



ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs



March, 2011

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 11, Number 3

AERO Training Announcement

The Association of Emergency Radio Organizations periodically sponsors classes dealing with various areas of amateur radio emergency communications. AERO has offered the introductory, or AERO 1, course for many years. This year a revised second level course, AERO 2, is being offered as well.

The courses will be offered on March 19th at the MN Dept of Health Bldg, 625 Jackson Street, St. Paul, MN. You MUST complete FEMA course IS-100b prior to the session. You can find the FEMA training site at: <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is100b.asp>. A Technician class license is also required.



Here are the details for the sessions:

AERO 1 – Basic emergency communications. Saturday March 19th, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Lunch break Noon to 1:00 PM.

AERO 2 – Introduction to Net Control duties. Saturday March 19th, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Lunch break Noon to 1:00 PM. (AERO 2 class size limited to nine people.)

Register for the classes by contacting Dan Peitso, N0PIY, at n0piy@arrl.net. You must complete your registration by March 10th due to security requirements. You can contact Dan by phone at 612-850-1871 if you have additional questions.

BREAK - OVER

The ARES COMMUNICATOR is published for the benefit of Amateur Radio Operators in Scott County and other interested individuals.

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Reader submissions encouraged!

2011 SKYWARN Training Season

Severe weather season is just around the corner! Now is the time to renew your SKYWARN spotter training if you didn't take the update last year.

Listed below are five class options located in the southern metro. You can find the complete training schedule on: <http://www.metro.skywarn.org/cgi-bin/classes.pl>.

The SKYWARN repeater options in the metro area are listed below. Remember to listen before you key the mic. You don't want to be the Lid that keys up and asks, "Hey, what's goin' on? The sun is out over here." Choose the repeater closest to your location that provides the best access and THINK before you talk. .



SKYWARN cont'd on page 2

ARES Activities

Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)

Breakfast Saturday, March 12th

Digital Monday March 14th

ARES Nets

MN ARES Phone Net	6:00PM Sunday	Freq: 3.568 mhz
ARRL MN Phone Net	12:00p, 4:30p CST Daily	Freq: 3.568 mhz
ARRL MN CW Net	6:30p, 9:50p CST Daily	Freq: 3.568 mhz

NETS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

North Dakota:	Daily 3.937 mhz	6:30pm
South Dakota:	Daily 3.870 mhz	6:00pm
Wisconsin:	Daily 3.985 mhz	5:30pm
Iowa:	Daily 3.970 mhz	12:30/5:30pm

Test Your NIMS Knowledge

ARES members are familiar with the Incident Command System from their study of the FEMA Institute courses. Now it is time to see how much you remember from those courses! Each month you will have the opportunity to test your ICS knowledge on a questions dealing with one ICS area.

This month we will take a look at some of the concepts from the IS-100 course, Introduction to Incident Command System. This is the first of the FEMA courses all ARES members must complete before participating in any response activities. You can find the course materials at this site: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100.asp>. Now, test your knowledge of the ICS.

Here is the question for this month:

At each level of the ICS organization, individuals in positions of primary responsibility have distinct titles. Using specific ICS position titles:

- A. Allows ICS positions to be filled with the most qualified individuals rather than being filled just by rank alone
- B. Ensures that responders remain accountable to agency management not present at the incident scene
- C. Improves responder motivation by providing prestige associated with certain titles
- D. Provides personnel with a clear understanding of the pay scale associated with increasing levels of responsibility.

Check next month's ARES Communicator for the solution

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SKYWARN Training - cont'd from page 1

Metro SKYWARN Amateur Radio Network

REPEATERS PRIMARY:

- 147.120- MHz
- 147.210+ MHz PL100 (Input only)
- 147.000+ MHz (West Metro SKYWARN)

Use the ONE repeater you access best.

BACKUPS:

- 146.670- PL114.8
- 146.760- PL114.8
- 146.925- PL107.2 (Input only)
- 146.700- PL127.3
- 145.170-

Spotter Training Class Schedule (South Area)

Saturday, March 5th, 2011 8:00A.M. to 12:00P.M.

Sponsor Organization: Twin Cities FM Club

Location: Golden Valley Safety Center, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota

Contact: Mike Sigelman k0bud@arrl.

Saturday, March 5th, 2011 9:00A.M. to 1:00P.M.

Sponsor Organization: Twin Cities Repeater Club

Location: Open Circle Church, 2400 Highland Drive City, Burnsville, Minnesota

Contact: Jeff Goodnuff w0kf@tcr.

Wednesday, March 23rd, 2011 6:00P.M. to 10:00P.M.

Location: Carver County Government Center, 600 East 4th Street City, Chaska, Minnesota

Contact: Joe Merten kc8son@yahoo.

Saturday, April 2nd, 2011 8:00A.M. to 12:00P.M.

Location: Bloomington Fire Station #1, 10 West 95th Street City, Bloomington, Minnesota

Contact: Gene Clemens scoutgc@earthlink.

Saturday, May 21st, 2011 9:00 A.M. to 1:00P.M.

Organization: Twin Cities Repeater Club

Location: Open Circle Church, 2400 Highland Drive, Burnsville, Minnesota

Contact: Jeff Goodnuff w0kf@tcr.

BREAK - OVER

February NIMS Knowledge Solution

A basic ICS principle is that the first Incident Commander is responsible until the:

- C. Authority is delegated to another person

BREAK - OVER

Take a Dip in the General Pool

Time to test your knowledge of the information covered by the General Class license exam. Each month we'll take a look at a selection from the question pool. Here is this month's sample:

Which of the following applies when the FCC rules designate the Amateur Service as a secondary user on a band?

- A. Amateur stations must record the call sign of the primary service station before operating on a frequency assigned to that station
- B. Amateur stations are allowed to use the band only during emergencies
- C. Amateur stations are allowed to use the band only if they do not cause harmful interference to primary users
- D. Amateur stations may only operate during specific hours of the day, while primary users are permitted 24 hour use of the band

What is the maximum height above ground to which an antenna structure may be erected without requiring notification to the FAA and registration with the FCC, provided it is not at or near a public use airport?

- A. 50 feet
- B. 100 feet
- C. 200 feet
- D. 300 feet

(Check next month's issue of the ARES Communicator for the answer.)

Daylight Savings Time

**SPRING AHEAD!
SUN. MARCH 13TH**



February General Pool Answer

Which of the following amateur bands is restricted to communication on only specific channels, rather than frequency ranges?

- D. 60 meters

Which of the following frequencies is within the General Class portion of the 20 meter phone band?

- C. 14305 kHz

BREAK - OVER

March Contests

North American Sprint, RTTY

0000Z-0400Z, Mar 13

RTTY Bands:80, 40, 20m

Exchange:[other station's call] + [your call] + [serial no.] + [your name] + [your state/province/country] More info: <http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php>

EA PSK31 Contest

1600Z, Mar 13 to 1600Z, Mar 14

PSK31 Bands:80, 40, 20, 15, 10m

Exchange: RST(signal report) + Serial no

More info:<http://www.ure.es/contest/428-ea-psk31-contest-english-version.html>

St. Patrick's Day Contest

0000 - 2359 UTC, 17 March 2011 - St. Patrick's Day

PSK31, All HF Bands 160M - 6M (no WARC bands).

Exchange: Name, S/P/C and your Ø7Ø Member Number.

More Info: www.podxs070.com

North Dakota QSO Party

1800Z, Mar 19 to 1800Z, Mar 20

All modes, Bands:160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2m

Exchange: RS(T) + (state/province/country)

More info: www.w0cq.com/ndqso2011.pdf

BREAK - OVER

ARRL Asks Members to Write in Opposition to HR 607

The ARRL is asking its members to contact their US representatives in opposition to the sections of HR 607 that could affect the Amateur Radio Service allocation at 420-440 MHz. HR 607 — *The Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011* — would address certain spectrum management issues, including the creation and maintenance of a nationwide Public Safety broadband network. It was introduced into the US House of Representatives February 10.

ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, clarified that the League opposes HR 607 *in its present form*. "We do not oppose the concept of dedicated spectrum for the development of a Public Safety infrastructure and wireless network. We object to the bill because of the inclusion of 420-440 MHz as part of the spectrum to be swapped and auctioned to commercial users." You can find a sample letter, "How to Find your Representative" and the contact information for ARRL's legislative consultant, Chwat & Co, at the ARRL website: www.arrl.org/sample-letters.

BREAK - OVER

NBEMS Training Session

Scott ARES members conducted two training sessions for neighboring ARES members and county Emergency Managers during February. Dan Vande Vusse, N0PI, and Bob Minor, W0NFE, conducted the training sessions, held at the Henderson City Hall in Henderson, MN, on February 12th and 26th at the invitation of Don Burgess, KC0QNY, Sibley County ARES EC. The training covered the Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS) suite of



NBEMS training sessions conducted by Dan, N0PI, and Bob, W0NFE, was a hands-on activity. Shown here is a part of the group from Sibley and LeSueur counties and other ARES leaders. (Left to right) Scott Blixt – Montgomery, MN, Kevin Haney – Murray County ARES EC, , Arl Weinrebe – SW MN DEC, Luke Miller – Lyon County ARES Asst EC, Dan Starkenburg – Lyon County ARES EC, Don Burgess –Sibley County ARES EC, Denton Larson – Arlington, MN. (W0NFE photo)

communications options.

The training was offered in recognition of the increasing role of digital communications in amateur radio emergency response. The NBEMS suite enables amateur radio operators to provide their served agencies with accurate, rapid, and relatively secure communications during periods when most communications options are not available.

The sessions targeted basic set-up and operation of the NBEMS software and provided examples of the various mode and message options.

Participants had the opportunity to practice sending and receiving messages using their own laptop computers and radios. The hams and county Emergency Managers alike were impressed with the ease of operation and reliability of the system.

Compared to other digital options, NBEMS uses only a radio and laptop computer. No other equipment is needed.

cont'd col. 2

One Third of all Malware created in 2010

More than a third of all malware that has ever existed was created by criminal gangs in 2010 alone according to the latest PandaLabs Annual Report.

To be precise, the company found that 34 percent of all existing malware has been concocted by cyber-criminals in the last year, banishing forever the image of the disgruntled geek creating viruses in his bedsit.

It's not all bad news however, there's been a dramatic slow-down in the rate with which threats are growing: since 2003 the number of new threats has been doubling every but in 2010 they only increased by 50 percent.

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An unwelcome trend however, has been the rise in social media malware, in particular Facebook and Twitter. According to PandaLabs, hackers use several techniques to trick users including the hijacking of Facebook's 'Like' button, identify theft to make it appear that messages are being sent by trusted sources, and the distribution of fake apps.

BREAK - OVER

Training *cont'd from col. 1*

The NBEMS uses the computer's soundcard to generate the encoded message transmitted by the radio. The encoded information being sent is relatively secure because it is meaningless to the eavesdropper casual scanner listener.

The Scott County ARES group has been using digital communications as one of their emergency communications tools since the soundcard modes first burst on the scene early in the last decade. The digital tools have improved and continue to evolve as the demands of emergency communications change. Scott ARES members continue their training and educate others about the on the newest emergency communications tools.

BREAK - OVER

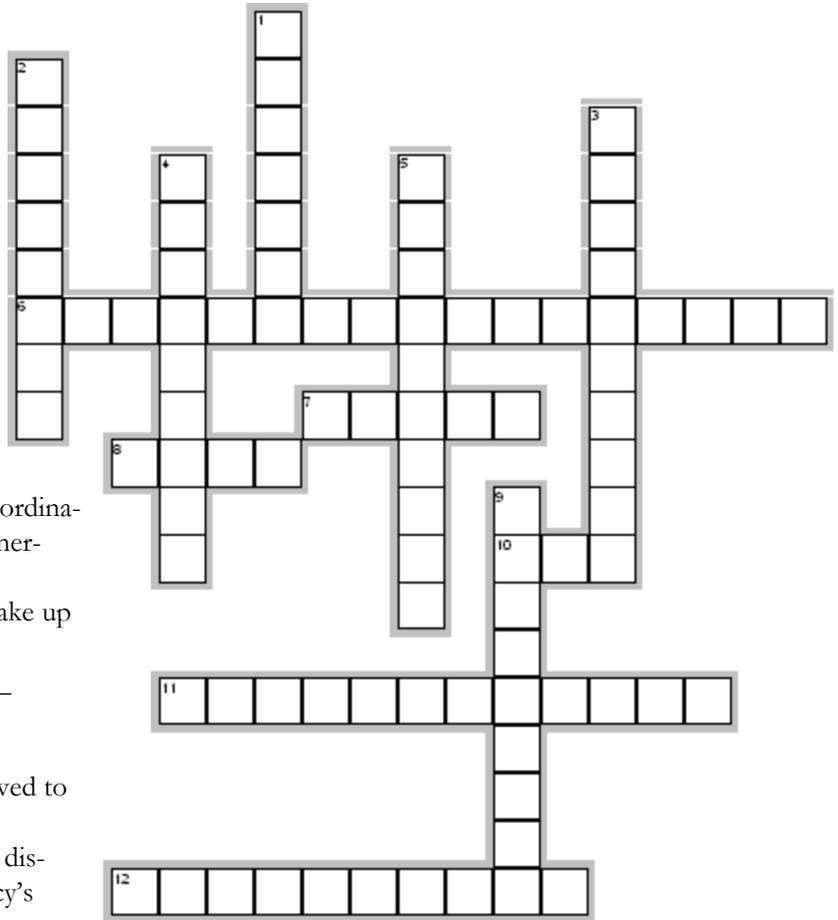
INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

Across

6. Under the ICS, the one person in charge is always called the _____ ?
7. Each operating section has its own _____ ?
8. Incident command system used in Minnesota.
10. A model tool for the command, control, and coordination of resources and personnel at the scene of an emergency.
11. The Information, Safety, and Liaison Officers make up the IC's _____ ?
12. Operating sections may have various _____ working on specific goals.

Down

1. The section that uses staff from each agency involved to track the cost of the disaster.
2. Section responsible for information gathering and dissemination and working out the details of each agency's response.
3. Section involving Police, Fire, Public Works, Red Cross and relief agencies who are actually in the field doing the work to protect the public.
4. The section that provides services only for the responding agency personnel, not the general public.



5. _____ tasks in the ICS are performed under the overall direction of a single Incident Commander (IC) in a coordinated manner.
9. Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies - early ICS organization.



February Crossword Solution

Across

1. GROUNDPLANE—A vertical antenna built with the central radiating element one-quarter-wavelength long and several radials extending horizontally from the base. The radials are slightly longer than one-quarter wave, and may droop toward the ground.
6. BALUN—Balance to unbalance, a device used to couple a balanced antenna to an unbalanced feed line (e.g., dipole to coax).
7. JPOLE—Consists of a half-wavelength radiator fed by a quarter-wave matching stub. This antenna does not require the ground plane that ¼-wave antennas do to work properly.
8. DIPOLE—The basic antenna consisting of a length of wire or tubing, open and fed at the center.
11. BEAM—An antenna that gives a directional beam pattern.
12. BALANCEDLINE—A feed line with two conductors having equal but opposite voltages, with neither conductor at ground potential.
13. ANTENNA—A device that intercepts or radiates radio frequency energy.

14. LADDERLINE—An open wire transmission line — 600, 450 ohm characteristic impedances are typical.

Down

2. DRIVENELEMENT—Antenna element that connects directly to the feed line.
3. PARASITICELEMENT—Part of a directive antenna that derives energy from mutual coupling with the driven element, not connected directly to the feed line.
4. CLOUDWARMER—An antenna which radiates most of the transmitted energy nearly straight up.
5. ANTENNATUNER—Impedance-matching device that matches the antenna system input impedance to the transmitter, receiver, or transceiver output impedance.
9. REFLECTOR—An element behind the driven element in an Yagi and some other directional antennas.
10. YAGI—A directional antenna consisting of a dipole and two additional elements, a slightly longer reflector and a slightly shorter director.

2011 MN Skywarn Workshop Registration

Join storm spotters and weather enthusiasts from across the state and region for the 6th annual Minnesota Skywarn Workshop. It will be a full-day severe weather conference designed to train you in spotting techniques, equip you with information about the latest in weather technology, and connect you with other Skywarn communities from across the state.

Take note of the new location this year! The workshop will be held in the new Schulze Hall Auditorium at the Minneapolis campus of the University of St. Thomas. This is a wonderful new facility to hold the workshop while the St. Paul campus has extensive construction in progress, restricting parking.

This year's keynote presentation will be presented by Dr. Paul Markowski from Penn State University.

Dr. Markowski is known for having worked to develop the current model for tornado genesis including the theory of vortex lines. His work in environmental conditions leading to the formation of tornadoes is currently the state-of-the-art in tornado research. He has authored several dozen research papers including observational and numerical modeling studies. Dr. Markowski received his undergraduate degree from Penn State and received his Masters and PhD degrees from the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Markowski is a principal investigator for the recently completed field operations for Vortex-2 and continues to work as a member of the steering committee. His presentation will feature some early results from Vortex-2 and a look at some of the interesting data they collected that will require more in depth research with the goal of increasing tornado warning lead-time.

Other presentations during the day will feature the record-breaking tornado outbreak on June 17, 2010 where 48 tornadoes touched down in the state of Minnesota. We'll look at what happened, why it happened, and how spotters & chasers played a key role in warning the public on this dangerous day.

While you're at the site, consider nominating someone for Skywarn Volunteer of the Year! There are a lot of great people constantly working to make Skywarn better. This is an opportunity to thank them for their time and talent!

You can check the MN SKYWARN workshop website for more information: www.mnskywarnworkshop.org

BREAK - OVER

Q. What has 18 eyes and catches flies?

A. A baseball team!

Scouts and ARRL Team Up

After working together for nearly a century to provide Scouts with the ability to learn radio communication skills, Boy Scouts of America and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio, have officially teamed up by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU). This MOU designates the ARRL as a key resource for K2BSA and Radio Merit Badge training at the BSA National Scout Jamboree and establishes the ARRL as the go-to source for Scouts interested in learning about and becoming involved in radio communication.

"Throughout the years, going all the way back to the Wireless Merit Badge in 1918, the ARRL has worked hand-in-hand with Boy Scouts of America to help teach Scouts the skills and joys of radio communication," said Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca. "Today, we are making official a relationship that has been beneficial for both of our organizations for nearly a century."

The BSA, by virtue of its active membership and its outdoor program, represents a significant source of potential new radio operators looking to utilize Amateur Radio for emergency communications while in the field as well as for education, experimentation, and friendship. As part of this strategic alliance, BSA will encourage Scouts and Scouters to become familiar with opportunities for public and community service, learning and personal growth through involvement in Amateur Radio.

"We're excited by the opportunity to make official a relationship that has existed informally for many years," said ARRL President Kay Caigie. "Scouts and Scouters have been some of the strongest proponents and practitioners of radio communication, and we know they will continue to help foster a love and understanding for the essential nature of radio communication for generations to come."

In addition to its National Scout Jamboree involvement, ARRL will continue to promote participation in the annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) event. ARRL will serve as contributing editor to the Radio Merit Badge publication, will assist with the review, creation and modification of requirements as necessary, and will assist in developing course material, lesson plans, and other resources for teaching the Radio Merit Badge to Scouts. ARRL also will contribute to the content of the Electricity, Electronics, and Emergency Preparedness and Communications merit badge publications.



BREAK - OVER

ARES Advertising

One activity all successful enterprises have in common is promotion of their products or services. Entrepreneurs found out long ago that nobody would buy that better mousetrap until they found out why it was better and where to buy it.

As ARES members we need to tell our story to the public. We have a great product: skilled volunteers, desire to serve the community, modern equipment, local availability, regular training, professional approach, and all this service is FREE!

Logo apparel is one way to promote our 'Scott ARES' brand. WE now have a Polo shirt in addition to our ball caps. Wearables serve as a conversation starter. They give you the opportunity to spread the word about the fun of amateur radio and The new polo shirt is modeled in the picture by Bob, W0NFE. The polo shirt is the Port Authority brand with a chest pocket, have anti-curl collars and resist pilling, fading, wrinkling and shrinking. The shirts are cotton pique, 6.5-ounce, 100% cotton, Double-needle stitching throughout, Piping detail inside neckband, Flat knit collar, 3-button placket, Open hem sleeves, with Side vents.

The shirts are available with the callsign and first name embroidered on the left sleeve. The cost for the shirt as pictured is \$33.00 each.

You can order your shirt from N0BHC by email (n0bhc@arrl.net) or on the weekly net. When you order, email your size (Small thru 3XL) along with the name and callsign you want on the sleeve.



Bob, W0NFE



Future Country of Southern Sudan

As reported widely in the world press, the results of the recent referendum on the future of the Southern Sudan region are now public, and with an overwhelming majority, the people have readied the way for another independent state. Also, the current mother country, the Republic of Sudan, has agreed to honor the referendum results while the President of the United States has pledged U.S. recognition of the new country in July, 2011.



Southern Sudan

The current plan calls for that country to declare its independence on July 9 this year, likely to be followed by its well-prepared entry to world organizations, such as the United Nations. Several alternative names for the new republic are still under consideration – probably the name Sudan will not be part of the new republic's nomenclature.

With that scenario in mind, a working group has been established to enable Amateur Radio to enter the scene with a professional, supportive role in the context of introducing the new country to the world of Amateur Radio. It should be noted that this potential new country is emerging with a limited administrative structure, and the first Amateur Radio activation should - prior to the operation - be accompanied with a well-thought-out plan prepared in partnership with Southern Sudan's relevant authorities, such as telecommunications, security and education.

The group of Alex, 5Z4DZ/PA3DZN; Robert, S53R and Martti, OH2BH has organized such an effort in discussions with Southern Sudan's institutions and other related parties in the region.

As public interest in Southern Sudan will run high over the next several months, this group has invited Bernie, W3UR to be its spokesman in dealings with the Amateur Radio community. The group will also be holding discussions about the provision of potential help to Southern Sudan's prospective Amateur Radio Service with several entities, such as NCDXF, in addition to obtaining resources from Japan.

BREAK - OVER

Mysterious Rumble of Thundersnow

www.science.nasa.gov

February 24, 2011: NASA atmospheric scientists got an unexpected chance to study a curious phenomenon called “thundersnow” when a recent storm unleashed it right over their heads.

Walt Petersen and Kevin Knupp have traveled far and wide to study winter storms. They never dreamed that the most extraordinary one they’d see – featuring freakish thundersnow, a 50-mile long lightning bolt, and almost a dozen gravity waves — would erupt in their own back yards. The storm hit Huntsville, Alabama, on the evening of January 9th. “This incredible storm rolled right over the National Space Science and Technology Center where we work,” says Knupp. “What luck!”

Snowstorms usually slip in silently, with soft snowflakes drifting noiselessly to Earth. Yet this Alabama snowstorm swept in with the fanfare of lightning and the growl of thunder.

Eyewitness Steve Coulter described the night’s events: “It was as if a wizard was hurling lightning behind a huge white curtain. The flashes, muted inside thick, low hanging clouds, glowed purplish blue, like light through a prism. And then the thunder rumbled deep and low. This was one of the most beautiful things I’ve ever experienced.”

It was a once-in-a-lifetime scene for anyone lucky enough to see it, but especially enthralling to scientists seeking the keys to nature’s unique displays of power. Petersen and Knupp, with the help of graduate students from the University of Alabama-Huntsville, had their research equipment primed and ready.

From his at-home workstation, Petersen can monitor lightning detector networks and control radars, which he used to measure and record the storm. But when the storm first hit his response was a little less scientific: “I was so excited that I ran outside in my house slippers to take pictures,” he recalls. At around 10:30 p.m., he heard the first rumble of thundersnow. “My first thought was, ‘excellent, a bonus!’”

What made this snowstorm act like a thunderstorm? Petersen explains: “You rarely have lightning in a snowstorm. But in this case, some unique conditions set the stage for it. Moist air at the bottom of the storm was lifted up, rapidly forming snow and ice. Some of the snow even grew in pellet forms called ‘graupel,’” he says.

Snowflakes and ice pellets of different sizes ascended at different rates—and they began to exchange charges. The process isn’t fully understood, but it could be a result of particles rubbing together (like wool socks on carpet). As the

cloud charged up, it began to act less like an ordinary winter snowstorm and more like a summer thunderstorm.

It’s no coincidence that the thundersnow was accompanied by massive roller coasters of air known as gravity waves. These waves are similar to waves in the ocean, but roll through the air instead of water.

“There was a nearly constant, uniform progression of gravity waves, starting at Monte Sano, a small mountain a few miles east of us, and moving westward, right over our building,” says Knupp, who spent most of the storm’s duration with his eyes riveted on instrument displays inside the team’s mobile X-band radar van. “An easterly flow of air on the other side of the mountain ridge bumped into and was pushed over Monte Sano, forming 11 separate waves, about one per hour.”

He believes the clockwork up and down motion of the waves created variations in the updrafts responsible for the heavy snow, leading to the charge separation that generated lightning. Unfortunately, he was knee-deep in computer displays instead of snow when the storm’s most impressive lightning bolt set the sky aglow.

“This bolt reached from the tower on Monte Sano Mountain all the way to Molton, Alabama, about 50 miles away,” says Knupp. “And I missed it.” Was he disappointed? “I felt cheated, but it was worth the trade off. I learned some interesting things.” Spoken like a true scientist.

BREAK - OVER



Osprey Aboard!

PACIFIC OCEAN An MV-22 Osprey assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 166 lands aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8). This is the first landing by an Osprey on a west coast amphibious assault ship since being introduced to the fleet.

Hackers Target Reputable Sites

Visiting reputable websites can still result in malware being downloaded on to users' computers. The proportion of websites secretly harboring malware has reached one in 3,000 according to security firm Kaspersky.

It found a surge in the number of web-based attacks in 2010, with more than 580 million incidents detected.

Risk was no longer focused on sites with illegal content, such as pirate films and music, the report said. Instead, criminals were increasingly using legitimate websites, such as shopping and online gaming. The malware writers target vulnerable web servers, with owners often unaware of the attack, said Ram Herkanaidu, senior security research at Kaspersky Lab.

"They will put a piece of Java code, for example, onto a website and scramble it so it is hard to notice. "The Java code runs when you visit the site and redirects the user to malware," he said. "Previously you could avoid these attacks by not visiting dodgy websites. "Today the malware writers are targeting legitimate sites," added Mr Herkanaidu.

Kaspersky's figures are based on reports from customers who have joined its security network. The rise in incidents of web-based attacks far outstripped the number of new members in 2010, indicating the increasing threat, said Mr Herkanaidu. "It has become the cyber crooks' attack of choice," he said.

The threat from cyber crime is being taken increasingly seriously by government officials. Last week, the UK government published figures estimating that cyber crime costs the economy £27 billion a year.

Earlier this month, European Union researchers said almost a third of computer users had been infected by malware in the past year.

BREAK - OVER



GEAR UP!

Warmer temps (hopefully) and melting snow mark the beginning of the annual severe weather season. Elsewhere in this issue there is notice of the current years SKYWARN Spotter classes. News broadcasts increasingly carry stories about anticipated spring flooding. A noted weather forecaster has predicted a more active severe weather season this spring. All these add up to an increased change that your emergency communications skills might be needed this spring.

Now is the time to take a look at your Go-kit. Did you replace that coax you grabbed for field day? How are the batteries in the flashlight? How about the alkaline batteries in your HT back-up battery pack? When was the last time you tested the power and antenna cables?

That just takes care of a few radio related items. What about the laptop? Do you have a spare battery? How about a vehicle power adapter for that computer? Is the software up to date on your Thumb Drive? (You do have an ARES dedicated usb thumb drive, don't you?) Have you tested the soundcard/radio interface? Have you changed computers or radios since you last fired up the system? Have you tested the equipment to make sure everything works well together?

So many questions, so little time! The first SKYWARN activation will be here sooner than you realize. Take the time now to update your training and make sure your equipment is ready to go. Who knows, you might find that there is some new piece of equipment that you must have!

BREAK - OVER



ARES Breakfast

Saturday, March 12th
7:30AM
Perkins Restaurant
Savage, MN

NECOS Schedule March 2011

7 Mar N0PI Dan
14 Mar W0NFE Bob
21 Mar KB0FH Bob
28 Mar KC0YHH Tony
4 Apr N0PI Dan
11 Apr W0NFE Bob