



WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: July 2025

ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

From the Section Manager

Greetings everyone!

Field Day has come and gone. I hope everyone had the kind of success they were looking for and managed to learn and/or teach a thing or two. I went out and visited with the folks from the Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club. They had a nice operation set up at Memorial Park in Lake Hallie and it was the first time I've looked at their communications trailer in operation. Thanks for the invitation, CVARC!

My Field Day experience continued with numerous FD messages coming in via radio and Winlink. This year's message count, by far, exceeded the numbers from previous years. Conditions were rough and a few relays had to happen, but I received them all and got confirmations out to those I didn't connect with directly. Again, it was a lot of fun, and I appreciated the messages.

On a final Field Day note, I'd like to thank the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club who was behind the Governor's proclamation that was displayed in last month's newsletter.

Did you know that we run a weekly **Winlink Net** in Wisconsin? The net, which is managed by Joe Walesewicz, KD9USW, runs for 24 hours starting at 1900hr local time on Tuesday evenings. If you would like to participate in the net, send Joe a message on Winlink and he will add you to the list. In addition to the weekly net, there is a monthly exercise designed to practice some of the common components of the Winlink platform. Check it out!

Kyle Van Hoogen, WX9KVH, has been appointed as Emergency Coordinator for Outagamie County. Kyle also serves as the EC in Calumet County. Thank you, Kyle, for stepping up to lead both ARES organizations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

W9UDU Free Fest
August 9, 2025

**Circus City
Swapfest**
August 23, 2025

ORC Fall Swapfest
September 6, 2025

More details inside

I'd like to conclude my column by introducing you to one of our newest hams and ARRL members, **Mel Johnston, KE9DCP**, of Rice Lake. Mel earned his technician license in April of this year. He did a lot of things in life prior to this achievement, including celebrating his 87th birthday! Mel wasn't quite finished. On July 12th, he took and passed his general exam.



Upon hearing this, I had to get the rest of the story, so I reached out to Mel and had a great conversation with him. Mel is a Navy Veteran who served from 1956 – 1962. After that he attended Dunwoody Industrial Institute in the Twin Cities, and then worked as Baker in St. Louis Park, MN. While he enjoyed that work very much, he developed allergies that pushed him away from that business. He saw a new opportunity and bought a truck stop in Spooner, WI where he worked for several years. Now he is retired and living in Rice Lake.

So, what inspired Mel to get his amateur radio license? Mel explained his first exposure to radio communications was when he was still in the Navy and serving a tour in the Mediterranean. Communications to the homeland were difficult with only three phones available and the time zone differences. As a baker, he utilized his sweet resources and got in good with the radio operators who were more than willing to help him communicate with his family back home. He thought, "some day I'm going to do that" (referencing radio).

Like most of us, life got busy for Mel. That, and his disinterest in learning "that Morse Code BS", kept him from pursuing anything further at the time, but it remained in the back of his mind for several decades. Fast forward, his desires became reality, and Mel can also be known as KE9DCP!

Mel recognizes the help and guidance he continues to get from **Sandy Letlebo, KC9LZW**, and **Paul Brooten, KB9TYC**. He is also a member of the Barron County Amateur Radio Association.

Mel says he's got a lot to learn, and he probably can't do a lot, but hopes to give something back to the radio community that helped him over the years.

To Mel, I say thank you for your service to our Country, and welcome to amateur radio. It's stories like these that make our "community" unique and interesting.

General Announcements, Event, and Reminders

WI ARES Conference - Call for Presenters – Final Call



The poster is for the Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference. It features a purple background with a white starburst graphic in the top right. The text 'Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference' is at the top left. Below it, 'CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS' is written in large, bold, white letters. To the left of the text is a circular logo for 'WISCONSIN ARES/RACES EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS' featuring a map of Wisconsin. To the right is a logo for 'ARRL AMATEUR RADIO Wisconsin Section' featuring a map of Wisconsin. Below the logos is the 'WECOMM LTD' logo. The main text asks if the reader would like to present at the 2025 conference and lists requirements for submission. At the bottom, it provides contact information for Myron Oestreich, KB9STB.

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 by July 31, 2025. The conference committee will review submissions after that date.

The 27th 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, 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!



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>

ARRL MEMBERSHIP CAN HELP YOU GET ACTIVE ON-THE-AIR

The ARRL Operating Manual
is our gift to you when you join!

Get this comprehensive guide to amateur radio operating with code **RESOURCE**



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

Field Day 2025

Tom Czaja, KG9EE

ARRL Assistant Section Manager – Wisconsin



LeFrog Radio Club Field Day Site
Ozaukee County Justice Center



Loren, N9ENR, Adjusting the
beam at the LeFrog field day site



Fred, W9KEY, working the 20-meter Ozaukee Radio Club Field Day site.
station at the LeFrog Field Day site Pleasant Valley Nature Park, Town of Cedarburg





Jim, K9QLP, working the 20
meter station at the ORC Field
Day site.



Gary, W9XT, supervising a prospective
ham at the ORC GOTA Station

Another successful Field Day is in the books, and I had the opportunity to attend the LeFrog Radio Club field day site at the Ozaukee County Justice Center in Port Washington and the Ozaukee Radio Club site at the Pleasant Valley Nature Park in the Town of Cedarburg. Although the weather was hot and humid, the sun was out and there was no rain this year.

I assisted the LeFrog Radio Club with setting up the field day site and I also had the opportunity to work the 40 meter station. I have a renewed respect for all of the groups who get out in the field and set up sites. It takes a lot of planning, hard work and dedication to set up the sites.

I was also impressed with the amount of citizens who came to both sites to learn more about amateur radio. A local church group which has a response team came out to the Ozaukee Radio Club site to find out how amateur radio would integrate with their mission. Bill, K9GN, the ORC Club President spent a lot of time talking with the group and discussing possible training sessions and testing.

I want to commend everyone who participated in Field Day and thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to public service.

Member Contributions

Are You Okay?

By Nicholas Proulx

Mental health is an emerging topic in the workplace and in the volunteer service. Whether you are a Police Officer, Firefighter, Healthcare Worker, factory/mill laborer, truck driver, or work in an office finding balance early in one's volunteer service and family can be the difference between a long and healthy volunteer service or an early exit due to burnout. Mental health is something we don't talk much about, it takes a lot of courage to stand up and say I have a problem and need help. Earlier this year I needed to ask for help. I have been in the Fire Service since 2002 and I have seen a lot of things, held a lot in, let it fester and grow. Over the last year I have been dealing with some excruciating pain, lost some close relatives and mentors, this Spring my

uncle passed away and I took it a lot harder than I expected. He got me into amateur radio, gave me my first radios and helped me grow through our radio conversations and we would talk shop whenever we got together. After the funeral we got together at the hotel as a family and had dinner. That night just happened to be Manitowoc County ARES/RACES net night, where my uncle attended. My cousins from out of town, who are also amateurs, gathered around a HT radio. Manitowoc County ARES/RACES led a touching last call net for my uncle. It hit hard after that, but I still held everything in, I am not one to show emotion.

The next week was kind of a blur I do not remember much, work just went by, I led a net and attended a meeting, but that passion was not longer there. Then after a fire call something tripped and I started to have nightmares, seeing the faces of 25+ years of traffic accidents, fatal house fires and EMS calls hit me. I had to lead a fire meeting while the other Chiefs attended another meeting, and we did a hot wash of the call we had. I lost it in that meeting, I let everyone in that room know what was going on, the nightmares, dealing with the passing of a family member. I couldn't believe it everyone was paying attention; phones were put down and these 20 people were making eye contact with me and engaged. It led to others speaking out, we began to talk as a group, and I must tell you it felt better. After that meeting I felt I had the courage where I could ask for someone to talk to. Little did I know that the next week my doctor would require me to meet with a counselor from behavioral health prior to my back surgery. That hour was amazing, we talked about my back surgery and then had time left over and I brought up how I was feeling. It felt great to talk to someone, especially someone I didn't know.

You are probably thinking how does this affect me as an ARES/RACES member? What can I do?

Serve your community but take care of yourself, too. You can do this by establishing clear boundaries between your volunteer duties and family responsibilities. This may involve setting specific availability and adhering to these limits to ensure that family time remains uninterrupted. Communicating these boundaries to both family members and fellow club members fosters understanding and respect for personal space.

Serve but don't be a stranger at home. I know our club gets busy during the summer and fall months; at times we have events almost every weekend. Be proactive and schedule family activities plays a crucial role in maintaining your club and family life. Engaging in regular family outings, game nights, or family vacations can create cherished moments that build resilience against stress. By treating these family engagements as nonnegotiable appointments, we can demonstrate our commitment to our families, which can ultimately fortify their physical and emotional well-being.

Learn to say no. Tactfully decline events if your plate is full to prevent overcommitment. Find ways to communicate your priorities and explain how they align with your volunteer requirements.

Check in on one another. Talk with your members, recognize the signs that something might be off. "You never know what people are going through and sometimes the people with the biggest smiles are struggling the most, so be kind." By saying you never know what someone is experiencing, you acknowledge that everyone has things in their life that you are unaware of. Each person has their own struggles and successes, as well as needs and desires.

Recognize burnout signs. Have you ever had the feeling of frustration before going to a meeting or event? That may be an early sign of burnout. In some cases, when a volunteer has overextended themselves or overcommitted, disdain or resentment can set in. Following this, the small things start to add up and become big things. A good way to test your burnout temperature is to ask yourself, “When I started volunteering, would this have mattered?” It is not uncommon to have some degree of drama or dissatisfaction in your group. It’s only after burnout begins that these issues begin to chip away at the reasons why they joined.

If you find yourself unable to overcome these feelings, it’s time to create change. Consider taking a short leave of absence to refocus and work on your priorities. Change your role in the organization to get back to the things you enjoyed the most. Find another area to expand your working knowledge to open new opportunities and break up the monotony, or ask for some help from peer support, the employee assistant program at your work, your mentor, chaplaincy, or a trusted friend. Start a new hobby or find another way to be creative. Remember, balance is important.

Lastly, be prepared to walk away. Although it may seem taboo to encourage leaving, in some cases, it’s the right thing to do. If your family or other relationships are suffering, your presence at work or in your group will certainly be impacted. If you are no longer able to thrive in your club or group due to change of staff, personnel issues, or other frustrations even after exploring some of these suggestions, it’s time to put yourself first and move on.

Finding a healthy balance essential for volunteers to maintain long-term well-being and effectiveness. Although the commitment to serving the community is admirable, the mental, physical, and emotional toll without proper self-care can and typically leads to burnout, health issues, and strained relationships. Prioritizing time for family, rest, and personal interests allows us to recharge and stay focused when it counts.

Nicholas Proulx –

Portage County Emergency Coordinator

Northeast District Emergency Coordinator

Assistant Fire Chief Town of Hull Fire Department

Public Information Coordinator Report

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

In the blink of an eye, the summer is a little over halfway complete. It didn’t click fully with me until the other day when the XYL mentioned that she had to report back to work in 30 days because school starts shortly after. All of a sudden, that “wow” moment hit and I took a moment to think over the summer. Along with the things at home, Field Day was a couple weeks back, and some groups will be participating in National Night Out on August 5 (or 6 in some areas). After that, school starts and those of us with children still at home start to settle in for the routine

of getting to bed early and up to make it out the door for the bus, carpool or three mile uphill (both ways) walk in foot high snow in the mornings.

With the summer starting to settle down once Labor Day comes and goes, it may be a good opportunity for your local organization to consider outreach activities geared toward youth and the community to help grow amateur radio in a positive way. Has your group thought about possibly hosting a license workshop? How about VE testing? Might there be an opportunity to host an operation for Jamboree On The Air with the Scouts in early October? All of these activities are fairly simple to make happen once the initial logistical legwork of location, time(s), goals of the event and messaging are decided.

Looking ahead, with the summer winding down and fall almost knocking on our door, there are many events taking place within the section (and beyond) for hams looking to spend some money, network, learn new concepts or review and build on concepts that have been filed away for a rainy day. There are hamfests coming up on August 9 in Franksville and August 23 near Baraboo. There is also a fest September 6 in Cedarburg. Then we get into HRO Superfest, the Central Division Convention and the Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club Hamfest the weekend of September 20, and the annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference on October 11, along with more hamfests along the way.

As I sat here and wrote this month's nugget of prose, I struggled a little to figure out what I wanted to say or what kind of a teachable moment I wanted to convey. Then all of a sudden, it came to me. My folks (God rest their souls) used to be a sounding board when I would be writing, and a lot of times my dad would be more of the quiet type that would listen and say about four words...and somehow all would be made clear. My mother, on the other hand, was an English teacher of 54 years when she finally retired and passed along her gift of coalescing the vapor of human experience into a viable and logical comprehension to me and my children (thanks for the assist, Mel Brooks), and now I'm honored to share that with you. I remember one time I was all kinds of frustrated about something and I was trying to figure out how to wordsmith what I wanted to say to get my point across while not doing a whole lot of collateral damage in the process. My mom, in true motherly form, walked through what the issue was and how to make the intended message as effective (and polite) as possible. She always had two mantras that she would invoke when people were trying to either be persuasive or assertive. I even remember her using those in the classroom when she taught full time. The first one was "remember – you can attract more bees with honey than vinegar," and the other was "once a word is said or written it can't be taken back." In a roundabout way, that's the short teachable moment for you this month. Anytime you're working on messaging (written or verbal), please remember to keep in mind the two quotes Mother O used to use. As I've aged (not like a fine wine either), I've come to love those phrases because they've done exceedingly well to help keep messaging on point and help form a positive outcome in a lot of situations where the bar of success wasn't set very high once I fully realized their intrinsic value.

Until next month, Wisconsin.....

Section ARES/RACES Report

From Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, Section Emergency Coordinator:

It has been quite an active storm season this year, and all indications are for that to continue for the foreseeable future. Please remember to stay safe when performing any skywarn duties and report any observed damage to the local authority having jurisdiction.

ARES/RACES Senior leadership is currently reviewing and revising several documents for our section's districts and counties to use. We received minimal feedback from our leaders at the county and district level regarding the state strategic plan, training plan, and several other guiding documents that Dan Lenz, KB9IME sent out to leaders. If you have not yet done so, provide your feedback no later than July 31 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. If we do not hear any more feedback regarding these documents, they will be considered final and published.

Form 2 reporting numbers have declined slightly from last month, we really need as many counties as possible to report their numbers. Reporting 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.

State data for June 2025:

Report: Form4

Division: Central

Section: Wisconsin

Month/Year: June 2025

History: Reported by Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, SEC on 2025-07-21 15:02:52 UTC

Number of DECs/ECs reporting this month:	22
Total number of DECs/ECs appointed in section:	41
4. Total number of ARES members:	289
Difference in ARES members from previous month:	N/D
5. Number of ARES net sessions held:	69
6. Number of ARES net sessions held with NTS liaison:	24
7. Number of participants in nets:	557

	Number	Person-Hrs
8. Exercises this month:	21	555.60
9. Training events this month:	34	287.00
10. Public service events this month:	5	544.00
11. Community service events this month:	4	290.50
12. Emergency events this month:	4	28.00
13. SKYWARN events this month:	25	139.80
14. Meetings this month:	21	241.50
15. Unclassified events this month:	23	277.00

Total Person Hours: 1487.2

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

Total Value provided to WI for YTD 2025 : \$283,573.29

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 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	3,737	1,151	28,739	536	5,638	1,306	7,401	166	1,686	74	1,178	106	207	254	1,746	541	7,230	718	3,989
Mar	4,272	1,334	32,184	720	6,318	1,625	6,806	371	2,200	155	4,292	62	1,041	480	8,140	594	7,033	1,012	8,131
Apr	5,863	1,397	28,974	486	5,601	1,119	8,738	196	5,176	118	4,563	39	395	443	4,936	569	7,592	772	4,256
May	4,076	1,248	25,801	432	4,540	1,396	8,266	261	6,487	192	4,048	24	353	463	4,315	507	5,852	748	4,185
Jun	2,605	526	14,816	715	3,381	589	7,279	59	2,566	88	1,249	8	74	365	34,370	270	2,188	238	2,611
Tot als	24,246	6,767	151,929	3,826	32,917	7,045	47,366	1,228	19,635	691	17,342	383	2,923	2,392	54,820	3,213	37,278	4,315	27,722

Total Sections Rep 171

ARES Member-Months 73,116

Total Person-Hrs 240,007

Total Value \$8,349,844

Drills/Train/Test 10,871

Pub/Comm Serv Events 1,919

Emergency Ops 383

ARES Ops 23,093

From WeComm:

WECOMM system is linked currently using a temporary PBX server while 2 new servers are being configured for use as a primary and failover backup. Thanks to Tom Burger for his assistance with setting up the temporary server and getting the new ones configured.

Meteor is still offline due to rodent damage - repairs are in progress, and we are still seeking out additional drop in replacement repeaters for this type of situation. Plymouth is also currently unlinked due to a network issue that should be resolved by the end of the month.

The WECOMM board is working on a new funding model for the system in order to diversify our funding sources as a move toward better sustainability for the network. George Lampere has helped us by putting together a strategic framework for us to use to guide us going forward. A special thanks goes out to George for sharing his wisdom and experience with us as we look toward a more sustainable future for the organization and the network.

We are looking for those who have grant writing experience who would like to assist WECOMM with several upcoming grant applications to update and modernize the existing network and grow back into the underserved areas of the state. If you are able to assist, please contact Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK or Tom Burger, KA9KJE.

As always, we greatly appreciate any and all donations to the organization. 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 of time, money, and/or talents are greatly appreciated and are what enable us to provide this resource to the Amateur Radio community.

From the Training Department:

Steps to Form an ARES/RACES Group in Wisconsin

1. Understand the Purpose

- **ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service):**
Provides emergency communication support for public service agencies such as Emergency Management, Red Cross, hospitals, and more.
 - **RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service):**
Authorized by the FCC and used only during declared emergencies. Activation must come from government officials.
 - **Wisconsin Integration:**
In Wisconsin, ARES and RACES are combined into one program for operational efficiency.
(Note: There has never been a formal RACES activation in Wisconsin.)
-

2. Build a Core Group

- Recruit licensed amateur radio operators with an interest in emergency communications and public service.
 - Encourage completion of the following minimum training:
 - **ICS-100 and ICS-700 (FEMA)** – *Required*
 - **Basic Skywarn Training** (every two years) – *Required*
 - **Familiarity with Winlink** – *Highly Recommended*
-

3. Contact Wisconsin ARES/RACES Leadership

- Reach out to the **Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC)** or **District Emergency Coordinator (DEC)** for your region.
 - Notify them of your intent to form a group. They will:
 - Assess local needs and readiness.
 - Help appoint an **Emergency Coordinator (EC)** for your county or area.
 - Provide onboarding resources and materials.
-

4. Register Members

- Create and maintain a member database including:
 - Name and call sign
 - Contact information
 - Training completed
 - Equipment and deployment capabilities (e.g., HF, VHF, UHF, mobile, portable, Winlink)
 - Encourage each member to **formally register** with Wisconsin ARES through the official process or website.
-

5. Establish Communications Systems

Set up reliable communication tools and practices:

- **Local VHF/UHF repeaters** for weekly nets
 - **HF capability** for regional or statewide coordination
 - **Winlink RMS gateways or nodes** (if feasible)
 - Digital communications modes (VARA, PACTOR, JS8Call, etc.)
 - Develop and maintain **weekly voice/digital net schedules**
-

6. Conduct Regular Activities

Promote engagement and skill maintenance through:

- **Weekly nets** (voice and digital/Winlink traffic practice)
- **Monthly meetings** (training, updates, coordination)
- **Exercises & drills**, such as:
 - FEMA Region 5 exercises

- County or district-level activations

Strongly Encourage Participation In:

- **ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)**
 - **Field Day** (great for outreach and practice)
 - **Annual Skywarn training**
-

7. Develop a Written Plan

Create a **County-Level ARES/RACES Emergency Communications Plan**, which should include:

- Organizational chart and leadership contacts
 - Activation and deployment procedures
 - Communication frequency plans (VHF, HF, digital)
 - Local and regional contact lists (EMA, hospitals, NGOs, etc.)
 - Mutual aid and interoperability protocols
 - Equipment inventory and deployment strategies
-

Section Traffic Manager Report

STM Report
Wisconsin Section
June 2025

All reports are due by the 5th of the month.

New message precedence C

FAQ # 287 There's a new precedence you may find in message preambles routed through the NTS and RRI traffic systems. It's called Certified, and it's ranked between Welfare and Routine. The **certified** precedence radiogram, also referred to as the "fast telegram" message, is a new classification reserved for unique, personal radiogram message traffic starting June 1, 2025. The purpose of this new message classification is to ensure accuracy and timely delivery.

A "Certified" radiogram (precedence "C") is a message other than Emergency, Priority, Welfare, or simple Routine which meets the following criteria:

- The originator has a reasonable expectation that the address, phone number and other contact information contained in the address is timely and correct. (Addresses harvested from on-line databases such as "white pages" should not be used.)

- The message transmitted is unique in character.
- The message is transmitted as the result of a prior relationship or transaction between the originator (from) and addressee (to).
- The “certified” precedence is not used for Bulk Traffic.

Address Requirements:

At a minimum, a certified message will contain a known correct and complete postal address with zip code and telephone number. Ideally, the certified message might have additional address information such as a mobile number appended with an “M” or a landline appended with an “L.” If the type of number is unknown there’s no letter appended. The presence of an “M” would indicate to the delivering operator that a text message could be sent to the addressee.

Certified messages might be viewed as “time sensitive” messages. Their preamble should include a time and date since delivery is expected within 48 hours. The overriding principle is that of “customer service.”

On a net, a certified message can be listed as “certified,” just as we have listed messages as “time-valued.” If you have need for a certified message, send one. If you receive one, handle it accordingly. This should not be confusing.

Folks used to tell me I was “certifiable,” but I think they meant something else. 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	K9LUK	KB9GO	K9LUK	N9NBC	W9CPY	W9IHW	AG9G	WB9WKO
Badger Emergency Net (BEN) 3985 KHz, 1200 ALT 7270 KHz	NX9K	WJ9L	WJ9L NX9K	W9RTP	KB9IME	K9STN	NX9K	N9VC
Wisconsin Side Band Net (WSBN) 3985 or 3982.5 KHz, 1700	AG9G	NX9K KA9BAE	N9VC	KC9FXE	KB9GO	WB9WKO	AG9G	AC9F
Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN) 3555 KHz, Daily 1800	KB9ROB	KB9ROB	N9VC	*	*	*	AG9G	*
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Early (WIN-E) 3555 KHz, 1900	WB9ICH	WB9ICH	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9CK	N9VC	AG9G	WB9ICH
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Late (WIN-L) 3555 KHz, 2200	W9RTP	AG9G	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9VC	N9VC	W9RTP	W9RTP
ARES/RACES Net 3967 KHz, 0800 Sunday ALT 3977.5 or 7250	WB9WKO	*						
WI ARES/RACES Digital Net Tuesday on WINLink 7PM Mon - 7PM Tues	KD9USW		KD9USW					
WI ARES/RACES VHF Net on WECOMM Frequencies Last Thursday of the month 7PM	KA9KJE					KA9KJE		

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

1/19/2025

Section Youth Coordinator Report

From Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Section Youth Coordinator:

Why the One-And-Done Approach Doesn't Work for School Visits.

Last month, and after some reflection, I realized I left out some key details about Field Day and getting kids into ham radio. In that newsletter, I made it seem like ham radio is a “one-and-done” ordeal — just getting kids exposed is the ticket to getting them into ham radio.

Every year, clubs across the country visit schools, libraries, and science fairs to promote amateur radio. We bring the gear, hand out flyers, maybe even get a few kids to key up a mic or decode some Morse. And while those efforts do matter, there's a myth we need to confront: that a single exposure to ham radio is enough to inspire lifelong interest.

In my time working with amateur radio outreach, I've directly seen how the presence of school radio clubs dramatically increases the number of licensed students. When there's a consistent group, regular meetings, and a few adult mentors who genuinely care, kids don't just get exposed, but rather they get involved.

I've watched clubs where students started off knowing nothing about radio, but ended the semester with licenses, project builds, and even contest participation. Not because someone gave them a flyer once but because they were given a place to grow.

Exposure ≠ Engagement

I've seen clubs — along with events I've set up — put a large amount of effort into setting up an impressive demo at a STEM night. Kids walk by, spin a dial, maybe even shout “CQ Field Day!” over 20 meters. And then... they go home. Life moves on. They had fun, but it didn't stick.

I've only seen one event in the area of Milwaukee where I left feeling like people left wanting to do more ham radio, but it wasn't just setting up a booth — it was working with a local college ham radio club to set up an event where ham radio was relevant. Is it really a surprise that those same people continued to do events of that sort?

One-time exposure doesn't lead to long-term passion. The hobby is just too big, too technical, and too foreign for most kids to latch onto without follow-up.

It Took More Than One Moment

I didn't fall in love with amateur radio because I saw it once at an event. I fell in love because my dad started to get into it — in which, he was my mentor. But, along with that, there were more reasons why I got interested into ham radio.

It was because someone let me shadow them during a net.

It was because someone answered my CQ on a repeater.

It was because someone gave support, and not just a look.

That small support from mentors is the difference between a student who remembers ham radio as “that thing I saw once at a STEM event” and one who goes on to get licensed, build a station, build projects, and maybe even start leading others.

The Answer: Consistency, Mentorship, and Belonging

It’s easy to afford amateur radio like a sales pitch. Yet, it is important to realize that it very much is not. One visit is just exposure to ham radio, not a ticket to a license. A solid mentorship, however, is very much a ticket to an amateur radio license.

This might mean:

- After-school radio clubs (year-long).
- Assigning every young visitor a “mentor buddy” who keeps in contact (When I got data from a survey about this, this was a highly recommended idea).
- Any sort of involvement that allows kids to operate a radio for an extended period of time, not just a demo.

Final Thoughts

One-time events are great for visibility. But visibility doesn’t equal viability. If you want to bring kids into ham radio, don’t just show them what it is — show them how they belong, and then show them again and again.

I’m not saying we should stop school visits or demo days — they absolutely have value. But if we want to create amateur radio operators and not just amateur radio tourists, we have to be in it for more than just one day.

Give them something to actually care about to return to — and they will.

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.

- Paul Anderson, KB9JPN, of Kenosha, WI – [view obituary](#)
- Ed Rate, AA9W, of Mequon, 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

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 – 20th 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

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](https://www.arrl.org/wisconsin-section). ***

ARRL Wisconsin Section

Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

kc9fxe@arrl.org



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WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY June 2025

NET	QNI CHECK-INS	QTC TRAFFIC	QTR TIME	SSNS SESSIONS	NM
BWN	995	1498	3143	30	K9LUK
BEN	246	236	375	28	NX9K
WSBN	434	216	665	30	AG9G
WSSN	147	62	372	30	KB9ROB
WIN/E	133	244	289	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	156	73	261	30	W9RTP
WRACES HF	57	11	105	5	WB9WKO
WRACES VHF*	0	0	0	0	KA9KJE
WRACES-DIGITAL	325	4144	7200	5	KD9USW
totals	2493	6484	12410	188	

* No report filed

WISCONSIN SECTION P S H R SUMMARY JUNE 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	240	0	20	370
KC9FXE	40	40	20	25	10	10	145
AG9G	40	40	30	25	0	0	135
WB9WKO	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
K9LGU	40	40	30	10	10	0	130
NX9K	40	40	20	0	0	0	100
KC9UC	40	40	10	0	0	0	90
KB9GO	40	40	10	0	0	0	90

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY - June 2025

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	523	117	757	0	0	1397 - BPL
WB9WKO	0	323	4	0	0	652 - BPL
N9CK	0	257	254	3	0	514 - BPL
KB9GO	0	297	139	0	0	426
AG9G	0	255	147	0	0	402
N9VC	0	285	39	0	0	324
KC9UC	0	93	117	0	0	210
K9LGU	0	55	72	0	0	127
WJ9L	0	47	57	3	2	109
KB9ROB	0	60	24	18	5	107
KC9FXE	0	20	23	6	0	43
W9RNA	0	14	2	13	4	33
KA9BAE	0	17	12	0	0	29
W9RTP	0	21	5	0	0	26
WB9ICH	0	20	2	0	0	22