



NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Western Region Notes

October 6, 2005

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Kevin Werner, WRH SSD, addresses workshop attendees.

Hydrologic Research to Operations Meeting: WR organized a "Hydrology Research to Operations" Workshop that was held October 4-6, in Park City, Utah. The purpose of the meeting was to build relationships between the research and NWS operational communities to improve the transfer of applied research into operations and focus attention on future RFC/WFO hydrological service needs. A list of high priority office operational needs was identified, which formed the basis of a discussion on how current research could be used to make progress on these needs. Three initial areas of collaborative opportunities were agreed upon for research organizations and NWS offices to investigate solutions.

Approximately 85 people attended the workshop, including people from 11 Universities, five federal and state agencies, three private companies, 14 NWS field offices, NOAA, and NWSH. A sampling of attendees included University of Arizona, University of California – Irvine, University of California – Los Angeles, University of Washington, University of Utah, NOAA OGP, NOAA CDC, Colorado Water Conservation Board, NRCS, Bonneville Power Administration, Hydrosphere Resource Consultants, Bureau of Reclamation, USGA, NOAA OAR and NWS OHD.

Thanks to Kevin Werner, WRH SSD, for organizing this event!



Photo of the Week: During September, a team of Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS) responders headed to the Gulf Coast to assist the animal victims of Hurricane Katrina. Among them was our very own WFO Reno MIC, Jane Hollingsworth. Jane took a week off to volunteer with others to care for animals in a shelter in Jackson, Mississippi.

Photo by Anne Chadwick Williams

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: This week's Statement of the Week is a Snow Advisory for the first significant snow fall of the season issued by Pendleton WFO. Cindy Palmer and Jon Mittelstadt did an excellent job of explaining the evolving nature of the snow levels and snow accumulations over the course of the storm. Great work Cindy and Jon.

Note: Pendleton has been one of the test and evaluation offices for GHG. You will notice in their advisory statement that was created by the GHG, the statement immediately below the headline that basically repeats the headline. This section is the *attribution*. It should not be manually removed in any product even though it is only required by directive to be included in the initial issuance of a watch, warning, or advisory. The GHG program logic currently creates the attribution each time a product is generated, and removing it will cause the program to not carry forward your additive text to the follow-up products.

WWUS46 KPDT 302139
WSWPDT

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PENDLETON OR
239 PM PDT FRI SEP 30 2005

...FIRST SIGNIFICANT SNOW OF THE SEASON OVER THE HIGHER ELEVATIONS OF
WALLOWA COUNTY...

.A BROAD TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE WILL REMAIN OVER PACIFIC NORTHWEST
THROUGH THIS WEEKEND...WITH A SERIES OF VERY MOIST AND SLOW MOVING
SYSTEMS EXPECTED TO MOVE ACROSS EASTERN OREGON. A COLD FRONT WILL SAG
ACROSS EASTERN OREGON ON SATURDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT...WITH SNOW
LEVELS LOWERING TO AROUND 7000 FEET OVER WALLOWA COUNTY BY LATE
SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

ORZ050-010600-
/X.NEW.KPDT.SN.Y.0001.051001T2100Z-051002T1200Z/
WALLOWA COUNTY-
INCLUDING THE CITES OF...ENTERPRISE...JOSEPH...WALLOWA
239 PM PDT FRI SEP 30 2005

...SNOW ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 2 PM SATURDAY TO 5 AM PDT SUNDAY ABOVE
7000 FEET...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN PENDLETON HAS ISSUED A SNOW ADVISORY
ABOVE 7000 FEET...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FROM 2 PM SATURDAY TO 5 AM PDT SUNDAY.
A MOIST COLD FRONT WILL MOVE ACROSS EASTERN OREGON LATE SATURDAY
AFTERNOON AND EVENING...USHERING IN MUCH COOLER AIR AND PLENTY OF
MOISTURE. SNOW LEVELS WILL BEGIN TO FALL TO NEAR 7000 FEET SATURDAY
AFTERNOON... WITH UP TO AN INCH OF SNOW POSSIBLE. SNOW LEVELS WILL
CONTINUE TO FALL OVERNIGHT TO NEAR 6000 FEET... WITH 2 TO 4 INCHES OF SNOW
EXPECTED ABOVE 7000 FEET. TOTAL SNOW ACCUMULATIONS WILL RANGE BETWEEN
3 TO 5 INCHES ABOVE 7000 FEET AND 1 TO 3 INCHES ABOVE 6000 FEET BY SUNDAY
MORNING.

A SNOW ADVISORY IS ISSUED WHEN SNOW IS OCCURRING OR IS EXPECTED TO
DEVELOP AND ACCUMULATE. TRAVEL MAY BE HAZARDOUS...ESPECIALLY ON

BRIDGES...OVERPASSES...AND SECONDARY ROADS. MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO USE EXTREME CAUTION...AND SLOW DOWN TO ADJUST FOR RAPIDLY CHANGING DRIVING CONDITIONS AND REDUCED VISIBILITIES. FOR ADDITIONAL WEATHER INFORMATION...CHECK OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.WEATHER.GOV/PENDLETON.

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(L to R) SOO Jon Mittelstadt, Journey Forecaster Cindy Palmer, Electronics Technician Johnny Blagg, and Journey Forecaster Mike Cantin

Roundup Parade: WFO Pendleton participated in the annual Roundup Parade with the “Weather Wrangler” float on September 10. The float won second place among all entries in the judged competition. OPL Jim Zdrojewski did an outstanding job with the decorations and props, while Journey Level Forecaster Mike Cantin did an excellent job wrangling lightning bolts, snowflakes, and raindrops with his lasso.

The Pendleton Roundup is an annual week long rodeo that draws attendance from all over the country. This was the second year that WFO Pendleton participated in the parade, and the staff plans to make it an annual event.



California Emergency Managers Association Meeting: Warning coordination meteorologists from California provided a booth for the California Emergency Managers Association meeting on September 26-28 in San Diego. Those who attended included: Kathy Hoxsie, Sacramento; Troy Nicolina, Eureka; Dave Soroka, Monterey; Eric Boldt, Oxnard; Dan Gudgel, Hanford; and Ed Clark, San Diego.

Photo: (Shown facing the camera, from left Dave Soroka and Dan Gudgel talk with Ben Green, communications manager for the California State Office of Emergency Services. (Photo by Ed Clark)



Back row: Jared Leighton (STO Student Volunteer). Front row: Elizabeth Morse (STO MIC), Holly Snell (STO Forecaster), Kathy Hoxsie (STO WCM), Cindy Matthews (STO SSH)

Day of Preparedness: WFO Sacramento participated in a Day of Preparedness event on September 20. The event was sponsored by the California Office of Emergency Services and the First Lady's Office to highlight the need for families to personally prepare for emergencies. Many federal, state, and local agencies participated in the event.

Johnnie Powell (WFO Sacramento School Outreach Focal Point) took the lead in organizing the attendance of the many schoolchildren who were the focus of the event. In addition to Johnnie, many WFO staff members helped to make the NWS booths a success. Mike Smith (IMET) and Holly Snell (Forecaster) worked the IMET display and explained how remote weather observations are taken and

how weather forecasting is used at a fire site. Jared Leighton (Student Volunteer), Cindy Matthews (SSH), Elizabeth Morse (MIC), and Kathy Hoxsie (WCM) handled the other booth, which provided information on a wide variety of weather hazards including quite a bit on hurricanes.



Jim Brusda creates a popular hands-on experience for Townsend second graders with his “tornado in a bottle”

Hands-on Outreach in Montana: WFO Great Falls journey forecaster Jim Brusda provided a weather presentation to five different groups of second and sixth graders in Townsend, Mont., on September 27. The younger students wanted to know the difference between hurricanes and tornadoes and enjoyed seeing the office’s “tornado in a bottle” and creating their own tornadoes (see picture). The older students were provided a more general overview of weather services, forecast challenges and career opportunities. Jim spoke to more than 100 hundred students during the five sessions. Mia Whitfield, school-to-work coordinator for the Townsend School District wrote to Jim, “We appreciate your time and dedication to educating our students about your career and the fascination of weather.”



HMT Stan Savoy and Chrisha Layh demonstrate a balloon launch at the open house.

WFO Spokane Open House: WFO Spokane hosted a two-day open house event on September 30 – October 1. Participants followed a self-guided tour through the facility and viewed displays and presentations on NWS products and services and the weather of the Inland Northwest. The attendees observed forecasters and technicians at work in the operations and electronics area, and got a glimpse at AWIPs, GFE, and CRS. An IMET demonstration and weather balloon launches were held outside.

On September 30, the open house was reserved for school groups from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Despite the rainy weather, approximately 200 students, teachers, and chaperons walked through the Spokane facility.

On October 1, the NWS open house was open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Before opening the doors, a local television news crew came to the office to give live feeds for their morning show. The publicity by the media, area newspapers, and quarterly office newsletter drew a steady stream of people to the office during the event. The event culminated with an Award and Appreciation Ceremony, where two John Campanius Holm awards and one cooperative observer Length of Service award were presented by MIC John Livingston and Deputy Regional Director Bob Tibi. Even under cool, breezy, and cloudy conditions, approximately 700 people attended the Saturday event.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

New Software for Web Based Presentations: HCSD has developed a new way for offices to create their own web-based training presentations on Hydrology, Climate, or COOP, which is similar to the WR FFMP training. The web-casts are simple to produce and only require Microsoft PowerPoint and a microphone. Once a person creates an audio PowerPoint presentation, the file can be sent to HCSD

where it will be converted to a web or CD presentation. HCSD has developed a set of instructions to provide a step-by-step guide on how to create an audio PowerPoint presentation, which are posted on both the Climate and Hydrology internal web pages (<http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/hcsd/hcsdindex.php>). For more information, please contact Jenna McPhee.

Multisensor Precipitation Estimator Web Based Training is Now Available: The Multisensor Precipitation Estimator is an application found in Hydroapps on AWIPS. Since there has not been any national training provided on how to use this application, Jay Breidenbach, Service Hydrologist at WFO Boise, has designed a training module on how this feature can be useful for Western Region WFOs. The training consists of 4 presentations and takes about 2 hours to complete. It can be found on the internal HCSD web page, under HCSD Training. Or it can be accessed directly at: <http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/hcsd/Hydro/training/hcsdtraining.php>



Debris Flow Demonstration Project training: On September 27-28, Jaymie Laber (SSH at WFO Oxnard) and Dr. Sue Cannon (USGS Landslide Research Scientist) provided training to the staff at WFO Oxnard and WFO San Diego in preparation for the joint USGS-NWS debris flow prototype warning system in southern California, which will begin October 1st.

The USGS will provide the WFOs in southern California with debris flow precipitation thresholds for recently burned areas in their CWAs. The WFOs will use those thresholds when monitoring precipitation and issuing flash flood watches and warnings. In addition to the existing tools, the WFOs will use an enhanced version of FFMP to compare observed precipitation to the USGS supplied thresholds. When the thresholds are reached, the WFOs will add appropriate call to actions about debris flows in the flash flood products. In addition, after a new fire is contained, the USGS will compile an outlook describing the newly burned area, areas at greatest risk from debris flows, and possible impacts. The NWS will disseminate these outlooks for the USGS.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

PAC-NW IFPS Workshop: The Pacific Northwest Forecast Offices met October 4-5 to share and agree on procedures to improve the IFPS forecast process and other operational issues. A summary of the meeting will be made available within a few weeks.

Ridge Radar Update: Due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the implementation of the ridge radar has been delayed. While no new implementation date is available, the new implementation will likely occur right after the holidays

Winter Weather Program at HPC: The NCEP HPC Winter Weather Desk (WWD) will begin operations for the 2005-2006 winter season. *An email with more information was distributed to all offices last week.* Some of the new WWD changes:

- Staggered deadlines for internal accumulation graphics

- Larger model diagnostic images
- Public version of Low tracks graphic
- Snow ratio algorithms
- New SREF derived Winter Weather Impact Graphics
- Experimental intermountain region hi-res (4km) 6h snow grids and graphics through 72h using Mountain Mapper via HPC QPF and snow ratio.

The WWD schedule will be:

- *The WWD is staffed 8 hours twice daily starting 0130Z/1330Z from Sept 15 through May 15*
- 0445/1645Z – *Winter Weather model diagnostic web graphics available (SREF by 0320/1520Z, NAM by 0330/1530Z, GFS by 0445/1645Z)*
- 0500/1700Z - *Day 1 S/IP, ZR accumulation web graphic available (internal page) HPC will announce internal graphic availability via 12 Planet*
- 0545/1745Z - *Day 2 S/IP, ZR accumulation web graphic available (internal page)*
- 0615/1815Z - *Day 3 S/IP, ZR accumulation web graphic available (internal page)*
- 0815/2015Z - *Collaboration window closed (opens formally at 0615/1815Z)*
- 0900/2100Z - *External products issued*

The WWD points of contact are:

Robert Kelly (HPC Forecast Operations Branch Chief) – robert.kelly@noaa.gov,

Dan Petersen (HPC WWD Focal Point) – dan.petersen@noaa.gov,

Peter Manousos (HPC SOO and WWD coordinator) – peter.manousos@noaa.gov

Upcoming Science Workshops

Ninth Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop: The Great Divide Workshop will be held at the Hampton Inn in Great Falls on October 25-27, 2005. The focus of the workshop will be on the forecast challenges faced in the Intermountain West and the Western High Plains. The scheduled key note speaker for the banquet will be David C. Whiteman from the University of Utah. Dave will present a pictorial look at unique weather phenomena. Please register for the workshop by accessing the local news section at either the Missoula or Great Falls home pages (weather.gov/missoula or weather.gov/greatfalls).

Workshop contacts are Gene Petrescu, Michelle Mead, and Mike. W. Johnson

voice: 406-329-4715 fax: 406-329-4842

e-mail: wr.great.divide.workshop@noaa.gov

Twelfth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West: The Twelfth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West will be held on November 3, 2005 at the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in Reno, Nevada. The objectives of these annual workshops are to discuss major issues related to operational meteorology over the western United States and to foster interaction between applied meteorologists, research scientists, and others who rely on operational weather forecasts or data. This year's workshop agenda has two primary focus areas: Transportation Weather and Air Quality Forecasting and Impacts, with emphasis on the operational prediction methods, monitoring networks, and management challenges specific to the Intermountain West.

Abstracts can be submitted for either poster or oral presentations. However, abstract submittal is not required for participation. The deadline for registration is October 1. For a more complete workshop description and registration instructions, please visit the workshop web page at: <http://conferences.dri.edu/WxPrediction/>

Training Update

NWSTC AWIPS Postgres Training Materials: The Introduction to Postgres on-line course and the Integrating Postgres into AWIPS on-line course have been merged into one course, consist of 12 modules. The target availability date is October 18, 2005. The Postgres training CD, which also serves as a Postgres Emulator, should also be available by October 18 and will be mailed to each WFO/RFC. NWSTC is also targeting October 18 to provide access to a Postgres server with an AWIPS database at the NWSTC to allow field access in order to test your Postgres scripts. The NWSTC will be sending out an e-mail when they become available.

NWSTC IFPS Update: The IFPS Training web page has been **updated** with recent links to **IFPS 17** material. This page can be accessed directly at: http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/nwstrn/ifps_met.htm

The Focal Point Distance Learning Course can be accessed three ways:

1. New expanded menu version at:

http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/nwstrn/ifps17/testifps/Sam_ifps_menu.htm

2. Complete information about the course:

<http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/nwstrn/ifps17/DLOutline17.htm>

3. Course Master Table with easy navigation to teletraining sessions and assignments:

http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/nwstrn/ifps17/online_course/CourseTable.htm

If you have any questions contact Sam Beckman at the NWSTC.

WDTB AWOC Update: According to Ed Mahoney (WDTB), the upcoming AWOC winter weather training modules will be ready by the April/May 2006 time period. The current plan will be to require AWOC winter training next summer/fall in preparation for the following winter. More information will be coming as we receive updates.

Recently Released COMET Modules:

- Wave Life Cycle I: Generation
- Creating a Local Climate Product Using Composite Analysis
- Introduction to Ensemble Prediction
- Mesoscale Banded Precipitation
- The Impact of Weather on Air Traffic Management

To access, go to <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/>

Now available – Dispersion Operation Training Module Dispersion

The new NWS Dispersion Operations learning module, "NWS Support During Hazardous Materials Emergencies," was completed this month and published on MetEd October 1. The URL is http://meted.ucar.edu/dispersion/disp_ops/.

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

- Cyclogenesis: Analysis utilizing Geostationary Satellite Imagery (Basic, Oct 12)
- Downscaling Technique by Climate Team (Basic, Oct 5,19)
- CPC Long Range Forecasting by Climate Team (Basic, Oct 6,26)
- CPC Extended Range Forecasting by Climate Team (Basic, Oct 7,18)
- CPC Monitoring Products by Climate Team (Basic, Oct 11,19)
- Use of GOES/RSO imagery with other Remote Sensor Data for Diagnosing Severe Weather across CONUS (RSO 3)
- (Intermediate, Oct 4,5)

Climate Team sessions are intended for climate focal points and is a prerequisite for additional classroom training.

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

Transmitter Installation: Joe Lachacz, Tony Browder, and the Billings, MT ET staff installed a new NWR in Rygate, MT. The transmitter installation was plagued with several problems that were resolved by the team. This NWR will cover Musselshell, Golden Valley, and Wheatland counties. This is the 5th new transmitter in the Billing CWA giving them a total of 9 transmitters.

Facilities Maintenance: Facilities Engineering Technicians Randy Miller and Tom Page traveled to Glasgow, MT to assist the WFO disassemble, move to storage, and reassemble office furniture while the

WFO was being re-carpeted. In addition, building and generator P.M.s, painting, and general maintenance items were accomplished.



Energy Awareness Month: October is Energy Awareness Month and very timely with a recently signed Presidential directive requiring Federal Agencies to conserve natural gas, electricity, gasoline, and diesel fuels. This year's theme is "Not in Use? Turn Off the Juice!" Now is a good time for all of us to review our energy habits both at home and at work. Items to consider are...

- Turning off equipment/appliances not in use.
- Enabling energy saving features on equipment, such as sleep mode on monitors.
- Car pooling or use of public transportation.
- Purchasing Energy STAR rated appliances and products.
- Install energy efficient lighting.
- Utilize programmable thermostats to control heating & cooling.

More information can be found at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp>.

Safety Alert: In FY2005, 30% of our reported accidents were due to falls. With winter approaching, the chances of a person falling or slipping will increase due to snow and ice. Be aware of your surroundings. Always watch for hazards and dangers such as ice on steps, sidewalks, and pathways. Remember outdoor stairs and entrances need to be sanded or salted and kept free of ice and snow.

Leaking Hydrogen Bottles: While replacing a regulator at the upper site at Quilliyute, Dan Clark (Western Region Facility Engineer Technician) discovered there was a bottle leaking hydrogen gas. Does every upper air observer in your office know how to test a hydrogen bottle for leaks? Now is an excellent time to review and revise your hydrogen gas procedures.