



# Press Release

## **WeComm Ltd. granted tax exempt, 501 (C)(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service**

501 (C)(3) status allows donors to deduct contributions from their taxes to the full extent of the law

- **Hortonville, Wisconsin**
- **September 16, 2007**
- **WeComm Ltd.**

The Internal Revenue Service awarded WeComm, Ltd. 501 (C)(3) status; enabling donor's to claim tax deductions for contributions. WeComm, Ltd. is a Wisconsin non-profit corporation founded to design, build and maintain state-of-the-art, reliable statewide Amateur Radio communication networks for disaster, emergency and public service use by ARES®/RACES teams. Amateur Radio is often called on to provide "last mile" communications, connecting people providing relief at emergency sites and functioning communications channels a short distance away. WeComm Ltd. is building infrastructure to allow that link to occur.

WeComm, Ltd., incorporated in 2005, has begun designing a statewide network of Amateur Radio repeaters. Repeaters receive transmissions from stations on one frequency and retransmit them on another. The purpose is to increase the range of low powered stations allowing them to have much longer range.

A major feature of the WeComm network of repeaters is the ability to link individual repeaters into a statewide configuration, or to un-link them to serve smaller areas and meet existing

needs. System design is nearly complete for voice and digital data networks, and the construction of the first repeater is scheduled to start soon. Wisconsin ARES/RACES is the intended user for the network for disaster, emergency and public service use. When not needed by ARES/RACES the network will be open and available for normal Amateur Radio use.

Wisconsin ARES is sanctioned by the American Radio Relay League, a national advocacy group supporting amateur radio and promoting professionalism in Amateur Radio operations. Wisconsin RACES is sanctioned by Wisconsin Emergency Management under the oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Administration. ARES/RACES stands for Amateur Radio Emergency Services/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services. In some states ARES and RACES are separate organizations. In Wisconsin they operate as a joined association.

Wisconsin ARES/RACES has response teams in nearly all of our state's counties that are active when needed. Most recently they responded in the Wisconsin counties affected by August's flooding. Several counties requested help providing communications and support with shelter activities, while other counties requested communications support for teams assessing damage.

ARES/RACES teams are frequently requested to assist with storm damage caused by tornado activity, as well as participating in weather spotting and reporting local conditions to the National Weather Service. Frequently, storm warnings are issued based on a combination of radar images and on the ground reports by trained ARES/RACES members.

ARES/RACES groups also frequently provide free communications support for parades, marathons, bike rides, and many other civic functions. This has the dual function of public service and allows the teams to train for emergency response under conditions similar to emergencies. All WeComm, Ltd. and ARES/RACES personnel are volunteers giving their time and resources to help their communities, state and the nation.

For further information please call:

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WeComm, Ltd. Gains Tax Exempt 501 (C)(3) Status

President

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**For immediate release**