



WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: August 2026

ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager: Myron Oestreich, KB9STB

From the Section Manager

Happy August!

This is the time of year when some folks start thinking about the fall and the things that go with it. There is the usual fall colors, fall festivals, pumpkin spice everything, the Major League Baseball pennant race, and of course the Green Bay Packers. There are also many hamfests coming up in the late summer and fall months as well as the 28th annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES conference in Wisconsin Rapids. Along with that, there are special event stations happening within the section this fall, and those can be great fun to make contact with our help out at.



On July 27, 2026, Outagamie and Winnebago counties were substantially affected by an EF-3 tornado. This storm caused a tremendous amount of damage most notably in the Neenah and Menasha areas, along with damage in the city of Appleton and Villages of Fox Crossing and Grand Chute. As a part of the response to this storm, Emergency Management in Outagamie County (initially) and Winnebago County made a request for amateur radio operators through the chain of command to assist with communications both in EOCs and in the field, functioning as a part of strike teams that were in the community assisting with damage assessments. ARES members were embedded as Strike Team Leaders, communicators and damage assessors in strike teams that included: Outagamie Co Community Response Team (CERT), employees of the City of Greenville, Outagamie Public Health, Winnebago Public Health and City of Menasha and Outagamie Emergency Management. WEM East Central Region Director Steven Fenske was the overall Damage Assessment Chief. By the

UPCOMING EVENTS

CVARC Hamfest
August 29

Circus City Hamfest
August 29

CVARC Hamfest
August 29

Ozaukee Radio
Club Fall Swapfest
September 12

Central Wisconsin
Swapfest
October 3

Wisconsin
ARES/RACES
Conference
October 10

Hidden Valleys
ARC Hamfest
October 17

conclusion of major amateur operations on August 7, 36 operators from 12 Wisconsin counties responded when the call for help went out for a total of 78 operation positions over the duration. Some of those operators volunteered their time to come back for multiple days of helping with this effort. The following counties had ARES/RACES members that gave of their time for this effort in Fox Crossing, Grand Chute, Menasha, Appleton and Neenah:

- Brown
- Calumet
- Dane
- Dodge
- Iowa
- Fond du Lac
- Milwaukee
- Outagamie
- Ozaukee
- Washington
- Waupaca
- Winnebago

We would like to extend our thanks to all operators who assisted both in any way with this event. We would also extend our thanks to partner organizations in Public Safety, Emergency Management and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) that were gracious and accommodating throughout the duration of this event. Stan, K9STN will be talking more about this event in the Wisconsin ARES/RACES HF Net section. He makes some excellent observations and points that would be of great assistance for local groups in times of emergency.



One of the things that helps keep the section running on all cylinders is the people that step up to offer their expertise and become part of leadership within the section. We do have many spots open right now. For those that have recently left leadership positions, we thank you for your time and service. It is greatly appreciated. For those who may be considering adding a leadership position to their repertoire, we have a list of open positions further down in the newsletter. If you have any questions, please reach out. No question is a bad question, and whatever information you need to help you make a decision can be provided.



Did you know we have a group of appointed Technical Specialists within the section that are ready and willing to help you with issues related to your station? These technical specialists are available to field questions, work through troubleshooting and work with you to help get your station operating at its maximum ability. Contacting them is simple! Rich, K9GDF is the Technical Coordinator for the section and can help determine which Technical Specialist is the best one to help with your issue. His email is k9gdf@arrl.net. In the coming weeks and months, we will work to make it easier for you to get your technical queries submitted through our website, www.wi-arrl.org.

Member Contributions

Wisconsin ARES/RACES Net

We learned a lot from the recent tornado strike in Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. Damage assessment went very well with thirty-six operators coming from nine different counties. All worked together exceptionally well, and all followed the adage that listening is often more important than talking.

We also practiced continuous improvement of our documentation. On the first day, sign in was on plain notebook paper. The Outagamie Mobile Communications Center (MCC) trailer was on hand and well stocked with ICS forms. For the Damage Assessment, net control copied all info to and from the teams on an ICS 309 Communications Log. Teams deploying to the damaged areas were given ICS 214 forms to record notable activities.

Day 2 we used ICS 211 P forms to sign in. We found that for all agencies involved, the form from <https://www.formsbank.com/template/43380/ics-211p-check-in-list-personnel.html> to be the easiest to understand. Again ICS 214 forms were issued to all teams, and in the MCC, we found that using an ICS 214 for each team kept the communications tracking much easier. If you have a question of something that occurred earlier, you can find it much easier. Plus, we had the names of all the team members making it easier to contact individuals if needed. One thing about disasters. They come unexpectedly, so expect the unexpected in upcoming nets. The scheduled items below will be used, but have ICS Forms 214 and ICS 211P at the ready.

Our September net subjects are:

Sept 6: For a second go, have each station sequentially spell one word from the text sent today phonetically.

Sept 13: A person calls you and asks for your groups help. What is next? (hint- the answer can be found here). <https://wi-arrrl.org/ares/ares-documents/>

Sept 20: Have a station who rogers a message re-transmit the message to another net member on frequency (practice pacing, diction and proper pauses).

Sept 27: Emergency Coordinator Reports.

Please check in every Sunday 0800 CT, 3.967 MHZ. Stay safe and stay ready.

Stan Piekarczyk K9STN
WI ARES/RACES HF Net Manager



EAA AirVenture 2026 Special Events Station

Tom Czaja (KG9EE) Wisconsin Assistant Section Manager



Andy, AJ9L, demonstrating the 20 meter station



W9ZL Special Events Station



Andy, AJ9L, Operating the 20 Meter Station



ARRL Sponsored kit building booth at the KidVenture area

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 20 to July 25, 2026. 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.



Ozaukee Radio Club Receives National Award from the ARRL



As part of ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio's 2026 [Year of the Club](#) spotlight, Affiliated Clubs were invited to show how they use two important communications tools — their websites and newsletters — to engage members, strengthen their organizations, and promote amateur radio. The response was enthusiastic, with more than 80 entries submitted in each contest from clubs across the country.

Newsletter entries were judged in three membership categories: Large Clubs (more than 120 members), Medium Clubs (60–120 members), and Small Clubs (fewer than 60 members). Judges considered the navigability and attractiveness of the publications, as well as the variety and quality of their content.

The Ozaukee Radio Club, W9CQO, won the nationwide First Place Award Outstanding Club Newsletter for medium clubs. Congratulations to Bill Shadid, W9MXQ, the newsletter editor and all of the contributors to the ORC monthly Newsletter.



Ozaukee Radio Club and LeFrog Radio Club International Lighthouse Lightship Activation

Tom Czaja, KG9EE, Wisconsin ARRL Assistant Section Manager



Port Washington 1860 Lighthouse
US0114



Fred, W9KEY and Mike, KE9DLY, operating
The 20 meter station. Mike made his first
HF contact at the event!



Cheryl, K9WOC, and Evelyn operating the
20 meter station. Evelyn will be taking
Her Technician exam in September!

The Ozaukee Radio Club (W9CQO) and the LEFROG (Local Emergency Field Radio Operating Group, N9FRG) Radio Club held a joint special events station on August 15 and 16, 2026 at the historic Port Washington Lighthouse and Light Station Museum. The special events station was activated for the International Lighthouse Lightship Activation weekend. The 1860 lighthouse guided maritime traffic on Lake Michigan during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The lighthouse is designated as ILLW Lighthouse US0114. The operators made over 450 contacts during the operational period including lighthouse to lighthouse contacts. Two noteworthy events occurred during the activation: Mike, KE9DLY, operated on HF for the first time. He has been licensed since June 2025. Evelyn, a visitor, operated on a ham radio for the first time with Cheryl, K9WOC. Evelyn will be taking her Technician exam in September! Kudos to Fred, W9KEY, for organizing the event and to Loren, N9ENR, for his technical assistance and Tom, KC9ONY, for setting up the station and keeping it operating.

General Announcements, Event, and Reminders



HAM RADIO LICENSE WORKSHOP

Earn your own amateur radio license

We will be holding a two day workshop and testing session
where you can study to earn your
technician level amateur radio license!

When: November 7 and 8 – 9 a.m. start both days

Where: United Emergency Medical Response - 3530 Bohn Dr., Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Cost: **ZERO** to attend or test.

The FCC requires a fee of \$35 be paid prior to a license being issued after testing

Email w9wca.aresraces@gmail.com for more info or to RSVP.

Advanced study is a must! hamstudy.org and W4EEY on YouTube
are great study tools.



Portage County, Wisconsin



**License workshop & testing is co-sponsored by Portage and Wood County
ARES/RACES, Central Sands Amateur Radio Association
and Midwest Emergency Radio Communicators**



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:

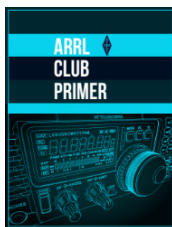
- Affiliated Club Coordinator
- Section Youth Coordinator
- Public Information Coordinator
- District Emergency Coordinator – Northwest District
- District Emergency Coordinator – West Central District
- Net Control Station – Badger Emergency Net & Wisconsin Sideband Net
- Emergency Coordinator – Several



Contact the [Section Manager](#) for further information. Please remember with positions *other than* the Net Control positions for the section HF nets, ARRL requires full membership throughout the course of the appointment.



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

No report this month. If you (or someone you know) is interested in becoming the Section Public Information Coordinator, please reach out!

Section Youth Coordinator Report

No report this month. If you (or someone you know) is interested in becoming the Section Youth Coordinator, please reach out!

Section ARES/RACES Report

From Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, Section Emergency Coordinator:

Wisconsin ARES/RACES – Operational Events

(April–July 2026 + Late July–Early August Tornado Response & Operator Roster)

From April through July 2026, Wisconsin ARES/RACES demonstrated sustained operational readiness, technical capability, and deep integration with county emergency management partners. Activity levels rose and fell with seasonal weather patterns, public service commitments, and training cycles. The period culminated in one of the most significant emergency communications deployments of the year: a multi-county tornado outbreak beginning July 27 and continuing into early August, requiring extensive field damage assessments and coordinated inter-county mutual aid.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Before we get into the details of our activity, I would like to remind everyone that when we respond to any kind of event outside of our own jurisdiction **any** information released to any party outside of those directly responding, is to be coordinated with and funneled through both the entity in charge **AND** their PIO for both the event. You are **NOT** authorized to make statements or submit articles for publication unless you are the PIO for the authority having jurisdiction. Both the SM and SEC should also be CC'ed on such communications to ensure the information being reported is factual, accurate, and represents a complete picture of the response by WI ARES/RACES. It has been brought to my attention that these procedures were not followed with our recent tornado response. The danger in releasing information on your own is not that others won't get recognized, but that the omission of any factual information relevant to the event or omission of other groups who responded is that when people feel unappreciated or disrespected, they may be less likely to respond in the future or to offer their assistance not just to you or your group but to others in general. This does a great disservice to ARES/RACES and emergency responders in general. It is not who we are and I ask for your cooperation in any and all future events to comply with the information release protocols that you have all been trained on as part of your ICS courses.

Spring Foundations: April–June

April marked the first major operational peak of 2026. Severe Storm Awareness Week brought a full-scale tornado drill in Adams and Juneau Counties, where operators activated directed nets, relayed simulated damage reports, and practiced ICS-213/NTS message handling. Across the state, counties reported **51 SKYWARN events**, **14 emergency activations**, and multiple EOC deployments for flooding. St. Croix County delivered six SKYWARN classes with 152 participants, while Portage and Wood Counties managed tornado warnings, flash flooding, and inter-county resource sharing.

May shifted toward public service and preparedness. ARES teams supported the **100 Bike Giveaway in Adams**, the **Eau Claire Marathon**, and **Automotion in Lake Delton**, where Sauk County deployed more than **20 AREDN cameras** across a mesh network to support police, fire, and EMS. Training remained steady, with Winlink, storm spotting, and ICS-205 exercises occurring statewide.

June brought quieter weather but strong emphasis on Field Day, infrastructure work, and technical training. Multiple counties deployed portable towers, practiced repeater setup and teardown, and conducted Winlink Express workshops. Community engagement remained high, with Ride for Research, Bear Cupboard Run, and other summer events supported by local ARES groups.

July Surge: Severe Weather Returns

July reversed the downward trend in emergency activity. Although only 20 DECs/ECs reported, the month produced **39 emergency events**, the highest of the year to date. Severe thunderstorms and tornadoes swept across central and eastern Wisconsin, triggering widespread ARES/RACES response.

Outagamie County and the broader Fox Valley region were hit particularly hard. Operators from across the state provided **601.5 hours of tornado damage assessment assistance for July alone (August numbers have yet to be reported)**, staffed EOCs, and supported multi-day recovery operations.

“Damage Assessment for the 7/27 Tornado in the Fox Valley.” “We had ARES members in the EOC for the 7/27 Tornado event...” (WX9KVH)

Washington County contributed personnel to the Menasha tornado response, while Dane/Iowa District operators deployed to assist Outagamie County with assessments in Grand Chute. Portage County reported a tornado-warned Skywarn activation supported by **drone deployment**, marking a significant advancement in situational awareness capability.

Beyond emergency operations, July saw robust community engagement: parade communications in St. Croix County, a week-long RKARES trailer deployment at the Racine County Fair, and Ride Across Wisconsin support in Buffalo County. Technical capability continued to expand with Winlink VARA HF demonstrations, APRS/PinPoint discussions, and AREDN deployments at multiple county events.

Late July–Early August Tornado Damage Assessments (July 28–August 7)

The Fox Valley tornado beginning **July 27** and continuing through **August 7** triggered one of the largest coordinated ARES/RACES field deployments in recent Wisconsin history.

Deployment Summary

- **Total operator deployments:** 78
- **Unique operators:** 36
- **Counties represented:** 13
- **Operational period:** July 28 – August 7
- **Mission:** Multi-day tornado damage assessments across Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Brown, Kewaunee, Menasha, and surrounding areas.

ARES/RACES operators conducted structural damage surveys, relayed field intelligence to emergency management, staffed EOCs, and supported communications for municipal and county-level response teams. The deployment demonstrated exceptional inter-county coordination and the ability to surge trained communicators rapidly across jurisdictions.

Operator Roster (36 Unique Operators, 13 Counties)

Brown & Kewaunee Counties (3)

- Pam Everson – KD0GPH
- Sam Martin – KN9SAM
- Sam Reid – W9SJR

Calumet County (2)

- Gene Wall – KE8KWF
- Timothy Rosio – KJ7SBL

Dane County (2)

- Kyle Schaefer – KC9SDK
- Jeff Fritsche – KE9CQP

Dodge County (1)

- Michael Breen – W7MEB

Iowa County (1)

- Mike Hoerstmann – KE9EHU

Fond du Lac County (1)

- Ron Keller – KC9YVL

Milwaukee County (2)

- Kevin Hough – K0WRK
- Richard Polivka – N6NKO

Outagamie County (12)

(Largest deployment group)

- Kyle Van Hoogen – WX9KVH
- Stan Piekarczyk – K9STN
- Ric Meese – KB9CBP
- Rob Olson – KC9LWB
- Michael Kraus – KE9AEJ
- Scott Skinner – KC9KZN
- Christina Mueller – KC0VOT
- Marcus Van Grinsven – KC9YEJ
- Kevin VerVoort – KC9OGB
- Mike Esche – W9NUE
- Mike Hoffman – AC9MH
- Lloyd Lindbergh – W0SXM

Ozaukee County (1)

- Markus Schuman – KD9UWG

Washington County (1)

- Scott Galaska – KD9YEW

Waupaca County (5)

- David Wedde – W9VOF
- Mary Trice – W9MCT
- Leighton Trice – W9KL
- William Lund – KD9TNY
- Dan Bekeris – AC9JA

Winnebago County (5)

- Aaron Ward – AX9X
- John Verweil – KC9TFM
- Scott Troedel – N9PZR
- Evan VandenLangenberg – N9DU
- Rob Dumont – KD9OCF

Summary of Tornado Deployment

The late-July tornado outbreak produced widespread structural damage across the Fox Valley, Menasha, and surrounding counties. ARES/RACES operators were mobilized within hours, with deployments continuing for **six operational days**. Teams conducted door-to-door assessments, documented infrastructure impacts, relayed real-time intelligence to emergency managers, and supported EOC operations.

Outagamie County fielded the largest contingent, reflecting the severity of damage in Grand Chute, Appleton, and nearby communities. Operators from Dane, Iowa, Washington, Waupaca, Winnebago, Calumet, Brown, and Milwaukee counties provided mutual aid, demonstrating the strength of Wisconsin's inter-county ARES/RACES network.

Drone-assisted Skywarn operations, APRS tracking, Winlink digital reporting, and coordinated voice nets ensured reliable communications throughout the response. The deployment showcased the organization's ability to scale rapidly, integrate advanced technologies, and provide consistent, disciplined emergency communications support.

Closing Summary

From April through early August 2026, Wisconsin ARES/RACES delivered high-value emergency communications support across severe weather events, public service missions, and community engagements. The tornado outbreak at the end of July and into August highlighted the organization's operational maturity, technical capability, and statewide coordination. With 36 unique operators contributing to 78 deployments across 13 counties, the response stands as one of the most significant ARES/RACES mobilizations of the year. While the numbers reported are impressive there is still much more that is not included in this dataset due to EC and DEC Form 2 reports not being submitted in a timely manner to ARRL so they can be included in the Form 4 summary and report. The June and July reports are listed below for your reference.

The following information was submitted by Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK,WI SEC for Wisconsin, June, 2026

Number of DEC/ECs reporting this month:

23

Total number of DEC/ECs appointed in section:

39

4. Total number of ARES members:

271

Difference in ARES members from previous month:

N/D

5. Number of ARES net sessions held:

72

6. Number of ARES net sessions held with NTS liaison:

32

7. Number of participants in nets:

493

8. Exercises this month:

Number- 27

Person-Hrs - 359.30

9. Training events this month:
Number- 24
Person-Hrs - 256.00
10. Public service events this month:
Number- 7
Person-Hrs - 214.50
11. Community service events this month:
Number- 5
Person-Hrs - 308.00
12. Emergency events this month:
Number- 2
Person-Hrs - 11.00
13. SKYWARN events this month:
Number- 22
Person-Hrs - 144.50
14. Meetings this month:
Number- 22
Person-Hrs - 173.50
15. Unclassified events this month:
Number- 30
Person-Hrs - 70.80

Call signs of DECs/ECs reporting:

AC9F, AC9X, K9BRM, K9UNZ, KA9KJE, KB9CBL, KB9TMB, KB9TYC, KD9BDL, KD9UUD, KE9AEI, N9VAO, NQ9D, W9AH, W9GRB, W9OQI, WB9ADB, WD9HXC, WT9Q

Activity Details:

ADAMS COUNTY/JUNEAU COUNTY-----

One activity in June was at the Boorman House in Mauston. It was a Demonstration of Ham Radio in general and AREDN MESH network.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY-----

We will have on-site WinLink Express training at our Northern Center location in July

EC BR-KW W9GRB-----

4 training nets, participants in 4 Winlink nets and statewide VHF net

EC DO WB9ADB-----

WEEKLY NETS

EC WI AC9X-----

4 nets, Oshkosh Century Bike race support (5 people 8 hours, 1 person 6 hours, 2 hour prep),
Field day exercise (4 people, 4 hours)

EC WP AC9F-----

Weekly training net emphasis on message handling. One severe weather net activated.

EC WP AC9F-----

Weekly training net emphasis on message handling. One severe weather net activated.

EC WP AC9F-----

Weekly training net emphasis on message handling. One severe weather net activated.

EC WP AC9F-----

Weekly training net emphasis on message handling. One severe weather net

activated.

MT EC W9AH-----

Routine Net, most recent net had two new hams we will actively attempt to recruit.

NE ON-VI-LI-----

Weekly Net Sunday 7pm on the Rhinelander 146.940 - Willow 147.120 Linked Repeater System.

Echolink is also available at W9RRA-R Node 452874.

NW BN KB9TYC-----

Nets

OZAUKEE-----

Weather reporting and updates on member activity

SAWYER COUNTY-----

NO ACTIVITIES TO REPORT.

SE JE KD9BDL-----

Weekly Net x 4

Weather Net/Skywarn x 3

SW DA-IO K9UNZ-----

Nothing of note.

SW SA NQ9D-----

Nets continuing as normal. Participated in Summer Field Day.

TAYLOR COUNTY-----

OUR CLUB HAD FIELD DAY MADE LOTS OF CONTACTS WITH OUR PORTABLE TOWER

WAUSHARA-----

desktop work shop. on situation awareness'

WC DU K9BRM-----

One voice net with 14 participants and one digital net with 5 participants.

WI LA WT9Q-----

A portion of every net is used for training

WI-SE-DEC ARES/RACES-----

Monthly net on 3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm on the W9TJK Repeater 146.82 pl127.3, . Monthly in person/ Teams ARES/RACES Leadership Meeting the 3rd

Saturday of the Month at 8am. Members are participating at local Field day locations.

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 pl151.4. Monthly in person/ Teams

ARES/RACES Meetings the 1st Thursday of the Month. Members are visiting local Field Day locations.

Administrative and Other Comments:

ADAMS COUNTY/JUNEAU COUNTY-----

None

CHIPPEWA COUNTY-----

We got a lot of great experience setting up our trailer/setting up solar, etc. and worked through the night with Field Day

EC BR-KW W9GRB-----

Unclassified is EC/AEC planning and admin time

MT EC W9AH-----

Exercises: "Off-year" Nuclear plant drill at Reception Center and County EOC for WebEOC

training. Training: Guest speaker from Salvation Army Amateur Radio Service. Public Service: Field Day. Routine business meeting. Unclassified: Open clubhouse hours.

NE ON-VI-LI-----

June 6 Ride For Research, June 27 Bear Cupboard Run. Monthly Meeting first Thursday starting at 6:30pm at Newbold Fire Station One, 4588 Hwy 47, Rhinelander.

NW BN KB9TYC-----

Field Day, Training on setting up/tearing down a public safety portable repeater.

SAWYER COUNTY-----

ONE SKYWARN EVENT FOR THUNDERSTORM WARNING FOR SAWYER COUNTY WITH NWS DULUTH, MN.

SW DA-IO K9UNZ-----

Skywarn report on Tornado Touched down in Belleville; Tornado watch BARNEVELD, DODGEVILLE, MADISON; Discussed plans for Horribly Hilly Hundreds with Communications Team; Horribly Hilly Hundreds Support; Horribly Hilly Hundreds After Action Discussion; Discussed Severe Weather Activation Process

SW SA NQ9D-----

We were deployed for the 2026 Circus Day Parade in Baraboo, WI. Provided CCTV camera feeds over AREDN.

WC DU K9BRM-----

Two sky warn nets, one field day activity and one special event station activity. Additionally, there was 1 in-person meeting.

WI LA WT9Q-----

We spent our monthly meeting time completing an exercise created by Joe KD9USW. Goal was to create a ICS-205 for flooding exercise. We had 14 ARES members participate in Field Day. Several of them had full time participation from prep to setup, operating, and take down.

The following information was submitted by Kyle Schaefer, KC9SDK, WI SEC for Wisconsin, July, 2026

.

Total number of ARES members:

342

Difference in ARES members from previous month:

N/D

Number of DECs/ECs reporting this month:

20

Total number of DECs/ECs in section:

39

Number of ARES net sessions held:

75

Number of ARES net sessions held with NTS liaison:

34

Number of participants in nets:

531

Exercises this month:

Number- 24

Person-Hrs - 347.30

Training events this month:

Number- 30

Person-Hrs - 308.30

Public service events this month:

Number- 11

Person-Hrs - 480.00

Community service events this month:

Number- 17

Person-Hrs - 738.50

Emergency events this month:

Number- 39

Person-Hrs - 601.50

SKYWARN events this month:

Number- 25

Person-Hrs - 355.30

Meetings this month:

Number- 26

Person-Hrs - 385.10

Unclassified events this month:

Number- 33

Person-Hrs - 229.00

Call signs of DEC's reporting:

AC9X, K9ILJ, K9UNZ, KA9KJE, KB9CBL, KB9TMB, KB9TYC, KC9RYZ, KC9YLK, KD9BDL, KD9UUD, N9KNX, N9VAO, W9AH, W9GRB, W9OQI, WT9Q, WX9KVH

Activity Details:

CHIPPEWA COUNTY-----

Our weekly nets on VHF/UHF/GMRS/10 Meters

DEC NE KC9YLK-----

One district net

EC BR-KW W9GRB-----

Training Nets

EC OU WX9KVH-----

Nets : 2h36m between 4 nets.

EC WI AC9X-----

3 nets (no july 4th net), 22 hours of Tornado Damage Assessment assistance.

MT EC W9AH-----

Routine ARES/RACES Nets

NE ON-VI-LI-----

Weekly Net Sunday 7pm

NE PT KC9YLK-----

Nets switched to .985 while the .670 is down for repairs. Expecting repairs completed by 8/10/26

NW BN KB9TYC-----

Nets on Thursdays.

OZAUKEE-----

Planned National Night out, New member introductions, Simplex test

SAWYER COUNTY-----

No activity for July.

SE JE KD9BDL-----

Weekly net x5

WX net x2

ST CROIX COUNTY-----

Helped with the River Falls parade. Provides communications with the parade coordinator and various points along the parade route.

SW DA-IO K9UNZ-----

Practiced a Radiogram and announcements of upcoming public service

TAYLOR COUNTY-----

NOTHING TO REPORT

WALWORTH - K9ILJ-----

Standard Program

WASHINGTON COUNTY-----

5 weekly Thursday nets

WI LA WT9Q-----

Net discussions included discussion using APRS with PinPoint

WI-SE-DEC ARES/RACES-----

Monthly net on 3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm on the W9TJK Repeater 146.82 pl127.3, . Monthly in person/ Zoom ARES/RACES Leadership Meeting the 3rd Saturday of the Month. South East District SET On the W9TJK Repeater. Racine county Fair.

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 pl151.4. Monthly in person/ Zoom ARES/RACES Meetings the 1st Thursday of the Month. RKARES Trailer setup at Racine County Fair for a week.

Administrative and Other Comments:

CHIPPEWA COUNTY-----

We met at our location at Northern Center and demoed how to setup and use WinLink with VARA HF

DEC NE KC9YLK-----

Assisted at county wide events, attended District training, met with EMs from various counties

EC BR-KW W9GRB-----

Unclassified is EC/AEC planning and admin time

EC OU WX9KVH-----

12. Damage Assessment for the 7/27 Tornado in the Fox Valley.

13. Severe WX in the county, including the 7/27 Tornado in the Fox Valley.

15. We had ARES members in the EOC for the 7/27 Tornado event in the Fox Valley.

MT EC W9AH-----

Training: Presentation on WebEOC. Community Service: Mutual Aid to Calumet Co First Responders and REACT Team - parking and traffic management for annual parade.

Unclassified: Open clubhouse

NE ON-VI-LI-----

Monthly In-person Meeting on 1st Thursday at 6:30pm. Brat Fry Fundraiser And Membership

Drive. Weekly Wisconsin ARES/RACES HF Net, two FEMA Region V Nets, One Wisconsin ARES/RACES VHF Net.

NE PT KC9YLK-----

3 large county events over multiple days, AREDN deployment at 2 events, Tornado warned skywarn activation with drone deployment.

SW DA-IO K9UNZ-----

Assist Outagamie county with tornado damage assessment in the town of Grand Chute; Severe thunderstorm warning. Damage in Dodgeville area; Reviewed Feedback from Communicators after Horribly Hilly Hundreds with President of Friends of Blue Mounds

WALWORTH - K9ILJ-----

Nothing big forecasted

WASHINGTON COUNTY-----

#8 Monthly sulcom exercise. #12 had 1 member (KD9YEW) volunteer for damage assessment for the Menasha tornado.

WI LA WT9Q-----

The monthly meeting was devoted to reviewing the Radiogram. Community event was providing communications for Ride Across Wisconsin in Buffalo County. Unclassified was 4 members helping WT9M locate source of RF interference.

Simulated Emergency Test October 3:

October 3 is the date for the annual Simulated Emergency Test in the section. The framework for the exercise will be coming out by the end of August if all goes as planned, so local Emergency Coordinators can plan their local twist on the exercise to make it as topical as possible.

With SET, please remember this is an ARRL-centric exercise for ARES, so there will be emphasis on formal message handling, traffic passing utilizing standard phone nets and the utilization of messaging platforms such as Winlink and the Wisconsin Section MBO system throughout the exercise. If you are an MBO user, please remember to make sure you check in to it from time to time because some SET information may show up on there to disseminate out to your respective areas.

From the Conference Committee:

The 28th annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference is set for October 10, 2026 at the McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids. We have speakers that will present on topics related to this year's theme of Prepared – Connected – Operational. We are also working on door and raffle prizes that fit the theme.

Here is the link for registering for the 2026 Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference:

<https://wisconsinaresraces.regfox.com/wisconsin-aresraces-conference-2026>

For those looking to come in to Wisconsin Rapids the night before the conference – we have a block of rooms held at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids for both Friday, October 9 and

Saturday, October 10. When advanced registration opens, we will post links for it on the ARRL – Wisconsin Section and Wisconsin ARES/RACES Facebook pages as well as send an email out on the ARRL email reflector with the information.



Section Traffic Manager Report

STM Report Wisconsin Section July 2026
Summer; summer not

FAQ #300 – We'll review shortly.

The Long and Short of It

Shorts. We avoid them in electronics. We wear them in summer. When William Shakespeare's Polonius said, "Brevity is the soul of wit," it was ironically part of a long speech, but the point is well taken. Of course we don't want to "be short" with anyone, but we admire the person who can pound a nail, complete a round of golf, or live the longest with the fewest strokes. And, in traffic nets, such efficiency is treasured as well.

Here are a few operating techniques that can make nets and traffic handling faster and easier.

1. When you check in to a phone net, give the NCS's call; pause to listen; then give your call. That *pause* is important.
2. Use standard ITU phonetics to spell out uncommon words or homonyms when conditions call for it.
3. Write your own formal messages in the fewest words; use the ARRL Numbered Radiograms.
4. When sending a message with voice, pause and listen at the right places so the receiver can interrupt for help.

5. During a net, If you have a relay or something to add, say your call first, get recognized by the NCS, and then go ahead with your information.
6. If a net control asks for informal comments, be succinct. Don't ramble. Notes help. Leave the listeners with one good thought.

Being pithy (no, I don't lisp) in what you transmit doesn't mean you have to be less friendly or cordial in your operation. There are times to be relaxed and times to concentrate on efficiency. A good operator should know both. And an STM should know when to be brief, too. 73. K9LGU / STM

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY July 2026

NET	QNI CHECK-INS	QTC TRAFFIC	QTR TIME	SSNS SESSIONS	NM
BWN	1037	1530	3354	31	K9LUK
BEN	283	196	399	31	NX9K
WSBN	410	162	583	31	AG9G
WSSN	145	56	381	31	KB9ROB
WIN/E	144	153	261	31	WB9ICH
WIN/L	156	40	242	31	W9RTP
WRACES HF	43	7	98	4	K9STN
WRACES VHF	24	0	40	2	KA9KJE
WRACES- DIGITAL	248	1487	8640	5	KD9USW
totals	2490	3631	13998	197	

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY JULY 2026

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	296	83	453	0	0	832 BPL
WB9WKO	0	371	279	4	0	654 BPL
AG9G	0	260	122	0	0	382
N9VC	0	159	37	0	0	196
KC9UC	0	87	89	0	0	176
K9LGU	0	40	60	0	0	100
KB9ROB	1	47	7	6	2	63
KC9FXE	0	13	17	5	1	36
W9RTP	0	26	6	1	1	34
KK9D	0	11	4	11	1	27

WB9ICH	0	22	2	0	0	24
W9RNA	0	8	5	6	1	20
KA9KJE	4	7	4	0	0	15

P S H R SUMMARY JULY 2026

POSSIBLE POINTS >	40 nets	40 tfc	30 appt	5 /hr. sked events	5 /hr. emrg events	10ea bbs/ web pg	
N9VC	40	40	30	120	0	20	250
K9LGU	40	40	30	0	30	0	140
AG9G	40	40	30	25	0	0	135
WB9WKO	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
KC9FXE	40	36	10	15	0	10	111
NX9K	40	40	20	0	0	0	100
KC9UC	40	40	10	0	0	0	90
KK9D	40	26	0	0	0	0	66

Learn about the Public Service Honor Roll at:

<https://www.arrl.org/public-service-honor-roll>

...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.

2/13/2026

In Memoriam

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

No reported silent keys since the last newsletter.

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 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>

September 12, 2026 – 20th Annual Fall Swapfest

Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club

Location: Cedarburg, WI
Website: <http://www.ozaukeeclub.org>

October 3, 2026 – 21st Annual Central Wisconsin Swapfest

Sponsor: Black River Amateur Radio Association
Location: Colby, WI – Colby Lions Club Pavillion

October 10, 2026 – Wisconsin ARES Conference

Sponsor: Wisconsin ARES
Location: Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Website: <https://wi-arrl.org/events/>

October 17, 2026 – Hidden Valleys Amateur Radio Club Free Hamfest

Sponsor: HVARC
Location: Lancaster, WI
Website: None given

November 8, 2026 – FCARC Hamfest

Sponsor: Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club
Location: Oshkosh, WI
Website: <http://fcarc.club>

*** See these items and additional Section information on the [ARRL WI Section website](#) and an up-to-the-minute listing on the ARRL [Hamfests and Conventions Calendar](#). ***

ARRL Wisconsin Section

Section Manager: Myron Oestreich, KB9STB

kb9stb@arrl.org

