



NOAA - National Weather Service

Tampa Bay Area

2525 14th Avenue SE, Ruskin, Florida 33570

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<http://weather.gov/tampa>

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY AND TAMPA HAM FEST EXTRAVAGANZA!

Once again, the National Weather Service in Tampa participated in the annual edition of Skywarn Recognition Day (SRD 2010). The event was celebrated during the 24 hour period starting on December 3 at 7 pm. Skywarn Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). It celebrates the contributions that volunteer Skywarn radio operators make to National Weather Service operations.

As in past years, we had the privilege of hosting members of our Amateur Radio Community who shared different time slots to operate the UH/VHF rigs under the National Weather Service Tampa call sign "WX4TOR". William Barron (W1WAB-CERT/Citizen Corps Coordinator) from Sun City Center, and Cameron Badget (N4KCB) from Saint Petersburg took turns on Friday night from 7-11 pm (see Figure 1). Ron Eagles (WZ2O) worked the HF rig from 11pm-1am (see Fig. 2). NWS Staff operated the echolink stations during the 24 hours, including Meteorologists Anthony Reynes (KJ4FUO/Skywarn HAM Radio Program Coordinator), Ernie Jillson (KJ4FUJ), Nicole Carlisle (KJ4FUG) and Richard Rude (KE4EXL). On Saturday, Ken Young (K1KEY) operated the HF rig from 7 am and through the end of the

event, with Janet Lee Hutchinson (KM4JLH), and Eldon Hutchinson (AK4TH) from the Saint Petersburg Club, as well as William Barron joining the action in the afternoon hours (see Fig 3).

With this tremendous collaborative effort, we were able to easily surpass the number of contacts from the previous two years with a new record of 302 contacts, including stations as far as Canada, Australia and South Korea.

The National Weather Service (NWS) and the ARRL both recognize the importance that amateur radio provides during severe weather.

In addition, the Tampa Bay HAM Fest took place on that same Saturday and Sunday at the



Figure 1. Right to left: Bill Barron (W1WAB), Cameron Badget (K4ACB), and NWS Tampa Meteorologist Anthony Reynes (KJ4FUO) operating the VHF, HF and Echolink stations respectively for WX4TOR during the 24 hour Skywarn Recognition Day celebrations on December 4 starting @ 00z.

Manatee Civic Center in Palmetto, Florida. NWS Tampa was again present this year with a colorful informational booth, manned by Meteorologists Tyler Fleming and Anthony Reynes (see Fig 4), which included a wide range of printed material and video displays with real-time weather information. It was one of the most crowded HAM Fest events in the last few years.



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The celebrations for the weekend ended with a training class of Skywarn, conducted at the Tampa HAM Fest on Sunday afternoon (see Figure 5). Some 17 new Spotter Observers received their certification after completing the two hour long class, covering both Basic and Advance sessions.



Figure 2. Right to left: Cameron Badget (K4ACB), and Ron Eagles (W220) working the "late night shift", operating the HF rig.



Figure 3. Right to left: Bill Barron (W1WAB), Janet Lee Hutchinson (KM4JLH), and Eldon Hutchinson (AK4TH), were joining the SRD activities Saturday afternoon while Ken Young (K1KEY) works on contacts via HF.

With efforts like these the National Weather Service in Tampa is able to further strengthen the existing partnerships with the community, especially with the Amateur Radio Clubs whose members actively participate in our Skywarn operations, thus contributing an invaluable service to the mission of the National Weather Service when hazardous weather threatens.

On behalf of the Tampa Bay Weather Office, a big, big thank you to all who made it possible for us to have an enormous success during the Skywarn Recognition Day and Tampa HAM Fest 2010 extravaganza!



Figure 4. Meteorologists Tyler Fleming (left) and Anthony Reynes (right) at the Tampa HAM Fest in Palmetto Fl (Dec 4 2010), manning the NWS Tampa Bay informational booth.



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Figure 5. Meteorologist Anthony Reynes conducts a Skywarn Training class at the Tampa HAM Fest in Palmetto, Florida (Dec 5, 2010). About 17 new Skywarn Spotters were certified after attending the Basic and Advanced sessions.



Figure 6. Top Left: Meteorologist Nicole Carlisle (KJ4FUG) and Ken Young (K1KEY). Top Right: Meteorologist Ernie Jillson (KJ4FUJ). Bottom Left: Ken Young (K1KEY). Bottom Right: Meteorologist Richard Rude (KE4EXL).

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