

**SKYWARN Activation** - Any time there is a Severe Storm WARNING for Oneida or Madison Counties, any station may activate the SKYWARN Net.

When calling the Net, use the County Activated followed by SKYWARN (example: Madison County SKYWARN or Oneida-Madison SKYWARN if both Counties are effected).

Open the Net by identifying yourself and what the net is, state “This is     (your call sign)     activating SKYWARN.”

Then state why SKYWARN has been activated. If you have a copy of the alert, read the alert. If all you know is that there is a severe thunderstorm warning for the area, state “The National Weather Service in Binghamton has issued a severe thunderstorm warning for                     . Stations with information on this storm, or stations for the Net, please call.” If it is a Tornado Warning, replace Severe Thunderstorm with Tornado.

If you want to appoint an alternate Net Control, feel free. This could become important if your power goes out or if you might have the storm go right over your location and you have to secure for part of the net.

**IMPORTANT** - Find and appoint a liaison that can hit the 145.33 or the 147.00 (PL71.9) to contact the NWS Net Control Station on that repeater link system. If the NWS Net Control Station is not on the air, the liaison station can use the 800 number to file the report. The 800 number we use **is not** to be given over the air.

Make your calls clear, and quick....”            County SKYWARN, looking for stations with info on this storm, and stations for the Net”.

Net discipline is very important during a SKYWARN Event. Keep these operating tips in mind while you conduct the net.

1. The purpose of the net is to receive observations of the calling Amateurs. Scanner reports, TV reports etc are not first hand observations. IF an operator reports that they were on phone with someone trusted and that friend saw something in the area, you can report that. Scanner reports are also reported to NWS by the dispatch center....not us.
2. Chatting needs to be kept to a minimum; once again, we need reportable information to relay to NWS. While one person is shooting the breeze, a second station may have an “immediate report event to relay (i.e. Golf Ball size hail, a wall cloud, or a tornado, etc.). This is a **very Formal and Directed Net** – not a friendly traffic net, or rag-chew net.
3. The Net Control Station, at its discretion, can let two other stations have brief words, but this should be kept to a minimum and should be related to SKYWARN business only. If the words are not related to SKYWARN, then the words should be taken off frequency. An example of SKYWARN business could include comparing observations of a cloud formation to determine if such a formation is reportable (i.e. wall cloud, funnel cloud, tornado, etc.).
4. If you as Net Control need to think a moment about what to do next, un-key the mike. Doing so, may give another station time to break-in and give a timely report.
5. Although trivial reports, such as “I see a Dark Cloud” or “It’s just starting to rain here” give the net a feel as to where the storm or storms are located, they should be held to a minimum and not be encouraged. Just thank the station for checking in and for their report and ask them to break back into the net with further info if they experience any Hail, Strong Winds, Down Trees, significant flooding, etc.

6. Leave lots of time between calls and between a check-in and your acknowledgement. Such gaps are needed to allow stations with "PIORITY" information to break in.
7. Be patient with weak signals and stations breaking up. The reason for their poor signal may just be because of the weather they are trying to report on. Ask for a relay or if other stations can listen to the input frequency. If this doesn't work, suggest the calling station go to another repeater or frequency and send someone to that repeater or frequency to get the report for relay.
8. It's OK to politely ask a station to "Standby" while you confer with another station that you think might have important info relating to the storm(s).
9. Always be courteous. Getting stations mad at you will not help and will result in not SKYWARN reports getting through – either because every has left the frequency or because all that is being said is relating to the hurt feelings.

**NOTE** - Net is held on the 145.17, with call-ups on 146.76, and possibly 146.88 depending on the location of the storm or storms. If we lose the 17, go to the .76 and ask for permission to use the repeater for SKYWARN. Remember proper radio etiquette. The .88 can be used if the .76 and the .17 are not available. If the storm is projected to go over the repeater site being used, or if the repeater signal getting hard to copy, remind stations checked in that "the net will move to the \_\_\_\_\_ repeater if this one goes off the air." If the repeater does go off the air, try to get a station to go simplex on the repeater's output frequency and announce where the net has moved to.

SKYWARN Nets are held for the duration of NWS Warning Notices. Unless NWS relays a request for us to stay active, the Net secures at the expiration of the Alert.

Upon reaching the end of the Severe Storm Warning, transmit "This is (Your Call) with \_\_\_\_\_ County SKYWARN. The Severe Storm Warning for this area has expired. There have been no extensions. This Net is secured. Thank you for your observations, reports and participation. This Net is activated on the 145.17 W2MO repeater whenever the National Weather Service issues a Severe Storm Warning for this area. Your involvement is important to the NWS and is appreciated. OM SKYWARN thanks W2MO/K2IQ/W2OFQ for the use of their repeater. This is (Your Call) signing the Net clear and returning the repeater to other Amateur uses. (Your Call) out."

Please submit either a check-in count or full net report to AK2Z and/or KB2CCD. NWS may ask for a station participation count. Those numbers can be given to the liaison to NWS.