

NWS Taunton, MA. SKYWARN Newsletter #247

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Newsletter Issued: 2/22/08.

SKYWARN Activation Report for 12/3/07 Ice Storm..

SKYWARN was activated with Ops at NWS Taunton early Monday Morning December 3rd as Snow, Sleet and Freezing Rain began on Sunday Evening December 2nd. The Wintry Mix changed to rain over much of Southeast Massachusetts and Rhode Island but remained sleet and freezing rain over portions of Northern Connecticut, Western and Central Massachusetts, extreme Northeast Interior Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire.

Freezing Rain was most problematic over Hartford, Tolland and Litchfield Counties in Connecticut with 1/4-3/8" icing. Tree and power line damage was common over portions of Southwest and South-Central Hartford County Connecticut with tree and power line damage noted in Newington, Farmington, West Hartford, South Windsor and Southington, CT. Estimates of 25,000 people were without power in this region. Small branches were also downed in Tolland, CT from 3/8" icing. SKYWARN was active on the KB1AEV Linked System and the 146.790-Vernon, CT Repeater through the efforts of Steve Williams-K1SJW, Connecticut SKYWARN Coordinator, Roger Jeanfaivre-K1PAI, Hartford-Tolland County CT SKYWARN Coordinator, Harvey Broverman-K1PZS, Hartford-Tolland County CT SKYWARN Net Control, and Richard Carter-W1RWC, Litchfield County CT SKYWARN Net Control.

Across portions of Southwest Massachusetts, Western Massachusetts SKYWARN reported pockets of tree and wire damage in Palmer and West Springfield, Mass. In this area, more sleet mixed in with the freezing rain with widespread 1/4" ice accretion from freezing rain. This mitigated more damage in this area. SKYWARN was active on the

146.94-Mt. Tom Repeater through the efforts of Ray Weber-KA1JJM and Eric Tuller-N1QKO.

Across Southern New Hampshire, and Northern Massachusetts including the North Shore, 2-5" of snow and sleet occurred with a light glaze of freezing rain. In extreme Northern Cheshire and Hillsborough Counties of New Hampshire, Snowfall amounts were higher with 8.5" in Walpole, NH and 9.0" in Frankestown, New Hampshire. No reports of infrastructure damage occurred in these areas.

Special thanks to all those who assisted in this SKYWARN Activation!

Special thanks to those who assisted in this activation of SKYWARN!

SKYWARN Activation Report for 12/13/07 Snowstorm..

SKYWARN was activated with Ops at NWS Taunton due to intense snowfall rates at a very problematic time of day that was from midday through early evening on Thursday December 13th. Ops at NWS Taunton were done by Carl Aveni-N1FY and Rob Macedo-KD1CY. Several hundred reports of snowfall were taken during this storm along with general reports on road conditions and the impact of the storm on travel.

While the December 13th storm caused little in the way of damage, intense snowfall rates of 2-3.5" per hour were observed across portions of Southern New England. This rate of snowfall combined with the time of day it hit, during the midday through evening hours, severely impacted travel over the region. Commute times despite letting people out of work and school reached several hours even if a commute was typically 15-30 minutes in length. Snowfall rapidly accumulated 5-13" across much of Southern New England. SKYWARN Nets across Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts took reports hourly on most repeaters including the 146.940-Mount Tom Repeater, 146.790-Vernon, CT Repeater, 147.225-Killingly, CT Repeater, 146.760-Scituate, RI Repeater, 145.49-Fairhaven MA Repeater, 146.64-Waltham MA Repeater, 145.47-Danvers MA Repeater, 146.97-Paxton MA Repeater, 147.18-Bridgewater MA Repeater, 147.225-Whitman MA Repeater, 145.390-Scituate MA Repeater, 449.375-Pack Monadnock NH Repeater, and the 146.955-Westford MA Repeater. The New England EchoLink/IRLP reflector system, *NEW-ENG* Echolink Conference Node: 9123/IRLP 9123 also was active with reports and linked a few of the above mentioned repeaters including Waltham and Fairhaven. The Connecticut ARES Snow Desk was active on HF on 3965 KHz and the Rhode Island ARES Snow Desk was active on the 146.700-Cranston, RI Repeater.

SKYWARN Coordinators involved in this activation included K1SJW-Steve Williams, CT State SKYWARN Coordinator, K1PAI-Roger Jeanfaivre, Hartford-Tolland County CT SKYWARN Coordinator, KB1DGY-Bernie Dubb-Windham County CT SKYWARN Coordinator, KA1JJM-Ray Weber and N1QKO-Eric Tuller, Western Massachusetts SKYWARN Coordinators, Martin Mendelson-N1JMA and Bill Boyes-KB1G, Rhode Island SKYWARN Coordinators, Dave Doe-K1HRV and Roger Turner-W1ZSA, Norfolk County SKYWARN Coordinators, Steve Schwarm-W3EVE, ARES DEC for Field Operations, KB1KQW-Jim Palmer, North Shore ARES Assistant SKYWARN Coordinator and ARES Emergency Coordinator, Eric Horwitz-KA1NCF, North Shore ARES District Emergency Coordinator, Terry Stader-KA8SCP, Northeast Massachusetts SKYWARN/Region 1 RACES Radio Officer, Scott Reynolds-KC2JCB, Hillsborough County NH SKYWARN Coordinator and Bruce Bohannon-WA1YZN, Swanzey, NH Emergency Management and SKYWARN. These coordinators and numerous other backup net controls and operators and several hundred SKYWARN Spotters and Amateur Radio Operators provided several hundred snowfall reports over the time period given as well as general reports on road and traffic conditions to paint a picture in words on what was happening on the storm and its impact to the region providing good "storm gathering intelligence" for the region. The snow-ice-rain line was also tracked by spotters as a wintry mix of precipitation made it as far north as Central Connecticut, Central Rhode Island and into parts of Southeast Massachusetts with rain on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket before the line suppressed southward and the precipitation changed back to all snow across the region.

Media outlets in the Boston area picked up the work being done by SKYWARN Spotters. WBZ-TV gave NWS Taunton SKYWARN Spotters and Amateur Radio Operators credit on air for providing valuable snowfall and condition information. Jim Cantore from The Weather Channel also mentioned the efforts of SKYWARN and Amateur Radio on the air as he covered the storm and the traffic issues from the city of Boston.

There will be much debate within the Emergency Management community on how to best handle an event like the 12/13 storm and its timing and how to release people from work and school after the significant traffic issues that resulted from this storm. A storm with the same intensity for a longer period of time in the timeframe this storm displayed could cause bigger problems for the region given what occurred with this system.

Special thanks to all those who assisted in this SKYWARN Activation!

SKYWARN Activation Report for 12/16/07 Nor'easter..

SKYWARN was activated on Sunday December 16th, 2007 around 545 AM as a nor'easter impacted Southern New England. SKYWARN was activated with Ops at NWS Taunton by Carl Aveni-N1FY and Rob Macedo-KD1CY. Reports of snowfall, changeover in precipitation and strong winds were handled from the storm from 545 AM-4 PM that evening.

Snowfall amounts of 2-5" occurred across South-Central Rhode Island, Northern Connecticut and Southeast Massachusetts before a changeover to sleet, freezing rain and rain in this area. Across Western, Central and Northeast Massachusetts from Norfolk County Mass. northward along with portions of Northern Rhode Island 5-10" of snow occurred with isolated 11-12" amounts. A mix with sleet and freezing rain occurred over the region before a changeover to rain.

Strong winds in excess of 50 MPH were noted across portions of Southern New England. This caused some isolated tree and power line damage on Martha's Vineyard, Marblehead, Swampscott, and Boston during the morning hours. With the rain that followed a wet snow and the snow from the prior 12/13 snow storm, the weight of the snow caused roof damage to a Mobile home in Carver, Mass. and the roof collapse of a market in Brighton, Mass. Wind gusts of 53 MPH were noted in Chatham, Mass. with a 52 MPH wind gust on Nantucket, a 46 MPH wind gust in East Boston. Wind gusts of 52 and 51 MPH were record in Fitchburg and Worcester and a 51 MPH wind gust in North Adams Massachusetts during the morning hours of the nor'easter.

After a lull in the winds, winds of 45-55 MPH would occur late Sunday Night into Monday Morning and was handled with a SKYWARN Self-Activation. A 55 MPH wind gust was recorded in East Falmouth with isolated pockets of tree damage in Northampton, and Fairhaven Massachusetts.

SKYWARN Nets across Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts took reports periodically on most repeaters including the 146.940-Mount Tom Repeater, 146.790-Vernon, CT Repeater, 147.225-Killingly, CT Repeater, 146.760-Scituate, RI Repeater, 145.49-Fairhaven MA Repeater, 146.64-Waltham MA Repeater, 145.47-Danvers MA Repeater, 146.97-Paxton MA Repeater, 147.18-Bridgewater MA Repeater, 147.225-Whitman MA Repeater, 145.390-Scituate MA Repeater, 449.375-Pack Monadnock NH Repeater, and the 146.955-Westford MA Repeater. The New England EchoLink/IRLP reflector system, *NEW-ENG* Echolink Conference Node: 9123/IRLP 9123 also was active with reports and linked a few of the above mentioned repeaters including Waltham and Fairhaven. The Connecticut ARES Snow Desk was active on HF on 3965 KHz and the Rhode Island ARES Snow Desk was active on the 146.700-Cranston, RI Repeater.

SKYWARN Coordinators involved in this activation included K1SJW-Steve Williams, CT State SKYWARN Coordinator, K1PAI-Roger Jeanfaivre, Hartford-Tolland County CT SKYWARN Coordinator, KB1DGY-Bernie Dubb-Windham County CT SKYWARN Coordinator, KA1JJM-Ray Weber and N1QKO-Eric Tuller, Western Massachusetts SKYWARN Coordinators, Martin Mendelson-N1JMA and Bill Boyes-KB1G, Rhode Island SKYWARN Coordinators, Dave Doe-K1HRV and Roger Turner-W1ZSA, Norfolk County SKYWARN Coordinators, Steve Schwarm-W3EVE, ARES DEC for Field Operations, KB1KQW-Jim Palmer, North Shore ARES Assistant SKYWARN Coordinator and ARES Emergency Coordinator, Eric Horwitz-KA1NCF, North Shore ARES District Emergency Coordinator, Terry Stader-KA8SCP, Northeast Massachusetts SKYWARN/Region 1 RACES Radio Officer, Scott Reynolds-KC2JCB, Hillsborough County NH SKYWARN Coordinator, Bill Ricker, N1VUX, Metro Boston Area SKYWARN Coordinator and Bruce Bohannon-WA1YZN, Swanzey, NH Emergency Management and SKYWARN. These coordinators and numerous other backup net controls and operators and several hundred SKYWARN Spotters and Amateur Radio Operators provided reports of snowfall, changeover in precipitation and damage reports from across the region. Massachusetts RACES was active at the State EOC through the efforts of Dennis Brothers-N1DB and Karen Brothers-K1KEB and monitored the SKYWARN Activation and reports from the SKYWARN Network.

Special Thanks to all those that assisted in this SKYWARN Activation!

SKYWARN Self-Activation Report for 12/20/07 Snow Storm..

SKYWARN was self-activated across Southern New Hampshire and North-Central and Northeast Massachusetts as a moderate snowstorm affected the region. SKYWARN was active on the 145.47-Danvers Repeater with some activity noted on the 146.955-Westford Repeater and 449.375-Pack Monadnock Repeater. Reports of snowfall and changeover in precipitation were given.

Total snowfall over Southern New Hampshire and North-central and Northeast Massachusetts was 4-8" with isolated 9-11" amounts in Pepperell and Westford, Massachusetts as well as several locations in Hillsborough County, NH. 2-5" of snow were noted in parts of Central and Southeastern Massachusetts with little or no snow accumulation over Western Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and the South Coast of Massachusetts including Cape Cod and the Islands.

Special Thanks to all those that assisted in this SKYWARN Self-Activation!

SKYWARN Activation Report for 12/23/07 Strong Wind Event..

SKYWARN was activated with Ops at NWS Taunton on December 23rd 2007 for a strong wind event with brief heavy rain over Southern New England with higher terrain locations and coastal areas having pockets of wind damage and measured wind gusts greater than 46 MPH. Rob Macedo-KD1CY activated Ops at NWS Taunton.

Measured wind gusts of 50 and 56 MPH respectively were reported in the Marstons Mills section of Barnstable and in Marblehead, Massachusetts. Pockets of wind damage occurred in the higher terrain of Western Massachusetts and across portions of Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Pockets of wind damage in Western Massachusetts were reported in Montgomery, Huntington and Easthampton. SKYWARN was active through the efforts of Ray Weber-KA1JJM and Eric Tuller-N1QKO on the 146.94-Mount Tom Repeater. Pockets of wind damage were also reported in Tiverton and Smithfield, RI. SKYWARN was active on the 146.76-Scituate, RI Repeater through the efforts of Martin Mendelson-N1JMA, and Jim Cahill-N1TZM.

Pockets of wind damage were also reported in Southeast Massachusetts in Plymouth, Bourne, Rochester, Freetown, Mattapoisett, Swansea, Marion, Fall River, Somerset and Hingham. SKYWARN was active on the 145.49-Fairhaven, 146.955-Barnstable and 147.180-Bridgewater Repeaters. Tony Duarte-N1XRS, Jeff Lehmann-N1ZZN and Mike "Sparky" Leger-N1YLQ assisted in the activation.

Winds decreased in intensity by 1 AM securing the SKYWARN Activation with Ops at NWS Taunton. Special thanks to all those that assisted in this SKYWARN Activation!

SKYWARN Self-Activation Report for 12/31/07 Snow Storm..

SKYWARN was self-activated for a storm that started Sunday Evening 12/30 and lasted into 12/31 with a moderate to heavy snowfall occurring across Southern New Hampshire and portions of Northwest and North-Central Massachusetts with lighter amounts over Northeast Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut where sleet, freezing rain and rain mixed in with the snow making for much lesser amounts.

Bruce Bohannon-WA1YZN reported close to 10" of snow (9.8") in his area with 5-10" across Southern New Hampshire and Northwest Massachusetts. 2-5" of snow were common over Northeastern Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut with amounts of 3" or less in the Boston to Providence area and points south through Southeast Massachusetts.

Roger Jeanfaivre-K1PAI self-activated SKYWARN in Hartford-Tolland Counties Sunday Evening on the 146.790-Vernon, CT Repeater with a net roll call at 9 PM. The net roll call was helpful in determining more mixing of precipitation than expected and resulted in lowering snowfall amounts in this area. In addition, across Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts, precipitation remained largely rain with just a bit of sleet with slightly more sleet in extreme northern portions of Rhode Island and extreme northern portions of Southeast Massachusetts.

Rhode Island SKYWARN prepared to self-activate for reports and Rick Andreano-K3OQH, Rhode Island ARES Section Emergency Coordinator was involved in coordinating SKYWARN and ARES reporting with Martin Mendelson-N1JMA of Rhode Island SKYWARN. Based on reports received that evening, no activation was required for Rhode Island.

Special Thanks to all those who supported this Self-Activation of SKYWARN!

SKYWARN Self-Activation Report for 1/1/08 Snow Storm..

SKYWARN self-activated on the first day of 2008 for snowfall reports across the region. 2-7" of snow fell across Southern New Hampshire with 2-5" of snow in Western, Central and Northeast Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut with isolated 6" snowfall amounts in Franklin County, Massachusetts. Reports were received from Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters and non-Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters across this region.

SKYWARN Coordinators KA1JJM-Ray Weber, and KB1KQW-Jim Palmer provided updates from the region along with KA1VGM-Larry Levesque from Surry, NH. Special thanks to all those that assisted in this SKYWARN Self-Activation.

Norfolk County SKYWARN Net Control, W1ADB-Allan Del Basio, Passed Away..

Allan Del Basio, a member of Norfolk County SKYWARN, passed away on November 11th, 2007 at the age of 56. I learned of his passing at our November 16th, 2007 SKYWARN Coordinators Meeting and was shocked to hear it. Allan had operated at our NWS Taunton Amateur Radio Station, WX1BOX, in late June and did a fine job in his first stint at WX1BOX and enjoyed operating during a Severe Thunderstorm event that was affecting the region.

Phil McNamara-N1XTB provides more information on Allan as well as links to Allan's obituary. Our sympathies go out to Allan's family for their loss. See obituary links and Phil's information on Allan's

contributions to SKYWARN and Amateur Radio below:

<http://www.legacy.com/BostonGlobe/DeathNotices.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonID=97893200>

<http://www.legacy.com/BostonGlobe/GB/GuestbookView.aspx?PersonId=97893200>

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/walpole/news/obituaries/x9499474>

He authored some interesting papers with regard to emergency planning in connection with his job for the U.S Department of Transportation. I think this was why he got interested in ARES. The Walpole/ Norwood ARC hams knew him well. He was a member of the Walpole Emergency Communication group. Ass't. RACES Radio Officer in Walpole. He was a SKYWARN spotter. Graduated from the FEMA Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) program. He worked Public Service Events including the BOSTON MARATHON and the JIMMY FUND WALKATHON.

SKYWARN Coordinators Strategy Meeting Summary from November 2007..

There were 21 people at the November 2007 SKYWARN Strategy Meeting and they were as follows:

W1ZSA-Roger Turner	Walpole EMA Director/Norfolk County SKYWARN
K1HRV-Dave Doe	Walpole Deputy EMA Director/Norfolk County SKYWARN
KB1KQW-Jim Palmer	North Shore Mass. ARES & SKYWARN Emergency Coordinator
N1PJ-PJ Howe	Worcester County SKYWARN Coordinator
K1CJS-Chris Smith	Fall River Area SKYWARN
N1HWA-Phil Knight	North Shore ARES-SKYWARN
KB1OHZ-Mike Griffin	North Shore ARES-SKYWARN
KB1CYO-Phil McLaughlin	NWS Taunton SKYWARN Operator
N1FY-Carl Aveni	NWS Taunton SKYWARN Operator
N1XTB-Phil McNamara	ARES Emergency Coordinator for MARS Liaison
KA1NCF-Eric Horwitz	North Shore Mass. ARES District Emergency Coordinator
K1SJW-Steve Williams	Connecticut ARES Statewide SKYWARN Coordinator
KB1DGY-Bernie Dubb	Windham County, CT SKYWARN Coordinator
N1XRS-Tony Duarte	South Coastal Mass. Asst. ARES/SKYWARN Coordinator
W1MPN-Mike Neilsen	Eastern Massachusetts ARRL Section Manager
KD1CY-Rob Macedo	ARES SKYWARN Coordinator for NWS Taunton
N1DOT-Ken Grimard	NWS Gray Maine Coordinator & Taunton Mass. SKYWARN Spotter
N1PDP-Ashley Wing	NWS Gray Maine SKYWARN Spotter
N1KTA-Thomas Berman	NWS Gray Maine Forecaster
KB1GHX-Glenn Field	NWS Taunton, Mass. Warning Coordination Meteorologist
William Babcock	NWS Taunton, Mass. SKYWARN Program Leader

The first item on the agenda was a review of the SKYWARN Presentation reviewing events from 2007 and plans going forward for 2008. The presentation went into weather highlights which included the fairly recent major nor'easter that was associated with the remnants of Hurricane Noel that affected the region on November 3rd and the Patriots Day Nor'easter that affected the region in April 2007.

A review of Severe Weather 2007 by the numbers was then completed. A total of 346 Severe Weather reports were received with 320 coming from Amateur Radio related sources which represented 92% of the total damage and flooding reports being received via Amateur Radio. There were a total of 5 severe weather events with 28 or more reports of severe weather in a specific event with several events having Tornado Warnings associated with the severe weather event.

An update was made on the NWS Gray, Maine SKYWARN Operation and its progress over 2007. Amateur Radio Operators became responsible for roughly 20-40% of the reports received during net activations which is much higher than the estimated less than 10% reporting that had been received previously. NWS Gray had an extremely active severe weather season that was even more active than NWS Taunton. NWS Gray recently had HF installed at their location and communication paths are now possible between NWS Taunton and NWS Gray not just on EchoLink/IRLP but HF as well. Contact via VHF/UHF may be possible via relays as well as the 2 Meter Linked Repeater system that is still being enhanced with new repeaters.

A review of the Hurricane Awareness Tour 2007 was completed and later a video shown on the events that transpired at HAT 2007. This was a significant PR event that went very well as Amateur Radio Operators promoted the service while supporting NWS with the actual event. Contact was made with WX4NHC on both HF and EchoLink by weather forecasters, the Director of the National Hurricane Center and Amateur Radio Operators. Contact was also made with a former Amateur Radio Operator on the flight crew of the P3 plane who is now a contact for working to have backup communications between the P3 Plane/Hurricane Hunters and Amateur Radio Station WX4NHC.

The next item discussed was an update on the VoIP Hurricane Net and its activities for 2007. Highlights of activations during the 2007 season were reviewed much of which was featured in past SKYWARN Newsletters. Hurricane Flossie, which grazed Hawaii, Hurricane Dean, which impacted the Caribbean, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, the Yucatan Peninsula, of Mexico, Belize and mainland, Mexico, and Hurricane Felix, which impacted Nicaragua. Hurricane Humberto, the only US landfalling hurricane was also discussed and how it exposed a rare quick fused

nature to having to activate the hurricane net. For 2008, the plan will be to have a hurricane "spotter type" training class to reinforce the types of information and criteria the net is looking for and how to get more specific information.

As we move into 2008, the plan is to utilize the SKYWARN Program and Amateur Radio Coordinators to distribute more of the training targeting Amateur Radio Operators, Public Safety/CERT groups, Emergency Management and specific organizations that may be interested in helping more with SKYWARN. NWS Forecasters will be offering somewhere between 5-8 training sessions in 2008 focusing on the major metropolitan areas of Boston, Worcester, and Springfield in Massachusetts, Providence, RI and Hartford, CT. Amateur Radio Coordinators will be tasked to do SKYWARN training across portions of the area that had normally been done by forecasters so that other programs can be worked on by NWS forecasters.

Along with the support of SKYWARN Training sessions over the area, SKYWARN Coordinators will also be asked to support working through a list of communities that are interested in becoming Storm Ready certified. Follow-up work was anticipated after the meeting to outline the guidelines for Storm Ready recognition, the communities that were originally interested and how to proceed on making contact.

Additional items that will be worked over the course of 2008 include:

- Information to be posted on SKYWARN on the Mass. Volunteer Service Alliance web page.

- Support SKYWARN Program Leader Bill Babcock on putting out Prevailing Winds Newsletters.

- Potential support for a NOAA Weather Radio Event that could be done in 2008.

- Assist with Lat/Lon database entry for spotters in the NWS Taunton SKYWARN program.

- Continued enhancements of the NWS Taunton Operations Desk and support function with new operators and additional tools.

- Put together a SKYWARN Tri-Fold Brochure.

- Continue execution of damage assessment/investigation work.

- Continue PR for SKYWARN and Amateur Radio's role in the program.

Once the presentation was completed, a tactical discussion of some items through the SKYWARN Meeting agenda followed on how to support the items presented to the coordinators at the meeting. For NWS Taunton Ham Operation enhancements, an action was taken to get with Mike Esip on installing the Icom IC-735 HF Radio and to also look into the EVDO Router/Cell Phone Air Card setup for the station.

Plans were made for SKYWARN Recognition Day 2007. Those plans were executed well and a follow up report was featured in SKYWARN Newsletter #246.

Bill Babcock provided an update on Online SKYWARN training. That will be done using a commercial program and an off site trip to Norman Oklahoma will be done to perfect use of the software and the ability to do the training online. SKYWARN training online will only be offered to those who have already taken the class in person first. This may be changed later but the current policy will be to offer it as a refresher class first and will be reviewed for its effectiveness over the next couple of years. The online class is expected to be online in the mid-2008 timeframe.

A discussion then ensued on whether Marine Weather Spotter classes will be done in 2008. This was something that Glenn Field, Warning Coordination Meteorologist was going to review Marine Focal Point, Frank Nocera.

Liaison paths to NWS Gray Maine were updated. HF testing was done several times before the Coordinator's Meeting and was done again during SKYWARN Recognition Day 2007. HF will be an option along with EchoLink/IRLP. A VHF/UHF path either direct or through liaisons will be the next item to be worked on as we get into 2008.

Following that meeting, Rob Macedo with a presentation provided by Ray Weber-KA1JJM, discussed the work Ray has been doing on a volunteer basis working with radar high resolution enhancements and using SKYWARN reporting to verify that the new algorithms are effective. The presentation showed images of the radar enhancements and Rob described how the new enhancements and sensitive algorithms were effective in some situations but ineffective in others and how that was fed back to those working on the enhancements. The presentation was well received.

An overview of Netlog was then presented by Eric Horwitz-KA1NCF, North Shore ARES DEC. Eric has authored this program and has been working on it for over 3 years as a general purpose logging tool for

SKYWARN reporting, public service events and ARES activations. Eric presented the usage and status of work on the program at a previous SKYWARN Coordinators' Meeting and provided an update at this meeting along with updated software to those interested in utilizing the program.

A brief review of the SKYWARN operations Manual was then completed to assure the documentation was correct. After that, a tentative meeting date of Saturday March 15th was given for the next SKYWARN Coordinator's meeting.

SKYWARN Coordinators Strategy Meeting Summary from March 2007..

There were 23 people at the March 2007 SKYWARN Strategy Meeting and they were as follows:

W1ZSA-Roger Turner	Walpole EMA Director/Norfolk County SKYWARN
K1HRV-Dave Doe	Walpole Deputy EMA Director/Norfolk County SKYWARN
KB1KQW-Jim Palmer	North Shore Mass. ARES & SKYWARN Emergency Coordinator
N1PJ-PJ Howe	Worcester County SKYWARN Coordinator
WD4JZO-Jim Blaine	Hillsborough County NH ARES Emergency Coordinator
KB1MRH-Matt Dempsey	North Shore Mass. Assistant ARES-SKYWARN Emergency Coordinator
N1VUX-Bill Ricker	Metro Boston SKYWARN Coordinator
KB2SAE-George Bourassa	Berkshire County SKYWARN Coordinator
N1QKO-Eric Tuller	Western Massachusetts Assistant SKYWARN Coordinator
N1FY-Carl Aveni	NWS Taunton SKYWARN Operator
N1JMA-Martin Mendelson	Rhode Island SKYWARN Coordinator
KB1EJB-Duffy Egan	Rhode Island SKYWARN
KB1G-Bill Boyes	Rhode Island SKYWARN Coordinator
KB1DGY-Bernie Dubb	Windham County, CT SKYWARN Coordinator
N1XRS-Tony Duarte	South Coastal Mass. Asst. ARES/SKYWARN Coordinator
K1XTB-Steve Silvestre	NWS Taunton SKYWARN Operator
KA1JJM-Ray Weber	Western Massachusetts SKYWARN Coordinator
W1MPN-Mike Neilsen	Eastern Massachusetts ARES Special Advisor
KD1CY-Rob Macedo	ARES SKYWARN Coordinator for NWS Taunton
N1DOT-Ken Grimard	NWS Gray Maine Coordinator & Taunton Mass. SKYWARN Spotter
WE1U-David Lowe	NWS Gray Maine SKYWARN Coordinator
KB1GHX-Glenn Field	NWS Taunton, Mass. Warning Coordination Meteorologist
William Babcock	NWS Taunton, Mass. SKYWARN Program Leader

Since a number of the meeting topics from the March 2007 meeting were superseded by the November 2007 meeting, this meeting summary will highlight the relevant items from the March meeting and have bulletized points on those items that were superseded by the March 2007 meeting.

The first part of the meeting was centered around a SKYWARN Presentation on events from December 2006 through early March 2007. This included a review of the December 1st 2006 Severe Weather/High Wind Event, the January 15th, 2007 Ice Storm that affected Southern New Hampshire and Northern Massachusetts from the Route 2 corridor north, the Valentine's Day 2007 Snow and Wintry Mix Storm, and the March 2nd, 2007 Snow/Ice/Flood event. A review of severe weather 2006 was completed which highlighted the high level of severe weather seen in the 2006 season. An update on NWS Gray, Maine, WX1GYX, Operations was also provided as well as an update on the VoIP Hurricane Net and plans for the 2007 SKYWARN Training season and updates to the NWS Taunton SKYWARN Operations Manual.

The following additional items were discussed:

- Plans for the Hurricane Awareness Tour 2007 that was held in Rhode Island.
- Southern New England Weather Conference date for 2007 and list of speakers and topics.
- Update on Online SKYWARN Training Refresher Course (Still being worked on by NWS Forecasters)
- SKYWARN Training planning for 2007.
- Review of Liaison paths between areas within the NWS Taunton County Warning Area and outside of the County Warning Area.
- Review of NWS Taunton Operations concerning the move of equipment and attempting to enhance Internet access.
- Review of contact information for the NWS Taunton SKYWARN Operations Manual.

Several additional presentations were given:

Mike Neilsen-W1MPN gave a presentation on the meteorology of the Valentine's Day Storm. This presentation went into the details on the evolution of the storm and analysis of offshore buoys and weather models and how they depicted the storm. Mike then went into a presentation on how SKYWARN Coordinators can keep themselves briefed through NWS products and monitoring trends with radar, satellite and model data available via the Internet. The presentation was very well received by the coordinators present.

Ray Weber and Jim Palmer gave an overview of the WX-MSG Client software and how it can be utilized for warning information that is only a few

seconds delayed from the receipt of transmission and is faster than most Internet web site that carry NWS information. They explained how the program would be utilized for NWS Taunton SKYWARN Operations and how certain NWS products could be printed as they are issued which would be of great benefit to Ham Operations at the NWS office after the move of the Ham station is completed to its new location. Due to web server constraints, this program and access to it has been limited to a few of the SKYWARN Coordinators for the NWS Taunton and Gray offices. Access will be slowly rolled out to other SKYWARN Coordinators as web server constraints permit.

The last topics reviewed was elements of a presentation on the new Enhanced Fujita scale and damage assessment work. Glenn Field and Bill Babcock walked folks through a presentation on what the new Enhanced Fujita Scale means and how it applies to the damage assessment schemes so that Ham Coordinators helping with gather information for the damage assessment could apply the data to the new scale. This completed the March 2007 meeting.

That's all for this edition of the SKYWARN Newsletter!

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Macedo (KD1CY)
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