

# The Weather Wire

Volume 4, Issue 1

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

## The Central Ohio Severe Weather Network Who We Are, and What We Do...

### Spotter Readiness

- Create an Escape Plan, and Practice it Regularly!
- Overpasses ARE NOT a Safe Refuge During Tornadoes!
- Spotter Safety IS First Priority!
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio!
- Subscribe to Email, Cell Phone and/or Pager Alert Delivery Services!
- Attend Spotter Training Seminars Every Year!

### Inside this issue:

Sam's Club Shows Support	2
Overpasses	2
Training Seminars	3
Bumper Stickers	3
Know Your Fujita Scale	3
Officers, Board Members & Net Controls	4
Make a Donation	4

The Central Ohio Severe Weather Network (COSWN) is an organization of Amateur Radio volunteers that serve the National Weather Service (NWS) and public safety agencies during weather emergencies. Trained amateur radio weather spotters take to the roads and literally become the "eyes and ears" of the National Weather Service.

As the central Ohio section net for the Wilmington office of the National Weather Service, we have communication responsibilities for Delaware, Fairfield,

Fayette, Franklin, Hocking, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, Ross and Union counties in Ohio. Spotter reports for these counties are forwarded to NWS forecasters.

Our communication radio nets are conducted on the 146.760 MHz.(W8RXX) repeater system when severe weather threatens or is present in our area. A regular training net is held each Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM mid-March through mid-September and on the third Tuesday of each month during the remainder of the year. The 146.760 MHz.

repeater system is made available to COSWN by the Central Ohio Radio Club (CORC) <http://www.qsl.net/corc> as a public service.

It is not necessary to be a member of COSWN to help out during severe weather or participate in our Tuesday evening nets. All amateur radio operators are encouraged to participate. If you would like to support COSWN and become an official member please e-mail us at [n8wx@severe-weather.org](mailto:n8wx@severe-weather.org) or write to Central Ohio Severe Weather Net, 4600 Bridgeway Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

## Statewide Tornado Drill...

Severe Weather Safety Awareness Week is 3/21/2004 — 3/27/2004

Every year, the National Weather Service, EMA Offices, Public Safety Officials, and Amateur Radio SKYWARN Organizations conduct a statewide tornado drill. This drill is used to prepare the community

for the upcoming severe weather season. This year's drill will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2004 at 9:50 AM. We ask everyone to check into our readiness test at this time, no matter where your location,

home, work or mobile. Please provide your call sign, name, location. If at work, please inform us of how many other operators are on site. This is a very important and beneficial event. Please participate!

# Sam's Club Shows Their Support

by Larry Simpson, N8UVH

At the first meeting of The Board of Directors for the 2003 season, Chuck Lanning of Sam's Club, Rome-Hilliard Road, presented a \$1000.00 check to The Central Ohio Severe Weather Network in support of our services to the central Ohio area.

Larry Simpson was instrumental in obtaining the donation from Sam's Club. Larry was in Sam's Club, and happened to notice multiple checks hanging on the wall, which were made payable to local organizations. He asked Mr. Lanning, General Manager, how COSWN could obtain a donation. After Larry explained what COSWN does, and giving Mr. Lanning a tour of our facility at the Port Columbus International Airport, Mr. Lanning was very impressed. He contacted Sam's Club Corporate Headquarters and requested that a donation be made to our organization. The donation will be used to purchase alerting pagers for our net control operators.



John Montgomery, N8PVC, (left) accepts a \$1000.00 donation from Mr. Chuck Lanning, General Manager, Sam's Club, Rome-Hilliard Road. (right)

## Tornado Safety Is Not Found Under Overpasses From the National Weather Service, Norman, OK...

Highway overpasses are not a safe place to seek shelter during a tornado. In fact, overpasses are among the most dangerous places to seek shelter during severe high winds or a tornado. An overpass creates a funnel, which can boost wind speed an additional 25 percent. In addition, the design of most overpasses offers a person no shelter from flying debris and nothing for a trapped person to hold on to. More information on this topic may be found on the internet at [www.nwsnorman.noaa/papers/overpass.html](http://www.nwsnorman.noaa/papers/overpass.html).

The best way to protect yourself and your family during a tornado is to have a safety plan, and practice it regularly. A good safety plan tells your family exactly where to seek shelter and what to do if a tornado strikes your area. The ideal shelter is underground in a building, away

from windows, and take cover under a mattress or something sturdy. Purchase a battery powered weather service radio and stay tuned to it for weather condition updates.

If you are caught outside during a tornado, the best option is to seek shelter indoors immediately. If an indoor shelter is not readily available, get out of your vehicle and lie down in a ditch or low area.

Vehicles may be rolled over or become airborne due to severe winds. Stay away from motor vehicles during severe winds. When seeking shelter in a ditch or low lying area, lay flat, face down and protect your head and neck. Also be

aware of the dangers of flooding associated with rain storms that sometimes accompany tornadoes.



For more information on creating a safety plan, please contact your local EMA office, the Red Cross or the National Weather Service.

# 2004 NWS Spotter Training Schedule

\* For a complete listing, visit: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/iln/training.htm>

The National Weather Service has released a tentative schedule of Severe Weather Spotter Seminars. These seminars are arranged between local Emergency Management Agencies, local organizations and the National Weather Service. There is no fee to attend these seminars. Below is a list of seminars for counties in the central Ohio area.

Madison	2/11/2004	7:30 PM	825 US 42 NE, London	Krista Peters, 740-852-4200
Ross	3/2/2004	10:00 AM	475 Western Ave., Chillicothe	EMA, 740-773-1700
Licking	3/8/2004	6:00 PM	82 S. 2nd St., Newark	Steve Smith, 740-349-6437
Union	3/17/2004	6:30 PM	233 W 6th St., Marysville	Brad Gilbert, 937-645-3174
Franklin	3/20/2004	TBA	TBA	
Delaware	3/24/2004	7:00 PM	1610 SR 521, Delaware	Bob Lavender, 740-833-2182
Fayette	3/25/2004	7:00 PM	101 E. East St., Washington C.H.	EMA, 740-335-8264
Pickaway	4/5/2004	7:00 PM	1600 Island Rd., Circleville	Terry Frazier, 740-420-0453
Union	4/21/2004	6:30 PM	602 N. Franklin St., Richwood	Brad Gilbert, 937-645-3174

## “Safety First,” Make Yourself Visible...

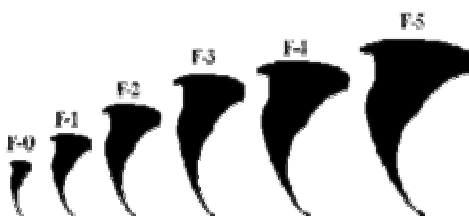
We stress “Safety” as the first priority for any weather spotter. One way to be more visible on the highway or at the side of the road in central Ohio is to display a “Weather Watch” reflective bumper sticker. Our bumper stickers measure approximately 3”x12”. They are made of highly reflective 3M Scotchlite™ material and are printed with translucent bright red ink and almost glow in the dark. The adhesive is guaranteed for 7 years. Using one of our bumper

stickers makes your vehicle more visible, tells law enforcement officials why you are pulled off the road, informs the community of the public service aspects of HAM radio and where to listen; it informs the community of your involvement during severe weather and it helps support COSWN financially. We understand that some people are

reluctant to place a bumper sticker on their vehicle, so we have two types available: Permanent for \$3.00 each, and Magnetic for \$5.00 each. Bumper stickers are available for purchase at Universal Radio or directly from COSWN via our membership application or at any of the above listed severe weather seminars. If you would like more information, email us at: [comments@severe-weather.org](mailto:comments@severe-weather.org)



## Fujita - Pearson Tornado Scale...



- F-0: 40-72 mph, chimney damage, tree branches broken
- F-1: 73-112 mph, mobile homes pushed off foundation or overturned
- F-2: 113-157 mph, considerable damage, mobile homes demolished, trees uprooted
- F-3: 158-205 mph, roofs and walls torn down, trains overturned, cars thrown
- F-4: 207-260 mph, well-constructed walls leveled
- F-5: 261-318 mph, homes lifted off foundation and carried considerable distances, autos thrown as far as 100 meters

<p><b>CENTRAL OHIO SEVERE WEATHER NETWORK</b></p> <p>4600 Bridgeway Ave. Columbus, OH 43219 Email: n8wx@severe-weather.org</p> <p>Newsletter is created and edited by Dave Drouse, KC8LCW KC8LCW@insight.rr.com</p>	<p><b>Officers</b></p> <p>John Montgomery N8PVC President</p> <p>Stu Steenburgh KB8DEO Vice-President</p> <p>Dee Hay KC8FGB Secretary</p> <p>Trigg Tabor K8NIO Treasurer</p>	<p><b>Board of Directors</b></p> <p>Bob Brobeck N8QCL</p> <p>Dave Drouse KC8LCW</p> <p>Dee Hay KC8FGB</p> <p>John Montgomery N8PVC</p> <p>Larry Simpson N8UVH</p> <p>Stu Steenburgh KB8DEO</p> <p>Trigg Tabor K8NIO</p> <p>Tom Taft KA8ZNY</p>	<p><b>Net Control Operators</b></p> <p>Bob Brobeck</p> <p>Mike Cotts</p> <p>Dave Drouse</p> <p>Tom Gary</p> <p>Dee Hay</p> <p>Jamie Mehic</p> <p>John Montgomery</p> <p>Larry Simpson</p> <p>Stu Steenburgh</p> <p>Trigg Tabor</p> <p>Tom Taft</p> <p><u>Trainees</u></p> <p>Stephen Mette</p> <p>Toni Snedecor</p>
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Central Ohio Severe Weather Network  
A Public Service Of Amateur Radio

*"The Eyes and Ears of The National Weather Service"*

**We're on the Web**

**WWW.SEVERE-WEATHER.ORG**

Website maintained by Mike Cotts, KB8SSH

# A Special Thank You

The Central Ohio Severe Weather Network would like to extend a special thank you to the National Weather Service, Port Columbus Airport Authority, State and Local Emergency Management Agencies, WCMH-NBC Channel 4, The Central Ohio Radio Club, The Capital City Repeater Association and other repeater owners who make their systems available to us.

We especially want to thank all of our supporting members, and anyone who has made donations to our organization. Without you, COSWN operation would not be possible!

## You Can Help....

The Central Ohio Severe Weather Network is a federally registered 501(c)(3), Non-Profit Organization. Any donation you make is entirely tax deductible. If you would like to make a donation, please complete the form below.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks or money orders payable to COSWN)

Does COSWN have your permission to publish your name in The Weather Wire? YES NO (circle one)

Please detach and mail with donation to: COSWN, Attn: Dee Hay, 4600 Bridgeway Ave., Columbus, OH, 43219.