



NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Western Region Notes

March 5, 2007

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Western Region Diversity Action Committee

The Western Region Diversity Action Committee converged in Salt Lake City, UT for its first conference in five years. The conference was held February 21-23 at Western Region Headquarters. Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM) and representatives from across the region met at WRHQ to discuss issues related to diversity and equal employment opportunity programs in the Western Region. The committee focused on several issues including Western Region mentor programs, providing diversity materials to all office focal points and EEO/ Diversity awards. Charly Wells the Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management spoke with the committee and shared his vision of diversity for the National Weather Service.



Leadership Corner – by Kim Runk, MIC, WFO Las Vegas

A View of the Future from 1929

The year 1929 opened with optimism, but ended with despair. Herbert Hoover was inaugurated as the 31st president, inheriting the helm of a nation enjoying prosperity.

Science and technology achievements were astounding the world, whose population had just exceeded 2 billion people. For example, Alexander Fleming had discovered penicillin could be used to fight infection; a German psychiatrist named Hans Berger developed a device for recording brain waves, called the EEG; and another German scientist, Albert Einstein, was about to propose his unified theory.

In the world of arts and entertainment, William Paley founded CBS and the Museum of Modern Art opened in New York. A short animated film, released the previous summer, was sweeping the nation in popularity. The film, titled “Steamboat Willie”, was the first cartoon ever made with synchronized sound, and the creation of a young innovative artist named Walt Disney.

Oh sure, there were problems. Organized crime was on the rise, assisted to a large degree by the government prohibition of alcoholic beverages. In February, Al Capone’s men gunned down seven rivals in a Chicago garage, a slaughter that came to be known as the “St Valentine’s Day Massacre”.

But overall, the mood of the country was upbeat and hopeful. Then came October. Stock market prices plummeted, causing U.S. securities losses of \$26 billion, marking the first financial disaster of the Great Depression.

By year’s end, an unforeseen disaster was looming. The destiny of the nation was being shaped on Wall Street. Or was it?

Completely unnoticed in January of that year, a son was born in Atlanta to Martin and Alberta King. History now knows that boy – Martin Luther King, Jr. – as the Baptist minister who became a key leader in the American Civil Rights Movement. King was a man of unimpeachable integrity whose inspiring speeches, pleas for personal responsibility, and absolute commitment to fostering peaceful reform through organized, non-violent protest were crucial to the success of his leadership.

At the age of 35, he was the youngest man ever to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Posthumously, he was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1977) and the Congressional Gold Medal (2004). In 1986, Martin Luther King Day was established as a national holiday.

As we celebrate Black History month, it’s important to remember and honor the contributions of great men and women with an African heritage who shaped our American culture. And it’s appropriate to ask ourselves what sort of leadership lessons

we can learn from the life of a man like Martin Luther King. There are many, of course, but I'd like to highlight four.

First, **character and integrity are the hallmarks of great leadership**. Without them, it is nearly impossible to build trust and develop a loyal following.

Second, **defining and committing to a set of core values** is a tremendous and worthwhile exercise. The values Dr. King articulated for himself and his followers acted as a compass to guide all their decisions and actions in the struggle for civil rights.

Third, **effective communication is absolutely critical** to successful leadership. Dr. King was a master communicator, inspiring and motivating followers from around the world with brilliant vision casting.

Finally, great leaders often set aside personal agendas in order to invest themselves in **servicing the legitimate needs of others**. In that sense, you have to be a good follower to be a good leader. It's been said that service is the virtue that distinguishes the great of all times and which they will be remembered by. To give encouragement or sympathy, to boost someone's self-confidence by replacing their fear with hope, is to offer an invaluable leadership service.

Vision is ultimately turned into reality by communicating clearly and often; by making decisions that are guided by and consistent with our values; and by taking action together with integrity and purpose.

Looking back, the country's preoccupation with the dire economic events of 1929 is completely understandable. It is an irrefutable fact that the Great Depression was an overwhelmingly difficult time for millions of Americans. Lives were being overturned, fortunes were being threatened, and history was being made. No one could have possibly foreseen the future importance of the baby in Atlanta. But he was exceptionally important. That infant was destined to breathe new life into the dream of the United States becoming a place where "all men are created equal", and where people are "judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character".

Ultimately, what appeared to be earth-shattering proved to be a challenge that shaped our national character without breaking our spirit. The economy recovered and the nation healed. We enjoy unprecedented wealth today and, for better or worse, few people remember or appreciate the lessons of the Great Depression, other than a trust that it won't happen again.

On the other hand, what appeared to be totally insignificant was, in fact, the genesis of an era. Although the challenge of equality among races and creeds is not as far along as the challenge of creating a healthy economy, substantial progress has been made due to the courage of great Americans from Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman to Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. People of integrity. People of influence. Leaders worth emulating.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

StormReady and NWR All-Hazards transmitter ceremonies in Idaho

Teton County, Idaho officials received StormReady road signs and certificates of appreciation from NOAA's National Weather Service office in Pocatello, Idaho, Monday, February 26th, 2007. Teton County is the 26th Idaho County to become StormReady while the communities of Driggs, Victor and Teton joined over 90 other Idaho communities in attaining the designation.

The Teton County Commissioners were also on hand to hear how their support of Teton County Disaster Services Coordinator Bob Dalton and NOAA's National Weather Service helped obtain a NOAA All Hazard Weather Radio transmitter through the USDA's Rural Utility Service grant program. The Driggs All Hazards NWR was officially dedicated just before the StormReady ceremony.



NOAA's National Weather Service presents StormReady signs to Teton County and the communities of Teton, Driggs and Victor in a February 26th, 2007 ceremony held during a Board of Commissioners' meeting. From left to right, Pocatello NWS warning coordination meteorologist Vern Preston, Teton County Disaster Services Coordinator Bob Dalton, Teton County Commissioner Larry Young and Teton Commissioner Alice Stevenson.

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: This week's service of the week goes to Ken Venzke, the MIC at CWSU Fremont. Ken received a call on Friday, February 9, from an FAA Supervisor on an FAA voice communication system requesting freezing level heights over Columbia, CA airport, a small airport SE of Sacramento. Ken assessed the various available data (model, AIRMET, PIREP, ARP, profiler) and put FZLVL ~080-085. The key here is that the meteorological situation was conducive to large super cooled drops just above the freezing level. It is well known that an aircraft climbing through these drops can lose lift very quickly even with full power as the drops freeze on the underside of the wing changing the air foil. It is critical that the pilot know how to respond when this occurs and knows how far he might have to descend to eliminate the ice. A short time later the Supervisor came up and thanked Ken for the "very good info" so that the C340 pilot did not "fall out of the sky". Great job Ken in recognizing a very

hazardous situation and getting the critical information to the right people in a timely manner.

NWS Glasgow and Billings Host a Disaster and Emergency Services Workshop in Miles City, Montana:

Expanding from a northeast Montana DES workshop last year, Billings WCM Tom Frieders joined with Glasgow WCM Tanja Fransen to host an eastern Montana workshop in Miles City, MT on January 31st and February 1st. Attended by over 20 Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) coordinators across the region, the event proved to be very informative. The workshop featured a variety of speakers from



across the country, made possible by GoToMeeting. The workshop featured guest speakers from the Montana Northern Ag Network, Vaisala Inc., King County Washington Emergency Management, the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado, and Dr. Larry Kalkstein from the University of Miami discussing heat warning systems. From the National Weather Service, Jim LaDue presented on the new EF-Scale, Carrie Olheiser discussed

products and services from NOHRSC, and eastern Montana Service Hydrologist Gina Loss discussed ice jam flooding. In the picture, Glasgow MIC Steve Apfel and Glasgow WCM Tanja Fransen (both in the foreground) along with DES coordinators across central and eastern Montana listen to a presenter at the workshop.

WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard Hosts Chinese

Delegation: A 10-member delegation from the China Meteorological Administration's Anhui Province recently visited the Los Angeles/Oxnard WFO. Anhui is an inland province in east central China. Characterized by very mountainous terrain, an annual precipitation between 700-1700 mm (27-66 in), and the Yangtze and Huaihe Rivers, hydrology poses their most significant forecast challenge. The group was given presentations on WFO operations, including the NWS training program and the Debris Flow Project. Then Cecil Ma, a forecaster from the Palmdale CWSU, gave a presentation on NWS aviation services - speaking to the group in his native Chinese language. Following a tour of WFO operations, a presentation on the CMA operations was provided for the WFO staff. Prior to visiting the Oxnard office, the delegation visited the State College, PA WFO and RFC, in addition to visiting NCEP. Overall it was a very positive and informative experience for everyone!



WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard staff Mark Jackson, Eric Boldt (back row left), Dave Danielson (center), along with CWSU Palmdale Cecil Ma (to Dave's right), with the CMA Anhui Province visitors



WFO Seattle Forecaster Andy Haner talks with a Seattle Boat show customer while another customer watches a marine weather video

Seattle Boat Show: WFO Seattle had a booth at the 2007 Seattle Boat Show that ran from January 25th through February 3rd at the Qwest Field Event Center. Over 77,000 people attended the show this year. The WFO booth offered NWS marine brochures and handouts, as well as other NWS information. It also included a NOAA 200th stand-up banner to highlight the upcoming event and the Pacific Science Center exhibit to debut at the Center on March 3rd and run into September. Most who stopped by the booth were pleased with the services provided by the Seattle WFO, including

NOAA Weather Radio and the local web site. A wide variety of marine weather related questions were also addressed.



Spokane Ag Expo 2007: WFO Spokane participated in the Spokane Ag Expo on February 6th -8th. Pictured here (left to right) are General Forecaster Laurie Koch, Senior Forecaster Jon Fox, and General Forecaster Mike Fries. Also assisting with the booth display were Steve Bodnar (Intern), Robin Fox (Forecaster), Meg Layh (ASA), Greg Koch (Senior Forecaster) and Kerry Jones (WCM). This year marked the event's 30th anniversary and attracted hundreds of people

in the business of agriculture from throughout the Inland Northwest. The booth featured a wireless Internet connection which provided visitors with a real-time look at the various products available on the Web, including climate data, gridded data fields (e.g. winds and relative humidity), and real-time weather radar data. Many visitors expressed appreciation of NWS products and services, especially the up-to-date information available on local web pages.



Scott Weishaar, Forecaster from the Portland Office staffing a shift at the booth

WFO Portland Participates in Pacific Northwest Sportsman Show: WFO Portland participated in the 2007 Pacific Northwest Sportsman show by staffing an outreach booth during the five day event which ran February 7-11. Over 60,000 people visit this annual event, which features a variety of vendors for boating, hunting, fishing, hiking and other outdoor activities, as well as entrepreneur's advertising fishing and hunting expeditions. The NWS booth had

hundreds of visitors, ranging from commercial fishermen to families with young children, who wanted to learn a little more about weather. Many of the visitors just stopped by to express appreciation of

NWS products and services, especially information available on the local webpage, and how valuable the information is to their work and recreation. There were also many

teachers and children who gathered up cloud charts and other brochures to use in their science classes.



Huntington Beach Recognized as TsunamiReady and StormReady:

Huntington Beach, California became Western Region's seventh (and newest) TsunamiReady and StormReady community on February 5th. Huntington Beach is located on the densely populated coast of Southern California, just south of Long Beach and Los Angeles. In the photo (L to

R): Community Emergency Response Team Volunteers (in yellow jackets), Ed Clark (WCM, WFO San Diego), Glorria Morrison (Huntington Beach Emergency Services Coordinator), Duane Olson (Huntington Beach Fire Chief), Gil Coerper (Huntington Beach Mayor), Jim Purpura (Meteorologist In Charge, WFO San Diego); Back Row: Huntington Beach Firefighters. Congratulations to all!

World Ag Expo: WFO San Joaquin Valley staffed an outreach booth at the 40th annual



World Ag Expo in Tulare, California from February 13th-15th. The three-day event is the largest of its kind and draws over 100,000 visitors every year. More than 1,500 vendors display almost every type of agricultural equipment and service imaginable. The local area has received less than half its normal precipitation this winter and many who stopped by the booth were interested in the long-range outlook. The staff also received many "thank you's" for NWS products and services, especially

through the Internet. Pictured are HMT Randy Calaway and Lead Forecaster Jim Dudley briefing a customer on the WFO's web page.



Pendleton's Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class Visits WFO Pendleton:

The Pendleton Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class toured the Pendleton WFO on February 13th. Jon Mittelstadt, SOO, gave an AWIPS/GFE demonstration to the class and Senior Forecaster Vincent Papol gave a Powerpoint presentation on NWS products and services. The Leadership Class has made the trip to the Pendleton WFO an annual event.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Great Falls Organizes the First Montana Ice Jam Awareness Day

Great Falls Senior Service Hydrologist Gina Loss organized the first ever Montana Ice Jam Awareness Day for February 21st. The webpage can be accessed at

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tfx/hydro/MRIAD2007/mriadmain.php?wfo=tx>

and is linked from Great Falls hydrology and AHPS pages.

During that week, the CBS, ABC, and NBC television affiliates came into the Great Falls Forecast Office for interviews. The CBS website linked to the Great Falls ice jam web page, and the Helena NBC affiliate prepared a series on ice jams to be aired over a two week period. Live and recorded interviews for a radio stations in Bozeman and Billing were also conducted by Great Falls and Billings staff, and a short segment was aired on the 'Northern Ag Network' program. An ice jam presentation was also given to a local HAM radio operators club. In Glasgow, WCM Tanja Fransen, and three meteorologists participated in an ice jam exercise in Glendive, Montana, and gave an interview for the Ranger Review newspaper.



The Ice Jam Awareness Day idea arose from a segment of the eastern Montana DES conference hosted by the Glasgow and Billings offices Jan 31-Feb1. Glasgow WCM, Tanja Fransen was looking for input on better ways to do our various awareness weeks. After Gina gave a presentation on river ice and ice jams, an idea of having an awareness day dedicated to the hazards that result from ice jams was conceived. During Gina's presentation, she pointed out that 2/3 of Montana's ice events occur in the February and March time period. This is an excellent example of how the NWS can listen to its partners and provide a service tailored to our Emergency Management community.

NWS San Diego Creates 'This Day in Climate' Web Interface

NWS San Diego has taken the initiative to design and create a 'This Day in Climate' Web Interface. The page directs each customer to select a day of the year after which the mean and record maximum and minimum temperatures and mean, record precipitation amounts and chance for precipitation occurrence are listed for various locations in the San Diego County Warning and Forecast Area

(CWFA). Period of records accompany these data as well, and the interface also includes unique weather phenomena that have been observed in



the past for that day in history. The web interface can be accessed from the WFO San Diego Local Data and Records Climate Page under 'Other'

(http://www.weather.gov/climate/local_data.php?wfo=sgx)

WFO Seattle attends Post-November Flood Meetings

On February 1st, Senior Service Hydrologist Brent Bower and WCM Henry Buehner attended a post-November flood review meeting at Camp Murray. The meeting arranged by FEMA Region X and their participants included 25 officials from Washington State Emergency Management, Lewis, Pierce, Snohomish and King counties, state Ecology, the State Climatologist and several federal water agencies such as the USGS and Corps of Engineers (USACE). Attendees shared what went well and lessons learned from the November flood event. Significant NWS contributions noted from the event included the use of the on-line weather and press briefings prior to major events, and emphasized the importance of the pre-season flood preparation meetings that were held in September and October.

On February 26th Pierce county Washington emergency management officials invited WFO Seattle and 49 other county, state and federal water officials to participate in an after-flood action meeting in the wake of the early November 2006 flood. Senior Service Hydrologist Brent Bower participated on a discussion panel with USGS, USACE, US Coast Guard, and Pierce County Surface Water Program and GIS officials. Brent briefed the group on NWS flood products and services, and the NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) web site. Recommendations on how to better handle major flood events and address specific issues that came up were collected and will be incorporated into an action plan. A very interesting request that came up during the meeting was for the ability to get a 'spot' river forecast of one to two hours for water rescues similar to what is done for fires and Search And Rescue efforts (a water rescue team was stranded in a river by rising water during the November floods). WFI Seattle will be working with SAR community to set up such a use of short term spot river forecast requests.

WFO Medford Brings Hands-On Hydrology and Meteorology to the Classroom: On January 30th Service Hydrologist Spencer Higginson, Meteorologist Intern Mike Petrucelli, and WCM Ryan Sandler spoke to a total of 420 Grants Pass High School students in six separate



(L to R) Service Hydrologist Spencer Higginson and Meteorologist Intern Mike Petrucelli ask students to guess the weight of the water that would fill a one cubic foot box

sessions. Topics included careers in hydrology and meteorology, severe weather, the power of water, local rivers, ocean conditions, and marine forecasting. The presentation focused as much on entertaining the students as on educating them. The format was “show-and-tell”. A tornado generator and video helped explain the atmospheric conditions necessary to produce a tornado. Everyday items were displayed to demonstrate hail sizes ranging from dime to softball. A one cubic foot box and a one gallon container were shown, so students could guess the weight of water, revealing the destructive force behind flooding. The power of water was also highlighted with a video of a Coast Guard vessel in heavy surf. An upper air balloon was passed around

while explaining the radiosonde package and upper air program. To reinforce the learning experience, they showed a video of an upper air balloon release. The Internet was also demonstrated using the local WFO’s website and a surface weather map.

WR HCSD National Drought Product Participation

On February 22nd Andrea Bair and Scott Dummer from WR HCSD participated in the National Drought Product Conference Call. The group agreed on using the National Drought Monitor D2 severity category to act as an issuance trigger and to issue the product at least monthly with a strong recommendation of updating the product bi-weekly. The next call will focus on specific product content.

The National Drought Product Team has been tasked to evaluate observed and forecast data sets for inclusion to a national product. The team is scheduled to deliver its final report and briefing by June 30th.

WR and OCWWS CSD Lead the Way in L3MTO-ARC Quality Control Training

Jenna Meyers from WR HCSD and Annette Hollingshead a Climate Services Contractor for OCWWS are currently conducting the National Training Sessions for the Local Three Month Temperature Outlook (L3MTO) Quality Control. The next step is to prepare a webcast for that training as a “refresher” for those people who took to the course and also for those who couldn’t attend the course.

Agenda complete for the WR DAPM/OPL Workshop

HCSD has been working with a group of OPLs and DAPMs to create an agenda for the OPL/DAPM Workshop scheduled March 20-22nd. The National Paperless Coop Initiative, and other Climate Data and Quality Control Issues will be discussed during the meeting.

Planning well underway for the WR June Outreach Workshop

A committee consisting of WRH and field staff consisting of WCMs, SHs, SSHs and RFC Outreach Focal Points are hard at work developing the agenda for the WR Outreach Workshop that will focus heavily on One NOAA Concept, Services Evolution, and how to successfully create customer focused organizations. Special guest speakers are beginning lined up of the workshop such as Gary Carter, NOAA Water Resources Program Leader and Director of the Office of Hydrologic Development (OHD), and Ken Graham, NWS Services Evolution Program Director. Gary will be briefing on NOAA's Integrated Water Resources Initiative and Ken Graham will be presenting the latest with regard to Services Evolution.

Planning underway for the July Multi-regional Hydrology Program Managers (HPM) Conference

A WR committee of HPMs has been assembled to develop the Western Region portion of the agenda for the Multi-regional HPM conference to be held this July 9-13. The committee is well underway fleshing out the agenda for the meeting. The field is encouraged to submit possible agenda items for the breakout portion of the meeting. The committee will finalize the agenda during their next few meetings.

HCSD Publishes its Tri-annual WR Climate Newsletter

Jenna Meyers and Andrea Bair published the second of their three Climate Services Newsletters for FY07. Articles in this release include those from the Western Region Climate Center, the Utah State Climatologist, and the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). The next newsletter is scheduled for release in June.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION**Hydromet Testbed (HMT) Update**

HMT is approx 2/3 through field test period. It has been unusually quiet so far this winter. IOP #4 will start March 1 and will likely continue through the weekend. OAR has deployed an experimental next generation AWIPS workstation at Sacramento, Reno and Monterey to evaluate experimental model data sets. For more information, please refer to <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/programs/2007/hmt/>

Upcoming Science Workshops

WR SOO/DOH Workshop: *April 17-19* The next WR SOO/DOH Workshop proposed for April 17-19

AMS Conference: *June 24-29* The AMS on Weather Analysis and Forecasting/18th Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction, will be held 24-29 June 2007 at The Yarrow Resort Hotel & Conference Center (Hotel) in Park City, Utah. The WAF conference is focused on the "Analysis and Prediction of High-Impact Weather". Authors of accepted presentations will be notified (via e-mail) by **13 April 2007**

Hydro-Science

Debris Flow training module

Kevin Werner (WR/SSD) has produced a Debris Flow training module that provides explains the difference between flash floods and debris flows and summarizes the "lessons learned" from Oxnard/San Diego USGS debris flow experiment. The training module is available at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/prism/debrisflow/>

Service Evolution/Verification Project

QPF – PRISM Smart Tool: Ken Pomeroy (SSD) and Chris Gibson (SLC) developed a beta version of the QPF smart tool requested by the SEMT. The smart tool allows the forecaster to edit/generate QPF gridded field using the Prism weighting functions (adjust the QPF fields for terrain using climatological relationships).

Service Evolution/Verification: Service Evolution Project working group calls continue. We held a "halftime call" on Wednesday, February 14th to focus the group for the second half of the winter season.

Enhancement to the SSD Service Evolution Page: Dave Myrick and Ken Pomeroy added an office visits webpage on the Digital Services page.

http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/ The page will include best practices gleaned from the office visits and includes the schedule of upcoming office visits.

High Impact Team: The team held another conference call last week. The goal was to share results and develop ideas about how to proceed after looking at the NPVU QPF verification web site.

New Western Region Technical Attachments:

- WR TA Lite 07-01 -- [The September 22-23, 2006 Offshore Flow Event over Northwestern California](#) **Eric Lau and Mel Nordquist**, WFO Eureka CA
- WR TA Lite 07-02 -- [Using Standard Anomaly and Ensemble Data to Support Forecast Confidence of an Extreme Wind Event in the Pacific Northwest on December 14-15, 2006](#) **Mike Stavish**, WFO Medford OR

Training Update:

- **COMET Registration:** : As of 30 Jan 2007, users are required to complete a secure, one-time registration to use COMET instructional materials and to log in when using modules or quizzes on the MetEd Website. This measure was

taken at the request of our sponsors. NOAA's NWS employees can still access COMET modules through the E-Learning@NOAA system (<http://e-learning.doc.gov/>), with the additional step of logging into the MetEd system when prompted. More information on the registration process can be found at http://www.meted.ucar.edu/mandatory_reg.htm.

- **Teletraining Sessions for March:** 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 - NAM-WRF Update and Performance Discussion**
(Intermediate, Mar 1,5,7,9,13,14,15,19,20,21,27,29,30)
 - Conditional Climatology - AvnFPS 3.2 (Basic, Mar 2,8,13,15)
 - Satellite Interpretation of Orographic Clouds / Effects (Basic, Mar 6,8,28)
 - MODerate resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) Products in AWIPS (Basic, Mar 16,26)
 - CRAS Forecast Imagery in AWIPS (Basic, Mar 27)
 - Cyclogenesis: Analysis utilizing Geostationary Satellite Imagery (Basic, Mar 22)
 - Use of GOES/RSO imagery with other Remote Sensor Data for Diagnosing Severe Weather across the CONUS (RSO 3) (Intermediate, Mar 20,21)
 - TROWAL Identification (Basic, Mar 1)
 - Water Vapor Channel Satellite Imagery (Basic, Mar 12,23)
 - Mesoscale Analysis of Convective Weather Using GOES RSO Imagery (Basic, Mar 2)

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

Quarterly Facility Maintenance: Jim Chaisson, FET, was in Glasgow, MT last week performing quarterly maintenance in sub-zero weather. He also met and briefed the newly hired Meteorologist-in-Charge of WFO Great Falls, Steven Apfel. Jim briefed the new MIC on the operation & maintenance of Packaged Air Conditioning Units.

Program Review: Joe Lachacz, EPM, and Sean Wink, E&F Branch Chief, visited the San Diego Office for a program & safety review. The Upper Air, Radar, and Carlsbad ASOS were also visited. A safety review was also conducted during a visit to the Oxnard office.

ASOS Ice Free Wind Sensors: Merri Richmond traveled to WFO Flagstaff to assist in installing several ASOS Ice Free Wind Sensors and perform preventative maintenance on ASOS.

Vehicle Safety: First and foremost...Seatbelts...always where them. Springtime winter storms are often powerful and create hazardous driving conditions. Be safe and have a winter weather survival kit in your vehicle at all times (this kit is absolutely essential if traveling outside city limits). As a minimum the kit should contain the following:

- First aid kit and essential medications
- Flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Enough food and bottled water to last you until rescuers can find you if you get lost or stuck in a ditch in a remote location. At least one gallon of water per person per day is necessary.
- Extra warm clothing, including boots, mittens, and a hat. Also a warm blanket or sleeping bag
- Appropriate tools and jumper cables.

If you get stuck:

- Stay with your car. Call for help. Do not try to walk to safety.
- Tie a brightly colored cloth (preferably red) to the antenna for rescuers to see.
- Start the car and use the heater for about 10 minutes every hour. Keep the exhaust pipe clear so fumes won't back up in the car.
- Leave the overhead light on when the engine is running so that you can be seen.
- As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to keep blood circulating and to stay warm.
- Keep one window away from the blowing wind slightly open to let in air.

The most important thing you can do is let someone know where you are going and when you expect to arrive. Be kind and call them once you arrive safely.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Celebrating National African American History Month

WFO Medford held an African American History luncheon on Tuesday, February 6th. Staff members celebrated by bringing potluck items that included Soul, Creole and Caribbean foods. A variety of creative dishes were served including homemade jambalaya, red beans and rice, and Caribbean jerk chicken. As part of the celebration, diversity focal point, Connie Clarstrom,

March 7, 2007

15

presented an interactive quiz covering events and famous people in African American history and culture.