



NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Western Region Notes

March 23, 2006

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Leadership Corner: A Lesson From Caterpillars

By Andy Bailey, WFO Las Vegas WCM

Processionary caterpillars move through the forests of warmer regions of southern Europe, the Near East and North Africa, in search of one of their favorite foods: pine needles. What makes them unique is how they move from one tree to another: in a long procession, one leading and the others following, each with his head fitted against the rear end of the one in front forming a continuous chain.

A renowned French naturalist, Jean-Henri Fabre conducted a famous experiment on a group of these caterpillars. He patiently lured them to the rim of a flower pot, finally connecting the first one with the last, forming a complete circle which started moving around the flowerpot rim in unison, in search of food.

He wanted to see how long the caterpillars would keep this up before they caught on to the joke, and went off in a new direction. Incidentally, he placed a pile of pine needles in the middle of the flower pot in plain view.

The caterpillars never caught on. Likely because of primal instinct or habit, they continued their pointless march, round and round, at the same steady pace, going nowhere for seven days and seven nights. They would have likely continued longer, were it not for exhaustion and their eventual starvation.

Whether they were following instinct, habit, custom, past experience, or whatever you want to call it, they were following blindly. They mistook activity for accomplishment. They meant well, but got no place.

How many times in our own offices do we mimic these caterpillars? When we've got our minds buried in the day to day minutia, with our current task monopolizing our thoughts, it's easy to lose site of our purpose for doing these things in the first place. Without stepping back to take a fresh look at our actions, it becomes easy to stick with what is comfortable or familiar, rather than to devote our resources to what is actually needed.

It really comes down to losing sight of our vision and mission. Are we doing things because they get us closer to the vision, or are we, like the caterpillars, doing things because that is how we've always done it - a sort of bureaucratic inertia? Author and business guru Charles Handy said, "The only thing which will ultimately hold any organization together will be a shared conviction in its purpose and its methods."

We often demand that our leaders come up with a grand plan or vision of where we are going, but a vision without focused actions is not only unproductive, it rarely leads to innovation, and ends up contributing to a corporate culture of mediocrity.

So what can we do to learn from the caterpillars?

- 1) **Develop a shared local office vision** which is not only in line with the NWS mission, but also aims to move our agency forward. Most of us are familiar with the core of the NWS mission...*to protect lives and property and to enhance the national economy.* Has your office formally defined what it will strive to become to help the agency fulfill its mission?
- 2) **Check for alignment between your vision and actions.** Business author Alvin Toffler said, "You've got to think about big things while you're doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction." Are your actions moving you and the agency towards the vision? If you find that they aren't, perhaps you need to reconsider what you're doing.
- 3) **Own the vision.** No one should be looking over your shoulder to ensure that your actions are vision-enabling. Pursuit of the vision is everyone's job. The success of any organization depends on the thousands of individual actions of its employees. It's up to each one of us to choose our actions wisely and have a purpose for each of them.
- 4) **Embrace change.** International businessman Jon Madonna said, "Nothing stops an organization faster than people who believe that the way you worked yesterday is the best way to work tomorrow." Ask anyone over the age of 50 in the NWS when the last time our agency stopped changing. More likely than not, the answer you will get is, "Never." Change is an inevitable part of remaining relevant, perhaps today more than ever before. More than anything else, your attitude toward change will determine how comfortable you are with it.
- 5) **Take smart risks.** 1947 Nobel Prize winner Andre Gide said, "One does not discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time." Most would probably agree that at some point on the caterpillars' march, it would have been a smart risk to break ranks and head off in a new direction. Our agency has its own metaphorical flower pots. Who among us is going to break ranks, take a smart risk, and perhaps change the course of our agency for the better?

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: Western Region is highlighting two Statements this week. The first is a Special Weather Statement (SPS) issued on Wednesday, March 15 by WFO San Joaquin Valley (Hanford). This statement gave a valuable heads up to deteriorating weather conditions (~ 2 ½ to 3 days) over the Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley. While the strength of the approaching weather system was still somewhat in doubt, the office had high confidence in its timing for Friday night into Saturday. The cold, unstable nature of the approaching low pressure system pointed to low snow levels in the mountains and foothills of the Sierras, and possible thunderstorms in the San Joaquin Valley. The storm system moved in according to the expected timing. While not quite strong enough to merit a watch or warning, Winter Weather Advisories were issued. Good work to Kevin Durfee, General Forecaster.

The second statement is a Public Information Statement (PNS), issued WFO Salt Lake City, providing a very thorough summary of precipitation/snowfall totals for a large winter storm over the weekend of March 18-19, which impacted nearly the entire state of Utah. This statement is just the last in a series of statements issued throughout the weekend and into the following Monday, as the final reports came in. This effort shows excellent attention to detail and concern for our customers' needs for accurate and timely information! Nice work WFO Salt Lake City!

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SPSHNX

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - HANFORD CA
1222 PM PST WED MAR 15 2006

CAZ089>099-160500-
WEST CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY-EAST CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY-
SOUTHWESTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY-SOUTHEASTERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY-
MARIPOSA MADERA AND FRESNO COUNTY FOOTHILLS-TULARE COUNTY FOOTHILLS-
KERN COUNTY MOUNTAINS-SIERRA NEVADA FROM YOSEMITE TO KINGS CANYON-
TULARE COUNTY MOUNTAINS-INDIAN WELLS VALLEY-
SOUTHEASTERN KERN COUNTY DESERT-
1222 PM PST WED MAR 15 2006

...ANOTHER WINTER STORM HEADING THIS WAY...

A STORM SYSTEM ORIGINATING IN THE GULF OF ALASKA WILL TRACK SOUTHEASTWARD DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS AND BRING COLDER WEATHER AND SNOW TO THE HIGHER ELEVATIONS FRIDAY INTO SATURDAY.

PRECIPITATION WILL MOVE INTO THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INTERIOR THURSDAY NIGHT FROM FRESNO COUNTY NORTH...THEN SPREAD SOUTHWARD INTO KERN COUNTY DURING THE DAY FRIDAY. SNOW LEVELS WILL START OUT BETWEEN 4500 AND 5500 FEET THURSDAY NIGHT...LOWER TO 3000 TO 4000 FEET FRIDAY...AND BOTTOM OUT BETWEEN 2000 AND 3000 FEET EARLY SATURDAY MORNING.

WHILE THIS STORM WILL NOT BE AS COLD AS THE STORM LAST WEEKEND...IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BRING SEVERAL INCHES OF SNOW ABOVE 3000 FEET BY SATURDAY MORNING AND UP TO A FOOT OR MORE OF NEW SNOW OVER THE SIERRA SUMMITS.

IN THE KERN COUNTY MOUNTAINS...THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF A SMALL ACCUMULATION OF SNOW AND ICE OVER THE GRAPEVINE FRIDAY NIGHT INTO SATURDAY MORNING. FURTHERMORE...STRONG AND GUSTY WINDS MAY HAMPER TRAVEL THROUGH AND BELOW THE MOUNTAIN PASSES FRIDAY THROUGH SATURDAY.

ADDITIONALLY...AS A COLD AND UNSTABLE AIRMASS MOVES INTO CENTRAL CALIFORNIA...ISOLATED AFTERNOON THUNDERSTORMS MAY OCCUR IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

STAY TUNED FOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO...OR YOUR FAVORITE MEDIA SOURCE...FOR FURTHER STATEMENTS AND ADVISORIES ON THIS DEVELOPING WINTER STORM.

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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...UPDATED
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SALT LAKE CITY UT
900 AM MST MON MAR 20 2006

A LARGE UPPER LEVEL SYSTEM OVER THE WESTERN US BROUGHT PRECIPITATION TO NORTHERN UTAH FROM THURSDAY EVENING INTO FRIDAY. ANOTHER WAVE OF MOISTURE MOVED ACROSS THE SAME AREA FRIDAY NIGHT. SNOW DEVELOPED ACROSS HIGHER TERRAIN OF SOUTHERN AND EASTERN UTAH ON SATURDAY WHILE SCATTERED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED OVER PARTS OF NORTHERN UTAH. THE UPPER LEVEL LOW MOVED ACROSS SOUTHERN UTAH SUNDAY MORNING AND PARKED OVER THE NORTHERN WASATCH RANGE SUNDAY NIGHT. PERIODS OF HEAVY SNOW AFFECT MUCH OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN UTAH FROM EARLY SUNDAY MORNING INTO SUNDAY AFTERNOON. MORE SNOW OCCURRED ALONG THE WASATCH FRONT SUNDAY NIGHT AND MONDAY MORNING...HEAVIEST ACROSS THE NORTHERN WASATCH FRONT. SCATTERED RAIN AND SNOW SHOWERS CONTINUED INTO MONDAY AFTERNOON.

STORM TOTALS FOR THE WEEKEND:

...WASATCH FRONT...CACHE...TOOELE AND SANPETE VALLEYS...

	PCPN	SNOWFALL
SUNCREST 6100 FT	M	10.0
PARADISE CACHE VALLEY	M	9.0
PLEASANT GROVE	0.89	7.8
ALPINE	0.70	7.5
FAIRVIEW	M	7.0
PROVO CANYON MOUTH	M	6.0
SOUTHWEST OREM	M	6.0 (2 HOURS)
TOOELE	0.85	6.0
SPRINGVILLE	0.72	6.0
UPPER AVENUES	M	5.5
EAST LAYTON	M	5.0
LOGAN	M	5.0
PROVO BYU	0.75	4.7
UPPER MILLCREEK 6 PM SUNDAY	0.45	4.0
COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS	M	4.0
HERRIMAN	0.52	4.0
CLEARFIELD	M	3.6
SOUTH OGDEN	0.30	3.5
WEST JORDAN	M	3.5
TAYLORSVILLE	0.48	3.5
GRANTSVILLE	0.32	3.4

NEPHI	0.81	3.0
SMITHFIELD CANYON	M	3.0
ENGLISH VILLAGE DUGWAY	M	2.0
SALT LAKE AIRPORT	0.45	1.5
...SOUTHWEST AND CENTRAL VALLEYS...		
FERRON CASTLE COUNTRY	0.35	6.0
CEDAR CITY	0.55	4.5
DELTA	0.38	4.0
NEW HARMONY	0.15	2.3
ALTAMONT	0.23	1.5
...WASATCH BACK...		
RANDOLPH	0.60	7.0
HEBER CITY	0.43	7.0
DEER CREEK DAM	0.36	4.0
PARK CITY	0.23	3.0
KAMAS	M	3.0
MORGAN	0.38	2.2
LAKETOWN 5 PM SUNDAY	0.20	1.0
...STORM TOTALS SINCE FRIDAY...		
...WASATCH RANGE...		
FARMINGTON CANYON 8000 FT*	2.00	26
TONY GROVE 8400 FT*	1.80	24
ALTA COLLINS (OBSERVER 9600FT)	1.59	24
SNOWBIRD 9600 FT*	1.50	23
MONTE CRISTO PASS 9000 FT*	1.60	23
THAYNES CANYON 9200 FT*	1.60	23
ALTA UDOT (OBSERVER 8800 FT)	1.38	22
BRIGHTON CREST OBSERVER 9500 FT	1.52	22
DANIELS STRAWBERRY 8000 FT*	1.70	22
TIMPANOGOS DIVIDE 8100 FT*	1.60	20
POWDERHORN SOLITUDE 9900FT	M	19
JUPITER PEAK PARK CITY 9300 FT	M	19
PARRISH CREEK 7700 FT*	1.60	18
BEN LOMOND PEAK 8000 FT*	1.60	18
CASCADE MTN 7800 FT*	1.60	17
BUG LAKE MONTE CRISTO RANGE 8000 FT*	1.40	17
SOLITUDE BASE OBSERVER	1.24	16
SNOWBASIN MID BOWL OBSERVER	1.47	15
LOUIS MEADOW 6700 FT*	1.40	15
HORSE RIDGE MONTE CRISTO RANGE*	1.10	13
THE CANYONS OBSERVER	1.25	13
PARLEYS SUMMIT 7500 FT*	1.10	12
STRAWBERRY DIVIDE 8000 FT*	0.90	12

PAYSON 8000 FT*	0.90	12
WHITE RIVER 8600 FT*	0.80	11
SPRUCES BIG COTTONWOOD 7400 FT	0.82	9
...WASATCH PLATEAU...		
RED PINE RIDGE 9400 FT*	1.30	18
SEELEY CREEK 10,000 FT*	1.10	16
MAMMOTH COTTONWOOD 9000 FT*	1.20	16
BUCK FLAT 9800 FT*	0.70	11
...NORTHWEST DESERT MOUNTAINS...		
ROCKY BASIN OQUIRRHS 8900 FT*	1.50	21
MINING FORK STANSBURY MTNS 8000 FT*	1.50	18
VERNON CREEK 7500 FT*	1.40	17
...WESTERN UINTA MOUNTAINS...		
LAKEFORK 10,000 FT*	1.70	24
FIVE POINTS LAKE UINTAS 10,900 FT*	1.60	22
CHEPETA 10,300 FT*	1.40	19
BROWN DUCK LAKE 10,600 FT*	1.30	17
TROUT CREEK 9400 FT	1.00	14
TRIAL LAKE 9900 FT*	0.80	12
CHALK CREEK 9100 FT*	0.80	12
BEAVER DIVIDE 8200 FT*	0.60	9
...CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS...		
ESCALANTE MOUNTAIN 9500 FT*	1.00	14
MIDWAY VALLEY 9800 FT CEDAR BREAKS*	1.00	14
KOLOB 9200 FT*	0.80	13
CLAYTON SPRINGS 10,000 FT ESCALANTE*	0.80	12
GARDNER PEAK 8400 FT*	0.80	12
BRIAN HEAD OBSERVER 4 PM SUNDAY	0.75	12
PINE CREEK 8800 FT PAHVANT RANGE*	0.60	10
AGUA CANYON BRYCE NP 8900 FT*	0.60	10
FARNSWORTH LAKE 9600 FT*	0.50	9
LONG VALLEY JCT 7400 FT*	0.60	9
CASTLE VALLEY 9600 FT*	0.50	8
KIMBERLY MINE TUSHAR MTNS 9300 FT*	0.40	7

*INDICATES ESTIMATED SNOWFALL AT AUTOMATED SITES USING SNOW RATIOS AND SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

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Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop: The annual Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop was held at the NOAA Western Regional Center on March 3-4, 2006. The theme was, "Climate, Climate Change, Weather of the Pacific Northwest." Approximately 140 people attended, including several students from Penn State, and the Meteorological Service of Canada. In addition to local presenters from NWS Seattle and the University of Washington, presenters also came from NCEP Ocean Prediction Center, NWS offices in Spokane, Boise, Portland, Salt Lake City and Juneau, and several other universities. Presentations ranged from recent findings regarding the impact of anticipated climate change on water supply, to severe convection in Alaska, to the new Seattle heat warning program. Next year's workshop will be held March 2-3, 2007.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

WFO Spokane Participates Dam Break Exercise: On March 9, WFO Spokane staff members Ken Holmes (WCM), Robin Fox (Senior Forecaster), and Charles Ross (Service Hydrologist) participated in a Tabletop dam break exercise at Grand Coulee Dam. Charles had the opportunity to participate on the design team for this exercise and served as a controller during the event, while Ken and Robin represented the National Weather Service during the exercise. The scenario was quite complex, in which a significant threat to Grand Coulee Dam was exercised. Due to the large number of agencies and jurisdictions affected by this project, there was a turnout of over 40 participants from different state, local and federal offices. By the end of the day, everyone realized just how much additional preparation is needed to truly be prepared for an emergency at this project and how important good communications is between the different agencies should a dam break event ever occur.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

NWS Support During Hazardous Materials Emergencies Completion Stats: The following table lists the completion rate of each Western Region WFO (as of March 17, 2006) for the COMET course, "NWS Support During Hazardous Materials Emergencies." A reminder that this is required training for all WFO Meteorologists who issue forecasts and warnings and should be completed by April 30, 2006. These numbers were obtained from the DOC/NOAA/NWS Learning Management System and all are reminded to take this course through this LMS.

WT9274 - TWC - 50%	WT9688 - PDT - 67%
WT9278 - PSR - 42%	WT9698 - PQR - 65%
WT9295 - LOX - 69%	WT9768 - GGW - 50%
WT9375 - FGZ - 54%	WT9773 - MSO - 67%
WT9386 - VEF - 64%	WT9785 - OTX - 40%
WT9389 - HNX - 67%	WT9903 - LKN - 69%
WT9488 - REV - 47%	WT9914 - STO - 67%
WT9578 - PIH - 100%	WT9918 - SGX - 56%
WT9594 - EKA - 75%	WT9922 - SEW - 53%
WT9597 - MFR - 36%	WT9932 - SLC - 87%
WT9677 - BYZ - 100%	WT9933 - MFR - 53%
WT9681 - BOI - 76%	WT9950 - TFX - 80%

New COMET Stream Flow Module: COMET released the Streamflow Routing Module, a new foundation topic in the Basic Hydrological Science course. This module offers a thorough introduction

to streamflow routing methods and applications in the river forecasting process. The Basic Hydrologic Science course provides an understanding of the core concepts in hydrologic science as applied to flood prediction. As one of the foundation topics of the course, this module may be taken on its own or used as a supporting topic from within any of the planned case-based modules. The module may be found at <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/hydro/basic/Routing/index.htm> and requires approximately 1-2 hours to complete.

COMET Outreach Program – Funds Available: OST has provided COMET funds to support approximately 18 COMET Partners projects in 2006. Proposals for Partners Projects are accepted throughout the year. Partners Project features include:

- Collaborative effort with an NWS office or multiple offices
- One year in length
- University budgets average \$7,000 (\$10,000 maximum)
- Typically involve one NWS forecaster and one university faculty member, rather than a group (as is usually the case with Cooperative Projects)
- Topics generally focus on a single case study or analysis problem
- Projects may also be used to fund small local/regional workshops

For more information, please go to the COMET outreach web site:

<http://www.comet.ucar.edu/outreach/index.htm>

WR Verification Project: Two training modules were sent to the field.

- The Portland Forecast Offices developed an articulate web based presentation, “How to use the Hanford Quality Control Application.”
- David Myrick (SSD) developed an articulate web based presentation, “Basic Quality Control principles to apply when using the Hanford Quality Control Application.”

WRF Evaluation: In preparation for the roll-out of the WRF, SSD will be distributing AWIPS based WRF model data to the Los Angeles, Reno, and Salt Lake City Forecast Offices for a limited pre-implementation evaluation. The evaluation will last for the next month.

WRF Data Available on the Web: Eric Rogers at NCEP setup some additional NAMX (parallel WRF) web pages. The following sites can be used:

- <http://wwwt.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/mmbpll/opsnampll/>: NAM vs NAMX 00z/12z cycles. The parallel 00z/12z NAM finishes no earlier than 10:30 am/pm EST, job is triggered at 11:00 am/pm EST, should take ~90 minutes for web graphics to update completely
- http://wwwt.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/mmbpll/opsnampll_offtime/: NAM vs NAMX 06z/18z cycles; parallel 06z/18z NAM finishes around 3:30 am/pm EST, these are triggered at 4am/pm EST
- The NAMX has been added to the NCEP North America model pages (<http://wwwt.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/mmbpll/etapll/> (00z.12z); <http://wwwt.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/mmbpll/etapll.off> (06z/18z)). These have NAM, NAMX, GFS and NGM graphics, and all are saved for 1 week.

NWP Discussion Forum: A new NWP Discussion Forum has replaced the GFS and NAM-Eta newsgroups on the COMET MetEd website. The home page for the Forum, including instructions for registration and usage by members, can be found at: <http://meted.comet.ucar.edu/nwp/newsgroups>

One of the main purposes for this Discussion Forum will be to allow communication among WFOs, modelers, and other interested users as new models (or upgrades to existing models) are run in parallel, in preparation for bringing them into operational use. This will be very important as we run the NAM-WRF in parallel and compare it to the NAM-Eta.

FX-NET Upgrade: The FX-NET upgrade is complete. A new client will be issued to the IMETs and CWSUs.

Upcoming Science Workshops

IMET All-Hazards Workshop - May 22-26: The workshop, taught by first responders in the urban fire and law enforcement community, will provide an opportunity for IMETS and trainees to learn first hand about how non-wildfire incidents will operate and what those first responders concerns are, allowing the IMET to tailor services to these type of operations. The workshop will be held in Boise ID, May 22 to 26. Please contact Heath Hockenberry or Larry VanBussum for more information

Great Divide Workshop – Oct 3-5: The Tenth Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Billings, Montana from October 3-5, 2006. NOAA's National Weather Service Offices in Billings and Glasgow are sponsoring this workshop focusing on the exchange of weather and hydrologic forecasting information unique to the Northern Rockies and High Plains. A call for papers and registration information will be made available during the spring of 2006.

More information can be obtained by contacting NOAA's National Weather Service Forecast Office in Billings, Montana at 406-652-0851, or in Glasgow, Montana at 406-228-4042. You can also email any questions to wr.great.divide.workshop@noaa.gov.

New WR Science Publications

TA-Lites 06-14

Correlating Upper Flow Patterns to Hydrologic Sites QPF using an Archive Wes Case
By Danny Mercer and Doug McDonnal, WFO Seattle

Training Update

SHYMet for Interns Course: The Intern track of the Satellite Hydrology and Meteorology (SHyMet) Course will touch on Geostationary and Polar orbiting satellite basics (aerial coverage and image frequency), identification of atmospheric and surface phenomena, and provide examples of the integration of meteorological techniques with satellite observing capabilities. This course will be taught through a combination of web-based instruction and teletraining and will be the equivalent of 16 hours of training.

For NOAA employees, this course will be delivered through the E-Learning Management System, <http://e-learning.doc.gov/noaa/>. The first offering of the course will be from April 3 to June 30, 2006 and registration will open March 6, 2006. Registration for NWS employees will

be done through their Science and Operations Officer. For WFO interns, offices may substitute this new, updated satellite training course for the GOES training items listed on the Western Region Intern Progress Report. This course will be offered again in the spring of 2007.

AWOC Winter Track Orientation Teletraining Open for Registration: AWOC Facilitators are encouraged to attend the Facilitator Orientation session for AWOC Winter Weather Track. The Orientation session will introduce course facilitators to the Winter Weather track of the AWOC via teletraining. The course will include learning and performance objectives, an outline of instructional components, roles and responsibilities of students and facilitators, course administration (including registration and testing), timelines for delivery, and course completion requirements. A reminder: the AWOC Winter Track is mandatory for all Western Region WFO meteorologists

Registration is now open for the Facilitator Orientation. Sessions are scheduled from April 20, 2006 to June 1, 2006. All members of AWOC Facilitator mailing list have been enrolled in the Orientation session. If you wish to change Facilitators for this version of AWOC, please refer to e-mail from Mark Mollner dated February 10, 2006. To register for your AWOC Winter Track Orientation session go to: <https://wdtb.noaa.gov/security/logon.aspx>

Teletraining Sessions for March: The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) calendar for March is now available. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu. The teletraining calendar is now at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ecal.asp>

The teletraining planning calendar with other sessions is at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/planning.html>

The current sessions planned for March are:

- GOES Sounder Data and Products
(Basic, Mar 8,14,20)
- GOES High Density Winds
(Basic, Mar 3)
- Cyclogenesis: Analysis utilizing Geostationary Satellite Imagery
(Basic, Mar 7)
- Mesoscale Analysis of Convective Weather Using GOES RSO Imagery
(Basic, Mar 9)
- Forecasting Convective Downburst Potential Using GOES Sounder Derived Products
(Basic, Mar 16)
- Use of GOES/RSO imagery with other Remote Sensor Data for Diagnosing Severe Weather across CONUS (RSO 3)
(Intermediate, Mar 23,24,28,29)
- Enhanced-V: A Satellite Severe Storm Signature
(Basic, Mar 31)

Several recorded VISIT session are available via LMS: <http://e-learning.doc.gov/coursecatalog/index.cfm>. Then, got to National Weather Service Courses and search on VISIT.

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

Safety: Joe Lachacz, Gerry Deiotte, and Harold Knocke attended a NOAA safety conference in Kansas City, MO. The conference covered risk assessment for two issues concerning falling ice off radomes and lightning strike injuries while on a telephone. The NOAA Risk Assessment training was also critiqued. Joe Lachacz and Gerry Deiotte also visited NRC during the trip.

RRS: Kevin Bolton assisted in the RRS pre-inspection for the anticipated RRS installation at the Reno, Nevada WFO. Kevin worked with the Electronics staff in Reno.

NWR: Merri Richmond is assisting the Monterey Electronics Staff troubleshoot numerous NOAA Weather Radio Problems. They are working with local radio stations to ensure that the EAS tones are alerting NWR receivers.

ASOS: Kevin Bolton is assisting the Eureka, CA electronics staff with their ASOS program. Eureka has several past-due modifications that have not been installed.

Congrats to Ahmad: Please join SOD in congratulating Ahmad Gorabi as the new Regional Webmaster. Ahmad joined WRH in June of 2005 as an IT Specialist and before that he was in Hastings Nebraska for about 4 years as the ITO for the WFO. He brings a wealth of knowledge as an ITO in the field. Before joining the NWS, Ahmad worked for USDA Regional Office in Des Moines Iowa as a computer specialist. We are pleased to have Ahmad as our new Webmaster!



Expo: For the 4th year in a row, the WFO Salt Lake City and SOD participated in the "International Sportsman's Expo" by staffing a booth. The expo was held March 16-19 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The NWS booth was an all inclusive Weather Booth with a focus on NOAA Weather Radio. An estimated 50,000 people were in attendance.

Photo: Merri Richmond and Son Nguyen (WRH SOD) staff the booth at the International Sportsman's Expo.