

St Clair Amateur Newsletter

April 2021 Special Weather Alert Edition

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www.scarc.net

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Emergency Comm Committee

Gene Kramer, WA9TZL

ARES/RACES Directed Net is normally conducted by Gene Kramer, WA9TZL (Tuesdays following the Club "on-the-air" meeting.)

Weather Alert Question from the ARES Net

KD9BLA brought up an excellent question as to why the National weather Service transmitted so many "repeats" of the same alerts for St. Clair County. The actual answer to this question is that there were NO Repeat Severe Weather Alert signals from the National Weather Service Weather Radio Alert system. Each time the weather radio "alerted-sounded-was activated" was done for EACH Different SECTIONS of St. Clair County and NOT for the whole county area.

NWS has their Doppler Radar system (88D model) that has provided accuracy to the point that they can detect severe thunderstorms and tornadoes within an area of thunderstorms in a particular area. The detail is pretty exact and it allows the NWS to NOT OVER WARN an area that is NOT in or near the area of severe weather. An example of this form one of the most recent severe thunderstorm warnings that were issued by the NWS office on March 27th at 7:27pm. NWS radar was detecting a Severe Thunderstorm near Smithton Ill. and moving East at 35 mph. So the actual Severe thunderstorm Warning that was transmitted (and set off the weather alert radios that are "full county based" decoded radios, activated for t "St. Clair Co.", when in actuality this storm was only going to cover the lower 1/4 area of St. Clair County and NOT threaten any other portion of the County.

When the WSRD model 88 came on board with NWS in St. Louis several years ago, I was told by the WCM at NWS the method of "slicing and dicing" the CWA (County Warning Area) would be possible. This IS the method used to prevent warning areas that are NOT involved or threaten by the detected severe weather event. This was to also prevent the "wolf cry" whereby too many "full county area warnings" caused many persons NOT inside the polygon warned area to be warned without merit. So a Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Warning for a damaging storm or tornado over Scott AFB and moving East would NOT affect cities in central or NW-West-SW sections of the County, so no reason for those sections of the county to be included in the "warned area".

NWS DOES include in their voice broadcast after the alert tones have ended, the "areas of the County for which the event has been alerted". NWS will also broadcast many of the cities in the "warned area" of the County.

Please note the attachments for multiple warnings for St. Clair Co., last Sat., but for different "areas" / "cities" for each additional "alerting tones"-warning events.

Gene WA9TZL

St. Clair Co. ARRL ARES® EC
St. Clair Co. RACES Emergency Group Liaison KC9NPN