operation) that you may want to know about if you're planning to operate. This event can be a fun time to operate and have fun on the air while breaking up some of the winter doldrums. We'll talk more on the winter events over on social media and drop podcasts about events as time allows.

With Christmas and a new year on the horizon, please allow me to take a moment to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and the best 2025 has to offer. As 2025 goes on, my hope is to make more trips to hamfests and events to both meet you and help make your local groups shine. I hope to see all of you soon!

Section Traffic Manager Report

November 2024

Who are we now?

FAQ # 280 We are the traffic handlers. We are the operators who still fight the static crashes and the sun spot cycles to get a message right. We are those who care about sharpening the skills that make us good operators. We are willing to practice, to spend our time in taking and delivering a message, in acting as net control, in serving as a link from one net to another - even though we might have other activities pressing. We are the volunteer communicators for served agencies.

We are the workers, the retired, the students, the young, the old, the happy and the struggling. We are the experimenters and the conversationalists. We are the stations that ask first before using a frequency. We are the operators who willingly repeat a text group five or more times if the receiving station is working hard at getting it. We follow net discipline. We listen.

We are the folks who know that every time we handle a message, participate in a net, maintain and improve our station, help each other with equipment or techniques, and keep the system working, we are part of why Ham radio exists today. Are we special? Nope. We're just providing a service while enjoying our hobby. Anyone can do it, and here's hoping for even more *anyones* to join us soon. That's who we are now. Who we will be is up to us. 73 – K9LGU/STM-WI

WNA Meeting Minutes are posted at the end of this newsletter.

...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 Étienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Section Youth Coordinator:

FIRST Robotics — How it ties into Amateur Radio

Recently, within the past year, I've been finding myself getting interested into the "sport" (and I use the term sport loosely, for lack of a better word) of Robotics. Amateur radio and FIRST Robotics may seem like two different worlds, but after a year of experience, I've realized both are driven by a shared passion for technology, innovation, and problem-solving. When combined, they create a powerful synergy that inspires students and showcases how science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines work hand in hand to address real-world challenges — not just for students but for the amateur radio community as well.

What Is FIRST Robotics?

FIRST Robotics is a global program designed for high school students to explore STEM through hands-on learning. Teams of students, supported by mentors, design, build, and program robots to compete in annual challenges. Each competition involves real-world engineering problems, promoting collaboration, innovation, and technical skill development.

For ham radio operators, working with these talented high schoolers provides a unique opportunity to mentor the next generation of engineers, technicians, and innovators.

The STEM Connection

FIRST Robotics involves designing, building, and programming robots to perform complex tasks. This mirrors the problem-solving mindset amateur radio operators use every day — whether it's designing antennas, troubleshooting circuits, or experimenting with new communication techniques.

These fields share a strong foundation in STEM concepts:

- **Engineering Design:** Robotics and ham radio both require careful design and iteration, whether it's for a robot's drivetrain or a new antenna.
- **Signal Processing and Communication:** Robotics teams grapple with wireless controls and telemetry, offering a natural parallel to amateur radio's exploration of signals and propagation.
- **Systems Thinking:** Both communities tackle how hardware, software, and electronics work together—skills that can inspire breakthroughs in both fields.

How Ham Radio Operators Benefit

By collaborating with FIRST Robotics teams, ham radio operators gain unique opportunities to advance their own knowledge, attract new members, and strengthen the hobby's relevance in a modern STEM-driven world:

- **Inspiring New Ideas:** FIRST Robotics challenges push the boundaries of technology. Ham operators working alongside students may gain fresh insights into emerging technologies like wireless data transmission, automation, and sensor integration, which can inspire new experiments within amateur radio.

- **Recruiting the Next Generation:** Robotics programs attract highly motivated, tech-savvy students—the perfect candidates to join the amateur radio community. By working with robotics teams, hams can introduce these students to the excitement of amateur radio, helping to ensure the future of the hobby.
- **Building Partnerships:** FIRST Robotics teams often work with sponsors and mentors from high-tech industries. Collaborating with these teams can open doors for ham operators to form connections with local businesses, schools, and technology leaders, raising the profile of amateur radio.
- **Expanding Public Outreach:** Joint events, such as robotics demonstrations paired with ham radio activities like satellite contacts or APRS tracking, provide unique opportunities to engage the public in STEM.

The Bigger Picture

As technology evolves, so does amateur radio. By engaging with programs like FIRST Robotics, ham operators can stay at the forefront of technological developments while inspiring the next generation of innovators. In turn, robotics teams benefit from the knowledge, experience, and mentorship that ham radio operators bring to the table.

The thought of a collaboration isn't just about recruiting new operators; it's about creating a culture of innovation that ensures amateur radio remains interesting in an evolving technological field. By mentoring students, hams can contribute to a legacy of technological advancement while demonstrating how amateur radio continues to play a key role in the future of STEM.

How Can You Help?

Amateur radio operators have a wealth of technical expertise that can greatly benefit FIRST Robotics teams. Here's how you can contribute to this exciting partnership:

- **Become a Mentor:** FIRST Robotics teams are always looking for mentors with technical skills. As a ham, you can provide guidance on engineering principles and problem-solving strategies that apply directly to their robotics challenges.
- **Host Workshops:** Share your expertise by hosting workshops on topics like soldering, basic electronics, or other related STEM things. These skills are invaluable to robotics students and introduce them to basic electrical skills when wiring their robot.
- **Support Outreach Events:** Join forces with local teams for joint outreach efforts, such as STEM fairs or public demonstrations. Your presence can highlight how amateur radio complements modern technology.

The ability to help out Robotics teams — if you can — is a great way to target youth who are directly interested in entering a STEM field. Most high schools have their own team, or if not, at a very local level you can find a team to assist. Many kids that do robotics tend to have a serious interest when introduced to the concept of amateur radio.

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.

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



In Memoriam

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

- Gustav “Sandy” Wirth, W9BTN, of Cedarburg, 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

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 NOVEMBER 2024

NET	QNI CHECK- INS	QTC TRAFFIC	QTR TIME	SSNS SESSIONS	NM NET MANAGER
BWN	1125	1584	3149	30	K9LUK
BEN	330	356	482	30	NX9K
WSBN	497	227	721	30	AG9G
WSSN	179	58	349	30	KB9ROB
WINE	141	241	286	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	173	86	266	30	W9RTP
WI ARES/RACES HF	55	10	111	4	WB9WKO
WI ARES/RACES VHF	16	0	55	1	KA9KJE
WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL	265	2309	5760	4	KB9MMC
totals	2781	4871	11179	189	

WISCONSIN SECTION P S H R SUMMARY NOV 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	345	0	20	475
KC9FXE	40	40	20	60	20	10	190
K9LGU	40	40	30	50	0	0	160
WB9WKO	40	40	30	30	0	0	140
AG9G	40	40	30	25	0	0	135
NX9K	40	40	30	0	0	0	100
KC9UC	40	40	10	0	0	0	90

WISCONSIN SECTION
STATION ACTIVITY REPORTS November 2024

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	493	407	988	0	0	1888 - BPL
WB9WKO	0	470	339	5	0	814-BPL
N9CK	0	302	282	0	0	584 - BPL
KB9GO	0	394	175	2	0	571 - BPL
AG9G	0	336	164	0	0	500 - BPL
N9VC	0	373	44	0	0	417
KA9BAE	0	20	17	0	0	370
KC9UC	0	99	121	1	0	221
WJ9L	0	62	71	5	3	141
K9LGU	0	63	65	0	0	128
KB9ROB	2	59	19	22	3	105
KC9FXE	1	11	47	6	1	66
W9RTP	0	25	6	1	0	32
WB9ICH	0	23	2	0	0	25
W9RNA	0	6	3	2	4	14
KA9KJE	2	7	1	0	0	10

WNA Meeting Dec. 7, 2024

The quarterly meeting of the Wisconsin Nets Association, Ltd. was called to order by NX9K at 12:18PM on 7273 KHz. The purpose of the WNA was reviewed.

Roll: Chair: NX9K, Secretary: KB9ROB, Treasurer: N9VC, Members-at-Large: KA9BAE STM: K9LGU, ASTM: N9VC.

BWN: AG9G – DELEGATE -

BEN: NX9K/NM -

WSBN: AG9G/NM -

WSSN: KB9ROB/NM -

WIN/E: NONE -see report

WIN/L: W9RTP/NM -

WARES HF: WB9WKO/NM

WARES VHF: NONE

WARES DIGITAL: NONE

VISITORS: KB9CBL, AC9F, K9STN, W9CPY, WB9NRK, K9OT

KB9ROB: Minutes from the meeting of 09-07-24 have been emailed. Motion to approve minutes (K9LGU, N9VC) – Carried.

NX9K, Chair – The next quarterly meeting will be March 8, 2025.

Secretary's Report – KB9ROB – No reports since last meeting

N9VC: Treasurer's Report- Balance \$350 has not changed. Domestic Non-Stock Corporation Annual Report Form completed online Oct 8th and received by Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions - Division of Corporate and Consumer Services The filing fee was donated. Motion to accept (AG9G, K9LGU) - Carried.

KC9FXE: Section Manager Report – No report

K9LGU: Section Traffic Manager Report – The net manager for the Wisconsin ARES-RACES Digital Net, KB9MMC, is retiring from the position. Many thanks to Jim for his service as ASEC for Digital Communications with that weekly Winlink test over the years. The new net manager for that net will probably be Joe, KD9USW, in Waupaca. When he's appointed, we'll be sure to invite him to the quarterly WNA meetings.

The nine section nets year-to-date totals are Check-ins 30,221 Traffic 50,891 Time 126,599 minutes or 2,110 hours in 2,114 net sessions. Net managers have been very faithful in forwarding their monthly reports.

I want to stress, again, the idea of taking responsibility. When stations take traffic it obligates them to pass or deliver the message in a timely way and they do it. When stations volunteer as liaison to another net, we expect them to go, and they do. Likewise, net controls are obligated to show up and start their net on time. If anyone can't make their scheduled job, they arrange for a substitute. Many thanks to everyone who takes their obligations seriously because that's what keeps the system working as it should. Of course, more net controls and liaison stations (especially those fluent in CW) would be very welcome, but because the folks we have met their obligations we have some of the best section nets ever.

N9VC : Digital Report: The MBO covers the whole country as it also serves the section. The first 11 months handled 56,399 messages averaging 5127 per month. The board is doing okay.

N9VC : ASTM Report: Jim offered thanks to all participants and liaison stations in our section nets. Merry Christmas to all.

BWN Report – AG9G Delegate – The BWN (3 .984 KHz) net manager is K9LUK. Dwight pointed out that September thru November the net saw 3,306 checkins passing 4,565 pieces of traffic in special format. It took 9,497 minutes in those 91 sessions. So that averages each net to have 36 checkins, 50 messages, in 104 MIN. The seven net controls are very good about providing coverage for every net. No sessions were missed. There's a special website at <http://www.badgerweathernet.com/> with format details and history.

BEN Report – NX9X/NM offered statistics for SEP-NOV. 1,012 check ins 1,054 messages in 1,579 minutes in 62 sessions Grand totals to date are stations: 3,611, traffic: 3,650, time: 5,689 minutes in 336 sessions. Traffic is moving well.

WSBN Report – AG9G/NM – Numbers for September thru November are 1,438 checkins, 600 messages, in 2,067 min. 91 sessions. The per session average is 16 stations, 7 messages, in 23 min per session. Net controls and liaison stations are appreciated. The heavy haulers, WJ9L and WB9WKO, really help by bringing plenty of traffic. Check-ins and traffic totals are up.

WSSN Report – KB9ROB/NM – The WSSN, the first of the daily CW nets at 6 PM. More check-ins and traffic are evident. Increasing totals for November were 179 checkins, 58 messages, in 5 hours and 49 minutes. The net controls are(N9VC,K9LGU,AG9G) appreciated. Because more net controls are needed, a self-directed shadowing program is available. Any operator can follow and note what the NCS does, listen and then feel free

to ask questions of Dean (262-366-6607) about the net operations. When ready, please offer to give it a try as net control. N9VC explained the CW net format with examples and an invitation to participate noting the net control will match CW speed to the station checking in.

WIN/E Report –Submitted by e mail:

Sorry I couldnt make the meeting but here are the stats for the past 3 months

WIN/Qni 438 an ave. of 146 per mo. Qtc 730 an ave. of 246 per Mo.

Qtr 612 min. an ave. of 204 mins per mo.

Win is in good shape and doing well I want to thank all the people who QNI along with my NCS,SSB reps and 9RN reps who make this net possible we couldnt do it without you

Happy Holidays to everyone, 73. Larry WB9ICH

WIN/L Report – W9RTP/NM- This ten o clock net on 3555 KHz gets traffic from the late session Ninth Region net which usually gets passed to an SSB rep. Typically, there are 5-6 checkins including the 9RN rep and an SSB rep to take traffic to the BEN and WSBN the following day. Fairly good conditions for the past several months are reflected in our statistics.

ARES/RACES HF Net – WB9WKO/NM – This net is designed for ECs, AECs, DECAs, and members from all counties around the state for practice and discussion. Good net controls run the net on 3967 at 8 am every Sunday morning. Numbers are increasing following the summer. November saw 55 checkins,10 messages, in 111 minutes on the four sessions. So the year to date shows 616 checkins, 157 pieces of traffic, 1,341 minutes in 46 sessions. Please encourage your EC and AEC appointees to attend, especially on the last Sunday of the month when each county is invited to report on their activities.

ARES/RACES VHF Net – NO REPORT

WARES/RACES DIGITAL Net – NO REPORT

OLD BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS – **MOTION:** That Article Four Section 3 be amended by deleting the words "**STM, ASTM, and BM.**" The new wording would be "The SM and SEC will not hold the office of chairman, secretary, or treasurer of the W.N.A. The Board of Directors shall be the W.N.A. chairman, W.N.A. Secretary, W.N.A. Treasurer, and three (3) members to be elected at large." This change would be bring the Constitution into compliance with our current practice. Individuals would still be able to decline nomination for any office. This motion will be tabled and included in the minutes. Then a vote on the motion will be taken at the next regular meeting.

Motion above (K9LGU, KB9ROB) Carried.

Motion to table (K9LGU, N9VC) Discussion. Carried.

