



# WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: June 2025  
ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

## From the Section Manager

Greetings everyone!

I'd like to start by thanking the Green Bay Mike & Key Club for having a great hamfest and allowing Myron and I to set up a table. Every year that fest gets bigger and bigger and this year, mother nature even cooperated for those who wanted to set up in the parking lot. Preliminary attendance counts were at 266. Keep up the good work!

The photo below is a CW key construction station for kids to participate in. This event was sponsored by the Bay-Lakes Council of the Boy Scouts and their amateur radio club who are very active in amateur radio activities.



Pictured above is **Shawn Niemann, W9SLN**, one of the club's leaders, who is a most recent recipient of the ARRL's Service to

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Riverland Swapfest

June 21, 2025

FCARC Swapfest

June 21, 2025

S. Milwaukee  
Swapfest

July 5, 2025

More details inside

Scouting Award. Shawn is not the only one, however; The club has one additional award recipient, **Mike Moegenburg, KE9AGO**. Thank you both, and your club, for all the work you do to promote amateur radio. You are a great example to follow!

Below are a couple more general pictures of the fest, compliments of Mayron.



**Field Day Activity** - As you know, Field Day is next weekend. In the past, many of you sent messages to me during the event to gain some points (not with me, but for the contest). I hope that I receive even more messages this year. As in the past, I will reply to each properly formatted message that I receive.

I can be reached through any of the Section Traffic Nets, either directly or through relay. I hope to be live on some of the nets during Field Day. Just check in to the net "with traffic" and when call upon, you can list your traffic for me. If I'm there, I'll take it; if not, someone will pick it up and relay it to me. I will also check Winlink RMS from time to time, if you choose that method. I've even been known to be on a certain frequency, by request, to take a message.

Whatever works for you, I look forward to the messages!

Have a fun and safe Field Day!



**ARES Happenings** – As I have alluded to in recent months, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes activity brewing in the world of ARES in Wisconsin, and good things are happening. I'd like to take this opportunity to fill you in on some of this activity.

One of my goals, early on, was to build a dedicated team who can work together to serve our ARES members as well as the agencies they serve. To accomplish that, we have added new positions, changed some leadership, filled some vacancies, and reassigned some duties.

At times, we've been distracted by some minor to moderate bumps in the road that slowed the forward progression of our mission. Right now, I feel better than I ever have, about the team we have and our forward progression. That said, we have a couple key positions to fill:

- District Emergency Coordinator – East Central District
- District Emergency Coordinator – West Central District

Both positions are currently being held by interim leaders who also hold other positions within the WI Section. I feel that the DEC is the most important link in the ARES chain of command. They are the voice of their district and provide guidance between its members and senior leadership. If you are a good leader and communicator, we want you! Contact Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK/SEC for more details.

There are also numerous counties that do not have an organized ARES team. If you live in one of those areas and would like to get a team stated, let us know. We are here to help.

Before I move on from the topic of appointments, I'd like to also announce the following:

- **Vic Shier, WT9Q**, has been appointed to the position of Emergency Coordinator for La Crosse County. Vic had previously served as an EC for Washington County before he moved across the state. La Crosse was a key area in which we wanted to establish a formal ARES group, and Vic has hit the ground running. His leadership and very successful experience will definitely be an asset to the La Crosse area as well as the West Central District.

In our recent ARES leadership meeting, Dan Lenz, KB9IME/ASEC, presented a three-year strategic plan for ARES. This plan will serve as a road map to guide ARES into the future. This is a section level guide that will be very easy to adapt to district and/or local levels. The Strategic Plan was presented for final review and input from leadership, once complete it will go to the SEC for final approval and to be published.

A series of additional documents have either been updated or created to support our Strategic Plan. They include the following:

- ARES/RACES Leadership Guide (for ECs and AECs)
- ARES/RACES Onboarding Checklist
- County ARES Emergency Communications Plan Template
- ARES/RACES Activation Flowchart
- Wisconsin ARES/RACES Position Task Book (PTB)

These documents are intended to serve as working outlines to support consistency across the state while allowing for local flexibility. These documents have also been distributed for review and comments. Final revisions and recommendations will go to the SEC for implementation.

One final item that we have is a training plan for the remainder of 2025. You will see this plan in the section of this newsletter actually dedicated to ARES news. Looks like I got a little long winded, but that happens when there is exciting stuff happening.

That said, I'll let you get on with the rest of the newsletter.

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



# General Announcements, Event, and Reminders

## WI ARES Conference - Call for Presenters



Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference

# CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Would you like to present at the 2025 Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference? We are looking for presentation abstracts for our conference. Topics must be related to event planning or pre-planning for activations (and all that goes with event planning) and needs to be able to fill a 30-60 minute timeslot.

Requirements for Submission:

- Must provide a description
- Must list presentation objectives

Abstracts must be emailed to Wisconsin Section Public Information Coordinator Myron Oestreich, KB9STB. Email [wi.arrl.pic@gmail.com](mailto:wi.arrl.pic@gmail.com) by July 31, 2025. The conference committee will review submissions after that date.

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference is being held on October 11, 2025 at the McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids. While the conference committee is working in the background to get the conference going, we want to pass some information along to help you start planning to attend this year's event.

For 2025, we are focusing on a theme for the conference after the annual updates and awards are covered. That theme will have to do with all things related to planning service events and pre-planning for real world communications incidents. The hope with this year's conference theme is to help local groups gain the knowledge and tools necessary to be a ready and valuable asset for served agencies in times of need. The theme is somewhat open to interpretation because there are a lot of moving parts to planning, and we didn't want to zero in on one specific area. For some ARES/RACES members, this may serve as a good review with déjà vu sprinkled in. For those who are newer to the world

of ARES/RACES, this may be the opportunity to really get a foothold on how things work and need to happen in the real world.

This is where the Conference Committee is asking for your help. Do you have experience related to our theme that you'd be willing to share at the conference? If so, we would like to hear from you. Here's what we're looking for in a presentation:

- Must be able to fill 30-60 minutes
- Must be related to the theme of this year's conference

If you meet the criteria we've laid out for presentations (it's not that tough, we promise), please send an email to [wi.arrl.pic@gmail.com](mailto:wi.arrl.pic@gmail.com), and put "Conference Presentation" in the subject line. In the email, we'd like to know about your presentation – a short description and some goals or objectives to help the Conference Committee determine how we can best plug your presentation in to the conference. We are asking that any presentation abstracts/descriptions be submitted by *July 31, 2025* so the Conference Committee can review them, make decisions and work on scheduling.

As the time draws closer to the conference, please keep an eye on the Wisconsin ARES/RACES Facebook page for more information. We hope to see you October 11!



## New Club Resources

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.

There is also a new [Convention and Hamfest Primer](#) that has been published.

Both are excellent and up to date resources for clubs!



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

The website: [Field Day](#)

## ARRL Field Day

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 31,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.



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

Click on the graphic for details.





## New Ham? No problem!

If you are a new ham or know a new ham, the ARRL has a web page full of resources to help a new ham get started. The ARRL is also offering an Operating Manual to new members to help them get started.

Visit the new ham resources page at: <https://www.arrl.org/new-ham-resources>

A promotional graphic for ARRL membership. The background is blue. On the left, white text reads "ARRL MEMBERSHIP CAN HELP YOU GET ACTIVE ON-THE-AIR". Below this, yellow text reads "The *ARRL Operating Manual* is our gift to you when you join!". At the bottom left, small white text says "Get this comprehensive guide to amateur radio operating with code RESOURCE". On the right is a 3D rendering of the "The ARRL OPERATING MANUAL" book, 12th Edition, for Radio Amateurs. The cover features a photo of a woman with glasses and a microphone.



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

## STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

### Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, the sharing of information is critical to public safety and the well-being of communities across Wisconsin and the nation, especially during times of emergency; and

*WHEREAS*, amateur radio has worked to provide emergency communications services during disasters and public emergencies and offers a reliable backup resource when other forms of communication fail; and

*WHEREAS*, the safety of first responders and those they serve is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of the information received, and licensed amateur radio services are committed to providing reliable and transparent communication to first responders and community members; and

*WHEREAS*, on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin recognizes the dedication of amateur radio operators, advocates, and organizations that volunteer their time, skills, and equipment to serve Wisconsin communities;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim June 22 – 29, 2025, as

### AMATEUR RADIO WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 13th day of June 2025.

*Tony Evers*  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

*Samuel J. Godlewski*  
SAMUEL GODLEWSKI  
Secretary of State



## Public Information Coordinator Report

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

Welcome to June in Wisconsin! With amateur radio operators, when June comes around we harken to other, simpler times – like sitting by the fire listening to the Brewer game, POTA outings, and of course Field Day at the end of the month. That is fast on the horizon, with June 28 and 29 being the event. On the morning of June 28, we'll start a thread on the ARRL – Wisconsin Section Facebook page where you can share your adventures (and misadventures) in the comment section. There may be a subset in the comments for posting the most gluttonous Field Day food too. We'll have to get back to you on that after Wilford Brimley decides whether to offer the "Dibeetus" endorsement to it. I do wish the absolute best of fortune for you and/or your group for the event and do hope your Field Day operations are unabashed successes.

One other more substantial public relations event is on the horizon this summer that your local groups may be interested in, if you don't participate in it already. That's National Night Out (NNO), and it is scheduled to be held nationally on August 5, 2025. Many locales in the state run this event, and it's a great opportunity to get the word out about amateur radio. If your group participates, it may be a wise idea to think about the possibility of offering a license workshop (be it HamCram or any workshop variation) and have that information at the ready for NNO. That way if someone is interested, they have a point to look toward if they'd like to pursue getting licensed.

Looking in the rear-view mirror for a moment, KC9FXE and I attended the Green Bay Mic and Key Club hamfest May 31. The fest was well attended, and it's always a good time to be able to put faces to voices and reconnect with hams that we haven't seen in some time. Plus, Mother Nature was in the mood to have a hamfest so the weather was top notch. It was so neat to see the youth lounge that the Bay-Lakes Council Amateur Radio Club set up. They had all the pieces to help young people construct their own fully operational Morse Code key, and it was very interesting to watch. Shawn and the Bay-Lakes club have many great youth-oriented events on the horizon, and it'll be good to see how they work out. Hats off to everyone who worked on the fest.

Next up is the Riverland Amateur Radio Club Swapfest in Onalaska at the American Legion on June 21, 2025. The Coulee region is a gorgeous area for scenery, and a short diversion to the hamfest along with sightseeing can make for a great day.

## Section ARES/RACES Report

From Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, Section Emergency Coordinator:

**ARES/RACES:** Form 2 reporting numbers continue to improve, but we are still looking for more counties to report their numbers. Reporting of this information is critical to ARRL lobbying efforts to maintain our use of the spectrum and demonstrate the value we all bring to our communities as volunteers. WE know the value we bring but this reporting is how we ensure OTHERS know the value of amateur radio to the community.

ARES/RACES Senior leadership is currently reviewing and revising the state strategic plan, Training plan, and several other guiding documents for our section's districts and counties to use. Special thanks goes out to Dan Lenz, KB9IME, for his time and effort with the revisions and brainstorming on the revision drafts. We encourage our leaders at the county and district level to provide your feedback to ensure the documents not only achieve the goals of the ARRL, and our State but reflect how they are used in the field as well.

**State data for May 2025:**

Report: Form4

Division: Central

Section: Wisconsin

Month/Year: May 2025

History: Reported by Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, SEC on 2025-06-16 23:35:37 UTC

Number of DEC/ECs reporting this month:	24
Total number of DEC/ECs appointed in section:	42
4. Total number of ARES members:	347
Difference in ARES members from previous month:	N/D
5. Number of ARES net sessions held:	64
6. Number of ARES net sessions held with NTS liaison:	20
7. Number of participants in nets:	504

	Number	Person-Hrs
8. Exercises this month:	26	174.60
9. Training events this month:	38	405.80
10. Public service events this month:	8	152.00
11. Community service events this month:	5	74.00
12. Emergency events this month:	1	1.00
13. SKYWARN events this month:	23	305.00

14. Meetings this month: 31 267.30

15. Unclassified events this month: 19 107.50

**Total Person Hours: 1487.2**

**Total Value provided to WI for May 2025 : \$51,739.69**

**National Data Year-to-date:**

M o n t h	A R E S N e t s	A R E S / N T S	N e t P r t c p n t	Exer cises		Train ing		Pub Servi ce		Com m Servi ce		Eme rg		SKY WAR N		Meet ings		Uncl assifi ed	
				N u m	H r s	N u m	H r s	N u m	H r s	N u m	H r s	N u m	H r s	N u m	H r s	N u m	H r s	N u m	H r s
Jan	3,693	1,111	21,415	937	7,436	1,010	8,873	175	1,517	64	2,010	144	851	387	1,311	732	7,380	827	4,549
Feb	3,710	1,132	28,554	529	5,530	1,303	7,367	166	1,686	74	1,178	105	199	253	1,745	535	7,147	718	3,989
Mar	4,242	1,314	31,956	713	6,243	1,619	6,717	370	2,180	154	4,151	62	1,041	478	8,134	588	6,958	1,012	8,131
Apr	5,703	1,370	27,134	463	5,528	1,065	8,094	195	5,175	110	4,386	39	395	426	4,737	541	7,275	753	4,089
May	2,709	570	14,521	185	1,769	1,134	5,540	123	3,991	125	1,610	18	96	255	1,688	330	2,186	206	1,090
<b>Tot als</b>	<b>20,057</b>	<b>5,497</b>	<b>123,580</b>	<b>2,827</b>	<b>26,507</b>	<b>6,131</b>	<b>36,593</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>14,551</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>13,337</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>2,584</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>17,617</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>30,947</b>	<b>3,516</b>	<b>21,850</b>

Total Sections Rep 136

ARES Member-Months 60,371

Total Person-Hrs	163,989
Total Value	\$5,705,177.31
Drills/Train/Test	8,958
Pub/Comm Serv Events	1,556
Emergency Ops	368
ARES Ops	18,923

**WECOMM** continues to work on the PBX linking issue for all sites. Currently, Meteor is offline due to rodent damage - repairs are in progress. The rest of the system repeaters are operational as standalone repeaters until the PBX link is restored.

We continue to pursue funding opportunities and grants, but individual donations are still what keeps the systems on the air. Monthly operational costs for our systems just to "keep the lights on" is \$475. That does not include any maintenance, repair, insurance or upgrade/replacement expenses.

Your donations are greatly appreciated and are what enable us to provide this resource to the Amateur Radio community.



## **Strength Through Preparedness: A Training Outline for Wisconsin ARES/RACES**

*By Dan Lenz, ASEC Wisconsin ARES/RACES – June 2025*

As Wisconsin continues to face evolving threats from natural disasters, infrastructure failures, and communication blackouts, the Wisconsin ARES/RACES program must be agile, disciplined, and resilient. This begins with a comprehensive training program that not only builds individual operator proficiency but also ensures **unit sustainability and rapid deployment readiness**.

### **The Mission: Reliable Emergency Communications When It Matters Most**

The core mission of ARES/RACES is to provide auxiliary communications to support public safety and emergency management agencies. To do this effectively, we must:

- Maintain a **trained, available cadre** of amateur radio operators.
- Ensure **local units are self-sustaining**, both administratively and operationally.
- Be able to **deploy quickly and communicate across multiple platforms**: VHF/UHF, HF, digital, and IP-linked modes.

### **July–December 2025: Statewide Training Focus Areas**

The second half of 2025 will emphasize:

#### **1. Basic Activations (July–August)**

Each county will run a minimum of one local activation drill involving:



- ICS-213 message passing (voice & Winlink)
- EmComm Go-Kit deployment
- Contact with local EOCs and served agencies

**Goal:** Build confidence in first-response activation tasks.

## **2. Digital Mode Proficiency (August–September)**

All units will run peer-to-peer Winlink exercises and FLDIGI tests, focusing on:

- Inter-county communication without RMS gateways
- HF message injection during drills

**Goal:** Build off-grid digital comms capabilities.

## **3. Unit Sustainability Block (September–October)**

Every EC will review and update:

- County-level communications plans
- ARES/RACES roster accuracy
- Operator skill/training logs and PTB progress
- Identification of leadership bench depth (AECs, Net Control, Digital Ops)

**Goal:** Ensure each unit can function with rotating leadership and minimal state-level support.

## **4. Deployment Readiness Drills (November)**

Each district will run a **2- to 4-hour deployment drill** involving:

- Alert/activation flow per updated flowcharts
- Staggered deployments to served agency sites or designated comms points
- Simulated traffic from SEOC or County EM

**Goal:** Test full-cycle response from callout to demobilization.

## **5. After Action Reviews and Sustainment Planning (December)**

Each unit will conduct an internal AAR to:

- Identify gaps in readiness
- Document equipment or training shortfalls
- Propose 2026 training calendar entries

## **Sustaining the Force: Leadership and Documentation**

Sustainable units don't rely on one leader or a few volunteers. They build:

- **Shared leadership:** All ECs must be training backups; AECs must be engaged.

- **Documented procedures:** SOPs, call trees, and ICS templates must be up to date.
- **Roster engagement:** Regular net participation, training tracking, and activation response all feed into PTBs and leadership evaluations.

### Deployment Starts With Planning

ARES/RACES deployment doesn't start the day of the event. It starts today—with well-maintained go-kits, updated frequency plans, and practiced message forms. Whether supporting a shelter, a dam break, or relaying messages for a downed system, our professionalism is built on **planned training and practiced execution**.

## Section Traffic Manager Report

**STM Report**  
**Wisconsin Section**  
**May 2025**  
*Sequence*

FAQ #286 What follows what and why does it matter? To make your communications vest even more attractive, you might add some sparkling trim and. . . Oh! (familiar sound of hand striking forehead) An alert reader has just informed me that sequins aren't quite the same as "sequence." *Sequence* is the order of things – and it becomes very important in passing a formal message efficiently.

Whether you're using NTS, ICS-213, or another format in the message you're sending, it's helpful to the receiver to keep the parts in order. In the NTS preamble, that's number, precedence, handling instructions, station of origin, check, place of origin, time, and date. In ICS-213, the order is incident name, person it's going to, who it's from, (a message number and precedence if included), subject, time, date, and text. When elements of a message are sent in the proper sequence, the receiving operator knows what to expect. Especially under poor conditions, knowing what to listen for helps.

Think of a message as a contest exchange. If you know you're going to hear a number and section, it limits the possibilities and allows you to focus specifically on the exact figures and letters. You can predict more accurately within a range. So a sender starts the NTS preamble with the word "number" but then doesn't label the rest of the parts, but keeps their sequence. Then the remainder of the message follows the plan. That's the order of the day.

Even the text may have some order to it. For example, the text of your annual Field Day message to the SM or SEC would include the name of your group, your location, the number of participants, and the number of ARES/RACES members probably in that order.

Just as there's an order to a traffic net, a to-do list, or a construction project, there's an order to a formal message. Using the right sequence isn't really a tough, er, *order*. 73 – K9LGU/STM-WI

**...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:

### Youth at Field Day — Why Voice Still Matters

Last year, I wrote about why we need to get youth past FT8 and into more engaging digital modes. FT8 is an incredible introduction to the HF bands — there's no denying that. It's low-pressure, easy to set up, and immediately rewarding. For a new ham, it's exciting for them to see how they contacted someone across the country with a wire in a tree. But in my opinion, FT8 doesn't give them the full amateur radio experience. And Field Day, our biggest and most visible on-air event of the year, is the perfect place to fix that.

#### FT8 is a Start, whereas Voice is the Hook.

FT8 shows new operators that HF works. But it doesn't show them what operating really feels like. When a kid sees a waterfall of automated contacts and a computer logging everything on its own, the initial excitement wears off quickly. There's no interaction. No learning curve. No personality. It's effective, but it's not engaging — it just isn't memorable.

Just imagine this conversation, and see if you'd stick around for amateur radio:

Kid: "So... how are you talking to other people?"

Operator: “Oh, the computer is doing all the talking/contacts for us.”

FT8 is the thing kids say is cool, not the thing that makes a kid say “I want to get licensed.” By contrast, voice operation gives youth a chance to actually connect.

### **Why Voice Over FT8?**

I remember the first time I keyed up a microphone; I was 10 years old, gripping a Baofeng and barely able to say my callsign just from my sheer nerves. I’m sure you can relate to that hesitation in some way, and that hesitation is very present in kids who visit Field Day stations. They’re surrounded by unfamiliar equipment, people calling out strange phrases, and background noise that makes it hard to focus.

Yet, I find that fear fades away the moment they make their first contact and someone talks back. They’ve gone from *watching radio* to *doing radio*. Do not get me wrong — if a kid is too afraid to do voice, then still put them on FT8; this article isn’t trying to gate keep or dissuade people from doing FT8. However, I’ve still heard countless times that Field Day is about demonstrating amateur radio to the public — if we really mean that, then we need to give youth (and the general public) a chance to be behind the mic and not a monitor. It doesn’t have to be DX. It doesn’t have to be fast. What matters, however, is that they made it with their own voice.

### **Final Thoughts**

Again, the purpose of this article is not to completely discourage FT8 — there are times where FT8 is better than voice, and FT8 is a very stress-free way of demonstrating amateur radio. But, if your club is serious about involving youth in Field Day, consider giving them a microphone and not a keyboard. FT8 can get them on the air, but voice is what actually makes memories and the want to become an operator.

### **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.

- Bill Maves, WJ0M, of Elk Mound, 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**



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

Location: Onalaska, WI

Sponsor: Riverland Amateur Radio Club

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

**June 21, 2025 – FCARC Sunshine Swapfest**

Location: Oshkosh, WI

Sponsor: Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://fcarc.club/>

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

Location: Oak Creek, WI

Sponsor: South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://www.wi9sm.org>

**August 9, 2025 – W9UDU Free Fest**

Location: Franksville, WI

Sponsor: W9UDU

Website: <http://w9udu.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 4, 2025 – 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Wisconsin Swapfest**

Location: Colby, WI

Sponsor: Black River Amateur Radio Association

Website: Not Provided

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

Location: Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Sponsor: WI ARES & WeComm

Website: [wi-arrrl.org/events](http://wi-arrrl.org/events)

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

Location: Lancaster, WI

Sponsor: Hidden Valley Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://kc9kq.net>

**November 2, 2025 – FCARC Annual Hamfest**

Location: Oshkosh, WI

Sponsor: Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://fcarc.club/>



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

---

**ARRL Wisconsin Section**

**Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE**

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

---



## **WNA Meeting June 7, 2025**

The quarterly meeting of the Wisconsin Nets Association, Ltd. was called to order by NX9K at 4 PM on 7272 KHz. The purpose of the WNA was reviewed.

Roll: Chair: NX9K, Acting Secretary: KB9ROB, Treasurer: N9VC, Members-at-Large: NONE SM: ABSENT  
STM: K9LGU, ASTM: N9VC.

BWN: AG9G – DELEGATE -

BEN: NX9K/NM -

WSBN: AG9G/NM -

WSSN: KB9ROB/NM –

WIN/E: NONE -

WIN/L: NONE -

WARES HF: WB9WKO/NM

WARES VHF: NONE

WARES DIGITAL: NONE

VISITORS: WJ9L, KC9UC

**KB9ROB:** Minutes from the meeting of 3-8-25 have been emailed. Motion to approve minutes (K9LGU, KB9ROB) – Carried.

**NX9K, Chair** – The next quarterly meeting will be SEP 13, 2025.

**Secretary's Report** – K9LGU – No reports since last meeting

**N9VC: Treasurer's Report-** Balance \$350 has not changed. Motion to accept (AG9G, K9LGU) - Carried.

**KC9FXE: Section Manager Report** – No report this quarter

**K9LGU: Section Traffic Manager Report** –

1. Thanks to everyone who originates, takes, and delivers messages especially for some places in the section that might not have regular outlets on the nets.
2. We're very grateful to everyone who understands that when they take a message for relay or delivery it comes with an obligation to handle it in a timely fashion.
3. The net frequency is where the net control is. If the NCS shifts up or down, changes bands, or changes sidebands, just be flexible.
4. Net controls are reminded to check the frequency before the net with enough time for stations to adjust or re-tune.

5. When conditions are poor, don't hesitate to try other bands. When you can't hear any signals anywhere, make some calls and contact the net manager even via telephone if needed. Sometimes the solar storms just win.
6. Remember, the net control is boss. Always get recognized before your net contribution, even if it's a relay. Just say your call and get recognized first.
7. If a net control directs a station to handle a second-go from another station, the station assisting automatically has the frequency to ask for and respond to the comments before turning control back to the NCS.
8. To the end of May, we had 2,557 checkins to our section nets and handled 5,376 messages in 194 net sessions despite some poor propagation. Good work.

**N9VC : ASTM Report:** A moment of silence was taken in honor of former net manager and board member-at-large, Wayne Pennings, WD9FLJ, who passed away on March 28, 2025.

**N9VC : Digital Report:** The digital message board is doing fine. Records show for Jan-May a total of 26,030 messages were handled averaging 5206 per month. Thanks to all net members for good work until challenging conditions.

**BWN Report** – AG9G Delegate – The daily Badger Weather Net always meets on 3984. It runs from 5:30 to 7:15 AM . Stats for the last three months are 3290 checkins total. The net handled 4580 messages in 9590 min. (104 min. per session) Without the regular check-ins, net controls, pick-up stations and relay stations it wouldn't have been possible. The net is averaging 36 check-ins per session. K9LUK is net manager, keeps the records, maintains the BWN web site and submits the reports.

**BEN Report** NX9K/NM reported for March, April, and May check-ins of 933, traffic 817, in 1365 minutes in 92 sessions. The grand totals for this year are 1608 check-ins; 1435 messages 2317 minutes of 151 sessions. Traffic handlers are doing a great job keeping messages moving. Since WD9FLJ, a member-at large of the WNA became a silent key we need a replacement on the WNA board. Volunteers should let NX9K of their interest.

**WSBN Report** AG9G/NM – The 3-month totals for the Wisconsin Side Band Net were Stations: 1361 Traffic: 664 Time: 1973 minutes. The net averages 16 check-ins per session, 7 messages per session and 21 minutes per session. The net met all 92 scheduled sessions. Band conditions have been poor so credit goes to the net controls and those assisting. AC9F is still recovering so special thanks to WB9WKO and N9VC for filling in for Chuck on Saturdays. Everyone's participation is appreciated.

**WSSN** KB9ROB/NM – The slim Wisconsin Slow Speed Net meets daily on 3555 at 6PM. Month Of May totals are as follows: 140 check ins, 46 messages passed in 336 minutes. In May, one session was missed due to storms. We hope that as the seasons change more operators will check in. Thanks to the net controls AG9G, N9VC K9LGU. Please encourage more to participate.

**WIN/E** NO REPORT

**WIN/L** NO REPORT



**ARES/RACES HF Net** – WB9WKO/NM – This net meets every Sunday at 8 AM on 3967. It usually runs less than 30 minutes and includes some message-handling practice and current ARES/RACES activities. To date, the 21 sessions have yielded 303 check-ins, 51 pieces of traffic in 566 minutes.

**ARES/RACES VHF Net** – NO REPORT

**WARES/RACES DIGITAL Net** – NO REPORT

**OLD BUSINESS** – NONE

**NEW BUSINESS** – N9VC noted that the chair will submit a potential candidate for member at large for the next meeting

**ADJOURNMENT** – (KB9ROB, AG9G) Carried. Meeting closed at 4:34 PM)

#### WISCONSIN SECTION P S H R SUMMARY MAY 2025

POSSIBLE POINTS >	40 nets	40 tfc	30 appt	5 /hr. sked events	5 /hr. emrg event s	10ea bbs/ web pg	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
N9VC	40	40	30	285	0	20	415
AG9G	40	40	30	35	0	0	145
K9LGU	40	40	30	20	15	0	145
KC9FXE	40	28	20	35	10	10	143
WB9WKO	40	40	30	15	0	0	125
NX9K	40	40	20	0	0	0	100
KB9GO	40	40	10	0	0	0	90
KC9UC	40	40	10	0	0	0	90
N6NKO	28	28	20	0	0	0	76

**WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY****MAY 2025**

<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>	<b>1077</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>3253</b>	<b>31</b>	K9LUK
<b>BEN</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>31</b>	NX9K
<b>WSBN</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>31</b>	AG9G
<b>WSSN</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>30</b>	KB9ROB
<b>WIN/E</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>31</b>	WB9ICH
<b>WIN/L</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>31</b>	W9RTP
<b>WI ARES/RACES HF</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>4</b>	WB9WKO
<b>WI ARES/RACES VHF</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1</b>	KA9KJE
<b>WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>2986</b>	<b>5760</b>	<b>4</b>	KD9USW
<b>totals</b>	<b>2557</b>	<b>5376</b>	<b>11138</b>	<b>194</b>	

WISCONSIN SECTION

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY May 2025

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	601	127	821	9	9	1549 BPL
N9CK	0	356	356	0	0	712 BPL
KB9GO	0	415	188	1	0	604 BPL
WB9WKO	0	323	265	6	0	594 BPL
AG9G	0	295	149	0	0	444
N9VC	0	237	38	0	0	275
KC9UC	0	67	101	0	0	168
WJ9L	0	65	74	4	0	143
K9LGU	0	50	67	0	0	116
KB9ROB	1	49	7	7	3	67
KA9BAE	0	11	21	9	9	32
N6NKO	0	0	28	0	0	32
W9RTP	0	25	5	0	0	30
KC9FXE	0	7	14	6	1	28
WB9ICH	0	24	2	0	0	26
WB9NRK	0	10	0	10	0	20
W9RNA	0	6	3	7	1	17
KA9KJE	3	8	3	0	0	14