



**Northwest Iowa SKYWARN®**  
**& Amateur Radio Emergency Services**  
*Serving Clay, Dickinson and Emmet Counties in Northwest Iowa*  
**MEETING NOTES**

**April 16, 2009**

**Community Room, Dickinson County Courthouse, Spirit Lake, Iowa**

Leadership Present (3)	Leadership Absent (2)	Members Present (8)
Mike Ehret (Dickinson) KCØRIG Aaron Sloan (Dickinson) KAØZoz Terry Reekers (Emmet) KBØQCS	Steve Quattlebaum (Clay) KCØWEX Eric Tigges (Clay)	James Geinitz (Dickinson) Tim Blaise (Emmet) Daren Diers (Dickinson) NØWOK Jon Schacherer (Emmet) KCØMWJ Wesley Lynn (Dickinson) WAØYFQ Scott Prader (Clay) KDØFHS Dan Rogers (Dickinson) KBØURP Smitty Schuneman WØDRU

Agenda Item	Notes
<b>Call Meeting to Order</b>	Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
<b>Alerting spotters</b> (M. Ehret)	Mike reported that he has software running that will allow spotter information statements to be sent out to those wishing to get it via text messaging. Also, if anyone wants to receive the entire Hazardous Weather Outlook via e-mail, they can be signed up for that as well. For text messaging, we need your cell phone number, cell provider and what county you want to receive the outlook for.
<b>Amateur Radio Licensing training sessions</b> (A. Sloan)	Aaron is starting Technician class testing on May 2 in Spencer. The class will be held in the basement of the Gateway North Mall, next door to the bowling alley. There will be four instructors, each taking a different section. Aaron is planning on holding the trainings for four Saturdays through May with testing to be held at a later date. The location of future classes may be moved depending on who attends the initial class and where they are coming from. Those attending the class will be required to have the Technician book. The cost of the book is \$25 and if you need one, contact Aaron by e-mail at <a href="mailto:ka0z0z@sixone.org">ka0z0z@sixone.org</a> . There may be a few books available at the class, but it is recommended to get one beforehand.
<b>Repeater information</b>	<p>Terry reported that the Estherville repeater (146.700) is working great since Aaron installed a new antenna. The antenna was purchased with Homeland Security dollars under the Interoperable Communications section of the grant.</p> <p>There was nothing new with the Spirit Lake (146.610) repeater and no report from the Spencer repeater (146.820).</p>
<b>Operations Manual</b>	There were no concerns regarding the proposed Operations Manual. A few comments noted that it was a good idea to have a manual and that it was well written. Mike noted that it was a combination of operations manuals from other Skywarn groups around the country and that if anyone finds anything that we

	<p>should add or change, to please bring it to our attention. With there being no concerns, the manual will be put into effect and be our official operating guide for the group.</p>
<b>Establish day of month for meetings &amp; location</b>	<p>It was recommended that we pick a day of the month to hold regular meetings so people can get them on their calendars. After a few minutes of discussion amongst those present, it was decided that the NW Iowa Skywarn/ARES group will meet on the first Thursday of each month, starting June 4 (skipping May). Meetings will continue to be held in Spirit Lake, as those present felt is was a good middle location between Emmet and Clay Counties. Mike has checked and the Community Room at the Courthouse is available for all those dates.</p>
<b>Group Discussion</b>	<p>We asked the group for their input as to what they want to see happen with our new organization and what their expectations are as members.</p> <p>Terry mentioned that for him, he’s looking to expand the number of amateur radio personnel in our three counties and to get our disaster assessment teams ramped up in the three-county area. Eventually, he’d like to see the group be able to go to other areas of the state to help with assessments, as there are few other groups like ours in the State. Training for that would take a full night.</p> <p>Mike said aside from what Terry mentioned and to get more spotters, Emergency Communications is important in Dickinson County, especially during times of 911 outages, where phone lines are often down.</p> <p>Terry noted that once the NAWAS phone is moved to the new EOC, all storm spotting operations in Emmet County will occur at the EOC in the Law Enforcement Center. Until then, they’ll be at the EM Office.</p> <p>Aaron is looking into more training for Amateur Radio and also for ARES trainings.</p>
<b>Important Upcoming Dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>April 20:</b> Iowa Great Lakes Amateur Radio Club meeting @ Milford (Old City Hall) at 7:30 p.m.</li> <li>• <b>April 23:</b> Storm Spotter Training @ Spencer FD at 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>• <b>April 27:</b> Storm Spotter Training @ Spirit Lake Fairgrounds at 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>• <b>May 2:</b> Start of Technician license training @ Spencer at 8:30 a.m. (See notes above for details)</li> <li>• <b>May 25:</b> Iowa Great Lakes Amateur Radio Club meeting @ Milford (Old City Hall) at 7:30 p.m.</li> <li>• <b>June 4:</b> Next NW Iowa Skywarn/ARES Meeting at Spirit Lake at 7:00 p.m.</li> <li>• <b>June 27:</b> U of O Bike Ride – Leaves Milford at 9:00 a.m.</li> <li>• <b>June 27-28:</b> Field Day at Horseshoe Bend – Noon Saturday to Noon Sunday</li> <li>• <b>July 18:</b> U of O Marathon/Triathlon at 6:00 a.m.</li> </ul>
<b>Adjourn Meeting</b>	<p>Meeting was adjourned around 8:15 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Room in the Dickinson County Courthouse.</p>