



WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: April 2026

ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

From the Section Manager

Hello, everyone!

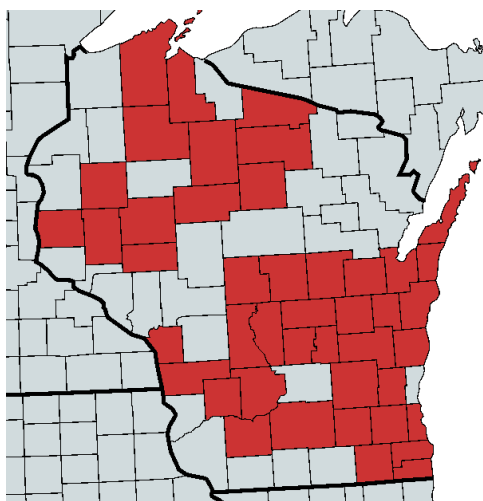
A few months ago, I posted a map similar to the one shown here. The shaded counties are those who are represented by some sort of local ARES leadership. Even since I posted this, in the middle of last year, the map has fluctuated a bit. People come and people go, for various reasons.

In my time as your Section Manager, I have always pressed for quality over quantity, whether it's net check-

ins, traffic passed or our section leadership. At times this has caused some feathers to be ruffled, so to speak, but I always felt it was for the betterment of the overall organization. I still do.

Staying on the topic of ARES leadership, gone are the days of people holding a position just to say that they do, and gone are the days that we hang a title on someone just because they say they want it or just because we want a position filled. I can truly say that the people we have in various positions are there because they want to contribute and are doing their best to recruit and retain members and keep things moving forward. It took some time to get here, but this is a pretty solid group.

Getting back to the map, overall, our section is doing better than many others, and our reports are much better, as you will see in Kyle's report. Sure, we would love to fill in the map even more, so if



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ozaukee RC Swap
Fest

April 25

ARAC Hamfest

May 2

Green Bay Hamfest

May 30

Riverland ARC
Swapfest

June 6

you are interested in starting an ARES group in your area, let us know and we will be happy to assist.



In other news, and somewhat related, **Mairin MacTavish, AB9UZ**, has been appointed to the position of Emergency Coordinator for Sheboygan and Fond Du Lac Counties. This position was previously held by John Archer, NO9X, who moved out of the area. Welcome to the team, Mairin. I'm sure you will do well!

Until next time, 73!

General Announcements, Event, and Reminders

WISCONSIN ARES/RACES
CONFERENCE 2026

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS

10 October 2026

DON'T MISS OUT!

The poster features a central graphic of a calendar with a red date marker. It includes two circular logos for Wisconsin ARES/RACES Emergency Communications, each containing a map of Wisconsin. The text is framed by blue scribbled lines in the corners.



Year of the Club

2026

Amateur Radio

The logo features a diamond-shaped symbol on the left containing a vertical antenna diagram with the letters 'A', 'R', and 'L' and a ground symbol. The text is set against a background of blue and white curved lines.

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:

- **NEW LISTING:** Section Youth Coordinator
- 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>



Public Information Coordinator Report

From Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Section Public Information Coordinator:

April is more than halfway through, and it's been quite the ride so far. We started out with snow, ice and tornado watches in the state at the same time on the same day. While some folks would be shaken and stirred by that, we live in Wisconsin, so that situation is a normal weekday here.

It was good to see many familiar faces of hams in Madison at the Madison Area Repeater Association's annual hamfest on April 18. Many good conversations were had, and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at future hamfests.

Looking ahead on the calendar, we have the Ozaukee Radio Club 46th annual Spring Indoor Swapfest on April 26 at the Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Center in Cedarburg. The following week, the Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club has their annual hamfest



in Superior at the Head of the Lakes Fairgrounds on Tower Avenue in Superior. After Superior, we get to take a breather for a couple weeks before the Green Bay Mic and Key Club hamfest in Green Bay on May 30.

Has your local organization started planning for Field Day? This is one of those events where early planning is key to having a successful event because of having a good amount of time leading up to the event to plan and have contingency plans. www.arrl.org/field-day is a great resource to get information (and swag) from ARRL to help plan and/or promote your event. There's also a handy-dandy Field Day locator map available for organizations to register their operation. www.arrl.org/field-day-rules is another great resource to help you be in the know on the rules for 2026, as there have been a couple adjustments. The rule section also lists where the bonus points can be earned to help your team's total score.

Planning is underway for the 28th annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference. That conference will be on October 10 at the McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids. We are working on room blocks for reservation at Hotel Mead (across the street from the conference) for the nights of October 9 and 10. Once we have that room block finalized, we will share that information. We are also looking for presenters for this year's conference. The tentative theme for 2026 is "Prepared. Connected. Operational." Do you have expertise in any of those areas? If you do, would you like to spend 30-60 minutes talking about your area of knowledge? We will be putting out a call for presentations soon and would love to hear from you if presenting is something you'd like to do.

With 2026 being the year of the club, has your local organization held any events to celebrate this? Have you held open houses; or are you planning to as a part of Field Day or National Night Out in August? Have you held license workshops or testing sessions to showcase your organization? Is your organization ARRL affiliated? If yes, please remember to update your club's information annually if possible. If your group isn't affiliated, it's fairly easy to become affiliated. <https://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-resources> is a great resource to help your group get started with that process and keep the affiliation up afterward.

This month's information article will be a little short. There's still lots of cleanup to do around the yard from the ice storm shenanigans the other week, so that's been the main order of business – pick up brush, light up the fire pit, sit by the fire and listen to the Brewer game while feeding

said fire, rinse and repeat. On the positive side, I did get a couple antennas up before the ice hit so I can start getting on the section nets again. Until we chat again, 73.

A couple more photos from MARA:



Section Youth Coordinator Report

From Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Section Youth Coordinator:

No Report.

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:

March was a wild weather month with some pretty radical swings in temperature a climate activity. Many of our counties were hit hard by the blizzard and many of our operators contributed valuable information to their counties, the NWS, and state emergency management to provide ground truth measurements and observations for a complete operational picture of the state. Thank you for your service to the community.

So far April seems to be an even crazier month with multiple severe weather events, including several tornado touchdowns leading to one of the largest outbreak weeks on record for our state. Your continued efforts and partnerships with the National Weather Service have helped to keep our neighbors safe and informed.

Please remember to document and report all of your activity to your EC so that it can be included on the Form 2 report for the month. This information helps show our value and the services we provide to our community. This data can be used to help secure grants and other funding to support our local and statewide efforts. I expect to see significantly higher numbers for the April report.

ECs must remember to fill out your form 2 on-line in the ARRL portal no later than the 10th of each month. ARRL cuts off Form 2 access after that date so that SECs can submit our compiled data for each month in time for publication deadlines. March had only 23 of the 38 appointed ECs reporting by the deadline. Please remember to get your reports completed even if they only include an hour or two (including the time to fill out the form). All data is valuable and shows your continued activity even during the slower months of the year.

-Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK WI SEC

Form 4 - ARES Monthly SEC Report

The following information was submitted by Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, WI SEC for **Wisconsin, March, 2026.**

Total number of ARES members:	312
Difference in ARES members from previous month:	N/D
Number of DECs/ECs reporting this month:	23
Total number of DECs/ECs in section:	38
Number of ARES net sessions held:	83
Number of ARES net sessions held with NTS liaison:	30
Number of participants in nets:	697

	Number	Person-Hrs
Exercises this month:	40	177.40
Training events this month:	41	294.50
Public service events this month:	5	133.50
Community service events this month:	3	110.00
Emergency events this month: SKYWARN	2	54.00
events this month:	8	128.90
Meetings this month:	32	256.00
Unclassified events this month:	10	61.80

Call signs of DECs reporting:

AC9F, AC9X, AG9G, K9BRM, K9HAH, K9UNZ, KA9KJE, KB9CBL, KB9TMB, KB9TYC, KD9BDL, KD9OSV, KD9UUD, N9KNX, NQ9D, W9AH, W9BBF, WB9ADB, WD9HXC, WT9Q, WX9KVH

Activity Details:

ADAMS COUNTY/JUNEAU COUNTY

Completed ICS-400 training, 1 SKYWARN net activation, a Winter weather exercise was scheduled but then postponed to do the Blizzard early in the month which took its place. For April we have scheduled a Tornado drill during severe weather awareness week

ASHLAND & BAYFIELD-----

2 Nets

EC CA WX9KVH-----

No updates here.

EC DO WB9ADB

Weekly Nets

EC DR K9HAH-----

Local Wx net

EC OU WX9KVH-----

7. 106 check-ins between 5 nets.

EC WI AC9X

5 nets, 1 meeting.

EC WP AC9F-----

Weekly Training Nets for March -5.

MT EC W9AH-----

Routine nets

NE ON-VI-LI

Weekly Net, Monthly Meeting

NE WO EC

Severe weather communications monitoring. Amateur teaching & testing. Weather monitoring. ARES meetings.

NW BN KB9TYC

Nets

PRICE-----

net ops

SE JE KD9BDL

Weekly net x4

SW DA-IO K9UNZ

Reminders on Upcoming Meetings, submission of intention radiograms, MARA Hamfest, Field Day

SW SA NQ9D-----

Nets continuing every Sunday evening at 1930 hours.

TAYLOR COUNTY

we have our weekly net to keep our equipment working as it should

WASHINGTON COUNTY

4 weekly ARES nets

WC DU K9BRM-----

March DCARES Net

WI LA WT9Q-----

Discussions Parade plan and assignments; APRS for Bike Ride

WI-SE-DEC

Monthly net on 3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm on the W9TJK Repeater 146.82 pl 127.3, . Monthly in person/ Zoom ARES/RACES Leadership Meeting the 3rd Saturday of the Month. South East District SET On the W9TJK Repeater. New Berlin Exercise on March 28th at Eisenhower High School. Included Milw/Waukesha, Racine/Kenosha, Walworth, Jefferson, Ozaukee County's, Red Cross & Saturn.

WI-SE-OZAUKEEARES/RACES-----

Reviewed shelter exercise. Practiced weather net.

WI-SE-RACINE&KENOSHA ARES/RACES-----

Weekly nets on Wednesdays at 7:30pm, 1st & 3rd weeks on the KR9RK Repeater 147.27, and 2nd&4th & 5th weeks on simplex WIV-2 146.430 pl 151.4. Monthly in person/ Zoom ARES/RACES Meetings the 1st Thursday of the Month. New Berlin Sheltering Exercise on March 28th.

Administrative and Other Comments:

ADAMS COUNTY/JUNEAU COUNTY

None

ASHLAND & BAYFIELD-----

None

EC CA WX9KVH-----

Slow month again for Calumet.

EC DO WB9ADB

Weekly Training nets

EC DR K9HAH-----

March 15-18 Major Blizzard NE WI maintained local Skywarn net and Wx monitoring/reporting for county services and NWS. 3 ft + snow with major drifting and extreme high winds.

EC OU WX9KVH-----

13. Skywarn Nets for snow storm Elsa.

14. Meeting at New London Hospital. 12 check ins. 2 hours long.

MT EC W9AH-----

Training: Skywarn Reportable Weather and Net procedures. Meetings: Routine business meeting. Unclassified: Open clubhouse for various radio/ARES/RACES activities.

NE ON-VI-LI

WARVHF Net, WARHF Net, FEMA Region V Auxcom Net

NE WO EC

ARES Leadership meeting, Fema R5 meeting, Joint amateur teaching and testing W9WCA with W9CSA. Wisconsin Governor State of Emergency. WI. EOC Elevated to levels 4 then 3, no bets requested but asked for active listening in case emergencies occurred. Deputy Radio Officer W9BBF, AuxC's KB9STB & KD9GIY monitored FM38, WECOMM and our area repeaters for potential emergencies until the Governors Emergency Order expired.

SW DA-IO K9UNZ

New Berlin Shelter Exercise, Monthly In Person Meeting (Cross Plains Fire Station, Conversation with State EC), Activation Plan Task Force, Inter Hospital Planning Committee, Agenda Setting, WI ARES/RACES Leadership, New Berlin Shelter Exercise Planning, MOU Discussion with Dane County Personnel, WEM Station Maintenance, Net Log updates

SW SA NQ9D-----

N/A

TAYLOR COUNTY

nothing to report

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Monthly SE district net along with monthly club / ARES Zoom call.

WC DU K9BRM-----

Monthly DCARES In-person meeting

WI LA WT9Q-----

Presentation on History of ARES-Titanic. Still working on getting APRS working for bike ride event.

Review plan of action at County EOC.



Section Traffic Manager Report

STM Report
Wisconsin Section
March 2026

Seventy Threeeeeeeeeee

FAQ # 296 Apple, Peach, Pear, Plum, Oak, Maple, Birch. There you have it - as you've probably heard it,– Seven trees! This is KNOT the same as a famous Ham Radio symbol 73. Because it's often part of a message and often used on the air, you should know more about the proper use of 73.

It's been around since at least 1857. The ARRL explains it here: <https://www.arrl.org/ham-radio-glossary> when it says “The first authentic use of 73 is in the publication, *The National Telegraph Review and Operators' Guide*, first published in April 1857. At that time, 73 meant 'My love to you!' Later, at the National Telegraph Convention, 73 was changed to “a friendly word between operators.” In 1859, Western Union's standard code list says it meant "accept my compliments“ and that meaning continues as a closing or thank you.

It works the same in a message. In a text, 73 counts as one group in the check. It's sent on voice as “Figures seven three.” On CW it's numerals seven and three with only a short letter space in between. In a digital text, it's just 73. In any mode, it's **never** with an “S” at the end.

So it means what you've thought, “Best Regards.” It just means the sender wishes you well. It is often used for correspondence whether you are writing to one or many recipients. In Ham use, it's the same if you're addressing one or many listeners. Again, it is never pronounced or sent with an “S” at the end. The term is already plural. That would make it “Best Regardses.” Some CB operators may have altered the term with phrases like “Threes on you”-- but not in Hamspeak. For us it's simply “73.”

Thanks for using the term correctly and 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	K9STN	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	NCS ROTATES	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	K9STN	*						
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.

In Memoriam

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

- Mike Podawiltz, KF9X, of Port Edwards, WI – view [obituary](#)
- Tom Kewan, W9EMG, of Eau Claire, WI – view [obituary](#)
- Teddy Willet, W9NHE, of Milwaukee, WI – view [obituary](#)

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

April 25, 2026 – ORC 46th 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>

October 10, 2026 – Wisconsin ARES Conference

Sponsor: Wisconsin ARES

Location: Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Website: <https://wi-arrrl.org/events/>

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

ARRL Wisconsin Section

Section Manager: Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

kc9fxe@arrrl.org



WISCONSIN SECTION

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY MARCH 2026

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	387	100	563	0	0	1050-BPL
WB9WKO	0	324	268	9	0	601-BPL
AG9G	0	260	148	0	0	408
N9CK	0	163	163	0	0	326
N9VC	0	206	36	0	0	242
KC9UC	0	105	135	0	0	240
WJ9L	0	53	65	3	2	113
K9LGU	0	49	61	0	0	103
KB9ROB	2	48	11	5	2	68
W9RTP	0	30	5	2	2	39
KC9FXE	0	9	13	7	0	29
WB9ICH	0	20	2	0	0	22
W9RNA	0	10	5	4	2	21
WB9NRK	0	5	0	5	0	10
KA9KJE	1	4	1	0	0	6

WISCONSIN SECTION P S H R SUMMARY MARCH 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	270	0	20	400
AG9G	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
K9LGU	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
KC9FXE	40	29	20	20	0	10	119
N9CK	40	40	30	0	0	0	110
WB9WKO	40	40	20	10	0	0	110
NX9K	40	40	30	0	0	0	100
KC9UC	40	40	10	0	0	0	90

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY**MARCH 2026**

NET	QNI CHECK -INS	QTC TRAFFIC	QTR TIME	SSNS SESSIONS	NM NET MANAGER
BWN	1130	1578	3330	31	K9LUK
BEN	332	229	471	31	NX9K
WSBN	501	166	660	31	AG9G
WSSN	180	54	388	31	KB9ROB
WIN/E	129	178	291	31	WB9ICH
WIN/L	154	86	286	31	W9RTP
WI ARES/RACES HF	39	8	98	4	K9STN
WI ARES/RACES VHF	31	0	45	2	KA9KJE
WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL	357	2215	10080	6	KD9USW
totals	2853	4514	15649	198	