



JACKSON COUNTY SKYWARN PROCEDURES AND PREAMBLE

Modified 3/28/2009 by KF4JZY



PREAMBLE

Standby NCS

(Repeat About Every 15 – 30 Minutes Or As Needed)

This is <your call sign>, a standby Net Control for Jackson County Skywarn. There is currently no Skywarn net, and routine traffic on frequency is permitted. A Skywarn net will be started if weather conditions warrant it.

*If applicable and as-needed: **The National Weather Service has issued a <severe thunderstorm / tornado> <watch / warning> for <area> until <time>. Provide additional information from bulletin, as needed.***

This is <your call sign>.

SKYWARN Activation

Net Opening/Check-ins

(Only Read Once)

This is <your call sign>, Net Control for Jackson County Skywarn. This net is now in formal activated status.

*If applicable: **The National Weather Service has issued a <severe thunderstorm / tornado> <watch / warning> for <area> until <time>.***

The purpose of this Skywarn net is to provide the National Weather Service with reports of severe weather conditions.

This is a directed, tactical net, and only communication with Net Control is permitted. Skywarn spotters and any stations with emergency traffic and severe weather reports may check-in.

Break.

When checking-in to the net, please give your call sign phonetically, state if you are a certified Skywarn spotter, and state your location as a major intersection including your city. If not acknowledged by Net Control, please recheck.

*Standard phrase: **We will now accept check-ins. Then: Net Control recognizes:** List call signs and locations. **Continue with check-ins as needed: Are there any additional check-ins?** Listen for stations breaking with emergency traffic, and ascertain if any qualified stations can act as an alternate NCS in the case of equipment failure, emergency, etc.*

Net Continuity

(Every 10 Minutes, Traffic Permitting)

This is Net Control for Jackson County Skywarn. This net is in formal activated status.

If applicable: The National Weather Service has issued a <severe thunderstorm / tornado> <watch / warning> for <area> until <time>.

Net Control is accepting check-ins from Skywarn spotters, as well as reportable severe weather effects from any other stations. Reportable effects include—hail of penny size or larger, storm damage, rotating funnel cloud or tornado, or serious flooding. If for any reason you need to leave the net please let net control know.

As needed: This is a directed, tactical net, and only communication with net control is permitted.

As needed: Reportable effects include—hail of penny size or larger, storm damage, rotating funnel cloud or tornado, or serious flooding.

As needed: Please keep all reports brief and concise. Be sure to include location, time, and effect.

As needed: Net Control is not accepting check-ins, and is only accepting reports of the following effects-- <state effects>.

As needed: Net, please stand-by as I contact NWS to report these severe weather reports.

This is <your call sign>.

SKYWARN Termination

This is Net Control for Jackson County Skywarn. Severe weather is no longer threatening Jackson County or surrounding areas, and this net is now being closed.

If applicable: A tornado watch / severe thunderstorm watch remains in effect for <area> until <time>. Net Control will start another Skywarn net at a later time if conditions warrant.

Net Control thanks all radio amateurs who have participated in today's Jackson County Skywarn net. The net is now closed, and this frequency is being returned to normal use. 73.

This is <your call sign>.

Procedures

Net Condition Criteria

These criteria provide guidance for the Skywarn NCS when establishing net conditions. There are two major goals:

- Prevent check-ins and lower priority reports, such as those reporting gust front arrival, from interfering with higher priority reports, such as those involving damaging winds or tornadoes.
- Permit as many spotters to check-in as possible.

The Skywarn NCS may establish net conditions as appropriate to meet the above goals, using the following table of *minimum recommended* net conditions. To use the table, read down the list of situations until you find a question that can be answered, “Yes.” These are basic guidelines; please use your judgment.

<u>Adjacent Counties</u> Bay, Calhoun, Gadsden, Holmes, Liberty, Washington		Net Condition / NCS Status
Item	Situation	
1	Are spotters reporting tornadoes, funnel clouds, or wall clouds in Jackson county?	Activate
2	Is there a tornado warning for Jackson County?	Activate
3	Are spotters reporting hail or damaging winds in Jackson County?	Activate
4	Is there a tornado warning in an adjacent county, with the storm moving toward Jackson County?	Activate
5	Is there a severe thunderstorm warning for Jackson County?	Activate
6	Is NWS or JCEMA requesting activation in Jackson County?	Activate
7	Is there a severe thunderstorm warning in an adjacent county, with the storm moving toward Jackson County?	Standby NCS
8	Are thunderstorm cells in adjacent counties moving toward Jackson County?	Inactive
9	All others	Inactive

NCO Requirements

Certain requirements are expected from any amateur radio operator wishing to act as NCO for a Skywarn net. The purpose for this is so the net can be handled in a way that is efficient and the NCO can thoroughly understand what the NWS expectations are in submitting weather reports. Furthermore, the safety of the public is at hand, and a certain level of accountability and training is necessary for the role. These requirements are as follows:

- NCO must have been through formal Skywarn training hosted by the NWS. If a person was unable to attend formal training, the person must have completed the self-study course on the NWS website and completed exam. This enables the NCO to properly understand expectations of the NWS.
- NCO must volunteer to act as NCS for the CARC/Jackson County ARES net on at least a quarterly basis. This enables the NCO to practice running a formal net regularly.
- NCO must make an effort to participate in any related training events, either on-air or otherwise. Again, this is to keep the skill level of the NCO sharp.
- NCO must be able to be cool under pressure. It is possible that the stress level associated with running a Skywarn net can get very high. The NCO must always act professionally and courteously.

Contact Information

Bill Everitt, KG4ZJT
Jackson County ARRL Emergency Coordinator
kg4zjt@jacksoncountyares.org

Brent Gay, KF4JZY
Jackson County ARRL Assistant Emergency Coordinator
brentgay@jacksoncountyares.org