



NORTHEAST FLORIDA / SOUTHEAST GEORGIA

# Seabreeze

WEB LETTER



WINTER 2001

ISSUE # 1

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### **Welcome to Seabreeze**

**W**elcome to Seabreeze, the National Weather Service in Jacksonville's official web newsletter for Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. In it, you will find interesting weather-related articles of local interest, as well as features such as new and upcoming website improvements, a summary of last season's weather, planned National Weather Service events and activities, and SKYWARN storm spotter information. In addition, over the coming months, you will learn more about what your local National Weather Service office does on a daily basis, and how we work to provide you with forecasts and warnings for the Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia area.

This web-based newsletter will be posted on the National Weather Service Jacksonville webpage on a seasonal basis, around mid-January, mid-April, mid-July, and mid-October. The NWS Jacksonville website can be accessed at the following address: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax>.

As always, we welcome your input as to how we can serve you better. If there is a topic you would like to see featured in a future edition of Seabreeze, let us hear from you. Here are some useful e-mail addresses:

Website/Webletter [scott.carroll@noaa.gov](mailto:scott.carroll@noaa.gov)  
Weather Radio [michael.mcallister@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.mcallister@noaa.gov)  
Warnings/Outreach [fred.johnson@noaa.gov](mailto:fred.johnson@noaa.gov)  
Other Comments [steve.letro@noaa.gov](mailto:steve.letro@noaa.gov)

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### **October-December 2000 Weather**

**O**ctober had below normal temperatures and rainfall. At the Jacksonville International Airport, the average temperature for October was 67.5 degrees, which was 2.3 degrees below normal. The average daily high was 78.8 degrees and the average daily low was 56.1 degrees. The highest temperature for the month was 91, set on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The lowest temperature recorded was 46 on both the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, with both days setting new records.

Rainfall for October totaled 0.23 inches at the airport. This was 2.67 inches below normal. The greatest 24 hour total was 0.07 inches which occurred on 3 days- the 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. The highest rainfall total from around the area for October was 3.86 inches at Palm Coast, Florida; the lowest was 0.23 at the National Weather Service office in Jacksonville. There were no thunderstorm days in October.

For the month, the peak wind gust was 35 mph which occurred on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were 29 heating degree days (2 below normal) and 110 cooling degree days (69 below normal).

**N**ovember was a cool and dry month as well. For the month, the average temperature at the airport was 58.9 degrees, which was 3.1 degrees below

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normal. The average daily high was 71.4, and the average low was 46.4 degrees. The highest temperature recorded was 84 degrees on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The lowest temperature for the month was a record-breaking 25 degrees on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Rainfall for the month of November totaled 1.54 inches at the airport. This was 0.65 below normal. The most rainfall recorded in a 24-hour period was 1.35 inches on the 24<sup>th</sup> into the 25<sup>th</sup>. The most rainfall observed in the area was 3.36 inches at Woodbine, Georgia; the least was one-tenth of an inch at the Mayport Naval Air Station in Jacksonville. There were 3 days with thunderstorms.

For November, the peak wind gust was 29 mph on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There were 221 heating degree days (72 above normal) and 46 cooling degree days (10 below normal).

**D**ecember was yet another cold and dry month. The average temperature at Jacksonville International Airport was 49.7 degrees (5.4 degrees below normal). The average daily high was 61.4 degrees, and the average daily low was 37.9 degrees. The highest temperature for the month was 80 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>. The lowest temperature was 21 degrees on both the 20<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

For December, total rainfall measured 1.37 inches at the National Weather Service. This was 1.35 inches below normal. The highest total for a 24-hour period was 1.23 inches on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The maximum rainfall total around the area for the month was 4.80 inches in Hazelhurst, Georgia. The least amount was 0.23 at Federal Point, Florida. There was one thunderstorm day.

The highest wind gust was 43 mph on the 17<sup>th</sup>. For energy consumption purposes, there were 476 heating degree days (145 above normal) and 8 cooling degree days (14 below normal).

For more climate information, visit the NWS Jacksonville climate page at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/cgi-bin/master.pl?suite=climate>

### Year 2000 Weather Summary

In the year 2000, Jacksonville experienced near normal temperatures and below normal rainfall. Here is a month-by-month breakdown of temperatures and rainfall:

MONTH	PRECIPITATION	AVERAGE TEMPERATURE
January	2.77 (-0.54)	53.8 (+1.4)
February	1.17 (-2.76)	56.3 (+1.1)
March	1.79 (-1.89)	63.7 (+2.6)
April	2.60 (-0.17)	64.5 (-2.5)
May	1.15 (-2.40)	75.5 (+2.1)
June	2.43 (-3.26)	79.0 (-0.1)
July	5.69 (+0.09)	81.4 (-0.2)
August	7.38 (-0.55)	81.4 (+0.2)
September	11.64 (+4.59)	77.7 (-0.4)
October	0.23 (-2.67)	67.5 (-2.3)
November	1.54 (-0.65)	58.9 (-3.1)
December	1.37 (-1.35)	49.7 (-5.4)

Numbers in parentheses are departures from normal. **Red** values are above normal, **blue** values are below normal.

Jacksonville had 98 rain days in the year 2000, 13 days with over one inch of rain, and 66 thunderstorm days. The peak wind gust for the year was 49 mph on July 11<sup>th</sup>. There were 2 days with high temperatures of 100 or greater and 77 days with temperatures at or above 90 degrees. There were 11 record lows and 4 record highs which were tied or broken. The lowest temperature for the year was 21 degrees on December 20<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The highest temperature for the year was a hot 103 degrees on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

## What's New on the Website?

Since this is the first web newsletter since the new website went online during the middle of 2000, almost everything on the website is new! However, some of the latest features on the page are:

### **New Radar Page**

A new page featuring images from the National Weather Service doppler radar can now be found at the following address:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/cgi-bin/master.pl?suite=radar>

You can view Jacksonville radar images and images from surrounding offices. Links to national radar sites and a national radar composite are also available. A loop feature will display the last 10 images, showing movement of the radar echoes. An intensity scale is shown to the left of the image.

The radar products available include **base reflectivity**, which is the 0.5 degree elevation slice that you usually see on television. The **composite reflectivity** is a composite of all the elevation angles the radar scans (up to 19.5 degrees). The **1-hour precipitation** total is a radar estimate of the accumulated precipitation which has fallen in the past hour. **Storm total precipitation** is a radar estimate of the accumulated precipitation that has fallen in the past several hours or days. All of this data is now available straight from the source, *your* National Weather Service.

For more information on radar, visit:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/radar/radinfo/radinfo.html>

### **Online Report Forms**

Our severe weather report form page has a new look. There is also a link to an optional, printable fax sheet for your severe weather reports. We welcome your reports, as they help us to provide more detailed information about severe weather, as well as verification of the warnings we issue. If you can't call us immediately to report severe weather, please feel free to use either the online form or the fax sheet. Even reports after-the-fact can be of help.

In addition, you can now report marine observations online. Due to limited coastal and buoy observations in our area, the forecasters at the National Weather Service in Jacksonville rely on observations from mariners. We've added a marine report form (similar to the severe weather report form) to help facilitate reports from recreational boaters. There is also a link to a printable fax sheet. The links to both of these forms can be found on the left-hand menu of the homepage.

## Upcoming Additions to the Website

In the coming months, expect to see some new features on the NWS Jacksonville homepage. Some of the planned additions include:

- New layout of the warning text pages (including SAME codes and radio transmitter info on each page)..
- Home, link, and info icons on every page.
- Frequently asked questions (FAQ) and glossary pages.

Other changes to the page are ongoing. Check the "[What's New?](#)" page for updates.

## What We Do

In upcoming editions of the webletter, this section will highlight some of the jobs we do and the services we provide at the National Weather Service in Jacksonville. As an introduction, here are a few pictures of our office, located near the Jacksonville International Airport on the Northside of Jacksonville, Florida:



## Planned Events

### **Tornado Drill**

**D**uring the last week of February, Florida and Georgia Emergency Management and the National Weather Service will participate in Hazardous Weather Awareness Week. The key event during the week will be the tornado drill, which will be conducted between 9:00 AM and 9:30 AM EST on February 21, 2001. Here are the plans for the drill:

- The National Weather Service will issue a practice **TORNADO WATCH** for Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia at about 9:00 AM EST (if severe weather is actually threatening the area, the drill will be postponed until Friday).
- A short time later (about 9:15 AM EST), a practice **TORNADO WARNING** will be issued by each National Weather Service Office. Both the **WARNING** and the **WATCH** will be broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio. *Please note that these broadcast messages will be encoded as a "Weekly Test" for this drill.*
- Both the **TORNADO WATCH** and **WARNING** will terminate promptly at 9:30 AM EST.

For tornado safety information, visit the Tornado Safety Page at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/cgi-bin/master.pl?suite=tornadoes>

## From the Desk of the WCM

*by Fred Johnson*

**I**t is my pleasure to announce our first two counties to achieve StormReady recognition... ALACHUA and FLAGLER counties!

Both Alachua and Flagler counties were recognized at the 2001 Florida Emergency Preparedness Association Awards Banquet on January 17, 2001.

Both Alachua and Flagler counties may now link to the [StormReady](#) web page and they may use the StormReady logo.

In becoming StormReady, both counties have demonstrated that they have the ability to distribute critical hazardous weather warning information to their county agencies in a timely manner. They are using redundant and creative ways, including EMWIN, pagers, e-mail, blastfax, and virtual webpages, plus they are advocating NOAA Weather Radio. They have significant hazardous weather programs and have integrated volunteer Skywarn storm spotters into their program.



**When Seconds Count, StormReady Counties are Prepared!**

**SKYWARN**  
by Fred Johnson



**NWS Event 2000**

I would like to thank the local amateur radio operators who participated in NWS Event 2000. The NWS Jacksonville team made 91 contacts during the 24-hour event period.

The NWS Skywarn vanity call sign "WX4JAX" proved to be very helpful in establishing our location, and I would also like to thank Mr. Lewis Jolly (W4LTJ) and Mr. Ken Bording (W5KNB) for their help in obtaining the call sign.

**Skywarn Courses**

- Basic Storm Spotter (1 hour)
- Advanced Storm Spotter (3 hours, plus test)
- Hurricane Awareness (2 hours)
- Skywarn Refresher (2 hours)

For registration and class information, check our homepage at...

[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/cgi-bin/master.pl?sute=spotter\\_training](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/cgi-bin/master.pl?sute=spotter_training)

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