



SKYWARN TIMES

“A NEWSLETTER FOR TRAINED WEATHER SPOTTERS”

Vol. 4 No. 5

MAY-2007

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Laurium, MI 49913

SKYWARN NET: Fridays @ 9 pm EST, FREQ: 147.315 MHz, (No PL Tone)

PACKET RADIO CHANNEL: 145.090 MHz.

PACKET APRS WX: 144.390 MHz

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

AMATEUR RADIO STATION AT NWS IN NEGAUNEE: WX8MQT

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JOIN US:

Reminder: We are on the 147.315 (+) Repeater every Friday night, immediately following the Keweenaw County ARES net. (PL-100 is **NOT** needed) Please join us and support your county with a weather report.

CHECK -INS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL-2007:

KD8ABP –Howard-Kearsarge (2)
KD8BPC – Norm – Negaunee (2)
KB8CNK-Bruno-Marquette (1)
N8CSE – Gerald – Watton (2)
KC8FSO – John – South Range (1)
W8FWG – George-Laurium (4)
K9GIR-Dennis-Eagle Harbor (4)
N8HZH-Jon-Dodgeville (1)
N8IMU-Harold-Laurium (2)
W8KQB – Tom – Pelkie (4)
KC8YDU – Mark – Hancock (2)
AA8YF-Ted-Ewen (1)

Total Checkins for April -2007 26

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.

WELCOME BACK, BILL:

We've missed "The Voice of WX8MQT", Bill Dowe, who is KC8EWD of Ishpeming. Bill was hospitalized this spring but is now back home and on the road to recovery. We're glad to hear Bill back on the air at the National Weather Service Office in Negaunee.

SEVERE WEATHER SEASON:

The severe weather season starting with tornadoes and thundershowers typically starts with the start of summer, and we hope that all of our observers will pay attention to the skies, and the trouble they could bring to your community. It is good that so many are prepared, and because you are equipped with a communications system that is independent of telephone lines, computer connections etc. that your communications survivability exceeds many of the commercial installations. Please remember to check your station often, for proper operation...and this includes storage batteries, chargers, emergency generators, and all radio transceivers plus antennae for proper operation. Won't you please join us each Friday at 9 Eastern time for your "Operation Readiness" plan? It will give you peace of mind to know that your station can be relied on, in case of severe weather. Keep a small amount of fuel on hand too, if you have an emergency supply, and don't forget to check on the condition of the batteries of your station often.....you'll be glad you did. Don't forget emergency lighting either, it is not much fun, looking around in the dark, trying to find your communications equipment. If you are fearful of operating your station during a storm (lightning) plan on a good indoor antenna, but pay attention to the radiation too (use of low power) or space your antenna away from your family and neighbors. (I use an attic antenna here, and low power, for such applications, and that works well, as it puts the radiation above me.)

ARE YOU READY?:

For what? You will be asking. Are you familiar with the NCVEC QUICK FORM 605 APPLICATION FOR AMATEUR OPERATOR/PRIMARY STATION LICENSE? Form 605 (and most hams are), you may have signed a statement that says in part.....
"I have read and WILL COMPLY with Section 97.13c of the Commission's Rules regarding RADIOFREQUENCY (RF) RADIATION SAFETY and the amateur service section of OST/OET Bulletin Number 65." [This statement is on the new FCC 605 form]
Every radio amateur should have a copy of the FCC Rules & Regulations where they can readily review them. In case you don't, here is what Part 97.13c says:
"Before causing or allowing an amateur station to transmit from any place where the operation of the station could cause human exposure to RF electromagnetic field levels in excess of those allowed under Paragraph 1.1310 of this chapter, the license is required to take certain actions."

A NOTE FROM GREG, KI8AF OF MARQUETTE:

Dear County Emergency Coordinator (EC)

I'm moving forward, be it slow, in efforts to create or have additional means of contacting the NWS Office Marquette when Skywarn Spotters are activated and weather related information has to be passed to the NWS Office.

I'm also trying to make sure that amateur radio is still a viable part of it. With that I have some good news from Raoul Revord W8RDR, Alger County EC and president of the Alger Amateur Radio Club (AARC).

Raoul has an EchoLink system connected to the KC8BAN two-meter repeater located in Wetmore, Mi. and has authorized the use of his EchoLink station and the AARC repeater system for passing Skywarn or other related weather incidents. The KC8BAN is linked to the K8KIT repeater located near Grand Marais, Mi. for greater area coverage. This is a dedicated link via 440 MHz and is always connected.

For those not familiar with EchoLink don't worry, there is lots of help out there both from individuals and on-line sources. There is a good tutorial "Introducing EchoLink" at <http://www.echolink.org/>.

If you can reach either repeater with a radio, go direct. Or you can connect via a computer EchoLink connection and into the KC8BAN repeater which will be monitored at the NWS Office Marquette amateur radio position. This offers the spotters out of direct radio range with the NWS Office Marquette the opportunity to contact them or maybe have a local spotter net were the NCS can be in contact with the NWS Office Marquette via this EchoLink station. Remember I'm trying to keep amateur radio as a viable part of the reporting process. I believe it is worth a try.

WX8MQT the NWS Office Marquette amateur radio station will add the KC8BAN repeater to its list of monitored frequencies whenever and wherever in the U.P. Skywarn Spotters are activated for watches and/or warnings.

Information:

KC8BAN Repeater 145.410 –

K8KIT Repeater 147.195+

W8RDR-R EchoLink Node connect number 275200 (usually active 24/7)

WX8MQT is the NWS Office Marquette callsign

Please pass this information onto your group of trained Skywarn spotters and other amateur radio operators in your area that might be interested in storm related weather reporting.

Any comments or suggestions would be appreciated.

73,

Greg Hanson, KI8AF

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