

From: SkyWarn Announcement List ()
To: Skywarn-list@oak.powersrvcs.net
Date: Tue, May 26, 2009 1:56:37 AM
Subject: SKYWARN Newsletter #261

Hello to all..

SKYWARN Training Update..

May 2009 Features Three Formal SKYWARN Activations To Date..

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National Hurricane Center Advances and Challenges Journal Posted Online..

May Issue of National Hurricane Center Q & A Posted..

Newsletter Issued: 5/26/09.

SKYWARN Training Update..

The following are the remaining SKYWARN Training sessions confirmed and the sessions still being worked over the course of 2009. See schedule and info below:

Saturday June 6th, 2009 1-4 PM:

Nantucket Town Building (Old Electric Company Building)

2 Fairgrounds Road

Nantucket, Massachusetts

Taught by: NWS Taunton Forecasters

Tuesday June 23rd, 2009 7-10 PM:

Grafton Fire Department Headquarters

26 Upton Street (Route 140)

Grafton, Massachusetts

Taught by: NWS Taunton Forecasters

Sessions still being looked into for the following locations:

-Woodstock, CT

-Northwest Hillsborough County NH

-Providence, RI (Fall Class at Channel 12 potentially)

-Gardner, Mass (Amateur Radio driven class)

-Blue Hill, Mass (Fall Session)

-Martha's Vineyard Island

-Western Essex County Massachusetts (Taught by Amateur Radio Coordinators)

Further SKYWARN Training Schedule updates will be posted in future SKYWARN Newsletters.

A number of SKYWARN Training sessions were completed in April and May with good turnout at most of the sessions. Further details summarizing the SKYWARN Training sessions given to date will follow in future SKYWARN Newsletters.

May 2009 Features Three Formal SKYWARN Activations To Date..

With 5 days left in May 2009, we've already had 3 formal SKYWARN Activations with severe weather. Two reasonably significant severe weather events occurred with the May 9th event resulting in the 1st tornado in Southern New England for the 2009 season in Sunderland, Massachusetts. The second significant severe weather event occurred on Sunday May 24th with hail in the 1-2" diameter range and wind damage noted along with 3/4-1" hail reports across portions of Massachusetts and Connecticut. A third, more marginal event, occurred on Tuesday May 12th where mostly small hail reports were received with the exception of 1 3/4" hail report in Swansea, Massachusetts. Details on these activations will be posted in the next SKYWARN Newsletter if time allows.

Massachusetts Statewide Hurricane Exercise - Monday June 1st, 2009 from 7-9 PM..

The state of Massachusetts will be hosting an ARES/RACES/SKYWARN/MARS exercise on Monday June 1st from 7-9 PM. This exercise will be done with coordination from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, National Weather Service in Taunton Amateur Radio Station, WX1BOX, and the National Hurricane Center Amateur Radio Station, WX4NHC, working with Salvation Army and American Red Cross Amateur Radio Operators, Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters and RACES personnel in local city/town Emergency Operation Centers.

We would like to encourage Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters in Massachusetts to give mock SKYWARN Reports to the various voice nets that will be active. An announcement on the drill including the participants manual listing frequency information and procedures/processes is listed below:

The following is an updated Massachusetts Statewide Hurricane Drill - Hurricane Madison 2009 Exercise Participants Manual. This Manual is in Word and PDF Document format and can be seen at the links below:

http://ares.ema.arrrl.org/local/2009_Hurricane_Madison_Mass_Drill_Participants_Doc_Rev_2.doc

http://ares.ema.arrrl.org/local/2009_Hurricane_Madison_Mass_Drill_Participants_Doc_Rev_2.pdf

The name of the hurricane was changed from Wanda to Madison to coincide with

MEMA Region Two's naming of the hurricane. The idea of updating the document with a graphical/tabular track of the hurricane using Hurrevac was dropped due to an all day activation of SKYWARN for severe weather on Sunday May 24th precluding the time needed to add that information to the document. The document has been updated with Winlink/Airmail resource information, page numbers for the document and other associated minor changes.

An exercise controllers document has been created for net controls/alternate net controls and coordinators for the exercise and has been updated with the hurricane name change and additional suggestions/corrections to that document. The ARES/RACES/SKYWARN Management team working with MEMA will get that distributed to all appropriate personnel along with the participants manual.

We hope to have a successful exercise with strong participation across the commonwealth. Thanks to all for their continued support of ARES, RACES and SKYWARN in Massachusetts.

WX4NHC On-Air Communications Test on Saturday May 30th, 2009 (1300-2100 UTC)
9 AM-5 PM ET..

The WX4NHC Communications Test will take place on Saturday May 30th from 9 AM-5 PM ET (1300-2100 UTC). WX4NHC will be on the *WX_TALK* Echolink Conference server Node: 7203/IRLP reflector 9219 for a portion of the Communications Test from 1-3 PM ET (1700-1900 UTC). We encourage everyone to participate in the test and check in with WX4NHC on both VoIP, HF, and any other mode that is available to you. As completed in years past, VoIP Hurricane Net Controls will be assisting WX4NHC in taking a list of stations for contacts to test our online reporting form and to use the test as a training opportunity for our net controls.

We are hoping for many New England check-ins for the Communications Test on any and all modes available to them. Below are the details on the WX4NHC Communications Test:

Announcement from WX4NHC
Amateur Radio Station
at the National Hurricane Center

WX4NHC Hurricane Season 2009 On-The-Air Station Test
Saturday, May 30th, 2009 from 9 AM - 5 PM EST (1300z-2100z)

NHC Director Bill Read, KB5FYA is planning to attend and make some on-the-air contacts.

The purpose of this annual Station Test is to test all of our radio equipment, computers and antennas using as many modes and frequencies as possible.

This is not a Contest or simulated Hurricane Exercise.

New equipment and software will be tested and we may be trying multiple frequencies and modes at any give time. Some operator training will also be conducted.

WX4NHC will be On-The-Air on HF, VHF, UHF and 2 & 30 meter APRS.

We plan on testing on the following voice frequencies +/- QRM
3.950 MHz, 7.268MHz, 14.325MHz, 21.325MHz, 28.525MHz.

We will try to stay on 14.325 MHz most of the time and announce when we QSY.

You may be able to find us on HF by using one of the DX Spotting Networks,

Such as the DX Summit Web Site:
<http://www.dxsummit.fi/Search.aspx>

We will also be on VoIP Hurricane Net 1pm-3pm EDT (1700z-1900z)(IRLP node 9219 / EchoLink WX-TALK Conference).
<http://www.voipwx.net/>

South Florida area VHF & UHF Repeaters will be contacted.

Please report your Call sign, Signal Report, Location and Name. A brief Weather Report ("Sunny", or "Rain", etc.) would also be appreciated.

Non-Hams are invited to submit their actual weather using the On-Line Hurricane Report Form at
<http://www.wx4nhc.org/WX-form1.html>

We will also monitor APRS and email.

QSL Cards are available via WD4R.
Please send your card with a S.A.S.E.

Please do NOT send QSLs directly to the Hurricane Center address.

Due to security measures,
NO VISITORS will be allowed at NHC during this test.

Only WX4NHC Operators on the pre-approved operating schedule will be allowed entry.

WX4NHC Amateur Radio Station
At the National Hurricane Center
www.wx4nhc.org <<http://www.wx4nhc.org/>>

National Hurricane Conference 2009 ARRL article:
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/22/10779/?nc=1>

Pictures of the 2009 National Hurricane Conference.
<http://www.wx4nhc.org/NHC-2009-pix.htm>

Thank you for your participation in the WX4NHC Station TEST.

Julio Ripoll Architect WD4R
WX4NHC Amateur Radio Asst. Coordinator
www.wx4nhc.org

National Hurricane Center
www.nhc.noaa.gov

National Safe Boating Week 5/16-5/22..

The week of May 16th through May 22nd was National Safe Boating Week. The NWS Taunton office did not issue Public Information Statements for this week but the Eastern Region Branch of the National Weather Service did post the 2009 Safe Boating Week information. That information is in the link below:

<http://safeboating.erh.noaa.gov/>

With Summer upon us, now is a good time to review safe boating practices and to adhere to these practices.

NOAA Calls for Near Normal Hurricane Season Similar to Dr. Gray's Forecast..

NOAA's Hurricane Outlook was issued on Thursday May 21st. The Outlook is calling for a near normal season similar to Dr. Gray's Forecast issued in April. A link to the PR article and seasonal outlook is listed below:

http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090521_atlantichurricane.html

When the outlook was announced, Hurricane Preparedness was stressed because even though the season may have less storms than year's past, it will only take one storm in your region for the season to be memorable.

National Hurricane Center - National Hurricane Preparedness Week 5/24-5/30..

The week of May 24th through May 30th has been designated National Hurricane Preparedness Week by the National Hurricane Center. Below is a link to Hurricane Preparedness Week information on the National Hurricane Center Web Site:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml>

National Hurricane Center Advances and Challenges Journal Posted Online..

On the National Hurricane Center web site, there is an article/journal posted on National Hurricane Center Advances and Challenges. Below is the article:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/pdf/NHC_WAF_Advances_Challenges_200904.pdf

May Issue of National Hurricane Center Q & A Posted..

The May Issue of the National Hurricane Center Q & A is now available. A link to that article is posted below:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/q_and_a_200905_chris_juckins.shtml

Respectfully Submitted,

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