Winlink Thursday Exercise for April 13, 2023

Difficulty Level: Basic

Purpose: Understand the use of the Beaufort Scale to estimate wind speed.

Objectives:

- Use the Beaufort scale to estimate wind speed at your location.
- Use Winlink Express to create and send a Local Weather Report form.

Resources:

- Finding your ETO clearinghouse: https://emcomm-training.org/General-Drill-Info.html
- National Weather Service: https://weather.gov
- Government of Canada: https://weather.gc.ca/mainmenu/weather_menu_e.html
- Estimating Cloud Cover: https://www.globe.gov/web/s-cool/home/observation-and-reporting/observing-cloud-cover
- Beaufort Scale for estimating wind speed: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beaufort_scale#Modern_scale

Continue to the next page for the instructions.

Exercise Instructions:

Open and select the form.

1. Open the Winlink Express application.
2. Click on the *Message* \ *New Message* menu item.
3. Verify that *Send As* is set to **Winlink Message**.
4. **Optional**: Check the check box for *Request message receipt.*
5. Click on *Select Template* and then double click on *Standard Templates*.
6. Scroll down and Double Click on *Weather Forms*.
7. Select *Local Weather Report* and double click on it to open it.
    - The Local Weather Report will open in your default browser.

Fill out the top section.

1. Click the *Setup* button and enter **EmComm Training Organization**
2. Enter your *Call sign*, and *Observer Name*.
3. Enter the *Report Date/Time and Location*.
4. Enter *City, State and County*.
    - Canada – Put Province / Territory Abbreviation in the *State* field and put your Census Geographic Unit in the *County* field.
    - Other Non-US: Use XX for the *State* Field and put your 2 letter ISO 3166 country code in the *County* field.
5. Enter your Latitude and Longitude

Fill out the weather section.

1. For *Measurement Used*, select the measurement system for your location.
2. Current Conditions: check all of the conditions that apply to your location.
3. Enter the temperature at your location in the *Temperature* field.
4. Using the Beaufort Scale, estimate the wind speed at your location.
5. Enter the wind speed at your location in the *Wind Speed* field.
6. Select *Estimated* in the list box to the right of the *Wind Speed* field.
7. Fill out the remaining fields with the weather data from your location.
8. In the *Optional Notes* field, enter the primary source of your information. Examples: Estimate, Website, Home Weather Station, Television, or Other

Submitting the form.

1. **Optional:** Click on the *Save Local WX Data* button and follow prompts.
2. Click on the *Submit* button.
3. Click **OK** on the pop-up dialog box to close it.
4. Close the browser.

Sending the message.

1. Enter your ETO clearing house address in the *To*: line.
2. **Optional:** Enter your internet email address in the *CC:* line.
3. Click on *Post to Outbox* on the menu bar.
4. Check the Outbox folder to verify your message is in the Outbox.
5. Select your session type from the drop-down list to the right of the *Open Session* button.
6. Click the *Open Session* button.
7. The Open Session Window will open.
8. Click *Start* to send your message.
9. Close the Session window.
10. Close the Winlink Express window.

End of Exercise Instructions

See the next page for example of a completed Local Weather Report Form that would receive the maximum score for the exercise.

Example of Competed Local Weather Report

CURRENT LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS
Emcomm Training Organization

Setup Click to add your agency/group name to title Load Local WX Report Data

Call sign: K7ZPJ	Observer Name: Bruce Powell
Report Date/Time (local): 2023-04-08 14:28:17	Location: Beaver Creek Park
City: Beavercreek State: OR	County: Clackamas

Latitude and longitude: LAT 45.270833 *LON* -122.541667 *MGRS* 10TER3595313139 *Grid* CN85rg

Auto filled if GPS device is working in Express, or you can enter Latitude and Longitude / MGRS coordinates manually.
For accurate mapping you must enter the latitude and longitude.

If sending report for someone else, do not use your GPS Lat/Lon, obtain theirs if available and manually enter in decimal format.

Measurements used: ○ Metric ◉ Imperial

Current Conditions: Check all that apply

☐ CLEAR	☐ RAIN	☐ THUNDER STORM	☐ HAIL
☐ SNOW	☐ BLIZZARD	☐ TORNADO	☐ HURRICANE
☐ FOG	☑ CLOUDY		

Temperature 54 °F HUMIDITY: 66 % DEWPOINT 38 °F

Barometer 30.04 in.Hg Three hour trend ○ RISING ◉ STEADY ○ DROPPING

Cloud cover description: Overcast

Wind Speed: 4 MPH Estimated Direction From: South

Wind Gusts: 8 MPH Wind Gusts MAX: 10 MPH

Rain 1 HR: 0 inches Rain Total: 0.25 inches

Snow 1 HR: 0 inches Snow Total: 0 inches Water Content: 0

NWS Level: NONE Issued

Notes: (optional)

Wind Speed Estimated with Beaufort Scale.

Save Local WX Data Submit Reset Form Form Concept by KF5SMH *Ver 2.9.4*