WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue Date: October 2026
ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager: Myron Oestreich, KB9STB

From the Section Manager

Happy October!

We have made it through a very busy month within the radio world. There were scouting events with Trauma-Rama-Oree in Juneau County shortly after last month's newsletter came out, Jambree On The Air October 17, Simulated Emergency Test on October 3, and of course the annual Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference October 10. There was also an exercise the weekend of October 17 with the FEMA Region 5 RECCWG. With the upcoming hunting season and holidays, there's always the possibility for on-air activities with Santa on the Air and many other special event station opportunities.

September 26, Wood County ARES/RACES presented amateur radio to scouts at the Ed Bryant Scout Reservation outside of Mauston. The presentation was part of the Trauma-Rama-Oree that was held along with the Fall Camporee for the Glacier's Edge Council. There were multiple presentations of about 40-45 minutes in length to groups of scouts. In the radio group, a short talk about radio itself was given along with demonstrations of FM, SSB, CW and digital operation. All told, amost 200 Scouts from the southcentral region of the state attended and participated in the radio presentations. Many of the scouts had good questions about the hobby and emergncy services,

UPCOMING EVENTS

FCARC Hamfest
November 8

and some of the adult leaders were either hams or familiar with what amateur radio can do which greaty helped the discussion and demonstrations.

Do you have an amateur radio related project you're working on that you'd like to share with the readers of this newsletter? Did your local organization have an event recently (or one coming up) you'd like to publicize? If you answered yes to either of these, we would love to hear about it too! If you'd like to submit any articles for the monthly ARRL Wisconsin Section Newsletter, please email them in whatever platform works best for you (pictures, too) to kb9stb@arrl.org . If your article submission arrives before about the 17th of the month, there's a better than fair chance it'll show up in the newsletter. Please have a point of contact for your submission in case we have questions. The last thing we want to do is get your information wrong.

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 are inching upwards in stations participating in the WI ARES/RACES HF net on Sunday morning, 08:00 AM on 3.967 MHZ. The more who attend, the better the word gets out to the members statewide of ARES/RACES activities.

To help your local teams practice traffic, join the net and follow along with the weekly training

message provided by Dennis, K9LGU. Copying the message is good practice, the message body contains MORE training on a variety of subjects such as ICS, traffic, and general radio organization. The training continues, as the messages are addressed to WI ARES/RACES OPERATORS. You can take these messages to your local nets, provide more message practice plus training subjects, making the local Emergency Coordinators job easier.

We would like more EC's and DEC's to bring information to the net, either in tactical traffic or formal traffic. Hey brag about your local ARES group! Great place to showcase and we can all learn from one another.

Subjects for the November WI ARES HF Net
November 1: Each station will state one good training session they would like to see in 2027
November 8: K9LGU will send a piece of book traffic for the group to copy
November 15: Where or how would you market ARES/RACES?
November 22 Md-net, we will transfer Net Control to another station without warning
November 29 Monthly Emergency Coordinator Report
Hope to hear you on the net next Sunday 08:00 3.967 MHZ.

73
Stan K9STN
WI ARES/RACE HF Net Manager

Renewing Your License

Tom Czaja, KG9EE
Wisconsin Assistant Section Manager

I recently staffed an ARRL table at a swapfest and I was speaking to a ham whose license was expired, and he was asking about renewing his license. Unfortunately, his expiration date was two years and two days after the expiration date, so his license was cancelled. The FCC allows you to renew your license for two years after the expiration. After two years, your license is cancelled and you will need to take the Technician exam, and you will receive a new call sign. If you are a General or Extra, you will be granted credit, and you do not have to take these exams. You may also renew your license 90 days prior to the expiration date. I suggest checking your license for the expiration date and placing a note on your calendar 90 days prior to the expiration date.

The FCC does not accept paper applications. There are two separate FCC website sites you must access to renew online. The two sites are the ULS system and the CORES system. The two systems are separate and do not share information. Updating one does not update the other.

First, you must access the ULS system and renew your license. After successfully completing

the renewal process, you will receive an email with a link to the CORES system, and you pay the $35.00 license renewal fee using the CORES system. A new CORES system was instituted about four years ago, so if you have not accessed the CORES for a while you will need to register using the new CORES system. Once you renew your license you have 10 days to pay the fee. If you do not pay the fee within 10 days, you will need to cancel your application and start over. I suggest registering on the CORES site well in advance of the expiration date of your license.

The ARRL has a very informative page which explains the entire system including a tutorial video. The address for the web page is http://www.arrl.org/call-sign-renewals-or-changes. ARRL members may manually file an application for free (via mail, email, or FAX) to the ARRL VEC using the NCVEC Form 605. Non-members will be charged a $25 processing fee to use the member filing service. For license renewals, all amateurs are required to pay a $35 FCC application fee.

The FCC Licensing Support is very helpful. For additional support or to reset a password, the Support Team is available Monday – Friday, 8 A.M. – 6 P.M. (ET) ay 877-480-3201. You may also submit a help request for the FCC's Wireless Licensing Help Center website. The link is on the ARRL web page.

General Announcements, Event, and Reminders

The Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club W9ZL Hamfest is approaching soon:

Sunday, November 8th, 2026

- Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh, WI
- Time: 8 am to 2 pm
- Check out our club hamfest page fcarc.club/hamfest

- Register for your table before Oct. 1st when prices go up. Table Layouts will be available soon in the Hamfest Booklet to view sold vs available tables.
- Visit the Hamfest Book URL: fcarc.my.canva.site

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.

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]

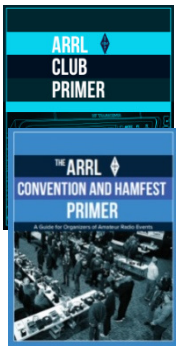
Wisconsin Section Field Services Position Openings

The follwing 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 couse 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

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=DI8nmjRJjg4

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!

Affiliated Club 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:

Raymond Gill, WX4RAY, has been appointed as the Emergency Coordinator for Crawford and Grant counties. Welcome, Ray!

Simulated Emergency Test October 3:

Simulated Emergency Test was held on October 3 in the section. There are a few counties that will be holding theirs in the upcoming weeks as well, and we wish them the best with their exercises.

The basic guidance for the exercise was a natural disaster that took out communications. Since every county has different infrastructure needs and issues, we left the details of the exercise up to the individual county. Not every county has the same issues, needs or resources, and one size does not fit all for a statewide exercise. Our goal was for counties to work their communications plans, attempt to involve local Emergency Management, and see what worked well (and what didn't work so well) in their local communications plan. This was an opportunity to make "safe mistakes" and learn from those and to help find weak points in communications plans or equipment abilities. For those that participated or will be participating in their local exercise, we thank you.

From the Conference Committee:

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2026 Wisconsin ARES/RACES conference. The rough head count was 65 attendees this year, which is close to years past. Thank you to those who gave of their time to present to those attending as well. We are working on editing the audio and video of the conference, and will start releasing the audio as podcasts of each presentation (except the morning "state of" talks) to Spotify, and the video will be uploaded to YouTube once editing and post-production work is complete. On Spotify, the audio will be on the ARRL Wisconsin Section page, and for YouTube they will be on the Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference page. Links will be shared once everything is uploaded.

Congratulations to Kyle Van Hoogen, WX9KVH for being named the Emergency Coordinator of the Year award and to Steve Fenske, K9NNR for being the recipient of the Don Michalski Memorial Leadership Award for 2026. Your hard work and dedication set an excellent example for the rest of us to follow. Also – a very rare occurrence happened at the conference, and it happened during the awards. K9NNR was rendered speechless, and that has happened exactly thrice in his life. Sorry, Steve….we had to.

Section Traffic Manager Report

STM Report
Wisconsin Section
August 202*6*

Wait a second.

FAQ #302 The use of strategically-placed pauses can facilitate fast and accurate traffic handling. It is especially effective when used with full break-in CW and VOX on phone. There are the usual spots we pause to listen – like before asking if a frequency is in use or when checking in to a net to avoid doubling. When we need to send an important message, we do well to pause a second, proofread, and think what we're going to say before pushing that PTT button. Those pauses are more than refreshing. They can be essential.

When sending a message, there are good times for pauses, too. Of course, there's the obligatory pause with the break before and after the text, but there are a few other spots that call for short pauses, too.

We begin an NTS message with the word “Number.” That's followed with the figures and the precedence. There's a tiny pause between the parts of the preamble to let the receiver get to the next part. Then there's a short pause before starting the name of the addressee. There's no “break” here, but there is a pause between first and last name and another very short pause between parts of the street address, city, state, and ZIP. The phone number is given in three groups. Area code (pause), exchange (pause), and final four digits. Then comes that first “break,” a good time for the sender to listen briefly or the receiver to ask for a fill. If he's not interrupted, the sender continues with the text using proper prowords and small pauses between groups. Then comes the second “break” (pause) and the signature.

If stations have been sent off net frequency and they complete their assignment, they pause briefly before returning to the net as the NCS may have sent other stations to them. That pause, too, saves time. Whether you pause to think or pause to help the receiver, it's more efficient.

“The right word may be effective, but no word was ever as effective as a rightly timed pause.” -Mark Twain

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY - SEPTEMBER 2026

NET	QNI CHECK-INS	QTC TRAFFIC	QTR TIME	SSNS SESSIONS	NM NET MANAGER
BWN	1026	1952	3217	30	K9LUK
BEN	310	252	477	30	NX9K
WSBN	452	208	651	30	AG9G
WSSN	146	68	398	30	KB9ROB
WIN/E	127	167	253	29	WB9ICH
WIN/L	178	58	256	30	W9RTP
WI ARES/RACES HF	42	8	110	4	K9STN
WI ARES/RACES VHF	29	0	49	2	KA9KJE
WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL	313	1848	1080	6	KD9USW
totals	2623	4561	6491	191	

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2026

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
WB9WKO	0	452	288	7	0	747-BPL
NX9K	227	78	252	0	0	557-BPL
AG9G	0	225	161	1	0	387
N9VC	0	283	31	1	0	315
KC9UC	0	111	145	0	0	256
K9LGU	0	47	69	0	0	116
KB9ROB	0	59	20	19	1	99
W9RNA	0	11	12	12	1	36

W9RTP	0	22	7	1	1	31
WB9ICH	0	21	2	0	0	23
KC9FXE	0	6	11	5	0	22
KA9KJE	2	5	3	0	0	10
KK9D	0	2	5	2	0	9
WB9NRK	0	3	0	3	0	6

P S H R SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2026

POSSIBLE POINTS >	40 nets	40 tfc	30 appt	5 /hr. sked events	5 /hr. emrg events	10ea bbs/ web pg	TOTAL
N9VC	40	40	30	150	0	20	280
AG9G	40	40	30	100	0	0	210
K9LGU	40	40	30	10	0	0	120
WB9WKO	40	40	15	15	0	0	110
NX9K	40	40	20	0	0	0	100
KC9UC	40	40	10	0	0	0	90
KC9FXE	40	22	0	10	0	10	82
KK9D	39	8	0	0	0	0	47

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**

		Net Control Stations						
Name Of Net, Frequency, Local Time	Net Manager	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

The Marconi Program

The Marconi program was originally created by the Meriden Amateur Radio Club in New Jersey with funding from the ARRL Club Grants Program in 2022. It was designed to assist clubs to be more active and engaged with their members and local communities. Marconi is an acronym, standing for "Motivating Amateur Radio Clubs to Open New Initiatives." ARRL has a link to the program. MARCONI Program link is what you want to click to learn about it. There are project activities outlines, questionnaires and an organization chart to help clubs increase their visibility and activity.

If you'd like more information, or know an organization that may benefit from implementing the Marconi program – or your organization is willing to help another organization implement the program, please reach out to kb9stb@arrl.org for some more details.

In Memoriam

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

- Kenneth Secora, N9KS, of Pewaukee

- Ronald Larsen, W9RLL, of Eau Claire

If you become aware of a silent key, from our section, please contact the Section Manager or Assistant Section Manager, Tom Czaja, KG9EE with the details.

Upcoming Fests and Conventions

November 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

ARRL
The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO