

NWS Melbourne, Florida 2015 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day Results

Final results have been compiled for this past
SKYWARN Recognition Day!
Please see charts below for more details.

Pictures From This Year's Event



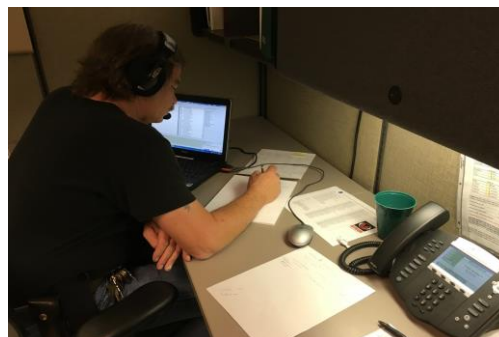
Setting up the A-3S beam on the
MCARA tower



Getting the PCARS tower ready to
raise the A-4S beam



Mike, KE4YGT, and Chuck, AD4ES,
operating on 40M



Dennis, AJ4DT, operating on Echolink



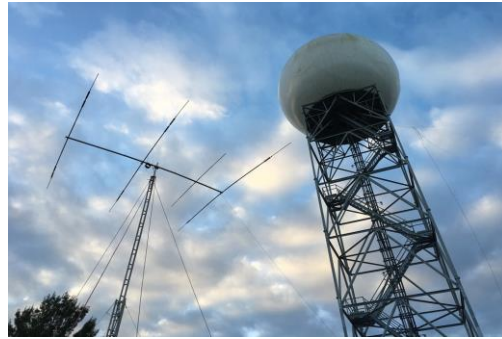
**Vince, K4JC, and Ken, N8KH,
operating on 80M HF**



**Ron, K4OIL, and Duane, K4LNN,
operating HF**



Ray, KI4RHL, on 2M



**KMLB WSR-88D Radar and A-4S
Rotatable Beam**



**MCARA tower and A-3S Rotatable
Beam**



GAP Voyager

During the first weekend of December, the National Weather Service Office in Melbourne, Florida supported SKYWARN™ Recognition Day for the 17th consecutive year. The event for Amateur Radio (ham) operators was held from 7 pm Friday, December 4th until 7 pm Saturday, December 5th and was co-sponsored by the NWS

(www.weather.gov) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL; www.arrl.org). We also hosted a SKYWARN™ Open House from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, December 5th, where local amateur radio operators and thier family members stopped by for tours of event operations and of the National Weather Service office.

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) provides a venue for National Weather Service (NWS) offices to recognize Amateur ("ham") Radio operators for their commitment in helping keep their communities weathersafe. During every tropical weather threat, and many other major weather events, Amateur Radio operators staff local NWS and American Red Cross shelters and stand ready to provide emergency communications should standard services fail or become overloaded. Many Amateur Radio operators are also trained as SKYWARN™ weather spotters by local NWS offices, to provide valuable information during hazardous weather situations. Often, these spotter reports allow NWS meteorologists to issue severe weather warnings with greater advance notice and confidence than would otherwise be possible.

During the 24-hour event, Amateur Radio operators throughout the country visited their local NWS office, set up portable radio stations to simulate emergency conditions, and worked in teams to exchange weather reports with other hams across the nation and the globe.

During the 2015 special event here at NWS Melbourne, operations included three High Frequency (HF) stations, a Very High Frequency (VHF) station, and a PC-based EchoLink (VoIP) station. HF operations utilized the 10, 15, 20, 40, 80 and 160-meter bands. Antennas used were two rotatable beams at 35 feet (10, 15 and 20-meters), a GAP Voyager antenna (160-meters), a 40/80-meter dipole, and a rotatable beam at 35 feet for VHF (2-meters). Amateur Radio operators across east central Florida helped operate through the event, including members of the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society from Brevard County (PCARS), The Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club (VBARC), the Treasure Coast Weather Net (TCWN), Martin County ARES/RACES, and Volusia County ARES. Licensed NWS Melbourne meteorologists also operated during the event. The NWS Melbourne East Central Florida SKYWARN™ Group special call-sign **WX4MLB** was used.

NWS Melbourne thanks the individuals who supported the event, including those assisting with antenna and station set-up, those who loaned equipment, and of course the dedicated operators. We also appreciate the work of the many individuals who provide valuable SKYWARN™ communications services and severe weather reports throughout the year - and we thank the hundreds of radio operators who took the time and effort to 'work' us during the event. Also, a special thank you goes out to GAP Antenna Products, Inc. for providing us the use of the GAP Voyager.

The 2015 final results:

| |
|---|
| Total Contacts: 1407 |
| States Contacted: 50 |
| NWS Stations Contacted: 65 |
| Countries Contacted: TBD |
| Bands: 2, 10, 15, 20, 40, 80, 160 meters |
| Modes: SSB, CW, FM, Echolink |

Radio Operators & Assistance Provided by:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Walter Aucoin Jr. - WB5ZGA | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Bob Creswick - NB4C | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Alan Dixon - N3HOE | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Duane Duncan - K4LNN | Brevard County - VBARC |
| Michael Edwards - KE4YGT | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Paul Gray - N0JAA | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Chuck Green - AD4ES | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Ken Hendrickson - N8KH | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Ed Hutchinson - KK4ZWC | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Doug Imberman - K4IMB | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Brad Magill - KW1P | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Mark Roehrig - KM4PDP | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Eric Smitt - K9ES | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Dennis Tokarzewski - AJ4DT | Brevard County - VBARC |
| Devin Velasquez - KK4RLP | Brevard County - VBARC |
| Vince Weal - K4JC | Brevard County - TCWN |
| Don Winn - AF4Z | Brevard County - PCARS |
| Wayne Burkett, Sr. - KA1VRF | Indian River County - TCWN |
| Gary Webster - N1PZB | Indian River County - VBARC |
| Eric Boyd - W4ELB | Martin County - ARES/RACES |
| Ray Jaworski - KI4RHL | Martin County - ARES/RACES |
| Ron Schoner - K4OIL | Martin County - ARES/RACES |
| Ron Tagg - KD4PQQ | Martin County - ARES/RACES |
| Robert Vandevender II - KR2K | Martin County - ARES/RACES |
| Warren Greenburg - AE4WG | Volusia County - ARES |
| Pete Blottman - N2RFW | NWS Melbourne |
| Don Burkhardt | NWS Melbourne |
| Fred Johnson | NWS Melbourne |
| Scott Spratt - KT4PD | NWS Melbourne |
| Roddey Stevenson | NWS Melbourne |
| Derrick Weitlich - W1DKW | NWS Melbourne |
| GAP Antenna Products | |

For questions, comments, feedback, please email [Scott Spratt](mailto:Scott.Spratt@wfo.com) or [Derrick Weitlich](mailto:Derrick.Weitlich@wfo.com). To receive a QSL card from WX4MLB after the event, please send your card along with an **SASE** to: NWS Melbourne, 421 Croton Road, Melbourne, FL 32935. Electronic QSLs can be exchanged via EQSL (www.eqsl.cc).

Annual Statistics from WFO Melbourne (local records)

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>Total Contacts</u> | <u>NWS Contacts</u> | <u>States</u> | <u>DX Countries</u> | <u>Contacts nation-wide</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1999 | 279 | 20 | 38 | 7 | |
| 2000 | 489 | 38 | 43 | 12 | |
| 2001 | 276 | 33 | 48 | 3 | |
| 2002 | 388 | 35 | 44 | 29 | |
| 2003 | 538 | 42 | 43 | 20 | |

| | | | | | |
|------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| 2004 | 1524 | 68 | 49 | 57 | 1st Place |
| 2005 | 778 | 71 | 49 | 20 | 3rd Place |
| 2006 | 921 | 70 | 50 | 24 | 2nd Place |
| 2007 | 930 | 64 | 47 | 17 | 1st Place |
| 2008 | 1192 | 74 | 50 | 40 | 2nd Place |
| 2009 | 1373 | 77 | 50 | 43 | 1st Place |
| 2010 | 292 | 35 | 43 | 6 | 15th Place |
| 2011 | 1604 | 81 | 50 | 43 | 1st Place |
| 2012 | 978 | 74 | 50 | 25 | 1st Place |
| 2013 | 1024 | 54 | 47 | 21 | 1st Place |
| 2014 | 1294 | 63 | 50 | 38 | 1st Place |
| 2015 | 1407 | 65 | 50 | TBD | TBD |

[2015 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day Official Website](#)
