

Picking up Radar Tapes

We have an agreement to pick up tapes from the various radars on a regular schedule. It was difficult to get these agreements, so make sure that someone does pick up tapes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We have agreement with the NWS in Key West to arrive there no earlier than 1 PM each MWF.

- TOGA Radar: Pick up “Copy B” from Neil Dunnemann at the TOGA radar on RAMROD Key. Drive south from Big Pine to Ramrod Key. Turn right on Mako Drive and follow until you get to the radar. There are a couple of doglegs, but it would be hard to get lost.
- NPOL Radar: Pick up “Copy B” from NPOL. Drive south to Boca Chica Key Naval Air Station. This is about a 30-minute drive from Big Pine Key. You will see a large radome on your left and will make a right exit where it says (NAS Next Exit), follow exit under the overpass and then proceed to the gate. The first time you go, you will need to go into the Pass & ID office and give them your information. They will REQUIRE a driver’s license, NASA badge and proof of registration (a copy of your rental agreement will suffice for that). Enter the gate and turn right, just prior to the 3rd Jet aircraft (they are all on pedestals, one on the right immediately after the gate, and two more on your left). Take that left and proceed down the road. This is a windy road that circles the runway. You will know when you get to NPOL because there are several sea-tainers and the antenna on the left hand side. OBEY ALL TRAFFIC notices, they are very strict.
- Key West WSR-88D: Drive south to Key West. When you get to the intersection of Route 1 and A1A, take a left hand turn and follow around to Key West airport. It is about 2 miles from the Route 1/A1A intersection. Park in the metered spaces and knock on the door of the NWS office. The office is located in building adjacent to the terminal, next to the Greyhound bus station. Let them know that you are with NASA and are there to pick up tapes. Paul Shaasma is the contact.

DBW