



Metro Skywarn



Editor: Dave Johnson, NØKBD

Spring 1999

From the Chair: Thanks for 1998

As I look back on 1998, I must again say "THANK YOU!" The big shout of gratitude goes to the spotters, the Net Control and Weather Service Operators, the Instructors, the Committee and Board Members, and our course sponsors. A special thanks goes to Donn Baker for heading up our Wx-APRS project, Dave Johnson for editing our Newsletters, Gene Clemens and the Bloomington Club for labeling and mailing the Newsletters, John Kelly for Coordinating the Training, Bill Hughes for coordinating the EOC Operations, Audrey Zellman for Coordinating the Weather Service Operators, Jim Richardson and Todd Krause from the National Weather Service for their support, guidance, and cooperation, and to each and everyone for your cooperation in making 1998 another fatality free year in the Metro Area. In a year of a long, record setting severe storm season in Minnesota, everyone's effort lead to a safe year for spotters and citizens.

Now It is Time to Prepare for 1999. The Board, Committees, and Instructors have getting ready for the 1999 Severe Weather Season since the middle of the 1998 season. Now, it is time for the spotters to get ready. Plan to attend one or more of the spotter classes this year. Bring your friends, family members and/or neighbors along. We will continue to encourage you to spot with at least one other trained spotters.

It is also time for you to remind your family of what you want them to do while you are out spotting. Teach them that a Tornado Watch means tornadoes are possible in your area; remain alert for approaching storms and that Tornado Warning means that a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Pre-designate a place of safety, where your family members should go if a tornado warning is issued for your area or

Remember: Spotting mobile at night can be dangerous.
Please spot from home at night.

Metro Skywarn 1999 Class Schedule

Remember, if you didn't train last year, you must train this year to stay active. If you haven't trained in a couple years you are always welcomed back to active status by retraining.

March 6 Sat 0830-1230
North Hennepin Community College
Center for Training and Development
Intended for the General Public but Hams are welcome.
\$10 fee/ Preregistration Required
Call 612-424-0880

March 6 Sat 0800-1200
Cottage Grove Fire Station #2
East of Hwy 61; up on the hill
SEMARC Dave Harrell 651-489-8678

March 20 Sat 0800-1200
Richfield City Hall
Richfield Police Reserve
Tom Fitzhenry 612-861-4912

March 27 Sat 0800-1200
Golden Valley Safety Center
Golden Valley Rd east of Winnetka
TCFMC
Gale R Allen 612-941-3920

March 31 Wed 1800-2200
Carver County Government Center
Chaska.
Audrey Zellman 612-466-5852

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April 3 Sat 0830-1230
Bloomington City Hall
Bloomington Emergency Corp
Gene Clemens, KBØMIP
612-831-3089

April 7 Wed 1800-2200
Cottage Grove Fire Station #2
East of Hwy 61; up on the hill
SEMARC Dave Harrell 651-489-8678

April 20 Tue 1800-2200
University of Minnesota
(Room to be determined)
Gopher ARC, Tim Armond 612-593-9641

April 22 Thur 1800-2200
Ramsey County Emergency Services
694 and Rice
Bill Hughes (651) 482-5238

April 24 Sat 0800-1200
Blaine City Hall
Anoka Co ARC
Dave Cushman 612-483-9590

April 27 Tue 1800-2200
Ramsey County Emergency Services
694 and Rice
Bill Hughes (651) 482-5238

April 29 Thu 1800-2000
Washington County Government Center
Washington County EC
Joe Hibbard 651-773-4469

May 1 Sat 0800-1200
Ramsey County Emergency Services
694 and Rice
Bill Hughes (651) 482-5238

May 5 Wed 1800-2200
Cottage Grove Fire Station #2
East of Hwy 61; up on the hill
SEMARC Dave Harrell 651-489-8678

May 8th Sat 0800 - 1200
St. Croix County Government Center
N of I-94 East of Hudson WI
Bob Emberger 715-425-7452 (w 651-771-8111)

May 15 Sat 0830-1230
Metro Skywarn

North Hennepin Community College
Center for Training and Development
Intended for the General Public but Hams are welcome.
\$10 fee/ Preregistration Required
Call 612 424-0880

May 18th Saturday
Burnsville City Hall
Steve Filek sfilek@isd.net
651-460-2937

June 12 Sat 0830-1230
North Hennepin Community College
Center for Training and Development
Intended for the General Public but Hams are welcome.
\$10 fee/ Preregistration Required
Call 612 424-0880

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the sky becomes threatening, It is important teach them to remain alert to signs of an approaching tornado and seek shelter if threatening conditions exist, how to safely look for early environmental clues including a dark sky, large hail or a loud roar and how to use NOAA Weather Radios to keep in touch. They are available at electronics stores nationwide and if you do not have one please get one. Do not forget to tell your loved-ones that if a warning is issued, move to a pre-designated shelter such as a basement; stay away from windows; get out of automobiles and lie flat in a ditch or depression; do not try to outrun a tornado in your car.

*Safe Spotting,
Lynn DeLong
Chair, Board of Directors
Metro Skywarn, Inc. (A MN Nonprofit Corporation)*

How to Reach Us

- * By phone: Call evenings Board Chair: Lynn DeLong, NØCVI at 566-1299
- * By snail mail: Metro Skywarn, Inc. 2014 Radatz Ave. St. Paul, Mn 55109
- * By email: skywarn@skywarn.ampr.org
- * On the World Wide Web: Skywarn Central Homepage, URL= <http://www.skywarn.ampr.org>
- * The Board always needs more help. Anyone wishing to participate in Board activities is invited to attend the meetings held the first Monday of each month. Call Lynn at 556-1299 for directions.

JANUARY TORNADO NUMBER BREAKS NATIONAL RECORDS

New York, February 9, 1999

A record-breaking 141 tornadoes ripped through Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee in January, NOAA's National Weather Service reported today. More tornadoes occurred on Jan. 21 a preliminary total of 87 than on any previous January day on record.

With additional twisters ripping through six other states earlier in January, the preliminary total count for the month is now 163, more than three times as many as the previous monthly record for January of 52 tornadoes set in 1975, according to Joe Schaefer, director of the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration facility in Norman, Okla.

"Any time of year, we hate to see destruction and loss of life," Schaefer said. "Frankly, we consider this to be a significant number of tornadoes for a March day – the height of tornado season. These numbers in January are unprecedented."

These tornadoes occurred in January because of an unusual January weather pattern, according to Harold Brooks, meteorologist with NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Okla.

"The storms were caused by a southerly flow of wind coming from the Gulf of Mexico, which brought in moisture at low levels in the atmosphere combined with a strong upper air pressure wave, which causes wind at about 30,000 feet," Brooks said. "We usually don't see this tornado-producing combination until March or April."

The first tornadoes of 1999 occurred on the first day of the year in Texas and Louisiana. The next day, more tornadoes hit Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and North Carolina, with a total of 18 in just two days. Two additional tornadoes six days later struck Louisiana and Mississippi.

On Jan. 17, deadly tornadoes touched down in three states – Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee – killing 10 people and injuring another 100. The latest outbreak included 104 tornadoes spotted during a three-day period, with most of those occurring on Jan. 21 in Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee. During the next two days, 17 additional twisters struck Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. The first tornado death this year occurred 40

minutes after midnight on Jan. 2, and the total number of deaths rose to 18 by the end of the month.

Better warnings and longer lead times are the result of NOAA research and the National Weather Service's modernization program, according to George Wilken, science operations officer with the local forecast office in Little Rock, Ark., that serves the area hit by more than 65 twisters since Jan. 1. In addition, a new Tornado Detection Algorithm (TDA), developed at the National Severe Storms Laboratory and installed in all local forecast offices in November, helped increase warnings, which varied from 20 minutes to five hours during the Arkansas outbreak.

"The TDA provides faster recognition of storms and gives meteorologists a sharper definition of where a tornado might be located," Wilken said.

Local forecasters use the TDA, a computer program that helps interpret Doppler radar data, in combination with other products and storm spotter reports to determine what is happening and alert the public.

Tight coordination between the Storm Prediction Center and local forecast offices allows everyone to plan ahead and be prepared when a storm hits, Wilken said.

The Storm Prediction Center monitors and forecasts severe and non-severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, extreme winds, heavy rain and other hazardous weather phenomena across the continental United States – every hour of the day and night, every day of the year. The Storm Prediction Center issues tornado and severe thunderstorm watches across the nation, and coordinates with forecasters in local National Weather Service offices who are responsible for issuing warnings when severe weather strikes their area.

"Working with the Storm Prediction Center, we started telling the public to watch for severe weather four days before it occurred," Wilken explained.

All agree these early warnings saved lives during what they describe as an incredible month.

A graphic showing the total number of tornadoes by state is available at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/stats/torn99.gif>. A tornado fact sheet is available at <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/grounders/tornfacts99.html>. Other sites related to this story include the Storm Prediction Center, <http://www.spc.noaa.gov> and the National Severe Storms Laboratory, <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov>.

Listen to Skywarn Update Every Saturday Night at 7pm

The SKYWARN Update will be back on the air Saturday March 6, 1999. This is a forum for severe weather spotters and others interested in summer severe weather. The Program includes News, Commentary, Questions (sometimes answers) and announcements in relation to severe weather and natural disaster topics from all of Minnesota, Western Wisconsin and across the U. S. (sometimes the world).

The SKYWARN update is part of the Saturday Ham Talk program aired on the 145.21, 444.000, 145.450 repeaters in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area. Saturday Ham Talk begins every Saturday evening at 1900 hours Local Central Time (7:00p.m.).

This interactive news and educational program will be on the air live most Saturday nights from March 6, 1999 through October 9, 1999 at about 2100 Central Time after the transmission of the taped and satellite Amateur Radio news programs. This program is sponsored by Metro SKYWARN, Saturday Ham Talk and Bill Hughes NØQHP is a means of providing information to the Amateur Radio and SKYWARN Spotter Communities.

Other things announced or discussed on the program are: 1. Spotter training opportunities in Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. 2. Updates about operational changes to the Metro SKYWARN networks. 3. Discussion about severe weather and disaster occurrences with guests from response agencies, National Weather Service and others. 4. Information about the activities of SKYWARN organizations and information sources about weather.

You are invited to participate in SKYWARN Update. Your input to SKYWARN update is welcome. questions, comments, SKYWARN training schedules and SKYWARN related announcements are accepted over the air or may be submitted to Bill Hughes via mail at: Bill Hughes 1740 East Orange Avenue Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106 Email at: n0qhp@amsat.org
Metro Skywarn

Computerized National Weather Radio Voice About Ready to Air

The National Weather Service in Chanhassen aired several sample broadcasts of the replacement computerized voice on KEC-65 Weather Radio last fall. The target date of Feb 1 for the start of regular programming has been pushed back a bit and the new date is around the first of March.

Local forecasts and hourly weather will be the common products broadcast by the computerized "voice". The majority of severe weather warnings will likely be broadcast by weather service staff. However, some warnings **may** be broadcast by the "voice" in certain short fused situations.

Bordering Offices Assume Forecast Responsibility For Parts of Minnesota

Beginning Feb 2, the Grand Forks Forecast Office assumed full forecast responsibility for northwest Minnesota, including Park Rapids, Bemidji, Fergus Falls, Roseau etc. Prior to this date, Grand forks was only issuing first period updates. The forecast package now includes all periods as well the 3-5 day extended.

On March 2, the Duluth, Mn and La Crosse, WI offices begin forecast responsibility for northeast Minnesota and southeast Minnesota respectively. The forecast area for all of the offices coincides exactly with the county warning area for severe weather. The change in forecast areas is a part of the modernization and restructuring program of the NWS.

Help Wanted

Metro Skywarn, Inc. is currently recruiting applicants for the following volunteer positions:

Training Coordinator - responsible for coordinating class scheduling with the sponsoring clubs and agencies. Time commitment estimated at 3 hours per month May to October, 6 hours per month November & December, and 2 hours per week January to April. 1999 will be orientation. If interested, contact Lynn DeLong at 612-566-1299 or email: ledelong@frontiernet.net.

Training Assistants (Certified Instructor Designees) - responsible for assisting Certified Instructors with setting up for scheduled classes, with administrative paper work, with making announcements and introductions at classes, with some minimal instructing, with grading tests, and with packing up after classes. Persons selected in this category for 1999 will be given priority consideration to fill vacancies as Certified Instructors and will receive advanced training. Time commitment estimated at 5 hours per class March to June; 2 days of training in Feb of 2000; and commitment to instructing two classes (March to June) per year for three years (2000-2002) If interested, contact Lynn DeLong at 612-566-1299 or email: ledelong@frontiernet.net.

Assistant Webmaster(s) - Under supervision of the Webmaster, monitor, maintain and update "Skywarn Central" (skywarn.ampr.org). Preference given to experience with Website operations, design and setup. Direction and training available, if needed. If interested, contact Dave Johnson at 612-782-8950 or daveej@winternet.com.

Public Relations Director

Public Relation Coordinators

Funding/Development Director

If interested, contact Lynn DeLong at 612-566-1299 or email: ledelong@frontiernet.net.

Newsletter Reporters

Newsletter Copy Editors

Newsletter Printing/Publishing Coordinators

If interested, contact Dave Johnson at 612-782-8950 or daveej@winternet.com.

Metro Skywarn, Inc is a Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation. Metro Skywarn is an Equal Opportunity volunteer agency.

SKYWARN Group Call

Pager Suppliers

Arch	Joel (Customer Service) (612) 893-0400 (612) 996-0400
MinnComm	Barb(Customer Service)(612) 520-8122 Chris Kolb (New Sales) (612) 740-6218
Page Net	Jeff Kahlstorf (612) 884-4400 pager 912-5050

Page net must "burn-in" group call to individual pagers. Take pagers to main office in Edina. All others may phone in to be added. MinnComm will need pager and pin number for Alphanumeric pagers. New purchase customers may set up a contract with any of the above representatives mention Metro Skywarn Inc. for published discounted rates. Regardless of what kind of service you purchase this is an numeric only group call. We use codes to facilitate communications. The codes are:

Code Explanation

162550 NOAA Weather Radio alarm. An auto dialer attached to a weather radio trips when ever KEC 65 sends out the alert tone for the Metro Area. (Note this is the single tone not the EAS / SAME Codes this dialer reacts to.) Turn on your WX Radio or dial up the frequency to hear what is going on.

You should receive this code every first Wednesday of the month at about 1300 hours and for watches and warnings.

999	Formal Net up.
333	Training net.
111	Nets in standby
*000	Nets shut down.

||||| MinnComm

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To get activated immediately
Contact Chris Kolb - (612) 740-6218

METRO SKYWARN PAGERS

Bravo FLX Digital

Pagers

Lease Rate

\$8.50

Per Month

*Deposit required unless
major credit card is used

*\$10 Activation Fee

*Quarterly Billing

*Nationwide services available upon
request

ADVISOR ELITE

Alphanumeric Pagers

Lease Rate

\$12.95 Per Month

Optional Services

*Insurance

\$1.00 Digital- Limits liability to \$20

\$1.75 Alpha- Limits liability to \$35

*\$1.00/mo. Custom Greeting

*\$3.00/mo. Pagemail

(Includes custom greeting)

Contact Jeff Kahlstorf at PageNet

612-912-5050

*Metro Skywarn, Inc.
2014 Radatz Ave.
St. Paul, Mn 55109*

Address Service Requested