



WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: February 2025

ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

From the Section Manager

Greetings! Hopefully we've made it through the worst of what winter has to offer this year, as far as these bitter cold snaps go. That said, I'm sure March will offer its usual blast or two of heavy snow. These days you just never know. That's exactly what I was thinking as I washed my truck, *outside*, during the last week of January! Can't wait to be able to do that again.

March will kick off our schedule of events here in the Wisconsin Section. Weather permitting, I will be attending the MVARA Spring Fever Swapfest in Onalaska on March 1st. Following that is the Wisconsin QSO party. Myron has a few more details about that in his column.

There have been a few appointments made this year that I'd like to mention:

- Brian Vodvarka, WD9HXC, Emergency Coordinator for Adams County
- Joe Walesewicz, KD9USW, ARES/RACES Digital Net Manager
- Sam Martin, KN9SAM, Emergency Coordinator for Brown and Kewaunee Counties

Thank you, gentlemen, for stepping up and supporting our section!

I'd also like to thank a few people who have recently "retired" from serving our section:

- James Darrow, KB9MMC, ARES/RACES Digital Net Manager
- Dave Ziesmer, KD9HJJ, Emergency Coordinator for Brown and Kewaunee Counties
- Vic Shier, WT9Q, Emergency Coordinator for Washington County

UPCOMING EVENTS

MVARA Spring
Fever Swapmeet
March 1, 2025

WI QSO Party
March 9, 2025

Tri-County Hamfest
March 16, 2025

ORC Spring
Swapfest
April 26, 2025

Madison Hamfest
April 26, 2025

Your time and efforts were greatly appreciated!

Finally, I'd like to mention two of our members who have been recognized for their dedication as ARRL members: Wes Andersen, N9YE – 40 years and Barbara Regent, N9DIJ – 40 Years. Thank you for your continued support!

Until next time... 73!

General Announcements, Event, and Reminders

MVARA Swapmeet Location Change

Due to a scheduling conflict, the MVARA Spring Swapmeet has changed location. It will be held at the Sparta American Legion – 116 Angelo Road, Sparta, WI. If you arrive at the Onalaska location, you will be attending a different event.



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



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=DI8nmjRJjg4>

News From Around the Section

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club Celebrates Their 108th Anniversary

By

Tom Czaja, KG9EE

ARRL Wisconsin Section Assistant Section Manager



On January 25, 2025, the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club celebrated their 108th anniversary by holding a special events station at Ham Radio Outlet in Milwaukee. Most of the contacts were made on 20 and 40 meters and on their VHF repeater. A commemorative certificate is available upon request by sending an email to specialeventsstation@w9rh.org. Please include your name, callsign, and preferred email address.

Photo: Jeff Connor, KD9VGH (Left), Bill Henrickson, WM9H (Center), Dick Strassburger, N9EEE, Club President (Background) Operating the W9RH Special Events Station.



**Paul Szczerbinski, W9KHO, Receives Certificate of Honor from
Ham Radio Outlet**

By

Tom Czaja, KG9EE

ARRL Wisconsin Section Assistant Section Manager

Paul Szczerbinski, W9KHO, an employee of Ham Radio Outlet in Milwaukee received the 2nd ever Certificate of Honor from HRO President Robert Ferrero for 60 years as an amateur radio sales associate. In 1964, after being honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force, Paul began working for Hy-Gain Electronics in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1967 Paul began working at Amateur Electronic Supply in Milwaukee. In 2016 when AES became HRO, Paul became the most senior Sales Associate, and he continues to work at the HRO Milwaukee store. Congratulations Paul for your dedication to the amateur radio hobby and the amateur radio industry!



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



ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF



Public Information Coordinator Report

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

February is upon us, and with that is the anticipation of spring, hamfest season, summer radio activities, and whatever devilry Mother Nature has to throw at us before we hit “first spring.”

This month, I’m going to throw out some food for thought in the form of tips and anecdotal quips about Field Day. I know without fail that some of you are thinking “it’s February. Why are we talking about a June event in February?!?” For those of you, I say verily that it will make sense by the time we’re done here today. This month we’ll cover a few topics to consider this far out from the event. The goal is to offer some food for thought each month leading up to June to help your group be able to have the best Field Day possible.

For a lot of groups, Field Day is either the biggest or only public relations event that’s done each year. Sounds like a pretty heavy prospect, right? Well, you’re not wrong in that thought. From the 30,000 foot view, Field Day can seem like this gigantic undertaking that has tons of moving parts to it...and all those parts need to come together at the exact right time for everything to work. While that’s not absolutely right, it’s not totally wrong either. It sort of “is.” Planning is key to help make Field Day be the best it can be, and with that early planning is about the best thought. By planning early, you have a lot of time to make sure everything is set to be exactly the way your group wants it to be. Here are some things to think about this early on:

- Do we have a location selected?
 - o Will that location allow you to operate for the full 24 hours? If not, what will operating hours be?
- Do we have an idea of how many transmitters we will have on the air and what our letter designation will be?
- Will we be offering any side activities to augment the operating (testing session, educational component, etc.)?
- Have we designated (or voluntold, depending who you ask) someone to be the one organizing the event?
- Do we need to consider having someone in charge of key points of the event – the PR, the VE session (if you choose to do one), the educational component (if you choose to do one), and most importantly...the food?

It’s safe to assume that each group won’t necessarily need to address each of these points. It’s also safe to assume that there are points that aren’t mentioned this month. There’s a method to the madness with that. Next month, I’ll talk some more about topics to think about a little closer to the event. In April and May, there will be other points talked about that are more time appropriate for the June event.

Aside from the Field Day business, there are a couple other things on the horizon in the section that need to be mentioned as well. We’re getting into hamfest season in short order, starting with the March 1 Spring Fever Swapmeet in Onalaska. This event is sponsored by the Mississippi Valley Amateur Radio Association, and goes from 8 a.m. until noon that day. They’re offering DXCC & VUCC QSL card checking, VE testing and food and refreshments to

go along with the swapmeet and great door prizes. [Www.mvara.net](http://www.mvara.net) is the Association's website, and there's a link for their hamfest on the page.

March 16 will be the Tri-County Amateur Radio Club's annual swap meet. That event will be held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Jefferson, Wisconsin and runs from 8 a.m. until noon. For more information, www.w9mqb.org is your stop for the Tri-County club, and their hamfest information is an easy scroll on the page to find.

Operating wise, March 9 will be the Wisconsin QSO Party, sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club (www.warac.org). This event runs from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. that day, and it's a great opportunity to get on the air and make some contacts. CW, Phone and Digital modes are accepted (no FT4/FT8 though). On HF, 10, 15, 20, 40, 80 and 160 meters are fair play for contact and in VHF/UHF, 6, 2, 1.25 meters and 70 centimeters are in play.

The next few months will be busy ones within the section, and there will be a lot of opportunities for individuals and groups to showcase all things radio. When you do things like that, please let us know. We would love to celebrate your success with you! Also, as the events ramp up, we will be working to produce more podcasts of interest to Wisconsin Hams by Wisconsin Hams. This may include sit-down interviews and talks at hamfests, discussion about radio networks in the section and upcoming events (think Field Day, National Night Out and things like that), and discussion at operating events (POTA, Field Day, etc.) or audio of radio related presentations at forums.

Section Emergency Coordinator Report

From Dan Lenz, KB9IME, Wisconsin Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator-

It is the end of February already; it's been cold and snowy. The last thing you are likely thinking about is fire season and severe weather.

If you think about it, we in Wisconsin have several types of severe WX. We have tornados, thunderstorms, straight line wind events, high wind events, ice, snow and cold. We also have flooding and drought. All of these present several overlapping effects.

As an EMCOMM operator, how do you plan?

I suggest that you consider your deployment needs, or if you are not going to deploy, that you prepare your home station with what you may need to assist those in the field.

Your needs for different events will change, but the goal is to be able to take away from your gear rather than to add to it once operational. As an example, if you are deploying to a location that does not have or is not expecting to use DMR, you can leave it out.

If you will be remaining in a fixed location or at home, consider what serves your team best. In my case, I rarely deploy as a spotter, as such I am often tasked as net control for WX events. I keep at hand ICS 214's and communications log sheet 309 I have my computers on for both radar and in my case NWS Chat. APRS is running on one of my computers as well.

Your local ARES team will give you directions on what you do to best serve your community.

If you are new to EMCOMM I encourage you to get in contact with your local Emergency Coordinator.

Severe weather training will start in some areas as soon as late March.

Section Traffic Manager Report

January 2025

FAQ #282 Check, please. "Have your eyes been checked? Naw, they've always been blue." There's no need for confusion about the group count in a message. Checkered past notwithstanding, checking the check can sometimes best be shown by example.

Check this out. Text: "ARL SIXTY ONE LOVE TO ALL" = Check ARL 6

Text: "CALL ME AT 920 222 5205 X 73" = Check 8 (phone number in three parts. X counts as one)

Text: "ARL SEVEN HOW MANY ELECTRIC GENERATORS ARE AVAILABLE QUERY" = Check ARL 9 (The word, "query," counts as one.)

Text: "PLEASE ASSIGN THREE OPERATORS TO ARC CENTER BY 1300Z" = Check 9 (Letter group, "ARC," and mixed group, "1300Z," count as one each.)

Text: "SEND THIRTY ONE COPIES OF OPERATING AID FSD218 WITH NEXT OPERATOR" = Check 11 ("Thirty-one," is counted as two; mixed group, "FSD218," counts as one.)

Text: "CONTACT RED CROSS AUTHORITY AND OFFER ASSISTANCE OF TWELVE OPERATORS." = Check 10

Text: "ARL EIGHT THREE HTS ARL SEVEN ARL FOURTEEN FLOODING" Check = ARL 9 (Note that the "THREE HTS" fills in the information for "ARL EIGHT.")

In an ICS213 message format, an originating operator might just start the subject line like this: "MSG NR XX in YY GROUPS..." That's where a check could go.

Questions? No, the signature does not count as part of the text. Sure, it can get a little confusing. "Voicemail" is usually one word. "NUMBER 31" counts as two using the figures and three if spelled out "NUMBER THIRTY ONE." Writing the text in five word lines makes the counting even easier.

Send your STM a message and ask if the check is correct. Keep counting. It really helps to confirm that the message is accurate, and that's what we do. Use of a group count or check could be one way to be sure. We're counting on you counting. Check? 73 - K9LGU /STM-WI

Want to know how to send an ICS213 message in an NTS radiogram?

Here's a link and a sample.

<https://nts2.arri.org/form-encoding-rules-for-forms/>

<https://nts2.arri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Hybrid-Radiogram-ICS-213-1.pdf>

...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
<u>Badger Weather Net (BWN)</u> 3984 KHz, 0600	K9LUK	KB9GO	K9LUK	N9NBC	W9CPY	W9IHW	AG9G	WB9WKO
<u>Badger Emergency Net (BEN)</u> 3985 KHz, 1200 ALT 7270 KHz	NX9K	WJ9L	WJ9L NX9K	W9RTP	KB9IME	K9STN	NX9K	N9VC
<u>Wisconsin Side Band Net (WSBN)</u> 3985 or 3982.5 KHz, 1700	AG9G	NX9K KA9BAE	N9VC	KC9FXE	KB9GO	WB9WKO	AG9G	AC9F
<u>Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN)</u> 3555 KHz, Daily 1800	KB9ROB	KB9ROB	N9VC	*	*	*	AG9G	*
<u>Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Early (WIN-E)</u> 3555 KHz, 1900	WB9ICH	WB9ICH	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9CK	N9VC	AG9G	WB9ICH
<u>Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Late (WIN-L)</u> 3555 KHz, 2200	W9RTP	AG9G	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9VC	N9VC	W9RTP	W9RTP
<u>ARES/RACES Net</u> 3967 KHz, 0800 Sunday ALT 3977.5 or 7250	WB9WKO	*						
<u>WI ARES/RACES Digital Net</u> Tuesday on WINLink 7PM Mon - 7PM Tues	KD9USW		KD9USW					
<u>WI ARES/RACES VHF Net on WECOMM Frequencies</u> Last Thursday of the month 7PM	KA9KJE					KA9KJE		

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

1/19/2025

Section Youth Coordinator Report

From Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Section Youth Coordinator:

Breaking Mic-Shyness -- Tips for Rookies Nervous About Keying Up

One of the biggest hurdles for newcomers -- and what was the scariest thing to me when I began amateur radio -- is overcoming the fear of speaking into the microphone. It comes in many forms -- the nervousness of making your first contact or anxiety of joining a net, mic-shyness is extremely common. The good news is, however, that this is a common challenge; a little practice and the right approach, it's something you can easily overcome.

Start Small: Make Low-Pressure Contacts

If the thought of jumping into a busy net or a long conversation feels overwhelming, start by making short, simple contacts. Calling out CQ on a local repeater gives you a chance to practice speaking with little pressure. Many repeaters are filled with friendly operators who are more than

happy to chat with a new ham. Simply introducing yourself and letting them know you're new to the hobby is a great way to ease into it.

Create a Simple Script to Use

There's no need to memorize an entire script to read out for a contest; just having something written out that you can read can help make sure you don't mess up. Just a simple exchange template like the following works:

- Clear Identification: You need to identify yourself by name or callsign.
- Exchange Information: Typically, during a contest, you'll exchange signal reports (usually a 5/9 system) and location or grid square. This gives both stations an idea of signal strength and location.
- Closing the Contact: Once you've exchanged all the necessary information, you'll wrap up by thanking the other operator and signing off, typically with "73" (best regards), which is common in ham radio.

Join a Net for New Hams

Many areas have nets specifically for newcomers. These nets are low-pressure environments where experienced operators take turns speaking and often provide support for newcomers. Joining a net designed for new hams gives you a structured, less intimidating atmosphere in which you can practice keying up and speaking confidently.

Focus on the Process, Not Perfection

It's easy to get stuck in your head about sounding "perfect," but remember that amateur radio is about communication and connection -- not perfection. Everyone makes mistakes, especially when they're learning. Most hams will appreciate that you're taking the step to get on air and will be understanding if things don't go perfectly. Keep it simple and focus on having a conversation rather than on worrying about every word or detail.

Listen More Than You Talk

One of the best ways to overcome mic-shyness is to spend time listening to experienced operators. Pay attention to their pacing, tone, and how they interact with others. The more you listen, the more you'll absorb, and this can help you feel more comfortable when it's your turn to speak.

Final Thoughts

Mic-shyness is a common challenge for new hams, but it's something you can overcome with patience, practice, and a positive mindset. This is something that goes away with time, but it's exceptionally important to remember that newbies struggle with this. Keeping these things in mind will help create a supportive and encouraging environment for newcomers.

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.

In Memoriam

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

- Ronald J. Gorski, N9AU, 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: Sparta, WI

Sponsor: Mississippi Valley Amateur Radio Association

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

March 16, 2025 – Tri County WI Hamfest

Location: Jefferson, 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>

May 3, 2025 – ARAC Hamfest

Location: Superior, WI

Sponsor: Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club

Website: www.thearac.org

May 31, 2025 – Green Bay Hamfest

Location: Green Bay, WI

Sponsor: Green Bay Mike & Key Club

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

June 21, 2025 – Riverland ARC Swapmeet

Location: Onalaska, WI

Sponsor: Riverland Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://rarc.qth.com>

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](#). ***

ARRL Wisconsin Section

Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

kc9fxe@arrl.org



WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY JAN 2025

NET	QNI CHECK- INS	QTC TRAFFIC	QTR TIME	SSNS SESSIONS	NM
BWN	1159	1706	3268	31	K9LUK
BEN	359	320	509	31	NX9K
WSBN	539	234	756	31	AG9G
WSSN	155	69	385	31	KB9ROB
WIN/E	146	231	275	31	WB9ICH
WIN/L	159	113	262	31	W9RTP
WI ARES/RACES HF	61	9	116	4	WB9WKO
WI ARES/RACES VHF	31	0	45	1	KA9KJE
WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL	272	2743	5760	4	KD9USW
totals	2881	5425	11376	195	

P S H R SUMMARY JAN 2025

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	215	0	20	345
AG9G	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
K9LGU	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
KC9FXE	40	40	20	10	0	10	120
WB9WKO	40	40	30	10	0	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

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY Jan 2025

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	430	158	564	0	0	1152-BPL
WB9WKO	0	471	325	2	0	798-BPL
KB9GO	0	433	191	0	0	624-BL
AG9G	0	338	203	0	0	541-BPL
N9CK	0	208	208	0	0	416
KC9UC	0	133	165	0	0	298
N9VC	0	191	42	0	0	233
K9LGU	0	81	101	0	0	182
WJ9L	1	73	76	4	5	159
KB9ROB	1	55	16	12	1	85
W9RTP	0	25	6	0	1	32
KA9BAE	0	16	13	0	0	29
KC9FXE	0	12	6	0	0	28
WB9ICH	0	23	2	0	0	25
W9RNA	0	8	5	3	0	16
KA9KJE	1	5	1	0	0	7