


National Weather Service

Area Forecast Discussion

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FLORIDA KEYS AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE KEY WEST FL

955 PM EST MON MAR 5 2007

.DISCUSSION...

GOES-12 IR IMAGERY SHOWS AN AREA OF STRATOCUMULUS LINGERING OVER THE NEARSHORE AND OFFSHORE WATERS SOUTH OF THE ISLAND CHAIN...WITH CLEAR SKIES NORTHWARD. SURFACE ANALYSIS DEPICTS THE CENTER OF HIGH PRESSURE (1030 MB) OVER THE WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO...WITH A LENGTHY RIDGE REACHING ACROSS THE EASTERN GULF AND FLORIDA PENINSULA. ACROSS THE MARINE DISTRICT...C-MAN STATION PLATFORM OBSERVATIONS INDICATE NORTH WINDS OF 15 KNOTS WITH GUSTS OF 20 KNOTS...EXCEPT NORTHEAST AT AROUND 10 KNOTS ON THE FLORIDA BAY. LOCAL RADARS ARE NOT DETECTING ANY PRECIPITATION ECHOES...BUT FALSE ECHOES IN THE FORM OF CHAFF IS SMOTHERING THE ISLAND CHAIN AND SURROUNDING WATERS. OTHERWISE...OUR EVENING SOUNDING REVEALS A STABLE AND DRY (PWAT .80 INCHES) AIR MASS IN PLACE WITH A LIGHT AND VARIABLE WIND FLOW OVERLAID BY A ZONAL WEST SOUTHWEST FLOW ABOVE 800 MB.

.FORECAST...

WITH MOISTURE LIMITED TO A FEW LAYERS NEAR 5000 AND 12000 FEET...A PRECIPITATION FREE FORECAST APPEARS ON TRACK. MEANWHILE...VERY WEAK COLD AIR ADVECTION MAY ALLOW TEMPERATURES TO FALL INTO THE LOWER 60S IN THE LOWER AND MIDDLE KEYS...WHILE COLD AIR DRAINAGE OFF THE SOUTH FLORIDA MAINLAND SHOULD ALLOW TEMPERATURES TO FALL INTO THE MID AND UPPER 50S OVER THE EXTREME UPPER KEYS. OTHERWISE...THE LINGERING 850 MB TROUGH MAY ALLOW OCCASIONAL PATCHES OF STRATOCUMULUS TO MIGRATE ACROSS THE ISLAND CHAIN. MAY ADJUST THE PUBLIC ZONE FORECAST FOR A SUBTLE INCREASE IN TEMPERATURES.

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.MARINE...

OUR EVENING RAWINDSONDE DEPICTS NORTH WINDS OF 13 KNOTS AT 1 THOUSAND FEET WITH NORTH NORTHEAST WINDS OF 9 KNOTS AT 2 THOUSAND FEET. LATEST 18Z GFS/ETA MARINE GUIDANCE REVEALS ANOTHER SURGE...ALBEIT MORE TAME THAN LAST NIGHT WILL IMPACT KEYS WATERS OVERNIGHT AND EARLY TUESDAY MORNING. THEREFORE...NORTH TO NORTHEAST WINDS INCREASING TO NEAR 20 KNOTS WILL BE MAINTAINED ON ALL WATERS...AND HENCE A SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT.

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.AVIATION...

VFR CONDITIONS WILL PREVAIL OVERNIGHT ON THE ROUTE MIAMI TO KEY WEST...AND AT THE ISLAND TERMINALS. NORTH WINDS TO 15 KTS WILL CREATE CROSSWINDS GREATER THAN 10 KTS ON OUR EAST-WEST RUNWAYS.

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.KEY WATCHES/WARNINGS/ADVISORIES...SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY FOR ALL KEYS COASTAL WATERS GMZ031>033-GMZ052>054-GMZ072>075.

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APA

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L.KASPER