



# WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: February 2026

ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

## From the Section Manager

Hello, everyone!

After publishing last month's newsletter, I got almost as much positive feedback as I did when the newsletter started coming out in its current format. What drove these comments? Well, the format didn't change again, so my money is on the contributions from our members. Articles and photos from around the section are always a great feature. I certainly like reading them! If you have something fun, interesting, educational, or all of the above to share, please send it my way. I'd love to include it here (free of charge).

This past weekend was the American Birkebeiner ski races up in Sawyer County. For quite some time, Sawyer County ARES/RACES, led by Wally Kruk, N9VAO/EC, has supported event, communicating specific information from each of the aid stations along the trail.

I've had the opportunity to work several past Birkie events with Wally and his crew. They are well organized in their operations, and their communications always sound great. This year, I was working the Birkie in a different capacity, but I was listening to their traffic both days. What I heard were the sounds of success for yet another Birkie deployment. Hat's off to Wally and his team!

There are lots of new events listed in the newsletter and online. Be sure to check them out! Thanks to Myron for pointing out a bad link for one event! While the link could have been worse, it was good to get it corrected.

A special thanks goes out to Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, who has volunteered to be our State Coordinator for the ARRL America250 Worked All States event. Gary will be managing the two Wisconsin W1AW/9 events scheduled for this year. For more information on that event, visit: <https://www.arrl.org/america250-was>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MVARA Spring  
Fever Swap Meet

March 7

Tri-County Hamfest

March 15

Madison Area RC  
Hamfest

April 18

Ozaukee RC Swap  
Fest

April 25

Finally, I hope to get invited to Holmen in a couple weeks, so maybe see you there for the start of Hamfest season.

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.



## 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!



## 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>



## Member Contributions

**WINTER FIELD DAY 2026**

**Kettle Moraine State Forest**

**Ottawa Lake Campground**

Tom Czaja, KG9EE, Assistant Section Manager



Milwaukee/Waukesha County ARES Van  
SSB in the van

Brian Jansen, KC9GMW, Working



Brian, KC9GMW, and Joe, KD9JYT, in the ARES Van

So, what do you do on a Saturday in Wisconsin where the temperature is -15 (F) and the wind chill is -27 (F)? Participate in the 2026 Winter Field Day from the Ottawa Lake Campground in the Kettle Moraine State Forest. This is what the hearty souls of the ARES groups from Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties did on January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The event was coordinated by Brian Jansen, KC9GMW, the EC for Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties. Brian operated SSB Voice on 15 and 20 meters using an ICOM 7300 attached to an ARRL end fed half wave antenna. There were five platforms using various modes. The initial data shows there were 338 phone contacts and 248 CW contacts for a total score of 834. The team contacted most of the States with the exception of Alaska, Hawaii and Iowa. The Kettle Moraine State Forest is US-4352 so those who contacted the team received a bonus and could use the contact as a POTA contact.

All of the platforms encountered some type of mechanical issues due to the cold weather. Brian Jansen looked at it as a learning experience, as it provided an opportunity to learn how cold weather affects the equipment and how to overcome the problems.

A few visitors stopped by to say hi and view the setup. One visitor, Joe, KD9JYT, came from Illinois to check it out.

Many thanks to Brian and the other dedicated operators for a very successful operation in less-than-optimal conditions.

## **Public Information Coordinator Report**

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

Happy February! We've survived the craziness of the mother of all polar vortices since late December/early January, and with any sort of luck the worst of the cold is past us for this winter season.

We learned in early December that the Technician license question pool will be changing on July 1, 2026. With that thought, has your local group thought at all about the possibility of holding a license workshop before that time? It would be a great opportunity for your group to flex some outreach muscle and work toward getting new hams in your communities. ARRL has great resources available for teaching license workshops along with the license level books for advanced study. Need help plugging your license workshop or upcoming VE session? No problem! We can help with that.

Over the next few months, there are many hamfests on the horizon throughout the state. The hamfests listed on our website are the ones that we're aware of because they were registered through the ARRL's website. By doing that (and dropping the Section Manager an email mentioning your fest and casually inviting a presence by the section), that opens the door for resources ARRL can provide to your organization before and during the event. As I mentioned last month, LaCrosse and Jefferson start the hamfest season rolling again this year on March 7 and 15 respectively. Both fests are really nice events with a lot of buy-sell-trade and networking with other hams. After that, we have a few weeks to catch our collective breath, and April 18 the Madison Area Repeater Association has their annual hamfest in Stoughton. Admittedly, I haven't been to their fest in a few years, and I do feel bad about that. Everything I've heard from those that have attended in recent years have had a lot of positive feedback about it. The week after Madison is the Ozaukee Radio Club's 46<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Indoor Swapfest in Cedarburg. May 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club hamfest in Superior, and May 30<sup>th</sup> is the Green Bay Mic and Key Club hamfest in Green Bay. There will be more on the April and May hamfests as we get closer to them.

March 15 is the Wisconsin QSO Party! This annual event is sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club, and is a lot of fun to operate. This event is also a great Elmering opportunity for showing those new to high frequency or contesting to help them get their "HF ears," which in

turn can help with those being Elmered to become better HF operators and possibly new (or improved) contesters.

With the upcoming events, there are a lot of opportunities to work on messaging to help ensure the word gets out for your group's activities. Keep in mind with your messaging, the KISS principle is a great place to start. While many of us in the Generation X demographic harken to a simpler time when KISS was a hard rock band, that's not the case this time. While there are many variations to what KISS actually means, we'll keep it safe for all audiences and say KISS stands for "Keep It Short and Sweet." In messaging, we've learned that well-worded, short, simple messages tend to be far more effective than long narratives that need more than a few seconds to read. Well-worded, in its simplest form, means simple wording that isn't buried in jargon that could confuse your intended audience. Simple wording plus a little catchy graphic work along with some advertising hustle on social media and the email chain, and your organization is on the way to having a successful event. As always, if you need help with getting the word out for your organization's event, please reach out.

That's about all for this month. With spring right around the corner, please take the opportunity to enjoy the good things that come with it. Those little moments every now and again add up, and make a difference.

## Section Youth Coordinator Report

From Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Section Youth Coordinator:

No Report

### Contact Me

Please email me at [et.k9zn@icloud.com](mailto:et.k9zn@icloud.com) if you have any questions or issues about my Section Youth Coordinator work. Response times can range from an hour to a day.

## Section ARES/RACES Report

From Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, Section Emergency Coordinator:

No Report.



## Section Traffic Manager Report

STM Report  
Wisconsin Section  
January 2026

*Roger Dodger, You Old Codger*

FAQ # 294 Roger who? When an operator receiving a formal message copies it accurately, he confirms his reception with one word – “Roger.” No, it doesn’t matter what the name of the sending operator is. It doesn’t matter to whom the message is addressed. The signature has no influence on this response.

“Roger” means “Roger.” It only needs to be said once. “Roger, Roger” is redundant. On CW, it’s “R” – sometimes spelled Q-S-L.

Roger, of course, comes from the old phonetics for “R,” and “R” means “received.” It doesn’t mean “Yes.” (That’s “Affirmative.”) It doesn’t even mean, “Will comply.” (That would be “Wilco.”) In today’s phonetic alphabet, I suppose it could be said, “I’ll Romeo that,” but that’s not in common use. So “Roger” it is.

What’s important to remember is what’s behind the response. It means the receiver has copied the message *exactly* as it was sent. If he or she knows the address is wrong, it’s still copied it as sent. If there’s a spelling or grammatical error in the text (and this isn’t easy), the receiver still copies it *exactly* as it is sent. If there’s a mistake in the wording – such as an unnecessary “x-ray” after an ARL numbered text – it is ignored and copied word-for-word. Obvious typo? Maybe not. The text remains constant. Only then can the receiving station respond with that famous word – “Roger.” Upon correct copy, all that’s needed from the receiver then is just a “Roger” and his call sign.

Getting the message passed perfectly should make the sender jolly – but I guess the Jolly Roger is a symbol for something else. 73 – K9LGU/STM-WI

**...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	<a href="#">K9LUK</a>	KB9GO	K9LUK	K9STN	W9CPY	W9IHW	AG9G	WB9WKO
Badger Emergency Net (BEN) 3985 KHz, 1200 ALT 7270 KHz	<a href="#">NX9K</a>	WJ9L	WJ9L	W9RTP	N9VC	K9STN	NX9K	NCS ROTATES
Wisconsin Side Band Net (WSBN) 3985 or 3982.5 KHz, 1700	<a href="#">AG9G</a>	NCS ROTATES	N9VC	KC9FXE	KB9GO	WB9WKO	AG9G	AC9F
Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN) 3555 KHz, Daily 1800	<a href="#">KB9ROB</a>	KB9ROB	N9VC	*	*	*	AG9G	*
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Early (WIN-E) 3555 KHz, 1900	<a href="#">WB9ICH</a>	WB9ICH	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9CK	N9VC	AG9G	WB9ICH
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Late (WIN-L) 3555 KHz, 2200	<a href="#">W9RTP</a>	AG9G	K9LGU	KC9UC	N9VC	N9VC	W9RTP	W9RTP
ARES/RACES Net 3967 KHz, 0800 Sunday ALT 3977.5 or 7250	<a href="#">K9STN</a>	*						
WI ARES/RACES Digital Net Tuesday on WINLink 7PM Mon - 7PM Tues	<a href="#">KD9USW</a>		KD9USW					
WI ARES/RACES VHF Net on WECOMM Frequencies Last Thursday of the month 7PM	<a href="#">KA9KJE</a>					KA9KJE		

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

2/13/2026

## In Memoriam

No news is good news!

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

### March 7, 2026 – MVARA Spring Fever Swap Meet

Sponsor: Mississippi Valley Amateur Radio Association

Location: Holmen, WI

Website: <https://www.mvara.net>

### March 15, 2026 – Tri-County Hamfest

Sponsor: Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

Location: Jefferson, WI

Website: <http://www.w9mqb.org/swapfest>

**April 18, 2026 – Madison Area Repeater Association Hamfest**

Sponsor: Madison Area Repeater Association

Location: Stoughton, WI

Website: <http://w9hsy.org>

**April 25, 2026 – ORC 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Indoor Swapfest**

Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club Inc

Location: Cedarburg, WI

Website: <https://ozaukeeradioclub.org>

**May 2, 2026 – ARAC Hamfest**

Sponsor: Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club

Location: Superior, WI

Website: <http://thearac.org>

**May 30, 2026 – Green Bay Hamfest**

Sponsor: Green Bay Mike & Key Club

Location: Green Bay, WI

Website: <http://www.k9eam.org>

**June 6, 2026 – Riverland ARC Swapfest**

Sponsor: Riverland Amateur Radio Club

Location: La Crosse, WI

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

**June 20, 2026 – FCARC Sunshine Swapfest**

Sponsor: Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club

Location: Oshkosh, WI

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

**July 11, 2026 – WI9SM Hamfest**

Sponsor: South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Location: Oak Creek, WI

Website: <http://wi9sm.org>

**August 29, 2026 – CVARC 2026 Hamfest**

Sponsor: Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club

Location: Bloomer, WI

Website: <https://w9cva.org/hamfest>

**August 29, 2026 – Circus City Hamfest**

Sponsor: Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

Location: Baraboo, WI

Website: <http://yellowthunder.org>

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

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**Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE**  
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**WISCONSIN SECTION**  
**STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY**  
**Jan 2026**

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	309	89	560	0	0	958-BPL
KB9GO	0	487	217	0	0	704-BPL
WB9WKO	7	364	288	8	0	667-BPL
AG9G	0	340	206	0	0	546-BPL
N9CK	0	217	197	0	0	414
N9VC	0	267	32	0	0	399
KC9UC	0	76	101	0	0	177

WJ9L	0	64	63	4	4	135
K9LGU	0	47	69	1	0	117
KB9ROB	1	48	9	5	2	65
K9STN	0	7	43	1	1	52
W9RTP	0	23	4	1	2	30
W9RNA	0	9	7	8	3	27
WB9ICH	0	23	2	0	0	25
KC9FXE	0	5	12	3	0	20
WB9NRK	0	5	0	5	0	10
KA9KJE	1	6	1	0	0	8

**WISCONSIN SECTION**

**P S H R SUMMARY**

**JAN 2026**

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
AG9G	40	40	30	25	0	0	135
WB9WKO	40	40	30	10	0	0	120
K9LGU	40	40	30	5	0	0	115
KC9FXE	40	20	20	25	0	10	115
N9CK	40	40	30	0	0	0	110
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 JAN 2026**

<b>NET</b>	<b>QNI CHECK- INS</b>	<b>QTC TRAFFIC</b>	<b>QTR TIME</b>	<b>SSNS SESSIONS</b>	<b>NM NET MANAGER</b>
<b>BWN</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>1655</b>	<b>3337</b>	<b>31</b>	K9LUK
<b>BEN</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>31</b>	NX9K
<b>WSBN</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>31</b>	AG9G
<b>WSSN</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>31</b>	KB9ROB
<b>WIN/E</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>31</b>	WB9ICH
<b>WIN/L</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>31</b>	W9RTP
<b>WI ARES/RACES HF</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>4</b>	WB9WKO
<b>WI ARES/RACES VHF</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1</b>	KA9KJE
<b>WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>1815</b>	<b>8640</b>	<b>6</b>	KD9USW
<b>totals</b>	<b>2690</b>	<b>4245</b>	<b>14254</b>	<b>197</b>	