



SKYWARN TIMES

Vol. 4 No. 10

OCTOBER- 2008

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Laurium, MI 49913

SKYWARN NET: Fridays @ 9 pm EST, FREQ: 147.315 MHz, PL-100 Hz

NCS: DAVID TORREY, NCS OF THE FRIDAY NIGHT SKYWARN NET 483-4885

PACKET RADIO CHANNEL: 145.090 MHz.

PACKET APRS WX: 144.390 MHz

MARQUETTE NWS: wx8mqt-1 (Use 145.090 Mhz Packet radio - AX.25)

PACKET LINK: c wx8mqt-1 v kwnw (AX.25 Packet)

SPOTTER'S LINK TO NWS: 1-800-828-8002 (Spotter's only):

NOAA WX HOME PAGE IN MARQUETTE: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mqt/>

AMATEUR RADIO STATION IN NEGAUNEE: WX8MQT

METEOROLOGIST-IN-CHARGE: Robin J. Turner: KC8TII (906) 475-5782 EXT. 372

WARNING COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST: Matt Zika, KD8EFY (906) 475-5782 EXT. 726

OBSERVATIONS PROGRAM LEADER: David G. Petrovich, KC8UUC (906) 475-5782 EXT. 327

SKYWARN NET: (VIA THE COPPER COUNTRY)

INFORMATION:

“SKYWARN TIMES” A newsletter for persons interested in helping their communities by being weather spotters is published monthly, and always comes to you as the previous month.....(i.e., the October issue comes out on the first of November), and it shows the activity in SKYWARN for the preceding month. It is only sent out in electronic form, so you have to have an E-Mail address, in order to receive it.

315 REPEATER TROUBLE:

On Tuesday, October 14, several amateurs reported trouble on our system, as “real weak signals from the repeater.” The very next morning (Wednesday), (Gary, K8YSZ Engineer) and George, (W8FWG) made a visit to the site, and pinpointed the trouble to the power amplifier in the transmitter section of the repeater. Because of lack of expensive test equipment, the entire repeater was removed from service and driven to Marquette to Anderson Communications. With the cooperation of all personnel at their facility, the amp. was repaired the very next morning by 9 o'clock by technician Gary Rund. Gary (K8YSZ) and George (W8FWG) then made a second trip to Marquette, on Thursday to pick up the amp., and upon returning received additional help from David (KD8CGA) and Bill (KD8JAM), putting the repeater back into service by 5:45 that night (Thursday.) It was needed for the Friday night nets, and for the LSPR road rally on Saturday, and it performed flawlessly! Murphy struck....but we won!

IRON MOUNTAIN AX.25 PACKET GOES DOWN:

The Iron Mountain Group has taken their AX.25 packet radio system out of service, with no plans for putting it back in.

NEGAUNEE PACKET GOES DOWN

With Iron Mountain gone, Steve, N8MLI is taking his node down in Negaunee. The relaying of packet traffic to points south (via Iron Mountain) was for your convenience. The Nodes there are: N8MLI-7 Node, N8MLI-1 Mailbox, N8MLI-3 Gateway N8MLI-4 IR, Node: NEGNOD. Thank you Steve, for making this route available to us, and giving us a path out of the Copper Country, through you, and on to Iron Mountain, and down into the Green Bay area, and eventually to the world, in the past. We are sorry to lose this route.

W8FWG-2 SERVICE ENDS:

My own AX.25 packet-data station at Mt. Horace Greeley (W8FWG-2) will also be taken out of service in the near future, (or it may be converted to an APRS node with a beam antenna fixed, and pointed at the Marquette area for the relaying of traffic out of the area)

KD8ABP-7 EXISTS:

At the former Calumet Air Force Station Site, so we don't know at this point if it would be worthwhile to have two APRS nodes at that site. (W8FWG-2) could be the alternate, serving the Marquette area out of the Copper country with a Yagi antenna system. Howard, KD8ABP is the owner/operator of KD8ABP-7 at this time. They would both be operating on the Nationwide frequency of 144.390 MHz.

SKYWARN Recognition Day Set for December 6

Each participating NWS office will send out their own QSL card. This card is from the 2007 SKYWARN Recognition Day in Wichita, Kansas.

The 10th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day ([SRD](#)) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 6, 2008. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service ([NWS](#)) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their [local participating NWS office](#), working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event.

The idea for the first SRD took shape in the summer of 1999. Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Goodland, Kansas NWS office Scott Mentzer, N0QE, tried to find a way to recognize the valuable contributions storm spotters make to the National Weather Service. "Since many of those storm spotters were also hams," Floyd said, "it seemed like a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on Amateur Radio."

With the approval of NWS headquarters and a commitment to participate from many local NWS offices across the country, the first National Weather Service Special Event took place on November 27, 1999. "At the end of the event, an amazing 15,888 QSOs were logged, with contacts made to all 50 states and 63 countries," Floyd recounted. "The

Des Moines forecast office took the honor of making the most contacts of any office that first year with 761 QSOs, and went on to lead the pack until 2003 by logging between 1300-1500 contacts each year!"

Floyd said that feedback from that first event was "overwhelmingly positive" from both the NWS staff and the local ham clubs: "Suddenly there was incentive for more NWS staffers to either obtain a license or upgrade so that more people could work ham radio during severe events. In addition, many club members had never visited an NWS office before. When they came for the special event, they learned the value of their reports and how they were used in conjunction with existing technology."

And so began an annual tradition. The following year, 85 of the 122 NWS offices -- almost 70 percent -- participated in the event, making nearly 24,000 QSOs. "Perhaps the most unusual contact occurred in 2000 was with an airliner 39,000 feet above Utah," Floyd said. "The pilot ended the QSO with a request for a 'spot weather forecast' for his arrival at Salt Lake City airport."

In 2001, the name of the event was changed to SKYWARN Recognition Day, a name Floyd said better relayed what the day was all about: "Each year since the inception of SRD, the number of NWS offices and local ham clubs participating has increased, until now more than 100 offices sign up each year to take part. The most contacts made during any SRD occurred in 2006 when -- thanks to the staff and local hams in the Grand Junction, Colorado area -- 1640 QSOs were logged!"

Station call signs have also changed over the years. Floyd said that some NWS offices and clubs apply for a special event call sign, "such as W3B in Brownsville or N0Y in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Other call signs hint at office location, including WX9GRB in Green Bay and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center. Still others represent more of the big picture, as in KC0SKY in Pleasant Hill, Missouri."

Floyd said that as SKYWARN Recognition Day has grown throughout the years, he has seen a greater use of digital communications in addition to CW, RTTY and packet radio: "Each year, more and more contacts are being made using EchoLink, Winlink and the use of e-mail reflectors."

2008 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 6 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and 40 countries during the 24 hour event. If you haven't joined in the fun, make 2008 your year to do so!

CHECK -INS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER-2008

Honor Roll: Checked in at least five times this month (BOLD PRINT)

KD8ABP-Howard-Kearsarge	1
KC8FSO – John – South Range	1
W8FWG – George-Laurium	4
WA8FXQ – Bob – Lac La Belle	1
KD8GBH - David-Dollar Bay	4
K9GIR – Dennis - Eagle Harbor	4
K8HRO – Randy Aura	2
N8HZH – Jon – Dodgeville	2
KD8IZM – Ryan – Ishpeming	1
KD8JAM – Bill – Allouez	1
WX8MQT – Bill – Marquette	4
KC8OCK- Al - Ontonagon	1
KC8TRV-Todd- Houghton	1
KC8YDU- Mark-Hancock	1
K8YSZ – Gary- Bumbletown	5
Total Check ins:	34

Changes to Winter Weather Warning/Advisory Criteria for
Upcoming Winter Season

Winter Weather Warning and Forecast Changes at the National Weather Service in Marquette

The National Weather Service in Marquette will be making some changes to their winter weather warning and advisory products for this upcoming winter weather season. Any questions and comments should be directed to Matt Zika, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, via e-mail or phone (matthew.zika@noaa.gov, 906-475-5782 x726).

Snowfall Warning and Advisory Criteria

Currently, the WFO Marquette snowfall hazard methodology for issuing winter weather warnings and advisories focuses mainly on snow amounts. The current warning and advisory criteria do not take into account the fact that different snow/water ratios, snowfall rates, and time of the day/year all play a role in the impacts the winter storms have on the public. Through research conducted at the National Weather

Service in Marquette where the number of weather related incidents were correlated with individual snowfall events from last winter, it was found that snowfall intensity and the water content of the snow is just as important (if not more so) than the storm total snowfall itself. The research showed that snow events with high water content (wet snow) usually result in more weather related incidents during the snow event.

Therefore, to better serve the public during winter events, the National Weather Service in Marquette will be running a test for the 2008-2009 Winter using some different criteria for its winter weather warning and advisory products. The changes can be seen in the table below. Although there are not significant changes to warning criteria, the snowfall warning criteria has been lowered for non-lake effect snow or system snow cases, since those cases typically have much higher water content than lake effect snow cases. Most of the adjustments have been made to the winter weather advisory criterion for snow. Once again, due to the high water content of system snows (non-lake effect snow), the advisory criteria has been lowered to snow amounts averaging 3 inches to less than 6 inches in 12 hours. In addition, snowfall rates have been taken into account. If snowfall rates of 1 inch per hour are expected to last for 2 hours or more a winter weather advisory will typically be issued especially if this heavy snow is expected during the day time. There will no longer be a geographic breakdown for snowfall criteria for northern Upper Michigan vs. southern Upper Michigan. Lastly, the National Weather Service in Marquette will start issuing Special Weather Statements to highlight locally significant winter weather, especially in situations where the snowfall or snow rates are not expected to reach warning/advisory criteria thresholds. These statements will be issued mainly during the daytime when sociological impacts are greatest.

NWS Marquette Revised Winter Hazard Criteria		
Type of Warning/Advisory	Current Criteria (used in 2007-2008)	Proposed New Criteria (for use in 2008-2009)

<p>Blizzard Warning</p>	<p>Visibility in Snow and or Blowing Snow $\leq \frac{1}{4}$ mile</p> <p>Sustained Winds or Frequent Gusts ≥ 35 mph</p> <p>Duration ≥ 3 hours</p>	<p>No changes planned</p>
<p>Winter Storm Warning for Heavy Snow</p> <p>(System snow with snow/water ratios < 20 inches of snow to 1 inch of liquid)</p>	<p>8 inches in 12 hours</p> <p>10 inches in 24 hours</p> <p><u>Southern Upper MI</u></p> <p>6 inches in 12 hours</p> <p>8 inches in 24 hours</p>	<p>≥ 6 inches in 12 hours</p> <p>≥ 10 inches in 24 hours</p> <p>≥ 3 inches of snow with sustained winds ≥ 25 mph and visibility $< \frac{1}{2}$sm, but not reaching Blizzard Criteria</p>
<p>Lake Effect Snow Warning</p> <p>(Lake effect snow with snow/water ratios ≥ 20 inches of snow to 1 inch of liquid)</p>	<p><u>Northern Upper MI</u></p> <p>8 inches in 12 hours</p> <p>10 inches in 24 hours</p> <p><u>Southern Upper MI</u></p> <p>6 inches in 12 hours</p> <p>8 inches in 24 hours</p>	<p>≥ 8 inches in 12 hours</p> <p>≥ 12 inches in 24 hours</p>
<p>Winter Weather Advisory for Snow</p> <p>(System snow with snow/water ratios < 20 inches of snow to 1 inch of liquid)</p>	<p>Northern Upper MI</p> <p>≥ 4 inches but < 8 inches in 12 hours</p> <p>Southern Upper MI</p> <p>≥ 3 but < 6 inches in 12 hours</p>	<p>≥ 3 inches but < 6 inches in 12 hours</p> <p>Any snowfall with rates ≥ 1 inch/hour, for 2 hours or more, even if total snowfall is < 3 inches</p> <p>Forecaster discretion (i.e. heavy snow band affecting Holiday travel, etc)</p>
<p>Lake Effect Snow Advisory</p> <p>(Lake effect snow with snow/water ratios ≥ 20 inches of snow to 1 inch of liquid)</p>	<p>Northern Upper MI</p> <p>≥ 4 inches but < 8 inches in 12 hours</p> <p>Southern Upper MI</p> <p>≥ 3 but < 6 inches in 12 hours</p>	<p>≥ 4 inches but < 8 inches in 12 hours</p> <p>Any snowfall with rates ≥ 1 inch/hour for 2 hours or more, even if total snowfall is < 4 inches.</p> <p>Forecaster discretion (i.e. heavy snow band affecting</p>

		Holiday travel, etc)
Significant Winter Weather Alert (Special Weather Statement)	N/A	Any snow with rates $\geq 1/2$ inch/hour or more during the daytime (6am-6pm LT) Enhanced snowfall during an ongoing advisory or warning situation that may affect commerce or increase winter weather danger Forecaster discretion