

**Gateway Amateur Radio Club**  
**K4GAR**

**Guide for Weather Net Reporters**

Second edition — March 10, 2013

Thank you for serving as a weather and observer and reporter with the Weather Reporting Net (WRN) of the Gateway Amateur Radio Club (GARC).

You provide an important service to the surrounding area by providing timely, accurate observation of weather conditions at your location, information that cannot be collected by radar systems.

***When your observations have been reported via the Weather Reporting Net, they will be entered into the White County webEOC system and be made available immediately to all public agencies and to the National Weather Service (NWS). You do not need to report separately to the NWS.***

**YOUR ROLE**

- Read the document “GARC Weather Reporting Net” so you will be familiar with the net’s purpose and operating plan. The document is available on the club’s Yahoo Group and website.
- Maintain your radio equipment, weather observing equipment (if any), and emergency power sources so you can report your weather observations by amateur radio at any time.
- Become familiar with the kind of weather events that need to be reported.
- Remain aware of weather conditions that could affect the local area in the next 24 hours. Good sources of information are
  - a weather radio
  - the WX Warn computer program
  - local media broadcasts
  - White County “Global Connect” Emergency Notification System via landline or cell phone. See [http://www.whitecounty.net/emergency\\_managment/registration.htm](http://www.whitecounty.net/emergency_managment/registration.htm).
- Check in to the GARC Weather Reporting Net when it is activated and report the specific weather conditions at your location
- Take steps to protect your own safety and that of your family and neighbors

**ACTIVATION**

**When severe weather threatens** our area:

- Monitor the GARC 2-meter repeater at 146.910 MHz, negative 600 kHz offset, PL tone 100, to hear alert and activation messages. If the 2-meter repeater is inoperative, listen for simplex signals on 146.910 MHz and switch your transceiver to simplex mode. Also try listening for the GARC 440 MHz repeater at 443.550, positive 5 MHz offset, PL tone 123.
- Test your VHF radio equipment and emergency power source to be sure they are working.
- When the net is activated, log in and report your observations.
- Continue to monitor the net and check in periodically to report conditions as they change until the net is deactivated. Always follow the instructions of the net control operator.

**IMPORTANT: If you observe situations that are an immediate threat to life or property (for example, downed power lines, an approaching funnel cloud, a tree across a road, or a bridge out, report the situation immediately to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) by calling 9-1-1.**

### **NET CHECK-IN PROCEDURE**

Follow the instructions of the net control operator to check into the Weather Reporting Net. After initial check-in, call net control only if you experience one of the severe weather conditions in the list below.

For efficiency and clarity, keep your transmissions short and speak in plain English without using abbreviations, acronyms, or codes such as Q or 10 codes.

### **WHAT TO REPORT**

When the net control operator acknowledges your check-in and calls for your report, provide the following information (and **ONLY** the following information) in the order given. If you do not have measuring instruments, estimate the wind speed and precipitation amount to the best of your ability using the guides provided.

**First**, give your telephone number, starting with area code.

**Second**, report any of the following conditions observed. Skip over those that you have not observed and any information that you do not have.

1. Tornado on the ground
2. Funnel cloud
3. Hail and its size (see size chart)
4. High winds and measured or estimated wind speed (see wind speed chart)
5. Rain, with inches received so far during storm event
6. Snow, with inches of accumulation so far during storm event
7. Ice, with inches of accumulation so far during storm event
8. Your location:
  - a. Street and number
  - b. City

**When you have completed your report**, end your transmission and stand by until the net is deactivated. The net control operator may call for reports a number of times during a storm event, depending on the speed and severity of the storm.

## **What to Report**

1. Telephone number, starting with area code
2. Tornado on the ground
3. Funnel cloud
4. Hail and its size (see size chart below)
5. High winds and measured or estimated wind speed (see wind speed estimating guide below)
6. Rain, with inches received so far during storm event
7. Snow, with inches of accumulation so far during storm event
8. Ice, with inches of accumulation so far during storm event
9. Your location:
  - a. Street and number
  - b. City

## **Hail Size Estimates**

Pea .....	0.25"
Marble .....	0.50"
Dime/Penny .....	0.75"
Quarter.....	1.00"
Half Dollar .....	1.25"
Golf Ball.....	1.75"
Tennis Ball .....	2.50"
Baseball.....	2.75"
Grapefruit.....	4.00"
Softball.....	4.50"

## **Wind Speed Estimates**

Indicate whether you are reporting **estimated** or **measured** wind speed.

25 – 31 MPH .....	Large branches in motion; whistling in telephone and power wires
32 – 38 MPH .....	Whole trees in motion
39 – 54 MPH .....	Twigs break off of trees; wind impedes walking
55 – 72 MPH .....	Damage to chimneys and TV antennas; shallow-rooted trees pushed over
73 – 112 MPH .....	Surfaces peeled off of roofs; windows broken; mobile homes overturned
113+ .....	Roofs torn off of houses; weak buildings and mobile homes destroyed, large trees uprooted