

# MidWest Spotter



March/April, 2007

## Welcome!

*Dale Bernstein, President/CEO  
MidWest 107*

Thank you for joining MidWest SSTRC, Inc here at the MidWest Spotter March/April 2007 Newsletter. This wonderful newsletter has grown as MidWest has, by leaps and bounds with honor, duty and professionalism for a source of community involvement.

We are proud, honored and thankful of our MidWest membership and of those who support MidWest in so many ways and of the many organizations and agencies that we work along side of. There are so many members and supporters of MidWest who give countless numbers of hours and resources that as we all know, as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, MidWest could not be able to bring forth such duty without such dedicated persons, agencies and organizations. Without the continued communication, sharing of resources, networking, in the best professional manner, MidWest would not be proficient in the day to day level of activity and community involvement that we are fortunate to bring forth.

Last month I spoke of the need for volunteers and of the dangers of winter weather. We have seen blizzards, heavy snow falls and even early breakouts of tornadic storms across the United States, and yes, the tragic loss of life due to such storms.

We all know that violent weather can occur at any time and at any location around this great world of ours. As we have experienced and as MidWest

operates 365 days a year, we have seen the need to be storm ready and for disaster preparedness.

The bottom line folks is have a game plan, a family plan, an action plan, a business plan, a community plan -- a plan of preparedness. Such plans can be elaborate and complicated not only to assemble, but can be complicated to enact and carry through.

However such plans truly need not be so complicated that they become a burden to the point of not taking the appropriate action when necessary. That is one of the many reasons why MidWest is urging all members to become certified in the FEMA ISC 100/700 training. ISC stands for Incident Command System. As you become familiar with the ICS structure you will find the system works well with a preparedness plan. As FEMA explains it, ICS "is a standardized management tool for meeting the demands of small or large emergency or non-emergency situations."

ICS works for you and with you. For instance, if you have a family preparedness plan now or are starting one, consider the ICS command structure – where are your family members, how do you contact them and stay in contact, what is your backup plan, what are your resources, who is next in command, who shares your command and what are the duties of those within your family, and the list goes on.

The word preparedness takes on many roles of meaning and responsibility. A recent fire tragedy in New York could have been prevented by an act of preparedness. With a life loss of nine, including eight young souls, and the possibility of additional loss of life from that tragic fire is heart wrenching. In this case, yes there were smoke alarms in the

building, yet sadly the batteries were removed and not replaced. A recent study stated that by 1997 94% of homes in the US had smoke alarms, yet the same report stated that in 51% of that number, the alarms either did not function, the batteries were removed or not functional.

Preparedness is one of the keys to survival, be it from fire, flood, tornadoes -- the list is long. This is one of the many reasons MidWest operates essentially 24/7, 365. We train, we teach, we learn, we share, we prepare.

Take heed folks, check your smoke detectors, weather radios, and ham gear, get a preparedness plan in place, then improve and practice the plan.

March is a busy month for MidWest and truly the lead off to our spring, summer and fall operations. Don't forget, 04-02-07 for the MidWest hosted severe weather class/informational weather seminar to be held at the Fitchburg Fire Department. Details of which are available here in the newsletter, on our web site and within our Google group.

Please check for upcoming NWS Spotter Class dates and events below. We urge our MidWest members to attend any of the following classes if possible as a common show of support and community interest.

- **March 26:** MidWest WORT Talk/Call in Radio show, 7-8 PM. This is our opportunity to generate additional public interest and awareness, also to promote the remaining NWS Spotter Classes for 2007.
- **March 26:** Dodge County, Beaver Dam High School Auditorium, 630-830 PM
- **April 02:** Dane County Sponsored, MidWest Hosted NWS Spotter Class to be held at the Fitchburg Fire Apparatus Hall. This event will require everyone's assistance to

make this yet another special MidWest hosted Spotter Class. Details, planning and action committees will be formed at the February MidWest General Meeting.

- **April 9-13:** Wisconsin Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week
- **April 12:** Wisconsin Tornado Drill Day 1-2PM
- **April 12:** Dane County, Westside Community Center, 2598 West Main Street, Sun Prairie, 630-830 PM.
- **April 17:** Dane County, Cross Plains Village Fire Department, 630-830 PM.

Remember, TLCS and let's be safe out there.

Forward

• Dale Bernstein  
President/CEO  
MidWest SSTRC, Inc



### Special Notices:

**Spotter Training – MidWest Hosted Event**  
**April 2, 2007 at 6:30PM** - Fitchburg Fire Station  
No. 1, 5791 West Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI

**Wisconsin Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week -- April 9-13, 2007**  
Drill Day is Thursday April 12, 2007 from 1 to 2 PM



### **Congratulations!!!**

The following people are certified in ICS-100, ICS-700 and with MAST:

- **MW101**-WI Chad Woodward (WA4ORM) ICS100/700
- **MW104**-WI Rocky Wenz ICS100/700, Madison Area Science and Technology
- **MW107**-WI Dale Bernstein (KC9GQS) ICS100/700, WEM Disaster Recovery, MAST, InfraGard
- **MW114**-WI Kelly Maddern MAST
- **MW116**-WI Luke Ziobro (KC9IFF) ICS100/700
- **MW120**-WI Kim Varian (KC9GOX) Madison Area Technical College Meteorology
- **MW122**-WI Tim Shriver (WX9TRS) ICS100/700, WEM Disaster Recovery, MAST, InfraGard
- **MW125**-WI Dan Starker (KB9UOP) ICS100/700
- **MW131**-WI Heidi Nava (KC9KDA) ICS100/700
- **MW137**-WI Teri Vierima MAST
- **MW143**-WI Scott Winter (KB9VI) ICS100/200/700/800, IC-1 Emergency Manager
- **MW147**-WI Michael Wolkomir (N1ASX) ICS100/700, MAST
- **MW149**-WI Todd Davidson (KC9HPR) ICS100/700
- **MW160**-WI Dave Willow (N9DRW) ICS100/700

- **MW171**-WI Jacob Ela (KC9CJW) ICS100/700
- **MW299**-WI George E. Hrabovsky Madison Area Science and Technology Instructor

For more information on training and certifications please visit the following web sites...

FEMA: <http://training.fema.gov>

MAST: <http://madsictech.org>



### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

#### **Dane County – April 16<sup>th</sup>**

General meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7PM.

#### **Rock County – April 25<sup>th</sup>**

General meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7PM.

#### **Spotter Training – MidWest Hosted Event**

**April 2, 2007 at 6:30PM** - Fitchburg Fire Station No. 1, 5791 West Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI

### **MidWest Trivia**

Who developed the tornado strength F0-F5 Fujita Scale? What year? When did we switch to the *Enhanced Fujita Scale* (EF0-EF5)? Answers to these questions and more can be found on page 8.



## Do and Don't Issues for Spotters

Rusty Kapela, Warning Coordination Meteorologist



- Do:** Attend spotter classes as much as possible.
- Do:** Surf the web for additional information on spotting, severe weather, etc. (including Storm Prediction Center)
- Do:** Have a watch, pencil, note pad, cell phone, and colored Quick Spotter Reference Guide with you when spotting.
- Do:** Make an effort to provide an accurate report - the time, location, condition -- noting what you experienced and saw.
- Do:** Reference your severe weather report location to the cultural/political center of the nearest city/village, to the nearest 1/10 mile and one of the 16 compass points (stationary spotters)...such as...1.5 NNE Madison.
- Do:** Provide in your report what direction you are looking at while viewing a rotating wall cloud, funnel cloud, or tornado, since you can't accurately determine, in the heat of the battle, how far away the wall cloud/funnel cloud/tornado is from your position.
- Do:** Spot with a partner, especially if you are mobile - two heads are better than one in this business!
- Do:** Place the safety of you and your family first, your report is second priority.
- Do:** Take a deep breath, try to remain calm, and get the job done.
- Do:** Utilize communication channels that have been set up for you or your group, and follow proper format/procedures.
- Do:** Make sure the National Weather Service receives your report via 911, or our 800 number, or ham frequencies, or E-Spotter.
- Do:** Be willing to freely share some of your severe weather pictures with the NWS for educational purposes, on-line stories (it's in the public domain).
- Do:** Feel good about what you're doing as a spotter - you are just as important as any other spotter!



- Don't:** Assume you know everything there is to know about spotting - keep an open mind - you'll learn something new every year.
- Don't:** Make it difficult for emergency response people (emergency management, law enforcement, fire fighters, Red Cross, etc.) to do their job - don't get in the way.
- Don't:** Just take pictures and video of a wall cloud or tornado and forget to relay your spotter report.
- Don't:** Look at spotting as a game or procedure that will make you look more important to your peers - keep a level head and just do your best.
- Don't:** Look down at or ridicule another spotter for making a mistake - you may make the next mistake - we all have - no one is perfect.
- Don't:** Get upset at the National Weather Service if you don't see your severe weather report appear on-line as a Local Storm Report (LSR) or in a Public Information Statement (PNS), or in some "Top News of the Day" article on the NWS's web page - we get hundreds of reports from the 20 counties we service.
- Don't:** Assume that you have a tornado just because you see something that looks like a funnel cloud - you must see some indication of ground-based, rotational effects (rotating debris/dirt) underneath or very close to the funnel cloud in order to classify it as a tornado - and there may be very little of any funnel cloud.
- Don't:** Get caught up in the game of trying to be the first person to call-in a tornado report - spotting is a game of being 100% correct...it's not a game of being the first.
- Don't:** Call-in or relay a report if you're not sure what you're looking at - you must be 100% sure of what you're looking at - accuracy is the highest priority, after your safety - We'd rather have no report than a false report.
- Don't:** Forget to give yourself a pat on the back - for your volunteer, public safety efforts!



## Severe Weather Reports and the Media

*Gary Cannalte, WISC-TV Chief Meteorologist*

During severe weather, the weather office and newsroom of television stations are on high alert. Everyone has a job to do, and the real trick is to manage the flow of information.

The meteorologists are busy gathering the watches, warnings, and severe weather statements from a variety of weather sources. This information has to be routed out to the general public via a number of different sources, including television (including the map and text crawl system, live interruptions to programming, and regular weather segments in newscasts), radio (including live updates and recorded feeds), and the Internet (via live streaming, recorded updates, e-mails, and automatically updating elements). Our job is to get the word out, and make sure everything works the way it should to assist us in that task.

Meantime, in the newsroom, the task is almost the opposite. The job of the news staff is to find out what impact the storms have had on our viewers. They deal more with the aftermath, and what has already happened. Reporters and photographers in the field will let everyone know what has happened. They will be positioned by the newsroom staff who will monitor the weather (occasionally checking with the meteorologists) and make calls to public officials to see if there has been any damage.

In between are the newscast producers. These people are responsible for the content of a specific newscast. They

have to decide in what order every story will appear, as well as its length. When there are weather bulletins in effect, they must schedule times for the meteorologist to relay information, and be flexible enough to juggle the newscast if a new warning is issued, or a reporter in the field has new (or "breaking") information on the damage.

*So where does the severe weather spotter fit into the picture? From our end, the answer is pretty simple!*

If you have severe weather to report, report it to the National Weather Service via the usual communication channels! If you have damage to report after the storm has passed, we (the broadcast stations, not only WISC-TV) would appreciate your reports IN ADDITION to passing them on to the National Weather Service.

During severe weather, no matter how accurate or timely your report may be, we have our hands full relaying information from two different National Weather Service offices (La Crosse and Sullivan), and monitoring information from several other offices on approaching storms. There is no way we could verify your report, and since we can't issue warnings on our own, there isn't much we can do with the information. We are so busy, that for us to pass it on to the NWS, significant delays may result. Your severe weather report sent via official channels to the NWS will allow them to process the information and make quicker decisions on whether or not to issue warnings.

If you do have damage to report (as well as pictures of the severe weather or its damage afterward), please send them directly to the newsroom or to the station via its website. Everyone posts its contact information directly on its home page on its web site, or you can find the information in the Yellow Pages of the phone book. At WISC-TV on our Channel3000.com website, you can send your pictures by e-mail, and even upload your digital video as well.

However, don't send your information or pictures to the meteorologist! Again, most of the time, we're very busy at that time, and it may be awhile or the next day before we can get a chance to look at our e-mail. By sending it to the people who can make the best use of the information, we can get it to air a lot faster.

The information that severe weather spotters provide is invaluable to the public. By following the above guidelines, we can make the best and most efficient use of the important information that you provide.

## Why We Climb the Mountain

by [George E. Hrabovsky](#)

President, Madison Area

Science and Technology, ([MAST](#))



*Photograph is copyrighted 2004  
by MAST*

This time I hope to address three fundamental issues about what we do. The first is why do we need training beyond what is given by the NWS? The second is

what training do we really need in order to be effective The third is why do go out and do this anyway?

Let me begin by saying that the training given by the NWS in general, and Rusty Kapela in particular, is excellent. Rusty himself will tell you that, as good as that training is, it is not enough. With more than thirty years of experience in the field, in the lab, behind a radar display, and doing research into tornadoes I am still surprised all the time when I am out in the field. Every time I enter a thunderstorm I see something I have never seen before. It is my training and experience that allows me to, usually, understand what I am seeing. Without this training I would miss most of the little, subtle, tell-tale signs that indicate that something dangerous is happening, or that the storm has lost it. For those new to the field it is even harder to tell what is going on. Advanced training and traveling with experienced spotters/chasers is important because it expands your understanding and it expands the scenarios that you have witnessed so that you can relate things you do not understand yet to those that you do.

What training do you need? As a field spotter you can never learn enough about cloud identification, severe weather phenomena, storm structure and dynamics, spotter/chaser strategy and tactics, communications procedures, and safety. The two or three hour NWS seminars can only touch the surface of these topics. Bear in mind that there are

books on each of these topics individually, and many of them are areas of open research in the scientific community. Should you want to run spotters/chasers in the field from a base you need even more background on each of the topics listed above, then you also need forecasting, nowcasting, weather analysis, radar interpretation, satellite interpretation, spotter/chaser logistics, map reading, emergency planning, logistics, and network operations. Good computer skills for productivity, Software development, Internet, and networking would be extremely useful. If you want to be a spotter/chaser instructor then in addition to lots of background in all of these you must also have training in instruction. With all of this background, why do it? Some of us do it for public service; to warn others that danger is on its way (most of us, in all likelihood). Some of us do it for scientific interest; since we can only gather data about tornadoes in the field, this is the only way to get real measurements. Some of us do it because we would like to experience one of nature's most fearsome events. Some of us do it because it is a rush. Some do it, because it is fun. Some because it gives us a sense of importance, of belonging to something bigger than ourselves. And, in all candor, it is likely that we all experience a bit of each of these; and there is nothing wrong with that. So long as we act responsibly, we can have a lot of fun, learn an awful lot about something quite mysterious, and help to protect the lives of those who have placed their trust in us. Let me repeat this last part and expand it a little bit. The NWS has recruited us to be their eyes and ears in the field because they cannot be everywhere; we are the first line of defense that has been charged by the public to protect their lives from what most do not understand. They sometimes sneer at us, sometimes make jokes about us, and sometimes laugh at us. That is perfectly OK with me; because when the wind comes and they lose everything but their lives, you know that you helped to keep them alive a little bit longer, helped save their children, and gave them the time to take cover.

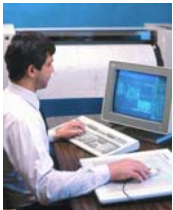
P.S. MAST offers advanced spotter/chaser, base operations, forecasting, and instructor training for those interested. MAST is Madison Area Science and Technology, a non-profit science education and research organization. We do research in all areas of

science, including severe weather meteorology. We have numerous educational and research programs for the severe weather enthusiast. We can be reached at our web site [www.madscitech.org](http://www.madscitech.org) or by calling 608-276-6832 and talking to one of us or leaving a message.



**CoCoRaHS  
Welcomes  
Wisconsin**  
*Steve Fitzsimmons  
MidWest 136*

[Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network](#) (CoCoRaHS) welcomed Wisconsin to its national organization on March 1<sup>st</sup>. CoCoRaHS is a non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). You only need to have an interest in weather to join and help. If you visit their web site you will learn all the good work they do as well as how to make useful things such as *Hail Pads*, and how you can become more involved.



**Some Web Resources**  
*Steve Fitzsimmons,  
MidWest 136*

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx/>  
<http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/index.shtml>  
[http://www.spc.noaa.gov/exper/mesoanalysis/activity\\_loop.gif](http://www.spc.noaa.gov/exper/mesoanalysis/activity_loop.gif)  
<http://www.skywarn.org/>  
<http://espotter.weather.gov/>  
<http://radar.weather.gov/radar.php?rid=mkx&product=NOR&overlay=11101111&loop=no>  
<http://www.spotternetwork.org/mine.php>  
<http://www.midwestsstrc.org/LINKS.htm>  
<http://www.midwestsstrc.org/TRAINING.htm>  
<http://www.midwestsstrc.org/WEATHERSAFETY.htm>  
<http://www.midwestsstrc.org/EVENTS.htm>  
<http://www.midwestsstrc.org/BECOMEAMEMBER.htm>  
<http://www.midwestsstrc.org/maps> (Reference Points!)  
[Spotter Training Schedule \(NWS\)](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx/?n=spotter-training-schedule)  
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx/?n=spotter-training-schedule>

## MidWest SSTRC Inc. Mission Statement

The MidWest Severe Storm Tracking/ Response Center (*MidWest SSTRC Inc.*) is comprised of members whose primary purpose is to assist in providing early detection of severe weather. We communicate this critical information to government officials, other recognized agencies and organizations including the National Weather Service allowing for timely public severe weather warnings and providing emergency response as appropriate.

*MidWest SSTRC Inc. endeavors to assist in any way it can in the protection of life and property from any threat, be it natural or man made.*

MidWest SSTRC Inc. is a 501c3 Non-Profit Corporation



## Dane/Rock County Forum Highlights

*Please join MidWest on the forums for the latest news and alerts*  
<http://groups.google.com/group/midwest-dane-wi?start=0&sa=N>

- 3/14 – Active membership perks
- 3/10 – Types of severe weather labeling
- 3/9 – GR Level 3 Reference Point File
- 3/9 – Frequencies for other counties
- 3/9 – NWS Backbone changes
- 3/6 – Drill Info/Warning Procedure
- 3/6 – Be ready – Tips for posting availability
- 3/5 – Making Hail Pads
- 3/2 – March 1<sup>st</sup> tornado outbreak
- 3/1 - CoCoRaHS welcomes Wisconsin to organization
- 2/26 – Going Green – Some research findings
- 2/25 – Thunder snow report
- 2/24 – Blizzard Warning!



### Wednesday Night Nets!

Check-ins begin at 7pm on the Ham Radio side on 444.375 MHz. Test your equipment.

Then again at 7:30pm on the Business Band side on 451.275MHz. Practice your TLCS.

### Sell/Trade/Buy/Barter

Do you have something to sell or are you shopping for a good deal? This is your spot! Just send me a note and I will include it below next month.

### Radios for Sale

Frank Weisensel, MidWest 103

If you are interested in buying radio equipment, please write to me at [freefallfrank88@juno.com](mailto:freefallfrank88@juno.com) and I will set you up with what you need.

### Rechargeable Battery Care and Tips

S.U.I Communications/Frank Weisensel

1. Charge your new battery overnight (14-16 hours) before using it. This is referred to as “initializing” and will enable you to obtain maximum battery capacity.
2. New, NON INITIALIZED, batteries can be stored in well ventilated, cool dry areas without significant cycle life loss as follows:
  - A. Nickel Cadmium up to 2 years
  - B. Nickel Metal Hydride up to 1 year.
3. Batteries which have been in storage for more than 2 months should be fully discharged and recharged overnight or for 14 hours.
4. When using a rapid charger, leave battery in charger for an additional 1-2 hours after the green light appears.
5. Do not leave your radio and fully charged battery in charger when not charging. Continuous charging will shorten battery life. (Do not use your charger as a radio stand).
6. Only charge battery when it needs it. If it isn't fully discharged, do not recharge it.

(We suggest you carry a spare. This is the most cost-effective solution for users requiring operating time).

7. Do not return fully charged batteries to the charger for an “extra boost”. This action will significantly reduce cycle life.
8. Stabilize battery to room temperature (72 F) before charging. Charging below 40 F and above 104 F will decrease cycle life.



### MidWest Trivia Answer



In February, 1971, Dr. T. Theodore Fujita introduced the Fujita Scale to help categorize tornadoes. The Enhanced Fujita scale is the new standard being used effective February, 2007.

3 Second Gust (MPH) Wind Estimate

%	Fujita Scale	Enhanced Fujita Scale
64.48%	<b>F0</b> (Gale)	45-78 MPH <b>EF0</b> 65-85 MPH
24.53%	<b>F1</b> (Weak)	79-117 <b>EF1</b> 86-110
7.82%	<b>F2</b> (Strong)	118-161 <b>EF2</b> 111-135
2.60%	<b>F3</b> (Severe)	162-209 <b>EF3</b> 136-165
0.53%	<b>F4</b> (Devastating)	210-261 <b>EF4</b> 166-200
0.05%	<b>F5</b> (Incredible)	262-317 <b>EF5</b> Over 200

In the US we average around 1,200 tornadoes a year. In Wisconsin we experience 7 - 62 tornadoes, averaging 21.

More information on the Enhanced Fujita Scale can be found at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/efscale/ef-scale.html>  
More information on tornado trends can be found at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/publications/mccarthy/tor30yrs.pdf>

## Tips For Spotters

Tim Shriver, MidWest 122

### Here just some items to keep in mind...

1. Obey the traffic laws. Do not speed. (MidWest is not liable for your actions)
2. Only operate flashers or amber lights when stopped. Do not drive with them on.
3. If you stop to view a storm, pull completely off the road out of the way of on coming traffic.
4. Take a partner with you.
5. Check in with the base. They need to know your location or may need to send you somewhere.
6. Beware of flooding and/or debris in the road.
7. Know where you are at all times.
8. Work with the base to place you in the best spot and keep you out of harms way.
9. Do not take risks!
10. Do not use your MidWest ID to gain entrance to a tornado damage scene without prior approval from the MidWest base.

### Items to take along...

1. Basic first aid kit.
2. Up-to-date map with NWS Reference points on it.
3. Compass.
4. Binoculars.
5. Pad and paper. (keep a log)
6. Ruler for measuring hail.
7. Camera or video cam. (be sure to set the time/date and display it on the video or image if possible)

Do not go mobile spotting if you are not experienced at it. If you are new to mobile spotting take an experienced member along with you or ride with them.

One important thing is we need to "Meet and Greet" the storm. If a storm is coming in from the West it does us little good to have all the mobile trackers in the Eastern section of the county. We need to be in the counties to our West or on the boarder. Pick it up as it comes in and stick with it. Check with the base for placement.

MidWest discourages mobile tracking in the dark. Only a select few will be allowed to do this and they should never do it alone.

The first events of the year, to me, are the most dangerous. Take your time, take a deep breath and keep it safe at all times.

Using the NWS reference points is a must. Mile markers or intersections no longer cut it. Knowing where you are and your distance from the nearest NWS reference point in your county is vital. TLCS is the only way to go....

We want all our dedicated fellow trackers to represent MidWest in a positive light, help protect life and property and come home safe and sound.

March is a month of transition from Winter to Spring. It can often present us with severe weather. To help "Be Ready" for the storm season, purchase an up-to-date atlas and mark the NWS reference points on it. This is very important as all reports of severe weather must have the distance and compass direction from an official NWS reference point.

Every town or village is NOT a reference point, only selected ones. These are indicated below and are picked by the NWS in Sullivan.

Not using the reference points can cause net control or the relay person to reject your report. NWS Sullivan will not take them if they do not use the reference points and are not in TLCS format. Indicating the county is vital as we are now active in multiple counties.

The first couple of events of the new storm season tend to be a little rough. People are excited and a little rusty at submitting reports during a net. Take a deep breath, think how you will say what you are reporting in TLCS. Slow down and stay calm. Listen to Net Control. If they limit the net to severe reports only please do so.

Starting March 15th, we should start posting our availability.

The email should contain:

1. Your name
2. MidWest number
3. Level of training (Basic/Intermediate/Advanced)
4. Where you will be and when (using NWS Reference points)
5. Radio frequencies you can use
6. Static or mobile

Now is the time to get everything ready to go, not during or just before an event. Be ready; be aware; be safe; and well practiced.....



## NWS Reference Points

Tim Shriver, MidWest 122

### DANE COUNTY (HAM 444.375)

Albion	Ints. of HWY 106 & Albion Rd
Belleville	Ints. Sth 69/92 and county CC
Black Earth	Intersection of HWY 14 & STH 78
Blue Mounds	Intersection of CTY ID & Main St.
Cambridge	Intersection of HWY 12 & Spring St.
Cottage Grove	Intersection of CTY N & CTY BB.
Cross Plains	Intersection of HWY 14 & STH P
Daleyville	Triple point near Grinder Rd.
Dane	Intersection of STH 113 & 1st St.
Deansville	Ints. of CTY TT & Berlin Rd.
Deerfield	Ints. of STH 73 & Park Drive
DeForest	Intersection of CTY V & CT CV
East Bristol	Intersection of CTY VV & CTY
Fitchburg	Ints. of CTY D & McKee (CTY PD)
Morrisonville	Intersection of CTY DM & Lynn St.
Madison	Capital Square - Ints. of STH 151 &
Wisconsin Ave/Martin Luther King Dr.	
Marshall	Intersection of STH 73 & STH 19
Marxville	Intersection of STH 19 & CTY KP
Mazomanie	Intersection of HWY 14 & CTY Y
McFarland	Ints. of Milwaukee St. & Long St.
Middleton	Intersection of HWY 12 & HWY 14
Monona	Intersection of Pflaum Rd. & Monona
Dr.	
Morrisonville	Ints of CTY DM & Lynn St.
Mt. Horeb	Intersection of STH 78 & E. Main St
Mt. Vernon	Ints. of STH 92 & CTY G (Davis St.)
Oregon	Ints. of County MM (N. Main
Street)/CC	
Paoli	Ints. of STH 69 and Cty BB
Roxbury	Intersection of CTY Y & Kippley Rd
Shorewood Hills	Ints. of Shorewood Blvd & Talley Ho
Lane	
Springfield Corners	Intersection of HWY 12 & CTY P
Stoughton	Ints. of Hwy 51 and county N.
Sun Prairie	Ints. of STH 19 & W. Main/S. Bristol
Token Creek	Intersection of STH 19 & Portage Rd.
Utica	Ints. of county B and county W.
Waunakee	Intersection of STH 19, STH 113,
CTY Q	
Windsor	Intersection of CTY CV & Windsor Rd
Verona	Ints. of STH 69 (M) & Verona Ave.



### ROCK COUNTY (HAM 444.750)

Afton	Intersection of CTY D & W. 2nd St.
Avalon	Ints. of Pleasant St. & E. Avalon Rd.
Beloit	Ints. of STH 213 * STH 15 (State St.)
Clinton	Intersection of STH 140 & CTY X
Cooksville	Intersection of STH 138 & STH 59
Edgerton	Intersection of HWY 51 & STH 59
Emerald Grove	Ints. of HWY 14 & s. Emerald Grove
Rd.	
Evansville	Intersection of STH 59 & CTY C
Footville	Ints. of CTY B & N. Footville Rd.
(Gilbert)	
Fulton	Intersection of CTY H & CTY M
Hanover	Ints. of CTY H & w. Front and Lucus St.
Indianford	Intersection of CTY M & CTY F
Janesville	Ints. of W. Milw. St & N-S Jackson St.
Johnston Center	Intersection of CTY A & CTY M
Magnolia	Intersection of CTY M & CTY A
Milton	Ints. of STH 26 & 59 (southern ints.)
Newark	Intersection of CTY K & Beloit-
Newark Rd.	
Newville	Intersection of STH 59 & N. Hillside
Dr.	
Orfordville	Intersection of STH 213 & Main St.
Shopiere	Ints. of CTY S & CTY J (Butterfly
Rd.)	
Tiffany	Ints. of E. Creek Rd. & ELT Townline
Rd.	
Union	Ints. of HWY 14/59 & W-E Union Rd.



National Weather Service Office in Sullivan, Wisconsin

**Note: A helpful graphical map showing the reference points can also be found at...**  
<http://www.midwestsstrc.org/maps>

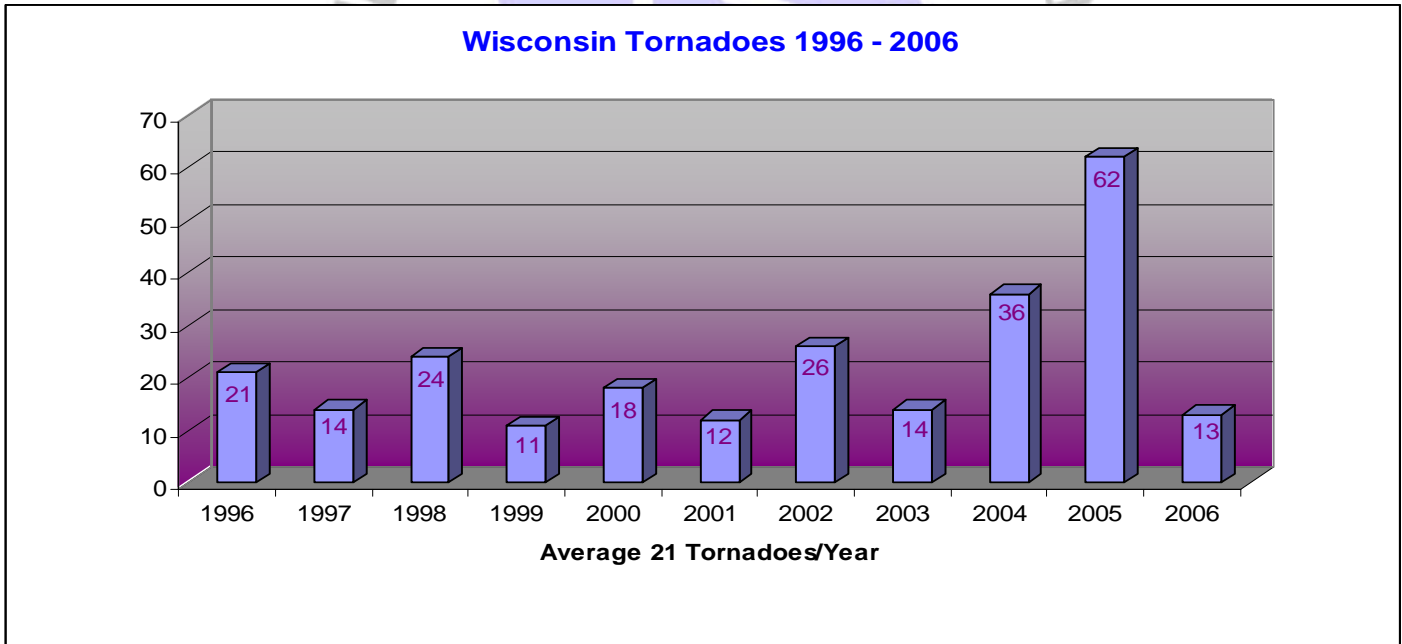



Tim, MidWest 122 and Chad, MidWest 101, discussed severe weather, and spotting with Josh on WIBA radio Friday evening, March 24<sup>th</sup> as well as took calls from callers. On Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Kim, MidWest 120 and

Tom, MidWest 112, were on WORT radio discussing severe weather, spotting and taking calls. They all did a GREAT JOB! The programs were very educational and interesting. You can hear the WORT radio show at the following link. Look for ACCESS HOUR, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. <http://lists.wort-fm.org/parchive/>

**Severe Weather Reporting Criteria**

1. Hail – ½ inch or larger
2. Wind – 58mph or greater
3. Rotating Wall Cloud
4. Funnel Cloud
5. Tornado
6. Severe Flooding
7. Severe Damage
8. Injuries or deaths



2007 Stats		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Dane	0	0	1									
	Rock	0	0	1									

MidWest Spotter, is a monthly publication produced to communicate MidWest activities and events to our members and the community. Comments always welcome. Please send your comments to Dale Bernstein at [dale.bernstein@midwestsstrc.org](mailto:dale.bernstein@midwestsstrc.org) or me, Steve Fitzsimmons at [midwestnewslettereditor@midwestsstrc.org](mailto:midwestnewslettereditor@midwestsstrc.org).

MidWest Severe Storm Tracking/Response Center  
(MidWest SSTRC, Inc)

4309 Monona Drive  
Monona, Wisconsin 53716  
608-221-8097  
608-557-9360 Cell  
[www.midwestsstrc.org](http://www.midwestsstrc.org)  
[dale.bernstein@midwestsstrc.org](mailto:dale.bernstein@midwestsstrc.org)



Public Service Announcement

MidWest Severe Storm Tracking/Response Center (MidWest SSTRC, Inc is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization) is pleased to host a National Weather Service Severe Storm/Spotter Class – to be held April 2, 2007.

The class will be held at Fitchburg Fire Department Station Number One, 5791 West Lacy Road , Fitchburg Wisconsin. The Fitchburg Fire Department will have a full array of fire apparatus on public display.

There will be information tables from related organizations and agencies that will be accessible from 5 PM until 630 PM. The National Weather Service Warning Coordinator, Rusty Kapela will be the speaking and the class will be held from 6:30 pm until 9 PM.

The class is free, no pre-registration is necessary, although a courtesy reply would assist us in our planning. We recommend you arrive early. If you can't make it to this assigned county spotter class, there are classes available in a neighboring county. As in every year, the media is invited and encouraged to cover the event to better inform the public. Please feel free to copy and post the attachments sent to you as public service announcement.

Who should attend: Fire, Law Enforcement, EMS, Teachers, Highway Department and Public Works Personal, Office Managers, just to mention a few. If you are required to attend a NWS Severe Storm Class, this will qualify you.

All media inquires should be made to [dale.bernstein@midwestsstrc.org](mailto:dale.bernstein@midwestsstrc.org). 608-577-9360

Please feel free to call and or email me if you have any questions and a courtesy reply of how many will be attending will be of great planning assistance. Thank you for your community service.

Dale L. Bernstein  
President/CEO

**The MidWest Severe Storm Tracking Response Center (MidWest SSTRC Inc.) is comprised of members whose primary purpose is to assist in providing early detection of severe weather. We communicate this critical information to government officials, other recognized agencies and organizations including the National Weather Service allowing for timely public severe weather warnings and providing emergency responses as appropriate. MidWest SSTRC Inc. endeavors o assist in any way it can in the protection of life and property from any threat, be it natural or man made.**

# SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER CLASS

## Severe Weather Spotter Class

Hosted by: Midwest SSTRC

Sponsored by:  
Dane Co. Emergency Management

Class Presented by:  
Rusty Kapela, NWS Warning  
Coordinator Meteorologist



**\*\* Free of charge to the public! \*\***  
(No Reservations Necessary)

Date: **Monday April 2nd, 2007**

Agenda: **5:00pm – 6:30pm: Information Showcase**

FEMA, National Weather Service, Fitch-Rona EMS,  
American Red Cross, ProAlert.us, MAST, MASA,  
and many more organizations will be there

**6:30pm – 7:00pm: Formal Introductions**

**7:00pm – 9:00pm: NWS Spotter Class**

Venue: **Fitchburg Fire Department  
Apparatus Hall Station #1  
5791 Lacy Road  
Fitchburg, WI 53711**

### Contact Information

Dale Bernstein, President/CEO  
Email: [dale.bernstein@midwestsstrc.org](mailto:dale.bernstein@midwestsstrc.org)  
Phone: (608)221-8097, (608)-577-9360

Or visit  
[www.midwestsstrc.org](http://www.midwestsstrc.org)





**COUNTY OF DANE**  
**Department of Emergency Management**

KATHY M. KRUSIEC, Director  
(608) 267-1591

Emergency Planning Division  
(608) 266-4330

Emergency Medical Services Division  
(608) 266-4387

Hazardous Materials Planning Division  
(608) 266-9051

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3/26/07**  
**Issuing Department: Emergency Management**  
**For more information contact:**  
J. McLellan, Dept. of Emergency Management  
608/267-2542

**Storm Spotter Classes**  
**Reference #03/26/07-01**

Available at: [www.co.dane.wi.us](http://www.co.dane.wi.us)

## **Severe Storm Spotter Classes**

Dane County Emergency Management is announcing "Severe Weather Spotter" classes open to the general public FREE OF CHARGE. These classes are designed to **educate** participants to **severe weather "clues"** and **familiarize** them with **where and how to use such information**. As recent, local history shows, tornados can strike anywhere and at any time. As local residents can attest, preparation for tornados, flooding, high winds and heavy rains saves lives and property.

All classes are taught by Rusty Kapela from the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Sullivan, WI. "Spotters" can provide the "ground truth" that cannot be seen by weather monitoring equipment. You do not have to be or commit to being a "Spotter" to attend the class.

Classes will be available across Southwest Wisconsin throughout the spring. More information regarding the classes and a schedule for SW Wisconsin can be found at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx> at the top of the web page. **In Dane County**, there are several "Spotters" classes scheduled for this spring:

**Monday April 2, 2007 – Fitchburg Fire Station 1** (seating for approx. 180)

5791 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53711

5 – 6:30 PM – Midwest Severe Storm Tracking/Response Center Open House

**6:30 – 8:30 PM – Spotters Class**

Contact: Dale Bernstein 608 / 221-8097

**Thursday April 12, 2007 – Sun Prairie West Side Comm. Srvc. Bldg.** (seating for approx. 120)

2598 W. Main, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

**6:30 – 8:30 PM – Spotters Class – Registration Preferred**

Contact: Mark Wilcox 608 / 825-1705

Note: Available Seating goes to those who registered.

**Tuesday April 17, 2007 – Cross Plains Fire Department** (seating for approx. 60)

1501 Bourbon Rd, Cross Plains, WI 53528

**6:30 – 8:30 PM – Spotters Class**

Contact: J. McLellan 608 / 267-2542

Seating is "first come, first serve." All of these classes have filled to capacity in previous years so please plan to arrive at least ten minutes prior to the class starting time.

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