

Reno/Virginia Peak (KRGX) Initial Dome Failure

19 December 2008

Approx. 1030 UTC

National Weather Service
Reno, NV

Photos Taken by NWS Reno
Electronics Team, on First Visit to
Radar After Dome Failure (19 Dec.)

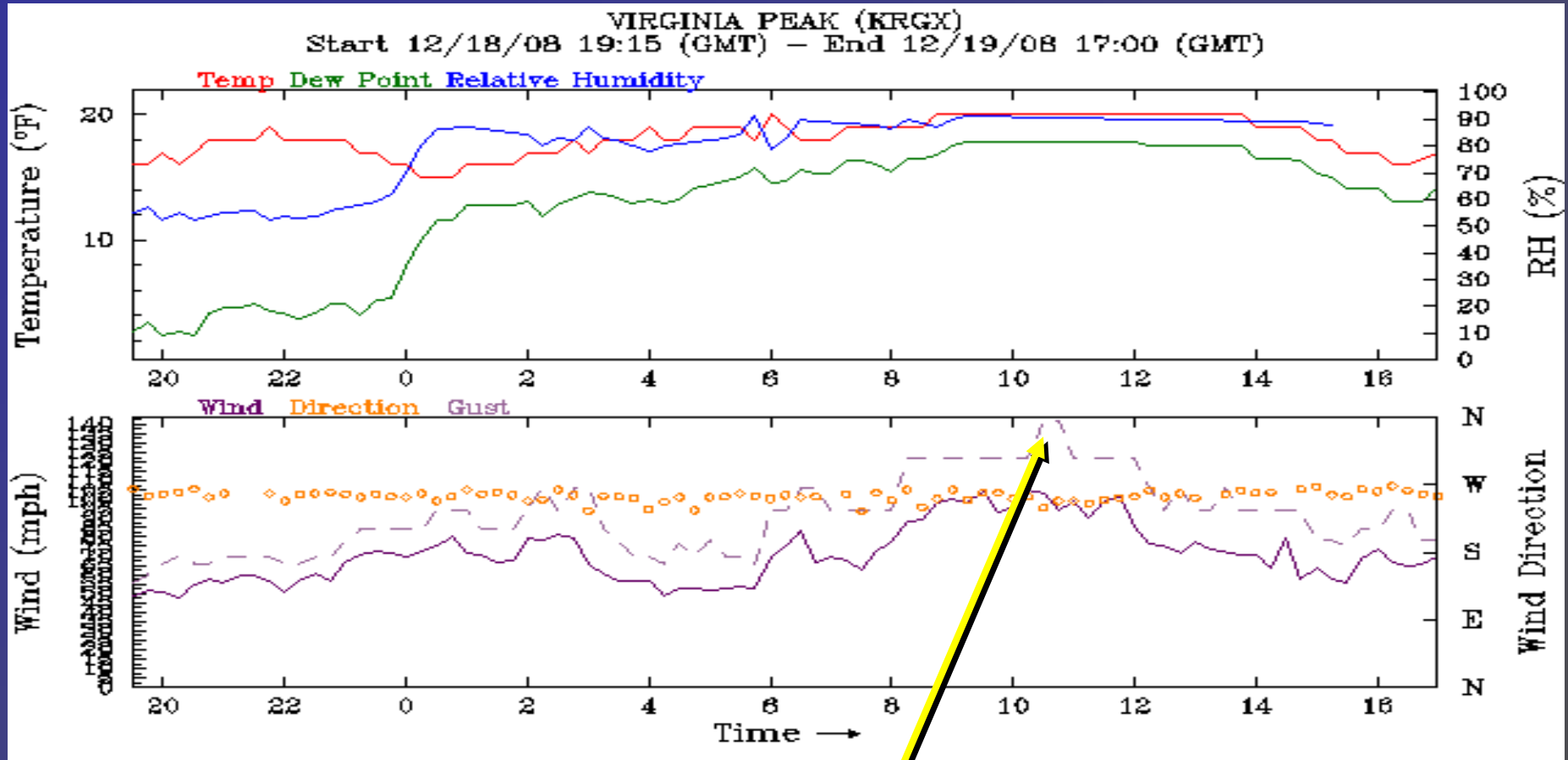


Photos Taken by NWS Reno
Electronics Team, on First Visit to
Radar After Dome Failure (19 Dec.)



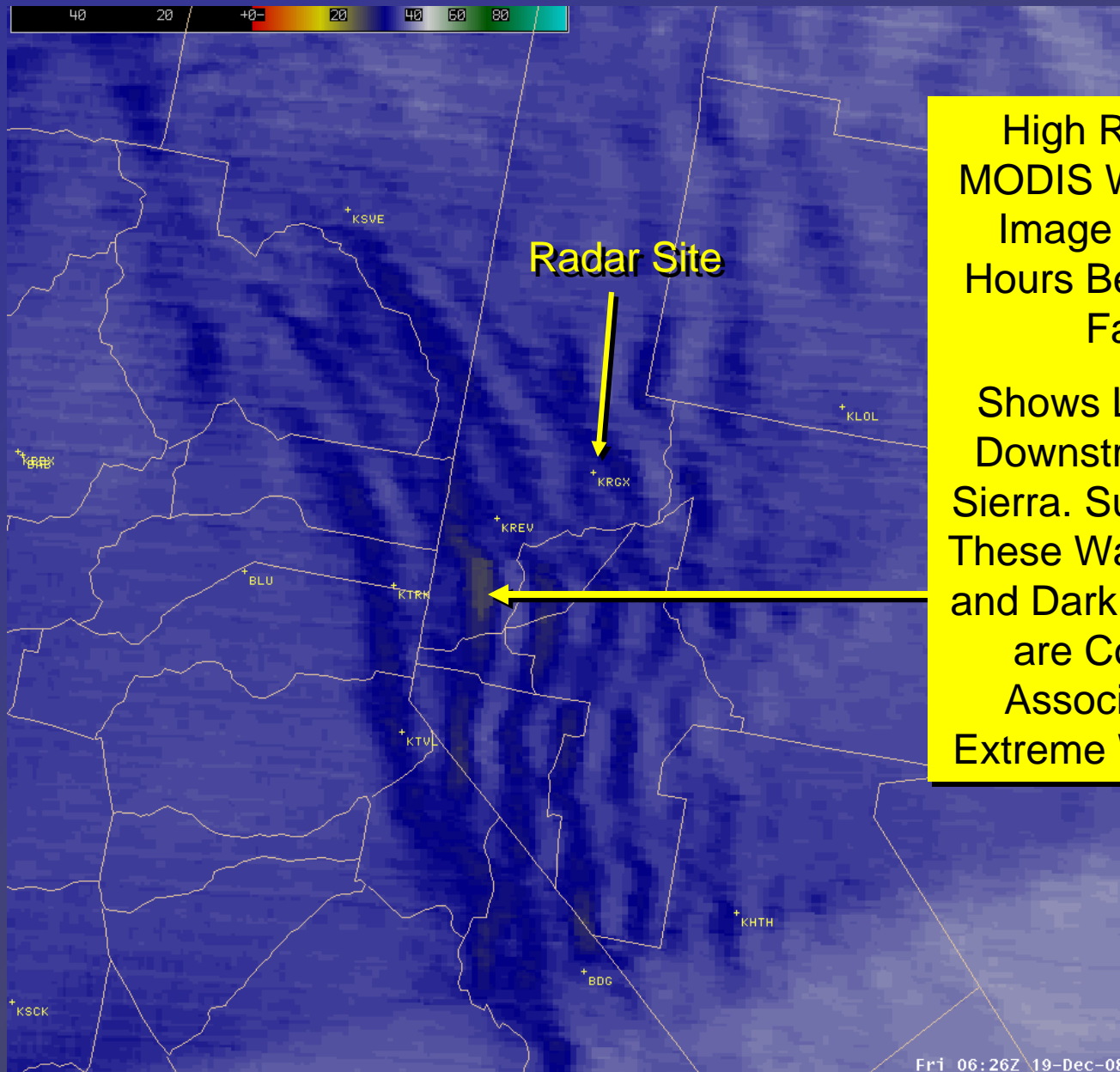
Virginia Peak Weather Data December 18-19, 2008

Elevation: 8299 ft MSL



140 mph Peak Gust Occurred at
the Same Time the Radar Failed

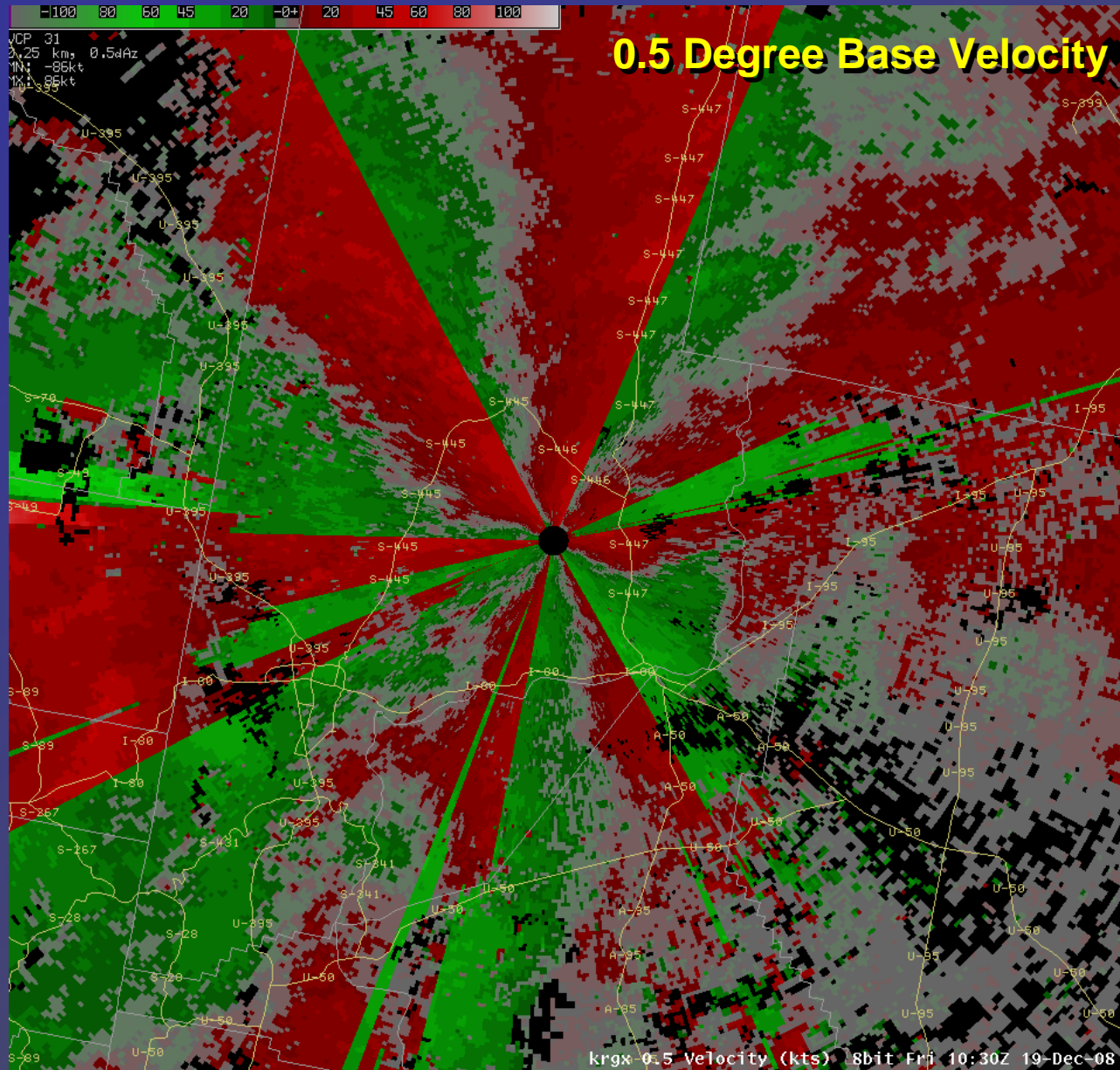
Lee Waves



High Resolution
MODIS Water Vapor
Image Taken ~4
Hours Before Radar
Failed.

Shows Lee Waves
Downstream of the
Sierra. Subsidence in
These Waves (Yellow
and Dark Blue Areas)
are Commonly
Associated with
Extreme Wind Gusts.

Last Radar Image



Reno/Virginia Peak (KRGX) Complete Dome Failure and Radar Dish Damage

25 December 2008

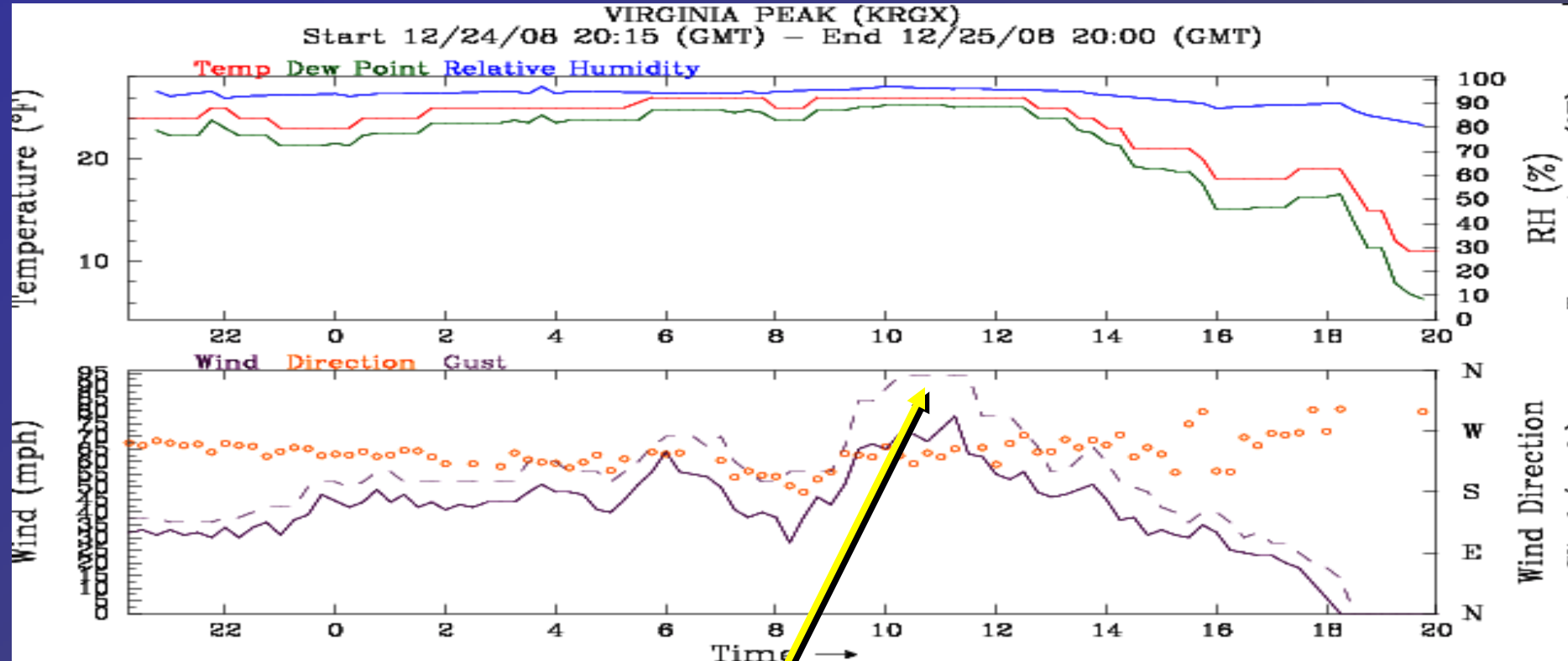
Approx. 1015 UTC

Photos Taken by NWS Reno
Electronics Team, on December
26th After Complete Dome Failure



Virginia Peak Weather Data December 24-25, 2008

Elevation: 8299 ft MSL



95 mph Peak Gust Occurred Which
Likely Destroyed the Rest of the
Radome and Damaged the Radar Dish

When Without Radar...

NWS Meteorologists Make Use of an Extensive Set of Alternative Data:

- Surrounding NWS Office's Radar (e.g. Sacramento, Vegas, Elko, Medford, Hanford)
- Satellite and Lightning Data
- Surface Observations
- Spotters and Cooperative Observers
- Webcams