

NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Western Region Notes

January 25, 2007

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Leadership Corner: Taking Action

By Sherrie Herbert, WFO Pocatello

"There are Three A's in Action"

The "Three A's in Action" is a concept I learned while in a number of management positions in Yellowstone National Park. The main position in which I put them to work was as Assistant Location Manager, which is a management position over all location employees in lodging, food and beverage, gift shops, etc. The location management team was responsible for all location-specific (such as Old Faithful or Canyon Village locations, for example) personnel issues and guest issues that could not be successfully handled by front-line staff.

The "Three A's in Action" are a guideline for dealing with any type of situation, whether it be positive or negative, big or small. Now for the "Three A's"...

Acknowledge
Analyze
Action

Acknowledge. Always acknowledge the situation at hand - especially the person. Give them your time and complete attention. Regardless of whether it is a simple employee request that will take little thought or a complaint that could cost your organization a lot of time and resources, it is imperative to give that person your full attention and empathy. It often helps to put yourself in their shoes.

Analyze. After acknowledging the person and their situation, it must be analyzed. Is this an easy fix or something that will require some thought and possibly some resources? If you are unsure of what to do, enlist support from people you know you can trust to help you and who may be considered experts in the situation. It often helps to make a "Pros & Cons" list to get a better view of the situation. Don't forget the cost in human resources, too. Not all situations require only monetary fixes - most impact someone, which is usually the reason for the issue at hand.

Action. Once you have sincerely acknowledged the person and their situation and thoroughly analyzed the situation, take action! And do not be afraid to make a mistake!

We have all likely heard the phrase that the "worst action is no action at all." It is so true. Even if you make the situation worse, if the source understands you have tried your best and you acknowledge your mistake, they will give you credit - especially if you again apply the "Three A's" to try again and do what is considered the appropriate action.

Hopefully this tidbit may help someone as it really works! The "Three A's in Action" has been put to extensive use in my life - from family to school to work.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION



Dr. Jonathan Phinney [front left] from NMFS discusses use of the NDFD with Lead Forecaster Greg Martin [front right]. Also pictured are SGX SOO Ivory Small (back row left), and Lead Forecaster Ted Mackechnie [back row right]

Dr. Jonathan Phinney, Assistant Center Director for Ecosystem Research for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service in La Jolla, visited the San Diego Forecast Office. He gave a presentation on PaCOOS, the Pacific Coast Ocean Observing System. Dr. Phinney presented examples of how climate fluctuations may affect the population of certain coastal fish species. After the talk, Dr. Phinney toured the office, particularly the Forecast Ops area. He was interested in graphics of long range wave predictions for the open ocean, and also interested in the OPC graphical wave forecasts. We also showed him NDFD graphical products and invited him to work with us if our weather forecast data could be of use to his studies.

NWS Flagstaff Hosts 'Winter Weather Update' Media Event

The NWS Flagstaff hosted a 'Winter Weather Update' for all of the local media at the Belmont office on January 4th. The purpose of the event was to highlight the fact that even though we've had a very dry start to this winter season, the well-advertised El Nino conditions are still anticipated to bring normal to above normal precipitation to the area. SOO Michael Staudenmaier presented a discussion reviewing the fall/winter precipitation to date; a basic review of El Nino; the typical impact of El Nino on Arizona; and an outlook for the rest of the winter season. Several of the NWS staff were active in giving interviews and providing additional information to our media partners. This media event was one of an on-going series of seasonal media events which were initiated last year.



SOO Mike Staudenmaier provides a briefing to the local media on the current state of El Nino, and the anticipated impact on Northern Arizona.

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: This weeks' statement of the week was a very accurate Short Term Forecast written by forecaster Greg Koch of WFO Spokane providing details regarding a snow band which moved through the metro area at **commute time**. Reports from adjacent observations indicate Greg's product was "right on the money". Great job Greg and WFO Spokane.

FPUS76 KOTX 052349
NOWOTX

SHORT TERM FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SPOKANE WA
348 PM PST FRI JAN 5 2007

IDZ002-WAZ036-060115-
COEUR D'ALENE AREA-SPOKANE AREA-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...CHENEY...DAVENPORT...HARRISON...RATHDRUM
348 PM PST FRI JAN 5 2007

.NOW... ANOTHER BAND OF SNOW WILL MOVE INTO THE SPOKANE...POST FALLS...AND COEUR D'ALENE AREAS JUST IN TIME FOR THE EVENING COMMUTE. DRIVING CONDITIONS WILL DETERIORATE RAPIDLY. EXPECT A QUICK HALF INCH TO AN INCH OF SNOW BETWEEN 4 PM AND 530 PM...AS THIS SNOW BAND MOVES TO THE EAST AT 30 MPH. VISIBILITIES WILL DROP TO A QUARTER MILE OF LESS WITH SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW.

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SERVICE OF THE WEEK: This week's service of the week goes to WFO Los Angeles for outstanding service to a customer during a rare high wind event in eastern Santa Barbara County. The following email was received by MIC Mark Jackson noting the "extra mile" support from the WFO.

"I just got off the phone with Dave (Gomberg) your fire weather forecaster and complemented your forecast for the huge wind event that occurred mostly on 12/27/06. You may be aware that the State has declared our County a disaster area. We in fact received on the order of 75 calls that night with several million dollars damage. We responded to 2 brush fires, 1 structure fire, a full nursery collapse and gas leak, several wires down and fires, several crushed homes, garages, cars from fallen trees, and related structural damage to homes and mobile homes. We called you to confirm your high wind watch then warning. Your meteorologist confirmed the report and gave us more specific report on the timing of the wind. We doubled our staffing and engines, opened our District Operations Center, preplanned and called affected schools, organizations, and Carpinteria City. This all helped immensely as the call load was unbelievable. I spoke before the Carpinteria City Council and our District Board of Directors and gave accolades to NOAA for a very time specific and accurate forecast." Thanks again for a job well done!!!



(L to R): Dr. Larry Dunn (NWS Salt Lake City MIC), Ken Kraudy (Sandy Emergency Management Coordinator), Dawn Black and Mike Stever (Salt Lake City Office of Emergency Preparedness), and Bob Halloran (Salt Lake County Emergency Management Director)

Three Utah Communities Recognized as

StormReady: Salt Lake City, and Sandy were recognized as StormReady at the Utah Emergency Management Association Winter Summit on Friday, January 5. Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. acknowledged the communities for their StormReady efforts in his welcome remarks to the Winter Summit. WFO Salt Lake City's MIC Larry Dunn presented the StormReady recognition certificate and signs. There area now eight StormReady communities in Utah.

Newport Beach Recognized as TsunamiReady and StormReady

Newport Beach, California is Western Region's newest TsunamiReady/StormReady site. A recognition ceremony was held January 9th at the Newport Beach City Council meeting. WFO San Diego's MIC, Jim Purpura, presented the recognition certificate and TsunamiReady/ StormReady signs. Newport Beach is located in Orange County in Southern California, one of the most densely populated coastal areas in the nation. It is the fifth TsunamiReady site in California, and the 22nd StormReady site.



(L to R): Jim Purpura (MIC NWS San Diego, Katie Freeman (Newport Beach Emergency Services Coordinator), and Steve Lewis (Newport Beach Fire Chief)



Miles Higa, Forecaster from Portland office shows how to obtain weather information via the web and explain NWS products and services

Portland Boat Show: WFO Portland participated in the 2007 Portland Boat show by staffing an outreach booth during the nine day event which ran from January 6th – 14th. Over 30,000 people attend this boat show every year, which features a variety of recreational boats, accessories and equipment, as well as boater safety information. The NWS booth had several visitors ranging from recreation and commercial fishermen, to families who just wanted to learn a little more about weather. Many of the visitors just stopped by to express appreciation of NWS products and services, especially information on the local NWS webpage, and how valuable that information is to their work and recreation.

A Real Christmas Story by Sherrie Hebert (Pocatello Service Hydrologist): New toys, dollhouses, clothes, shoes and even new bicycles brightened the faces of nine wonderful children in Pocatello on Christmas morning. Not only did these children have a wonderful Christmas, they were not expecting much of a Christmas at all.

The Pocatello WFO fulfilled the Christmas wish lists for nine children in three different families trying desperately to get back on their feet after experiencing numerous hardships. Sherrie Hebert, Pocatello Service Hydrologist, organized the effort utilizing her connection with the Foster Parent program. “All it took was a simple phone call to the Bannock County Health and Welfare department and the dreams started coming true,” Hebert reported. “These kids and their families have really experienced some hard times. After completing foster parent training a couple years ago, my husband and I learned first-hand how difficult life can be for not just the children, but also the parents who really want to get things right,” she added.



L to R: Rick Dittman, Brian Waranauskas, Jeff Hedges, Dean Hazen, Sherrie Hebert, Greg Kaiser, Mike Cantin, Bill Wojcik, Dawn Harmon, Jack Messick, Dave Phelps, Matt Williamson and Rick Winther

The big question still stands as to who got more out of this effort. The children were obviously very happy. The children’s parents were speechless and overwhelmed. The caseworkers, who see much more bad than good in their jobs, were ecstatic. One stated she was “on a high that will last through the holidays!” Or was it the Pocatello staff? The site under the Pocatello WFO Christmas tree grew more impressive every day as the gifts piled higher and higher and the Christmas spirit filled the office. Regardless of the answer, what really rang true was the true spirit of Christmas was experience by everyone involved.



WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard Hosts Two Successful Media Workshops: WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard hosted media workshops on January 9th and 10th for television, radio, and print media outlets in their four-county warning area. One day was dedicated to media from the northern counties, and a second for those media constituents in Los

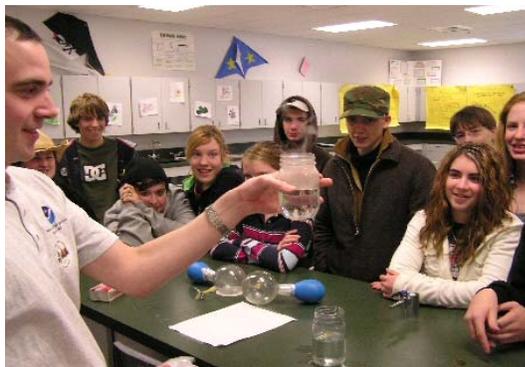
Lead Forecaster Dave Gomberg (sitting down) provides an AWIPS workstation demonstration for WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard Media Workshop attendees

Angeles County. This was the first time workshops for the media had been held at the WFO. The workshop, which was conducted with the help of many staff members, gave participants a chance to tour WFO operations, see demonstrations of AWIPS and the GFE, and learn about NWS products, services, and local research. A bonus for the attendees was an opportunity to view and hear about the SMART-R Doppler-on-wheels that was brought onsite. The SMART-R is being used near the Day Fire site (in Los Angeles County) as a research tool for the ongoing NOAA-USGS Debris Flow Project in Southern California. NSSL meteorologist Dave Jorgensen was on hand to conduct tours of the radar for the media.

This was the first visit to the WFO for many workshop participants, including for one of the leading television meteorologists in the Los Angeles market. The workshop, which is planned as an annual event, is viewed as a valuable tool to building and sustaining important relationships between the media and WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard.



San Diego Boat Show: The San Diego Boat show was held January 4-7th, and a National Weather Service booth was staffed by San Diego personnel. In the picture on the left (facing) is intern Steve Vanderburg and on the right (also facing) is intern Phil Gonsalves. Others staffing the booth (not shown) included forecasters Art Horton, Don Whitlow, and Miguel Miller, HMT Noel Isla, and MIC Jim Purpura. Several hundred brochures were handed out and scores of questions were answered during the 4 day event.



Teachers for a Day: On January 16th, Spokane staff members Kerry Jones (WCM) and Jeremy Wolf (pictured at left) teamed up to provide a unique hands-on weather experience for nearly 160 ninth grade students at Post Falls High School in Post Falls, ID. Jeremy and Kerry were guest instructors for the day, which included six one-hour classes. WFO Spokane's activity, "*Weather or Not*", featured clouds-in-a-jar (a cloud-forming apparatus) and runoff simulation using a terrain model. Additionally, students learned the basics of topics ranging from

the atmosphere's structure and composition to weather safety and preparedness. "*Having professionals in the local community visit classrooms to share their passion for science is a wonderful way to motivate and spark interest,*" remarked the school's principal (who also participated in one of the sessions).



2007 Great Rockies Sports Show: Billings WCM Tom Frieders joined Great Falls WCM Dan Reilly to staff a booth at this season's first Great Rockies Sports show in Bozeman, MT, January 12th-14th. The show moved into Billings the weekend of January 19th-21st. Billings forecasters Scott Carpenter, Jim Maczko, Tom Humphrey, Bill Rasch, Kurt Hooley and interns Matt Solum and Liz

Stoppkotte staffed the booth in Billings. Both shows were well attended with a steady flow of outdoorsman visiting the booths. Below, BYZ Lead Forecaster Bill Rasch (on right) talks with a Sports show attendee in Billings.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Hydrology:

WFO Oxnard Senior Service Hydrologist (SSH) Jayme Laber has been selected to attend and participate in the National Hydrologic Warning Council meeting to be held in Savannah, Georgia. Jayme will present information on the Debris Flow Project.

Scott Dummer from HCSD attended a conference call for the NWS Strategic Training and Education Plan for FY08 (NSTEP08). Scott sent a 'Call for Training Items' to WR HICs, DOHs, SOOs and HPMs with suspense date of 1/25. HCSD needs training requirements and delivery mechanisms to forward to the National team and Jeff Zimmerman from NWSH OCWWS.

WFO Salt Lake Developing Podcasts

WFO Salt Lake City SSH Brian McInerney has begun to develop Podcasts to disseminate water supply and climate information. WFO Salt Lake City has already received very favorable feedback from a variety of their customers and partners. Anyone interested can download, listen, and subscribe to the podcasts which will then come to you automatically from then on. The latest podcasts are available at:

http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/slc/river/podcast/index_podcast.htm

Upcoming Hydro Program Reviews

WFO Seattle program review scheduled for February 7-8.

WR HCSD is in the process of setting up WFO Oxnard and San Diego program reviews. Potential dates include March 5-9, or March 26-30.

GIS:

Jenna Meyers from HCSD will be attending a GIS conference call with the other regions on Jan 23rd. They will be joined by ESRI staff to discuss options on how to share and pool licenses with each region holding its own account for pay orders.

Data:

Susan Nelson from HCSD has received some volunteers to develop an agenda for the regional OPL/DAPM Conference to be held the week of March 19th. If you have any possible agenda item ideas for the conference please contact Susan.

NWS Coop Observers Needed for the USA-National Phenology Network

Even though we are having some nasty winter weather, it won't be long and spring will be coming to parts of our region. Interested NWS Coop Observers can become part of the USA-National Phenology Network (USA-NPN).

Phenology is the science of periodic events in the animal and plant world as influenced by the

environment, especially weather and climate. Sprouting and flowering of plants in the spring, color changes of plants in the autumn, bird migration, insect hatches, and animal hibernation are all examples of phenological events.

Phenological observation networks in the USA were developed in the late 1950's and early 1960's as part of agricultural planning programs sponsored by regional projects in the Agricultural Experiment station network. Many of the Weather Bureau's volunteer observers were also a part of phenological networks and some remain to this day. The networks have waned over the years, and are still alive, but barely. In the last decade, the value of such networks for global change studies monitoring the biological effects of climate change, and improving understanding and ability to model atmosphere-biosphere carbon and energy flux interactions, has become apparent. With a grant from the National Science Foundation and contributions from other agencies, a USA-National Phenology Network is being implemented this spring. Existing Phenology Networks that are a part of other Federal and State Agencies, and so forth, will be assimilated into the USA-NPN.

Our Coop Observers can enhance this network. A perfect fit is a NWS Coop Climate Station also reporting phenology observations. Reporting phenology is not an every day thing like reporting precipitation and temperatures. It usually just involves 3 or 4 observations each year in the Spring-time. We would like to give our Climate Network Coop Observers the opportunity to participate in the USA-NPN if they so desire. Our involvement would be to attach mailing labels to envelopes containing letters for our Coop Observers. The postage, letters, and envelopes will be supplied to us by the USA-NPN. When the letters are sent, our involvement ends. Observers who are interested in being a part of this network will then contact the USA-NPN.

Climate:

Andrea Bair and Jenna Meyers attended the National AMS Meeting in San Antonio, TX the week of January 15th and presented material on the Local 3 Month Temperature Outlook. Andrea also chaired a session. The official release of the L3MTO occurred during press briefing portion of the meeting.

Things are Heating Up in Phoenix!

This past October Tony Haffer, MIC at Phoenix, attended an International Workshop in Montreal related to Heat Health Warning Systems. The conference focused on many diverse topics related to the impacts of excessive heat episodes including forecasting, health interventions, awareness, emergency services, etc. Tony was so impressed with the Conference that he is in the process of organizing a similar workshop focused on the extreme heat episodes that frequently occur in the U.S. He has already coordinated with various potential participants including, AZ Dept. of Health Services, the EPA, Universities, the CDC, emergency managers as well as NOAA/NWS participants. A potential target date for the workshop would be November 2007, held in Phoenix and hosted by the Phoenix Office. More information will follow in the staff notes as things firm up. Additional details can be obtained by contacting Tony.

Federal Legislation Introduced to cut heat-trapping emissions by 2 percent a year

Senators John McCain and Barack Obama and Joe Lieberman have announced a new bill in congress intended to cut the heat-trapping emissions by 2 percent a year. Their plan would require releases of heat-trapping gases to return to 2004 levels by 2012 and to 1990 levels by

2020. This bill, if enacted, would reduce global-warming gases by one-third over the next four decades. Read here for the article:

<http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/news/nation/16439678.htm>

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

General

Hydromet Testbed (HMT) Update: NOAA's Earth System Research Lab is deploying a prototype, next generation AWIPS workstation at SAC, RNO and MTR to evaluate experimental model data sets. For more information, please refer to <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/programs/2007/hmt/>

Winter Storm Reconnaissance Program: The goal of the Winter Storm Reconnaissance (WSR) Program is to deploy spatially and temporally targeted dropsondes well out over the Pacific from aircraft flying out of Honolulu and Anchorage -- with the objective of improving the NCEP model forecasts in critical weather situations, especially when there is significant model disagreement or uncertainty. For the western U.S., the constraints of the program are such that the forecast event of interest would typically have to be identified 60-96 hours in advance (for a request to be made for targeted obs).

Procedure:

Lead Office: The Monterey Forecast Office is again serving as the Western Region Coordination Office for this season.

Process: Since these support long fuse forecast issues, please contact the Monterey office 3 to 5 days preceding the event over WR. The Monterey office will coordinate and submit a request to the SDM at NCEP.

The Winter Storms Program for 2007 will conclude on or before 20 March.

For significant additional detailed information on the current WSR program, see: <http://wwwt.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/gmb/targobs/target/wsr2007.html>

Professional Development and Training: (Mark Mollner)

Proposals for COMET Outreach Partners and Coop Projects Now Being Accepted: COMET has announced that the Outreach Program is currently accepting submissions for Partners Proposals. In addition, the National Weather Service has issued a new Request for Proposals for Cooperative Projects. For more information: <http://www.comet.ucar.edu/outreach/prop.htm>.

Hydro-Science: (Kevin Werner)

Debris Flow training module: Kevin Werner (WR/SSD) has produced a Debris Flow training module that provides explains the difference between flash floods and debris flows and summarizes the “lessons learned” from Oxnard/San Diego USGS debris flow experiment. The training module is available at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/prism/debrisflow/>

Technology Infusion: (Mike Doney, Jim Pelton)

FLARE - WR Flare application referenced, version 1.0 will be released by January 30

StormLog - Mike Doney (WR/SSD) has set the data base up for internal testing. Craig Schmidt (WR/SSD) will coordinate the test.

Instant Messaging (IM) Mike Doney (WR/SSD) is setting up the demo version of Akonix A6000 device for testing. The Akonix device is an important component to facility Instant Messaging while meeting new and emerging DOC and NOAA IM policies.

Service Evolution/Verification Project: (K. Pomeroy, D. Myrick, A. Sutula)

This winter, WFO's across WR have been broken into 6 working groups to examine the performance of official and model forecasts using BOIVerify during different weather regimes. Important accomplishments from this winter's project thus far include:



Integration of BOIVerify into Operations

- Three rounds of working group conference calls (18 calls) have been held. On these calls, WFO's have shared case studies contrasting official forecasts to model guidance during different weather regimes. Local case studies are beginning to examine newer products:
- REV presented a case where guidance from the gridded MOS was superior to other models.
- Examples of situations when bias-corrected grids add and diminish value to model guidance have been examined.
- A special team was formed to evaluate methods for verifying high impact events. The team has started to look at the issue of QPF verification. On a recent [GoToMeeting](#) conference call, Kevin Werner outlined the pros/cons of the different QPE analyses currently available.

Group	Date	PST	MST
FGZ, PSR, TWC, VEF	Tue, Jan 23	9 AM	10 AM
LOX, SDC	Tue, Jan 30	9 AM	10 AM
BOI, LNK, PH, REV, SLC	Tue, Jan 30	1 PM	2 PM
HGO, PBI, PQR, QTX, REV	Wed, Jan 31	10 AM	11 AM
BYZ, GGW, TTX	Wed, Jan 31	1 PM	2 PM
EKA, HNA, MFR, MTR, REV, STO	Tue, Feb 6	10 AM	11 AM
High Impact Group	TBD	TBD	TBD

- The results from this winter's regime-based verification project will be used to justify adopting new forecasting practices.

Technical Enhancements

- A major upgrade to BOIVerify was installed region-wide in November. *(A special thanks to Tim Barker (SOO-Boise) for all of his hard work!!)* Included in this upgrade was the installation of bias corrected grids into the GFE. SSD released two online training modules with this upgrade:
 - [Improvements to BOIVerify: What's new in version 1.0?](#)
 - [Bias corrected grids: How are they created?](#)
- A 500 GB hard drive was installed in the local application server region-wide in January increasing storage of BOIVerify data from 50 to 200 days.
- The Digital Services Support and Service Evolution Project web pages were redesigned. The web page can be found at: http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/

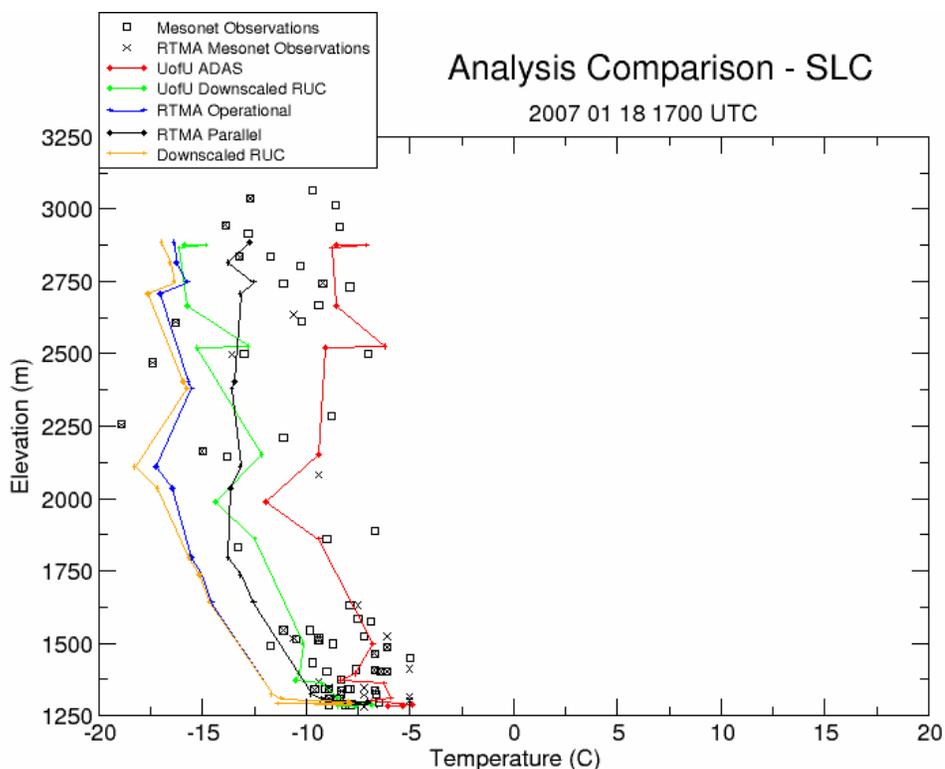
New project [wehname](#)
Working Groups

Other Digital Service Related Projects

- Development of a QPF procedure in GFE is ongoing (K. Pomeroy, C. Gibson – SLC WFO). This procedure will utilize PRISM data available in AWIPS Build 7 to create QPF grids that incorporate climatology and, optionally, RFC QPF data. This tool is expected to be available for testing in mid-February.
- Development of the 'DiurnalFromModel' smart tool is ongoing (A. Sutula). This tool will allow forecasters to create hourly temperature, dewpoint, and relative humidity grids based on their forecast max/mins combined with diurnal trends from model data. Availability of the RTMA in AWIPS build OB7.2 will overcome a large barrier with this project. Testing of the tool in WFOs will begin shortly.

RTMA Evaluation Project (C. Kahler, D. Myrick)

SSD is involved in the evaluation of the Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis over the complex terrain of the western United States. Chad Kahler has developed a webpage (<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/rtma/>) to evaluate the performance of the RTMA.



The above example compares surface temperature from the RTMA to four other objective analyses and surface observations along a terrain profile that runs from approximately KSLC (Salt Lake City Airport) southeastward to the top of the Alta Ski Area in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah. David Myrick and Chad Kahler participate in bi-weekly RTMA conference calls with the developers of the RTMA at NCEP-EMC and have presented examples identifying problems with the analysis. David Myrick visited NCEP-EMC in late November to learn about how the RTMA is created and to build a working relationship with the developers.

New Western Region Technical Attachments:

WR-TA 07-01 [Forecasting Lee-Side Precipitation in the Central and Northern Sierra Nevada Part I: Instability and Wind](#) **Jim Wallman and Rhett Milne, WFO Reno,NV**

WR-TA 07-02 [Forecasting Lee-Side Precipitation in the Central and Northern Sierra Nevada Part II: The Narrow Cold Frontal Rainband](#) **Jim Wallman and Rhett Milne, WFO Reno,NV**

Upcoming Science Workshops

PAC NW Workshop: *March 2-3* This year's workshop will be held on March 2 and 3 at the Sand Point/NOAA campus in Seattle. Pre-registration is requested for all attendees. You can check for the latest information and register on-line via at: www.atmos.washington.edu/~cliff/PNW2007.html.

WR SOO/DOH Workshop: *April 17-19* The next WR SOO/DOH Workshop proposed for April 17-19

AMS Conference: *June 24-29* The AMS on Weather Analysis and Forecasting/18th Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction, will be held 24-29 June 2007 at The Yarrow Resort Hotel & Conference Center (Hotel) in Park City, Utah. The WAF conference is focused on the "Analysis and Prediction of High-Impact Weather". Authors of accepted presentations will be notified (via e-mail) by 13 April 2007.

Training Update:

Warning Decision Branch – Clutter Suppression: One of the many ORDA changes is the technique for clutter suppression. WDTB would like to encourage all field forecasters to take the DLOC Clutter Suppression module as a refresher. In the LMS, the module is titled "DLOC Topic 3 Lesson 4, Clutter Suppression". Play time for the module is just over 40 minutes and the associated exam has 8 questions.

Teletraining Sessions: The teletraining calendar is now at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ecal.asp> Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu.

The current sessions planned for February 2007 are:

- NEW - Conditional Climatology - AvnFPS 3.2 (Basic, Feb 8,13,15,20,27)
- New - Satellite Interpretation of Orographic Clouds / Effects (Basic, Feb 22)
- MODerate resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) Products in AWIPS (Basic, Feb 5,16,27)
- CRAS Forecast Imagery in AWIPS (Basic, Feb 20)
- Utilizing GOES Imagery within AWIPS to Forecast Winter Storms Parts I & II (Intermediate, Feb 6,7)
- Cyclogenesis: Analysis utilizing Geostationary Satellite Imagery (Basic, Feb 15)
- TROWAL Identification (Basic, Feb 9)
- Water Vapor Channel Satellite Imager (Basic, Feb 21)

All previous sessions including those with recorded instructor audio and annotations are available at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ts.html>

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

Program Review and Safety Inspection: Joe Lachacz visited WFO Reno for a SOD program review and safety inspection. Joe visited several ASOS and NWR sites during the review.

HVAC: Facilities Engineering Technicians Lee Jenson and Tom Page traveled to the Phoenix Nexrad site and replaced the aging 5 Ton Bard units with new 6 Ton units.

ATV Safety Course: Gerry Deiotte (WRH) and Ulysess Davis attended a State Sponsored ATV safety course held in Salt Lake City.

Safety Tips: Shoveling Snow

Shoveling snow can be excellent exercise, but it can also be hazardous to people who overdo it. A study performed by researchers at North Dakota State University determined that, based on heart rate, shoveling was moderately intense activity for college-aged subjects most of the time but was vigorous activity during about one-third of their shoveling time of 14 minutes.

The good news is that 15 minutes of snow shoveling counts as moderate physical activity according to the 1996 Surgeons General's Report on Physical Activity and Health. We all should aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity of some kind on most days of the week. The bad news is that researchers have reported an increase in the number of fatal heart attacks among snow shovelers after heavy snowfalls.

- Shoveling snow can be excellent exercise, but it can also be hazardous to people who overdo it.
- If you are older than 40, or if you aren't in good shape, be careful.
- If you have a history of heart trouble, check with your doctor before grabbing that snow shovel and clearing the driveway or sidewalk.
- Don't shovel snow just after you eat.
- Don't smoke while shoveling.
- Pace yourself. Snow shoveling is a strenuous exercise that raises both your pulse and blood pressure. Treat shoveling like an athletic event: warm up before you start, and stretch during and after shoveling.

- Try to shovel fresh snow, which is easier to handle than snow that has partly melted or become packed-down.
- Try pushing the snow forward instead of scooping and lifting it.
- Push or pick up small amounts at a time.
- Use your legs instead of your back. Bend your legs and keep your back straight.
- Take breaks. And don't work until you are exhausted.
- If your chest feels tight, stop immediately.
- Wear layers of clothing, and keep your hands and feet warm.

Oracle Collaboration Suite: A two-month test of Oracle collaboration Suite will be conducted with NOAA's Northwest Fisheries. 12 WR WFO's and WR Headquarters are involved in testing the Collaboration Suite, which is hosted on a Fisheries Server.

Radar Archive Level II Data Project: The Radar Operations Center reported on the Jan 22, 2007 NOAANet conference call that all NWS Regions greatly exceeded the required uptime for the Radar Archive Level II data project. Our partners expressed their appreciation to all those involved in making sure this data acquisition/distribution network is up and properly running.

Web Services Information: The week of January 8th was a very busy web services week. Wednesday, January 10th and Thursday, January 11th were particularly busy days. Combined output for January 10th and January 11th was over 260GB of data. Over 7.5 million pages were served to our customers. The performance tweaks and script modifications made over that last couple of months paid off. Thanks to all of those who contributed to this effort

Snow Cat and Survival Class: Several Western Region ET's and RMS's are attending a week long snow cat and survival class in Auburn, CA.

Weather DCP System: Son Nguyen and Jeff Helms solved a stubborn problem with a Weather DCP. The system was relocated at the U.S. Mint in San Francisco, CA.

BMS Install: Facilities Engineering Technician Lee Jenson traveled to Medford Oregon to install a Battery Monitoring System (BMS) on the WFO UPS. These systems provide real time information on the status and health of the UPS batteries, leading to early diagnosis and replacement before failures.



Top 10 Reasons To Buckle Up!

- 10 - My car doesn't have an ejectable canopy.
- 9 - Lying in a hospital for months is not my idea of a vacation.
- 8 - Steering wheels don't make good pillows.
- 7 - I never aspired to be a hood ornament.
- 6 - A wheelchair is not my idea of a hot set of wheels.
- 5 - I always wanted to fly, but not into a tree.
- 4 - Tombstones are not the best way to get the last word.
- 3 - I always hated statistics. The last thing I'd want is to be one.
- 2 - I faint at the sight of blood, especially my own.
- 1 - My family needs me.

Remember wearing seatbelts in a government vehicle is “mandatory”.