



The National Cooperative Observer

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Spring 2007

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Coop Observer Finishes in Top Three in the Great Alaskan Endurance Test

Peter Rahe, Alaskan Region Cooperative Program Specialist

Cooperative Observer Zack Steer placed 3rd out of 80 mushers who started the 2007 Iditarod. Zack finished in a grueling 9 days, 12 hours, 46 minutes and 7 seconds.

Since February 2000, Zack has provided daily climatological data from Sheep Mountain Lodge, AK. The site is located along the scenic Glenn Highway between Palmer and Glennallen about 2 hours northeast of Anchorage.

As a top musher, Zack appreciates the value of accurate forecasts and the dangers of sudden severe weather.

"It was a challenging race this year. It seemed there was a constant headwind the first week of the race and temperatures were extremely cold through the Alaska Range and Yukon River. Compounded by the fact that there were many miles of snowless trail, the race shaped up to be one of the hardest ever."

Preparing for the nearly 10-day run through severe weather conditions began early and paid off handsomely. Temperatures dropped below -40°F, with wind chills of -80°F to -90°F, and near zero visibility at times.

According to Zack, "The dogs received about 3,000 miles of training in the Sheep Mountains leading up to the Iditarod and the results speak for themselves. My dogs performed well throughout the race,

consistently posting some of the fastest run times between checkpoints. I gave them extra rest in the first half of the race which helped provide for a reserve of energy in the last few days."

"My sled held together with just minor repairs necessary at a few checkpoints. We stuck to our race plan the first week and improvised where necessary at the end. I had five lead dogs who each took turns up front throughout the race. Their names are Diamond, Feta, Gasket, Curry and Columbia."

"There were times during the race where I was tired, the dogs were tired, or things weren't going exactly according to plan."

See "Jack Steer in the Iditarod," Page 3



Boy Scout, Bus Driver, Career Counselor, and Weather Historian: 60 Years of Service

By Ken Kohagen, NWS Coop Observer, Yakima, WA

"When we entered an old Army-style barracks building, I heard the clatter of teletype machines, saw dials showing wind direction and speed, a glass case with a mercurial barometer enclosed and a sloped table with a large U.S. map with a lot of wavy lines."

I've been fascinated by weather since visiting the local airport on a Boy Scout field trip here in Yakima, WA, in 1946. When we entered an old Army-style barracks building, I heard the clatter of teletype machines, saw dials showing wind direction and speed, a glass case with a mercurial barometer enclosed and a sloped table with a large U.S. map with a lot of wavy lines. Outside, I saw a white covered box with various types of thermometers in it. Staff explained the difference between the standard 8 inch gage and the recording gage.

That trip was the beginning of a life-time hobby. While I attempted to forecast weather at times, my primary interest is climatology—keeping track of annual and seasonal averages in Yakima and establishing new records.

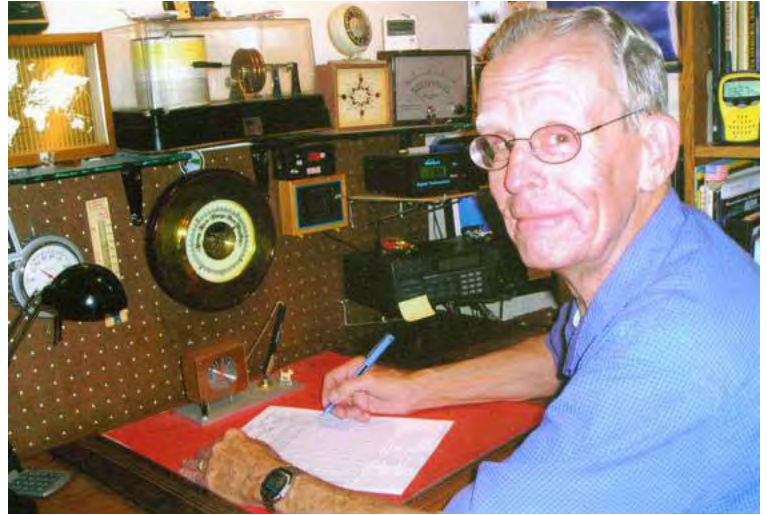
In time, I set up a backyard weather station. I made a wind vane, make believe anemometer and rain gage. I also purchased a aneroid barometer.

In the 1960s, I purchased my own Weather Bureau Regulation Max/Min Thermometer and an 8 inch rain gage. I had a regulation thermometer shelter built in 1950 and though I now have remote reading thermometers in my house, I still visit the shelter every evening out of habit. I also had purchased a barograph.

In addition to serving as an automated weather site, I still send manual measurements of snow depth.

Because I have a short wave radio receiver, I get enough weather reports from Coast Guard stations and airports to sketch out my own weather maps at home.

Over the years, I've spent many hours at the Weather Bureau office observing what took place during shifts.



Ken Kohagen, NWS Cooperative Observer, Yakima, WA

In the 1960s, using official weather records for Yakima at the Weather Bureau from 1909 to date, I compiled a history of statistics in a loose leaf notebook.

The notebook is divided into sections covering monthly mean temperatures, snow fall, precipitation and other historical weather information for Yakima.

Bus Driving and Meteorology

But weather isn't my livelihood. In 1969, I became a transit operator for Yakima. I worked for 30 years before retiring in 2000. In the 1980s, a passenger on my bus mentioned his high school son was interested in weather. I got to know the boy and after showing him my homebrew weather station, he went on to get a degree in meteorology. Last I heard he was working at the NWS Phoenix, AZ, office.

In addition to my own data, I have records from a family who were observers in Moxee, WA, near Yakima, from 1892-1945. I also have some of their records from 1892-1909 when Yakima opened an office.

My book chronicles changes in the operation of The Weather Bureau since the late 1950's. Here are some highlights.

- In 1958, the weather office installed a FAX machine, eliminating the need for hand drawn weather maps.
- In 1960, NASA launched the first weather satellite, Tiros.
- In 1963, NWS started installing remote-reading thermometers, eliminating the need to go outside in bad weather.
- In 1979, Yakima received a Weather Radio transmitter.
- In 1980, computers came in and teletypes went out.
- In 1982, The Weather Channel hit the airwaves. Automation was becoming the way to observe the weather. There were talks of cutbacks in the Weather Service.
- In 1997, after 88 years of service in Yakima, the local forecast office closed. Pendleton became our forecast center.

Yakima Weather "Highs" and "Lows"

Here are few highlights of Yakima weather since the 1940s.

On Memorial Day weekend in 1948, there was a sudden run off of mountain snows causing a lot of flooding locally and on down to Portland. A dike broke near Portland, destroying the community of Van-Port where 18,700 people lived. Fortunately, only 20 people lost their lives. The flood lasted 45 days.

Then came the winters of 1948-49 and of 1949-50. January 1949 had an average temperature of 14.6 degrees, 12.8 degrees below normal. The winter of 1949-50 was the second coldest since 1909, when records were first kept for Yakima.

January 1950 was even colder with an average temperature of 12.5 degrees, 14.9 degrees below normal. From January 31 to February 3, 1950, the weather service recorded daily minimums below -20 degrees. Since 1909, there have only been 8 days with minimums at -20 degrees or lower in Yakima. The story goes that during those 4 days the temperature in the old Army barracks weather office never rose above 32 degrees—inside! Water froze on the floor.

On January 13, 1950, the state had blizzard conditions. Daytime temperatures never rose above 4 degrees with the temperature dropping to -15 degrees at midnight.

On August 10, 1952, the sky turned black mid-afternoon as a cloud burst and flash flood struck about 10 miles north of Yakima causing heavy damage and two deaths.

The summer of 1971 brought the longest heat wave recorded in Yakima. Starting July 13, 1971, and ending August 13, we had 32 consecutive days of maximum temperatures reaching 90 degrees or above, with 17 days reaching 100 degrees or above. The high for this period was 110 degrees.

The coldest year on the books was 1985, with an average temperature of 46.4 degrees, 3.3 degrees below normal. November and December 1985 were the coldest ever recorded by our station. The cold came with stagnant air, lots of fog and smoke (smog). A year or two later they started burn ban days to help minimize the problem.

The annual average precipitation for Yakima is 8.26 inches. The wettest year on record was 1996, when heavy snowfall contributed to 14.86 inches of precipitation.

November 18-19, 1996, saw the greatest 24 hour snowfall on record for any winter season when 18.9 inches fell.

Then, December 28-29, 1996, we had a 24 hour snowfall of 14 inches which tied the record set on December 20-21, 1964.

I have collected much information over the years about Yakima weather. I also have a small library of books on weather that I plan to donate to a local museum.

We hope you're collecting for many more years Ken! Thanks for the support. ✨

Zack Steer in the Iditarod

continued from Page 1

I only had to think of my friends and family who were cheering us on from home beside their computers to give me that extra boost of incentive to make it to the next checkpoint. Your support really was felt out on the trail. Thanks for pulling for Team Steer. At this point I'm not sure if we'll be entered in next year's race, but if we do—watch out!"

The NWS Alaskan staff was rooting for Zack and is extremely proud of his remarkable Iditarod performance. We wish him continued success! ✨

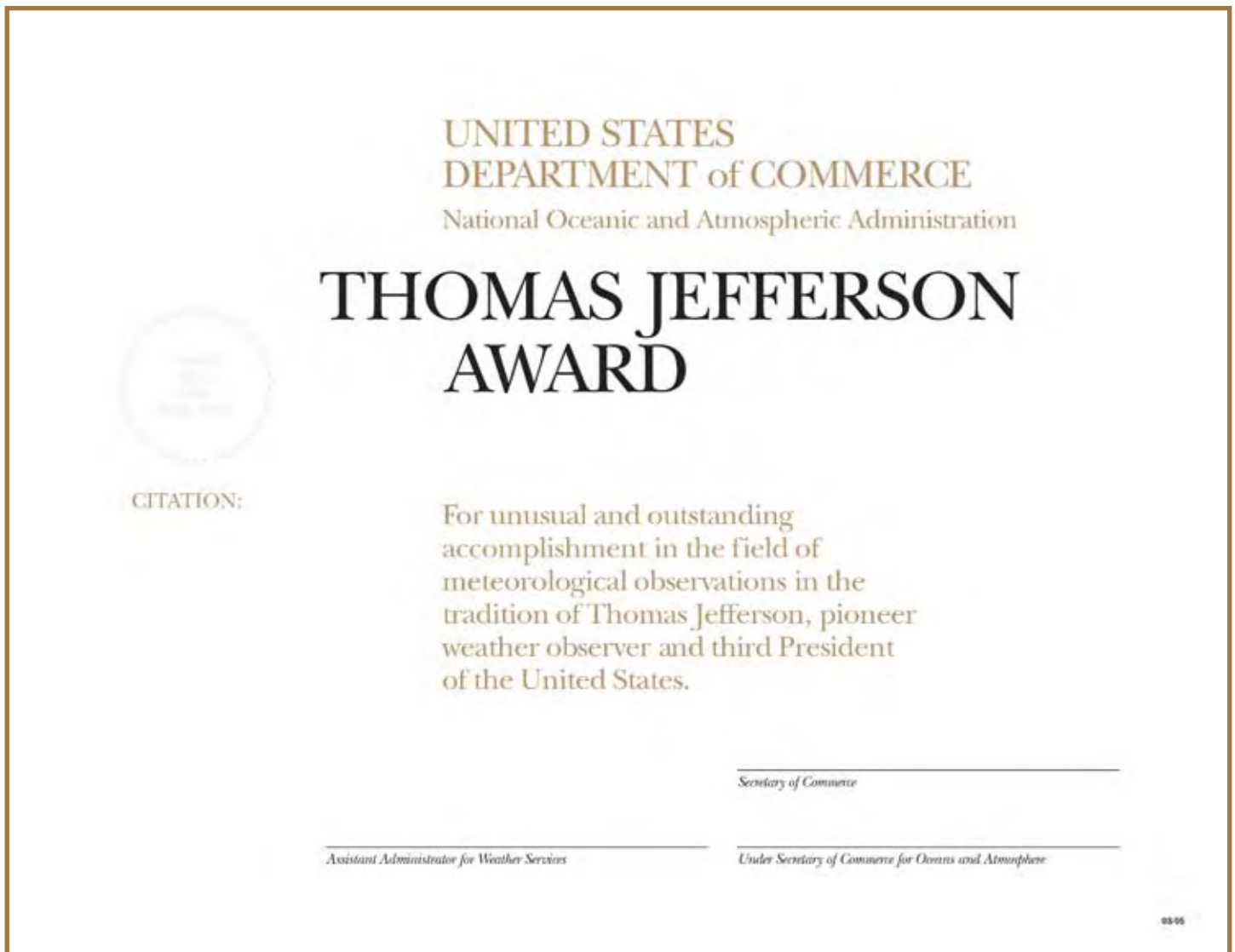
"I only had to think of my friends and family who were cheering us on from home beside their computers to give me that extra boost of incentive to make it to the next checkpoint."

NWS Thomas Jefferson Award

The Thomas Jefferson Award was named in honor of our third president. Jefferson, among his many other contributions, kept an almost unbroken series of weather records from 1776 to 1816.

The Jefferson Award is the most prestigious award for an NWS Cooperative Observer. Five Cooperative Observers are honored each year with this award for outstanding and distinctive achievements. All candidates for the Jefferson Award must have received the Holm Award at least 5 years before the Jefferson nomination.

Pictured below is a depiction of the Jefferson Award. A gold Department of Commerce seal is placed on the certificate. ❄



Thomas Jefferson Award Winners



The Thomas Jefferson Award and a 35 Year Length of Service Award were posthumously presented to Roy H. Byars of Blanco, TX.

Pictured from left are NWS San Antonio, TX, Meteorologist-in-Charge (MIC) Joe Arellano, Jr.; Roy's three daughters, Jeanette Leese, Patricia Haas, and Marilyn Mikes; and NWS Observing Program Leader (OPL) Bill Runyon.

The Thomas Jefferson Award was presented to Charles Longwitz for more than 59 years of exceptional service as a cooperative observer. Charles, a disabled World War II veteran, established the Minocqua dam site when he was hired by Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company in April 1947. He has been recording daily temperature, snowfall, snow depth and water equivalent ever since.

In his many years as a volunteer, Longwitz has recorded such extremes as the all-time record low for Minocqua—a frigid -48 degrees on Feb. 3, 1996, and the record snowfall of 162 inches, also in 1996. According to Weather Service records, Charles has measured about 1,889 inches of precipitation and 6,608 inches of snowfall. He continues to read temperatures the old fashioned way with mercury and alcohol thermometers in a Cotton Region Shelter.



Pictured from the left are Gary Austin, MIC, NWS Green Bay; Robert Bonack, NWS Regional CPM; Charles Longwitz, award holder; and Pat Hein, OPL, Green Bay.

Thomas Jefferson Award Winners

William "Bill" Larrabee of Sebec Lake, ME, received the coveted Thomas Jefferson award for his exceptional service to the NWS in New York and Maine. Bill's interest in weather started in the 1940s while he was studying for his private pilot's license.

He signed up to be an NWS volunteer cooperative weather observer in the early 1960s. His first site was in upstate New York, where he kept records for almost 30 years. In 1989, the Larrabees moved to Sebec, ME, where Bill started a new cooperative weather station.

With occasional backup from his wife of 55 years, Mary Jane, Bill has never missed a daily weather observation. Mary Jane's role was also recognized at the award ceremony.

The ceremony to present the award was held in Bangor, ME, and included U.S. Congressman Michael H. Michaud; Bangor Mayor John Cashwell; Andrew Varisco, staff assistant to U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe; Jessamine Logan, staff assistant to U.S. Senator Susan M. Collins; and Tom Lizotte, Piscataquis County Commissioner.

The Jefferson Award was presented to Bill by Hendricus Lulofs, MIC, at NWS Caribou, ME. Bill was nominated by Mark Turner, NWS Caribou Service Hydrologist. Bill also received his 30 Year Length of Service Award during the ceremony. Also present at the ceremony were Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) Tony Sturey and OPL Thomas Stenman.



From left, Bill Larrabee shows his Thomas Jefferson Award presented by NWS MIC Hendricus Lulofs, WFO Caribou, ME.

Photo by OPL Thomas Stenman, WFO Caribou, ME.

Special Appreciation Award Winner



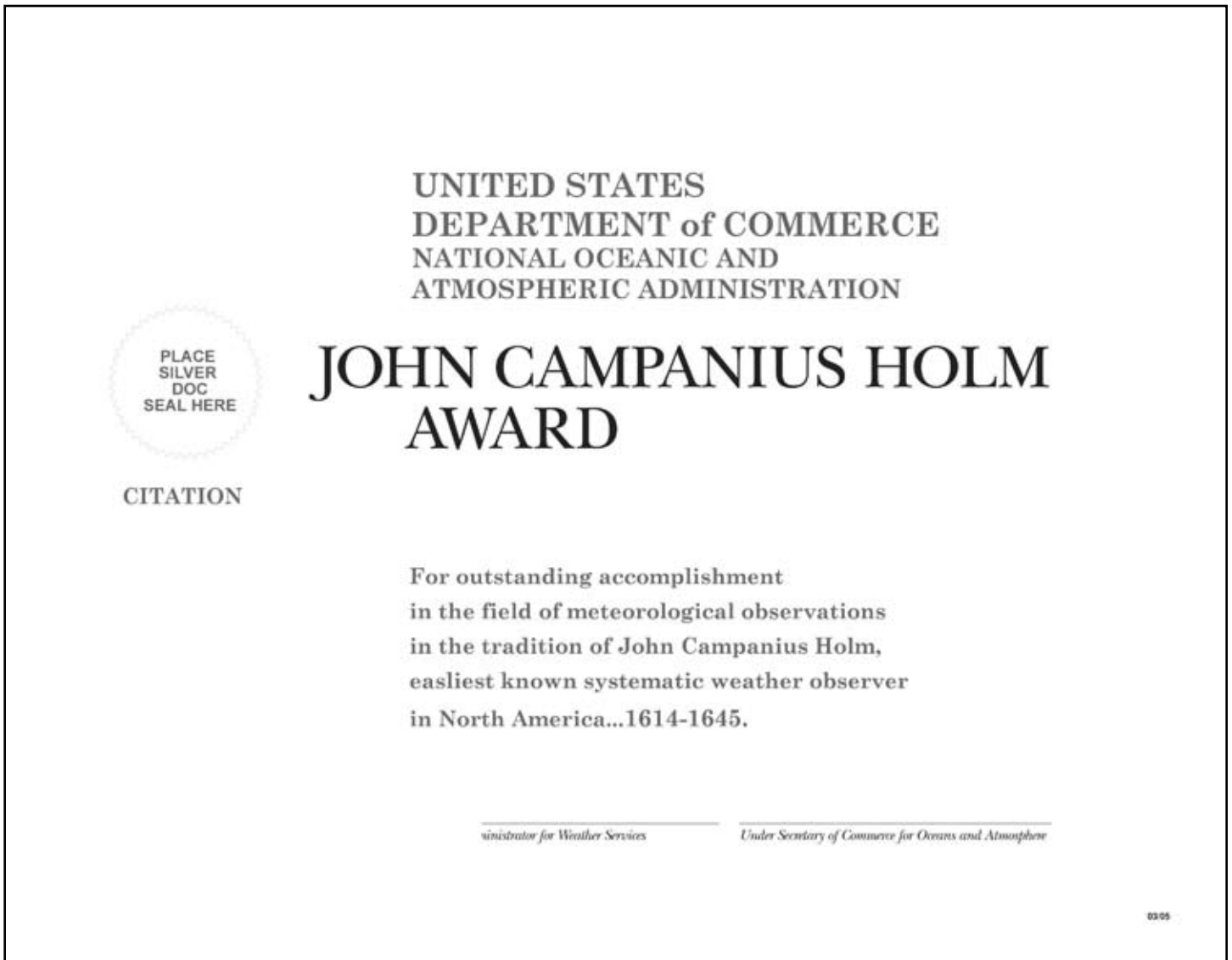
John Sharlott, Park Ranger at the Warner Park Nature Center in Nashville, TN, was presented an Appreciation Award at his retirement ceremony by James LaRosa, Service Hydrologist, and Ralph Troutman, OPL. John was instrumental in establishing the Coop site at Warner Park and also helped coordinate spotter training for more than 250 new spotters. Photo by NWS Nashville OPL Ralph Troutman.

John Campanius Holm Award Winners

This award was named in honor of John Campanius Holm, a Lutheran minister who was the first person known to have taken systematic weather observations in 1644 and 1645 in the American Colonies.

Each year, 25 Cooperative Observers nationwide are honored with the John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding accomplishments in the field of cooperative observations.

Pictured below is a depiction of the Holm Award. A silver Department of Commerce seal is placed on the certificate.



John Campanius Holm Award Winners



Pictured from the left are Gary Austin, MIC, NWS Green Bay, WI; John Caskey, award winner; Robert Bonack, Regional CPM; and Pat Hein, OPL.

A John Campanius Holm Award was presented to John Caskey at the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company Award Banquet. John has served as a cooperative observer for more than 58 years. He established the Lac Vieux Desert observing station on May 1, 1948, as part of his employment with Wisconsin Valley. John provides daily snowfall, snow depth and water equivalent reports for his site. He has measured nearly 1,960 inches of precipitation and more than 6,664 inches of snowfall in his many years of service.

Representing her family, Shirley Peavy of Brewton, AL, was presented with the John Campanius Holm Award by Randall McKee, MIC, NWS Mobile, AL.

The Peavy family was honored with this award for outstanding service as Cooperative Weather Observers with the National Weather Service. Photo by NWS HMT John Werner.

As you can see by the photos in the background, Shirley's "other" interests are her children and grandchildren.



John Campanius Holm Award Winners

Recognizing 44 years of service to America, NWS named Brooks M. Schley as a 2006 recipient of the John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding service in the Cooperative Weather Observer Program.

The award was presented in Brooks' home town, George West, TX. "Schley and the thousands of cooperative observers across the nation give generously of their time and energy because of their interest in weather and dedication to our country," said Bill Proenza, NWS Southern Region Director. "We honor them and thank them for their commitment."

Since he began working as a volunteer weather observer in 1962, Schley has maintained an unbroken record of daily rainfall reports, often during the most extreme and hazardous weather events. He provided the NWS Corpus Christi, TX, office with timely and accurate observations during such events as 1967's Hurricane Beulah and 1970's Hurricane Celia.

His reports are frequently published in the local newspaper. Brooks continued his father's legacy. Charles C. Schley started serving as a volunteer observer in 1918 and continued until Brooks took over in 1962. Between the two men, they have provided nearly nine decades of outstanding service.



Brooks M. Schley shows his Holm Award.

Special Service Award Winner



NWS Green Bay, WI, MIC Gary Austin, left, presented a Special Service Award to WSAW-TV 7, Wausau, WI. Mike Breunling, chief meteorologist, center, and Katie O'Brien, meteorologist, right, accept the award on behalf of the weather department at TV-7. The meteorologists at TV-7 call the snowfall amounts for Wausau into the NWS Green Bay office every 6 hours to help maintain accurate snowfall records for Wausau.

100 Year Family Heritage Awards



Pictured from left are Steve Summy, OPL, Salt Lake City, UT; Phyllis Crook, Observer; Phyllis' daughter Annie Crook DeGroff; and Susan Nelson, Western Region Cooperative Program Manager. Also in attendance were Dr. Larry Dunn, MIC, Salt Lake City; Rob Gillies, State Climatologist for Utah; Alan Moller, Assistant State Climatologist for Utah; and representatives for several elected officials.

NWS Salt Lake City, UT, recently honored Phyllis Crook in a ceremony marking her family's 147 years of volunteer weather observations. Robert Tibi, Deputy Director of the NWS Western Region, presented the award during a ceremony at the Crook home.

The Crook family has provided dependable, accurate and timely weather observations that have defined the climate for Heber City, UT, since May 2, 1859, before the Civil War! Several generations of the family have contributed to more than 50,000 observations taken in that time.

The history of the Heber City, UT, weather records began in 1859 when John Crook, one of 10 original settlers, entered the Heber Valley.

His daily journal listed weather conditions as well as physical hardships and other problems. In 1873, John Crook purchased weather instruments from the

Smithsonian Institution and kept a continuous daily record of temperature and precipitation. In January 1893, he was appointed an official Weather Bureau Observer and was furnished standard weather bureau equipment.

The weather observing duties for Heber, UT, have been passed down through the Crook Family for the past 147 years. Heber City lies on the Eastern side of the Wasatch Mountains at an elevation of 5630 feet above sea level.

In addition to the presentation of the Family Heritage Award, Deputy Director Tibi read aloud and presented letters of congratulations from U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch, U.S. Senator Robert Bennett, U.S. Congressman Jim Matheson, Utah Senator Kevin Van Tassell, Utah State Representative Gordon E. Snow, and Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr.

100 Year Family Heritage Awards

NWS Seattle, WA, is pleased to present the esteemed Family Heritage Award to long-term volunteer John S. Willis.

John is the youngest generation of the Willis Family, which has faithfully served more than 100 years in the NWS Cooperative Observer Program.

The legacy of the Willis Family began in 1890, when Richard C. Willis established the cooperative weather station at Olga on Orcas Island, WA, in January 1890. Cecil S. Willis took over the observations in January, 1908, and after a dedicated tenure of 19 years handed the baton to Culver Willis in June 1927. For 58 years, Culver took daily observations until his passing in July 1985. At this point, our honoree and his sister, Mary Willis Fox, continued this noteworthy tradition.

It is with gratitude and admiration that we present this award to John S. Willis, in recognition of this family's outstanding day-to-day commitment for more than a century.



From left, Ted Buehner, WCM Seattle, presents a Family Heritage Award to John Willis.

100 Year Honored Institution Length of Service Award



Karen Magee of Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) accepted the 100 Year Honored Institution Service Award from Angus Barkhuff, CPM, NWS Sacramento, CA. PG&E personnel have been responsible for taking temperature and rainfall readings from the De Sable Dam for over a century.

75 Year Honored Institution Award



The University of Georgia's Mountain Research and Education Center in Blairsville, GA, was recently honored by the NWS Atlanta office with an Honored Institution Award for 75 years of service.

Pictured from left are Freya Browning, office manager of the Blairsville station; Frank Taylor, NWS Atlanta; NWS Meteorologist Mike Griesinger; and Joe Garner, superintendent of the Blairsville station. Photo by NWS Cooperative Program Manager (CPM) Nate Mayes.

Gibson Dam, MT, and the Fairfield office of Greenfield Irrigation received the Honored Institution 75 Year Service Award from NWS Great Falls, MT. The district has been taking Cooperative observations since February 1931. Russ Barrett, Cooperative Observer at Fairfield, and Lee Carlbom, Observer at Gibson Dam, accepted the awards. NWS Great Falls MIC Steve Breuske and Service Hydrologist Gina Loss presented the awards.

Pictured from left are NWS CPM Rich Prewitt; Lee Carlbom, Gibson Dam; Russ Barrett, Fairfield; and MIC Steve Breuske.



Ruby Stufft 70 Year Service Award

Weather readings from Federal Point, FL, date back to January 1892 when the community was a small, but thriving, steamboat stop on the St Johns River. Since the station was founded 115 years ago, just four families have been involved in taking observations. The most "recent" observers, the Gray family has been recording the weather for more than 70 years.

After the third weather observer, F. F. Tenney, passed away in November 1936, the Jacksonville Weather Bureau office needed to find another cooperative program volunteer. According to a letter dated January 25, 1937, from A. Eddins, a Plant Pathologist with the University of Florida, to Walter J. Bennett, MIC in Jacksonville: "Mrs. Tenney and her daughter were unable to find anyone to keep the records and are willing to have the instruments moved to the home of Mr. Gray. Mr. Gray is a potato grower and lives about a mile from the Tenney house and about a hundred yards from the old Hubbard home at which place the records have been kept since the station was established at Federal Point."

On February 1, 1937, Bruce Gray became the Federal Point observer. The Cotton Region Shelter, maximum and minimum thermometers and standard rain gage were moved to the Gray home, estimated by Bruce Gray to be "about 800 yards from the old location, F. F. Tenney's home." Though Bruce was the primary observer, his wife and their five children also helped take the daily weather readings.

Bruce was a farmer who planted more than 600 acres of potatoes and cabbage. He was president of the National Potato Growers Association and was involved with the Farm Bureau, the Putnam County Fair Committee, and several state organizations. After Bruce's unexpected death on August 3, 1962, his widow, Ethel, assumed the primary observer responsibilities.

Ethel was born in Hastings, FL, about 8 miles from Federal Point. She was the daughter of a true Florida "Cracker," a cowboy. Besides being a wife and mother, Ethel was very active in her local church. She became president of the Methodist Women's League and traveled extensively across the United States and Europe. She



From left, Alan Gray, observer at Federal Point, FL, and NWS Jacksonville, FL, OPL Michael McAllister, show the NWS Ruby Stufft Award for 70 Years of Service. Photo by Chris DeVitto, Palatka Daily News.

received an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humanities from Florida Southern College where she had served as a trustee. After her husband's death, Ethel continued operating the Gray farm for more than 20 years. When Ethel's health began to deteriorate in 1999, her son Alan took over the weather program. Ethel passed away on March 10, 2001, at the age of 88.

Alan Gray is the current cooperative observer at Federal Point. He actually began taking weather readings around the age of 10 when he was tall enough to open the Cotton Region Shelter and read the thermometers. Alan farmed, then went into real estate. He has his own company, Alan Gray Realty, in nearby Hastings. The wall of his office is decorated with pictures of him racing street stock cars at the Putnam County Speedway.

Alan, now a grandfather of five, still resides at the original Gray homestead. Will his son Matt, who lives nearby and works with his dad in the real estate business, one day take over the program? Only time will tell but we certainly hope so!

50 Year Edward H. Stoll Award



Barbara Cabral of Lompoc, CA, accepts the Edward H. Stoll Award. The award was presented by Dessa Emch, OPL, NWS Los Angeles, CA. Barbara, along with her late husband, Joe, have been taking observations at the Salsipuedes Gaging Station since 1941.

Allen Hellesund recently received the Stoll Award for 50 years of dedicated service at Timber Lake, SD. The ceremony was held in a local museum with Allen's friends, family and NWS Aberdeen staff members attending. The museum served as the perfect spot for the award presentation since Allen was a key contributor to its development, and several of the displays are focused around his days as the town's official weatherman. Pictured over Allen's shoulder is the original Cotton Region Shelter Allen used to house his liquid in glass thermometers. In addition, the museum is covered with weather data from Allen's 50 years of observing.



From left are Allen Hellesund and NWS Aberdeen MIC Jim Scarlett. Photo by NWS Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM) Tim Kearns.

50 Year Edward H. Stoll Award



Mildred Goodliff of Friendship, NY, received the Edward Stoll Award for her 50 Years of Service. Mildred began taking observations for the NWS Pittsburgh, PA, office, moved to Albany, NY, and finally settled in Buffalo, NY.

Pictured behind Mildred is NWS Buffalo, NY, MIC Tom Nizio; DAPM Steve Francis, and Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT) Chuck Tingley.

50 Year Honored Institution Award

Aurora Research Farm, Aurora, NY, was awarded the 50 Year Honored Institution Award. Accepting the award from left are research staff members Dale Cotterill and Jeff Stayton; Keith Eggleston, Regional Climatologist, Northeast Regional Climate Center; and Barbara Watson, MIC, NWS Binghamton, NY.



50 Year Honored Institution Award



NWS presented a 50 Year Honored Institution Award to the Indiana University (IU) at Bloomington Physical Plant. Official weather records have been recorded at the IU Power Plant since November 1956. The outstanding performance of the observers at the Plant has created an excellent database for climatological interests. Because of this, IU at Bloomington is included in an elite network of stations known as the Historical Climatological Network.

John Ogren, center left, MIC, NWS Indianapolis, presenting the Honored Institution Award to Mark Menefee, Assistant Director of Utilities. Also pictured from left are IU staff Mark Moser, Tim Isom, Jim Moore, Rick Miller and Jim Salmon.
Photo by Amy Goldenberg, IU Physical Plant.

Hans Bayer accepts a 50 Year Honored Institution Award for the Hetch Hetchy Water and Power Division of San Francisco, CA. The staff have been keeping temperature and precipitation records at the Cherry Valley Dam for over a half century. The award was presented by Angus Barkhuff, CPM, NWS Sacramento.



50 Year Honored Institution Award

Steve Krantz, manager of the Department of Natural Resources Rifle River Recreation Area at Lupton, MI, is shown accepting a 50 Year Honored Institution Award. The award was presented by Denny Fruehauf, CPM, NWS Gaylord, MI.



Paul Spring accepts a 50 Year Honored Institution Award for the city of San Francisco. City staff maintain the temperature and precipitation records for the station at Camp Mather, CA, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Paul stands in front of the dining hall named for his father, Jack Spring, who also worked at Camp Mather for many years. The award was presented by Angus Barkhuff, CPM, NWS Sacramento.

50 Year Honored Institution Award

Kathy Flannery accepts a 50 Year Honored Institution Award for the staff of the U.S. Corps of Engineers at Table Rock Dam in Missouri. The award was presented by Paul A. Murphy, DAPM, NWS Springfield, MO.



Staff members at Pennsylvania Power and Light (PP&L), Thompson Falls Power House, MT, accepted a 50 Year Honored Institution Award. Bruce Bauck, MIC, and Stan Krenz, OPL, NWS Missoula, MT, presented the award.

Pictured from left are Bruce Bauck and PP&L staff members Bill Beckman, Bruce Hoagland and Guy Engebretson.

50 Year Honored Institution Award

Dana Harris and Brent Roberts accepted the 50 Year Honored Institution Award on behalf of the Wellsville, NY, Water Treatment Plant. The Award was presented by NWS Buffalo, NY.



45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Award



NWS Spokane, WA, MIC John Livingston, left, presents the Dick Hagemeyer Award recognizing 45 Years of Service to Cooperative Observer Eugene Cronrath of Harrington, WA.

45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Awards

Sandy Nott, of Santa Maria, CA, accepts the Dick Hagemeyer Award for 45 Years of Service. The award was presented by Dessa Emch, OPL, NWS Los Angeles, CA. Sandy, along with her late husband, Wilbert, has been observing evaporation, temperature, and precipitation data at Twitchell Dam since 1959.



William (Billy) T. Thornton and wife, Pat, were recent recipients of the Dick Hagemeyer Award for 45 Years of Service. The Thorntons hosted the award ceremony at Pat's business in Washington, GA. In attendance were the Thornton's daughter, Lori Reese, son Billy Thornton and granddaughter Courtney Colman.

The Washington, GA, Coop site was established in 1884 and is more than 122 years old. Billy and Pat have been taking observations since 1962. Billy is a retired insurance agent and fire fighter.

Pictured from left are John Feldt, Hydrologist-In-Charge, Southeast River Forecast Center; and Billy and Pat Thornton. Photo by Nate Mayes, CPM, NWS Atlanta.

45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Award

James Wood, Jr., right, was presented the Dick Hagemeyer Award and a pin for 45 Years of Service by Great Falls, MT, MIC Michael Mercer. James began taking data at the Loma observing station in March 1962. James also received the Holm Award in 1992 and the prestigious Jefferson Award in 2005. These awards are given for outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations.

In 1972, James documented a 103 degree 24-hour temperature change in Loma, MT, which still stands as a national record. James has published a book on weather and climate in Loma. He also donates his time and takes part in school talks. He also provides NWS with severe weather reports as a Skywarn storm spotter.



40 Year Length of Service Awards



John T. Holbrook was the recipient of a 40 year Length of Service Award. The award ceremony was held at John's house in Canton, GA, where he has lived since 1960. John is a retired employee of the Canton Cotton Mill.

Pictured from left are Dan Darbe, Senior Forecaster, NWS Atlanta; John Holbrook; and Frank Taylor, NWS Atlanta. Photograph by NWS CPM Nate Mayes.

35 Year Length of Service Awards



O. Reed Jeffery received his 35 Year Length of Service Award for service as a Cooperative Observer and an Aviation Observer for Delta, UT.

Pictured from left are Kevin Baker, MIC, NWS Elko NV; Shirley Jeffery; O. Reed Jeffery; and Steve Summy, NWS OPL.

30 Year Length of Service Awards



Rawlin Anderson, left, back-up observer, poses with his father, Lee Anderson, at their Manti, UT, weather station. Lee was awarded a 30 Year Length of Service Award. The Anderson Family will reach another milestone in 2008 when they complete 100 years of volunteer cooperative observing service in the Anderson Family name.

Photo and award presentation by Steve Summy, OPL, NWS Salt Lake City.



Varena M. Blackman, observer at Jarrell, TX, received a 30 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by Pat McDonald, HMT, San Antonio, TX.

30 Year Length of Service Awards



Cy Hetherington, left, Cooperative Observer at Manley Hot Springs, AK, accepts a 30 Year Length of Service Award from Ron Stuvek, OPL, NWS Fairbanks, AK. Cy, one of our most dependable observers, is turning over his duties to his son, Tom Hetherington, pictured center, for the winter months while he lounges in the desert near Phoenix, AZ. Photo by Allura 'Pepper' Weimer, HMT, NWS Fairbanks.



Phyllis Crook, Heber City, UT, was presented a 30 Year Length of Service Award during a ceremony where she also was awarded the NWS Family Heritage Award. Robert Tibi, NWS Western Region Deputy Director presented the awards at the Crook home. Phyllis and her late husband, Clark, have received several NWS Cooperative Observer honors including the John Campanius Holm Award.

Paul Knaut, Jr. of Dover-Foxcroft, ME, shows his 30 Year Length of Service Award. Paul is also a past recipient of the John Campanius Holm Award. He is best known for his love of photography and was one of the main photographers for the View Masters New England slides. Paul has been taking weather observations for 50 years, but for the past 30 years has been an official Cooperative Weather Observer. Paul is also an avid outdoorsman and hiked the 5,267 ft. Mt. Katahdin several times a year well into his 70's. His many photographs from his countless trips of the Baxter State Park are breathtaking.



Paul Knaut by his weather reader, left. Photo by NWS Caribou, ME, OPL Thom Stenman.

30 Year Length of Service Awards



John W. Neutze, Cooperative Observer at Fort Collins, CO, received a 30 Year Length of Service Award from James Kalina, Meteorological Intern, NWS Boulder, CO.



Ernest Royat accepts a 30 Year Award for his observations taken at Dobbins, CA. The Royat family has been taking observations at Dobbins since 1976. Ernest's daughter, Teresa, is the back-up observer at this station. The award was presented by Angus Barkhuff, CPM, NWS Sacramento.



Orval and Gerta Palmer, observers in Alton, UT, proudly display their 30 Year Length of Service Award. Orval is a locally famous cowboy who was written about in the National Geographic book *Trails West*. Orval and Gerta also run the Alton Post Office. The award was presented by Steve Summy, OPL, Salt Lake City.

25 Year Length of Service Awards



Stan Fulkerson, left, of Williams, IN, received a 25 Year Award for monitoring the level of the East Fork White River, pictured in flood, and taking precipitation readings. Stan is also involved with search and recovery efforts during flood situations. During flooding, Stan routinely checks the river level day and night. The award was presented by NWS Indianapolis Service Hydrologist Al Shipe. Photo by HMT Ed Terrell.



Dan Bush, right, of Perrysville, IN, receives a 25 Year Service Award from NWS Indianapolis DAPM Mike Shartran. Dan started his weather observing career in 1981 as a team with his father, Carl, who passed away 10 years ago. Besides participating in the Coop program, Dan stays busy operating the family farm and working an additional full-time job.



Martin and Claudia Kux, Lindbergh Lake, MT, were presented their 25 Year Length of Service Award. Pictured from left are NWS Missoula, MT, Staff Member Corby Dickerson, Martin and Claudia Kux, and NWS MIC Bruce Bauck.



Roy and Maude Gardner, Coop Observers in Allagash, ME, receive a 25 Year Award from OPL Thom Stenman. Their daily weather reports are always phoned in by 7 am. Roy also does weather related work for the U.S. Geological Survey and for Environment Canada, reporting events from the Allagash and St. John Rivers. Roy won the prestigious Holm Award in 2001 for his many years of reliable and accurate weather and river reports.

25 Year Length of Service Awards



Bill Moran, left, of Libby, MT, received a 25 Year Length of Service Award from Stan Krenz of NWS Missoula, MT. Over the past quarter century, Bill has accurately recorded temperature, precipitation and snow data for McGinnis Meadows. Photo by Ray Nickless, NWS Missoula, MT.



Sherlene Johnson, observer at Marysville, UT, displays her 25 Year Length of Service Award. Sherlene does an outstanding job providing data for both the Climate Data and Hourly Precipitation Data publications for Utah. Salt Lake City OPL Steve Summy presented the award.



Art Weydemeyer of Fortine, MT, shows his 25 Year Award. The weather station has been in Art's family since the summer of 1927 when his uncle Winton volunteered to take the daily weather reports. Winton's service lasted for nearly 34 years. In January 1961, Art's father, Don, took over the weather reporting. Don continued until May of 1981. Stan Krenz and Ray Nickless, NWS Missoula, presented the award.



Joseph Weise shows his 25 Year Length of Service Award presented by Mitch Gilt, HMT, NWS Binghamton, NY. Joseph is continuing more than 60 years of valuable climate data from the Claryville area.

25 Year Honored Institution Service Awards



NWS presented the Ames, IA, Water Pollution Control Plant with a 25 year Honored Institution Award. Pictured from left are NWS Des Moines MIC Brenda Brock, Ames Supervisor Darrell Hunter, and NWS HMT Brad Fillbach.



South Davis Water District Operator Gale A. Rueckert, observer at Bountiful-Val Verda, UT, accepted a 25 Year Honored Institution Award on behalf of his company. Salt Lake City OPL Steve Summy presented the award.



Ray Poulson accepted a 25 Year Honored Institution Award on behalf of the Brigham City Waste Treatment Plant. The award was presented by Salt Lake City OPL Steve Summy.



NWS Paducah, KY, presented a 25 Year Honored Institution Award to the Mt. Carmel, IL, Water Treatment Plant. Accepting the award from left are Plant Supervisor Rob Windes and employee Keith Reed.

25 and 20 Year Length of Service Awards



Jimmy Russell, OPL, NWS Little Rock, Ar, gives Douglas Zahn his 25 years Service Award for observations at Crystal Valley, AR. Photo by Michael Reid, NWS HMT.



Layne Blood, observer at Angle, UT, took time off from his meat processing business to accept his 20 Year Length of Service Award from Salt Lake City OPL Steve Summy.

Norman Chapman accepts his 20 Year Award from Mitch Gilt, HMT, NWS Binghamton, NY. In addition to continuing more than 40 years of data from the local area, Norman remains active in the local community by assisting in the village's recycling program.



Laverne Bidelman, observer at Whitefish Point, MI, is shown receiving his 20 Year Award. The award was presented by Denny Fruehauf, CPM, NWS Gaylord, MI.



Observer Gerald Fitch was presented a 20 Year Award for service at Argonia, KS. Presenting the award was Leon Wasinger, CPM, NWS Wichita, KS.

20 and 15 Year Length of Service Awards



A 20 Year Length of Service Award was presented to the Martin T. Smith family. Accepting for the family was Byron Smith of Richfield, KS. Photo by Jesse Lee, OPL, Dodge City, KS.



Mike "Newt" Haigh shows his 20 Year Award presented by Mike Johnson, Senior Meteorologist, NWS Missoula, MT. Newt is the observer at Yellowpine Bar, ID, located along the beautiful Salmon River. Yellowpine Bar is in a remote location only accessed by back country air and the water craft that traverse the Salmon River.



Moss Sumida, left, of Perry, UT, receives his 20 Year Award and pin from Gary Wicklund, OPL, NWS Pocatello, ID. Photo by Susan Nelson, NWS Western Region CPM.



Observer Robert Watkins was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award for the Wonsevu, KS, area by CPM Leon Wasinger, NWS Wichita, KS.

Charles "Chuck" Rybak accepted his 20 Year Length of Service Award from Mitch Gilt, HMT, NWS Binghamton, NY. Chuck has recently retired but will continue as a backup observer. The Elmira, NY, station has 113 years worth of climate data.



15 Year Length of Service Awards



Wisconsin Valley Improvement dam tenders were recently honored at an awards banquet in Wausau Wisconsin. From the left are:

- Dan Konopacky: 10 years, Rainbow Reservoir
- Charles Longwitz, 59 years, Minocqua Dam (Thomas Jefferson Award, see Page 5)
- John Caskey: 58 years, Lac Vieux Desert (John Campanius Holm Award, see Page 7)
- Jim Koth, 15 years, Rice Reservoir
- Tom Tiffany, 15 years, Willow Reservoir



For watching the weather in Holstein, IA, for 15 years, Sylvia and Keith Carstens accepted a 15 Year Length of Service Award from HMT Joe Sheehan, NWS Sioux Falls, SD.

Cooperative Observer Harold Meyers of Bennington, NY, accepted his 15 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Buffalo, NY,



Edward C. Mekelburg of Robbinston, ME, adds a 15 Year Award to his collection of weather paraphernalia. Edward and wife, Kathryn, back-up weather observer, not only have a superb weather station but have also created over 5 miles of trails through their property with nearly 4 miles of boardwalk. They have a 60 foot observation tower from which they can see nearly 50 miles. Edward also has a network of thermometers and maintains a climate database from his readings. He is a walking climate encyclopedia for New England and other locations worldwide. Photo by NWS Caribou OPL Thom Stenman.

15 and 10 Year Length of Service Awards



James F. Andrus, observer in Cortez, CO, received a 10 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by Becky Klenk, CPM, NWS Grand Junction, CO.



Ellen and Michael Fitzsimmons of Washburn, ME, show their 15 Year Award. Ellen and Michael first started their Cooperative adventure in Portland, ME, where Michael worked as a journeyman forecaster before transferring to NWS Caribou, ME, as a lead forecaster 8 years ago. OPL Thom Stenman, presented the award.



Rick Thoman, of Keystone Ridge, AK, shows his 15 Year Award presented by Ron Stuvek, OPL, NWS Fairbanks, AK. Rick is a lead forecaster at WFO Fairbanks and he and his wife, Theresa, provide vital information from their unique location just below the summit of Murphy Dome west of Fairbanks.



Mel and Zoe Aldrich, former observers at Duck Creek Village, UT, were honored with a 10 Year Award. Duck Creek Village was the location of the feature movie "My Friend Flicka," filmed in 1943. The award was presented by Steve Summy, OPL, Salt Lake City.



Bruce Wentz received a 15 Year Length of Service certificate and pin from Len Peterson, OPL, Bismarck, ND.

15 and 10 Year Length of Service Awards



Bill Neihoff, right, of Marshall, IN, received a 15 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Indianapolis HMT Phil Gray.



Walter J. Bailey of Charlotte, GA, shows his 15 Year Award presented by NWS Jacksonville, FL, OPL Michael McAllister. Walter, 79 years old, drives 12 miles each morning to read the staff gages on the Neel Lee Gillis Bridge spanning the Altamaha River. When the USGS recently replaced the staff gages, Walter took his boat out and put larger, easier to read numbers by the gages. Walter is a retired commercial fisherman who still enjoys fishing on the Altamaha.



Jack and Martha Beach, right, observers at Winterville, GA, were presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award by Frank Taylor, NWS Atlanta. Photo by CPM Nate Mayes.



Mike Crum, right, of Alto, CA, accepts a 10 Year Award from George Cline, OPL, NWS Sacramento. Mike is active in the local AMS chapter, serves as a SKYWARN Spotter and writes a weather column for the local newspaper. Photo by Fire Captain Bob Drexel.



Dick Curts of Flora, IN, received a 10 Year Length of Service Award from Indianapolis HMT Ed Terrell. Besides participating in the Coop program, Dick is active in the Weather Service's severe weather spotter ham radio network.

10 Year Length of Service Awards



Linda Finch, of Equinunk, PA, accepted her 10 Year Length of Service Award from Mitch Gilt, HMT, NWS Binghamton, NY.

Linda is continuing nearly 40 years of precipitation data from Equinunk.



Glen Grabow, left, of Lapel, IN, received a 10 Year Award from HMT Ed Terrell. Glen's "other" job is owning and operating an apple orchard and bakery.

Photo by Phil Gray, NWS Indianapolis.



Robin Hammond, Coop Observer from Chicken, AK, accepted a 10 Year Length of Service Award from Ron Stuvek, OPL, NWS Fairbanks, AK.



Fred Harden and Margie Connolly, observers in Mancos, CO, received a 10 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by Becky Klenk, CPM, NWS Grand Junction, CO.



Bill Hassoldt of Addison, NY, accepted his 10 Year Award from Mitch Gilt, HMT, NWS Binghamton, NY. Bill's service is helping to maintain 113 years worth of data from the Addison area.



Patrick and Marion Libby, observers at Olney, MT, receive their 10 Year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award was Stan Krenz, NWS Missoula, MT.

10 Year Length of Service Awards



Guy Johnson, of Spencer, NY, shows the weather equipment he has monitored for the last 10 years. Also pictured is Barbara Anthony, Guy's backup when he is on vacation. The award was presented by Mitch Gilt, HMT, NWS Binghamton, NY.



From left, George Maxfield, left, observer at San Antonio, TX, receives a 10 Year Length of Service Award from Pat McDonald, HMT, NWS San Antonio.



Lorena Perkins, of Cincinnatus, NY, accepted her 10 Year Award from Mitch Gilt, HMT, NWS Binghamton, NY. Lorena is continuing more than 78 years of precipitation data from the Cincinnatus area.



Heidi Schoppenhorst, Coop Observer from Wiseman, AK, accepted a 10 Year Award presented by Ron Stuvek, OPL, NWS Fairbanks, AK. Ron was able to present it to her at the Gates of the Arctic visitor center in Coldfoot, AK.



Gilbert Philippus, observer at Gonzales, TX, received a 10 Year Length of Service Award from Joe Baskin, HMT, NWS San Antonio, TX.



John Podgorniak, left, of Northwood, IA, shows his 10 year Length of Service Award with help from Brad Fillbach, HMT, WFO Des Moines, IA.

10 and 5 Year Length of Service Awards



Tammy McDowell accepted a 10 Year Award for Steven Seifert. Steven keeps records at his farm in San Joaquin County, CA. The award was presented by Angus Barkhuff, CPM, NWS Sacramento, CA.



William (Andy) Trotter, right, Coop Observer from Dry Creek, AK, accepts a 10 Year Length of Service Award from Ron Stuvek, OPL, NWS Fairbanks, AK.

Richard Theisen, West Monroe, NY, Coop observer, received a 10 Year Award. No photo available.



Gene Pacia of Youngstown, NY, received his 10 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Buffalo, NY.



Mark Smith of Webster, NY, coop received his 10 Year Award from NWS Buffalo, NY, staff.



E. Lee and Carolyn Musil of Burdett, KS, show their 5 Year Length of Service Award presented by John F. Orgler, NWS Dodge City, KS, DAPM.

The Cooperative Observer

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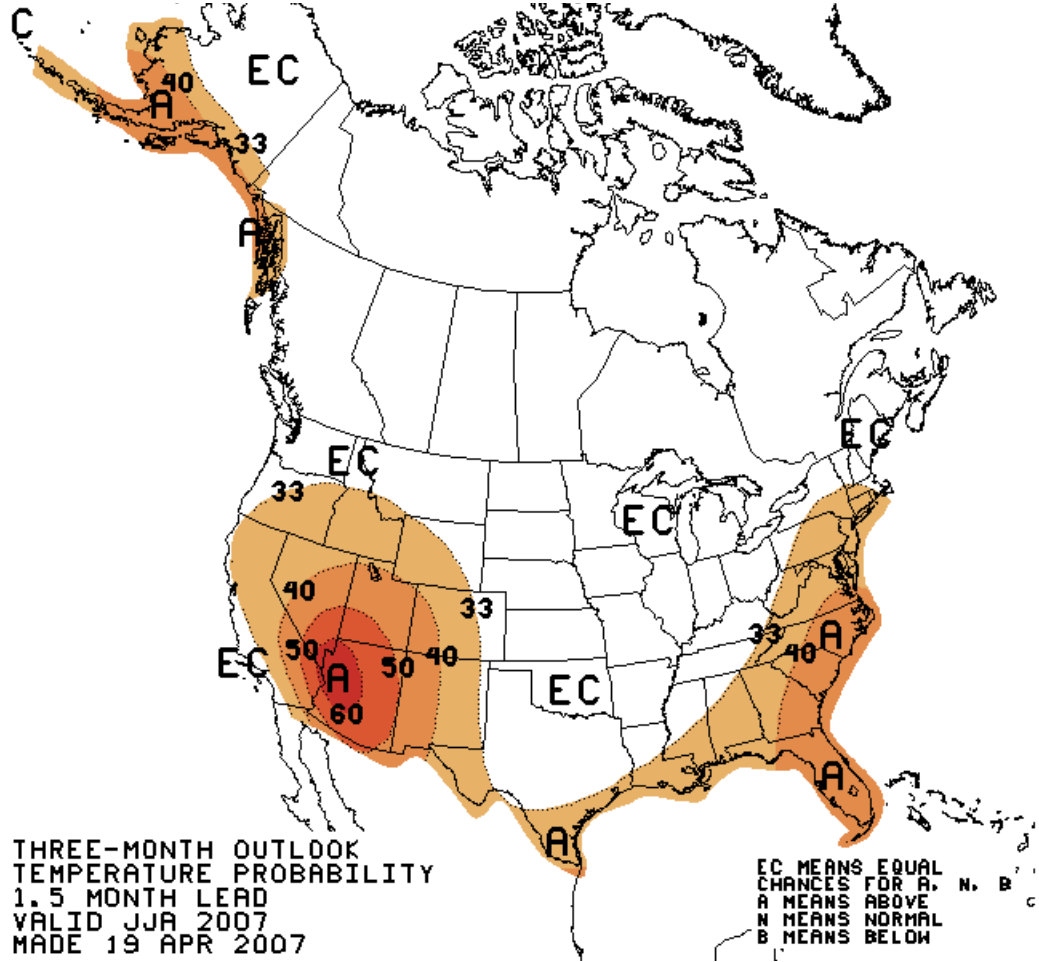
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Spring 2007



June, July August 2007 Temperature Outlook From the Climate Prediction Center



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The Cooperative Observer
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