

Joplin TV News Covers Hamfest & Skywarn

by George KJ6TQ



Amateur Radio and Skywarn scored big with some really good television media coverage recently during and after the Joplin Hamfest. On Saturday, August 27th, KOAM-TV Channel 7 visited the Hamfest, and reporter Chloe Leshner spoke to Southwest Missouri Regional Skywarn's N0NWS Repeater Trustee Michael Blake, N0NQS. During the interview, Mike was able to remind folks that during the devastating 2011 tornado in Joplin, trained spotters were on the ground relaying information back to the National Weather Service

using the Southwest Missouri Regional Skywarn linked repeaters and were therefore able to help meteorologists to disseminate advanced warnings to the citizens of Joplin.

And this is truly the case: radar cannot see what's on the ground; people can. As horrible as the 2011 tragedy was in Joplin, the toll could have been much worse if precious seconds were wasted if not for the help of our Skywarn spotters.

To read and watch the full story on KOAM-TV Channel 7, [click here](#).



Following the Joplin Hamfest, KODE-TV Channel 12 reporter Cortney Brown did an even longer story on how Skywarn and the National Weather Service are benefiting from the new analog/digital hybrid system known as Yaesu System Fusion. Once again N0NWS Repeater Trustee Michael, N0NQS was interviewed along with fellow system control operator and Yaesu System Fusion representative Chris Wilson, N0CSW and storm chaser Jordan Hamilton, KC0SHN. An interesting point made during this interview is how Yaesu System Fusion

allows the National Weather Service to get quicker and more accurate reports of what's happening on the ground thanks to the digital system's GPS. Think of it this way: If seconds save lives (and they do in these situations), then how much time can be saved during an outbreak if a spotter or chaser doesn't even have to stop and think about his or her location and then report it because the National Weather Service already knows thanks to the GPS reporting? And, if time is being saved, then so are lives!

To read and watch the full story on KODE-TV Channel 12, [click here](#).

This is big, and, on behalf of the amateur radio community, we at Southwest Missouri Regional Skywarn would like to thank Channel 7 and Channel 12 in Joplin for helping remind the public how amateur radio is here and ready to serve at a moment's notice. And, as new technology becomes available and evolves, that we work hard to implement the new benefits available from it.

Skywarn Youth On the Air

by George KJ6TQ



A brand new weekly net is on the air, and it encourages young amateur radio operators and their families to key up and get out on the air and to create an educational awareness among these operators about Skywarn and basic weather facts.

The Skywarn Youth Net meets on most of the Southwest Missouri Regional Skywarn repeaters Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Central and is open to hams within our RF repeater coverage as well as around the world via EchoLink. This net will first take check-in's from young hams (approximately ages 25 and younger) and from any licensed hams within their immediate household. The net will then give an opportunity for hams who have youths within their households who are not yet licensed but who are interested in getting

their licenses to participate as third party traffic under the station control of those licensees. Finally, any and all licensed hams will be invited to check in.

As this net grows and evolves, we hope to create and present brief educational segments. For example, one segment, entitled "Skywarn Youth: Did You Know", will involve a quick (about a minute long) summary about a specific weather-related fact, and it will be presented by one of our younger hams. This and other segments will be posted on the www.N0NWS.com website for easy reference after the nets and for folks who miss the net.

We invite all young hams, their families, and the amateur radio community in general to check into this net. Young hams are the future of this hobby, and we encourage them to get involved, to get out on the air and talk, and to invite their friends to become hams as well. We also hope that all participants will learn more about Skywarn activities and about weather.

The Skywarn Youth Net is held Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Central on the Following Linked Repeaters:

Fordland/Springfield, MO: 145.490 (-) PL 136.5

Joplin, MO: 145.350 (-) PL 91.5

Walnut Grove, MO: 147.330 (+) PL 162.2

Buffalo, MO: 147.180 (+) PL 136.5

Branson, MO: 147.105 (+) PL 162.2

EchoLink Node: 291849 or N0NWS-R