Apex Wx Patreon

Quite a few area residents have indicated that they appreciated the weather forecasting and information I have provided since 2009 using my Davis Vantage Pro 2 personal weather station, my certification in weather forecasting from Penn State, and my volunteer efforts as a NWS Storm Spotter. While the maintenance of the weather station and associated software has been relatively low (though I did have to replace a sensor this year that cost over $60), it would be nice if area residents and others who appreciate the service were able to voluntarily pitch in to help with some of the costs associated with Apex Wx.

To that end, I have set up a Patreon account to allow website visitors and users to support the site on an ongoing basis. Click **here** for the Patreon page, through which you can donate via credit card, Apple Pay, or PayPal. I have pre-configured monthly tiers for $1/month, $2/month, $5/month, $10/month, but users can actually set whatever rate they want, as long as it's not LESS than the tier's base amount. So, if you pick the $1/tier, you can give $4.20/month or $5.38/month, if that is what you want to do.

What will I use the money for?

1) I would like to buy and maintain a domain name for Apex Wx and upgrade the website services to provide near real-time data and even better weather information for the Saint John Valley. On the present free website on Github.com, I am limited with what I can actually do with regards to posting data to the website.

2) Create a fund for equipment and software replacement, upgrades, and maintenance, as warranted. I am in a niche market, so equipment, software, etc. is rather pricey—like the sensor replacement I mentioned above.

3) Buy some subscriber-only access to some weather data providers. This would help expand my access to data beyond what is publicly available on the internet.

3) Once I have my own domain, I may look at promoting the website through some low-cost advertising using social media and other venues.

4) Presently, I plan to maintain the weather information service, as it has been, for free. However, as my time and use interest allow, I may try to provide some subscriber-only services (e.g., “Tripcasting”–sponsors with forecast data for a vacation destination--either regional or national (at least as far as I can access reliable forecast data).

I will not be taking advantage of the information that is given to Patreon by supporters. There will be no selling of e-mail addresses or anything like that. Further, I will not be constantly hitting people up with fundraising pitches. I’ll remind people of the new setup throughout this week, and I’ll probably post one reminder a month after that, and that will be it.