

NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Western Region Notes

February 23, 2006

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



New HIC – Michelle Schmidt: I am pleased to announce the selection of Michelle Schmidt as Hydrologist in Charge of the Colorado Basin RFC in Salt Lake City.

Michelle began her NWS career as an intern (meteorologist and hydrologist) in Phoenix, AZ in 1989. She moved to the Northwest RFC in Portland, OR in 1994 and worked as a hydrologist and HAS forecaster until 1998. Michelle has been employed in Western Region Headquarters since that time, serving in a number of positions, most recently as acting chief for the Hydrology and Climate Services Division. She has received numerous awards, including two DOC Bronze Medals, during her career.

Please join me in congratulating Michelle Schmidt on her selection.

A Message from your Regional Director: People are our most valuable asset. They are the heart and soul of all that counts.

Since January 12, 2006, I have offered the Communications Corner, authored by Brian Klimowski, MIC at WFO Flagstaff. I hope our readers have enjoyed this new section of our newsletter. Thanks to Brian for taking the initiative. I am a strong proponent of leadership and professional development. LIFT is a good example of Western Region's commitment. With shrinking budgets, we managed to hold the second LIFT class and hope to be able to continue. Realistically, we cannot possibly move large numbers of our staff through LIFT and must seek other means for developing leaders. Western Region notes are one way to reach a broad audience.

This week I am changing the "Communications Corner" to the "Leadership Corner" and including The Leadership Quotient by Kim Runk, MIC at WFO Las Vegas, as well as Part II of The Communication of Collaboration by Brian Klimowski, MIC at WFO Flagstaff.

Leadership Corner: The Leadership Quotient

By Kim Runk, WFO Las Vegas MIC

One of the most common questions about developing leadership skills from people who see themselves as being among the rank and file of an organization is this: "How do I lead when I'm not really in charge?"

It's a good and relevant question, but part of the problem with addressing it lies in changing the underlying premise. It implies that leadership is about position. John Maxwell defined it clearly and succinctly when he wrote, "Leadership is influence – nothing more, nothing less."

Leadership is what you do *with* people, not what you do *to* them. Every one of us has the capacity to develop and practice skills that enable us to influence those around us in ways that encourage more effective team work and productivity. Practicing these sorts of skills is guaranteed to raise your "Leadership Quotient".

So whether you are a Division Chief or an administrative assistant, here are a few practical thoughts for developing your "LQ":

- **Model the behavior you desire.** Leaders have to *be* what they want to *see*. Make it a point to set a good example and avoid asking people to do what you would not do yourself. In fact, an effective leader is willing to do things others won't.
- **Invest in relational chemistry.** If you want to get things done through people, you have to get to know them beyond the superficial duties of the work place. There is profound truth in the old adage "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care". The more you understand and appreciate individual personalities, strengths, needs, etc., the better you will be able to connect with them and empower them to contribute their unique gifts to productive team work. Everyone has value. It's the leader who mines it and develops it in others.
- **Encourage an environment where ideas flow freely** and engage in constructive debate to get at the best solutions. Quantity doesn't always result in quality, but the more ideas you have to start with, the better the chance you'll uncover a really good one or find a way to integrate several into one that's better than any of the components. As Ken Blanchard is fond of saying, "None of us is as smart as all of us." Effective leaders know how to cultivate idea power.
- **Understand the importance of congruence.** To get consistent results, what I am and what I believe must be compatible with what I do and say. If I see myself as a character-driven person, I must do the right thing even when it's difficult. The result is credibility. If I believe in the power of relationship, I have to practice interpersonal skills, to believe in and encourage people. The result is high morale and group ownership of the responsibility to achieve shared goals. The point is this: Trust is the foundation of leadership and trust cannot be built or maintained without consistency between character and actions.
- **Commit to being better tomorrow than you are today.** Even if you don't aspire to advance beyond your current position, you should still be dedicated to personal growth. People are not generally fulfilled by success. They're fulfilled by significance. Read books and articles, attend seminars, develop your peer network, and consciously apply lessons learned to becoming a difference maker within your sphere of influence. Leadership is a journey and the only way we can keep leading is to keep growing. The day we stop growing is the day someone else needs to take the leadership baton. Ask yourself, "What am I doing to grow myself and the people around me?"

These are just five examples of skills and behaviors that each of us, no matter where we are in the organization, can choose to practice in order to develop our potential to have a positive influence on the people around us and make great things happen together - in other words, to become effective leaders.

Give some thought to this challenge:

Some people make things happen,
Some people watch things happen,
Some people wonder what happened.
What do you want to do?

The Communication of Collaboration; Part II

By Brian Klimowski, WFO Flagstaff MIC

As was written in the last issue of Staff Notes, the preconditions for successful collaboration include: 1) shared objectives; 2) an understanding of the responsibilities of those involved; 3) a sense of urgency (commitment); 4) intellectual agility; 5) a sense of belonging; 6) open communications; 7) mutual trust and respect; and 8) complimentary and diverse skills and knowledge. In this contribution of the Communication Corner, we'll be looking at how to best approach communication needed to optimize the collaborative process.

There are several areas in the NWS where collaboration typically occurs. For example, it includes the daily office-to-office forecast collaboration; met-to-met forecast decision making; the decision-making process between management staff in a typical office; and the collaborative efforts between members of a regional or national team. The characteristics of communication which must be emphasized in the successful execution of collaboration in these areas include:

- 1) **Don't be afraid to bring forth ideas.** Your creativity will serve as part of the groundwork for a better, larger solution. You have a valuable piece of the solution...share it!
- 2) **Do your research. Understand your subject. Know the objective.** Contributions to the collaborative process have to reflect the goals and be applicable to the solution. If all parties haven't done their research, they won't be on the same page and won't be able to work together effectively.
- 3) **Use your local expertise, passions, and experience.** Understand that it is your personal and professional experiences that largely make your contributions valuable and unique. You will come up with solutions others won't imagine. Tap your experience and your passion in the decision making process.
- 4) **Structure the collaborative communication correctly.** There are times when phone calls work best; other situations may demand interactive chat to best facilitate the collaborative process. There are situations that require a face-to-faced meeting. Use your experience with these different communication tools to optimize the efforts of the team.
- 5) **Demonstrate your commitment** by following through on your responsibilities to the team.

- 6) **Expect the unexpected**, and be prepared to shift your frame of reference to best understand the issue. Collaboration can be a very dynamic process, and demands flexibility in working a problem from a number of different angles.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: Western Region's Statement of the Week is an Area Forecast Discussion (AFD) from WFO Las Vegas, issued on February 15. The AFD is a very important product in every forecast office. It tells other forecasters (and our customers) what the forecaster is *thinking*, not just what he/she is forecasting. It also is a means to express the forecaster's confidence in a given forecast scenario. The AFD now contains program-specific information, when it's significant. The example below contains special "aviation" and "fire weather" discussions, below the general discussion section. General Forecaster John Salmen and Senior Forecaster Clay Morgan were responsible for this AFD. Excellent job!

FXUS65 KVEF 151220
AFDVEF

AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LAS VEGAS NV
420 AM PST WED FEB 15 2006

.SYNOPSIS...STRONG WINDS WILL DEVELOP TODAY AS A COLD LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM DROPS SOUTH INTO THE AREA. MUCH OF THE SOUTHERN GREAT BASIN AND MOJAVE DESERT WILL EXPERIENCE VERY WINDY CONDITIONS WHILE A FEW LIGHT SHOWERS WILL BE POSSIBLE OVER EAST CENTRAL NEVADA. A COOL WEATHER PATTERN WITH BREEZY PERIODS WILL THEN REMAIN OVER THE ENTIRE REGION THROUGH THE COMING WEEKEND.

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.SHORT TERM...WATER VAPOR IMAGERY CLEARLY SHOWS A LARGE TROUGH AND ASSOCIATED JET DROPPING SOUTHWARD ACROSS THE PACIFIC NW AND TOWARD THE AREA. STRONG WINDS CONTINUE OVER THE HIGH ELEVATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN SIERRA AND ARE EXPECTED TO INTENSIFY THIS MORNING. WIND SENSORS NEAR INDEPENDENCE ALONG THE FOOTHILLS OF THE SIERRA BRIEFLY REPORTED WIND GUSTS BETWEEN 50 AND 65 MPH LAST EVENING. CONDITIONS REMAIN FAVORABLE FOR THE CREATION OF MORE DOWNSLOPE ACTIVITY TODAY AS THE SYSTEM MOVES INTO THE AREA SO HAVE CONTINUED THE HIGH WIND WARNING FOR THIS REGION. GUSTY WINDS HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED OVER MUCH OF THE CWA OVERNIGHT AND THESE WINDS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN INTENSITY BY MID TO LATE MORNING. WINDS IN THE BARSTOW AREA OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY ARE ALREADY APPROACHING WIND ADVISORY CRITERIA. MODEL DATA AND MOS GUIDANCE SUGGEST WINDS/GUSTS WILL EXCEED ADVISORY CRITERIA OVER A WIDESPREAD AREA INCLUDING SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA...SOUTHERN NEVADA AND NW ARIZONA. HAVE CONTINUED THE WIND ADVISORY FOR THESE AREAS AS WELL. THE STRONG WINDS ARE LIKELY TO PRODUCE WIDESPREAD AREAS OF BLOWING DUST AND SAND TODAY WHICH WILL BECOME A POTENTIAL PROBLEM AND AREAS THAT ARE PRONE TO THIS SUCH AS HIGHWAYS NEAR DRY LAKE BEDS COULD

SEE VISIBILITY REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY AT TIMES. OVERNIGHT TEMPERATURES HAVE REMAINED RELATIVELY WARM UNDER THE GUSTY CONDITIONS AND THIS WILL HELP IN PRODUCING HIGH TEMPS NEAR THOSE OF YESTERDAY...WITH COOLER CONDITIONS OVER MUCH OF THE NORTH.

.LONG TERM...MODELS ARE SLOWLY COMING INTO BETTER AGREEMENT WITH THE OVERALL PATTERN...BUT TROUBLESOME DIFFERENCES IN DETAILS REMAIN. SATURDAY MORNING...GFS/ECMWF AGREE ON LOW CENTER OVER OREGON/NRN CA WITH TROUGH AXIS OVER ID AND NRN NV. THIS LOW IS EXPECTED TO HAVE DEVELOPED FROM A VERY COLD LOW WHICH CAME OUT OF THE ARCTIC TO THE U.S./CANADIAN BORDER...SO TEMPERATURES SHOULD BE 5-10 DEGREES BELOW SEASONAL NORMS. AS THE LOW SAGS SOUTH TO SOUTHERN NV BY SUNDAY MORNING...THE COLD AIR WILL BE WELL ESTABLISHED AND THE PRECIP THREAT WILL INCREASE. IF THIS PANS OUT AS SHOWN BY THE MODELS...SNOW LEVELS WILL BE VERY LOW AND SNOW IN THE DESERTS WILL NOT BE OUT OF THE QUESTION. STILL A LONG WAY OUT...SO STAY TUNED. AS THE LOW MOVES AWAY ON MONDAY...A WEAKER SECONDARY TROUGH FOLLOWS CLOSE ON ITS HEELS...SO TEMPERATURES WILL REMAIN WELL BELOW NORMAL INTO EARLY NEXT WEEK. CURRENT THINKING IS THAT THE FIRST TROUGH WILL TAKE ALL THE MOISTURE WITH IT AND THE SECOND ONE WILL PRODUCE LITTLE OR NO PRECIP. THIS COULD ALSO BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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.FIRE WEATHER...STRONG WINDS OVER 25 MPH WITH GUSTS OVER 40 MPH LOOK LIKELY ACROSS MUCH OF SOUTHERN NEVADA...NORTHWEST ARIZONA AND THE MOJAVE DESERT OF SOUTHEAST CALIFORNIA FROM LATE THIS MORNING THROUGH THIS EVENING. HIGHER DEWPOINTS HAVE ACCOMPANIED THE GUSTY WINDS THAT DEVELOPED OVERNIGHT. HOWEVER...THE WINDS HAVE ALSO KEPT TEMPERATURES QUITE WARM. NOT A WHOLE LOT OF WARMING WILL BE NECESSARY FOR TEMPERATURES TO REACH LEVELS ATTAINED YESTERDAY. ALTHOUGH RH LEVELS OF 15 PERCENT OR LOWER ARE QUESTIONABLE AT THIS POINT...OPTED TO GO WITH A RED FLAG WARNING FOR AREAS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE PREVIOUSLY ISSUED WATCH BASED ON THE MANY MONTHS OF DRY CONDITIONS WITH LITTLE MOISTURE AND THE INTENSITY OF THE WINDS EXPECTED.

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.AVIATION...OVERALL NASTY FLYING DAY TODAY. FOR KLAS...STRONG AND GUSTY SOUTHWEST WINDS WILL BLOW ALL DAY AS A COLD FRONT APPROACHES FROM THE NORTH. SINCE IT HAS BEEN SO DRY FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS...THESE WINDS WILL EASILY RAISE LOTS OF DUST...WITH OCCASIONALLY REDUCED VISIBILITIES A VERY GOOD BET. THE FRONT IS EXPECTED TO COME THROUGH KLAS AROUND MIDNIGHT...WITH WINDS SHIFTING TO THE NORTH AND FINALLY SETTLING DOWN THURSDAY MORNING. TODAY...THE DAGGETT CORRIDOR WILL BE ESPECIALLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO BLOWING DUST. AREAS EAST OF THE SIERRAS...INCLUDING THE BEATTY CORRIDOR...WILL BE ESPECIALLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO MOUNTAIN WAVES AND ASSOCIATED EXTREME TURBULENCE. EXPECT GREATLY IMPROVED CONDITIONS IN ALL CORRIDORS ON THURSDAY.

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.VEF WATCHES/WARNINGS/ADVISORIES...

.NV...RED FLAG WARNING SOUTHERN 456 9 AM-6 PM TODAY. WIND ADVISORY ZONES 15-22 FROM NOON TO 9 PM PST TODAY.

.AZ...RED FLAG WARNING ZONE 101 AND 102 10 AM-7 PM TODAY.

WIND ADVISORY ZONES 1/3 FROM 1 PM TO 10 PM MST TODAY.

.CA...HIGH WIND WARNING ZONE 26 THROUGH 6 PM PST THIS EVENING. RED FLAG WARNING ZONE 229 FROM 11 AM-6 PM TODAY. WIND ADVISORY ZONE 28 FROM NOON TO 9 PM PST TODAY.

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WFO Pocatello Service Hydrologist Sherrie Hebert provides an interview to a local television crew during the event.

Pocatello WFO Hosts Emergency Managers: On Feb. 2, WFO Pocatello combined a cold winter with Southwestern traditional chili-cooking heat during its third annual Ground Hog's Day Hydrologic and Seasonal Forecast Outlook briefing. The all-day event welcomed 29 emergency coordinators from law enforcement, eastern Idaho Interagency and Sawtooth Fire Center managers, and Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. The morning began with Punxsutawney Phil's official spring forecast, as well as a quick test of attendees' weather spotting skills and detailed forecasts and outlooks by Pocatello forecasters. The afternoon began with 12 entries for the best chili in five categories based on color, flavor, texture, aroma, and hot and spicy. The event proved so successful that next year's venue is moving to the adjacent airport terminal to handle the growing attendance!

WFO Las Vegas Supports the Native American Community: Las Vegas WCM Andy Bailey recently instructed 15 Native American students at the Environmental Protection Agency Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center. Andy provided three hours of basic meteorology instruction and information on how to access a variety of NWS products via the Internet, as well as a tour of the WFO facilities. The TAMS Center in Las Vegas is the first technical training center designed specifically to meet the needs of Native American tribes involved in air quality management. Since 2003, collaboration with the EPA's TAMS Center has allowed WFO Las Vegas to reach representatives from 70 different tribes located throughout the country.



Agriculture Show Outreach: WFO San Joaquin Valley staffed a booth at the 39th Annual World Ag Expo, in Tulare, CA. The three-day event is the largest agricultural show of its kind. Each year over 100,000 people sample products and services offered by more than 1,600 vendors from around the world.

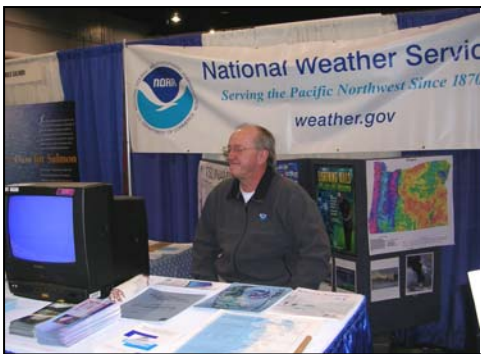
WFO San Joaquin Forecasters Modesto Vasquez and Kevin Durfee talk with customers about NWS products and services during the World Ag Expo.



San Diego WCM Ed Clark briefs California emergency managers on the SMART-R radar system.

SMART-R Mobile Radar Visits WFO San Diego: On February 16, WFO San Diego hosted the Shared Mobile Atmospheric Research and Teaching Radar (SMART-R) at a media/public outreach event in San Diego. The outreach event featured a demonstration of the radar to the public and explanations on how it is used to build understanding of NOAA-NWS weather operations and scientific studies. It was provided by the National Severe Storms Laboratory.

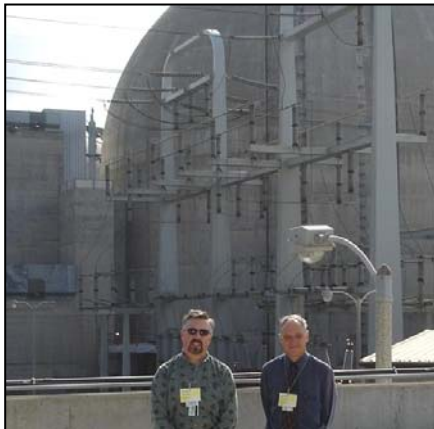
The SMART-R mobile radar is used to study atmospheric processes to help improve forecasts of significant weather events, such as flash floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes. It is currently deployed to monitor weather events during the NOAA-USGS Debris Flow Project in Southern California.



Dean Sondag, HMT from WFO Portland, informs attendees about NWS products and services.

WFO Portland Participates in Pacific Northwest Sportsman Show: On February 9-12, WFO Portland participated in the 2006 Pacific Northwest Sportsman show by staffing an outreach booth.

WFO Portland's booth had a multitude of visitors, ranging from commercial fishermen to families with young children who wanted to learn a little more about weather. Many of the visitors stopped by to express appreciation of NWS products and services and how valuable the information is to their work and recreation. There were also many children who gathered up cloud charts and thunderstorm brochures with a new found interest in the science of meteorology. Over 60,000 people visit this Sportsman show every year.



(L to R) Jim Purpura and Ed Clark stop in front of San Onofre reactor no. 2 during a visit.

Nuclear Generating Station Applying for StormReady / TsunamiReady Supporter Status: Ed Clark (WCM) and Jim Purpura (MIC) of WFO San Diego recently visited the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). SONGS, which is on the coast near the San Diego-Orange County line, is applying to be recognized as a StormReady and TsunamiReady Supporter. Once all criteria are met, SONGS will become the first nuclear generating station in the United States to be so recognized.

A meeting was held with representatives from the plant to discuss the StormReady/TsunamiReady application progress, how NWS and SONGS could share information in the event of an emergency, and plans for the NWS to participate in emergency drills with the plant.



CFC Presidential Award for WFO Boise: WFO Boise received the Southwest Idaho CFC Presidential Award for medium sized agencies for their participation in the 2006 CFC campaign.

This traveling award is given to the Federal Agency with the greatest improvement in total contributions, number of employees participating, and per capita contributions. The WFO has won this award two of the last three years, which is quite an achievement. Stephen Parker and Dawn Fishler were enthusiastic co-chairs for the campaign.

Las Vegas Forecaster Shadows LAS Traffic Management Unit: WFO Las Vegas Forecaster Jerome Jacques recently spent a morning shadowing operations at the McCarran International Airport Traffic Management Unit (TMU) to gain a better understanding of how the TMU uses NWS products to plan and carry out daily operations. During the discussions, Jerry demonstrated the WFO's aviation section in the area forecast discussion (AFD) to favorable reviews. Discussions also centered on how the two agencies can work together to improve services and provide more efficient air traffic management. Additional WFO Las Vegas forecasters are scheduled to shadow TMU operations in the coming weeks.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION



Holms Award Recipient in Malta, Idaho: On February 3, WFO Pocatello honored Beth Jones, of Malta, ID, with the prestigious John Campanius Holm award and a 40-year service award for her dedicated service to the Cooperative Observer Program.

Those in attendance at the ceremony included Pocatello MIC Jim Meyer, SOO Dean Hazen, WCM Vernon Preston, OPL Gary Wicklund, ASA Donna Mills, Susan Nelson (WRH), friends and neighbors, and a reporter from The South Idaho Press out of Burley, ID.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

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

Registration is now open for the Facilitator Orientation. Sessions are scheduled from April 20, 2006 to

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

Satellite Data Update: SSD recently upgraded the two main satellite ingesting and processing computers at WRH. These systems acquire and transmit satellite data to AWIPS and the Web. The source of the data is now the NESDIS servers located in Washington DC. These machines have been running for 2 months and have been very stable. A special thanks to Kevin Schrab (formerly WR/SDD, now OST at NWSHQ) for all of his help in upgrading the satellite servers and SOD for the networking setup. There were many, many changes made, but a few of the more important changes were:

Pacific Ocean Mercator (AWIPS) Data Sets. The large scale composite Pacific Ocean IR and Water Vapor sectors are now back on AWIPS. The imagery does not go quite as far south as old imagery (20 degree less), but does cover the ITCZ across the Pacific Ocean and extends southward as far as Australia and New Zealand. SSD transmits this data through the WR WAN to each offices AWIPS.

To access on AWIPS:

Select Map Projection - Pacific Mercator

Select Sat menu - go all the way to the bottom of the menu- Global Composites....then select either WV or IR

Web Images: All of the office satellite web images have been restored, including the 28 km IR and WV for the Pacific Ocean. An example can be seen at:

<http://sat.wrh.noaa.gov/satellite/loopsat.php?wfo=slc&area=west&type=ir&size=28>

New Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) 30 day Total Precipitable

Water (TPW) Loop: WR has been making frequent use of CIRA's 5-day loop of TPW over the Pacific Ocean, <http://amsu.cira.colostate.edu/TPW/global.htm>. SSD recently made a request to CIRA for a running 30-day TPW loop. The idea is that we should be able to better monitor large scale changes with the longer loop. A special thanks to Stan Kidder (CIRA) for adding this loop, <http://amsu.cira.colostate.edu/TPW/Global30/default.htm>

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

For NOAA employees, this course will be delivered through the E-Learning Management System (LMS) at <http://e-learning.doc.gov/noaa/>. The first offering of the course will be from April 3 to June 30, 2006 and registration will open March 6, 2006. Registration for NWS employees will be done through their Science and Operations Officer. For WFO interns, offices may substitute this new, updated satellite training course for the GOES training items listed on the Western Region Intern Progress Report. This course will be offered again in the spring of 2007.

AWIPS Build Requirements: The Software Requirements and Evaluation Committee (SREC) has begun work to analyze and prioritize the AWIPS OB8 candidate list. An email was sent to each office requesting input by February 24, 2006. If you wish to view items that are included in OB6 and OB7, please access the SREC web site at: http://sec.noaa3.awips.noaa.gov/srec/OB_Information.htm

DMIP-2 Effort: The National Weather Service announced the launch of the second phase of the Distributed Model Intercomparison Project (DMIP 2). The evaluation of next generation hydrology models will focus on the Oklahoma area and the American and Carson basins of the Sierras near Reno. For more information, <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/hrl/dmip/2/index.html>

WR Gridded Verification: SSD has been working on gridded IFPS verification project that we hope can be used to improve the forecast process. To date, SSD has presented a drafted plan at several WR forums to gather input. Based on input, we have modified the proposal and are now working the proposal through regional IFPS decision process. The main components of the project are:

Step 1) MatchObsAll

- Draft WR-Mod Note - Mesowest.
- Draft WR- Mod Note - MatchObsAll.

Step 2) QC Tool Installation

- Draft WR- Mod Note

Step 3) BOIVerify Tool Installation

- Draft WR-Mod Note
- Presentation: Intro training for the BOIVerify tool
- Presentation: Generating some simple Impact Statistics using BOIVerify tool

Plus a roll out plan and initial kick-off. You will be hearing more about this effort over the next few months as the proposal makes it way through the IFPS decision process.

Upcoming Science Workshops

Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop - March 3-4: The Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop will be held March 3-4, 2006, at the NOAA Western Regional Center campus at Sand Point in Seattle, Washington. You are encouraged you to visit the web site at www.atmos.washington.edu/~cliff/PNW2006.html for latest information and on-line registration. For more information contact: Brad Colman, 206-526-6095 x222, brad.colman@noaa.gov.

Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop – March 21-24: The National Weather Service Climate Services Division, in conjunction with the University of Arizona Climate Assessment for the Southwest and Arizona Cooperative Extension, is hosting the Fourth Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop (CPASW) at the Westward Look Resort in Tucson, Arizona, on March 21-24, 2006. <http://cals.arizona.edu/climate/CPASW2006/index.htm>

Great Divide Workshop – Oct 3-5: The 10th Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Billings, Montana on October 3-5, 2006. WFOs 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 the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Billings, Montana at 406-652-0851, or in Glasgow, Montana at 406-228-4042. You can also email any questions to wr.great.divide.workshop@noaa.gov.

New WR Science Publications

WR TA-Lite 06-10

An Analysis of a Heavy Precipitation Event over Interior South-Central California on November 7-9, 2002

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/talite0610.pdf>

Jeffrey Myers and Larry Greiss, WFO San Joaquin Valley/Hanford, CA

WR TA-Lite 06-11

Analysis of a Mesoscale High Wind Event in Carson City, Nevada on January 7th, 2006

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/talite0611.pdf>

Jim Fischer, WFO Reno, NV

WR TA-Lite 06-12

An Evaluation of Mud and Debris Flow Forecasting Techniques for the Harvard Burn Area on 17 October 2005

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/talite0612.pdf>

Dave Danielson, WFO Los Angeles, CA

Training Update

COMET Module: Comet has released two new training modules:

Unit Hydrograph Theory: The module may be found at:

<http://www.meted.ucar.edu/hydro/basic/UnitHydrograph/index.htm> and requires approximately 1-2 hours to complete.

Wave Life Cycle II: Propagation and Dispersion: The module is approximately 60 minutes in length and may be found at:

http://meted.ucar.edu/marine/mod3_wlc_propdis/index.htm

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

The current sessions planned for March are:

- GOES Sounder Data and Products (Basic, Mar 8,14,20)

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

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



New APC UPS Installed at Hanford Office: WR Facilities Engineering Technicians, Jim MacLellan and Lee Jenson, installed a new APC UPS at WFO Hanford the week of February 13 (see photo at left). Thanks to great teamwork and extensive planning, the installation was completed without a hitch and with minimal down time to the office operations.

Electronics Program Review: Joe Lachacz and Gerry Deiotte visited the Monterey WFO to conduct an electronics program review. Gerry visited several ASOS sites.

Lewis Peak NWR Site: Merri Richmond traveled to the Lewis Peak NWR site with ET's from WFO Salt Lake City (Donna Simmons and Ulysses Davis) to officially begin the 20 day operational check out of the new NWR site.

Safety: Harold Knocke visited the Eureka, CA WFO to assist the office with their safety and environmental program.