

NWS Melbourne, Florida

2008 SKYWARN™

Recognition Day Results



Brian, KI4HLW, operating Echolink



Ray, KI4RHL, operating VHF



Don, AF4Z & George, K4PX working 40m HF



Max, KJ4EUT & Corey, KJ4FHW working 20m HF



GAP Voyager, CL33 rotatable beam & VHF tower



Portable VHF towers with 2m & 6m VHF beams

During the first weekend of December, the National Weather Service Office in Melbourne, Florida supported SKYWARN™ Recognition Day for the 10th consecutive year. The event for Amateur Radio (ham) operators was held from 7 pm Friday December 5 until 7 pm Saturday December 6 and was co-sponsored by the **National Weather Service** and the **American Radio Relay League**. The event is held each year to celebrate the contributions that ham radio operators make to the National Weather Service during times of critical weather. During the event, hams across the country contact as many other NWS offices as possible using their radio equipment. The contacts are received and logged at the individual NWS offices by volunteer amateur radio operators and licensed NWS staff.

During the 2008 special event, operations from NWS Melbourne included two High Frequency (HF) stations, two Very High Frequency (VHF) stations, a digital station (radio teletype) and a PC-based EchoLink (VoIP) station. HF operations utilized the 20, 40, 80 and 160-meter bands with both SSB (voice) and CW (morse code) modes. Antennas used were two rotatable beams at 35 feet (primarily 20-meters), a GAP Voyager (40, 80, 160-meters), a GAP Titan (digital modes) and three rotatable beams at 35 feet for VHF (2-6-meters). Amateur Radio operators from the Treasure Coast Weather Net (TCWN) and Martin County ARES/RACES participated as well as operators from several groups in Brevard County (Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society, Indian River Amateur Radio Club and the Florida Contest Group). Several licensed NWS Melbourne meteorologists ([East Central Florida SKYWARN™ Group](#)) 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. Finally, GAP Antenna Products, Inc. is recognized for providing use of the GAP Voyager.

The 2008 preliminary results:

Total Contacts: 1191
States Contacted: 50
NWS Stations Contacted: 74
Countries Contacted: 38
Bands: 2, 20, 40, 80, 160 meters
Modes: SSB, CW, Packet, RTTY, PSK31, Echolink

Radio Operators & Assistance Provided by:

Eric Smitt - K9ES	FCG
Donn Winn - AF4Z	Brevard County - PCARS
Ken Hendrickson - N8KH	Brevard County - PCARS
Dan Fisher - AI4GK	Brevard County - PCARS
Aaron Mitchell - KJ4DDM	Brevard County - PCARS
George Fundis - K4PX	Brevard County - PCARS
Bob Dupre - KJ4MAY	Brevard County - PCARS
Joel McDonald - N4URW	Brevard County - PCARS
John Weatherley - AB4ET	Brevard County - PCARS
Jack Seeley - KI4LTB	Brevard County - PCARS
Chuck Green - AD4ES	Brevard County - PCARS
Pete Fountain - WD4IXD	FCG
Max Fountain - KJ4EUT	FCG
Greg O'Neill - AB4GO	Brevard County - IRARC
Bob Kisko - N4VO	Brevard County - IRARC
John Golebiewski - KF4PFI	
Wayne Burkett, SR - KA1VRF	TCWN
Mathew Nickoson - KC8NZJ	TCWN
Mark Timblin - AI4HO	TCWN
Brian Cook - KI4HLW	TCWN
Dwaine Dunkin - K4LNN	TCWN
Bud Holman - WA4ASJ	TCWN
Vincent Weal - K4JC	TCWN
Scott Trudeau - KI4RNK	TCWN
John Conefrey - W4IVW	TCWN
Ray Jaworski - KI4RHL	Martin Co. ARES/RACES
Joy McGraw - ND9N	Martin Co. ARES/RACES
Frank McGraw - N3QU	Martin Co. ARES/RACES
Corey McGraw - KJ4FHW	Martin Co. ARES/RACES
Keith Boyer - N4TRN	Orange County SKYWARN
Eric Zelaya	Orange County SKYWARN
Scott Spratt - KT4PD	NWS
Pete Blottman - N2RFW	NWS
Don Burkhardt	NWS
Bill Bennett	NWS

John Pendergrast - KC5SVA NWS
 Derrick Weitlich - W1DKW NWS
 Bart Hagemeyer NWS
 Roddey Stevenson NWS
 Dennis Decker - KB4TYM NWS
 Mike Turner - KG4YRC NWS
 GAP Antenna Products
 North Brevard SKYWARN Association
 Titusville Amateur Radio Club
 Indian River Amateur Radio Club
 Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society
 Treasure Coast Weather Net
 Volusia County SKYWARN
 Seminole County SKYWARN
 Orange Co. Emerg Auxiliary Radio Team
 Disney Emerg Amateur Radio Service
 Lake County ARES
 Okeechobee County ARES
 St. Lucie County ARES
 Osceola County ARES
 Martin County SKYWARN Association

For questions, comments, feedback, please email [Scott Spratt](mailto:Scott.Spratt@w4mlb.com). To receive a QSL card from WX4MLB, please send an your card along with an SASE to: NWS Melbourne, 421 Croton Road, Melbourne, FL 32935. Electronic QSLs can be exchanged via . For certificate information, [click here](#).

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	1191	74	50	40	???

[**2008 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day Official Website**](#)