



# The OZARES Newsletter

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JANUARY 2011

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This is the official newsletter of the Ozaukee County (Wisconsin) ARES/RACES organization. OZARES is permanently attached to Ozaukee County Emergency Management by mutual consent. ARES is a branch of the American Radio Relay League, a private organization. Wisconsin Emergency Management, a governmental organization, administers RACES.

OZARES meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in Port Washington at the Justice Center. On all other Thursdays, a practice emergency net is held at 8:00 p.m. local time on 147.33/.93 MHz, PL 127.3. If this repeater is down for any reason, the net will be held on the Ozaukee Radio Club repeater, 146.97/.37 MHz, PL 127.3. We may also hold nets from time to time on our 70 cm repeater, 443.525 MHz, PL 114.8, or on selected simplex frequencies.

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**No meeting minutes in this very light issue; they were printed in the last newsletter.**

## Preparedness

By Mike Yuhas, AB9ON, Ozaukee County EC

When disaster strikes will you be ready? We've heard that asked gazillions of times, and we all like to think the answer is in the affirmative.

We are communicators, ready to serve the public's interest at a moment's notice. But I've been surprised more than once, during a net or other exercise, when OZARES members have not been able to communicate with one another. Sure, we've all got 147.330 MHz programmed into our rigs (we do, right?), but what about the 70 cm machine? Simplex frequencies? Other nearby repeaters?

Let's face it, modern radios can be complex pieces of machinery. They're engineered by people who know what they're doing, but who may not know what the user wants to do. There's a lot to get right: You've got your VFOs and memories, PL tones, output power choices, tone squelch settings, scan modes, input/output shifts, priorities, main bands, call channels, microphone sensitivities, backlight colors, and many other parameters to make your life as a ham complete. Knowing all this, can your transmission get through?

Let me ask you to do this simple task: Go to your radio, right now, and put your call out on the OZARES 2-meter repeater. Then the OZARES 70-cm machine. Go out on a limb and try 146.520 MHz, the nationwide VHF simplex calling channel, then hit a couple other repeaters. Repeat this with every rig you own.

That's a great start! Could you do this with all of the radios in the OZARES radio room, including the HF rig?

I am at your beck and call to provide access to the radio room at a mutually convenient time. Get to know how those rigs work. Please take advantage of me! And by so doing, your preparedness increases, and the value of OZARES increases.

## Net Check-ins for December 2010

Thursday nights, 8:00 pm local time, except on OZARES meeting nights. FIRST CALL listed was Net Control Operator for that night.

09 Dec: **N9PBY** (M3.0"), KA9DDN (E1.5"), KC9FZK (E1.0"), W9IPR (E4.0"), AB9ON (M1.5"), KA9PZG (E1.5"), KB9RHZ (E1.0"), WB9RQR (E1.0"), N9SQA (E3.0"), N9WH (M2.6"). Check ins: 10. Drill: winter WX, and the numbers by each call indicate the measured (M) or estimated (E) number of inches of snow fall that they reported.

16 Dec: **WB9RQR**, KA9DDN, KC9FZK, W9IPR, AB9ON, KA9PZG, N9SQA, N9WH, AA9WP (9 check ins). Drill: Simplex frequency. Moved to OZARES standard frequency 18 (146.49 MHz), but then switched again to 17 (146.475) when it was discovered #18 was in use. From WB9RQR's location, all stations were readable or better except N9SQA (marginal at best) and AA9WP (not heard at all, even by KA9DDN).

23 Dec: AB9ON, KC9FZK, W9IPR, KC9QNN, WB9RQR, KC9SLJ, N9SQA, AA9W, N9WH (9). Drill: members were asked to access a file on the ESponder site, and to follow instructions in that file. The instructions asked members to email Mike with their latest primary and secondary phone numbers.

## How To Prepare For NCO Duty

When your turn comes as the Net Control Operator for a Thursday night net, a bit of preparation will make things go much smoother.

First, make sure you have the latest copy of the script – download a copy from our ESponder site. Sometime before the net starts, read through the entire script, **out loud**. Many professionals who must speak to an audience use this rehearsal trick. Speaking the script out loud will show you which parts of the script might cause you to stumble, and will prevent errors when you are actually on the air.

Next, make sure you have the latest Net Check In list, also available on the ESponder site. This simple roster shows the calls and first names of each member, in call book order. You should take check ins in this order during the actual net.

## Net Control Schedule

OZARES nets are held each Thursday at 8:00 p.m., except on meeting nights (4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays). Net scripts and check in lists are emailed to NCOs a month ahead; these can also be obtained from the OZARES ESponder site. If you are scheduled for NCO duty and cannot make it, it is your responsibility to find a substitute. Check the latest check in list in the newsletter for possible hams to trade dates with, and keep the net manager (KC9GJD) informed of confirmed trades. Guests are always welcome after OZARES check-ins have been completed.

January		February		March	
06 Jan	N9PBY	03 Feb	KC9QNO	03 Mar	KC9SLJ
13 Jan	KA9PZG	10 Feb	KB9RHZ	10 Mar	N9SQA
20 Jan	KC9QNN	17 Feb	WB9RQR	17 Mar	KB9VJP
27 Jan	meeting	24 Feb	meeting	24 Mar	meeting
				31 Mar	AA9W

## WI ARES/RACES HF Net

Stan copied the following message on the HF Net on Sunday, 2Jan11.

-----

01 R K9LGU 20 FT ATKINSON JAN 2

WI ARES/RACES HF NET

SECTION NTS NETS TYPICALLY SERVE  
A STATE OR AN ARRL  
SECTION X THESE ARE THE  
MOST NUMEROUS OF NTS NETS

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Denny (K9LGU) is our Section Traffic Manager, and frequently puts in a plug for nets or sends a message like the above to train in one or another net activities. Even if you are not routinely on HF, it might be instructive to monitor one of these nets if you have a capable 80m band receiver, held on 3.967 MHz every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. local time. Stations check in from all over Wisconsin, and there is usually a topic that you can respond to during your "second go". The topic for the 2 Jan 11 net was New Year's Resolutions for Your Ham Radio Activities.

