



## SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY December 6, 2008 WX6HNX; Hanford, CA

by dan Pruitt, AE6SX

This year, ARES and SKYWARN operators from Fresno, Tulare & Kings Counties participated in Skywarn Recognition Day, casually, and produced over 30 Weather contacts and many others. I say casually as we did not operate contest style, more rag chew. We even worked one of our own at a Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in South Carolina, (Ed Vonderbeck, KA6PNL) great fun.



*NOAA WFO 900 Foggy Bottom road, Hanford, CA*  
I'm a been a veteran of 4 SRD's in Hanford, this was definitely the most enjoyable. Father and Son Teams were in force as 2 shifts were covered that way. I would have to say that This event is second only to Field Day on my personal list of Ham Things.



After struggling to acquire less than 10 contacts during the 2007 Skywarn Event changes were needed. San Joaquin Section's Weather Office, in Kings County, grew by leaps and bounds during the year. Plans were put into effect to improve the outcome for 2008. Meetings with the NOAA officials were fruitful and very productive. Upgrades were decided upon and plans were put into effect.

**New location for the Antenna:** This was the easiest and the most productive. The current Antenna was a Vertical and barring the natural characteristics of a Vertical, a better location was decided upon and radials were added. You can imagine the stir when the first 4 contacts were, 2 USA, a Canadian and Norway! This will work!



*WX6HNX 5-BTV*

**The equipment:** Either repair or replacement was necessary. The Weather people said no repair, but new is good! So we decided on the TS-2000. A marked improvement over the tiny mobile rig it replaced. Obviously the capabilities were greatly improved and we felt it needed the proper infrastructure so a Club Call sign was requested and a vanity call established the San Joaquin Valley Skywarn and Storm Spotters.

**Future:** Now the San Joaquin Valley does not have many weather events, however when they happen they come as a surprise. Surprise as they happen fast and are short in duration. This being

said, there needed to be a lot of training and this is on going and the neighboring Counties help support Skywarn, Fresno, Tulare, Madera and Kern Counties. In the past a VHF Network operated all the way to Stanislaus. I mention this because we are in the middle of upgrading the digital capabilities and hope to participate in 2009 SRD that way. We have on dedicated computer and will be getting a Linux box also for IRLP and APRS. This and new VHF/UHF Antennas and towers Should return Skywarn effectiveness to the Valley.

There were others that helped in setup and upgrades, but the list would have been extensive All are recognized as Team "WX6HNX".



*JOHN, K6YDW*



*DAVE, WA6KSF*

**Operators:** I didn't want to leave anyone out so I waited to list every one at once:

- ◆ Bruce Buhler                   KD6DRU
  - Skywarn Director
- ◆ Ed Vonderbeck               KA6PNL
  - Kings Co. ARES EC
- ◆ Dan Pruitt                     AE6SX
  - Fresno Co. ARES EC
- ◆ Bill Homsany                 KG6COH
  - and Son                   (cooked Breakfast)
- ◆ Mike Enquist                 WA7YHX
  - son Kevin                KC6IED
- ◆ Dave Harler                 W6DYH
- ◆ Dave Whitehead             WA6KSF
- ◆ John Neeley                 K6YDW
- ◆ Shane Warner                W8GWP

