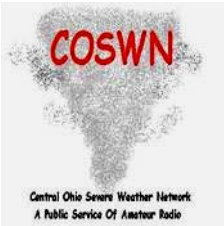


The Weather Wire

Central Ohio Severe Weather Network

Volume 3, Issue 1



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A Look Back At 2002

Article is referenced from the NWS' [Sky Scoop](#) Issue 9.

The severe weather season started quickly across the Ohio Valley in 2002. On February 20, 2002, a strong early spring system tracked across the region, triggering severe thunderstorms across the Cincinnati metro area north-east into central Ohio. Hail as large as golf balls was reported with a number of these storms. More early spring severe weather visited the region on March 9, 2002, when a small, but intense, squall line developed ahead of a cold front. Wind gusts of 50-60 mph accompanied the squall line causing widespread reports of downed trees and power outages. Minor structural damage to businesses and the local high school in Grove City, OH, as a measured wind gust of 84 mph was recorded



**Union County Tornado
November 10, 2002
Photo by Jeff McCall**

as the squall line passed through the Columbus area.

Severe thunderstorms again developed during the late morning hours of April 28, 2002, as a powerful cold front moved across the area. With the atmosphere very unstable, storms developed in the Miami Valley and rapidly intensified as they tracked east into central and south-central Ohio. An-

other intense cold front developed late on May 1, 2002, and continued into early May 2, 2002. Severe thunderstorms rapidly developed between Dayton and Columbus and produced scattered reports of structural damage across the southern portion of Franklin county into northern Fairfield county.

On the afternoon of Sunday, November 10, 2002, a strong storm system moved across central Ohio, producing intense winds and hail that measured one inch in diameter. This system also produced an F3 tornado in Union County. Damage was being reported both during and long after the storm passed through the region.

Help Support COSWN

The Central Ohio Severe Weather Network is a volunteer organization that relies financially on donations, membership dues and sales of bumper stickers. Just as repeater clubs are in need for donations to help keep their systems running, COSWN also appreciates any donation, monetary or physical, to help keep our system running smoothly. We are

always in seek of new members to join our elite group of spotters and net control operators. The only requirements to become a net control operator are:

1. You must currently hold at least a Technician No-Code Amateur Radio License.
2. Successfully complete one year of probationary training.

3. Attend at least one NWS Severe Weather Spotter Seminar per year.

If you would like to help support our organization, please complete the attached membership/donation form. All donations are tax deductible.

The Weather Wire

The Role of the Spotter



Northridge Rd. and Karl Rd. on 8/9/2000

While movies and documentaries often focus on “storm chasers” who roam the plains in search of tornadic storms for research data collecting, video taping or, yes, thrill seeking, a more direct service to the public is provided by the “storm spotter”. The storm spotter serves the community by participating in an organized effort to watch for storms approaching the community and warn of the formation of tornadoes or other threatening severe weather events. Even with the use of Doppler Radar, there is a need for spotters in the field. The radar can only detect the parent circulation that spawns tornadoes, information is needed about whether tornadoes are actually being produced and their precise location. Also, certain types of tornadoes can form before a Doppler Radar signature is detected. [Keith Brewster, N0IAW]

Please remember, here in central Ohio, we do not encourage “storm chasing”. Storm chasing can be very dangerous when you have nowhere to run in case of an emergency. Always know your position in reference to the storm’s. Safety is our number one concern — make it yours also!

2003 NWS Spotter Training Schedule

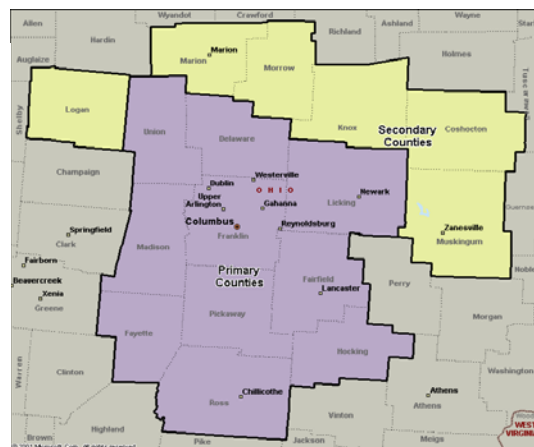
The National Weather Service has posted the 2003 Spotter Training Schedule on their website. To the right, please find the schedule of seminars for the counties that COSWN is responsible for. All seminars are free of charge.

We recommend that you attend at least one seminar per year to keep yourself familiarized with the information presented.

COUNTY	LOCATION	DATE	TIME	CONTACT
Franklin	Norwich Twp. Fire Dept. Training Room 4167 Avery Rd., Hilliard	2/15	9:00 A	County EMA
Fairfield	TBA	2/20	6:30 P	TBA
Union	County Office Building, Auditorium Marysville	3/5	6:30 P	County EMA
Licking	County Administration Building Newark	3/10	6:00 P	Steve Smith, EMA
Delaware	Delaware JVS, North Campus	3/17	6:30 P	County EMA
Fayette	Center of Economic Development	3/27	7:00 P	County EMA

COSWN's Coverage Area

COSWN is responsible for 10 primary counties and 6 secondary counties in central Ohio. The primary counties are: Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Hocking, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, Ross and Union. The secondary counties are: Coshocton, Knox, Logan, Marion, Morrow and Muskingum. All reports of severe weather received from the primary counties are reported to the NWS office in Wilmington, OH. All reports from the secondary counties are forwarded to that counties appropriate NWS office or Sectional Net Control Operator.



2003 Statewide Tornado Safety Drill

On March 20, 2002, the EMA and NWS offices across the state of Ohio initiated the annual State-wide Tornado Safety Drill at 9:50 AM. The participation by local amateur radio operators and spotters was phenomenal. Over 80 amateur radio operators and spotters, both from COSWN's coverage area and outside checked in to our net. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this most valuable test of preparedness and safety.

This year, the Statewide Tornado

Drill will be held on March 26, at 9:50 AM. We again are asking all amateur radio operators to check in from wherever they may be, mobile, home or work. We would like you to stress the importance of this drill to your employer, and ask if they have an emergency safety plan in effect if such a terrible weather incident would strike. If there is currently not a plan in effect, explain why there should be one, and how to implement the plan in the workplace and at home!

When checking in to the net, please provide the following information:

- **Callsign**
- **First Name**
- **Business Name**
- **Location**
- **Number of Operators on Site**

Let's strive to make this years drill the best and most informative!



Statewide Tornado Drill
March 26, 2003 - 9:50 AM
146.760 MHz - PL 123 Hz

How Fast Is The Wind Actually Blowing?

We ask all spotters to report wind speeds in excess of 55 mph. Without having a generally expensive wind speed gauge (anemometer), how do you know if the wind is actually blowing at 55 mph or more? You can use the following information as a rule-of-thumb to help determine the wind speed.

25—31 mph	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in the telephone wires.
32—38 mph	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt walking against the wind.
39—54 mph	Twigs break off trees; wind generally impedes walking progress.
55—72 mph	Damage to chimneys and TV antennas; pushes over shallow rooted trees.
73—112 mph	Peels surfaces off roofs; windows broken; light mobile homes pushed or overturned; moving automobiles pushed off roadways.

Please remember, the above information is only to be used to estimate wind speed. The actual wind speed may be slightly lower or slightly greater than the estimations in the above table.

“Without having a generally expensive wind speed gauge, how do you know if the wind is actually blowing at 55 mph or more?”

Seventh Annual Ohio State Weather Symposium

On April 25, 2003, the Ohio State University will hold their annual Weather Symposium at the OSU Fawcett Center on Olentangy River Road. The symposium will begin at 8:00 AM and run through 4:00 PM.

If you are interested in attending this **FREE** event, please RSVP by contacting Zack Schmiesing at (614) 292-1957 or by email at: schmiesing.13@osu.edu

RSVP's are requested no later than April 18, 2003.



Some Attending Speakers

Dan McCarthy—Warning Coordination Meteorologist, The Storm Prediction Center (SPC)

Thomas Niziol—Meteorologist and Science and Operations Officer, NWS

Dr. E. Phillip Krider—University of Arizona

Harold Brooks—National Severe Storms Laboratory

John Franks—National Weather Service, Wilmington, OH

The Eyes And Ears Of The National Weather Service

COSWN Officers

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“President”

Stu Steenburgh—KB8DEO

“Vice President”

Central Ohio Severe
Weather Network

Dee Hay—KC8FGB

“Secretary”

Wm. Trigg Tabor—K8NIO

“Treasurer”

4600 Bridgeway Ave.
Columbus, OH 43219
Phone: (614) 231-0590
Email: n8wx@severe-weather.org



Trustees

Bob Brobeck—N8QCL

Mike Cotts—KB8SSH

Dee Hay—KC8FGB

John Montgomery—N8PVC

Larry Simpson—N8UVH

Stu Steenburgh—KB8DEO

Wm. Trigg Tabor—K8NIO

Tom Taft—KA8ZNY

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Mike Cotts—KB8SSH

Dave Drouse—KC8LCW

Dee Hay—KC8FGB

Jamie Mehic—KC8RCS

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Larry Simpson—N8UVH

Stu Steenburgh—KB8DEO

Wm. Trigg Tabor—K8NIO

Tom Taft—KA8ZNY

Net Control Trainees

Tom Gary—KC8MLN

Skip Howell—KC8HIN

Geoff Price—KC8PSU

We're on the Web!

www.severe-weather.org

A Special Thank You

The Central Ohio Severe Weather Network would like to thank the Central Ohio Radio Club for the use of their 146.76 MHz (W8RXX) repeater system when needed for severe weather nets and readiness checks. We would also like to thank the Capital City Repeater Association for the use of their repeater system as a backup. Thank you also goes to the Port Columbus Airport Authority for allowing us the use of their facilities, ATCO Amateur Radio Television for supplying a video link of WCMH NBC 4 live Doppler Radar, the National Weather Service for providing free Severe Weather Spotter Seminars each year and Universal Radio Inc. for equipment repairs. We would mainly like to thank all of our members and field spotters, without you, COSWN would not be who we are today — “The Eyes and Ears of The National Weather Service”