



WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: November/December 2025
ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

From the Section Manager

Hello, everyone!

I love it when I can start a newsletter with a nice member spotlight. I was made aware that one of our members, **Ken Tate, WB9OBX**, of Manitowoc, celebrated his 101st birthday just a few days ago. According to John Hailton, W9AH, "Ken is proudly still on the air, especially after some help from a couple of our members that re-routed his coax and radios from the second floor to the first floor of his home. Ken served aboard the USS Rasher (SS 269) during World War II, which is particularly significant because the submarine was built in Manitowoc, WI." Thank you, Ken for your service to our Country! I'm happy to hear you are still enjoying amateur radio.



Earlier this month I traveled to Oshkosh for the FCARC Fall Hamfest. Their new format seemed to really work out well; a great job by **Carol Young, W9PIO**, and her crew for putting this together. We had a great crew at the ARRL table. Pictured are Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Jason Spetz, KC9FXE, Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, and Tom Czaja, KG9EE:



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thanksgiving
November 27

Winter
December 21

No Newsletter for
December. Happy
Holidays!

End of the Year
Yikes!

Carol indicated that she would be submitting a write-up of their event in a future newsletter, so I will save any of the details for her, but I did include a couple more photos of the event toward the end of this newsletter.



We have two new Field Services appointments to announce:

- **Tim Heindl, KD9UUD**, has been appointed as the Emergency Coordinator for Taylor County
- **Brian Vodvarka, WD9HXC**, has been appointed as the Emergency Coordinator for Juneau County

Thank you to these gentlemen who have volunteered to serve in these roles. Your work will be much appreciated!



This will be the final newsletter of 2025. I'm giving everyone (and myself) a break for the holidays. I want to thank you all for your support of the ARRL, and especially those who have volunteered to help in various positions. It wouldn't be possible without you. Like most years, 2025 had its ups and downs, but in the end, we are better off than we were in the beginning. That's forward progress, and I look forward to keeping that going in 2026.

If there is anything that is time sensitive before the January newsletter, I will pass it on through the member email reflector and post it on the website.

I wish you all very happy and safe holiday season!

See you in 2026, the Year of the Club!

Until next time, 73!

General Announcements, Event, and Reminders



2026 is the ARRL Year of the Club

In case you haven't heard, 2026 has been labeled the "Year of the Club" by the ARRL, and there are a lot of fun activities planned. They created a full webpage associated with the event which explains it better than I can.

[Year of the Club Website](#)



Wisconsin Section Field Services Position Openings



The following field positions are still waiting to be filled:

- 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.



ARRL Call for Technical Manuscripts

Call for Manuscripts: Share your technical insights on your Field Day setups and Emergency Communications activities.



QST invites submissions of technical manuscripts from licensed amateur radio operators for upcoming issues focused on **ARRL Field Day and Emergency Communications operations**. We're looking for educational, how-to pieces that help

fellow hams improve their setups, strategies, and technical know-how.

What We're Looking For:

- Innovative or proven techniques for emergency preparedness and response.
- Technical solutions for Field Day operations—power, antennas, logging, digital modes, etc.
- Integration of new technologies (e.g., SDR, mesh networking, solar power) in field scenarios.
- Examples of how the popularity of Parks on the Air (POTA) portable activations has changed your approach to setting up Field Day and EmComm stations.
- Examples of how portable antennas and LiFePO batteries have replaced base station antennas and generators.
- Manuscripts should have a strong “how-to” component. Tell us what you did, but more importantly, tell us how you did it.

Submission Guidelines:

- **Audience:** Licensed amateur radio operators.
- **Length:** 1,000 –1,800 words, plus high-resolution images with caption and photo credit information (name and call sign of photographer).
- **Tone:** Educational and collaborative—share what works!
- **Format:** Plain text or Word document.
- **Deadline:** January 31, 2026
- **Submit to:** qst@arrl.org

Why Contribute? Your article could be published in QST, ARRL's membership journal, which reaches thousands of fellow amateurs across the country and beyond. It's a great way to give back to the community and inspire others with your experience.



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**




FCC Amateur Radio license Renewal Help

Check out these helpful resources to help you through the renewal process:

- 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:

We've survived Halloween, and are now headlong into not one, but TWO Wisconsin seasons at the same time – Packer and deer hunting. Right at the end of Packer season, the third season re-starts in most parts of the state north of Madison (road construction), and in mid-February the fourth season starts – Brewers baseball.

Since we're in November, it's time to get into a holiday sort of mindset. It's the time of year when we plan out our Thanksgiving events with family and start working on getting ready for Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa. Typically, there's the usual batting ideas back and forth on what to do, where to go, which family members to invite (and those to absolutely avoid inviting for one reason or another), and for many of us – what to do for a reprieve in the midst of all the stress, hustle and bustle of the holidays.

By this time, I'm sure you're sitting there, scratching your head and trying to figure out what in the world that has to do with radio or public information. The short answer is it'll all make sense in the next couple paragraphs. The longer answer is to pour yourself a coffee (be it Irish or regular), put your feet up, and allow me to coalesce the vapors of life into a workable message and in turn deliver said message to you.

When it boils down to apples and apples comparisons, planning holiday events have quite a bit in common with some communications events and club functions. There are the logistical elements to iron out (location, targeted audience, date and time and so on), and then there is the branding or messaging of the event. From a strictly sterile standpoint, this will most likely fall into the 95% of all messaging being of a non-emergent nature. Essentially, you need to get the word out to the right people at the right time for the right event. All of these things need a lot of behind-the-scenes discussion and brainstorming. Here are a couple examples out of my world to help make this make sense.

Example 1: My wife and I are in the process of purchasing a different house. With any sort of luck, I'll get a bigger hamshack out of it, but that's another story. If all goes as planned, we'll be closing in early December. About a week before we went to look at the house we ultimately submitted an offer on, we said we would host thanksgiving for my wife's side of the family. Initial messaging – we're hosting Thanksgiving. It'll be a combination of Thanksgiving and birthday get together because my birthday is the same day as our Thanksgiving get together. Easy stuff. Now with the new house in the mix, we've been joking that we should rebrand it to "Thanksgiving, Mac's birthday *and* help us pack party." We aren't sure how well we could make that messaging work, so we haven't really issued that to my in-laws. That one is fairly light lift on who the audience will be and all, so it's an easier plan and message set. We know it'll be about 30 people coming over, and we know who will roughly be coming because it's the same sets of in-laws that come to the holidays at my in-laws' house in Wausau. The only thing we haven't figured out was whether we'll be attending the annual WKRP Turkey Drop at the Pinedale Shopping Center, but I digress.

Example 2: With the new house on the horizon, we've been talking about whether to have a housewarming party either shortly before Christmas or between Christmas and New Years. So far, all it has been is abbreviated talk because there are a ton of moving parts to home purchasing, and everything is fluid with it.....until it isn't. Again though, we've had to talk about our target audience (in this case who we would invite) and how to get the messaging all set for that. Then there's the logistics of date, time, the menu (most important part) and the like which can add its own stress layers. I enjoy cooking (and desserts and appetizers are my favorite things to putz with cooking wise) so once my wife and I figure out the menu, I'll run with it and probably see if I can talk one of my daughters into helping out. In turn, my wife is exceptionally good at the really fine detail parts of planning, so she may be better suited with the date/time/guest list side of things. This example illustrates a bit more clearly the need to know your planning committee and their abilities, the message and the need to craft the message for your desired audience, simply because it may not be the best idea to cast a broad net for this event.

Both of these examples – although seemingly unrelated to the ham side of the world – help to illustrate the need to work on thoroughly planning your events, getting the messaging set and executing the message to your audience. For ham events, getting the message out can seem

daunting, but it really isn't as tough as you'd think. Between social media and various email reflectors, messaging can be a snap.

One tip with social media and messaging though. Please remember that while the internet is forever, thinking outside the box for your messaging can really help. Example – technician license workshops. You can share word about workshops on Facebook ham pages until you're blue in the face, but are you really cultivating new hams? Maybe. Has your group considered cross posting class and event information to local buy/sell/trade pages or community pages as well? How about using X, Instagram or Nextdoor? That's potentially a whole new audience to reach, and it may serve to grow the interest in radio and your local organization.

Before we wrap up for this month, there are a couple other tidbits to mention. In December or January, planning will be starting again for the 28th annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference. It will be October 10, 2026 in Wisconsin Rapids. If you would like to join the planning committee, please reach out and we will get you on the email and meeting list. Typically planning meetings are once a month until it gets closer to conference time, and then they're every other week. Meetings are on Teams and are about an hour long.

Santa on the Air will be starting on 3916 LSB nightly after Thanksgiving. As of the writing of this article, there hasn't been any word on local SOTA events.

Over the next few weeks, there will be many new hams coming on the air. These people passed their tests during the government shutdown and should be getting their FRN's, paying fees and getting callsigns issued over the next while. Welcome to all new hams!

Please remember to take some time to enjoy the upcoming holidays in whatever manner works best for you. To that end, my family and I wish you the best for the up-and-coming holidays.

Section Youth Coordinator Report

From Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Section Youth Coordinator:

FIRST Robotics & Amateur Radio: Building Momentum as Robotics Season Begins

With the new FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) season kicking off in early January, it's the perfect time to highlight how strongly amateur radio aligns with the world of competitive robotics. While these two communities may look different on the surface, both are powered by curiosity, ingenuity, and a drive to push technological boundaries. As robotics teams begin designing and prototyping for the year's challenge, the parallels with amateur radio become clearer than ever.

Why FRC and Amateur Radio Are Natural Partners:

FRC challenges students to engineer high-performance robots under tight deadlines, using skills in electrical engineering, programming, mechanics, sensor analysis, and wireless communication. Amateur radio operators, meanwhile, experiment daily with antennas, electronics, signal paths, and problem-solving under pressure.

The overlap is undeniable:

- Both rely on hands-on technical problem solving
- Both encourage safe, effective use of radio frequencies, electronic design, and communication systems
- Both value teamwork, innovation, and lifelong learning
- Both create environments where young people can apply STEM knowledge to real problems

How Ham Radio Operators Benefit:

Working with FIRST Robotics teams offers amateur radio operators a valuable chance to expand their skill sets, engage new audiences, and reinforce the hobby's role in today's fast-moving STEM environment:

Bringing in Future Operators:

Robotics attracts students who are already passionate about engineering and technology. These are ideal potential newcomers to amateur radio. Through collaboration, hams can introduce robotics students to the excitement of radio communication, helping sustain and grow the hobby for years to come.

Strengthening Community Connections:

FRC teams rely on partnerships with local companies, schools, and technical mentors. When ham operators get involved, they naturally build relationships with these organizations, increasing visibility for amateur radio and opening doors to new collaborations.

Boosting Public Engagement:

Combined outreach — robotics demonstrations alongside ham radio activities such as satellite contacts, HF stations, or APRS mapping — creates compelling STEM events that capture the public's interest and highlight the value of both programs.

How Ham Radio Operators Can Help This Season:

As robotics teams ramp up for prototyping, CAD work, wiring, code development, and eventual competition, amateur radio operators have valuable roles to play.

Mentor a Technical Subteam

- Electrical, mechanical, and programming subteams all benefit from ham experience, especially in:
 - Soldering and connector skills
 - Cable management
 - Safe electrical practices
- Students respond well to real-world experts—and hams bring that credibility.

Co-Host STEM Outreach Events

- Joint amateur radio + robotics demonstrations are huge community draws. These collaborations promote both robotics and ham radio at once.

Introduce Students to Licensing

- Robotics students are ideal candidates for amateur radio — they're already passionate about STEM.

Conclusion:

As the FRC season begins, the connection between amateur radio and robotics becomes stronger than ever. Both communities thrive on innovation, teamwork, and technical excellence. By working together, we foster excitement, inspire young engineers, and strengthen the future of STEM and amateur radio alike.

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
October 2025
Acting on Acronyms

FAQ # 291 Wht abt abrvtns? To save time, Hams often makes use of abbreviated forms. Of course, there are the standard abbreviations in electronics, E, I, R, P, Hz, etc., and when using Morse code (CUL, BCNU, AGN, TU) but the traffic part of the hobby might make use of some acronyms (NASA) or initialisms (SET, FBI), too. Q signals only used on CW say a lot. They're evident on the CW (there's a good one) nets, and their equivalent can be a shortened phrase on (SSB, FM or AM).

We know that a Net Manager (NM) appoints each Net Control Station (NCS) of a section net (like the BEN or WSBN), and the NCS checks in a station coming or going to the Ninth Region Net (9RN REP) or Central Area Net (CAN), as well as a representative of the Wisconsin Intrastate Net (WIN) in the evening. The WIN, by the way, comes in two flavors -- WIN/E (the early session at 7 P.M. when traffic is forwarded to early 9RN) and WIN/L (at 10 P.M. when the late 9RN traffic comes in). See how handy those abbreviations are?

While handling traffic, some common prosigns - and their voice equivalents -- are

AA - All After (Please send all of the text after. . .)

AB - All Before (Send all of the text before. . .)

AGN- Again ("Say again" on voice)

ARL - used in the check to show there's an ARRL numbered radiogram in the text

BK - Break (a pause for a quick check on phone or separation between address and text, text and signature)

CFM - Confirm (Did I get this right?)

CK - Check (It's the number of groups in the text)

N - Negative -- or no more messages to follow (None)

R - Roger (which only needs to be said once) -- or a decimal point in CW. This creates confusion if messages are numbered with a decimal point, since it gets mixed up with the precedence (usually Routine). So, message number 3.2 Routine on CW would start "NR 3 R 2 R ." An operator needs to be a lert - - but then, the world needs more lerts. And don't forget these when you need a fill.

WA - Word After

WB - Word Before

Abbreviations and standard terms, just like net procedures, help our efficiency because we all agree on what they mean. GL and BCNU on the NTS. --- 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.

- William "Bill" Aspinwall, W9UGT, of Lodi, WI – [view obituary](#)
- Daniel Dean, KD9IKZ, of Menomonie, WI – No obituary available at this time.

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



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

ARRL Wisconsin Section

Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

kc9fxe@arrl.org



Happy Holidays!



Photos from the FCARC Hamfest





WISCONSIN SECTION
STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY OCT 2025

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
WB9WKO	0	496	487	2	0	985 BPL
NX9K	338	86	482	0	0	906 BPL
AG9G	0	323	182	0	0	505 BPL
KB9GO	0	359	120	2	0	481
N9VC	0	158	38	0	0	196
K9LGU	0	44	57	0	0	101
KB9ROB	0	61	16	14	3	94
KC9UC	0	48	44	0	0	92
KC9FXE	0	38	21	3	0	62
WJ9L	0	31	25	5	1	62
KA9BAE	0	15	16	0	0	31
W9RTP	0	24	6	0	0	30
W9RNA	0	11	3	10	1	25
WB9ICH	0	22	2	0	0	24
KA9KJE	3	8	2	0	0	13

WISCONSIN SECTION P S H R SUMMARY OCT 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	205	0	20	335
KC9FXE	40	40	20	95	75	10	280
AG9G	40	40	30	75	0	0	185
K9LGU	40	40	30	75	0	0	185
KB9ROB	40	40	10	40	0	0	130
WB9WKO	40	40	30	30	0	0	130
NX9K	40	40	20	15	0	0	115
KB9GO	40	40	10	0	0	0	90
KC9UC	40	40	10	0	0	0	90

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY OCT 2025

NET	QNI CHECK- INS	QTC TRAFFIC	QTR TIME	SSNS SESSIONS	NM NET MANAGER
BWN	1102	1611	3365	31	K9LUK
BEN	419	204	628	35	NX9K
WSBN	498	145	696	31	AG9G
WSSN	141	70	373	31	KB9ROB
WIN/E	134	148	264	31	WB9ICH
WIN/L	159	51	250	31	W9RTP
WI ARES/RACES HF	67	8	196	4	WB9WKO
WI ARES/RACES VHF	45	0	70	1	KA9KJE
WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL	301	1478	8640	5	KD9USW
totals	2866	3715	14482	200	