



# National Weather Service Binghamton Spotter Newsletter: “The Nor’Easter”



January-February-March 2009 Volume 3 Issue 1

2009 SKYWARN scheduling has begun! See [http://www.erh.noaa.gov/bgm/spotters\\_skywarn/skywarn2.shtml](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/bgm/spotters_skywarn/skywarn2.shtml) for the latest. Emergency managers and/or ARES emergency coordinators: if you are interested in setting up a SKYWARN training, contact David Nicosia at [david.nicosia@noaa.gov](mailto:david.nicosia@noaa.gov) or David Morford at [david.morford@noaa.gov](mailto:david.morford@noaa.gov)

## New Format to the “Nor’easter”

In an attempt to improve communications with our spotters and key partners, we have changed the format of our newsletter. We will be focusing on keeping in touch with spotters and key partners in public safety: emergency management. Here are some of the topics that we will cover over the coming issues:

- Review material from SKYWARN
- SKYWARN and other spotter “success stories.
- Latest news in our weather spotter programs.
- Reviews of climate, and weather events.
- Program updates for spotters and emergency management.
- Future changes to products and services.
- Topics that you are interested in.

If you are interested in a certain topic, please let me know. You can email me at [david.nicosia@noaa.gov](mailto:david.nicosia@noaa.gov)

## Happy 2009!

We hope all of you had a great 2008 and will have an even better 2009! We at the National Weather Service(NWS) in Binghamton would likely to sincerely thank all of our spotters, and partners for another great year. 2008 was a very busy year weather-wise. We never seem to get any breaks around here.

2008 saw some changes at NWS Binghamton as well. Long-time Data Acquisition and Program Manager Bobby Hudgins retired after 42 years of federal service. Mike Nadolski, a 30 year veteran of NWS has replaced Bobby and will be managing the Cooperative Observer Program and all other observing programs. Mike is a great addition to our office. His energy and commitment to his work is extraordinary!

On the very last day of 2008, we lost of one of our “superstar” forecasters, Justin Arnott to the Northern Indiana NWS office. Justin took a promotion to senior forecaster and will be sorely missed. Congratulations to Justin and we wish him the best of luck in his bright future with NWS!!!

As 2009 dawns, we are looking forward to another productive year. We hope you enjoy the “new” newsletter format. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email me at [david.nicosia@noaa.gov](mailto:david.nicosia@noaa.gov)

*Dave Nicosia, Warning Coordination Meteorologist*

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# National Weather Service Binghamton

## Spotter Newsletter:

### “The Nor’Easter”

#### SKYWARN Review- The Basics

Here are the key points of our SKYWARN training:

#### How Weather Spotter Reports help the NWS

- Help NWS forecasters make warning decisions.
- Add credibility to the warnings
- Prevent “cry-wolf” syndrome.

#### What do you report?

- Wind damage to trees, power lines or structures.
- Tornado, waterspout or funnel clouds.
- Hail: don’t forget the size of the hail.
- Flooding of roads, bridges and homes.
- Snow and ice accumulations, especially at the end of the storm. Snow accumulation of 3 inches or more, *any* ice accumulation.
- Road conditions during snow and ice storms.
- Any storm-related deaths or injuries.

#### How Do I Report?

There are multiple pathways to NWS Binghamton. You can choose which way or ways you want to send your reports to us.

- Amateur radio local two meter repeater. [Click here](#) for frequencies.
- Toll free number: 1-800-759-2992(answered 24/7 for trained spotters only)
- Toll free number(automated system): 1-8
- E-mail: [bgm.stormreport@noaa.gov](mailto:bgm.stormreport@noaa.gov)
- E-spotter go to <http://espotter.weather.gov/> to sign up.

#### Keeping informed of the Weather

In this information age we live in, there are increasing number of ways to stay informed.

- Cell phone or pagers: <http://mobile.weather.gov>  
<http://inws.wrh.noaa.gov/> <http://cell.weather.gov>
- Internet: <http://weather.gov> or  
<http://weather.gov/bgm>
- NOAA Weather Radio: <http://weather.gov/nwr>
- Other internet sources and private weather companies  
See <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/im/more.htm>

#### NWS Binghamton Spotter Networks: Which one(s) is (are) right for you?

At NWS Binghamton, we have several weather spotter programs. These programs can be broken up into two categories: weather or “storm” spotters and climate spotters.

A weather or “storm” spotters report to NWS during times of inclement weather. The SKYWARN program is our only program in this category. If you are registered under e-spotter and/or have been to our SKYWARN training, you are a SKYWARN certified spotter. We recommend that you retake the training every 3 years at least.

We have two additional spotter networks that deal with climate: CoCoRAHS(Community Collaborative Rain Hail Snow) network and our COOP (COoperative Observing Program). Both programs require **daily reporting** to NWS. CoCoRAHS deals with just precipitation and the COOP program deals with rainfall and/or temperature, snowfall, snow depth, and river levels.

CoCoRAHS uses a web based interface for the spotter to report daily to NWS Binghamton. A daily CoCoRAHS report is generated and send to the world. [Here](#) is the latest daily CoCoRAHS report.

COOP observers use various different ways including web applications to report daily to NWS. [Here](#) is the latest daily COOP report.

If you are interested in one or more of these spotter programs, here is more information and contact persons.

SKYWARN- <http://www.skywarn.org> Contacts [david.morford@noaa.gov](mailto:david.morford@noaa.gov) or [david.nicosia@noaa.gov](mailto:david.nicosia@noaa.gov)

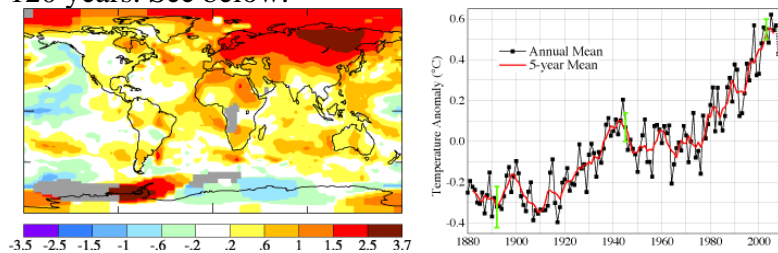
CoCoRAHS- <http://www.cocorahs.org> Contact [james.brewster@noaa.gov](mailto:james.brewster@noaa.gov)

COOP- <http://www.weather.gov/om/coop/> Contact [mike.nadolski@noaa.gov](mailto:mike.nadolski@noaa.gov)

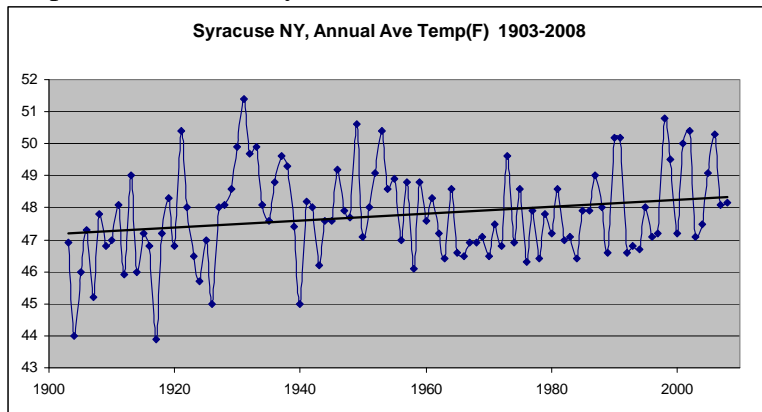
# National Weather Service Binghamton Spotter Newsletter: “The Nor’Easter”

## 2008: The Year in Review

Globally, 2008 will go down as the 9th warmest year on record since 1880. Overall, 2008 continues the long term trend of warmer than normal years that has existed since the late 1970s. Many believe this is part of a long term trend of global warming with about a 1 degree F rise over the past 120 years. See below.



What about upstate New York and northeast Pennsylvania? Is our area seeing the effects of this global warm-up? At Syracuse, reliable temperature records go back to 1903. Below is the average annual temperature for Syracuse, NY from 1903-2008. 2008 was the 35th warmest year on record out of 106 years. Below is the average annual temperature for Syracuse NY. There has been about a .9F rise in temperature over 106 years.

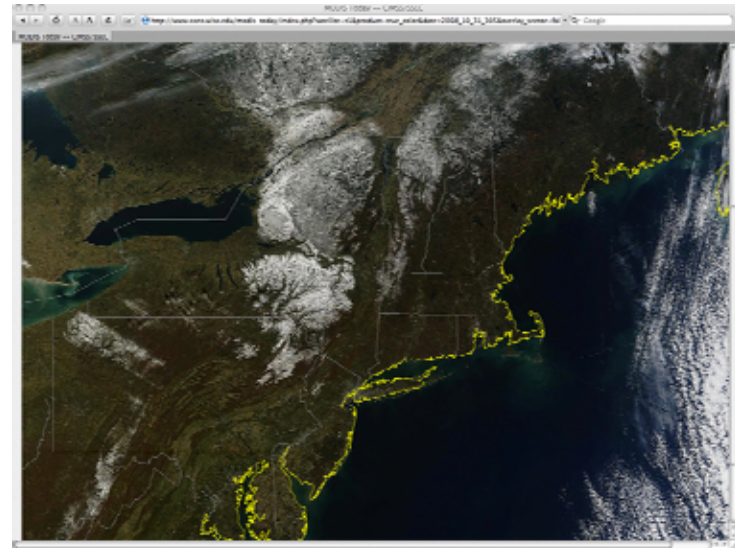


In Scranton, PA reliable temperature records go back to 1926. Slight cooling is evident in the record. This could be related to the station move in 1955. Nevertheless, 2008 was the 35<sup>th</sup> warmest out of 83 years of record.

(continued page 4)

## Storm of the Year: October 2008 Snowstorm

On October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008, a record early heavy snowstorm affected the higher terrain of the Catskills, Poconos, and the highlands of central and north central NY, mainly east of I-81. The visible satellite image below which was taken the day after the storm is very telling- the areas of white are snow cover. Notice the higher terrain areas have snow, with the river valleys generally lacking snow cover.



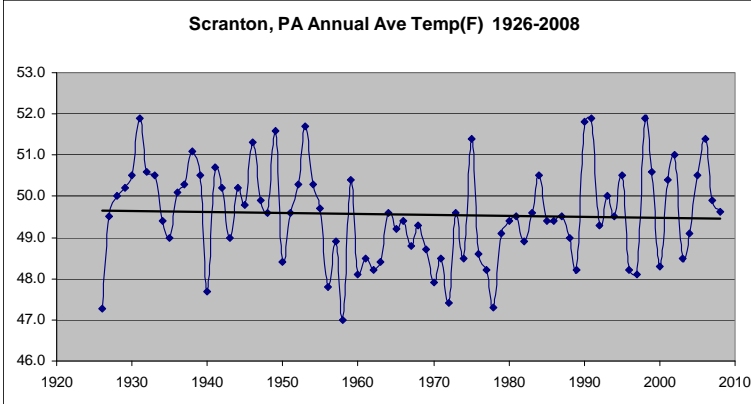
The heaviest snow fell over elevations above 1500 feet in the Poconos and Catskills which received 1 to 2 feet of heavy wet snow. Across elevations between 1000 and 1500 feet from northeast Pennsylvania to the Catskills, snowfall ranged from 2 to 6 inches. In central New York, above 1500 feet, snowfall ranged from 2 to 8 inches with up to a foot of snow in Oneida and Madison counties. Little snow fell in central New York below 1500 feet. How did we find out all this information on snowfall distribution? Spotters!!

**The storm was an excellent example of how SKYWARN spotters assisted the NWS!!** Our radar does a good job at detecting precipitation. (continued page 4)

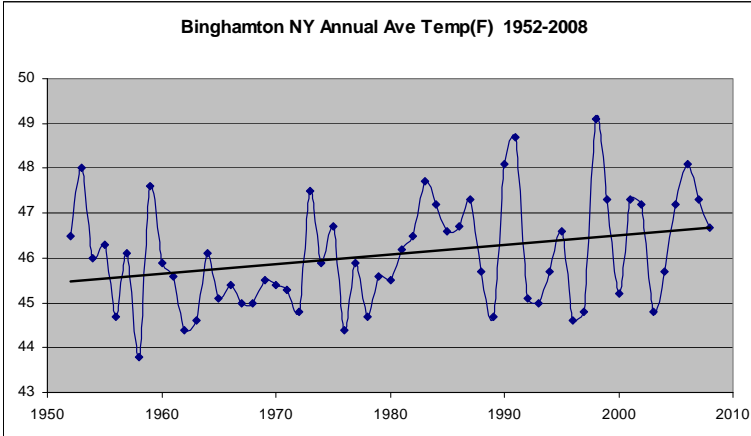
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Below is the average annual temperature graph for Scranton, PA.



Binghamton, NY which has a shorter period of record (back to 1952) recorded its 18<sup>th</sup> warmest year out of 57 years. There has been a 1.1F rise in temperature since 1952. Below is the annual temperature graph.



Overall, 2008 was slightly warmer than the long term mean, but nothing exceptional. The long term trends show some slight warming over the past 50 to 100 years in most areas consistent with worldwide warming trends.

For more graphs and information on local climate changes go to NWS Binghamton’s “Climate Watch”:

[http://www.erh.noaa.gov/bgm/climate/climate\\_watch/](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/bgm/climate/climate_watch/)

### Storm of the Year: October 2008 Snowstorm (continued from page 3)

However, it can’t tell us precipitation type and if the snow is sticking or accumulating on trees and power-lines. By receiving numerous spotter reports during this storm, our forecasters were able to determine the elevations at which the snow was rapidly accumulating and causing problems. With this information in hand, we were able to brief county and state emergency management officials, DOTs, and utilities on which areas would be impacted the most. This allowed emergency management, DOT and utilities to prepare in advance for the storms to lessen the impact which in turn saved lives and property. This storm was proof that spotter reports helped NWS and emergency management accomplish our important job of protecting lives and property. ***Thank you so much for your participation!!***

For more on this storm go to:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/bgm/WeatherEvents/Snow/october292008/>

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Useful Websites:

<http://weather.gov> NWS main web site  
<http://weather.gov/bgm> NWS Binghamton

Espotter: <http://espotter.weather.gov/>  
CoCoRAHS: <http://www.cocorahs.org>

Spotter Toll Free Number: 1-800-759-2992  
Spotter Email: [bgm.stormreport@noaa.gov](mailto:bgm.stormreport@noaa.gov)