

# Local Outreach Program

- **School Visits**
- **Shift shadows**
  - **2-3 Hours for Middle School Students**
  - **3-5 Hours for a High School Student**
  - **4-6 Hours for Professionals**
- **Tours of our Facility**
  - **Open to children and adults 12 years and older**
  - **Groups between 20 and 30 can be scheduled**
  - **Can be scheduled for normal business hours and evening hours**



- **Event Speakers**
- **Booths & Displays**
- **Quarterly Newsletter - *Sterling Reporter***

# Sterling Reporter

Volume 8, Issue 4

Fall 2009



## MIC's Corner

By, James E. Lee  
Meteorologist-In-Charge

As 2009 winds down, the NWS Baltimore/Washington Weather Forecast Office (WFO) recently completed planning for 2010. There are several highlights from our 2010 operating plan that I want to raise to your attention:

- Numerical weather prediction models continue to exhibit increasing skill. Studies have shown that current National Weather Service (NWS) 48-hour temperature and precipitation forecasts are equivalent in accuracy to NWS 24-hour forecasts ten years ago. Computer-generated numerical weather model output statistics, also known in the meteorological community as MOS, are becoming increasingly difficult for our forecasters to improve upon. Beyond 60-hours, gridded MOS forecasts show more skill than humans at forecasting maximum and minimum temperatures and probability of precipitation.

This means that operations within the NWS Baltimore/Washington WFO continue to evolve. As such, our office developed an operations concept that will take advantage of advances in science and technology that will be implemented in January 2010. This new operations concept will enable our staff to: 1) become more focused in issuing timely and effective hazardous weather watches, warnings, advisories, and statements, including providing increased decision support services to our emergency management community; 2) provide more accurate 24-hour forecasts by increasing their knowledge of model biases and awareness of local observations; 3) become more skilled through increased opportunities for professional development and training; 4) promote stronger programs through enhanced opportunities in

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Summer 2009 Student Volunteer Program

By, Andrew Woodcock, Senior Forecaster

Each summer the Baltimore/Washington Forecast Office becomes actively involved with college Meteorology students through its Student Volunteer program. The process for selecting students begins in January with the application process and continues into February with interviews. Final selections for positions are typically made in March or early April. Around fifteen



From left to right: Morjan Brooks, Joe Wajzman, Jeff Waters and Nick Warner

*(Continued on page 3)*

- Issued Quarterly
- Link is emailed to:
  - Spotters
  - Media
  - Emergency Management Officials

### Inside this issue.

Annapolis Buoy Ceremony	2
StormReady Renewals & NOBLIS Weather Camp	3
2009 — 2010 Winter Outlook	4-5
August Flash Floods	6
Flash Flood Safety	7
Staffing News	8
Skywarn Corner	9

Outreach  
on new  
webpage



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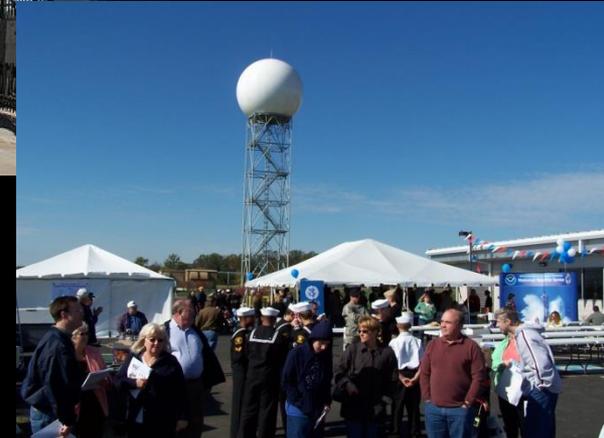
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# Open House

Typically every other year

- Booths
- Weather Education Classes
- Mobile Units from Emergency/Red Cross Officials
- Tours open to all ages
- Regular Upper Air Balloon Releases



# Skywarn Classes

- Skywarn classes are an integral part of achieving the mission of the National Weather Service – **Saving Lives & Property**
- Designed to educate the public on weather threats in this area.
- Strengthens ties between the National Weather Service and the Community

# Skywarn Classes

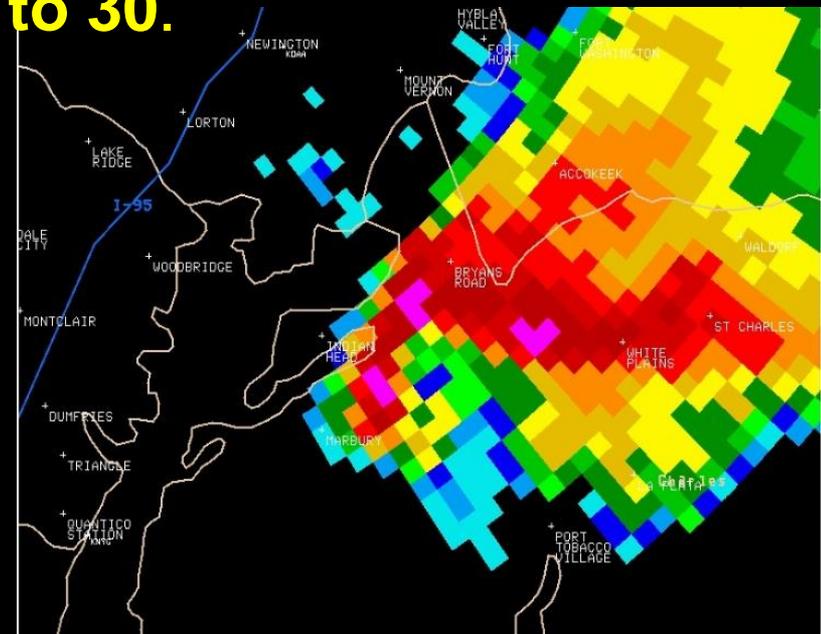
- More spotters lead to better warning decisions.

The ground truth is more quickly received by the Meteorologists making the warning decisions



# Scheduling a Class

- Classes are free.
- Materials will be provided.
- Classes should be open to the public.
- Class size should be at least 25 to 30.



**All we need:**

- Free location
- Point of Contact for Registration

# Skywarn Classes



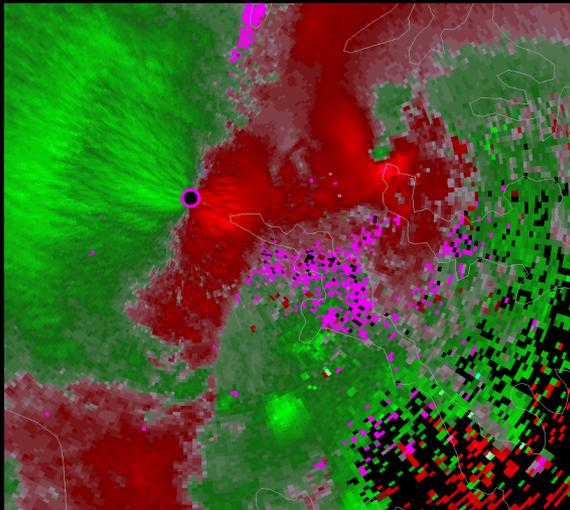
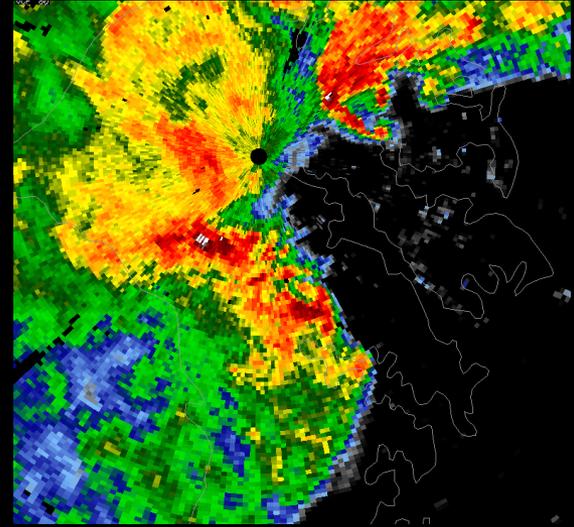
- **Basics I (All Threats)**
- **Threat Specific Classes**
  - **Floods**
  - **Winter Weather**
  - **Hurricane**

**All classes discuss:**

- **How to report vital information to the NWS**
- **Local Hazards**
- **Preparedness/Safety**
- **Case Studies**

# Skywarn Classes

- Teach between 20 – 25 a year
- Majority are Basics I
- Basics I is a pre-requisite for others



## Classes are scheduled:

- September - May
- According to meteorologist availability
- In areas where spotters are needed
- To maintain StormReady status

# Skywarn Spotters

**Due to Privacy Laws– the NWS cannot give out spotter information.**

**> 5K Spotters**



[NWS Skywarn](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Reporting Procedures](#) | [Amateur Radio](#) | [WX4LWX](#) | [Related Sites](#)

**Weather Report**

E-mail weather report to [LWX-Report@noaa.gov](mailto:LWX-Report@noaa.gov). However, call 800-253-7091 if it is a wind, hail, or tornado report.

**UPCOMING SKYWARN® CLASSES**

**Class** →  
**Schedule**

CLASS	DATE	TIME	COUNTY	LOCATION	POC	REGISTRATION INFORMATION
BASICS 1	Thursday 5/22/2014	6:00-9:00pm	Howard	Robinson Nature Center 6692 Cedar Lane Columbia, MD	Tom McNeal	<a href="mailto:rphilps@howardcountymd.gov">rphilps@howardcountymd.gov</a> 410-313-6030
Net Control Operator Class	Saturday 5/24/2014	9:00 am-12:00 pm	Prince Georges	Prince Georges Fire Services Building 6820 Webster St. Landover Hills, MD 20784	Paul Bowling	<a href="https://pgskywarnncs140524.eventbrite.com">https://pgskywarnncs140524.eventbrite.com</a> <a href="mailto:paul@w4atn.com">paul@w4atn.com</a> 410-353-9196
BASICS 1	Wednesday 7/23/2014	6:00-9:00pm	St. Marys	St. Mary's County Library Charlotte Hall Branch 37600 New Market Road Charlotte Hall, MD 20622		<a href="mailto:ema@stmarysmd.com">ema@stmarysmd.com</a>

**[weather.gov/washington](http://weather.gov/washington) or [weather.gov/baltimore](http://weather.gov/baltimore)**

# Interested in Scheduling a Skywarn Class??

Email: [Kevin.Witt@noaa.gov](mailto:Kevin.Witt@noaa.gov) or

Email: [Ashley.Sears@noaa.gov](mailto:Ashley.Sears@noaa.gov)

