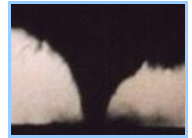


MidWest Tracker



December, 2007

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Next MidWest Event

**Dane/Rock County
Christmas Party!
December 17th at 7:00 PM
located at the Tower Inn,
909 East Broadway,
Monona, WI**

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

Future Meeting Date

January 21st

Happy Holidays! (Christmas Party December 17th!)

Dale Bernstein, President/CEO

MidWest 107

I continue to be amazed, grateful and humbled by the MidWest members and of those who support MidWest. For those of us who have been around for a while, as we look back at 2007, we are awe struck at where MidWest is today and like children at Christmas, gleefully look forward to the future. MidWest continues to grow by leaps and bounds, as we serve our communities in the best means available.

A few newsletters ago I singled out our Chief Operations Office, Tim Shriver for the ongoing effort and hard work that he continues to bring forth to and for MidWest and for all those entities that MidWest interacts with. I believe even though we serve our communities first and foremost, it remains important to compliment the many people who are committed to MidWest in how we serve our communities. What you, what we, as MidWest stand for and are committed to, of our give back to our communities. A helping hand if you will to our fellow person.

Our members have committed their time, energy and a great deal of effort to bring us where we are today, and where we envision MidWest to be in the future. As it is with so many of our members, they are sometimes overlooked yet gratefully appreciated as they perform their duties.

Dan Starker is as we know, the MidWest Membership Coordinator. Dan performs his duties so seamlessly that like others, often remains an unsung hero of the inner structure of MidWest. What many outside organizations fail to realize is the tremendous amount of structure and behind the scenes efforts and sacrifices that members such as Dan Starker bring forth. He brings a true sense of caring, networking and the duty the purpose at hand.

OCTOBER BRINGS RECORD TORNADO OUTBREAK

By Rick Swierczynski, Vice President, MASA Inc.

(skywarn1@hotmail.com)

A total of 87 tornadoes were reported in the United States from October 17-19th. The outbreak also contributed to the monthly total of 105 tornado reports. This is the second highest total for October when in 2001 there were 117 twisters recorded.

According to Joe Schaefer, the Director of the Storm Prediction Center (and a frequent guest of past Milwaukee Skywarn Seminars) "These storms are a reminder to all that tornadoes can develop any time of year, and anywhere." Depending on the season, tornadoes have occurred in all 50 United States.

For monthly tornado, wind, and hail maps visit the SPC (Storm Prediction Center) website:

http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/monthly/2007_annual_summary.html

SKYWARN RECOGNITION

DAY - Weather Service Shows Appreciation To Ham Radio Operators.

The annual SKYWARN Recognition Day event begins this week (November 30th at 6PM). This 24 hour event is co-sponsored by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. "This is a fun event," said ARRL Media and P-R Manager Allen Pitts. "For 364 days of the year, hams aid in providing the NWS offices with real-time information on severe weather when people and property are at risk. But this one day is for fun, friendship and recognition of the critical services given to communities by the hams."

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/11/20/100/?nc=1>

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/hamradio/index.php>

Courtesy Milwaukee Skywarn

I find it exciting to express my praise and thanks to each and every member of MidWest and to all those who support MidWest. There are often times that go by, when a kind word, a pat on the back, a job well done, does not get said. Though be it known that it is not for us as MidWest that do not soulfully appreciate such efforts for those many hearts that we share.

Living in the corporate and political world takes its toll. Sometimes we just have to stand back, take a breath, look around and appreciate those souls that are so much part of the many efforts that we all believe in. After such moments, one is simply taken back, back to ground level and deems it more than appropriate that such gratefulness be brought forth for all to share.

As we approach the Holiday Season, or do I dare say, Christmas, let us look back upon our great success, of our growth, of the great amount of talent that we are blessed with within MidWest and for those who support MidWest. I, in my heart and soul know that you are a critical ingredient and have made and continue to make a difference! Be that difference of public awareness, of property or life, you have and continue to make a difference that extends beyond that we know.

So many folks doing so many great things for a common community of pure give back. So many folks, so little thanks, so much that is given... I remain humbled to be associated with you all.

Don't forget! The MidWest Holiday Party, Monday December 17th!
Review the details on page 7 in this newsletter. Come join us!

As we look back upon our 2007 season, knowing that there is always room for knowledge and growth, gazing upon those golden mid-west fields of grain, feeling the warm storm flow upon our face, searching the skies for those tell tale signs of what and why we do, as we scurry from here to there, we are greeted with excitement, with wonder, with worry yet always with purpose and duty.

As those spring and summer months pass our sense of duty and excitement and our search of knowledge continues. We then find that those long forgotten school days are just around the corner. The warm summer days are winding down to those cool autumn nights, where the moon seems larger than life. We look back with sadness at times of the storms we missed, of the storms that could have been, but as we look back, our hearts are warm in the duty that we have brought forth.

Soon the winter wonder is upon us. The barren trees sway as we make our ways, the first frost to scrape from the windshield, a trip out to replenish our sidewalk salt to protect those persons who we welcome by, then the first ever soft flakes of snow that confirm our summer is

2008

March 9 Daylight Saving Time begins
March 17-21 Flood Safety Awareness Week

April 8-9 Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Emergency Management
April 21-25 Wisconsin Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week

May 14 NOAA All Hazards Radio Awareness Day

June 1-7 Rip Current Awareness Week

June 12 Heat Awareness Day in Wisconsin

June 21-22 Amateur Radio Recognition Days

June 22-28 National Lightning Safety Awareness Week

[Courtesy Milwaukee Skywarn](#)

THE DESIGNATED WEATHER WATCHER

They Monitor And Warn Others

The Designated Weather Watcher monitors the weather while other go about their business.

This person has multiple sources of data and knows how to initiate a local warning action

or whom to notify during a developing weather emergency.

Recommended for all schools, hospitals, businesses, auditoriums, entertainment centers, nursing homes, mobile homes, athletic parks, RV sites, and tall building owners. On March 1st 2007 a tornado killed 8 students at the Enterprise Alabama High School. That same day a twister damaged the Sumter Regional Hospital in Americus Georgia.

<http://www.mke-skywarn.org/dww.htm>

[Courtesy Milwaukee Skywarn](#)

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.

behind us, yet in front of us. We move about excitedly as we gather friends and family for the upcoming holidays. We dutifully report road conditions, snow depth as we reach to nurture our honed skills year round and knowing that we care.

Something Warm and fuzzy: (Author Unknown)

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even the mouse;*

*The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that the weather would soon would be there;*

*The computers were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of vortex danced in their heads;*

*And mamma in her hardhat, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,*

*When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.*

*Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.*

*The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the luster of mid-day to that snow down below,*

*When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,*

*With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment from his ham sign it must be St. Nick.*

*More rapid than radar level 3 his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted that the radar was down and the he
called them by name;*

*"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on MKX, Cupid! on, Doppler and Blitzen!*

*To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"*

*As dry leaves that before the wild vortex fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,*

*So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of storm toys, and St. Nicholas too.*

*And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little twig and hoof.*

What makes up a slight, moderate or high risk?

Tim Shriver, MidWest 122

SLIGHT RISK

Severe Thunderstorms in small numbers or low coverage.

5-29 reports of 1 inch hail or larger, and/or

3-5 tornados, and/or

5-29 wind reports

MODERATE RISK

Greater magnitude/number of severe weather events.

30 reports of hail 1 inch or larger,

6-19 tornadoes,

30+ high wind events.

HIGH RISK

Almost always means a major severe weather outbreak.

Expect at least 20 tornadoes with at least 2 of them rated F3+,

50+ wide spread wind events,

50+ high end (80+ MPH) wind and structural damage reports.

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 SSTRC Online Store! 

<http://www.createchinc.com/store/msstrc/>

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!

Continued...

*As I drew in my hand to the wind, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.*

*He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;*

*A bundle of storm toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a weather peddler just opening his pack.*

*His eyes, how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!*

*His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;*

*The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the vortex smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;*

*He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook like lightning, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.*

*He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;*

*A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing in that storm to dread;*

*He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings with those storm goodies;
then turned with a jerk,*

*And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod to the sky, up the chimney he rose;*

*He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew into the clouds like the down of a thistle.*

*But I heard him exclaim though a thundering clap, ere
he drove out of sight,*

"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."

Merry Christmas folks and bless you all!
db 107

GETTING A GRIP ON OLD MAN WINTER

The Deceptive Killer, Frequent Terminology, Spotter Participation.

DEEP HEAVY SNOW can immobilize a region, strand commuters, and paralyze the flow of supplies (empty grocery store shelves, no gas). It can also disrupt essential emergency services (medical, police, and fire unable to respond to your call). Heavy snows can collapse building roofs, knock down tree and power lines (no heat, light, or internet/PC). In rural areas homes and farms may be isolated for days (roads blocked by drifts) and livestock may die. ICE STORMS can down communication towers (no radio or TV, cell phone, 9-1-1, car doors frozen, and impossible driving conditions), STRONG WINDS can create poor visibility for driving, shoreline flooding can lead to coastal and beach erosion.

Winter Storm Watch: In the upper Midwest; Possible 6 inches or more of snow in 12 hours or 8 inches in 24 hours. Typically issued 24-36 hours in advance of a storm.

Winter Storm Warning: In the upper Midwest; usually reserved for snow exceeding 6 inches in 12 hours or 8 inches or more in 24 hours and a combination of freezing rain, sleet, and strong winds.

Heavy Snow Warning: In the upper Midwest; usually reserved for snow exceeding 6 inches in 12 hours or 8 inches in 24 hours.

Blizzard Warning: Sustained or frequent wind gusts of 35 Miles Per Hour in combination with considerable falling/blowing snow for at least 3 hours. Visibility frequently less than 1/4 mile.

Freezing Rain: Rain falls as a liquid then freezes on contact. **Sleet:** Rain drop freezes into pellets prior to reaching the ground.

Thundersnow: During some intense winter storms its not uncommon for lightning and thunder to develop. Storms with thundersnow often create brief but intense bursts of snow fall rates.

SPOTTERS: Spotter reporting criteria typically include: Snow depths and snow fall rates/hour, peak wind gusts, visibility, road conditions, whiteout or fog conditions, power line, tree and ice damage, river ice jams, rain-snow transition areas, flooding, and thundersnow.

"Winter Storms - The Deceptive Killer. 12 Page PDF brochure, File Size: 2.18 MB.

<http://www.weather.gov/os/brochures/winterstorm.pdf>

Winter Weather Maps from Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association Home Page:

<http://www.mke-skywarn.org/winterprods.htm>

[Courtesy Milwaukee Skywarn](#)

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>

Light Bars



(Photo courtesy of Frank)

Chad Woodward, MidWest 101

- ✓ You can mount them high or low, in series as a light bar, as long as they are uniform.
- ✓ The bottom line is this, you are actually requested and required to utilize at least your 4 way flashers, if you are going to be a HAZARD.
- ✓ Use caution here because the lights do not give you a license to be a hazard!
- ✓ No illegal U-turns, sitting on the side of an interstate (unless necessary for your safety), sudden stops. etc.
- ✓ You don't need them, and shouldn't use them in a legitimate parking space, or if you are stopped safely in traffic for example.
- ✓ You may use the amber lights while moving if you are providing a service that causes you to be hazard.
- ✓ This is the rub, because some say we are, others not.

The point is that the lights can be a distraction and should only be used when necessary for safety.

Side note from Dale: Lights can ONLY be YELLOW. No red or blue, only yellow. db

We are excited to announce the 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.

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 (December)
Tornado Stats	21	36	62	13	17

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!



**MidWest Severe Storm
Tracking/Response Center, Inc
2007
Holiday/Appreciation
Event!**

501c3

***In Appreciation of our Members, Supporters, Colleagues,
The Communities that We Serve, Friends & Family of
MidWest SSTRC, Inc, you are invited to attend the
MidWest SSTRC, Inc 2007 Holiday Event.***

***December 17, 2007
7PM***

***Tower Inn on Broadway
909 East Broadway
Monona, Wisconsin***

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=909+E+Broadway%2C+Madison%2C+WI%2C+53716&hl=en>

Food & Beverages will be served.

(We encourage our MidWest Members, to bring a dish to pass)

Entertainment Provided by

Berny's Road Show



Storm Tracking Photos and Videos Welcomed

Inquire: Dale Bernstein

President/CEO - MidWest SSTRC, Inc dale.bernstein@midwestsstre.org