



A small, pocket sized, weather radio is a “nice” accessory to have. Among other sources, you might try Radio Shack, the Weather Channel, and the WVEC weather store. Some Wal\*Marts also carry this item. The radio should receive all seven channels (162/.400/.425/.450/.475/.500/.525 and /.550-MHZ) to be most effective. I found that the Oregon Scientific radio sold by the Weather Channel provides better reception than the one I originally bought from Radio Shack (but then, it’s newer and more advanced). It’s also more rugged and more weatherproof for carrying in the field, and has added features (clock/date/alarm, low battery indicator, snooze feature, backlight, temperate display, freeze warning, NOAA Weather and All hazard Alert Signal, and a standby setting) that can be used.

I don’t always carry my weather radio, but I usually have it in the car for a last minute update before setting off at the trailhead. In the winter, yes, I usually do carry it so I’m not caught unawares by surprise storms. It’s also handy on business trips for both work and play.

There are weather radio transmitters all over the country. Good reception can be had passing through Richmond, at Maupin Field, and in the Shenandoah National Park. Interestingly, Shenandoah National Park adds its own little forecast within the NOAA broadcast. But, caution, be sure you listen attentively to the time frame covered by the Shenandoah National Park add-on data to make sure it is up to date. When you can receive two stations, note their locations, then take your information from

the station located in the direction from which weather approaches. Make sure you know what station you are listening to. The mountains sometimes provide freak reception and you might be listening to a forecast for an area very remote from where you are. Moving a half mile or a mile may drastically change your reception, for better or worse. Sometimes you just have to average what you hear and make your own weather decision.

Most broadcasts cover a variety of areas/counties, one by one. So listen carefully to all that is being broadcast, and know the geographic area in which your activity will occur. Having something to go by is better than licking your finger and holding it up to see which way the wind is blowing. As with all battery powered gear, it works best when the batteries are not too cold. If you plan to pack it, make sure the one you buy is fairly rugged and waterproof.

For some interesting weather-related World Wide Web sites try:

[www.wvec.com](http://www.wvec.com) click on WEATHER

[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

[www.aoml.noaa.gov](http://www.aoml.noaa.gov)

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

[www.dailypress.com](http://www.dailypress.com) click on WEATHER

[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

[www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com)

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).