



# WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: January 2025

ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

## From the Section Manager

Happy New Year!

I realize that phase is getting a little old by now, but this is my first opportunity to pass that wish on to many of you. I hope it is a happy new year for you. If it's not, I hope that you are taking steps to make it that way.

Regardless of how 2024 treated you, I think we can all look at the new year as a fresh start of sorts. I'm not a resolution maker (and therefore not a resolution breaker), but this year I reminded myself to do what makes me happy and avoid those things that have the opposite effect, then made adjustments accordingly. Something to consider, anyway, and I'm not talking about the little things like eating more kale, unless that's really what makes you happy. That's certainly not on my list!

There's not a lot of excitement to report out on this time of year, which is expected. Just a lot of behind-the-scenes kind of stuff and a lot of meetings. We had a well-attended ARES Leadership meeting, earlier this month. A lot is happening on the ARES side of things that I'll let the SEC report out on.

I also had a meeting with the new Central Division leadership. As you know, Brent Walls, N9BA, took over as Central Division Director in January. His Vice-Director is Josh Long, W9HT. As they prepare for their first board meetings, in their new positions, they feel that they have already accomplished one thing - lowering the average age in the board room. I do think these guys are on the right track to represent the Division, and you can expect some good things to come from them.

Division Directors and Section Managers report through different aspects of the ARRL. While our roles in the organization are quite different, our goals and purpose are the same. It's helpful that we

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MVARA Spring  
Fever Swapmeet**

**March 1, 2025**

**Tri-County Hamfest**

**March 16, 2025**

**ORC Spring  
Swapfest**

**April 26, 2025**

**Madison Hamfest**

**April 26, 2025**

**More Details below**

work together, so I will continue to work closely with Brent and Josh to protect and improve our hobby and look out for the interests of the Wisconsin Section. You can catch up on Division News by visiting <https://www.central.arrl.org/>. The site will be updated soon.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you all again as I travel the state in 2025. First stop, Onalaska!

Until next time... 73!

## General Announcements, Event, and Reminders

ARRL announces a sweepstakes for those who [Join or Renew](#) their ARRL Membership in 2025.

Click on the graphic for details.



**Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club**  
**Dick Strassburger (N9EEE), President**  
**President@W9RH.org**  
**December 29, 2025**

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC) celebrates its 108<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January 2025 with a Special Event Station operating on Saturday, January 25. The MRAC is also the oldest ARRL-affiliated club simultaneously celebrating its 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the national organization representing amateur radio.

The Special Event Station will operate from the Ham Radio Outlet (Milwaukee) showroom on Saturday between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm (CST) with members operating SSB or CW on the HF bands, especially 20-meters (~ 14.250 MHz) and 40-meters (~ 7.250 MHz). Members will also take QSOs via the W9RH repeater on 145.390 MHz (127.3 Hz) in FM or C4FM modes, and via WIRES-X room #43588 in C4FM mode.

A special certificate will be emailed to stations who contact W9RH/108 and request the certificate via email at [specialeventstation@w9rh.org](mailto:specialeventstation@w9rh.org).

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club is a general-interest organization serving amateur radio operators in the Milwaukee Metro area. The club is comprised of over 100 FCC-licensed hams

who pursue technical advances, educational opportunities, traditional and digital communications, and camaraderie in amateur radio. The MRAC actively participates in ARRL's annual Field Day, nurtures new hams with Ham Radio Boot Camp, develops direction-finding skills with Fox Hunts, holds monthly meetings featuring educational presentations, as well as other activities to interest the wide range of amateur radio interests.

For more information, visit [W9RH.org](http://W9RH.org) or contact Dick Strassburger, [president@w9rh.org](mailto:president@w9rh.org).



# Winter Field Day

## January 25-26, 2025

[winterfieldday.org](http://winterfieldday.org)



### 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

If you have news that you would like to share, it could be placed right here!

Send your stories directly to the Section Manager at: [kc9fxe@arrl.org](mailto:kc9fxe@arrl.org)

## Public Information Coordinator Report

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

2025 has arrived! Here we are well into the month, and Mother Nature has asserted her dominance by reminding us of exactly why we live where it hurts to breathe while outside and most snakes don't want to cause our untimely demise. In other words, it's a great opportunity to throw a couple more logs on the fire, have a seat at our beloved radio desk and promptly proceed to get really warm and fall asleep while working ft8. It's the circle of life.

With the new year comes a whole new calendar of activities for all of us personally, professionally and hobby related. Looking at the calendar of radio events coming up, there are the usual winter special events and contests coming up. One of the more well known ones is Winter Field Day. That event will be held January 25 and 26. While labeled as the winter version of Field Day, there are many differences between the two events, and they're both great events on their own merits.

Once we get past Winter Field Day, there's a pause to thaw out (if you worked Winter Field Day outside) before spring arrives, and with that hamfest season is upon us. March 1 starts the hamfests for the year with the Mississippi Valley Amateur Radio Association's Spring Fever Swapfest in Onalaska. The following weekend is the Wisconsin QSO Party, which is also great fun to work individually or with your local organization. After the QSO Party are some hamfests in the lead-up to (Summer) Field Day on June 28-29.

Since we're talking about Field Day, it's never too early to start planning your event. Key details need to be figured out sooner than later (location in particular), and starting the planning early helps to mitigate any unforeseen issues that could derail your plans. In the coming months, we'll talk about some Field Day planning hints and tips that could help you have a well-attended, great event. With those hints and tips, we'll tie in teachable moments to help you get the most (figurative) bang for your buck with messaging about your event.

Until next month...

# Section Emergency Coordinator Report

From KC9SDK Wisconsin SEC-

No report submitted. (Sorry folks, I tried!)

## Section Traffic Manager Report

December 2024

FAQ # 265 So how did 2024 compare? We're holding our own. We're doing okay. Not every aspect of net operation is measurable, but here are some annual net statistics.

QNI (check-ins) 33189	QTC (traffic) 56791	QTR (time) 139564	SSNS (sessions) 2311
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Here's a chart comparing check-ins and traffic with some previous years.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
QNI	47322	46582	44698	43579	43339	44976	39452	32591	30929	35720	36431	34729	33822	33162
QTC	40870	47421	47487	42099	44421	44527	45471	41823	37237	42607	51025	55390	55626	55818
QNI change	-104	-740	-1884	-1119	-240	1637	-5524	-6834	-1662	4791	711	-1702	-928	-660
QTC change	2847	6551	66	-5388	2322	106	944	-3648	-4586	5370	8418	4365	236	192
QNI	-0.22%	-0.02%	-0.04%	2.50%	-0.55%	3.8%	12.00%	17.00%	-5%	15%	2.00%	-5.00%	-2.60%	-2.00%
QTC	7.49%	0.16%	0.00%	-11.4%	5.50%	0.2%	2.00%	-8.00%	-11%	14%	20%	9.00%	0.40%	0.30%

What do the numbers show? Check-ins down 2%. We still need to attract more traffic handlers, more net participants. Traffic is up just a little. Again, we have the highest traffic total in over 15 years. Wow. It's good to see continual training in our daily, weekly, monthly activity, but the numbers don't tell the whole story. How did we pass the traffic? 82% on voice. 27% on CW and digital. The modes overlap and support each other. How quickly? How accurately? Very. We still have the reliable BWN reports every day, the weekly digital tests, and the extraordinary traffic generation from NX9K and N9VC, to nourish our section and the NTS.

Our success is due to *all* the participants. We practice so our message handling, one of the most important skills we offer to served agencies, becomes automatic. We sharpen accuracy and reliability. We make a real effort to do it right. We discipline ourselves to follow net protocol.

We spend all this time and all these efforts to become a supportive group of trained operators. This past year, we logged roughly 2,326 hours in section net operation. That time's not wasted. We do it because it's satisfying, and we do it right because we care. - K9LGU/STM

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

WISCONSIN TRAFFIC NETS		Updated 1/19/2025						
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	K9STN	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="#">KD9USW</a>		KD9USW					
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.

1/19/2025

## Section Youth Coordinator Report

From Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Section Youth Coordinator:

### Myth-Busting: Amateur Radio Doesn't Have to Be Expensive

One of the most things I've noticed a lot -- and something I find can be a huge deterrent -- is the belief that it is an expensive hobby, requiring costly equipment and a significant financial commitment. While it's true that HF radios and antennas that you buy can be pricey, this overlooks the wide range of affordable options available to beginners. In reality, amateur radio can be an incredibly accessible hobby if you make it, regardless of financial means.

### Affordable Radios

Contrary to the myth that amateur radio requires expensive gear, newcomers can start operating with radios that cost less than \$50. Events like hamfests and swap meets are excellent venues for finding discounted equipment. Newcomers can often find handheld

transceivers, mobile radios, and even base stations at a fraction of the retail price. For instance, a basic handheld radio that costs \$50 online might be available for \$20 or less at a swap meet.

Also, many amateur radio clubs host contest events or special operating days where they provide all the necessary equipment. These events allow newcomers to participate in radio contests, learn the basics of operating, and experience the thrill of making contacts with other operators -- all without having to purchase any gear.

At these events, club members often set up full stations, including radios, antennas, and power supplies, and newcomers can operate under the supervision of experienced operators. This not only eliminates the need for newer hams to invest in equipment but also provides a structured, supportive environment for both getting rid of being "mic-shy" and feeling overall more comfortable on the air.

### **Affordable Antennas**

Rather than buying your antennas -- create them. Creating your own antennas is one of the most cost-effective and rewarding ways to get started in amateur radio. For example, a simple dipole antenna can be built for less than \$20 using basic materials like insulated wire, coaxial cable, and a few insulators. These antennas are easy to construct and the math behind tuning them for certain bands is easy and available to all ham radio operators.

### **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.

## **In Memoriam**

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

- Steven St Onge, W9MCU, of Milwaukee - [view](#)

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 1, 2025 – MVARA Spring Fever Swapmeet

Location: Onalaska, WI

Sponsor: Mississippi Valley Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://mvara.net/>

### 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>

### April 26, 2025 – Madison Hamfest

Location: Stoughton, WI

Sponsor: Madison Area Repeater Association

Website: <https://w9hsy.org>

### May 3, 2025 – ARAC Hamfest

Location: Superior, WI

Sponsor: Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club

Website: [www.thearac.org](http://www.thearac.org)

### May 31, 2025 – Green Bay Hamfest

Location: Green Bay, WI

Sponsor: Green Bay Mike & Key Club

Website: <https://www.k9eam.org/>

### September 19-20, 2025 – HRO Superfest

Location: Milwaukee, WI

Sponsor: HRO

Website: <https://www.hamradio.com/>

### September 20 - 21, 2025 – Central Division Convention

Location: Chillicothe, IL

Sponsor: Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club

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

### September 20, 2025 – CVARC 2025 Hamfest

Location: Bloomer, WI

Sponsor: Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://w9cva.org/hamfest>

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



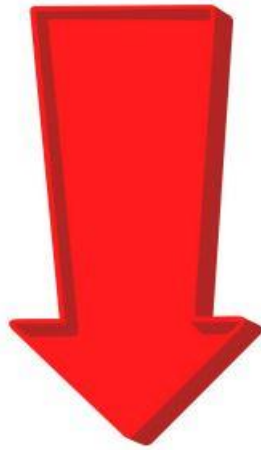
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**ARRL Wisconsin Section**

**Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE**

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# WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY

DECEMBER 2024

<b>NET</b>	<b>QNI</b> CHECK- INS	<b>QTC</b> TRAFFIC	<b>QTR</b> TIME	<b>SSNS</b> SESSIONS	<b>NM</b> NET MANAGER
<b>BWN</b>	1178	1669	3277	31	K9LUK
<b>BEN</b>	376	264	530	31	NX9K
<b>WSBN</b>	532	246	725	31	AG9G
<b>WSSN</b>	185	75	438	31	KB9ROB
<b>WIN/E</b>	147	248	309	31	WB9ICH
<b>WIN/L</b>	170	77	266	31	W9RTP
<b>WI ARES/RACES HF</b>	68	18	154	5	WB9WKO
<b>WI ARES/RACES VHF</b>	31	2	66	1	KA9KJE
<b>WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL</b>	281	3301	7200	5	KD9USW
<b>totals</b>	2968	5900	12965	197	

## WISCONSIN STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY DEC 2024

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	462	333	870	0	0	1665 - BPL
WB9WKO	0	465	304	2	0	771 - BPL
KB9GO	0	430	190	0	0	620 - BPL
N9VC	0	545	40	0	0	585 - BPL
N9CK	0	274	274	0	0	548 - BPL
AG9G	0	278	184	0	0	463
KC9UC	0	112	136	0	0	248
K9LGU	0	65	92	0	0	156
WJ9L	1	53	47	9	3	113
KB9ROB	2	53	16	16	0	87
KC9FXE	0	11	46	8	0	65
KA9BAE	0	21	26	0	0	47
W9RTP	0	24	6	0	0	30
WB9ICH	0	20	2	0	0	22
W9RNA	0	9	0	5	1	15
KA9KJE	2	8	2	0	0	12

## WISCONSIN P S H R SUMMARY DEC 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	280	0	20	410
AG9G	40	40	30	40	0	0	150
K9LGU	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
WB9WKO	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
KC9FXE	40	40	20	10	0	10	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