

NWS Melbourne, Florida 2012 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day Results

Final results have been compiled for last year's SKYWARN Recognition Day!
Please see charts below for more details.

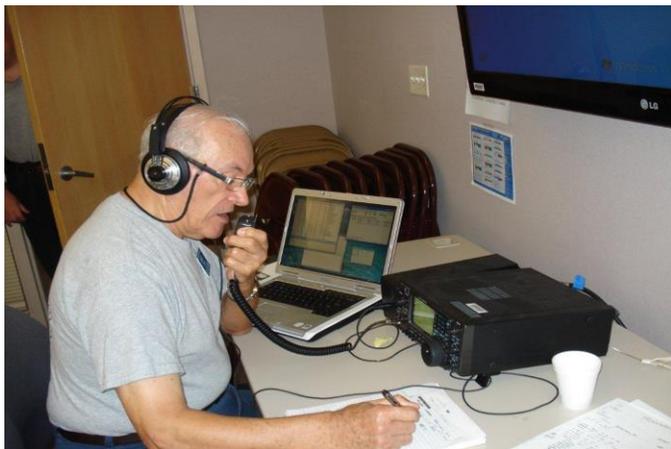
Pictures From This Year's Event



Gap Voyager and 20M Yagi beam



Sandra, KK4ENH, and Paul, N7JNQ, on 15M HF



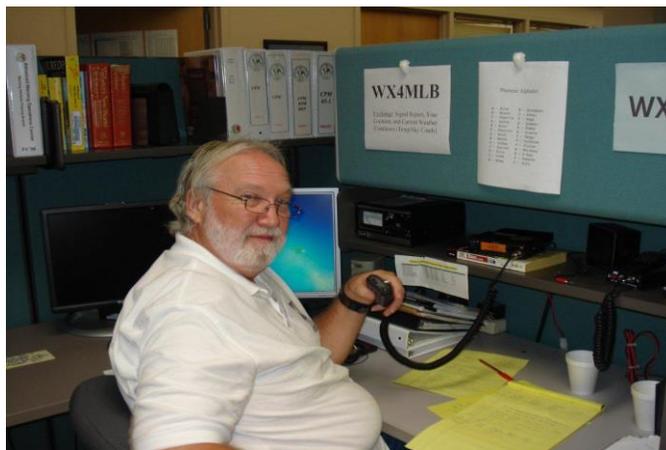
John, AB4ET, operating on 40M HF



Warren, AE4WG, operating 20M HF



Alan, N3HOE, operating on 15M HF



Ron, KD4PQQ, operating 2M VHF



John, K4LRP, and Eric, K9ES, on 20M HF



Gap 20M Vertical



CL-33 Rotatable Beam



Scott, KT4PD, giving a tour of the office

During the first weekend of December, the National Weather Service Office in Melbourne, Florida supported SKYWARN™ Recognition Day for the 14th consecutive year. The event for Amateur Radio (ham) operators was held from 7 pm November 30th until 7 pm Saturday December 1st 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 December 1st, where local amateur radio operators and their 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 2012 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, 20-meters), a GAP Voyager (160-meters) antenna, a GAP 20 meter vertical antenna, a rotatable beam at 35 feet for VHF (2 meters), and a 40/80-meter dipole. Amateur Radio operators across east central Florida helped operate through the event, including members of the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society from Brevard County, the Treasure Coast Weather Net (TCWN), Martin County ARES/RACES, the Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association, and the Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club. 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 and GAP 20M Monobander.

The 2012 final results:

Total Contacts: 978
States Contacted: 50
NWS Stations Contacted: 74
Countries Contacted: 25
Bands: 2, 10, 15, 20, 40, 80, 160 meters
Modes: SSB, CW, Echolink

Radio Operators & Assistance Provided by:

Alan Dixon - N3HOE	Brevard County - PCARS
Dan Fisher - AI4GK	Brevard County - PCARS
John Gerstner - K4LRP	Brevard County - PCARS
Paul Gray - N0JAA	Brevard County - PCARS
Chuck Green - AD4ES	Brevard County - PCARS
Jan Heise - K4QD	Brevard County - PCARS
Ken Hendrickson - N8KH	Brevard County - PCARS
Brian Holme - N4ADE	Brevard County - PCARS
Sean O'Connell - KK4GBF	Brevard County - PCARS
Eric Smitt - K9ES	Brevard County - PCARS
Dennis Tokorzewski - KK4AMO	Brevard County
Vince Weal - K4JC	Brevard County - TCWN
John Weatherley - AB4ET	Brevard County - PCARS
Wayne Burkett, Sr. - KA1VRF	Indian River County - TCWN
Ray Jaworski - KI4RHL	Martin County - ARES/RACES
Bill Laakkonen - N4BKT	Martin County - ARES/RACES
Ron Tagg - KD4PQQ	Martin County - ARES/RACES
Paul Tomlins - N7JNQ	Martin County - ARES/RACES
Sandra Tomlins - KK4ENH	Martin County - ARES/RACES
Joe Pelikan - WI0JMP	Saint Lucie County - TCWN
Warren Greenburg - AE4WG	Volusia County - DBARC
Pete Blottman - N2RFW	NWS Melbourne

Amanda Bowen - KJ4ZWR
Don Burkhardt
Taylor Cox
Scott Spratt - KT4PD
Roddey Stevenson
Derrick Weitlich - W1DKW
GAP Antenna Products

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For questions, comments, feedback, please email [Scott Spratt](mailto:Scott.Spratt@w4mlb.com) or [Derrick Weitlich](mailto:Derrick.Weitlich@w4mlb.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

[2012 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day Official Website](http://www.w4mlb.com)

