

From: SkyWarn Announcement List ()
To: Skywarn-list@oak.powersrvcs.net
Date: Thu, November 26, 2009 11:12:26 AM
Subject: SKYWARN Newsletter #264

Hello to all..

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Newsletter Issued: 11/26/09.

Happy Thanksgiving to all SKYWARN Spotters and Amateur Radio Operators..

On behalf of the coordinating team of Amateur Radio Station, WX1BOX, and the NWS Taunton forecast staff. A Happy Thanksgiving to all of you and your families. NWS Taunton appreciates the support of all SKYWARN Spotters and Amateur Radio Operators who put forth their efforts in a large way once again in 2009. Best wishes for a great day with friends and family!

SKYWARN Videos in Flash Format Available Online..

At various SKYWARN Training sessions and SKYWARN Club talks, videos of past storms have been shown as part of the SKYWARN Overview presentation or SKYWARN Training material. All of this material, including work done by local SKYWARN Coordinators for the National Hurricane Conference are all available online in flash format and can be viewed online anytime. This is available at the following link:

<http://video.nsradio.org>

This site was developed with coordination and support from the NSRA, North Shore Radio Association and Assistant SKYWARN Coordinator and professional videographer Jim Palmer-KB1KQW. The link features storm related videos done going back to 2004 and also includes the NSRA 2004 Field Day video. Special thanks to the NSRA and Jim-KB1KQW for setting up this site. This is also available on the WX1BOX web site via the Main Menu of the web site.

SKYWARN Training Update/Fall Sessions Completed..

SKYWARN Training for the Fall season has been completed. Sessions in Weare, NH, Mansfield and Scituate, Mass were all completed in late September and

October. Sessions averaged about 20-30 people. Fall sessions for 2009 have been completed and the next SKYWARN training sessions will be planned for the late winter/spring of 2010. This is because a new Spotter Guide which will be one complete guide that will replace the current Basic and Advanced spotter guides will be put into place and published for SKYWARN training purposes and the NWS office is currently running low on the old Basic and Advanced guides and are now out of print. The guides are an important component of the training so no further training will be given until the new guides are printed and available.

Southern New England Weather Conference and NWS Taunton Visit by Assistant WX4NHC Coordinator..

The Southern New England Weather Conference had a presenter who came the farthest distance among all presenters. Julio Ripoll-WD4R, Assistant Coordinator for the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center WX4NHC, presented the 29-year history of operations at the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami Florida. Julio described the various changes when moving to the old building into the new building, some of the larger hurricanes that affected Florida and other areas and also described the connection that Amateur Radio Operations have with the New England area and how New England area Hams support the operations of WX4NHC. The presentation was well received with Matt Noyes, a meteorologist from New England Cable News who followed up with Julio and several folks from the WX1BOX Amateur Radio team on how this was being done. Another presenter, Director of the Canadian Hurricane Centre, Peter Boyer, also talked with Julio about Amateur Radio and potential operations at the Canadian Hurricane Centre.

In addition to the conference presentation and participation, Julio also visited the NWS Taunton Forecast Office/Northeast River Forecast Center and was given a tour of the facility. He was able to meet NWS Taunton forecasters and hydrologists from the Northeast River Forecast Center. He was also given a review of the Amateur Radio Station at WX1BOX including a review of the Amateur Radio antennas that are at the station. Pictures on the visit and from the conference will be posted on the WX1BOX web site at <http://www.wx1box.org> as time allows.

The Southern New England Weather Conference was well attended with over 200 people. Other presentations that received very high marks in terms of popularity for the 2009 conference included the New Hampshire Long Track Tornado presentation, the Ice Storm presentation, Reed Timmer's dinner time presentation on storm chasing and the Summer of Waterspouts.

All presentations and information will be posted on the Southern New England Weather Conference web site over the next couple of months. An updated story via a future SKYWARN Newsletter will tell folks when the information is posted. The link to the Southern New England Weather Conference appears below:

<http://www.sneweatherconf.org/>

Mish Michaels Talk Well Received by South Shore Amateur Radio Operators..

On Wednesday November 18th, 2009, former WBZ-TV and Weather Channel Meteorologist, Mish Michaels, presented to South Shore Amateur Radio Operators from the Whitman and Massasoit Amateur Radio Clubs and surrounding Amateur Radio Clubs and non-Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters. Approximately 60 people attended the talk, which was one of Mish's first talks since going into what she terms 'semi-retirement'. Mish remains very appreciative to the SKYWARN Spotter and Amateur Radio Community for their support of providing surface reporting and ground truth to verify what the radar is or is not seeing and reiterated the points made by NWS forecasters in SKYWARN training on how the radar does not see things at ground level.

Mish gave a presentation on the New Hampshire Tornado and tornado research/storm chasing and she also discussed her visit to Mount Washington during the height of winter and her trip on an Air Force C-130 Airplane during Hurricane Isabel. The three talks provided about 90 minutes of presentation time on the various threats of weather all of which can occur in Southern New England.

The SKYWARN Spotter and Amateur Radio community are very appreciative for Mish's efforts to put on this presentation. Special thanks to the Massasoit and Whitman Amateur Radio Clubs and to Carl Aveni-NIFY, Assistant NWS Taunton SKYWARN Coordinator and Assistant Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Section Emergency Coordinator for putting together this presentation and opening up to the larger Amateur Radio SKYWARN Community.

Pictures to this event will be made available on the NWS Taunton SKYWARN home page, <http://www.wx1box.org> over the next few weeks.

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2009 Friday Evening December 4th Thru Saturday December 5th..

The National Weather Service in Taunton Amateur Radio Station, WX1BOX, will once again be active for SKYWARN Recognition Day 2009. In addition, for the third straight year, the National Weather Service Gray, Maine Office will also be active under call-sign, WX1GYX.

This will be the 11th year of SKYWARN Recognition Day and its anticipated that over 100 NWS Forecast Offices will be participating once again this year. This event was featured on page 62 of the December 2009 Issue of QST Magazine and web links to information on SKYWARN Recognition Day can be seen at the following links including information in the ARRL ARES E-Letter:

<http://hamradio.noaa.gov>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/17/11199/?nc=1>

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/index.html?issue=2009-11-18#toc02>

The following is a schedule of repeaters that will be utilized along with simplex being utilized during certain timeframes on Saturday at WX1BOX. We hope Amateurs will utilize this schedule and try and work WX1BOX during these various timeframes. If you don't hear NWS,

feel free to call for WX1BOX and if the office is monitoring, a response will be given. When you make contact, give your current sky condition and temperature as required. Below is the tentative schedule of operations:

Friday December 4th, 2009:

7:00-7:30 PM: 146.970-Paxton Repeater (PL: 114.8 Hz)
7:30-8:00 PM: 147.180-Bridgewater Repeater (PL: 67.0 Hz)
8:00-8:30 PM: 145.490-Fairhaven Repeater (PL: 67.0 Hz)
8:30-9:00 PM: 146.955-Westford Repeater (PL: 74.4 Hz)
9:00-9:30 PM: 146.79-Vernon, CT Repeater (PL: 82.5 Hz) (linked via IRLP.)
9:30-10:00 PM: 147.225-Killingly, CT Repeater (PL: 156.7 Hz)
10:00-10:30 PM: 146.760-Scituate, RI or 145.370-Coventry RI Repeater PL: 67.0 Hz
10:30-11:00 PM: 145.470-Danvers Repeater (PL: 136.5 Hz)
11:00-11:30 PM: 146.955-Barnstable PL: 88.5 or 147.375-Falmouth Repeater PL: 110.9
11:30 PM-12:00 AM: 146.640-Waltham Repeater

**Will Attempt to monitor both the New England Network and the
WX-TALK/IRLP Reflector 9219 systems during this entire timeframe.

**It is possible we may switch off to different repeaters or simplex
during time slots if we run out of contacts.

Saturday December 5th, 2009:

7:00-8:30 AM: 146.595 Simplex
8:30-9:00 AM: Litchfield County Linked System via KB1AEV repeater system
9:00-9:30 AM: 145.230-Boston Repeater (PL: 88.5 Hz)
9:30-10:00 AM: 146.640-Waltham Repeater
10:00-10:30 AM: 146.895-Walpole Repeater (PL: 123.0 Hz)
10:30-11:00 AM: 147.225-Killingly, CT Repeater (PL: 156.7 Hz)
11:00-11:30 AM: 145.470-Danvers Repeater (PL: 136.5 Hz)
11:30 AM-Noon: 146.79-Vernon, CT Repeater (Linked via IRLP.)
Noon-1:00 PM: 146.595 Simplex
1:00-1:30 PM: 146.685-Plymouth Repeater (PL: 82.5 Hz)
1:30-2:00 PM: 145.130-Gloucester Repeater (PL: 107.2 Hz)
2:00-2:30 PM: 146.955-Barnstable (PL: 88.5) or 147.375-Falmouth Repeater (PL: 110.9)
2:30-3:00 PM: 146.955-Westford Repeater (PL: 74.4)
3:00-3:30 PM: 146.970-Paxton Repeater (PL: 114.8)
3:30-4:00 PM: 147.165-Exeter, RI Repeater (PL: 67.0)
4:00-4:30 PM: 146.760-Scituate, RI or 145.37-Coventry, RI Repeater (PL: 67.0)
4:30-5:00 PM: 145.490-Fairhaven Repeater (PL: 67.0)
5:00-5:30 PM: 147.180-Bridgewater Repeater (PL: 67.0)
6:00-6:30 PM: 146.895-Walpole Repeater (PL: 123.0)
6:30-7:00 PM: 147.000-Dartmouth Repeater (PL: 67.0)

**Will Attempt to monitor both the New England Network and the
WX-TALK/IRLP Reflector 9219 systems during this entire timeframe.

**It is possible we may switch off to different repeaters or simplex
during time slots if we run out of contacts.

The following is information EchoLink/IRLP operations during SKYWARN Recognition Day. Further updates to follow as we get closer to the event:

Time in UTC NWS Office Call-Sign

0000-0100: WX0GLD (Confirmed to Keep Time Slot)
0100-0200: WX1GYX (Confirmed to Keep Time Slot)
0200-0300: WX4MLB (Confirmed to Keep Time Slot)
0300-0400: Open
0400-0500: Open
0500-0600: WX9GRB (Confirmed to Keep Time Slot)
0600-0700: WX4HUN (Confirmed to Keep Time Slot)
0700-0800: N0NWS (Confirmed to Keep Time Slot)
0800-0900: Open
0900-1000: Open
1000-1100: Open
1100-1200: WX7PHX (Moved to new time slot and confirmed.)
1200-1300: W7NWS (Confirmed to Keep Time Slot)
1300-1400: Open
1400-1500: WX4HUN (Confirmed to Keep Time Slot)
1500-1600: WX1BOX (Confirmed to keep the time slot)
1600-1800: WX4NC (Confirmed to keep the time slot, 2 hour time slot and time slot is from last year)
1800-1900: WX6MTR (Confirmed to Keep Time Slot)
1900-2000: K0MPX (Confirmed to Keep Time Slot)
2000-2100: WX4MLB (Confirmed to Keep Time Slot)
2100-2300: WX4NHC (2 hour time slot is from last year and confirmed to keep the time slot)
2300-2400: Open

There will be other conference systems utilized for SKYWARN Recognition Day. They are as follows:

The New England Reflector Gateway System will be utilized by the NWS Taunton, Mass. and NWS Gray, Maine offices from 0000-0500 UTC and 1200-2400 UTC. The New England Gateway system is on EchoLink Conference server *NEW-ENG* Node: 9123, IRLP reflector 9123. If other NWS offices would like to join the system, they are welcome to do so and participants in SKYWARN Recognition Day can also use that system to make contact with various NWS offices.

Also, the Western Reflector will be having NWS offices calling CQ as in past years on reflector 9250 and have its gateway system on IRLP 9258/EchoLink Conference *NV-GATE* Node: 125266 open for NWS offices. Please contact Kent-W7AOR for additional information on the Western Reflector.

A few technical reminders for folks interested in making contacts with the NWS Forecast Offices on the *WX-TALK* Node: 7203/IRLP 9219 and New England Reflector Gateway IRLP 9123/*NEW-ENG* Echolink Node: 9123 systems:

-The system allows both EchoLink and IRLP connections. For EchoLink users, you connect to the *WX-TALK* Node: 7203 conference system. For IRLP users, you would connect to IRLP reflector 9219.

-If you are using EchoLink, the RF node or PC that you're using must have EchoLink conferencing disabled. If it is not disabled, the system will automatically kick the node or PC off of the system.

The reason this occurs is to prevent unintentional interference from a conferencing station that may not know the node is connected somewhere else. This will keep traffic moving on the net and reduce interference considerably.

For more information on VoIP Technical Configuration Tips, please go to our web site at <http://www.voipwx.net> where we have a link to that information on the main menu of the web site. This announcement will also be on the web site.

We are looking forward to another fun SKYWARN Recognition Day on the *WX-TALK* Node: 7203/IRLP reflector 9219 system, New England Reflector Gateway system and Western Reflector system. Thanks to all for there support!

SKYWARN Coordinators Meeting On Saturday December 5th Coinciding with SRD..

The second and final NWS Taunton SKYWARN Coordinators/Net Control Meeting for 2009 will be held at NWS Taunton coinciding with SKYWARN Recognition Day 2009. The meeting will be from 1230-330 PM at NWS Taunton. We will attempt to keep WX1BOX on the air while we conduct the meeting. A summary of the meeting and what gets discussed will be featured in a future SKYWARN Newsletter in December.

National Hurricane Center (NHC) Proposes Improvements to NHC Public Advisory Format..

The National Hurricane Center is looking for feedback on improvements to their public advisory format. This feedback can come from Emergency Management, the SKYWARN Spotter and Amateur Radio community as well as the general public. Details on the proposed improvements as well as how to send your feedback via email, can be seen via the following link:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/feedback_tcp.shtml

NHC Participates in Disaster Preparedness Report..

The National Hurricane Center recently participated in a Disaster Preparedness Report. That report, written by Deputy Director of the National Hurricane Center, Ed Rappaort, can be seen via the following link:

http://www.uschamber.com/bclc/programs/disaster/09report_rappaport.htm

Changes to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale and Offshore Waters Forecasts..

The National Hurricane Center is also looking for feedback on an experimental changes to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale as well as the Offshore Waters Forecast. Links to that information and how to give your feedback

to the National Hurricane Center can be seen at the following links:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshs.shtml>

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/proposal_web_pages/index.shtml?large

Q & A for National Hurricane Center Personnel from October and November..

Two more issues of Q & A for National Hurricane Center Personnel from October and November are now available. Those Q & A articles and past articles can be seen via the following link:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/q_and_a.shtml

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Macedo (KD1CY)

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