

NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Western Region Notes

May 4, 2006

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Leadership Corner: Limitations vs. Possibilities

By Andy Bailey, WFO Las Vegas WCM

We've all heard stories of famous people who have become wildly successful by overcoming adversity and living up to their potential. Lance Armstrong comes to mind. However sometimes it isn't the people in books or on TV, but rather the people in our own lives who can provide the most powerful examples.

For me, the example is a most remarkable childhood friend named Chad. He was a good student, an athlete, and percussionist in the band. His impact on people's lives was, in retrospect, profound. When my high school wrestling coach was inducted into the state coach's hall of fame a few years back, the one moment from his coaching career that he recounted during his acceptance speech was a particular varsity tournament that Chad won during his senior year. Out of the hundreds of athletes and thousands of matches he had coached, this one particular match stuck in his mind as one of his finest moments as a coach. It wasn't because Chad was an outstanding wrestler. Chad had an average record, and I think this was the only varsity tournament he had ever won. What was special to my coach, as well as Chad's teammates, was the inspirational example he set.

I still remember the first time I met Chad. He moved to my town during the 2nd grade. The day before he joined my class, our teacher sat all of the kids down and gave us a speech about how we are all different. She went on to say that on the following day we would get a new classmate who was not only different, but also extremely talented. When we met Chad the next day, we learned that he was born without hands, as well as without part of one leg, from just below the knee, and only about half of his other foot. What we would quickly discover was that Chad was capable of doing most anything he set his mind to.

As we grew up together over the next eleven years, I don't think any of our friends thought of Chad as handicapped, or disabled. We really didn't treat him any differently or cut him any slack, and more importantly, we didn't have to.

As I look back, what really strikes me about Chad is not what he was able to do or accomplish, but the attitude and determination with which he approached life. Chad never complained about his physical limitations, or used them as excuses. And he certainly didn't let others' expectations determine his capabilities, goals or accomplishments. Chad made it appear so effortless that at the time I don't think any of us fully appreciated what he was achieving. I guess that's what our coach saw, a kid who rejected self-pity and limitations others' would place on him, to not only compete, but to excel.

How many times do we fail to achieve what we are capable of because we let our attitude, or other peoples' view of our abilities determine what we accomplish? How often do we focus on limitations, rather than on possibilities? According to business coach Martha Lasley, "Whatever we put our attention on is what grows. When we focus on problems, mistakes and limitations, our limitations grow. When we

focus on new possibilities, the possibilities grow. It is infinitely more productive and exciting to focus on new possibilities than to look at all the mistakes of the past.”

Lasley also recommends trying the following steps to help focus on your desired future:

1. Spend a few days just noticing where you put your attention. Is it on the possibilities for the future? Or is it on the limits, the reasons you can't have what you want?
2. Ask how your work would be different if you stopped paying attention to perceived limitations, problems and the reasons you can't move forward?
3. Ask what can you pay attention to instead of your problems? What would you rather be doing? You can't just give up paying attention to limits without thinking carefully about what thoughts will replace them.
4. What are you waiting for to make this organization great? List all the reasons. How many of them are excuses?
5. Find a touchstone to remind you to put your attention on the present and future. You might put a note at your desk that says, "Where is my attention right now?"
6. Set up a support system of coworkers who would like to shift their focus as well. Call each other once a day and discuss your successes. Call when you're struggling to shift your attention and call to celebrate your breakthroughs. It helps to talk to someone about how rich and rewarding work can be when you focus on possibilities rather than problems.

Malcolm Forbes once said, “Too many people overvalue what they are not and undervalue what they are.” My friend Chad wasn't one of these people. You don't have to be either.

Workplace Abuse: Are You a Perpetrator

By Kate Lorenz, CareerBuilder.com Editor

Workplace abuse. It's a problem that's difficult to address and quantify because, like other forms of abuse, it often goes unreported.

But incidents of abuse in the workplace are on the rise, according to Lyssa Menard, Ph.D., clinical psychologist in the Wellness Institute at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. "Anecdotally, I can say I have seen an increase in workplace abuse," Dr. Menard says.

Everyone has bad days. It's when those bad days occur frequently with consistently inappropriate behavior that "bad days" become workplace abuse.

Dr. Menard cites four different categories of abusers. If you see yourself in one or more of the following categories, it's definitely time to enter therapy and examine your actions.

Stress Abusers

They're good people under normal circumstances, but when work becomes a pressure-cooker, watch out! That's when Stress Abusers reveal the devil within. Once the "emergency situation" has passed, the horrendous Mr. Hyde turns back into the reasonable Dr. Jekyll.

Stress Abusers will feel remorse for their behavior, but it won't keep them from lashing out during the next crisis. Usually they can improve their behavior through anger management and therapy.

According to Dr. Menard, stress abuse is becoming increasingly common in today's workplace. "If a manager is told to improve earnings or he will be fired, he may take it out on his team and insist his employees work longer hours and do whatever it takes to meet his targets," Dr. Menard says.

People With Mental Illnesses

These folks can be very irritable, Menard says. They may yell, snap at their employees or belittle them. Those with mental illnesses may envy those around them who are successful.

Dr. Menard notes that abusers suffering from mental illness, such as depression, anxiety or disorders that cause difficulty with impulse control usually can curb their offensive behavior with medication and treatment.

Sociopaths

Sociopaths may appear to be charming individuals, but are generally compulsive liars. They routinely disregard or violate another person's rights. Very often, they are of a higher economic class. These individuals show little or no remorse for their behavior.

Because of their charm, they usually are able to avoid repercussions for their behavior. And because they feel little regret for their actions, they usually are not open to feedback or criticism. Coming from a privileged background gives them a sense of entitlement and superiority. Because they will never recognize or admit they have a problem, there is little hope to rehabilitate their behavior.

Usually sociopaths will cleverly conceal their abuse of a victim from others. This puts pressure on the victim to prove the abuse, because others would never suspect it. Sociopaths generally get some enjoyment from inflicting emotional pain on others.

Narcissists

These charismatic individuals generally don't care how another person feels. They are very accomplished in some areas of their lives. Narcissists are very intelligent -- but not as intelligent as THEY think they are! They often rationalize their bad behavior. And, like the sociopath, will never recognize they have a problem, so there is little hope to rehabilitate their behavior.

Besides assuming that the world revolves around them, narcissists don't get why their abusive behavior is a problem. If they insult or offend you, they may apologize and then move on. They figure they're over it, so you should be too. If they get an inkling they may have behaved badly, they will rationalize it by thinking they had a good reason, such as, 'it was an important account and they needed those figures from me to land the contract.

If you identify with any of these descriptions, Menard suggests seeking professional help. Your employees and co-workers will thank you for it!

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: Western Region is highlighting a Climatological Report this week. As you know, the Southwestern U.S., from Arizona through west Texas, experienced a very dry winter. A

wetter spring provided limited drought relief in many areas, but not to southeast Arizona. This Climatological Report, written by John Glueck, Lead Forecaster and Climate Focal Point at WFO Tucson, does an excellent job highlighting the on-going critically dry conditions. This report provides several water year and winter season precipitation comparisons for a well rounded picture of the drought. Portions of this report were included on the front page of the "Local" section of the Tucson newspaper and were quoted by Tucson television meteorologists. Nice job, John!

APRIL 2006 CLIMATOLOGICAL REPORT FOR TUCSON ARIZONA
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TUCSON AZ
 605 PM MST MON MAY 1 2006

...APRIL HIGHLIGHTS...
 ...EXTREME DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUE...
 ...SEVERAL DRY MONTHLY PERIODS SET...
 ...DRIEST WATER YEAR TO DATE ON RECORD...
 ...20TH WARMEST APRIL ON RECORD...
 ...10TH WARMEST JANUARY THRU APRIL PERIOD ON RECORD...
 ...26TH APRIL ON RECORD WITH NO MEASURABLE RAIN...

THE DRY SPELL THAT STARTED LAST FALL AND CARRIED THROUGH THE 2005-2006 WINTER SEASON CONTINUED DURING THE SECOND MONTH OF THE SPRING SEASON. THUS...EXTREME DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUE WITH RAINFALL TOTALS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1ST RANGING FROM A HALF AN INCH /0.50"/ TO TWO INCHES WITH A FEW ISOLATED SPOTS RECORDING UP TO THREE INCHES. OFFICIALLY THE TUCSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HAS ONLY RECORDED JUST UNDER EIGHT-TENTHS OF A INCH /0.79"/. THIS RANKS AS THE DRIEST SEPTEMBER 1ST TO APRIL 30TH PERIOD ON RECORD...SHATTERING THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 1.95" SET FROM SEPTEMBER 1973 TO APRIL 1974.

DRIEST SEPTEMBER THRU APRIL PERIOD ON RECORD...

- 1) 0.79" 2005-2006 **
- 2) 1.95" 1973-1974
- 3) 2.19" 1999-2000
- 4) 2.23" 1924-1925
- 5) 2.25" 1903-1904
- 6) 2.35" 2001-2002

THIS ALSO RANKS AS THE DRIEST ANY EIGHT MONTH PERIOD ON RECORD BREAKING THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 1.22" SET FROM OCTOBER 1999 TO MAY 2000.

TOP 5 DRIEST ANY EIGHT MONTH PERIOD...

- 1) 0.79" SEP. 2005 TO APR. 2006 **
- 2) 1.22" OCT. 1999 TO MAY 2000
- 3) 1.24" NOV. 1901 TO JUNE 1902
- 4) 1.33" NOV. 2001 TO JUNE 2002
- 5) 1.37" DEC. 1948 TO JULY 1947

THE 2005-2006 WATER YEAR GOES INTO THE RECORD BOOKS AS THE DRIEST TO DATE (OCT. 1 - APR. 30) ON RECORD...

- 1) 0.73" 2005-2006 **
- 2) 1.08" 1903-1904
- 3) 1.22" 1999-2000
- 4) 1.44" 1966-1967
- 5) 1.95" 1973-1974

ADDITIONALLY...THE ABOVE SEVEN MONTH TOTAL ALSO RANKS AS THE 2ND DRIEST SEVEN MONTH PERIOD ON RECORD.

TOP 5 DRIEST ANY SEVEN MONTH PERIOD...

- 1) 0.32" DEC. 1958 TO JUNE 1959
- 2) 0.73" OCT. 2005 TO APR. 2006 **
- 3) 0.78" JAN. 1895 TO JULY 1895
- 4) 0.79" SEP. 2005 TO MAR. 2006 **
- 5) 0.91" JAN. 1947 TO JULY 1947

THE AIRPORT ONLY RECORDED A TRACE OF RAIN DURING APRIL (5TH) AND THIS MARKED THE 26TH APRIL THAT NO MEASURABLE RAIN WAS RECORDED (11 AT 0.00" AND 15 TRACE). DAILY TEMPERATURES...AS IS THE CASE DURING MOST APRILS...RESEMBLED A ROLLER COAST AS WEATHER SYSTEMS THROUGH THE INTERMOUNTAIN WEST. OVERALL...THE AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE OF 68.5 DEGREES WAS 2.5 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL AND RANKS AS THE 20TH WARMEST APRIL ON RECORD. EXTREMES FOR THE MONTH RANGED FROM A HIGH OF 93 DEGREES ON THE 14TH TO A LOW OF 44 DEGREES ON THE 6TH AND 7TH.

...APRIL 2006 STATS...	MONTH	NORMAL	DEPARTURE
AVERAGE HIGH TEMPERATURE	83.5	81.5	+ 2.0
AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURE	53.5	50.5	+ 3.0
AVERAGE TEMPERATURE	68.5	66.0	+ 2.5
RAINFALL	TRACE	0.28"	- 0.28"

THE AVERAGE YEARLY TEMPERATURE THROUGH APRIL 30TH OF 60.0 DEGREES RANKS AS THE 10TH WARMEST START TO A CALENDAR YEAR. 2006 RAINFALL THROUGH APRIL 30TH /0.41"/ RANKS AS THE 3RD DRIEST START TO A CALENDAR YEAR. THUS THE AREA IS OVER 2.50 INCHES BELOW NORMAL AS OF APRIL 30TH.

TOP 10 DRIEST JAN 1 TO APRIL 30 PERIODS ON RECORD.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1) 0.10" IN 1972 | 6) 0.62" IN 1925 |
| 2) 0.32" IN 1959 | 7) 0.68" IN 2002 |
| 3) 0.41" IN 2006 ** | 8) 0.80" IN 1904 |
| 4) 0.55" IN 1947 | 9) 0.86" IN 1928 |
| 5) 0.56" IN 1895 | 10) 0.87" IN 1967 |

...2006 STATS THRU APRIL...	YEAR	NORMAL	DEPARTURE
AVERAGE HIGH TEMPERATURE	74.4	71.9	+ 2.5
AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURE	45.6	44.0	+ 1.6
AVERAGE TEMPERATURE	60.0	58.0	+ 2.0
RAINFALL	0.41"	2.96"	- 2.55"
WATER YEAR RAINFALL (OCT-APR)	0.79"	5.87"	- 5.09"

...LOOKING AHEAD INTO MAY...

THE CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER FORECASTS THAT THE MONTH OF MAY WILL HAVE ENHANCED PROBABILITIES FOR ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES AND EQUAL CHANCES OF ABOVE...NORMAL...OR BELOW RAINFALL.

AVERAGE HIGH TEMPERATURE	.....	90.4 DEGREES
AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURE	.....	58.6 DEGREES
AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE	.....	74.5 DEGREES
RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURE	.....	111 DEGREES ON MAY 29 1910
RECORD LOW TEMPERATURE	.....	32 DEGREES ON MAY 3 1899
WARMEST MAY (AVG)	.....	80.2 DEGREES IN 2000
COLDEST MAY (AVG)	.....	64.6 DEGREES IN 1905

NORMAL RAINFALL 0.24 INCHES
 WETTEST MAY DAY 1.34 INCHES ON MAY 15 1931
 WETTEST MAY 1.34 INCHES IN 1931
 DRIEST MAY 0.00 INCHES IN 2002
 (LAST OF 22 OCCURRENCES)

THE NUMBER OF DAYLIGHT HOURS INCREASES FROM 13 HOURS 28 MINUTES ON
 THE 1ST TO 14 HOURS 7 MINUTES ON THE 31ST...A GAIN OF 39 MINUTES.

GLUECK

(ADDITIONAL DAILY DATA AND GRAPHS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT:
[HTTP://WWW.WRH.NOAA.GOV/TWC/CLIMATE/MONTHLY/APR06.PHP](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/twc/climate/monthly/apr06.php))

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Photo (L to R): Kerry Jones (Spokane), Dennis Hull (Pendleton), Vickie Nadolski (Regional Director), VADM Conrad Lautenbacher, Ted Buehner (Seattle), Tyree Wilde (Portland), John Livingston (Spokane).

Partners in Preparedness Conference: The Pacific NW Partners In Preparedness conference was held at the Tacoma, WA Convention Center on April 18-19. Over 600 people from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, British Columbia and other parts of the country attended this year's conference – the most ever.

NOAA Administrator VADM Lautenbacher attended the conference and discussed NOAA's lessons learned from recent natural disasters and how to improve support role for the emergency management community.

NWS employees staffed a booth offering an array of products and services, including a live demo of our web page material and digital forecast services. In addition, Ted Buehner (WFO Seattle) gave two weather classes and participated in a flood-oriented presentation with the King County Flood Control. Other NWS attendees

included: Tyree Wilde (WFO Portland), Dennis Hull (WFO Pendleton), Kerry Jones (WFO Spokane), John Livingston (WFO Spokane), and Vickie Nadolski (WR Director).



MET David Sweet discusses NWS products and services at the Aquarium of the Pacific.

WR Offices Join Earth Day Celebrations: Earth Day is held annually each April. Several Western Region WFOs joined local observations for 2006.

WFO Oxnard participated in Earth Day Celebrations at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, CA. Meteorologist David Sweet staffed a large NOAA exhibit booth with representatives from NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service in the spirit of "One NOAA."



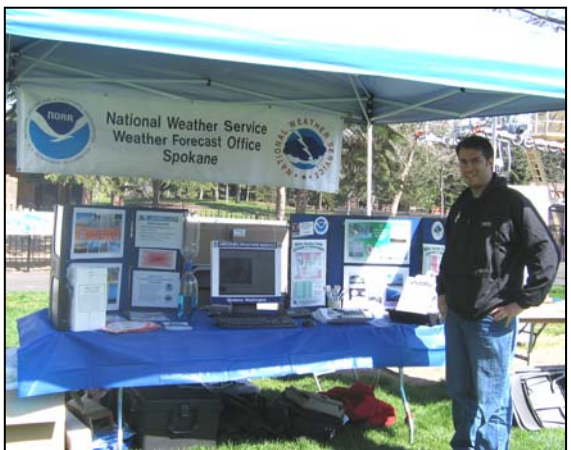
Rick Arkell and Delyne Kirkham represented WFO Elko at the Earth Day 2006 event sponsored by the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Elko Band Council. Presentations were given every 15 minutes, with the total number of participants topping 100. The presentations focused on safety during Northern Nevada's severe weather, including what to do during lightning, high wind, fire weather, and flooding events. The presentation also demonstrated equipment used to monitor and determine various aspects of the weather.

Rick Arkell talks about severe weather safety for northern Nevada during the Earth Day event.



WFO Monterey participated in Earth Day festivities at the San Francisco Zoo. Their booth featured the new Monterey WFO Weather Wheel of Knowledge. Children spun the wheel and were asked a question on the topic it landed on. The wheel was a big hit - as were the cloud charts, NOAA Weather Radio, and "Turn Around Don't Drown" scratch pads.

WCM Dave Soroka demonstrates the Wheel of Knowledge at the San Francisco Zoo.



WFO Spokane staffed a booth for Earth Day festivities at Riverfront Park in downtown Spokane. Service Hydrologist Charles Ross, Forecaster Laurie Koch, and Lead Forecasters Robin and Jon Fox were on hand to provide answers to weather questions, weather information and forecasts. The NWS display centered on types of hazardous weather that impact the Inland Northwest and the role of the NWS and NOAA with the environment. The attendees were able to stop by the booth to pick up weather handouts and see the latest weather forecast and data from the NWS Internet web page.

Charles Ross works the NWS Booth on Earth Day in Spokane.



WFO Seattle participated in an Earth Day event with other NOAA line offices at the South Park Community Center in Seattle. Their booth featured NWS products and services and showed the popular "Washington Weather Hazards" video and the new "Tsunamis in Washington" video. Jack Dunnigan (NOS AA for Oceans and Coasts) attended as well as Alexis Gutierrez (the fisheries liaison from Vice Admiral Lautenbacher's office). The event demonstrated a "One NOAA" outreach effort to the community.

WFO Seattle Forecaster Andy Haner poses with a student at the NWS Earth Day event booth.



WFO Glasgow Fire Weather Visits: Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge recently extended an invitation to the Glasgow staff to attend some prescribed burns they were working on. Three forecasters from the Glasgow office volunteered to observe a prescribed burn conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Medicine Lake has not had an active fire management program until recently. There are over 3,000 acres of dense nesting cover grasses that were overgrown and needed to be reduced in order to continue a healthy bird and wildlife habitat. WFO Glasgow Forecasters Ruth Ebert, Corey

Bogel and Don Simonsen were able to see how the lake breeze affects the area and how the spot forecast information is incorporated into a fire behavior forecast.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION



Brian McNerny briefs Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr.

WFO Salt Lake Meets with Utah Governor and Senator Hatch Staff: On April 19, Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. and members of his staff traveled throughout northern Utah with WFO Salt Lake City MIC Larry Dunn and SSH Brian McNerny to get a first hand look at the spring flood conditions. In counties with the highest flood threat, county officials joined the governor and the NWS personnel in touring at risk areas and discussing scenarios and actions.

On April 24, two members of Senator Orrin Hatch's staff visited the WFO. They were given a complete tour of the facility and a demonstration of how we actually make forecasts and issue warnings. The

staffers also spent about 30-45 minutes at the CBRFC where they were given an overview of the RFC's role in flood forecasting, and the various services provided by the RFC. They were also given a demonstration of several of the tools used in daily operations at the RFC, including Mountain Mapper, and IFP.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Verification Training: All of the WR offices have completed, or nearly completed, the installation of the three WR Mod-Notes. I want to thank everyone for getting this task done. Per the Verification plan, the next phase of the project will begin in May. SSD will begin using the SOO/DOH 10am Wednesday conference calls to provide training and facilitate the sharing of ideas about the initial use of the verification applications. The tentative list of topics are:

- May 10 (SSD and Portland): Using the Hanford QC tool and modifying office procedures routinely do QC

- Next topics
 - How to get started using Boiver
 - How to use the verification tools to evaluate our TD/TH forecast for the upcoming fire weather season
 - How can you use the verification tools to help evaluate new GFE procedures --- Boise experience
- A few reminders:
 - The SOOs and verification focal points should be on the conference call.
 - The long term purpose and vision for the project are:
 - **High Impact Events** – Determine how well our forecasts perform for high impact events and identify situations where we need improve.
 - **Role of the forecaster in the forecast process** - Use verification results to determine how forecasters can more effectively interact with the gridded forecast and identify tools/approaches which reduce workload, yet still provide a good forecast

As a reminder, we continue to add to the training modules. We would like the SOOs and Verification Focal Points to have looked at the three short modules before the next conference call.

- ***QC Tool - How to use the application:*** The first link is the training developed by Tiffani Brown (Portland WFO): http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/training/ObsQc2/ObsQc2-index.html
- ***Basic Quality Control principles to apply when using the QC Application:*** This training module was developed by David Myrick (SSD) http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/training/Obs_QC_basics/
- ***Understanding Representatives Errors:*** This training module was developed by David Myrick (SSD) http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/training/Rep_Error_basics_final/#

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
- Partners 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>

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.

Training Update:

COMET: Satellite Hydrometeorology (SHyMet) Course

- **Objective** - Prepare NOAA/NWS users for the latest polar orbiting and geostationary satellite data and products in the warning and forecast programs with direct links to Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) goals.
- **Primary Target Audience** - NWS Interns
- **Instructors** - NOAA/NESDIS, CIRA, CIMSS, VISIT, and COMET staff.
- **Approach** - Taught through a combination of web-based instruction and teletraining. Course takes approximately 16 hours to complete.
- **Course Web Page** - http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/training/shymet/intern_intro.asp
- **Registration** - Underway
- **First Course Offering** – Underway
- Please note: To register for this course, first send email to shymet@ssec.wisc.edu and you will be sent setup instructions. DO NOT go to E-Learning LMS site to register until you review these instructions.

Warning Decision Branch – AWOC: Registration is now open for the AWOC Winter Track Facilitator Orientation. Sessions are scheduled from April 20, 2006 to June 1, 2006. All AWOC Facilitators should enroll in an Orientation session. To register for your AWOC Winter Track Orientation session go to: <https://wdtb.noaa.gov/security/logon.aspx>

Teletraining Sessions for May: The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) calendar for May 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 May are:

- Monitoring Gulf Moisture Return with GOES Imagery (Basic, May 2,9)
- Forecasting Convective Downburst Potential Using GOES Sounder Derived Products (Basic, May 10,31)
- Use of GOES/RSO imagery with other Remote Sensor Data for Diagnosing Severe Weather across CONUS (RSO 3) (Intermediate, May 11,12)
- The Enhanced-V: A Satellite Severe Storm Signature (Basic, May 1,19)

Several recorded VISIT session are available via LMS: <http://e-learning.doc.gov/coursecatalog/index.cfm>. Then, go 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

Phone Upgrade: Steve Keene completed the phones & voice mail upgrade at WFO Tucson. This makes 8 field sites upgraded. Next on the schedule is WFO Glasgow in June.

Electronics Program Support: Joe Lachacz (EPM) spent two weeks in Seattle assisting the electronics shop. Seattle has been without an ESA for over a month. Joe also visited the Stampede Pass ASOS with Mike Belarde (FET). There will be extensive work done at this ASOS in the months to come.

NWR: Merri Richmond & Ulysses Davis (WFO SLC) traveled to Lewis Peak, UT to resolve a power issue with the newly installed NOAA Weather Radio. The 100Watt Lewis peak radio covers Park City, Mountain Green, & Coalville, UT. The radio is back on the air, and now includes ROAMS (remote access capability) via microwave.

Training: Son Nguyen and Harold Knocke are attending Environmental Training at the NWS Training Center. Harold is the Environmental Focal point for Western Region.

Safety: As of April 2006, Western Region Safety incidents to date for this year are 12. This represents a 29% decrease in total incidents as compared to FY05. Additional Western Region number of recordable incidents has decreased by 58% as compared to last year.

New UPS: Lee Jenson and Grant Garner installed a new APC UPS @ WFO Elko. This makes the 6th APC UPS installed this fiscal year.