



WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

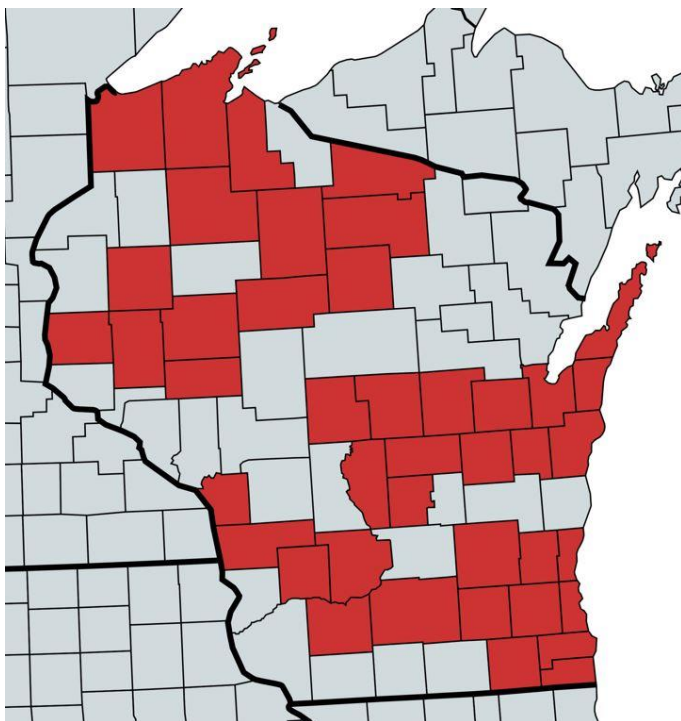
Issue Date: August 2025

ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

From the Section Manager

Greetings everyone!

I'd like to start by sharing this beautiful map. Have a look:



The map shows the counties (shaded in red) that are covered by an ARES organization at some level. Overall, it is not too bad, and average to a little above average compared to other states.

If you live in or near a county that doesn't have an ARES organization, and want to get one started, we would love to hear from you! If you missed it, last month, ASEC Dan Lenz, KB9IME, submitted a good outline on how to get an ARES group started.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Circus City
Swapfest

Aug 23, 2025

ORC Fall Swapfest

Sept 6, 2025

CVARC Hamfest

Sept 20, 2025

Central Division
Convention

Sept 20-21, 2025

More details inside

The importance of ARES was on full display in Milwaukee this month with the flood disaster. On very short notice, several members answered the call for help once the ARES activation was approved. Some even took time off from work to do so. Thank you all for your service.

I've been in contact with the Emergency Coordinator for Milwaukee County, Brian Jansen, KC9GMW. Brian gave me a very detailed and interesting report on the activation which he will share with everyone in next month's newsletter. Brian said, "I'm proud of the guys that answered the call and volunteered. They all had awesome attitudes and completed the job asked of them. I heard several positive comments from command personnel regarding the ARES members. One team had a retired fire chief in their group and he was praising the ARES members on that team."

To Brian, I say thank you for your leadership and the quick work you did to assemble a team of ARES volunteers. You and your team have a lot to be proud of. I look forward to having you share your story so we can all learn from your example.

The Milwaukee floods could have happened anywhere. This is why we educate ourselves and train. Thankfully, we don't have a lot of disasters in Wisconsin, but when called upon, we need to be ready.

Everyone have a happy and safe Labor Day and until next time, 73!

General Announcements, Event, and Reminders

Wisconsin Section Field Services Position Openings

The following positions are still waiting to be filled:

- District Emergency Coordinator – East Central District
- District Emergency Coordinator – West Central District
- Net Control Station – Badger Emergency Net
- Emergency Coordinator – Several

Contact the Section Manager for further information.



The ARRL Files Comments to Protect 70cm Band

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to oppose part of an application that would impact the 70-centimeter amateur band for telemetry, tracking and command (TT&C) of satellites.

See full story here: <https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-files-comments-to-protect-70-centimeter-amateur-band>



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>





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=Dl8nmjRjg4>

News From Around the Section

EAA AirVenture 2025 Special Events Station

Tom Czaja (KG9EE) Wisconsin Assistant Section Manager



Mike (left), KD9QH And Roy, KC9VLF, (right) working the CW on the 40-meter station



Jack, KK0I, working 20-meter SSB station.



W9ZL Special Events Station at EAA Airventure 2024



Roy, KC9VLF, (left) and Tom, KG9EE, (right) working the 20-meter SSB station.



ARRL Sponsored kit building booth at the KidVenture area



FCARC member helping a prospective ham build a low power FM transmitter.

The Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, W9ZL, has been sponsoring a special events station at the EAA AirVenture at Whitman Field in Oshkosh since 1989. The Fox Cities ARC is a very active club, sponsoring many events throughout the year and draws members from a large area in the Fox Valley area and beyond.

I had the honor of operating the special events station with the members of the club this year. The station was operational from July 21 to July 26, 2025. Although propagation was marginal, many contacts were made, and a lot of networking took place. The location of the station is on the North end of the airport and is part of the KidVenture program. It was a pleasure to see many young people stopping at the station and asking questions about ham radio. The ARRL donated low power FM transmitter kits and members of the FCARC helped young people build the kits.

Kudos to Chairperson Jon Oldenburg, AB9AH, FCARC Special Events Coordinator who coordinated the special events station.



The Lakeshore Repeater Association Welcomes the Megacycle Club!

Dan Miller, KA9OIL—President of one of Wisconsin's oldest and most respected ham radio clubs—has announced the merger of the Racine Megacycle Club with the Lakeshore Repeater Association (LRA), alongside members of the Wisconsin QCWC group. The result is a powerful merger that strengthens our community and deepens our roots.

The Megacycle Club, founded way back in 1947, has been a staple of Wisconsin ham radio for generations and is one of the oldest ARRL club affiliates. Known for its legacy and its iconic August hamfest, the club's traditions and spirit will now live on as part of the **Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.**

A new name, **Lakeshore Radio Association** will move the joint club forward reflecting its widening radio footprint. The LRA is celebrating its 50th year in 2025.

Dan, KA9OIL, recently joined us at the LRA quarterly meeting and shared his excitement, *"We've been closely watching the growth of LRA and, in particular, the excitement around Project North Star."*

Project North Star is the name of the new LRA club remote HF radio initiative. This joint program will now be called the LRA MEGACYCLE GROUP and will be a division of LRA under the overall name of **Lakeshore Radio Association**. The majority of Racine Megacycle Club members are already active supporters of LRA's repeaters, making this merger a natural next step in our shared journey.

This isn't just a name change, it's a bold leap into the future for ham radio in southeastern Wisconsin. With new energy, expanded reach, and a unified voice, the **Lakeshore Radio Association** is ready to take on new challenges, support our growing community, and lead the way in innovation and collaboration.

Stay tuned, because the airwaves are about to get a whole lot more exciting!



for more information, contact

Dwayne, N9PYA at PRESIDENT@KR9RK.COM

Fred, K9SO at VP@KR9RK.COM or

Matt, AF9Q, at SECRETARY@KR9RK.COM



Member Contributions



On August 5, the Ozaukee Amateur Radio Emergency Services, or OZARES, group participated in the National Night Out for Ozaukee County.

Our group was located with the County Emergency Services and the Port Washington Fire Department.

It was a nice night with a large turnout.

Other groups included the FBI, the DEA, the Army, the National Guard, local police, and fire departments.

A shout-out to Markus, KD9UWG, for leading this effort, organizing, and setting up our display location.

Other OZARES members involved include Todd, KD9QLJ, Joe KD9RAW, Jeff AD9JW, Roland KB9TMB, and Don, AA9WP.

- Don AA9WP, EC OZARES

Public Information Coordinator Report

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

August is upon us, and with that our thoughts start to drift toward the upcoming fall season and all the things we need to get done before Mother Nature decides to “gift” the land with the dreaded four-lettered “S” word that I dare not write out because I don’t want to be the source of a jinx for the entire state.

With fall approaching, has your local organization participated in events from over the summer and working on how to keep momentum rolling? If so, you’re definitely not alone in that endeavor. The fall and early winter are very common times to at least start the ball rolling on educational and testing initiatives because many of us have more time to spare as the temperature drops. There are a couple things to think about as we’re talking here. The first point to think about has to do with the events over the summer themselves. At these events, did you have either sign-in sheets or a fillable sheet for those who may be interested in more information about either amateur radio or your organization? Another point, has your local group talked about an educational (or testing) event for the fall or winter yet, or is that talk up at a future meeting? If your group has talked about an event and the gears are turning on it, have you set dates or started messaging about it? Now that we’ve set the stage for a little discussion, let’s tap the brakes and go back to each question and talk about them. I know some groups have an excellent public information section and they do exceedingly well to get the

word out and plan events. If that's your group, you can skip the next few paragraphs if you'd like because you've invented your own wheel that works when it comes to events and messaging.

Let's go back to the first question about sign-in sheets or self-signup sheets for those looking for more information. Some groups had a presence at Field Day. Other groups participated in National Night Out or had local festivals they set up and/or operated at. My hat's off (and sickle bowed) to all of you for your efforts. Did you have the opportunity to take sign ups for interest? If so, that's a chunk of leg work saved right there. You already have interested people who are looking for more information. Now that some of the summer events are done, it may be wise to send a short follow-up email (or phone call if that's the preference) to the interested people thanking them or stopping by to visit your setup, and talk about any events you may have coming up. The email or phone call doesn't have to be anything gigantic – a simple thank you and talking about any known upcoming events is all that's really needed right off the bat.

That brings us to the next question that had to do with planning any events for the fall or winter. Does your group do educational workshops? Do you offer VE testing? Does your group actively offer Elmering? If your group answers "yes" to any of those, then it may be wise to consider offering a workshop, formal VE session or drop-in study and test opportunity. If your group is small, there's no harm in partnering with another local group to co-sponsor an event. Please though – if you partner with another group – make sure everyone is on the same page with all the information to help avoid confusion and incorrect information being shared. Building solid partnerships takes time, but destroying a solid partnership takes fractions of a second and can happen for a whole host of reasons.

To dovetail off the last question, let's delve further into a planned outreach event. Has your group set dates for an event? If so, how are you getting the word out to members and non-members alike? Email chains work all right. Social media does well because of the footprint a post can have with a proactive Public Information officer that shares information across multiple pages and groups. Having contacts within local print and broadcast media can also be greatly helpful because they can help get your event shared on any community calendar pages they have access to. This is especially important if your group is looking at offering a license workshop and/or testing session(s) down the line.

Please remember – working to grow amateur radio and your local group is very important. It's in the 95% of the 95/5 messaging rule we talked about quite some time back. While the messaging isn't an emergency to be broadcast (the 5%), it's still important and is part of the more regular message sets your group could be putting out (the 95%).

Now that we're done talking about messaging, there are a couple other quick things to mention. Thank you to the local groups that participated in National Night Out on August 5 (or 6). From the posts that have come across social media, it looks like the events were well attended. Your participation did not go unnoticed, and we appreciate seeing what you're doing in the section! We try to share what we can from local pages when we're able, but we know we miss posts along the line...and for that we always feel bad because we want to celebrate your achievements as much as possible.

Hats off to Milwaukee/Waukesha County ARES/RACES for stepping up when the flood waters rushed through Milwaukee the weekend of August 10. Further hats off to the ARES/RACES members from other counties who answered the call to help and were able to respond to

Milwaukee to assist with their operation. Consistent training, teamwork and cooperation can help make great things happen.

One last reminder – the annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES conference will be held October 11 in Wisconsin Rapids. More information will be forthcoming later in August and into early September for registration, lodging and such.

Until next month, take care and enjoy the weather!

Section ARES/RACES Report

From Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, Section Emergency Coordinator:

ARRL has been working on a reporting and mapping tool for people interested in ARES and it is finally live on their website! you can check it out here: <http://www.arrl.org/ARES> . If you are an EC you should register your group online here: <http://www.arrl.org/register-an-ares-group> ASAP so that people can find your group and reach out for info on how to join or listen in on your nets. The resource is searchable by zip code and there are not many groups registered in our state yet so please get this done. ARES Support organizations/clubs may also register on the site, but they must be directly affiliated with promoting or providing material support/financial assistance to their ARES organization.

Reporting numbers have significantly increased for the section in July! Thank you for helping support this effort and let's continue to show how much we do in our communities. I would like to remind those reporting to use the suggested report naming conventions so that we can easily group our reports by district. If you have any further questions regarding the report naming format, please reach out to either me at sec4wi@gmail.com or your local DEC for assistance.

Speaking of reporting, the current month of August should be a VERY high reporting month with all of the storm activations and wild weather we have had. Remember to keep track of any and all time spent responding to these events, including travel time.

Finally, I want to extend a personal thank you to those operators who were able to help with the mutual aid requests for flooding and storm damage surveys in the Milwaukee area. You have helped demonstrate the value of Wisconsin ARES/RACES not only as a communications resource but as a force multiplier. The Wisconsin ARES/RACES leadership team and Wisconsin Emergency Management are grateful for your assistance.



Section Traffic Manager Report

STM Report - Wisconsin Section July 2025

THE BADGER EMERGENCY NET IS IN NEED OF A NET
CONTROL FOR SATURDAY NOONS.

POSITION COULD\BE SHARED.

IT'S EASY.

Back to School So Soon?

FAQ # 288 Are there lessons we still need to learn about nets and traffic handling? Well, there are several schools of thought about that. Some Hams seem to think that all they need is an HT and a few check-ins to a local net for training. They are mistaken. We could all be schooled a bit.

Even “seasoned” traffic handlers (salt-of-the-earth types who pepper their discussion with acronyms about traffic) can learn better procedures and make them automatic by practice. Of course, practicing *incorrect* procedures makes them harder to unlearn.

Net protocol: Always give your call and get recognized before contributing. Listen to directions from the NCS. End your transmissions with your call.

Examples in traffic: A zero is a zero. It’s a number, a figure. It’s not an “O” – either the letter or the exclamation, Oh! A learned operator will know the difference.

Figures are said individually. “22” is said “two two” – not “twenty-two.” The figures 304 are said, “three zero four” – not “three oh four” or “three hundred and four.”

There’s no need to name the parts of the preamble (station, check, etc.) but *do* start with the word, “number.” After that, the receiver knows what comes next. That’s why “Going to” and “Signature” aren’t needed either.

Message texts should be in the fewest words.

In the text, there’s no “x-ray” after an ARL numbered radiogram (always spelled out) and no “x-ray” after the word “query.” Not needed. There’s no “S” on “73” if you send it or say it. Same reason.

Homonyms (not those served with grits) are spelled out. As we English teachers always say when trying to comfort someone, “There, their, they’re.” Spell out names of persons and places, too.

If you regularly check into a traffic net please take and deliver some traffic at least once a month. With wide-area calling this should not be difficult. It will keep you in practice

and lighten the load on more active handlers. Keep up your skills as well as your equipment to make your station the best it can be.

There's always something to learn or practice, but schooling like this is easy for traffic handlers. They have class. – 73, K9LGU/STM-WI

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

WISCONSIN TRAFFIC NETS		Updated 1/19/2025						
		Net Control Stations						
Name Of Net, Frequency, Local Time	Net Manager	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:

Building Skills, Building Hams

When hams talk about “building” in ham radio, the first image that comes to mind is usually a soldering iron and a kit. While that's certainly part of building, building in ham radio is bigger than simply hardware; it's about developing skills, giving operators ownership of the hobby. For youth especially, “building” doesn't just mean putting components together, but much rather building the social aspects (and skills) of ham radio.

Building Through Contacting

I've noticed many people, kids and adults alike, who stay at a Technician license usually start to stagnate away from ham, usually because they're limited to VHF/UHF repeaters. That's an

amazing first step, and there are amazing nets/digital modes that can be done on VHF/UHF, but at a certain point it can feel repetitive if they don't expand beyond that.

Encouraging new hams to branch out is critical. For example:

- Introducing HF contacts opens an entirely new world of possibilities. Hearing a voice from another state or country can be exciting purely on its own. Along with that, contesting is mainly on HF (Not that there aren't contests for VHF/UHF or Fox Hunts, but they have a smaller audience), which is a whole new element of amateur radio to enjoy.
- Teaching new hams how to log QSOs, call CQ, and work pileups helps remove mic-shyness and teaches a significant amount regarding operating etiquette.

Building Through Exploration

Ham radio is a wide field. A young operator who only ever checks into the local repeater may quickly run out of motivation. By introducing new hams to new aspects of amateur radio — contesting, digital modes, satellites, the works — you're giving these new hams the option to choose which elements of amateur radio click for them (usually most hams have one thing they're interested in, albeit contesting, digital, etc.).

Building skill is branching out, showing new hams that a Technician license is a doorway and not a dead end.

Building Through Kits and Projects

Of course, the “traditional” side of building still matters. There is a huge amount of joy I get from assembling a soldering kit, or using the knowledge I've gained from studying for ham radio tests/robotics to piece together a final project. No matter who you meet, everyone can take pride in knowing “I made this work.”

Kits/Projects are a unique intersection of theory and practice, *especially* when it comes to antenna theory. Students see a whole plethora of concepts come alive, understand how parts fit together, and get a tangible sense of accomplishment. Again, hands-on projects make a difference between “seeing” ham radio and “doing” ham radio.

Final Thoughts

To draw youth into amateur radio, thinking about “building” in a broader sense is beneficial. Not just radios, but legitimate skills. Not just one element of amateur radio, but many (hopefully all). Exposure to amateur radio simply isn't enough, but rather legitimate involvement.

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 member who have become silent keys since the last publication.

- Michel Roy, K9GU, of Bailey's Harbor, 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 23, 2025 – Circus City Swapfest

Location: Baraboo, WI

Sponsor: Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://yellowthunder.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 – ** CANCELLED 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-arri.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



WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY**July 2025**

NET	QNI CHECK -INS	QTC TRAFFIC	QTR TIME	SSNS SESSIONS	NM NET MANAGER
BWN	1077	1584	3312	31	K9LUK
BEN	224	152	366	26	NX9K
WSBN	425	124	618	31	AG9G
WSSN	156	51	364	31	KB9ROB
WIN/E	136	80	214	31	WB9ICH
WIN/L	173	62	283	31	W9RTP
WRACES HF	40	7	82	4	WB9WKO
WRACES VHF	11	0	45	1	KA9KJE
WRACES DIGITAL	253	3055	5760	4	KD9USW
totals	2495	5115	11044	190	

WISCONSIN SECTION**P S H R SUMMARY****JULY 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	165	0	20	295
KC9FXE	38	33	20	25	35	10	161
AG9G	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
K9LGU	40	40	30	5	15	0	130
WB9WKO	40	40	30	15	0	0	125
KB9GO	40	40	10	0	0	0	90
KC9UC	40	40	10	0	0	0	90
NX9K	20	40	20	0	0	0	80

WISCONSIN SECTION**STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY July 2025**

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
WB9WKO	0	242	218	10	0	470
NX9K	30	69	278	0	0	377
AG9G	0	207	114	0	0	321
KB9GO	0	208	106	1	0	315
N9VC	0	193	112	0	0	305
N9CK	0	145	140	2	0	287
K9LGU	0	42	60	0	0	102
KC9UC	0	42	46	0	0	88
KB9ROB	0	48	7	6	3	64
WJ9L	0	23	19	5	1	48
KC9FXE	0	9	19	5	0	33
W9RTP	0	25	5	0	1	31
WB9ICH	0	25	2	0	0	27
W9RNA	0	11	2	7	5	25
KA9KJE	1	4	1	0	0	6