



# WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: March 2025

ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

## From the Section Manager

It is with a heavy heart that I lead this month's newsletter with sad news. Last Friday we lost a well-known and important part of the amateur radio community in Wisconsin. Jack Thomas, W9JET, passed away at the age of 79.

Jack was well known around the state, especially in Western Wisconsin, where he was from. He was also an integral part of the development and overall success of a network known as WeComm.

It was always a pleasure conversing with Jack when he would pop into a social gathering or appear on one of the nets. He will be missed.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**ORC Spring Swapfest**

April 26, 2025

**Madison Hamfest**

April 26, 2025

**ARAC Hamfest**

May 3, 2025

**Green Bay Hamfest**

May 31, 2025

More details inside

**In other news:**

There is a new version of the [Active Club Primer](#) posted on the ARRL website. This document offers a lot of good guidance for club success and is worth a look.



**Field day** is June 28-29. There is a website dedicated to this event up and running. Start planning your field day activities early.

Clubs and ARES organizations should use this opportunity not only as a training exercise, but also as a recruiting event. It's recommended that you plan your event in a strategic public area to attract attention, and advertise your event.

The website: [Field Day](#)

There is a new version of the Rules and Regulations for ARRL Sanctioned Conventions and Hamfests available online. Follow this [link](#) for more information.

Last, but not least, Myron Oestreich and I were in attendance at the Mississippi Valley swapfest in Sparta a couple weeks ago. I usually try to make appearances in each area of the section, every year. Due to scheduling conflicts, I was not able to make it to the La Crosse area last year, so it was good to be back.



I will be attending the MARA hamfest in Stoughton next month and Tom Czaja will be at the ORC swapfest in Cedarburg. We look forward to connecting with many of you at those events.

**Until next time... 73!**

## General Announcements, Event, and Reminders



**Save the Date!**

The 27th annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference will be held

**October 11, 2025 at the McMillan Library, Wisconsin Rapids**

More information to follow



### ARRL to Gather Comments from Members on FCC's Public Notice

Dear ARRL Member,

On March 12, 2025, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a Public Notice titled "In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete," seeking input from the public on FCC rules that may be outdated, unnecessary, or in need of modification. This inquiry is part of the FCC's ongoing effort to alleviate regulatory burdens across various services, including the Amateur Radio Service.

As part of this review, ARRL is conducting a thorough examination of the provisions in Part 97 and related rules that affect amateur radio operators. ARRL's written comments, which will be prepared by our FCC Counsel and the ARRL Executive Committee, will include consideration of feedback we received from members.

Members who want to share comments and concerns about this matter are urged to share your feedback directly with ARRL. Please submit your comments by March 31, 2025 and use the following feedback form:

[www.arrl.org/fcc-public-notice-march-2025](http://www.arrl.org/fcc-public-notice-march-2025)

ARRL will submit our official filing to the FCC by the April 11 deadline. After that, there will be an opportunity for reply comments at the FCC until April 28, and then later, opportunities for public comment on any rules the FCC proposes to delete or modify.

While the FCC Public Notice is a broad inquiry that does not single out any specific radio service, ARRL is nonetheless committed to protecting the Amateur Radio Service, promoting its public interest goals, and ensuring your right to access radio spectrum.

ARRL will continue to work on this matter, and we will inform members as more news develops.

Thank you,

73

ARRL Executive Committee



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=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:

Welcome to March! In true March fashion, the weather has overall been pretty decent, with a couple days that leave us scratching our heads and wondering what exactly Mother Nature was thinking. Aside from baseball season starting at the end of the month, we did have some good things take place in the section over the month. It all started on March 2 with the Mississippi Valley Amateur Radio Club swap meet in

Sparta. After that, the Wisconsin QSO Party was on

March 9, and the Tri-County Amateur Radio Club's annual hamfest was on March 16. All three events were great in their own rite and hats off to those who planned the events. Your hard work is appreciated.



Pictured: Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Richard Polivka, N6NKO, and Tom Czaja, KG9EE, at the Tri-County Hamfest



Looking into April, we see that April 18 is World Amateur Radio Day. The ARRL has released some information including a Public Relations (PR) kit for the event to help the local organizations that may choose to hold an open house to show off amateur radio and what it's all about. <https://www.arrrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day> is the URL to get you to

more information about the event if your group may be thinking of participating. This is an excellent way to help spread the word about amateur radio and would work as a great recruiting tool if your group is considering offering testing or license workshops down the line.

This month, let's look at another part of the lead-up to Field Day. I'm sure many of you are sitting there, shaking your head and asking why Field Day is being talked about months ahead of time. The answer is quite simple. In order to work out things a group would like to do (or people they'd like to invite) during Field Day, time is your best friend. By planning early, you afford yourself precious time to really think through your setup so it is the best it can be. That's where today's point will come in.

One of the ways a participating group can earn bonus points is through having elected officials and representatives of served agencies visit your field day site. Cool idea, right? Easy points to get someone to stop out at Field Day. It's a walk in the park, isn't it? Well, in some cases yes. In other cases, not so much. Depending on who you are sending an invitation to for Field Day, the earlier you can get the invite sent in, the better the odds of it being added to calendars. Case in point, members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. I live in the third congressional district, so I'll use my House rep as an example. Our local group plans to invite Representative Van Orden and Senators Baldwin and Johnson to Field Day for a visit. If

the invite is sent out before Easter, if their schedule is clear there's a chance they'll pay a visit. With national representatives, please keep in mind that congressional schedules are *incredibly* fluid and depending on how their schedules work out, they might not even be in the state, so they may reply and respectfully decline. State representatives are a bit easier to coordinate scheduling with, but bear in mind that June is dairy month in the state and there are June Dairy Breakfasts all over that want politicians to show up to as well. Also keep in mind that everyone on the invite list has families and personal commitments, so don't be upset if they decline the invitation. Local dignitaries (county Sheriff, Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs, Mayors, Emergency Management Directors, town board representatives) are usually easier to have attend your event, but please remember that getting the invitation out sooner than later is the big thing.

Please forgive me if this sounds negative, but when invitations are sent out to elected and appointed officials, be prepared to either not hear back from people you invite or to have a simple email with a "thanks but no thanks" reply. It's nothing personal, I promise. In my experience, some invitees our local group reached out to were very happy to be invited, but simply had other plans that day and couldn't attend. Other invitees don't even acknowledge the invitation. Ultimately, you took the time to extend an invitation to them – and that puts your group on their radar for possible further contact later.

Next month, we'll talk about getting press releases out and spreading the word about your Field Day event. Until next month, please take a moment to enjoy the spring that's trying to arrive.

## **Section Emergency Coordinator Report**

Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, Wisconsin Section Emergency Coordinator-

No report.

## **Section Traffic Manager Report**

***February 2025  
Making Conversation***

FAQ # 283 What do you say after the signal report? Sure, there are the usual topics of interest. You're talking with another amateur, so you can compare radios, antennas, locations, and license history. You might share some theories about propagation and band use. Lots of accessories such as microphones, software, keys and keyers, digital connections, and test equipment can be worthy of discussion.

You'll find some areas of agreement – "Yep. That's the way the shortwave ratios." And you may discover other points of view. "I've heard the stories about NVIS propagation, but I've always found. . ." You may even share more personal notes about your family, your pets, your work. Want to become an interesting conversationalist? Listen more. Ask plenty of questions about the other operator and *really listen* to the answers.

Another broad area of discussion may be operating interests. Hams are a diverse bunch. Want to help with communications during a disaster? ARES/RACES has a place for you. From brass pounders to EME enthusiasts, from experimenters to designers and builders, from contesters to traffic handlers – there's a lot of choices.

My point is this. They overlap. (No, not the operators' tummies over their belts – I mean their interests.) A Ham who experiments with antennas can try them on a traffic net. Someone who finds success in digital DX-ing can apply those skills in a contest – or to pass formal traffic. Learning to speak clearly and use phonetics properly can help a DX station find you in a pile-up as well as support accurate handling of a radiogram. Keeping your equipment in good shape pays off in emergency readiness and in more enjoyable nets and daily ragchewing.

Everything's related. It's all relative. Relatives? I could tell tales, but – like my third floor – that's another story. 73 – 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
<u>Badger Weather Net (BWN)</u> 3984 KHz, 0600	<a href="#">K9LUK</a>	KB9GO	K9LUK	N9NBC	W9CPY	W9IHW	AG9G	WB9WKO
<u>Badger Emergency Net (BEN)</u> 3985 KHz, 1200 ALT 7270 KHz	<a href="#">NX9K</a>	WJ9L	WJ9L NX9K	W9RTP	KB9IME	K9STN	NX9K	N9VC
<u>Wisconsin Side Band Net (WSBN)</u> 3985 or 3982.5 KHz, 1700	<a href="#">AG9G</a>	NX9K KA9BAE	N9VC	KC9FXE	KB9GO	WB9WKO	AG9G	AC9F
<u>Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN)</u> 3555 KHz, Daily 1800	<a href="#">KB9ROB</a>	KB9ROB	N9VC	*	*	*	AG9G	*
<u>Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Early (WIN-E)</u> 3555 KHz, 1900	<a href="#">WB9ICH</a>	WB9ICH	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9CK	N9VC	AG9G	WB9ICH
<u>Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Late (WIN-L)</u> 3555 KHz, 2200	<a href="#">W9RTP</a>	AG9G	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9VC	N9VC	W9RTP	W9RTP
<u>ARES/RACES Net</u> 3967 KHz, 0800 Sunday ALT 3977.5 or 7250	<a href="#">WB9WKO</a>	*						
<u>WI ARES/RACES Digital Net</u> Tuesday on WINLink 7PM Mon - 7PM Tues	<a href="#">KD9USW</a>		KD9USW					
<u>WI ARES/RACES VHF Net on WECOMM Frequencies</u> Last Thursday of the month 7PM	<a href="#">KA9KJE</a>					KA9KJE		

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



# Section Youth Coordinator Report

From Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Section Youth Coordinator:

## **Being an Effective Elmer — Creating Mentorship That Lasts**

Every seasoned ham remembers an Elmer who patiently guided them through the complexities of amateur radio. For many of us, those early experiences defined our passion for the hobby and motivated us to stay involved. But how do we, as experienced operators, actively build structured and effective mentorship that keep new hams engaged and confident?

## **Why Elmering Matters More Than Ever**

The amateur radio community faces a common challenge: attracting and retaining new operators. While licensing classes are available and exams are easier to access than ever, what happens after someone earns their license is just as important. Without proper guidance, many new hams feel overwhelmed, unsure of what to do next, or even unwelcome on the air.

This is where Elmering comes in. Effective mentoring can make the difference between a lifelong enthusiast and someone who leaves their license to collect dust. As experienced hams, we have a responsibility to pass down our knowledge and ensure the hobby continues to grow.

## **Steps to Being a Successful Elmer:**

### Create a Welcoming Culture

Amateur radio clubs and groups need to actively encourage a friendly and inclusive atmosphere.

### Removing Gatekeeping

Ensure that meetings, nets, and club activities are accessible to all skill levels. Avoid making newcomers feel like they're "doing it wrong" or "not real hams" because they prefer VHF/UHF or digital modes over HF -- it's something that's not commonplace in Wisconsin but can be in other states.

### Celebrating Newcomer Achievements

Publicly acknowledge milestones like passing a license exam, making their first DX contact, or even just joining their first net. Recognition builds confidence and encourages further participation.

### Pairing Mentors with Mentees

The most successful Elmering programs pair newcomers with mentors who share their interests.

### Use an Interest Survey

Have new members fill out a simple form describing their goals and what aspects of the hobby they're most excited about (e.g., HF, contesting, digital modes, satellite operation, etc.).

### Create a Mentorship Directory

Maintain a list of experienced operators willing to mentor others, along with their areas of expertise.

### Establish Clear Introductions

Make sure mentors and mentees meet regularly, whether online or in person, with structured topics to cover during each meeting.

### Provide Clear Goals and Milestones

Many newcomers become overwhelmed because they don't know what to work toward. Helping them set achievable goals can boost their confidence and keep them engaged.

### Create Achievement Paths

For example, setting milestones like successfully making a local repeater contact, working their first DX station, building their own antenna, or learning how to operate digital modes.

### Celebrate Every Step

Whether it's a casual congratulations over the air or a more formal recognition at a club meeting, making progress feel valued is key.

### Offer Hands-On Opportunities

Nothing beats learning by doing. As experienced operators, we should actively provide practical experiences for new hams.

### Invite Newcomers to Your Shack

Show them your setup, explain how it all works, and let them make contacts under your guidance. Equipment can be expensive, and most newcomers (as I was) shocked by how well a tower works on HF.

### Encourage Operating Under Supervision

Let them call CQ, run a net, or make contacts during a contest with your guidance to build skill and comfort.

### Follow-Up and Stay Involved

Mentoring doesn't end after a few friendly QSOs.

### Check-In Regularly

Whether it's through emails, phone calls, or on-air contacts, keeping communication open is crucial. Also, invite them to participate in club projects, special event stations, or even co-host a net.

### Be Patient and Supportive

Remember, everyone learns at their own pace. Celebrate their progress and keep them motivated.

## The Result

Elmering is about more than just passing on technical knowledge — it's about fostering a culture of learning, curiosity, and inclusivity in amateur radio. When done effectively, it leads to passionate, knowledgeable new hams who will one day become Elmers themselves.

### 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.

- Ronald Hansen, KD9QLC, of Manitowoc – [view](#)
- Robert Rose, N9VOY, of Chippewa Falls – [view](#)
- Rahlf Proulx, N9AWG, of Manitowoc – [view](#)
- Jack Thomas, W9JET, of Hammond - [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

### 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/>

**June 21, 2025 – Riverland ARC Swapmeet**

Location: Onalaska, WI  
Sponsor: Riverland Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://rarc.qth.com>

**July 5, 2025 – South Milwaukee ARC Hamfest**

Location: Oak Creek, WI  
Sponsor: South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <https://www.wi9sm.org>

**September 6, 2025 – ORC Annual Regional Fall Swapfest**

Location: Cedarburg, WI  
Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club  
Website: <https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.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>

**October 11, 2025 – Wisconsin Section Convention / ARES Conference**

Location: Wisconsin Rapids, WI  
Sponsor: WI ARES & WeComm  
Website: [wi-arrl.org/events](http://wi-arrl.org/events)

**October 18, 2025 – Hidden Valley ARC Free Hamfest**

Location: Lancaster, WI  
Sponsor: Hidden Valley Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://kc9kq.net>

\*\*\* 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**

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

**STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY FEB 2025**

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	481	100	705	0	0	1286 -BPL
WB9WKO	0	708	281	0	0	992 - BPL
KB9GO	0	426	214	0	0	640 - BPL
AG9G	0	291	178	0	0	469
N9CK	0	227	225	0	0	452
N9VC	0	233	42	0	0	275
KC9UC	0	103	138	0	0	241
K9LGU	0	56	73	1	0	130
WJ9L	0	54	51	7	1	113
KB9ROB	2	54	17	12	7	92
K9STN	0	4	35	6	0	45
W9RTP	1	25	6	1	1	34
KC9FXE	0	8	15	3	0	24
WB9ICH	0	20	2	0	0	22
KA9BAE	0	9	12	0	0	21
KA9KJE	2	7	2	0	0	11
W9RNA	0	4	2	4	0	10

**WISCONSIN SECTION PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR ROLL FEB 2025**

<b>POSSIBLE POINTS &gt;</b>	<b>40 nets</b>	<b>40 tfc</b>	<b>30 appt</b>	<b>5 /hr. sked events</b>	<b>5 /hr. emrg events</b>	<b>10ea bbs/web pg</b>	
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>N9VC</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>395</b>
<b>AG9G</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>WB9WKO</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>KC9FXE</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>K9LGU</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>NX9K</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>KB9GO</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>KC9UC</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>

**WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY FEB 2025**

<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>1060</b>	<b>1574</b>	<b>2945</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>K9LUK</b>
<b>BEN</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>NX9K</b>
<b>WSBN</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>AG9G</b>
<b>WSSN</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>KB9ROB</b>
<b>WIN/E</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>WB9ICH</b>
<b>WIN/L</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>W9RTP</b>
<b>WI ARES/RACES HF</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>WB9WKO</b>
<b>WI ARES/RACES VHF</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>KA9KJE</b>
<b>WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>2836</b>	<b>5760</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>KD9USW</b>
<b>totals</b>	<b>2588</b>	<b>5170</b>	<b>10702</b>	<b>176</b>	