



NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Western Region Notes

October 25, 2007

REGION DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Passing of Dr. Tom Potter: Dr. Tom Potter, former Western Region Director passed away on Tuesday, October 16, 2007, from pancreatic cancer. His passing was sudden. Tom lived an extraordinary life. Tom earned four degrees, a BA in Math, BS in Meteorology, and MS in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington, and a Ph.D. in Meteorology from Penn State. Tom served as a Vice-Commander of the USAF Air Weather Service, Associate Professor at St. Louis University, Director of the National Climate Center, Director of the NOAA Environmental

Data and Information Service, Director of the WMO World Climate Program, Director of the WMO World Weather Watch, Director of the NWS Western Region, and Professor and Director of the NOAA Cooperative Institute for Regional Prediction at the University of Utah. He also served as Director of the Weather Support Project for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. He is survived by his wife, Billie, and six children. Tom will be missed by all who knew him.

Town Hall Meeting with VADM Lautenbacher: On October 10, 2007, NOAA Administrator Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher delivered a keynote address at the Western Governors' Association conference on "Water Planning for a Sustainable Future" held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Following his address to the Water Planning Conference, the Vice Admiral visited NWS Western Region Headquarters. At WRH he held a Town Hall meeting where about 40 employees from WRH, WFO SLC and CBRFC were in attendance. Vice Admiral Lautenbacher gave an update on NOAA activities, the importance of regionalization, and thanked Western Region employees for their dedication and recent accomplishments and there was a lively discussion on climate change. Afterwards, he was given a short presentation on several new technologically innovative projects that WRH is involved in which was well received.



Western Region Cline Awards: Please join me in congratulating the Western Region Isaac M. Cline Award recipients:

Meteorology	Dave Bruno
Hydrology	Gina Loss
Outreach	Holly Snell Osborne
Leadership	Keith Meier
Facilities Engineering & Electronics	Lee Jenson and Harold Knocke
Program Management	Kevin Werner
Support Services	Delyne Kirkham
Diversity Management	Carol Ciliberti and Debra Richie
Upper Air	WFO Medford

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

WFO Portland and NWRFC hold Open House: WFO Portland and the Northwest River Forecast Center held an Open House on Saturday, October 6, 2007. We had a very good turn-out from the local populace with approximately 170 people attending who expressed a genuine interest in what we do, with equal interest in meteorology and hydrology.

The Open House was designed so people could drop in anytime during the event, stay as long as they want, and have conversations with the staff. WFO and RFC staff members gave presentations every 30 minutes, conducted tours of the operations area, had static displays of a Fisher-Porter rain gauge, rawinsonde and wind measuring equipment. They also explained the unique aspects of making forecasts for several different user groups and how to get information from the internet and NOAA Weather Radio.



L to R. Joanne Salerno and Chuck Orwig, NWRFC Senior Hydrologists, brief attendees on NWRFC operations

Overall, the Open House was a big hit with the local community with lots of positive feedback from the attendees. Many attendees left the building asking “When will you be holding the next Open House?”



StormReady[®] and TsunamiReady[™] Ceremony for Grays Harbor County: Grays Harbor County, Washington completed the NOAA National Weather Service StormReady[®] and TsunamiReady[™] programs, better equipping the county to handle severe weather and tsunamis. The Grays Harbor emergency management team fulfilled a rigorous set of warning and evacuation criteria, including the development of a formal hazardous weather

NWS Seattle MIC Brad Colman, Grays Harbor County Commissioners Bob Beerbower, Mike Wilson, Al Carter, and Paul Easter - County Director of Public Services.

plan. Dr. Brad Colman presented a recognition letter and StormReady® road signs to county commissioners during a ceremony at the Grays Harbor County commissioners meeting on October 15th.

Hamilton, Montana StormReady® Ceremony: Bruce Bauck, MIC, and Peter Felsch, Meteorologist, WFO Missoula presented the Ravalli County Commissioners, DES Coordinator and Mayors of Hamilton and Stevensville StormReady® certificates and road signs at the StormReady® ceremony in Hamilton, MT on October 9th.

Both the local

Ravalli
Republic
Newspaper
and NBC TV
affiliate were
at the

left to right, Alan Thompson, Commissioner, Bruce Bauck, MIC, Greg Chilcott, Commissioner, Ron Nicholas, DES Coordinator, Kathleen Driscoll, Commissioner, Jessica Randazzo, Mayor of Hamilton, Jim Rokosch, Commissioner, and WCM Peter Felsch.



ceremony and did a nice job writing the article and filming the event. The local CBS TV affiliate also called the WFO for an interview about the event.

Hydrology and Climate Services Division

NOAA Director gives Keynote Speech at Western Governors' Association Meeting and Drought Monitor Forum: NOAA Director, Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, gave a keynote speech at the Western Governors' Association Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah on October 10th and at the 5th U.S. Drought Monitor (DM) Forum in Portland, Oregon October 11. Admiral Lautenbacher, discussed NOAA's drought activities and reported on the latest with regard to the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS). NIDIS is a proactive approach to drought that will facilitate, integrate, and disseminate drought information such as monitoring tools, forecasts, and education and research materials. NIDIS will serve as a decision support tool and early warning system for drought, which will allow the nation to prepare, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of drought. The official NIDIS web portal is being developed at NCDC and will be released by the end of 2007.

The drought forum was sponsored by the National Drought Mitigation Center and hosted by the USDA National Resources Conservation Service. The Forum is held every other year and is attended by the nation's top drought experts, including most of the DM authors, Federal, state, local agencies, universities and users of the Drought Monitor. WR HCSD and several other staff from NWS WR Field Offices were in attendance.

Opheim, MT Cooperative Weather Observer Honored with Jefferson Award: Cooperative Weather Observer Erling Dohlen was recognized Oct 5th with the Thomas Jefferson Award by the National Weather Service. The Jefferson Award is the highest award the NWS presents to volunteer observers and honors cooperative weather



observers for unusual and outstanding achievements in the field of meteorological observations. Only 7 awards were given out this year. Mr. Dohlen's father started taking observations in Opheim, Montana in February 1930. Erling took over the station in January 1958. During the ceremony Mr. Dohlen also received letters of recognition from Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer and U.S. Senator John Tester. In the above photo are Glasgow Meteorologist-in-Charge, Steve Apfel, Mr. Dohlen, and Dan Matusiewicz from Western Region HCSD.

WFO Pendleton Attends Early Warning System and EAP Review: On September 27th, Pendleton, OR Service Hydrologist, Marilyn Lohmann, attended the Annual Orientation Session for Bumping Lake Dam in Western Yakima County Washington. The meeting was hosted by the Yakima Field Office of the Bureau of Reclamation and included representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation, US Forest Service and Yakima Valley Emergency Management. The annual meeting is a requirement of the Bumping Lake Dam Early Warning System. This orientation demonstrated the early warning system equipment operation to all participating agencies and provided a chance to review and update their respective emergency plans and procedures. The meeting included a tour of the dam and the supporting weather station including a snow survey site and snow pillow as well as a brief dambreak emergency scenario.

WFO Seattle Participate in Numerous Flood Preparedness Meetings: Seattle Senior Service Hydrologist Brent Bower has been busy working with his customers and partners in various flood preparedness meetings throughout the Seattle Hydrologic Service Area. Presentations given were on the upcoming winter outlook, La Niña, NWS flood services, and new changes in their hydrologic products and services for this year. Brent discussed the new flood headline product they will be issuing, their debris flow program, and flood inundation mapping activities. Participants included state, county, and city emergency management, transportation, flood divisions, utilities, fire department, police, Red Cross, and school districts. Attendance ranged from 15 to 60. An upcoming meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers will be attended by two city council members and a mayor within the Skagit River Basin and will be recorded and shown on the county's local access cable Television.

WR Hydrology Seminars: HCSD and SSD are facilitating monthly Hydrology Information Exchange Seminars, to promote the sharing of innovative projects at WR field offices and a cohesive WR hydrology workforce. The primary participants for this seminar series are the WR SHs, HFPs, and RFC staff, however participation is open to all. Seminars typically consist of a 30-45 minute participant led talk followed by a question and answer session. The latest meeting was held on October 25th with CBRFC Hydrologist Bill Reed presenting material on the Hyper-Effective Drainage Concept – Effects of Wildfire in Mountainous Terrain. Outreach and service-based seminars will also be incorporated into the series.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Upcoming Science Workshops

- **January 20-24 -- AMS Annual Conference:** The [AMS Annual Meeting](#) will be held on 20-24 January 2008 in New Orleans, LA. Conference information can be found at: <http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/>

Activities

New FX-NET Client for IMETS released Oct 10: Each year, FSL upgrades our FX-NET systems to keep up roughly with the AWIPS builds. Jebb Steward (FSL) has recently completed the yearly upgrade. The client on your windows system needs to be upgraded. The link is was sent to the MIC/HIC via an October 10 email:

Who is affected:

- IMETS - they use FX-NET on their laptops (AMRS)
- CWSUs
- any WFO/RFC who is using it for local purposes, such as GOTOMeeting briefings

Draft AWIPS-2 Training – SOA, Java and JavaScript: NWSHQ and NWSTC have been gathering on-line training modules to get ready for AWIPS-2, primarily SOA, Java and Java Script.

- AWIPS ADE II terms
http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/AWIPS/ADE/ADE_terms.html
- Online Training resources
http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/AWIPS/ADE/ADE_resources.html

Teletraining Sessions for November: 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.

- New - Use of Ensembles in the Forecast Process (Cold Season Version) (Basic, Nov 7,9,19,20,26,27,28,29)
- Cyclogenesis: Analysis utilizing Geostationary Satellite Imagery (Basic, Nov 1,15)
- Satellite Interpretation of Orographic Clouds / Effects (Basic, Nov 12,28)
- Forecasting Convective Downburst Potential Using GOES Sounder Derived Products (Basic, Nov 26)
- MODIS Products in AWIPS (Basic, Nov 13,21)
- CRAS Forecast Imagery in AWIPS (Basic, Nov 29)

- Basic Satellite Principles (Basic, Nov 5,28)
- Water Vapor Imagery and Potential Vorticity Analysis (Intermediate, Nov 5,9,14,19,27)

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

NWR Installs: Joe Lachacz, Gerry Deiotte, Gary Strickland and Doug Willeke relocated the Mount Lukens NWR transmitter to Saddle Peak and installed a new transmitter at the Sandberg ASOS location along Interstate 5 near Gorman. The two transmitters are configured to be much more reliable and the Sandberg transmitter will be the first site to utilize a hydrogen fuel cell as backup power.

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORTING: With winter just around the corner, now is a good time to review how to report an accident/incident. If you are involved in a work related accident/incident you have 24 hours to report it online. The online address is https://ops13web.nws.noaa.gov/accform/acc_info.info_scn Once you submit the form you can go back and provide updates as needed. If you are involved in a vehicle accident then you must additionally complete a SF 91, SF 94 and SF95 forms. Lastly, if you are in a GSA vehicle then you must complete a GSA Form 3155 as well. These four forms should be in all GSA vehicles. These forms can also be found on the Western Region Safety web page at <http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/sod/fac/safety> Lastly, please insure that WRH/SOD is notified.

Facilities Update:

Western Region Facilities undertook a major system upgrade in FY06 by replacing the 5 ton 88D air conditioning units with new 6 ton units. The original A/C units are approaching the 15 year mark and quickly reaching end of life. All work to date has been accomplished in-house by FET's and ET's in some cases. Many sites have been already upgraded, including often difficult to reach mountain top sites. The remaining sites are scheduled to be completed in FY08.



Jim Maclellan performs equipment maintenance at the Las Vegas 88D site.