

HOLM AWARD RECOMMENDATION

Francis “Skip” Benjamin has been a cooperative observer at East Jewett, NY for several decades. As a cooperative observer for the National Weather Service (NWS) at Albany, he has provided highly detailed and valuable weather data on a daily basis. Skip helped set up the spring and fall Skywarn spotter training sessions in Greene County with the local coordinator John Quinlan numerous times.

Skip also managed and gathered local hydrometeorological data through a ham radio weather network called the “Capital District Weather Net” for over two decades on a daily basis. He would gather the observations from around the region via ham radio and would phone the information to the office or enter it via the web.

East Jewett, NY is near the Batavia Kill (creek) where a river staff gage is located. Skip would check the staff gage and call in the reading during significant hydrological events helping us verify that flooding had occurred.

Two of Skip’s most noteworthy contributions to the NWS at Albany involved relaying damage reports from the tornadoes that moved through his county in 1998 and again in 2003. Skip also was one of the first sites to report a complete meltdown of snow cover during the record flooding of 1996, which provided the NWS staff with a heads up of the magnitude of potential flooding.

Skip was known for his outstanding contributions to the NWS at Albany Skywarn Program and his efforts at securing radio equipment for the forecast office.

Skip was a very industrious and kind gentleman. He has shown a tremendous dedication to the cooperative weather network of the NWS at Albany. His service and warm personality are greatly appreciated.