



WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: October 2025

ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

From the Section Manager

Hello, everyone! It's been a busy month for a lot of us, especially for those involved in ARES.

The annual Simulated Emergency Test occurred on October 4th. Many counties participated in the event and coordinated their activities with the section wide exercise. It seems that it all went quite well. A special thanks to **Dan Lenz, KB9IME**, for developing and coordinating the statewide exercise; **Denny Rybicki, K9LGU**, **Jim Batka, N9VC**, and their net management team for running the traffic nets; and everyone who participated.

The following week, October 11th, was the annual ARES Conference held in Wisconsin Rapids. I've heard from many of you expressing your enjoyment and appreciation of the presentations this year. I couldn't agree more. They were great! Equally as great were the face-to-face conversations that were had. You can't get that from watching the reruns online.

Congratulations goes out the **Brian Jansen, KC9GMW**, our Emergency Coordinator of the Year, and **Myron Oestreich, KB9STB**, the recipient of the Don Michalski Leadership Award. Both are well deserved!

If anyone is interested in joining ARES or our traffic nets, details and contacts are on our website; www.wi-arrl.org

As you can see to the right, the hamfest season is wrapping up, with just one big one left. **Fox Cities ARC** will host their annual hamfest at a new location. It appears that they are going all out and putting a ton of effort into this event. I think it will be one with seeing.

That's it from here! Until next time, 73!

UPCOMING EVENTS

FCARC Annual
Hamfest

November 2

Thanksgiving
November 27

Winter
December 21

End of the Year
Yikes!

General Announcements, Event, and Reminders

Help Pass the Bill!

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

Whether you are an ARRL member or not, every amateur radio operator should participate this grassroots campaign to protect amateur radio rights, specifically to eliminate HOA prohibitions, in this case.

They've made it simple – For licensed amateurs, scan the QR code below, or visit the associated website, enter your call sign, confirm your information, and submit! This will generate a letter to your US Senators and your Congressional Representative on your behalf. Our lobbyists will hand deliver these letters at the appropriate time. It literally takes 30 seconds of your time.



<https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>

**** NOTE:** This is for individuals only. Clubs and ARES organizations should submit the club letter with the template provided ******

For more detailed information on this, visit: <https://www.arrl.org/current-legislation>

For clubs: <https://send-a-letter.org/club>



Wisconsin Section Field Services Position Openings

The following positions are still waiting to be filled:

- ****NEW**** District Emergency Coordinator – Northwest District
- District Emergency Coordinator – West Central District
- Net Control Station – Badger Emergency Net & Wisconsin Sideband Net
- Emergency Coordinator – Several

Contact the Section Manager for further information.



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=DI8nmjRJg4>

Public Information Coordinator Report

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

October is upon us, and with that comes the latest from the world of public information. It's usually a little challenging to find events coming up for November and December, simply because there isn't a whole lot happening radio wise. This is the time of year where fall starts to turn to winter (whether we want it to or not – mostly "or not") and we begin planning family events for the holidays. How those events look is different for all of us because we all have our own traditions and they're all beautifully unique. That said, there are some events that do happen between November and December, and here's a short rundown of some stuff that may be of interest.

Sunday, November 2 is the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club's Hamfest. It will be at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh, and runs from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They'll have VE testing, raffle prizes, food and beverage available and informational presentations by subject matter experts. Word is KC9FXE will



be in attendance, and if all goes as planned, I'll be over for the fest as well. Word on the airwaves is that the weather may be right for a rare mid-day *wouff hong*, but that's purely speculation. Once we get beyond that, there's a little bit of a lull until after Thanksgiving. At that point, there are Santa on the Air events that will be taking place both on local repeaters as well as on high frequency. More details on those will be in the November newsletter.

One of the other parts of operating in November is the annual ARRL Sweepstakes contests. The weekend of November 1-3 is the CW Sweepstakes, and November 15-17 is the phone side of Sweepstakes. These contests can be a lot of fun as well as a great learning opportunity for those who are either new to contesting or for those looking to hone their SSB fine tuning skills.

There are a couple other quick notes to talk about since it's kind of a catch-all article this month. First up, thank you to everyone that attended, presented at, made award nominations, donated to or worked on the behind-the-scenes components of the annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES

Conference that was held on October 11 in Wisconsin Rapids. We are so very thankful for all of you. In a perfect world, audio editing will be completed (eliminating background noise and elevating the voice of the presenter as much as possible) and the podcast forms of many of the presentations will be available for listening by the time you read this. Congratulations to Brian, KC9GMW from Milwaukee and Waukesha County ARES/RACES on being named as the Emergency Coordinator of the Year. Brian – your hard work is appreciated and you’ve definitely made a huge difference in the area. The planning for the 28th annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference will start soon, and if you’d like to have a hand in planning the conference please reach out. The first thing the conference committee will work to determine is a theme for the 2026 conference and build from that point. There are many posts on the Wisconsin ARES/RACES Facebook page at facebook.com/wiaresraces that give photos and highlights of the conference.

One other point to touch on while it’s on the brain. Please remember that if you’d like your event advertised or shared to reach out. Much to my XYL’s chagrin (and if you ask her she’ll tell you as much in no uncertain terms), I do spend an offensive amount of time in the evening (between true crime shows) scrolling social media and trying to share what I can, but there’s still a ton of stuff that gets missed. It’s one of those things where it isn’t anyone’s fault, it simply falls under the category of “is.” If you’d like your event shared ahead of time or celebrated afterward, there’s always the option of messaging the ARES/RACES or the ARRL – Wisconsin Section Facebook page with information, otherwise an email to wi.arrl.pic@gmail.com with some basic information can start the ball rolling as well. Predictably, I’ll have questions for details and clarification because I’m a little OCD (shocker, eh?) and want everything to be the best it can be when it gets shared, and making sure everything is as accurate as can be is a big deal. We all win when word gets out about your events (past and present) and we can share in your success, plus it helps all of us with honing our messages in the 95% non-emergent messaging in the “normal” 95/5 messaging setup.

That’s about all for this month. Have a good month, and we’ll chat again soon.

Section Youth Coordinator Report

From Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Section Youth Coordinator:

Supporting the Next Generation: ARRL Foundation Scholarships

As the season for scholarship applications approaches, it’s an opportune time to highlight the scholarships offered by or supported by the ARRL. Many amateur radio scholarships remain unclaimed or are awarded to the same individuals multiple times, so please share these scholarships among high school and college students.



ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program Overview

The ARRL Foundation manages over 100 scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$25,000, funded by generous donors. These scholarships are available to active, FCC-licensed amateur radio

operators pursuing higher education. The 2026 scholarship cycle is set to open on October 30, 2025, with applications accepted through January 6, 2026. Scholarship recipients are notified in June, and awards are disbursed directly to their educational institutions in July.

Highlighted Scholarships

To provide insight into the types of scholarships available, here are some notable examples:

- The ARRL Scholarship to Honor Barry Goldwater
 - Amount: \$5,000
 - Eligibility: Licensed amateur radio operator, graduating high school senior or undergraduate student
 - Requirements: Letter of recommendation from an ARRL-affiliated club officer attesting to the applicant's amateur radio activity; intended field of study in communications
- The Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) Scholarship
 - Amount: \$25,000
 - Eligibility: Active amateur radio license for at least one year prior to application
 - Requirements: Three letters of recommendation; minimum GPA of 3.5; open to any field of study and institution; highly competitive with only 20 awards given annually
- The L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, and Jean Cebik, N4TZP Scholarship
 - Amount: \$5,000
 - Eligibility: Technician Class or higher license
 - Requirements: Enrollment in a 4-year college or university; no specific field of study or GPA requirements
- The Alfred E. Friend, Jr. W4CF Memorial Scholarship
 - Amount: \$5,000
 - Eligibility: Any active amateur radio license class
 - Requirements: Intended field of study in engineering; no specific GPA requirements
- The Hy and Mimi Ginsberg Memorial Scholarship
 - Amount: \$4,000
 - Eligibility: Any active amateur radio license class
 - Requirements: Enrollment in a 2-year or 4-year college, university, or trade school; U.S. citizenship required
- The Ronald Hesselbrock, WA8LOW, Memorial Scholarship
 - Amount: \$10,000
 - Eligibility: Active amateur radio license for at least one year prior to application
 - Requirements: Enrollment in an accredited U.S. college, university, or trade school; ARRL membership for at least one year; letter of recommendation from a local amateur radio club officer verifying the applicant's activity
- The Ozaukee Radio Club, W9CQO, Scholarship
 - Amount: \$2,000
 - Eligibility: Any active amateur radio license

- Requirements: Under 26 years old; Wisconsin resident; enrollment in a full-time 4-year undergraduate program

Encouraging Student Participation

These scholarships represent just a fraction of the opportunities available through the ARRL Foundation. Many scholarships have no preference regarding the type of higher education pursued or the field of study, which allows flexibility for students to choose paths that align with their interests and career goals.

Conclusion

By actively supporting and promoting the ARRL Foundation scholarships, we can help ensure that more students have the opportunity to pursue higher education with reduced financial burdens. This not only benefits the individuals but also strengthens the future of the amateur radio community.

For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program>.

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.

Section ARES/RACES Report

From Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, Section Emergency Coordinator:



Section Traffic Manager Report

STM Report
Wisconsin Section
September 2025

The Importance of Messages

FAQ # 290 Are the messages we hear on our nets important? Sure they are. Some might question the value of the messages we relay. It seems to them that the information we transfer isn't of high importance, so why do we bother? Couldn't we just call the recipient with our cell phone? Well, that's the point. We do it for the times that the cell phone *isn't* working.

When we pass someone and say, "Hello," "Good Morning," or "Hot enough for you?" we aren't *really* exchanging much information - but it's important to say those greetings to recognize the other person, to be polite, to test the system.

Before any significant, sizable meeting -- such as a national convention, a large congregation's church service, or a sold-out rock concert -- some sound technician walks up to a microphone and says something like, "Testing. One, two, three. . ." (Or "Czech one, two, three" or "Norwegian, one, two, three" but I digress.) Those words certainly don't carry important information, but it is *extremely* important that they be said. If they're not, how will the technician know if the system is functioning properly? So it is with our nets. We run them to exercise the system - including our equipment, our knowledge, and our skills.

Exercises such as the Simulated Emergency Test, Field Day, a public service event, or daily traffic nets are valuable because of the training they provide. When we test equipment, procedures or ourselves, it makes us a better team for doing what we do.

Is the content of all of our the messages of high importance? Sometimes, maybe not. Is it important that we use those messages for practice? Always. 73 – K9LGU/STM

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

WISCONSIN TRAFFIC NETS		Updated 9/22/2025						
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	W9RTP	N9VC	K9STN	NX9K	NCS ROTATES
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.

9/22/2025

In Memoriam

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

- Bob Schmidt, Jr., WA9JDR, of Altoona, WI – [view obituary](#)
- Steve Buck, WI9ARC, of Menomonie Falls, WI – [view obituary](#)
- Thomas Doyle, W9KE, of Middleton, 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

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



ARES Conference Photos







More available on our website and social media pages

WISCONSIN SECTION

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY SEP 2025

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	335	75	476	0	0	886 - BPL
WB9WKO	0	278	223	4	0	505 - BPL
KB9GO	0	265	113	0	0	378
AG9G	0	234	130	0	0	364
N9CK	0	137	137	0	0	274
N9VC	0	150	35	1	0	186
KC9UC	0	78	88	0	0	166
K9LGU	0	61	78	1	0	140
KB9ROB	0	45	10	5	3	63
WJ9L	0	29	19	7	2	57
W9RNA	0	16	3	11	3	33
KC9FXE	0	7	18	3	0	28
W9RTP	0	22	6	0	0	28
KA9BAE	0	11	15	0	0	26
WB9ICH	0	23	2	0	0	25
KA9KJE	2	7	1	0	0	10

WISCONSIN SECTION P S H R SUMMARY SEP 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	250	0	20	380
AG9G	40	40	30	95	0	0	205
K9LGU	40	40	30	10	5	0	125
WB9WKO	40	40	30	10	0	0	120
KC9FXE	40	28	20	20	0	10	118
NX9K	40	40	20	0	0	0	100
KB9GO	40	40	10	0	0	0	90
KC9UC	40	40	10	0	0	0	90

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SEP 2025

NET	QNI CHECK- INS	QTC TRAFFIC	QTR TIME	SSNS SESSIONS	NM NET MANAGER
BWN	1004	1362	3124	30	K9LUK
BEN	307	178	458	27	NX9K
WSBN	433	133	602	29	AG9G
WSSN	145	56	358	30	KB9ROB
WIN/E	123	136	230	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	161	75	272	30	W9RTP
WI ARES/RACES HF	50	11	172	4	WB9WKO
WI ARES/RACES VHF	13	0	22	1	KA9KJE
WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL	301	4072	10080	7	KD9USW
totals	2537	6023	14693	187	