This message is to alert you to coming changes in SKYWARN storm spotting operations on the 146.88 MHz repeater in Fort Wayne.

Synopsis

Net control stations of SKYWARN Quadrant Two nets (Fort Wayne) will stop using the call sign W9INX and instead use their own call signs, effective July 1.

SKYWARN Quadrant Two will begin operating in two modes:

- Standby Mode: Normal repeater use continues (stations may call each other as normal). A SKYWARN NCS monitors the frequency, periodically reminding stations of the weather situation and asking them to keep transmissions short and to leave long breaks between transmissions. A tail message on the 146.88 MHz repeater announces weather watch. The repeater reset tone is a Morse code W.

- Directed Net: Normal repeater use is suspended. Stations are requested to contact NCS before making any other calls. A tail message on the 146.88 MHz repeater announces weather net (replacing the former weather alert message). The repeater reset tone is a Morse code N.

Background

IMO SKYWARN operates severe weather spotter nets on the ACARTS 146.88 MHz repeater in Fort Wayne. These nets serve an 11-county area known in IMO SKYWARN as Quadrant Two. Quadrant Two comprises the southeast portion of the county warning area served by the Northern Indiana National Weather Service forecast office near North Webster. It includes the following Indiana counties: Whitley, Allen, Huntington, Wells, Adams, Blackford and Jay. It also includes the following Ohio counties: Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert and Allen.

Quadrant Two SKYWARN nets are lead by a group of volunteer net control stations (NCS) designated by IMO SKYWARN. These operators recently met and decided on some changes in the way the nets are run.

Call Sign Change

Effective July 1, SKYWARN NCS will no longer use the ACARTS club call sign, W9INX. Each NCS will instead use his own call sign.

How will spotters know who to call? The preferred practice when calling the NCS is to simply send your own call sign once. NCS (whoever it is at that moment) will acknowledge you. Alternatively, you may use, net control, this is W9ABC. Addressing NCS is not necessary, however, because when you transmit your call sign during a directed net, NCS assumes you re calling him.

What if a directed net is not in session? If IMO SKYWARN Quadrant Two is in standby mode, (see Synopsis above and details below), simply call, SKYWARN, and the NCS who is monitoring will answer. For example:

You: SKYWARN, this is W9XYX.

NCS: W9XYZ, this is W9GGA, IMO SKYWARN, go ahead.

For your reference, the following stations are designated IMO SKYWARN NCS in Quadrant Two:

- Rich Andrew, N9HRA
- Chad Beach, W9GGA
- Jay Farlow, W9LW
- Fred Gengnagel, KC9EZP
- Bernie Holm, K9JDF
- Brian Jenks, W9BGJ
- Jim Moehring, KB9WWM
- Joel Tye, KB9RH
- Woody Woodbury, KC9CGN

Net Mode/Repeater Status Change

SKYWARN NCS desire to limit interruptions to the normal repeater use. We realize that sometimes, even when a warning is in effect in one of the quadrant s counties, no spotter reports come in. We have decided that in such circumstances, a directed net unnecessarily disrupts normal repeater use. The team therefore decided to implement two operational modes:

- Standby Mode: This mode will be used when severe weather is imminent or occurring, but neither the volume nor urgency of spotter traffic require suspension of normal repeater use. Stations may call each other as normal. A SKYWARN NCS monitors the frequency, periodically reminding stations of the weather situation and asking them to keep transmissions short and to leave long breaks between transmissions. A tail message on the 146.88 MHz repeater announces weather watch. The repeater reset tone is a Morse code W.

- Directed Net: This mode will be used when the volume or urgency of spotter traffic require suspension of normal repeater use. Stations are requested to contact NCS before making any other calls. A tail message on the 146.88 MHz repeater announces weather net (replacing the former weather alert message). The repeater reset tone is a Morse code N.

These change are also scheduled to take effect on or about July 1, 2001, pending completion of repeater controller programming. IMO SKYWARN thanks ACARTS (operator of the 146.88 MHz repeater) for their continued support.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the Quadrant Two net control stations listed above.

73,

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Fort Wayne, IN
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