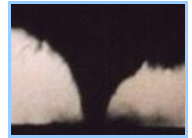


MidWest Tracker



October, 2007

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Next MidWest Meeting

Dane/Rock County General Meeting on November 19th at 7:00 PM located at the Monona Community Center, 1011 Nichols Rd, Monona, WI

<http://www.madison.com/communities/midwestsstrc/events/index.php>

Future Meeting Date

December Christmas Party
More details coming soon.

Midwest Training Advisory Committee:

Sandy Letlebo, MidWest 146

Please consider being part of the Midwest Training Advisory Committee. We will be having a series of "come-when-you-can" meetings between now and the NWS Severe Weather Spotter classes in the Spring. Our two main objectives to start with will be updating the new members packet and creating a Midwest Field Training Manual. To those of you who already have expressed interest in being part of this committee, thank you - your willingness to help is much appreciated.

Upcoming meeting dates are: Tuesday, October 30, 4:00-7:00 p.m., at the United Way Center at 2059 Atwood Avenue. We will be meeting in the American Family Conference Room on the 2nd floor. You will need a code to get in the door after 4:30 p.m., so please contact me for that information or call my cell 279-7254 when you are getting close or are in the parking lot, and I'll come down and let you in. I will also monitor 444.375 and 451.275; Thursday, November 15, 4:00-7:00 p.m. location to be announced, and Saturday, November 24th, 1:00-4:00 p.m. location to be announced. If you have comments or questions or would like to have input without attending meetings, please send your thoughts to Sandy at midwest146@gmail.com or call Sandy at 279-7254.

Ladies Night Out (Next meeting 11/3/2007)

Heidi Nava, MidWest 131

Hello ladies! We are going to get together on Saturday, November 3rd. Ladies wanting to attend need to give either me or Sandy a call on the cell so we can get a count on how many people are interested. We will post on the group about the numbers you can get a hold of us by. We will also try to get a hold of you ladies via phone or e-mail. Please respond to let us know what's up.

From The Front Office
Steve Fitzsimmons, MidWest 136

Check out our new web site!
<http://www.midwestsstrc.org/>

Dane and Rock County meetings are now held together at the Monona Community Center.

Chat is now available to members on the MidWest SSTRC website.

MidWest also has its own forums on the MidWest SSTRC web site at <http://www.midwestsstrc.org/membersbbs/>
Tim will be posting future outlooks there as well.

New MidWest Online Store!
<http://www.createchinc.com/store/msstrc/>

Sell//Buy/Trade/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 and I will set you up with what you need.



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!

Net Control

Heidi Nava, MidWest 131

Hello again folks! Now is the time to wind down from another storm season. With winter fast approaching it's time to dust off the winter apparel and wish for warm weather again. We have two new hams in the group -- Mouse Straus and Susan Berger!!!! We are still looking for a few more people to do the net control on the ham side and also on the biz band. Anyone interested please send an e-mail to the group and we will get you signed up. Thanks to everyone who is helping out with the net.(Sandy, Mike, Lisa, Tim, Frank) everyone has been doing an excellent job. We really appreciate all your help.

Storm Based Weather Warnings

Skip Voros, Executive Director, [Milwaukee Area Skywarn Assoc.](http://www.milwaukeearea.org/skywarn)

The National Weather Service currently issues and disseminates warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods using county or parish boundaries. In order to improve the specificity and accuracy of warnings for these hazards, the NWS will implement Storm-Based Warnings on October 1, 2007. Although entire county warnings are possible with some storms, the warned area (in the shape of a polygon) will now mark the greatest threat area and not be restricted to geopolitical boundaries. Thus areas not affected by the storm's path do not get warned.

Storm-Based Warnings will promote improved graphical warning displays, and in partnership with the private sector, support a wider warning distribution through cell phone alerts, pagers, web-enabled PDA (Personal Data Assistants), etc. Audio and text warning formats (NOAA radio, e-mail, TV screen) will include more specific geographic or landmark wording. See <http://www.weather.gov/sbwarnings/> The warned areas are also outlined on radar at http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge/index_lite.htm during severe weather situations.

Radios for Sale

Frank Weisensel, MidWest 103



For all you present or up coming ham radio operators, Frank has some Motorola Radius P1225 16 channel radios with all the MidWestSSTRC frequencies in them including the Business Band. Pictures either side.



We are excited to announce the Grand Opening of a *new* MidWest Online Store which may be visited at www.createchinc.com/store/msstrc. The www.createchinc.com/store/msstrc link may also be found at the www.midwestsstrc.org web site.

Educational Links

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

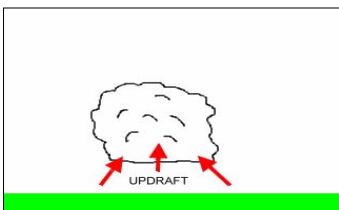
1. **FEMA:** <http://training.fema.gov> (ICS 100/700)
2. **MAST:** <http://www.madscitech.org>
3. **JetStream:** Online school for weather (NWS) <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream/matrix.htm>

Basic Spotter Training

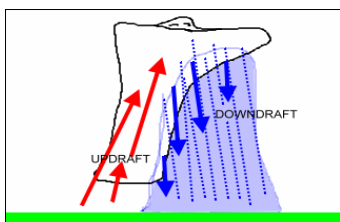
Excerpt from <http://www.midwestsstrc.org/downloads/mwbasic.doc>

The Thunderstorm Life Cycle

There are three basic stages to the thunderstorm life cycle :

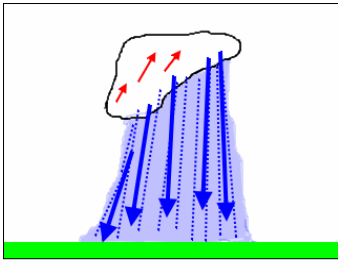


The cumulus stage – Warm, moist air rises and begins to condense and form clouds. This stage consists of only the updraft air movements. These updrafts reach heights of around 20,000 feet above the ground.



The mature stage - At this stage, the storm contains both upward and downward moving air currents (updrafts and downdrafts) with precipitation in the downdraft area. The downdraft results from precipitation evaporating, which causes cooling. To a lesser extent, the falling precipitation itself creates downward drag. When the cool downdraft hits the ground, it spreads out and forms a gust front, which may include damaging winds called a downburst. At the top of the storm, the updraft rapidly decelerates and clouds spread out and form an anvil. If the updraft is strong, a “bubble” of cloud, called an “overshooting top,” will be

pushed above the anvil. Spotters should pay particular attention to a storm with an overshooting top since the area beneath the top is a preferred area for severe weather formation.



The dissipating stage – Eventually, excessive precipitation and downdraft will weaken the updraft. Downdrafts dominate the storm and any overshooting top disappears. At the surface, the gust front will move away from the storm and cut off the inflow of energy into the storm.

Thunderstorm Categories

Depending on the type and number of cells, thunderstorms may be divided into four main categories:

- **Single-cell** storms are generally weak, short-lived, and poorly organized.
- **Multi-cell cluster** storms are the most common type of storm and consist of a series of cells moving along as one unit.
- **Multi-cell line** storms, commonly called “squall lines,” consist of a long line of storms with a continuous gust front at the leading edge.
- **Supercell** storms have a single updraft, are very strong, and always produce significant severe weather.

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

| Wisconsin | Average | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 (as of October) |
|---------------|---------|------|------|------|----------------------|
| Tornado Stats | 21 | 36 | 62 | 13 | 18 |

MidWest Tracker is a monthly publication of the MidWest Severe Tracking & Response Center, Inc. Your comments are always welcome. Please send any comments and suggestions to Dale Bernstein at dale.bernstein@midwestsstrc.org or Steve Fitzsimmons at midwestnewslettereditor@midwestsstrc.net. Thank you!