



Metro Skywarn



Editor: Dave Johnson, NØKBD

Spring 2006

Safety First: Spot from Home After Dark

From The Chair

Here we are at the beginning of a new SKYWARN season. Included in this newsletter are articles relating to severe weather spotting and changes that have been made in SKYWARN operations. Some interesting changes were made last year in the way SKYWARN is supported at the Chanhassen NWS office, particularly in the way amateur radio operators support NWS operations. In this newsletter you'll also find an article about a new SKYWARN group in Wright County, west of Hennepin and Anoka counties.

But first I want to thank all the spotters who helped out last year by participating in the SKYWARN nets, and the instructors and net control operators who make it all possible. Everyone involved with Metro Skywarn is a volunteer and we just couldn't provide this service without all the time and effort freely given to the program.

As a spotter, participating in a SKYWARN net doesn't mean you have to report anything. You may never say a word on the net. A participating SKYWARN spotter is anyone who is listening to the net and watching the sky, ready to make a report or confirm something reported by another spotter. I stress listening to the net because that helps tell you where to watch. We try to let you know what is happening and if a spotter is reporting an event, we want you looking in the same direction if you can. Just don't forget to watch the rest of the storm, we don't want a tornado sneaking up on you...

Even if you are not an amateur radio operator, you can be an active spotter if you are watching the sky for reportable conditions. Rotating wall clouds and funnels or tornadoes are emergency information you should probably report to your local police department. Power lines or large trees blown down across the road and flooding are also things that should be reported, although I'd suggest NOT using 911 for these reports unless it is an immediate life-safety issue.

You can aid the NWS with their prediction efforts by making careful note of reportable conditions at your location. Note the time the tree blew down and its size, the time the hail started and the largest size that fell.

Continued on page 3

Metro Skywarn is pleased to announce the 1st annual
2006 Minnesota Skywarn Workshop
Saturday, April 29, 2006
9am to 4:30pm
Concordia University - St. Paul, MN

Stay tuned for more details at:
www.skywarn.ampr.org/msw2006

2006 Spotter Training Schedule

3-4-06 Saturday 9 am-1 pm
Stillwater Amateur Radio Ass.
Boutwell's Landing
(behind Menards on Hwy 36)
5600 Norwich Pkwy
Oak Park Heights, MN
Tom Gillen kcOfwy@arrl.net 651-430-2174

3-4-06 Saturday 9 am to 1 pm
Twin Cities Repeater Club
Burnsville City Hall
Civic Center Dr. & Nicollet Ave.
Jeff Goodhuff w0kf@tcrc.org 952-927-0201

3-11-06 Saturday noon to 4 pm
Anoka County Radio Club
Blaine City Hall
10801 Square Dr.
Blaine MN.
(Radisson Road & 109th st.)
Mark Stack Room
Main Entrance(South Side of Bldg)
Dave Runkle kc0kep@arrl.net 763-784-4384

3-11-06 Saturday 8 am to 12 pm
Twin Cities FM Club
Golden Valley Safety Center
7800 Golden Valley Road(1 Blk East Of Winnetka)
Mike Sigelman 763-542-8450 n0oel@aol.com

3-18-06 Saturday 9 am to 1 pm
St Paul Radio Club /Thomas Radio Club
University Of St. Thomas
Murray - Heric Campus Center
(Off Cleveland)
(for directions see www. St. Paul Radio.org)
Dallas Fogg 651-644-2361 dfogg@scc.net

3-20-06 Monday 6 pm to 10 pm
Radio City
2663 County Road I
Mounds View ,MN
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Seating only For 20
Dan Fish 763-786-4475 radiocty@skypoint.com

3-29-06 Wednesday 6 pm to 10 pm
SMARTS
Carver Cty Govt Center
Chaska.MN
Dean Anderson 952-466-3808en@gothaos.com

4-01-06 Saturday 8am to noon
Bloomington Emergency Com.
Fire Station #1
10 West 95th Street
Bloomington. MN
Gene Clemens 952-831-3089 scoutgc@earthlink.net

Continued on page 5

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Net Operators - Metro Skywarn is looking for weather wise Amateur Radio Operators in the Mpls/St.Paul area to take a major role in Skywarn Nets. The Emergency Operation Center at the National Weather Service Field Office in Chanhassen is looking for Amateur Radio Operators with flexible hours to work during severe weather events in East Central Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. Contact KØMPX Coordinator John Wetter at 763-494-3874 or mpx-hams@wxchaser.com.

The Emergency Operations Center at the Golden Valley Public Safety Building, sponsored by the Twin Cities FM Club is looking for Amateur Radio Operators with flexible hours to work during severe weather events in the Metro Area. Contact Tim Arimond at 952-593-9641 tarimond@aol.com.

Assistant Webmaster(s) - Under supervision of the Webmaster, monitor, maintain and update "Skywarn Central" (<http://www.skywarn.ampr.org>). Preference given to experience with website operations, design and setup. Prefer self-directed experienced webmaster, but will train, if needed. If interested, contact Dave Johnson NØKBD at 763-421-3242 or n0kbd@arrl.net.

Committee Members - We need more active members participating in the operations of Metro Skywarn. Expectations should not exceed more than two meetings a month and a few hours working on the task at hand. The Board wishes to form standing committees to work on: Newsletter, Spotter Appreciation, Spotter Notification, Web page, Organization Collaboration, Public Relations, Fund Raising, and Club Affiliation.

To apply, please contact Dave Johnson NØKBD at 763-421-3242 n0kbd@arrl.net.

eSpotter Update

A few of you are probably registered with the National Weather Service eSpotter reporting system. During significant weather events we have at least one office PC logged on to retrieve the incoming reports. Regional IT personnel are experimenting with a method to send these reports into our text work stations (which are not PC based). Reports are being forwarded individually into the text database. In addition to the PC retrieving the report, this will give the warning forecasters an easier access to the report at any work station. We have been receiving some excellent snowfall reports this winter.

eSpotter.com: <http://espotter.weather.gov/>

NWS Chanhassen Web Headlines and Top News Stories of the Day

The National Weather Service standardized the format of office web pages during the last couple of years. However, offices can do some customization as well. Each office now has the capability of adding headlines or top stories of the day "on the fly". The news headlines at the top of the main page can include locally produced graphics, text products, or links to weather/environment related university, government, and state web sites.

Most importantly, this capability gives the user a quick access to hazardous weather statements or graphics, of ongoing events, as well as future hazards. A review of a significant event is also very informative. A couple of reviews on severe storms were posted on our Chanhassen Web Site the past season. Look for more frequent postings of "breaking weather news" and other interesting tidbits in the months to come!

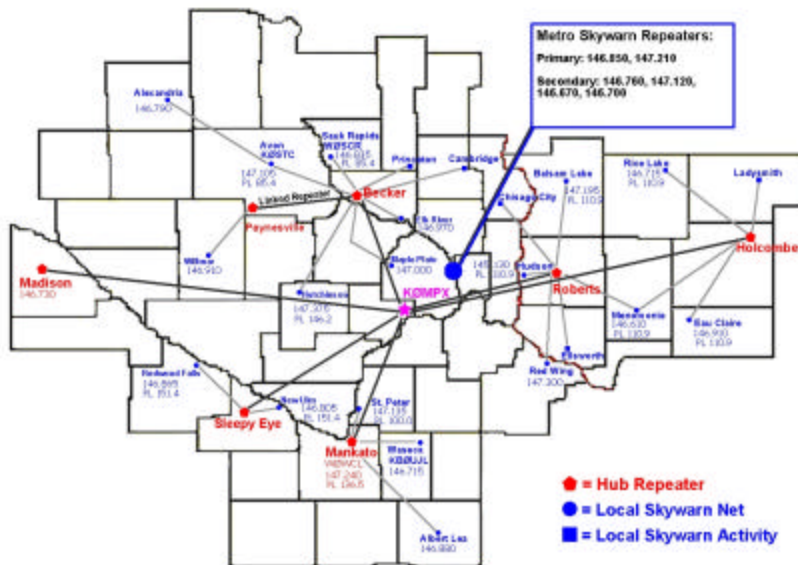
Chanhassen Web Site: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mpx/>

By: Jim Richardson, WMOX, Senior Forecaster

Metro Skywarn Board of Directors

Doug Reed	NØNAS	Chair, Database Coordinator	n0nas@amsat.org
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Steve Levens	ABØYQ	Bloomington EOC Representative	slevens@att.net
John Wetter	KØWDJ	NWS Skywarn Coordinator	k0wdj@arrl.net

NWS Skywarn Member Repeater Map



NWS Skywarn in 2006

Continued from page 1

Here we are looking at the beginning of the storm season for 2006! With all of the changes in Skywarn reporting that took place at the NWS last year, this coming year will be a year of refinement. Last year brought the 'Hub and Spoke' system to Metro Skywarn as well as greater Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. While it may not affect the spotter reporting in, it has greatly changed how those reports get to the National Weather Service. We also have sparked interest in Skywarn in areas that have been underserved in the past, which is another success of the new program.

We look forward to working again with Metro Skywarn and our other Skywarn organizations to streamline reporting procedures in the coming year. We will continue to look at alternative means of getting information to and from Net Control Stations throughout our County Warning Area to ensure that we can receive spotter reports no matter the conditions. To ensure better communications with spotters, we have recently upgraded our antenna systems at the NWS office in Chanhassen. We now will have directional antennas dedicated to our hub repeaters in addition to a new multi-element beam with which we have 360 degrees of rotation. We also have worked on antenna spacing to help diminish some of the interference we encountered this past season, allowing us to work multiple stations simultaneously.

In addition to the new antenna systems, we have been able to make more information available to our operators to ensure that their situation awareness is optimized. To do this, scheduling of operators was arranged to have as high of availability as possible and to ensure that we have enough people to cover an event. Also, while an event is in progress, our radio operators sit right across the desk from the warning meteorologists, ensuring that there is a continuous stream of information going both directions. Also, our operators have direct access to radar and warning information from the situation awareness screen as well as radar software at our computer workstation.

All of these improvements have helped us to better serve Skywarn weather nets in our warning area, while also quickly and efficiently getting information from the spotters to the public to help better protect life and property.

We are always looking for weather-wise hams that have a flexible work schedule and live near Chanhassen to work severe weather events. If you are interested, please contact John Wetter at mpx-hams@WxChaser.com.

John Wetter, KOWDJ
NWS Skywarn Coordinator

Then use the spotter reporting tools on the NWS web site to post your information. Your reports are compared with the NWS prediction models to improve their accuracy. I frequently use this method to make hail reports when I'm at work and can't use the radio.

I also want to thank everyone who took SKYWARN training for the first time last year, or even for the 20th time. About 1/3 of the people we train each year are not amateur radio operators and that is perfectly OK. Many unlicensed spotters go on to become licensed amateur radio operators and that is great! The major purpose behind Metro Skywarn is to support the NWS SKYWARN spotter program by training as many severe weather spotters as we can. Metro Skywarn recruits volunteer instructors and coordinates the training schedule for most of the metro area. This leaves the NWS instructors with more time to support the rest of the non-metro warning area, from the South Dakota border in the west, to Eau Claire in the east.

Most of our classes are free but a few are hosted by educational institutions and require payment. All our classes are eligible for POST Board continuing education credit for law enforcement officers. We train a lot of amateur radio operators as spotters since that is our primary purpose, but we also train a lot of police, fire, and public works people, and of course individuals and families, men, women, and kids. One of the things the instructors like to see is families coming in for training every year and particularly to see the kids growing up as trained, knowledgeable, severe weather spotters. Severe weather can strike anywhere and knowing what to look for will never hurt you.

Metro Skywarn requests that spotters recertify every second year. If you took the class last year, you don't have to take it again this year. But if you are like me and come out of the class thinking, "Oops, I forgot that," maybe you should consider taking the class again this year. As long as there is space in the class, the instructors don't mind since they prefer teaching to a full house. But if seating is limited and you don't need to retrain this year, then give your seat to a new or returning spotter who does need the training this year.

And if you are taking a SKYWARN class this year, don't wait until June to look for a class. Every year there are always a few people looking for training after our last class but we just can't accommodate them. After three months giving classes, our volunteer SKYWARN instructors want their life back.... For you it is just a four-hour class. For them it is four hours of talking and a similar amount of time in travel and preparation. At the end of the class, please thank them for their time and tell them what you liked most or least about the class. Your feedback is what we need to make the classes better.

In February this year, all SKYWARN instructors will be retraining. The State of Minnesota Division of Emergency Management will be hosting the training class and all SKYWARN instructors must recertify this year. The NWS makes changes to the SKYWARN class materials and provides new information to the instructors at this time. This training is only open to people who intend to actively train new spotters for the next three years. I haven't seen the new material yet but I know I'll see it in class this spring.

There should be an article from John Wetter in the newsletter regarding the changes at NWS last year and how it affected the SKYWARN nets. John is the lead person for the amateur radio operators at NWS and works directly with Todd Krause to make sure NWS needs are met. I'm most happy with the new SKYWARN activation procedures because it is John's group that is responsible for notifying Metro Skywarn when NWS needs our net. The NWS amateur radio operators group is the most active SKYWARN net control in the area since they are activated any time there is severe weather anywhere in the Chanhassen warning area. If you are a licensed amateur radio operator living or working within 15 minutes of the Chanhassen NWS office and would like to volunteer your time, contact John now so you can join the group and take their annual training.

Continued on page 6

New Metro Skywarn Partnership Aims To Better Serve Western Metro area

Metro SkyWarn & Wright County SkyWarn have joined forces in an inter-operations partnership designed to help better serve SkyWarn spotters residing in the Western & Northwestern portions of the Twin Cities metro area and its outer ring suburbs. This partnership will be adding a new SkyWarn repeater to the existing field of repeaters in the Metro Skywarn System. This repeater is the existing Wright County Skywarn main frequency and is located in the city of Maple Plain in Western Hennepin County. The repeater has a frequency of (147.000+ KOLTC). This repeater also has a remote receive site located in Robbinsdale, MN which can be accessed via tone (114.8). This repeater is owned and maintained by the Robbinsdale Amateur Radio Club and has proven itself as a reliable repeater option during the 2005 severe weather season.

Wright County Skywarn began a formal operations plan in the spring of 2005 named "WrightWarn" and since its inception has become an established SkyWarn organization serving the areas north and west of the Twin Cities metro area. Wright County SkyWarn currently has 48 trained weather spotters located throughout Wright County as well as portions of Sherburne, Meeker and Hennepin counties in east central Minnesota.

The new inter-operations agreement will only enhance the current level of operations that are already in place. Some of the changes for the upcoming 2006 season will include the addition of the western and northwestern Twin Cities metro area as a new area of responsibility within the primary coverage area. These areas will now include most of western and northwestern Hennepin County, Sherburne County, and northern Carver County as well as other areas in and around the metro if needed. This primary coverage area will be added in addition to the east central Minnesota counties that are already served by W.C.S.

Another positive aspect of the new inter-operations plans will be the addition of Metro Skywarn Identification Numbers to the Wright County / West Metro SkyWarn system. The current spotters who were active with SkyWarn in Wright County in 2005 who did not have Metro Skywarn training and certification will for the first time be offered the training on a local level and be issued a Metro Skywarn ID number for the first time. This will help many of the spotters who reside in the far west metro but work in the central metro areas to be all on the same page with existing Metro Skywarn spotters by using the same means of identification to check into a SkyWarn net on any of the designated Metro SkyWarn repeaters throughout the area.

In reverse, the addition of the Wright County system into the Metro Skywarn system will add a new reporting option for existing Metro Skywarn spotters who live or work in the western and northern portions of the Twin Cities metro area through the 147.000+ repeater. Existing and new Metro Skywarn spotters who will utilize the new repeater will operate under the existing prescribed operations procedures issued under Metro Skywarn.

All said the 2006 severe weather season will bring many new horizons to the SkyWarn programs in East central Minnesota. From the new west metro inter-operations partnership to the successful implementation of the National Weather Service's Hub & Spoke system of repeaters, the spotters as well as the citizens residing in these areas will be well served by the additions and advancements to an already well run formal operations system.

**Nick A. Elms, KCØSNC
Wright County Skywarn**

Simple Tips for Severe Weather Safety

by Rory Groves KCØCGY

As the saying goes, those who fail to plan, plan for failure. It follows that one shouldn't wait until severe weather is imminent before deciding to act. The following safety tips will help keep you in the clear the next time severe weather approaches.

Know the general weather threat each day. Minnesota endures a less severe but more extended storm season than other parts of tornado alley, from March to late October. But the most intense storms occur during the months of May and June. During these months, it is especially important to review the Day 1 Outlook issued by the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma every day. The Outlook contains a high-level summary of the day's potential for severe weather, outlining regions with General, Slight, Moderate, or High Risk classifications. Take note if you are anywhere Slight Risk or higher, and follow the second tip:

On threatening days, keep attuned with local weather. This means to check the weather news on TV, listen to updates on your weather radio, check the local radar on the Internet, and most importantly, watch the skies. So many of us fall prey to the latest technology innovations (myself included) that we never stop long enough to use our own eyes. Remember your Skywarn training and learn to detect threatening weather by watching the cloud formations, sensing the humidity, speed and direction of wind, and of course listening for thunder.

Understand the significance of various weather statements. On any given day, there are hundreds of weather statements issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) and Storm Prediction Center (SPC). But for anticipating severe weather, you should primarily be concerned with just three: the Day 1 Outlook, the Watch statement, and the Warning statement. As mentioned above, SPC Day 1 Outlooks prescribe the general threat for a given day. Day 1 Outlooks are updated at 1am, 8am, 11:30am, 3pm, and 8pm CDT. When the threat becomes more probable, the SPC may issue a localized Watch. Finally, when severe weather is actually occurring, the NWS may issue one or more county-level Warnings. There are many additional advisories and statements that provide excellent context to the local weather situation, but these three are the heavy hitters of severe weather awareness.

Keep a watchful eye. A sure sign that severe weather is looming is when the SPC issues a Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch. Watches are given for an area in which severe weather is likely within the next few hours. They usually cover about 25,000 square miles, or about half the state of Iowa. Since it is a primary concern of forecasters not to "cry wolf", they issue such watches sparingly, so pay attention.

Timing makes a difference. Storms can occur at any time, from early morning to the middle of the night, but severe storms usually get going in the late afternoon, 3 to 6pm. That's why most tornado and severe thunderstorm watches are issued in the late afternoon. This is because surface heating, a primary component of thunderstorm development, is hottest a few hours after the sun begins to set. Always be alert, but be especially vigilant in the late afternoon to early evening.

Where is the storm going? Storms can of course move in any direction, but generally travel northeastward in Midwestern states. When a cold front moves from west to east through an unstable airmass, thunderstorms are likely to form along the leading edge of that front. This provides the easterly movement. At the same time, wind at the surface is speeding northward. This provides the northerly component. Hence, the thunderstorms move northeastward. It is important to understand the direction a particular storm is moving in case you are caught outside when the storm hits. Driving south and east to avoid an approaching northeasterly moving storm would be your safest route, if you cannot find adequate shelter.

The final warning: When the NWS determines that a particular storm has reached severe limits, it will issue a Warning for the threatened county or counties. There are many types of storms which can trigger Warnings, but the most common are Severe and Tornadoic Thunderstorms. A thunderstorm becomes a "severe" thunderstorm when it produces ¾" or larger hail and wind gusts exceeding 58 mph. A thunderstorm becomes classified as "tornadoic" when heavy rotation is indicated by radar, or a tornado is sighted on the ground. When a warning is issued for your county, take cover immediately!

Preparation is the key to keeping safe in any hazardous situation. Putting into practice the aforementioned tips and always having access to multiple sources of weather information will keep you well ahead of the storm.

All of the above mentioned weather statements are regularly broadcast via the NOAA Weather Radio, and can be found online at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov>. Local television and radio reports are also an excellent source of information during times of severe weather.

Rory Groves, volunteer Skywarn instructor, and developer of storm tracking software SWIFT WX resides in Minneapolis with his wife Becca.

4-03-06 Monday 6 pm to 10 pm

ARES - Chisago County
St. Bridigets Church
Hwy 8 in Lindstrom, MN 55045
Ed LaPlant 651-257-1313 farnequipment@frontiernet.net

4-5-06 Wednesday 6pm to 10 pm

SEMARC Fire Station#2
8641 80th Ave.
Cottage Grove, MN
Dennis Ackerman 651-769-0358 kb0oqq@arrl.net

4-10-06 Monday 6pm to 10pm

Buffalo Community Ed
Discovery Center
Training Room
214 1st Ave NE
Buffalo, MN
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Registration Fee - \$9
To register, contact Buffalo Community Ed
at: 763-682-8770 or
www.buffalocommunityed.com
Nick Elms 763-295-6892

4-13-06 Thursday

1 pm to 5 pm & 6 pm to 10 pm

Forest Lake Public Safety Dept.
(Council room)
Forrest Lake City Hall
210 north Lake St.
Forrest Lake, MN
Greg Wiess Forrest Lake PD 651-464-5877 402@flpd.com

4-15-06 Saturday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

North Hennepin Comm College
(Center For Training Development)
CCE Bldg.
7411 85th Ave. N.
Brooklyn Park, MN.
Intended For the General Public\$ 10 Fee
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Mel Xlong, Director 763-424-0880
(Class subject to cancellation if there is not enough people registered)

4-17-06 Monday 6 pm to 10 pm

Radio City
2663 County Road I
Mounds View, MN
Dan Fish 763-786-4475 radiocity@skypoint.com
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Seating For 20 only

4-22-06 Saturday 9:30AM - 1:30PM

Monticello Community Center
Bridge Room
505 Walnut Street
Monticello, MN 55362

4-22-06 Saturday 11 am to 3 pm

Ramsey Co Emerg Mgmt & Homeland Security
Roseville PD
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN
(Roseville PD Training Room)
Bill Hughes 651-266-1016
(Leave A Message)

4-26-06 Wednesday 6 pm to 10 pm

Robbinsdale Radio Club

Robbinsdale Public Safety Ctr.
4101 Hubbard Ave. Robbinsdale, MN
Tony DeYoung TDeYoung@gmail.com

4-27-06 Thursday 6 pm to 10 pm

Ramsey Co Emerg Mgmt & Homeland Security
Roseville Police Department
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN
(Roseville PD Training Room)
Bill Hughes 651-266-1016
(Leave a message)

5-4-06 Thursday 6 pm to 10 pm

Ramsey Co Emerg Mgmt & Homeland Security
New Brighton Dep't Of Public Safety
785 Old Hwy 8 NW
New Brighton, MN
(Training Room)
(North Entrance, 3rd Floor)
Bill Hughes 651-266-1016
(Leave a message)

5-06-06 Saturday 11 am to 3 pm

Ramsey Co Emerg Mgmt & Homeland Security
New Brighton Dep't Of Public Safety
785 Old Hwy 8NW
New Brighton, MN
(Training Room)
(North Entrance, 3rd Floor)
Bill Hughes 651-266-1016
(Leave a message)

5-6-06 Saturday 9 am to 1 pm

SEMARC
Fire Station # 2
8641 80th Ave.
Cottage Grove, MN
Dennis Ackerman 651-769-0358 kb0oqq@arrl.net

5-11-06 6 pm to 10pm

Ramsey Co Emerg Mgmt & Homeland Security
New Brighton' Dept Of Public Safety
785 Old hwy 8 NW
New Brighton, MN
(Training Room)
(North Entrance, 3rd Floor)
Bill Hughes 651-266-1016
(Leave a message)

5-13-06 Saturday 11 am to 3 pm

Ramsey Co Emerg Mgmt & Homeland Security
White Bear Lake PD
4701 Highway 61,
White Bear Lake , MN
Training Room
(No. Entrance Of Police Dept)
Bill Hughes 651-266-1016
(Leave a message)

5-13-06 Saturday noon to 4 pm

Anoka County Radio Club
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Dr.
Blaine, MN
Radisson Road & 109th Street
(Mark Stack Room Main Entrance South Side Of Bldg)
Dave Runkle 763-784-4384 kc0kep@arrl.net

5-18-06 Thursday 6 pm to 10 pm

Ramsey Co Emerg Mgmt & Homeland Security
White Bear Lake PD

4701 Highway 61,
White Bear Lake , MN
(Room, North Entrance Of Police Dept)
Bill Hughes 651-266-1016
(Leave a message)

5-20-06 Saturday 11 am to 3 pm

Ramsey Co Emerg Mgmt & Homeland Security
White Bear Lake PD
4701 Highway 61,
White Bear lake, MN
(Training Room, No. Entrance Of Police Dept)
Bill Hughes 651-266-1016
(Leave A Message)

6-10-06 Saturday 9 am To 1 pm

Twin Cities Repeater Club
Burnsville City Hall
Civic Center Drive & Nicollet Ave.
Jeff Goodnuff 952-927-0201 w0kf@tcr.org

Continued from page 3

And there should be an article by Nick Elms about the Wright County SKYWARN group. Nick organized the SKYWARN group as part of the local amateur radio club since Metro Skywarn doesn't serve Wright County. Nick operates the SKYWARN nets and passes reports directly to NWS via the out-state repeater hubs that have been set up. Nick's net is primarily interested in severe weather that is entering or within Wright County. He will also be acting as a relay for reports from spotters in Sherburne County. Wright County SKYWARN and Metro Skywarn have agreed to recognize common training standards and to accept reports from each other's spotters.

I think this is excellent news for spotters in western Anoka and north-

western Hennepin County who otherwise have trouble getting into the Metro Skywarn nets. But please remember that Wright County SKYWARN's primary goal is to monitor severe weather in Wright County and their net control is only one operator trying to do everything. Please don't use their net for Metro Skywarn reports unless you can't make the report any other way. It is your privilege but let's not abuse it.

My final item is to mention we have a new backup repeater for the Metro Skywarn nets. Please dig out your Metro Skywarn spotter card and cross out 147.390 in the backup repeater list and write 146.700- with tone 127.3 in its place. The 147.390 MHz repeater in Edina has been moved to a new location. It is now located in Dakota County and is being used to support the local ARES/RACES group. The new Metro Skywarn backup repeater is the 146.700- MHz repeater in downtown Minneapolis. To access this repeater you will need to use a CTCSS tone of 127.3 Hz with a -600 KHz transmit offset.

The repeater is operated by Hennepin County Emergency Communications as a RACES repeater. That means emergency traffic has highest priority and general ham conversations should be kept to a minimum. The Metro Skywarn nets fit right in with the emergency communications purpose of the repeater but if our net is quiet and not receiving severe weather reports, we may need to share the repeater with other active emergency operations or move to a different backup. It is an excellent repeater with terrific coverage and I want to thank Roger Laurence and Hennepin County Emergency Communications for the opportunity to use it as a backup for Metro Skywarn nets.

I hope you all have a safe and fun summer. Keep an eye on the sky and listen to the nets if there is severe weather. Not every rainstorm will bring up the nets, but if the NWS needs spotter reports, we'll be there.

73, Doug Reed, NONAS.
Chairman, Metro Skywarn

Address Correction Requested

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