



SKYWARN TIMES

Vol. 3 No. 9

September - 2006

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

PACKET RADIO CHANNEL: 145.090 MHz.

PACKET APRS WX: 144.39 MHz

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

AMATEUR RADIO STATION IN NEGAUNEE: WX8MQT

METEOROLOGIST-IN-CHARGE: Robin J. Turner: KC8THI (906) 475-5782 EXT. 642

WARNING COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST: Matt Zika , KCD8EFY (906) 475-5782 EXT. 726

WELCOME BACK !

Starting Sept. 1, 2006 we reinitiated our newsletter, dubbed the "SKYWARN TIMES."

NEW START:

Starting September 1, 2006, on the "315" repeater, we bring you :

1. The Keweenaw County ARES Net sponsored by the KCRA, run by Gary, K8YSZ
2. The SKYWARN Net, run by Geo., W8FWG
3. The all-new BULLETIN TRANSMISSION run by Geo., W8FWG

LATE BREAKING NEWS:

Howard, KC8ABP discovered (on a recent field visit with yours truly) that our antenna was tilted to one side, and it was discovered the mast pipe was bent. Further inspection revealed a missing clamp at the bottom of the pipe and we felt that it was time to bring in the professionals, so Anderson Communications of Marquette was called in, and the antenna was repaired yesterday, August 31, 2006. A new (stronger) mast, and three new clamps were added, and the antenna tested at the site. The workers involved were Fred Anderson (N8BTS), Gary Rund, Peter Melochosite (sp?), Howard Klann (KD8ABP), Gary Hansen (K8YSZ) and yours truly George Thurner, (W8FWG)

THANK YOU!

Our thanks to Mark, KC8YDU who provided the KCRA with four brand new cooling fans for the radio cabinet at the site. They were installed by K8YSZ, KD8ABP and W8FWG. We are sure this is going to help with the continued operation of the "315" repeater. Thank you very much, Mark.

OUR WEATHER BUREAU CORRESPONDENT:

Bill Dowe, KC8EWD is the “Voice of the National Weather Service” (for ham radio) in Negaunee. You are hearing Bill on a regular basis using the station’s call sign of WX8MQT. Thank you, Bill for your participation, and it’s good to have a representative right at the weather bureau to help in handling weather traffic by ham radio. During periods of severe weather, Bill will be giving us a first hand look at “what’s coming” from the west.

NEGOTIATIONS:

We are working with Sheriff Ronald Lahti, the Keweenaw County Sheriff, who in turn is working with Jack Dueweke (KC8NPI) to attempt receiving some funding for a new installation at the site. We will have more news on this item when the KCRA Newsletter comes out in October.

LATE BREAKING NEWS: Sheriff Ron Lahti of Keweenaw County informed yours truly (W8FWG) that our request for funding of a new repeater has been approved! Great news!

FIRST SESSION:

This is our initial newsletter to you for the fall season of the year 2006, and we hope you will join us on a regular basis each Friday night at 9 pm on the “315” repeater, for the FRIDAY NIGHT SKYWARN net. The start date of the SKYWARN TIMES Newsletter will be Sept. 30, 2005, and we hope to see all of you and others joining the group as each week goes by.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE:

We are here each Friday in a “Standby” mode, but we want to acquaint everyone with the procedures to be used in checking in and reporting weather to the district office in Negaunee.

PERMISSION:

Permission has been granted by the KCRA (Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.) to run the net on this channel.

ADVANTAGES:

The advantage of holding the SKYWARN net here is that the Keweenaw repeater has a wide coverage, covering a five county area. (Yes, that’s already been proven.)

HOSPITALIZED:

At this writing we have two of our regulars to the SKYWARN NET in hospitals. Lee Royce, KC8DYG at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, and his father, Dennis Royce, K9GIR at the Keweenaw Memorial Medical Center in Laurium. Our prayers and get well wishes go out to both.

NOAA WEATHER:

The NWSO (National Weather Service Office) calls themselves “Marquette Weather” where in reality, they are located in Negaunee Township, just West of the City of Marquette. They operate and maintain 5 weather radio transmitters in the U.P. of Michigan from this office, and they are:

WXK73 162.400 Near Houghton
KIG66 162.550 Near Marquette
KZZ35 162.500 Near Escanaba
WNG-684 162.525 North of Manistique
WNG-576 162.450 Near Newberry

TYPE OF NET:

It is open to all radio amateurs, and especially those amateurs who have already attended one or more of the annual sessions put on by the National Weather Service Office of Negaunee in the Spring of each year.

INTENTIONS:

Our goal is to provide information and training to radio hams on procedures to be used in reporting bad weather to the weather bureau. We’ve coordinated our efforts with Robin Turner, KC8TII the “Meteorologist In Charge” (MIC) of the Marquette County group. I will be filing a monthly report with Robin, as to how things progress with our net.

ACTIVATION BY WXMQT:

In the case of an actual alert by the weather bureau in Negaunee, the role of NCS will be taken over by their own reporting station, WX8MQT, and all amateurs are asked to go to a monitoring mode, until specific station(s) are called upon by the bureau.

ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE:

Meteorologists worldwide have for a long time measured atmospheric pressure in millibars. After the introduction of SI units, many preferred to preserve the customary pressure figures. Therefore, meteorologists use hectopascals today for air pressure, which are equivalent to millibars, while similar pressures are given in kilopascals in practically all other fields, where the hecto prefix is hardly ever used. Since official metrication, meteorologists in Canada use kilopascals (kPa) CTV News, weather, CTV News, weather; current conditions in Montréal and CBC weather, current conditions in Montréal

1 hectopascal (hPa) = 100 Pa = 1 mbar.

1 kilopascal (kPa) = 1000 Pa = 10 hPa.

MORE ON ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE:

Gary, K8YSZ, came up with this conversion: 1 inch of mercury [0 degrees C.] = 33.863886667 millibars. Therefore, to convert atmospheric pressure in inches of mercury to millibars, use that multiplier: Example: 30.00 inches of Hg = 1016 millibars (We've rounded that off, as my calculator doesn't handle all those decimal places!)

RECRUITMENT:

As an introduction to our news service (this month only). Only; we're going to send a copy of "Skywarn Times" to all of the members of the CCRAA and KCRA, as well as to clubs in the five-county area that we serve. Please tell your friends of this net, and ask them to join in. The more people we have check in, the better reporting we'll have to NOAA weather. Thanks in advance!

JOIN US:

Reminder: We are on the 147.315 (+) Repeater every Friday night, immediately following the Keweenaw County ARES net. (PL-100 is needed) Please join us and support your county with a weather report.

CHECK -INS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:

- KD8ABP – Howard-Kearsarge (1)
- KD8BPC – Norm – Negaunee (2)
- WB8CBA – Edwin – Calumet (1)
- KD8CGA – Dave Ahmeek (1)
- KC8FSO – John – South Range (4)
- W8FWG – George-Laurium (5)
- K9GIR – Dennis – Eagle Harbor (4)
- N8HZH – Jon – Dodgeville (2)
- W8KQB – Tom – Pelkie (4)
- KA8L – Rich – Copper Harbor (1)
- WX8MQT – Bill – Negaunee (5)
- KC8OCK – Al_Ontonagon (1)
- KC8YDU – Mark – Hancock (3)
- K8YSZ – Gary- Bumbletown (4)

Total Checkins for September: 38

INVITATION:

Once again, you are invited to participate weekly in the Friday night **SKYWARN** net. Please mark your calendars now, to join us each Friday at 9 pm for the net on "315", the Keweenaw Repeater. Thanks in advance.