



**April 2026**

Metro Skywarn, Inc.  
 PO Box 131895  
 St. Paul, MN 55113

**MetroSkywarn.org**

General Information....[Help@MetroSkywarn.org](mailto:Help@MetroSkywarn.org)  
 Training.....[Training@MetroSkywarn.org](mailto:Training@MetroSkywarn.org)  
 Website Issues[Webmaster@MetroSkywarn.org](mailto:Webmaster@MetroSkywarn.org)

**Mission and Objectives**

Metro Skywarn, Inc., is an organization of amateur radio operators and severe weather enthusiasts with interests in the areas of severe weather spotting and amateur radio communications as a public service. This organization will operate in the metro area of the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis Minnesota, and surrounding counties in the state of Minnesota.

We are a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit corp.

**2026 Board of Directors**

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Trustee	K0ZTW	Zach Whitney
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At Large	K0BHJ	Benton Jackson
At Large	KF0FFE	Scott Henley
Operations	KF0AED	Stephen Cullen

**NCS Stations:**

Twin City FM Club  
 Maple Grove Radio Club  
 Bloomington AuxComm  
 Dakota County ARES

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**From the chair...**

My apologies for getting this out so late this year. Normally we like to publish before we get into the training season. In 2025, we had a significant challenge to our infrastructure in the back end of our website and mailing lists. A change within the administration of the software put us in an awkward position of not being able to capture email addresses to add to our MSWAlert and MSWInfo mail lists. We were able to roll back to a different version of the control program, with the help of interserver.net, our host provider and migrate to a different server. This is one year ago. Since then, we have a capture file we are now using to avoid the issue entirely, however additions are slower as they are manually added. Keeping up with the many challenges of web and mail server issues takes a lot of time. It's all for our worthy cause: keeping our communities safer by early detection of severe weather, and through classes on spotting, there are many eyes to the sky.

Theresa addresses our training in her article...we have ongoing classes and the 2 online classes in April have been opened to

accommodate more spotters either renewing their certification or new spotters coming on board. Please take advantage of the service we offer.

**Mike Miller, N0NY, Chair**

Last year, we trained the most people ever in one year! 818 people attended one of our classes! Due to cuts at the NWS, we received inquiries from groups across the country to attend one of our sessions. We even had one person from South Korea take our training! We're continuing on the trend that we're training more non-hams than we are hams. Technology no doubt is playing a role in this as there are many more options for reporting than before.

Training now has a separate page on the website! Be sure to check out [metroskywarn.org/training](https://metroskywarn.org/training)! There, you'll find the class schedule and answers to the majority of your questions! We'll be updating the content to the Links and Documents page in the next month. Check it out!

Our trainers attended Train the Trainer Training this Winter. We will have new videos and slide set in our classes! Our first class has passed and last is June 11. Please do sign up for a class so you can be sure to get all of the announcements for the class and post class registration information!

As always, if you didn't attend class last year, you're due this year! Email [Training@MetroSkywarn.org](mailto:Training@MetroSkywarn.org) if your question cannot be answered from the website.

Have fun training and Thanks for coming to class!

**Theresa Caspers**  
**Metro Skywarn Education Coordinator**

Date, time, and location - Please go to the [metroskywarn.org/training](https://metroskywarn.org/training) for signup and complete Information

Date	Time	Location
4/18/2026	1pm - 4pm	Online
4/23/2026	6pm - 9pm	Hennepin County Public Works - EOC Room Medina, MN
5/2/2026	1pm - 4pm	Ridgedale - Hennepin County Library
5/9/2026	1pm - 4pm	Blaine City Hall
5/13/2026	6pm - 9pm	Online
5/16/25	9:30am - 12:30pm	Bloomington
5/30/2026	9:30am - 12:30pm	St. Luke Lutheran Church Cottage Grove, MN
6/11/25	6pm - 9pm	Online

At class, you will be given a link to register as a spotter. Once you register, an email is sent to you. This will be the only email you receive unless you're a new Metro Skywarn spotter and you need an ID or need yours looked up. Please allow up to 3 to 4 weeks to receive that email. If you are a Skywatcher (non-ham), the NWS will get back to you in approximately 60 days. Please be patient as our training team is volunteer.

Thanks for volunteering.

## **NCS/Ham Radio Practice Net**

This year we are continuing our practice nets as we have done for the past year. We are still using the same format: a 30-minute practice net with the first 15 minutes on the primary repeater (146.700 - 127.3 PL tone) and then QSY for the second 15 minutes on one of the backup repeaters chosen by the group on call, with information published on the website for all hams to access.

The purpose of using two frequencies is to operate on the net, with everyone using 146.700 for the first 15 minutes and a published backup repeater for the last 15 minutes. The backup repeater should be announced on MSWinfo so that spotters can program it into their radios if it has not already been done. I want to see how well we, as Metro Skywarn Leads/Net Control, can operate on a different repeater if there is already traffic on the frequency, and learn what more we can do to increase our coverage in the Twin Cities using backup repeaters if necessary.

## **Severe Weather Awareness Week**

Next week is Severe Weather Awareness Week in both Minnesota and Wisconsin! Information about various topics on severe weather safety will be presented each day by the [NWS Twin Cities](#). Metro Skywarn will hold practice nets on Thursday, April 16 at 1:30 and 6:30. Watch MSWInfo and Facebook for more details!

The list of daily topics for Severe Weather Awareness Week is:

**Monday, April 13 - [Weather Alerts and Warnings](#)**

**Tuesday, April 14 - [Severe Storms, Lightning, and Hail](#)**

**Wednesday, April 15 - [Floods](#)**

**Thursday, April 16 - [Tornadoes](#) & Practice Nets at 1:30 and 6:30**

**Friday, April 17 - [Extreme Heat](#)**

## **2026 Skywarn NCS Recruitment**

Have you ever wanted to give back to the community and develop your ham radio skills? Do you like thunderstorms? If you have answered yes to either of those questions, we're looking for you. All four Metro Skywarn Net Control Station teams are looking for Net Control Operators (NCO) for the 2026 season. Each station is on call for one week then off for 3. Our season runs from March through October.

I will be emailing the trustee of the repeaters Metro Skywarn will be utilizing, potentially rotating through the list every Wednesday at 6:30 PM, which started on March 4, 2026, until October 7, 2026.

If any of you have questions regarding this, please let me know. As always, if your team is unable to run the net when you are on call, please inform me on Tuesday so I can prepare my team. Thank you in advance for dedicating your time to playing radio and helping the Twin City community.

We will use the same script we used in 2025 since there may be some changes after we QSY to the backup frequency

**Stephen Cullen**

**Metro Skywarn Board Member**

**Net Control Coordinator**

**Metro Skywarn Instructor**

**KF0AED**

All you need is a technician license and a willingness to learn. We have training for all skill levels and plenty of help to back you up and grow as a ham radio operator. We utilize our skills to listen, report, and inform weather spotters and the weather service of what is on the ground. Radar can't see through the clouds during a storm, so we need to take in reports from other operators who are at their home or ones out chasing storms. We have people logging reports, watching the weather, and working the repeaters as calls come in. We then send weather updates to the weather service or out to spotters. If this sounds of interest to you, please contact [ncs@metroskywarn.org](mailto:ncs@metroskywarn.org) and let us know which team(s) you would like to work with. You can utilize the video we made for NCS training that is linked on our website here: [NCS Training](#).

**Benton Jackson, K0BHJ**  
**Metro Skywarn Operations**

### **Metro Skywarn NCS Stations:**

#### **Maple Grove Radio Club**

Maple Grove Radio Club currently operates via our home stations and collaborates via Zoom.  
Zach Whitney, K0ZTW

#### **Bloomington AuxComm**

Bloomington Auxcomm operates from home stations, and from the communications room at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027.  
Eric Osterberg, N0NKI

#### **St Louis Park Net Control**

St Louis Park Net Control is at 3280 Gorham Ave, St Louis Park, MN 55426. We will provide all training for NCS station and equipment. It has 24/7 access with a bathroom.  
Mike Miller, N0NY

#### **Dakota County**

Dakota County operates from home stations, and from the communications room at Dakota County Northern Service Center  
1 Mendota Rd, West St Paul, MN 55118  
Tom Polzin,