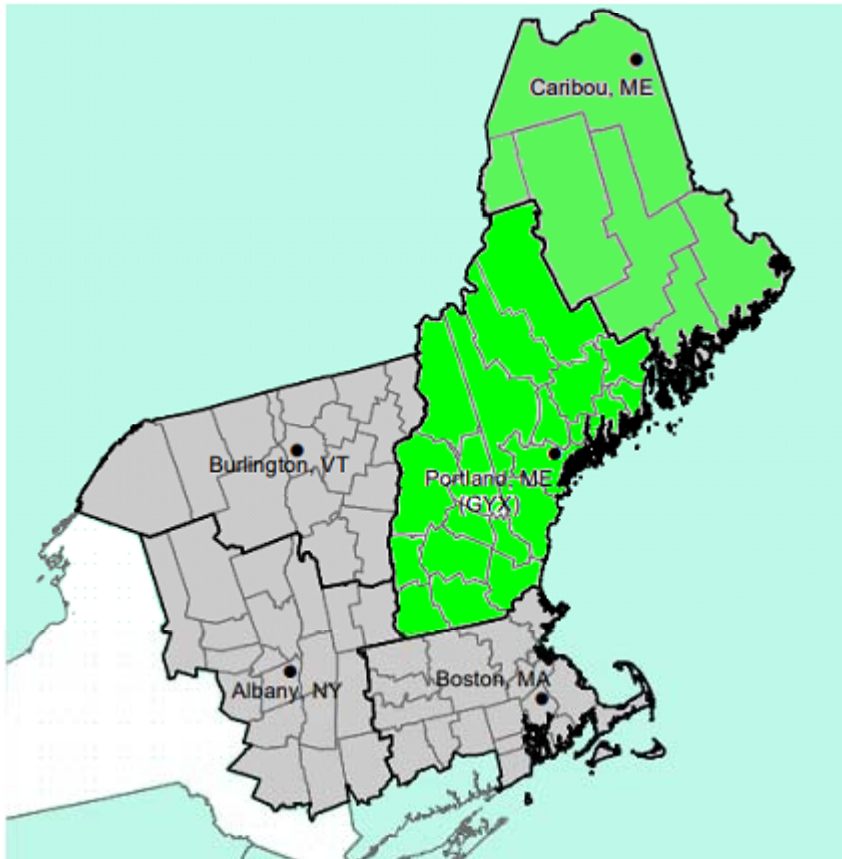


Request for Information (RI) Strips for GYX (& CAR) SKYWARN



A flexible, lightweight
format for information
gathering as
implemented for
Maine & NH SKYWARN

Steve Hansen KB1TCE
February 26, 2026

Some Background

- The Maine Winlink team has been working with RI Strips for several years.
- A RI is simply a slant delimited string of Questions. This will make the header in a spreadsheet.
- Multiple parties may submit Responses answering the RI elements. These will make up the rows in the spreadsheet.
- RIs are an efficient way to request specific information for a wide variety of purposes: capability surveys, SITREPs, damage reports, etc.
- Our first widely deployed use is for SKYWARN weather reporting.

Project Genesis

- This past fall, Charlie Rocheleau W1CPR accepted the newly created position of SKYWARN Coordinator for Belknap County, NH.
- Since he and KB1TCE have been promoting the use of Response for Information (RI) strips for data gathering, weather spotting seemed to be a perfect application.
- This has some similarities to Radio Relay International's WXOBS national weather observation effort except that it would be tailored to GYX's specific needs and format.
- Discussions were then held with Peter Fulton W1OJ, GYX SKYWARN Amateur Radio Coordinator.

GYX SKYWARN Data Collection

- GYX has a specific spreadsheet format for SKYWARN weather information gathering.
- Usually incoming data will require manual editing.
- Sometimes too little data or too much.
- What was desired is a method that will facilitate data gathering in a format that can be directly imported into the GYX spreadsheet.

GYX Spreadsheet

- Uses Google Sheets
 - Access & editing by GYX staff, SKYWARN Coordinators
 - Very specific format

	NWS USE (Logged)	RI STRIP IF USED	DATE	TIME (L=LOCAL Z=ZULU)	CALL SIGN	SPOTTER ID	SOURCE	LOCATION (Road, Town)	STATE
2									
3	No	GYX WEATHER	1/2/2026	2220Z	WO1J	CU330	Amateur Radio	314 POPE RD, WINDHAM	ME

CURRENT WEATHER	SNOW/SLEET (*Note if Storm Total)	ICE ACCRETION	RAINFALL (*Note if Storm Total)	HAIL SIZE	WIND SPEED & DIRECTION
CLEAR & COLD	1.4*	NA	0,01*	NA	WNW @ 2

STORM DAMAGE (Wind / Flooding / Ice Jams) and Other Detailed Information	MODE	NETS
NONE	Personal Observation	REPEATER 147.045

Information Gathering Comparison

GYX Spreadsheet	NH ARES	Waldo County RACES
DATE	Date	Date
TIME (L=LOCAL Z=ZULU)	Time (24hr)	Time
CALL SIGN	Call-sign	Place
SPOTTER ID	Location	Weather
SOURCE	Temp	Temp.
LOCATION (Road, Town)	Skycover	Barometer
STATE	Wind/Gusts	Wind
CURRENT WEATHER	Pressure	Wind Direction
SNOW/SLEET (ST if Storm Total)	Precipitation	Wind Chill
ICE ACCRETION	Comments	
RAINFALL (ST if Storm Total)		
HAIL SIZE		
WIND DIRECTION & SPEED		
STORM DAMAGE		
MODE		
NETS		

Corresponding GYX RI Strip

The RI is the header to a slant (/)delimited spreadsheet. Responses become the data lines in that spreadsheet.

GYX WEATHER/DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)/TIME (HHMML OR HHMMZ)/CALL SIGN/SPOTTER ID (or NA)/SOURCE (Amateur Radio, Trained Spotter, Media, Public Service Radio, Other 3rd Party, Direct Messaging)/LOCATION (Road, Town)/STATE (ME, NH, OA)/CURRENT WEATHER (Relevant info, be brief)/SNOW, SLEET (Inches or NA, if storm total add * e.g. 2.6 or 3.5*)/ICE ACCRETION (Inches or NA)/RAINFALL (Inches or NA, if storm total add * e.g. 2.6 or 3.5*)/HAIL SIZE (Inches or NA)/WIND DIRECTION & SPEED (AAA@MPH)/STORM DAMAGE (Wind, flooding, ice jams, other details)/MODE(Personal Observatin, FM Repeate. Winlink, DMR, Direct Messaging. For others leave blank)/NET (Name of radio net or other e.g. email, SLACK)//

Sure looks complicated!

The RI Response Tool (v1.4)

GYX Request for Information Strip Reader and Response Creator

[Setup](#) Click to add your agency/group name to title[Operator Info - Read Please](#)

Request Character count: of [Insert a Standard Information Strip](#) [Instructions for Standard RI Strips](#)

Max length is 700 characters

1. Select RI Strip

[Parse Strip](#)

2. Parse RI Into a Table

Strip Question	Answer
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3. Fill Out Table

[Create Reply Strip](#)

4. Click to Create Reply Strip

[Copy Strips to Clipboard](#)

5. Copy Reply Strip and Transmit

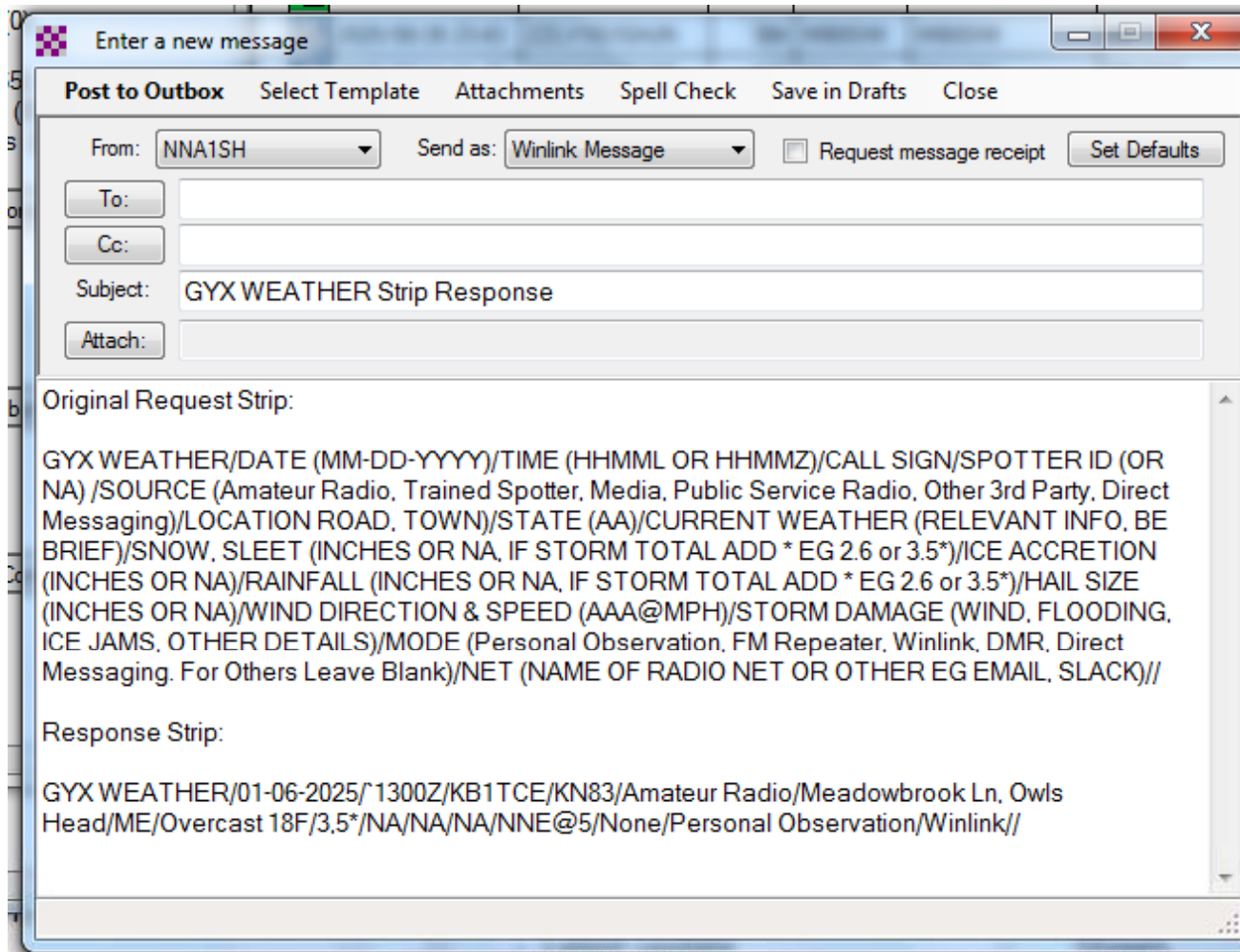
[Submit](#) [Reset Form](#)Form based on a concept by the SHARES Region 1 Interoperability Group Version 1.4R3

The Table and Response Strip

Strip Question	Answer
GYX WEATHER	GYX WEATHER
DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)	01-06-2025
TIME (HHMM or HHMMZ)	`1300Z
CALL SIGN	KB1TCE
SPOTTER ID (OR NA)	KN83
SOURCE (Amateur Radio, Trained Spotter, Media, Public Service Radio, Other 3rd Party, Direct Messaging)	Amateur Radio
LOCATION ROAD, TOWN)	Meadowbrook Ln, Owls He:
STATE (AA)	ME
CURRENT WEATHER (RELEVANT INFO, BE BRIEF)	Overcast 18F
SNOW, SLEET (INCHES OR NA, IF STORM TOTAL ADD * EG 2.6 or 3.5*)	3,5*
ICE ACCRETION (INCHES OR NA)	NA
RAINFALL (INCHES OR NA, IF STORM TOTAL ADD * EG 2.6 or 3.5*)	NA
HAIL SIZE (INCHES OR NA)	NA
WIND DIRECTION & SPEED (AAA@MPH)	NNE@5
STORM DAMAGE (WIND, FLOODING, ICE JAMS, OTHER DETAILS)	None
MODE (Personal Observation, FM Repeater, Winlink, DMR, Direct Messaging. For Others Leave Blank)	Personal Observation
NET (NAME OF RADIO NET OR OTHER EG EMAIL, SLACK)	Winlink

GYX WEATHER/01-06-2025/`1300Z/KB1TCE/KN83/Amateur Radio/
Meadowbrook Ln, Owls Head/ME/Overcast 18F/3,5*/NA/NA/NA/NNE@5/
None/Personal Observation/Winlink//

Submit to Winlink Message Pane or Copy/Paste to Any Application



The screenshot shows a window titled "Enter a new message" with a menu bar containing "Post to Outbox", "Select Template", "Attachments", "Spell Check", "Save in Drafts", and "Close". Below the menu bar are fields for "From:" (NNA1SH), "Send as:" (Winlink Message), and a checkbox for "Request message receipt". There are also "To:", "Cc:", and "Subject:" fields, with the subject being "GYX WEATHER Strip Response". An "Attach:" field is also present.

Original Request Strip:

GYX WEATHER/DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)/TIME (HHMMZ OR HHMML)/CALL SIGN/SPOTTER ID (OR NA)/SOURCE (Amateur Radio, Trained Spotter, Media, Public Service Radio, Other 3rd Party, Direct Messaging)/LOCATION ROAD, TOWN)/STATE (AA)/CURRENT WEATHER (RELEVANT INFO, BE BRIEF)/SNOW, SLEET (INCHES OR NA, IF STORM TOTAL ADD * EG 2.6 or 3.5*)/ICE ACCRETION (INCHES OR NA)/RAINFALL (INCHES OR NA, IF STORM TOTAL ADD * EG 2.6 or 3.5*)/HAIL SIZE (INCHES OR NA)/WIND DIRECTION & SPEED (AAA@MPH)/STORM DAMAGE (WIND, FLOODING, ICE JAMS, OTHER DETAILS)/MODE (Personal Observation, FM Repeater, Winlink, DMR, Direct Messaging. For Others Leave Blank)/NET (NAME OF RADIO NET OR OTHER EG EMAIL, SLACK)//

Response Strip:

GYX WEATHER/01-06-2025/1300Z/KB1TCE/KN83/Amateur Radio/Meadowbrook Ln, Owls Head/ME/Overcast 18F/3,5*/NA/NA/NA/NNE@5/None/Personal Observation/Winlink//

January 26 Storm Results

- The approach was tested in the snow storm of 1/26.
- A total of 105 reports were submitted.
- 63 reports used the RI Response Creator, mostly via Winlink.
- The approach was accepted.
- Peter's comment: "With the implementation of the strip, probably 85% of our reports are submitted using this system. The strips are extremely easy to add to the sheet, and they offer a reliable mode of communication if standard methods fail."

GYX SKYWARN Spreadsheet Roll Up

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Enter Storm Damage								
NWS USE (Logged)	WINLINK RI Strip Name	DATE	TIME (L=LOCAL Z=ZULU)	CALL SIGN	SPOTTER ID	SOURCE	LOCATION (Road, Town)	STATE
Yes		1/25/2026	2026L	KB1OLK		Ham Radio	Cushman Road, Winslow	ME
Yes	GYX WEATHER	01-25-2026	2025L	KB1YYC	YO281	Ham Radio	Saco Rd Hollis	ME
Yes	GYX WEATHER	01-25-2026	0130Z	K1EMM	KN106	Trained Spotter	Matinicus Isle Pt. 43.857N 68.894W	ME
Yes	GYX WEATHER	01-25-2026	2000L	AB1YO	LI58	Amateur Radio	233 Hodgkins Hill Rd, Jefferson	ME
Yes	GYX WEATHER	01-25-2026	2100L	K1UK	ME203	Amateur Radio	7502 School St, Loudon	NH
Yes	GYX WEATHER	01-25-2026	2100L	KC1VBS	Pending	Trained Spotter	Stonewall Farm Ln, Phillips	ME
Yes	GYX WEATHER	01-25-2025	2104L	KB1TCE	KN83	Trained Spotter	Meadowbrook Ln, Owls Head	ME
Yes	GYX WEATHER	01-25-2026	2115L	N1KWG	RO276	Trained Spotter	Harvard Ave, Auburn	NH
Yes		1/25/2026	2130L	W1BKW	OX137	Trained Spotter	Worthley Pond, Peru	ME

“The nice thing about the strip is that you never have to wonder where to submit your observation. A one-stop shop.”

Rows without “GYX SKYWARN” were manually entered based on a radio call to an NCS, i.e. completely manual.

Storm Follow Up

- Barbara KC1SSY took reports on a repeater voice net and created strips.
- She and Brit AB1KI requested a change where a previous observation strip could be saved then recalled for editing during a subsequent report.
- For a given event and Spotter, only a few fields will typically require editing during an event:

GYX WEATHER/DATE/TIME/AB1EP/NA/Amateur
Radio/Franklin/ME/WEATHER/SNOW/NA/NA/NA/WI
ND/DAMAGE/Personal Observation/EAWA Storm
Net//

Changes from v1.4 to 1.6 (22 Feb)

- A new field where a previous Response can be inserted to regenerate the table for editing.
- RI and Response may be saved to a file as well as to the clipboard.
- A form for the creation of new RI strips has been introduced. It also creates the spreadsheet header.
- Slants can not be entered into a strip field.
- Other minor text adjustments.
- Special thanks to Richard WD10 who guided Claude to produce superb code.

Non-Winlink & Non-Ham Observers

- The RI Reader & Response Creator will work outside of Winlink Express. All you need is a computer with a browser. As examples, packet, NBEMS, Vara Chat and VarAC are compatible with strip transmission.
- For voice storm nets, the NCS can record observer information in the tool's table (it helps if the net participants have a copy of the tool or at least the fields). NCS then compiles the response strips in a text editor and forwards to the coordinator.
- Non-ham observers can use the tool to create response strips and submit them via email.

Enhancements being Examined

- Standard procedure for transmission using Fldigi/Fmsg including audio coupling for voice operators. Includes passive repeater monitoring.
- Mix and match RI strip components for quick assembly of custom strips.
- Fun Outlier: transmission by FRS/GMRS simplex using the Rattlegram application.
- Overall, expand the use of RIs for Ground Truth gathering by Maine's amateur radio operators.
- Incorporation in SHARES Nets and other infrastructure.

An Opportunity

CAR needs a SKYWARN Amateur Radio
Coordinator!

Contact Peter for more information

kb1hga@gmail.com

Links

- GYX SKYWARN Web Page: <https://wx1gyx.net/>



- Region 1 Interop Standard RI Page with GYX WEATHER info <https://ne-interop-emcomm.org/standard-strips.html> and download https://ne-interop-emcomm.org/Response_Creator.zip

Thanks to:

Donald Dumont – GYX Warning Coordination
Meteorologist

Peter Fulton WO1J – GYX SKYWARN Amateur Radio
Coordinator

Charlie Rocheleau W1CPR – Belknap County SKYWARN
Coordinator

Richard WD1O – for the bulk of the v1.6 programming.

Shawn KC1VBS, Barbara KC1SSY, Brit AB1KI and Joe
AB1YO for testing the numerous iterations of the strips

Questions to: shansen@belljar.net