

23 NOV 04 – NJ2N (Net Control) Training Material

NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information direct from a nearby National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "all hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards --both natural (such as earthquakes and volcano activity) and environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills).

Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the Department of Commerce. NWR includes more than 900 transmitters, covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. NWR requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal.

NOAA Weather Radio receivers can be purchased at many retail stores that sell electronic merchandise, including stand-alone electronic retail outlets, electronics departments within department stores, and some drug stores. NOAA Weather Radio receivers can also be purchased through some mail order catalogs

In addition, NOAA Weather Radio receivers are often sold in boat and marine accessory businesses since they are popular in the marine community. These are just some of the places that NOAA Weather Radio receivers can be purchased.

After buying an NWR SAME receiver, you must program your county, parish or independent city or marine area into the radio. Do NOT program your radio for louder or clearer station not designated as a SAME channel. You will not receive alert. Your NWR will then alert you **only** of weather and other emergencies for the county(s)/ area(s) programmed. NWR receivers without the SAME capability alert for emergencies anywhere within the coverage area of the NWR transmitter, typically several counties, even though the emergency could be well away from the listener.

- When an NWS office broadcasts a warning, watch or non-weather emergency, it also broadcasts a digital SAME code that may be heard as a very brief static burst, depending on the characteristics of the receiver. This SAME code contains the type of message, county(s) affected, and message expiration time.
- A programmed NWR SAME receiver will turn on for that message, with the listener hearing the 1050 Hz warning alarm tone as an attention signal, followed by the broadcast message.
- At the end of the broadcast message, listeners will hear a brief digital end-of-message static burst followed by a resumption of the NWR broadcast cycle.

SAME is also used in the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Using SAME, broadcasters may receive NWR warning messages for rebroadcast in accordance with EAS rules.

To program NWR SAME receivers with the proper county(s) and marine area(s) of choice, you need to know the 6-digit SAME code number(s) for that county(s). Once you have the number, follow the directions supplied the manufacturer of your NWR SAME receiver for programming. The number is available two ways:

- Online at the United States and Territories Table. (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/indexnw.htm>)
- By telephone at 1-888-NWR-SAME (1-888-697-7263) for a voice menu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Essex County Skywarn Coordinator

Stan Rogacki - WA2EXX has been appointed Skywarn coordinator for Essex County by the National Weather Service in Upton, NY. He can be reached on this repeater or via email at wa2exx@essexskywarn.org. There is also a link to his email address on the Essex County Skywarn web page.

Essex County Skywarn on the Internet

Essex County Skywarn has a new web site. The URL is <http://www.essexskywarn.org>. The site contains information about NOAA weather radio, severe weather reporting criteria, and links to the Upton, NY NWS web site.

Special Event: SKYWARN Recognition Day December 4, 2004 (0000 - 2400 UTC.)

SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. The object is for all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SKYWARN Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by amateur radio operators during threatening weather.

For more info goto: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>

Next Weeks Net Topics

Skywarn Recognition Day