

“Microburst” Winter 2003-04 Edition

From the MIC’s Desk...

I just wanted to add a few words and let you know just how much you all are appreciated. You may not know this but NWS Upton has done a great job in our verification numbers in both severe weather and winter weather over the past two years. This is not something that we just look at ourselves. This is something that is shown to Congress each year and is one of the determining factors for our budget from year to year.

We owe much of our success in our warning program to you! You folks have given us the information that tells us that our warnings are needed and that we are on the right track. Without you letting us know that severe or winter weather is really happening out there in real time, we would have to wait for the 10 or 11 o'clock news, and what good would that do us?

Please realize that what you do as a SKYWARN Spotter also affects everyone in this part of the country. By calling in or emailing in a severe weather report, you are helping out everyone in your community as well as all communities downstream from you who will be affected by your storm. The details you give us on your storm will also enable us to determine what may happen with other storms that develop that day in our region.

You should be proud of the fact that you are a SKYWARN Spotter because it is just one more way of doing your civic duty.

To all of you and yours have the Happiest of Holidays and Best of Luck in the New Year!

Mike Wyllie, Meteorologist-in-Charge, NWS Upton NY

“5 Questions ...”

We've decided to keep this issue's quiz a bit shorter than usual. However, you will have to think a little harder, or at least search around a bit more on the Internet than usual. Good luck... You can email Scott KC2JCB for “your grade...”

1. Define the term “blizzard.” (Hint: There's more than 1 part to this answer.)
2. What is Central Park's official “normal” seasonal snowfall?
3. How much ice accretion needs to be forecast for the NWS to issue a Winter Storm Warning for Freezing Rain in our area?
4. Name 3 other non-snow hazards that “Nor'easters” can bring to our area.
5. What are the ingredients needed to produce “ocean effect” snow? (Hint: They're similar to those for Lake Effect Snow.)

Parting Shots

First, let me echo Mike's sentiments...thanks to each and every one of you for ALL of your reports during the past year (and before that too). You make my job as a forecaster much easier when you send us your reports, whether it's during a snowstorm, severe weather outbreak or heavy rain/flood event.

I would also like to again thank all of our County Coordinators, their deputies, the repeater trustees, amateur radio club leaders and local ARRL leadership for their support of the SKYWARN program. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

From the ham radio side of SKYWARN, we are awaiting warmer weather in the spring in order to perform a major upgrade to our radio facilities. A new (TALLER!) antenna is on order, and hopefully will be in place and operational before the spring severe weather season begins. The taller tower should allow us to better communicate with the western parts of our warning area (i.e. anywhere west of the Hudson River and the Meadowbrook Parkway in Nassau County.

Spring training is only a few months away, and we do hope to conduct more classes than in the past couple of years. This will include Basic and Advanced Classes. Our Coordinator teams will be contacted soon after the new year begins in order to have the spring schedule in place by early March.

On behalf of the National Weather Service, I would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy holiday season to all!

73 de Scott KC2JCB

To Contact Us...

Via "Snail" Mail...

National Weather Service Attn: SKYWARN
175 Brookhaven Ave., Building NW S-1
Upton, NY 11973

Via Phone (non-spotter reports)...

(631) 924-0517

Extension 412...Skywarn Information and
Class Registration Voice Mail Box

Via E-Mail...

All Spotter Information Updates

okx.skywarn@noaa.gov

Or "snail mail" to Scott at above address.

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Submitting Spotter Reports...

Via E-Mail... okx.spotters@noaa.gov

Upton Web Page Reporting Form...

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/okx/report.html>

800 Number...

Sorry, we can't put it here. If you are a current spotter and need the number, email or call Scott and he'll send it to you!

Web Links...

NOAA Home Page

<http://www.noaa.gov>

NWS Homepage

<http://www.weather.gov>

NWS Brochures Page

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures.shtml>

NWS Upton NY

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/okx/>

NWS Upton NY Winter Weather Page

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/okx/winterweather.html>

NWS Upton Skywarn Page

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/okx/skywarn.html>

SkywarnPrepared Information

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/okx/Skywarn/prepared.html>

SkywarnPrepared Application

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/okx/Skywarn/skywarn-rec-app.pdf>

Skywarn Winter Reporting Procedures

http://www.erh.noaa.gov/okx/Skywarn/cold_criteria.html

NWS Snow Measurement Guide

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/coop/Publications/snowguid.htm>

Picture of the Issue...

This photo is courtesy of the National Weather Service in Buffalo NY.
(Thanks to Tom Niziol, Science and Operations Officer)

This picture is from the epic Lake Effect Snowstorm of 12/24/2001-1/1/2002.
81.6" of snow fell at the Buffalo Airport...127" fell in Montague NY.

(Bonus points for the "5 Questions" if you can find Montague on a map!)

Who says that meteorologists don't have a sense of humor???



"The Microburst" is the official newsletter of the Tri-State SKYWARN Program, and is published up to four times per year by the NWS Office in Upton NY. All editions are published to the Upton web page at <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/okx/>.