



# SKYWARN TIMES

“A NEWSLETTER FOR TRAINED WEATHER SPOTTERS”

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Laurium, MI 49913

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

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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E-Mail: [matthew.zika@noaa.gov](mailto:matthew.zika@noaa.gov) 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 support your county with a weather report.

## ILLNESS STRIKES W8FWG:

Because of my recent illness during the months of August and September with trips to Marquette and to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, for back surgery on September 15, 2007, I only have reports of check-ins for September 28, 2007. However...thanks to the diligent record keeping of David, KD8GBH in Dollar Bay, he supplied me with the dates that I needed for a full report, and it is listed below:

### Checkins for Sept., 2007 HONOR ROLL TO THOSE IN BOLD – 4 checkins/month

KD8ABP	Howard	(2)	Kearsarge
VE3AVS	Dave	(1)	Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada
N8CSE	Gerald	(3)	Watton
WB8FCY	Chuck	(1)	Jacobsville
W8FMR	Terry	(1)	Laurium
KD8FPK	Mark	(3)	Marquette
KC8FSO	John	(2)	South Range
W8FWG	George	(3)	Laurium
WA8FXQ	Bob	(1)	Lac La Belle
<b>KD8GBH</b>	<b>David</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Dollar Bay</b>
N8HZH	Jon	(2)	Dodgeville
<b>W8KQB</b>	<b>Tom</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Elo</b>
WX8MQT	Bill	(2)	Negaunee
WB8NJP	Bruce	(1)	Ishpeming
KC8OCK	Al	(1)	Ontonagon
KC8VEU	Josh	(1)	Houghton
<b>KC8YDU</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Hancock</b>
K8YSZ	Gary	(1)	Bumbletown Hill
WB8ZYL	(Roy)	(1)	Dollar Bay

### **FRIDAY NIGHT NET REORGANIZATION:**

In order to spread the workload a bit, we are doing it this way now:

1. Starting out on Friday's at 9 we have the Keweenaw Co. ARES Net with Gary, K8YSZ of Bumbletown, as Net control.
2. It is followed by the SKYWARN NET, hosted by NCS: David Torrey, KD8GBH of Dollar Bay.
3. Finally, following the Skywarn Net we have George, W8FWG of Laurium with the Official Bulletin Transmission.

Thanks to all of the new NCS's who made this possible, it lightens the burden on me a bit and it gives some news voices being heard. Thanks! Special thanks go to Dave Sheffer, who filled in for me, during the late summer. It was much appreciated, Dave!

Geo. W8FWG

### **SKYWARN ACTIVATED:**

With heavy thunderstorms rolling through the area, and numerous power failures being reported, it was decided to activate our SKYWARN System on September 21, 2007. The activation actually started two hours after the regular Friday Night session began. Because of a failure of both Commercial and Backup power at the weather bureau in Negaunee, I activated the SKYWARN NET along with my partner, David Torrey of Dollar Bay. We opened it at 2300 EDT, and had the following stations check in to the net: W8FWG, KD8GBH, WB8ZYL, KD8BPC, N8GBA, KC8FSO, WB8FCY, KD8ABP, K9JCO, WX8MQT. Chassell was also reporting a power failure, and Kearsarge checked in with a local power failure there. Numerous trees and limbs fell, causing a majority of the power outages. Our thanks to Bill Dowe, KC8EWD, who manned the ham station (WX8MQT at Negaunee), while the power lasted, and also thanks to Rich Schwenke, N8GBA who left his home in Marquette around midnight to travel to the Negaunee site, to see what help he could offer. Rich contacted us by mobile radio from the NWS, and assured us that all was well. David closed the net at 0015 hours. We have suggested that the ham station be equipped with a UPS for the future, in the event that a catastrophic failure like this should happen again. This was pretty rare however, to have both the Commercial and the Emergency power supplies fail together., and this was a local failure.....within the building at NOAA's office in Negaunee. In addition, with the power loss all six of NOAA's "All Hazards" weather stations went off the air, due to the power failure in Negaunee.. A spokesperson at the NWS in Negaunee said the failure of the backup generator was due to a fuel pump failure, which was repaired only several days later, and an adjacent sector (Gaylord) had to take over for Negaunee. Commercial power was restored around midnight the same day, so they did come back on, but without any backup power arrangements.

### **ALL-CALL (Revisited):**

Some time ago, I initiated something called "All-Call". It means I have all of our regular weather spotters who have checked in, at least once to this net to receive an E-Mail notification prior to the severe weather that your presence is desired on the "315" repeater. We hope that everyone will pay close attention to their E-Mail, and respond to our plea for help. Please check your E-Mail often!

## SKYWARN NET AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY:

1. It is a FREE service and takes only a few minutes of your time just once a week.
  2. It allows you to test your equipment, making sure it is ready in times of emergency.
  3. Your community depends on YOU, when other communications facilities are “down.”
  4. YOU are providing up-to-the-minute reports of weather in your area.
  5. YOU could help save someone’s property by advance reporting.
  6. Marquette’s radar cannot “see” over the Huron Mountain chain, you can help!
  7. Tornadoes “have happened” in ALL counties in the state of Michigan
  8. “All-Calls” alert YOU, ahead of any special net “call-ups.”
  9. We don’t wait for others to tell “when” to activate” We use our own judgment.
  10. It doesn’t cost to belong.....IT PAYS!
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### COMING SOON:

Not one....but two.....new NOAA Weather All Hazards, Weather Radio Station. One in Marenisco (serving Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties), and one in Crystal Falls, serving Iron County. Here are the station’s ID’s and frequencies for the additional transmitters coming to the U.P.

Marenisco, MI	WNG683	162.550 MHz	300 Watts
Crystal Falls, MI	KJY76	162.475 MHz	1000 Watts

## [“WXSpots” Free Skywarn Reporting Software Available](#)

September 2nd, 2007 Posted in [SKYWARN](#), [ARES RGV](#)

WXSpots, a new tool in the tool chest for SkyWarn operations and weather enthusiasts is now available! WXSpots is a free, Internet based system designed to quickly disseminate observed reports of severe weather. WXSpots is not intended to replace Amateur Radio. By it’s very nature of dependence on the Internet, WXSpots can’t provide data from a severely affected area. On the other hand, WXSpots can quickly communicate data from those observers just outside it. It also provides the means to help monitor local severe weather as it unfolds with many more observers able to communicate what they are seeing.

WXSpots features include

- The ability to disseminate observations quickly and efficiently anywhere.
- The ability to add the eyes of SkyWarn enthusiasts who aren’t Amateur Radio Operators.
- An automated, historical record of recent observations.
- The ability to keep tabs on current observations without necessarily being near a radio.

To learn more, please visit [www.wxspots.com](http://www.wxspots.com), and be sure to read through the FAQ page while you are there! It would be great to get feedback on this, specifically in how it would work for us in the Rio Grande Valley for the National Weather Service in Brownsville. Drop us an email through the registration form on the registration page or send an email directly if you know the address.

*(Editor's Note: We recommend that all spotters download this free software and make use of it. It looks like a good reporting tool for us. I've downloaded it it here, and use it often.)*

**A SAD NOTE:**

The President of the KCRA passed away at the Marquette General Hospital on October 10, 2007 at 4:30 in the afternoon. Lee J. Royce, KC8DYG is sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

73,

And our sincere thanks to you all, for checking in to the SKYWARN net each Friday.

George, W8FWG

