



ISANTI COUNTY SKYWARN

146.640- (146.2)

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New Website

Have you seen the new Isanti County Skywarn website yet? We also have a new web address. Check it out at www.isantiskywarn.org.

We hope that this will make it easier for others to find our organization and use it as a recruiting tool. Need to find a training class? There is a calendar as well as links to both Metro Skywarn and the NWS training classes. Want information about weather radios? You can find it on the Weather Safety page. Did you forget frequencies for other Skywarn nets? Find it on the Amateur Radio page. There are links to radar, satellite, Storm Prediction Center hazardous weather outlooks, and watches/warnings. Do you have any ideas for the site?

MN Skywarn Workshop

On Saturday, April 5th, the third annual Minnesota Skywarn Workshop will be held at St. Thomas University in St. Paul. The last two workshops have been very impressive, and the auditoriums were packed full both times.

This year's keynote speaker is Tim Marshall, a well-known storm chaser and structural engineer. Other speakers include:

John Wetter, Skywarn Coordinator at MPX; Todd Krause, WCM at MPX; Karen Trammell, Forecaster at MPX, Peggy Willenberg & Melanie Metz, The Twister Sisters; Todd Shea, WCM at ARX; Carol Christenson, WCM at DLH; Dan Miller, Science & Operations Officer at DLH; Kenny Blumenfeld, Geography Department at the U of M.

Websites To See

www.stormtrack.org
Check out the impressive library and forum.

Gibson Ridge Level 3

There is a fantastic radar software program out there that has a bunch of options. It is called GRLevel3. It is a program that you can run on your computer and it takes raw data from the National Weather Service and turns it into a radar image. You can zoom in right down to street level, see different radar tilts, storm relative helicity, tops of the storm clouds, and rainfall totals. It will show you shear, mesocyclones, and hail.

There are also "add-ons" called placefiles that will expand the use of the program even further. Placefiles can show you watches, warnings, hazardous weather outlooks, tornado probabilities, Skywarn repeaters, NWS forecast office phone numbers, airports, METAR information and locations of other spotters. Take a look at www.grlevelx.com for more information. The product comes with a free 21-day trial and costs \$80 to purchase. However, there is NO monthly fee.

Membership

Do you know of someone interested in storms? Do you know a licensed amateur radio operator? How about someone that wants to volunteer to help out their community?

Skywarn is a great way to do all of those things. They can contact Isanti County Skywarn Director Aaron Diers for more information. aaron@diers.us

Severe WX Awareness Week

April 21st through April 25th is Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota. On Thursday, April 24th, a mock tornado watch & warning will be issued to test sirens and local communications.

Spotter Network

Spotters are needed to provide the NWS with accurate information of what is happening at ground level. Spotter Network is now connecting spotters with net control and NWS via the computer. More and more NWS offices are going to be using Spotter Network (and MPX already is). By connecting a GPS to your computer, the NWS will be able to see your position on radar and spotters and chasers will be able to send in reports, directly to forecasters, over the internet. Forecasters can also find a spotter that is close to a storm, and contact them directly. This program differs from eSpotter, because of its use with radar.

For more information check out: www.spotternetwork.org
Spotter Network works well with the GRLevel3 program.

