



NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Western Region Notes

April 20, 2006

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Leadership Corner: Avoiding Arguments

By Brian Klimowski, WFO Flagstaff MIC

Everyone loves a good argument, right? Well, not really. Arguments can quickly hinder the essence of collaboration needed for the National Weather Service to effectively execute its mission. Many of us have experienced times when a simple disagreement or discussion escalates into an argument. Emotions take over and rational thought and discourse are lost. Productivity is diminished.

In his classic book "*How to Win Friends and Influence People*" Dale Carnegie examined several techniques to effectively win others over to your way of thinking, even when there is significant disagreement. Four of these techniques (tips) are listed below. In addition, these methods can be very useful in the collaborative process, to avoid destructive conflict, or simply to sell your ideas to others.

- 1) **Avoid falling into an argument.** Avoid the escalation of a disagreement to the emotional level at all costs. It takes two to argue – don't be the one to raise the bar to that level. If you're wrong, admit it quickly and emphatically.
- 2) **Show respect for the opinions of others (never say "You're wrong!")** Everyone has the potential to make an important contribution, and deserves the respect to be heard. Effectively listening is perhaps the best way to show respect for the opinions of others.
- 3) **Try to see things from the other person's point of view.** Think hard and put yourself in their shoes, and appreciate how the issue is different when viewed from another perspective. Demonstrate in some way (or articulate) that you understand, or can relate to their position.
- 4) **Dramatize your ideas.** Use examples and illustrations to better develop and promote your idea. Though vitally important, facts often aren't enough to sell your position effectively. Bringing others on board with your ideas means you have to work more than just the factual side.

Pick up a copy of Dale Carnegie's book when you have a chance, it is a classic text which is as fresh today as it was 70 years ago!

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: NWS meteorologists have a vital responsibility to maintain a hydro-meteorological watch, evaluate environmental data, and assess weather impacts on the customer community as warning decisions are made. Sometimes actions need to be taken before all desired data

and guidance is available to ensure adequate warning lead time. Such was the case for Boise WFO forecaster Jeanne Allen and Lead Forecaster Les Colin on the midnight shifts of April 3-4, 2006.

On April 3, Jeanne and Les reviewed river forecasts for rising rivers in the CWFA. After evaluating meteorological conditions, and determining that QPF needed to be raised considerably higher, they qualitatively assessed that four rivers were likely to flood. In order to give as much advance notice as possible, a Flood Watch was issued with qualitative information, knowing that more specific information could be given later when new river forecasts were available.

Similarly, On April 4, they evaluated MPE rainfall and noted a focus of heavy rain in one flashy river basin. Seeing the river rising rapidly - faster than previously forecast, a Flood Warning was immediately issued. Emergency management officials were notified in the middle of the night, giving them almost five hours of lead time to the onset of the flood. In each case, well thought out reasoning for their actions was documented in the AFD. The Watch and Warning statements are below.

FLOOD WATCH
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BOISE ID
311 AM MDT MON APR 03 2006

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A FLOOD WATCH FOR THE BRUNEAU RIVER...MALHEUR RIVER...POWDER RIVER...WEISER RIVER IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES IN IDAHO...OWYHEE AND WASHINGTON...AND IN OREGON...BAKER AND MALHEUR.

THE WEISER RIVER NEAR WEISER...BRUNEAU RIVER NEAR HOT SPRINGS... POWDER RIVER ABOVE BAKER...AND THE MALHEUR RIVER NEAR VALE...MAY ALL EXCEED FLOOD STAGE TUESDAY AFTER EXPECTED HEAVY RAIN LATE TODAY AND TONIGHT ALONG WITH INCREASING SNOWMELT DUE TO WARMER TEMPERATURES TODAY.

A FLOOD WATCH MEANS THAT FLOODING IS POSSIBLE IN THE WATCH AREAS. PERSONS IN THE WATCH AREAS SHOULD MONITOR NEWS SOURCES FOR UPDATES TO THIS FLOOD WATCH.

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FLOOD WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BOISE ID
333 AM MDT TUE APR 04 2006

...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A FLOOD WARNING FOR THE WEISER RIVER...IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTY IN IDAHO...WASHINGTON.

FOR THE WEISER RIVER NEAR WEISER THE LATEST STAGE WAS 8.7 FEET AT 03 AM TUESDAY. MINOR FLOODING IS FORECAST WITH A MAXIMUM STAGE OF 11.0 FEET AT 06 PM WEDNESDAY...WHICH IS 1.1 FEET ABOVE FLOOD STAGE. THE STAGE WILL RISE ABOVE THE FLOOD STAGE OF 9.5 FEET AT 08 AM TODAY. AT 10.3 FEET...FLOOD WATERS WILL APPROACH THE COVE ROAD BRIDGE OVER THE WEISER RIVER MAKING IT UNSAFE TO CROSS.

PERSONS WITH INTERESTS NEAR THESE RIVERS SHOULD TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT PROPERTY.

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Pocatello WFO Forecaster Bill Wojcik answers weather questions posed by attendees during the Idaho Spring Fair.

WFO Pocatello participates in the 2006 Idaho Spring Fair:

On March 30 – April 1, WFO Pocatello participated in the 2006 Idaho Spring Fair at the Holt Arena in Pocatello. Staff members teamed up with the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security to display weather and disaster safety information and the President’s Volunteer Citizen Corps initiative. General Forecasters Jack Messick and Bill Wojcik, Service Hydrologist Sherrie Hebert, Meteorologist Intern Katie Burtis, and WCM Vernon Preston provided various weather information and handouts to over 33,000 fair attendees. The NWS display centered on Crusty the Crab’s Weather Safety for Kids and weather safety from Lewis and Clark expedition period to now. Attendees offered many compliments about NOAA’s NWS Internet web pages and how they really appreciated the real-time nature of Pocatello data and forecasts.



National Science Teachers Association Outreach:

On April 6-8, WFOs San Diego and Oxnard participated in the National Science Teachers Association meeting in Anaheim, California. The two offices teamed up to provide NOAA-NWS outreach about warnings, watches, forecasts, and education materials for teachers to use with their students.

A visitor to the National Science Teachers Association meeting discusses NWS forecasts and products with Ed Clark (WFO San Diego) and Dave Gomberg (WFO Oxnard).



Sacramento MIC Elizabeth Morse shows Governor Schwarzenegger the computerized forecast systems used to prepare forecasts, watches and warnings, while Lead Forecaster Jim Mathews (left) updates radar displays of inbound storms.

California Governor Visits WFO Sacramento and CNRFC:

On April 10, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared the counties of Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Merced, San Joaquin, San Mateo, and Stanislaus to be in a state of emergency as a result of a series of severe rainstorms and flooding that began April 4.

The day the proclamation was issued, the governor visited the collocated Sacramento WFO, California-Nevada RFC, and the State-Federal Flood Operations Center for updates and a press conference. The majority of the hour-long visit was spent receiving personal updates on the current weather and hydrology warnings, watches, and forecasts for the next week from the WFO and CNRFC.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Verification Training: There are now three verification modules ready to use:

- **QC Tool - How to use the application:** The first link is the training developed by Tiffani Brown (Portland WFO): http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/training/ObsQc2/ObsQc2-index.html
- **Basic Quality Control principles to apply when using the QC Application:** This training module was developed by David Myrick (SSD): http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/training/Obs_QC_basics/
- **Understanding Representatives Errors:** This training module was developed by David Myrick (SSD): http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/training/Rep_Error_basics_final/#

Water Supply Page: A new page has been added to the RFC web sites. It provides an overview of the water supply across WR and is available at:

<http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/westernwater/map.php?map=wsup>. While several people worked on this page, a special thanks to Cass Goodman for taking on the lead developer role.

WR Mod-Note Completion: The WR Verification project has three mod-notes that are scheduled for completion this month. Here is a quick status of the completion reported to date on EMRS:

WFO	WR06-003 MesoWest Mod-Note Due 3/31/06	WR06-004 Obs-QC Mod-Note Due 4/15/06
BYZ	Complete	Incomplete
BOI	Complete	Incomplete
LKN	Complete	Complete
EKA	Complete	Incomplete
FGZ	Complete	Complete
GGW	Complete	Complete
TFX	Complete	Complete
VEF	Complete	Complete
LOX	Complete	Complete
MFR	Complete	Complete
MSO	Complete	Complete
MTR	Complete	Complete
PDT	Complete	Complete
PSR	Complete	Complete
PIH	Complete	Incomplete
PQR	Complete	Complete
REV	Complete	Incomplete
SAC	Complete	Complete
SLC	Complete	Complete
SGX	Complete	Incomplete

HNX	Complete	Complete
SEW	Complete	Complete
OTX	Complete	Incomplete
TWC	Complete	Incomplete

COMET Outreach Program – Funds Available: OST has provided COMET funds to support approximately 18 COMET Partners projects in 2006. Proposals for Partners Projects are accepted throughout the year. Partners Project features include:

- Collaborative effort with an NWS office or multiple offices
- One year in length
- University budgets average \$7,000 (\$10,000 maximum)
- Typically involve one NWS forecaster and one university faculty member, rather than a group (as is usually the case with Cooperative Projects)
- Topics generally focus on a single case study or analysis problem
- Partners projects may also be used to fund small local/regional workshops.

For more information, please go to the COMET outreach web site:

<http://www.comet.ucar.edu/outreach/index.htm>

Upcoming Science Workshops

IMET All-Hazards Workshop - May 22-26: The workshop, taught by first responders in the urban fire and law enforcement community, will provide an opportunity for IMETS and trainees to learn first hand about how non-wildfire incidents will operate and what those first responders concerns are, allowing the IMET to tailor services to these type of operations. The workshop will be held in Boise ID, May 22 to 26. Please contact Heath Hockenberry or Larry VanBussum for more information

Great Divide Workshop – Oct 3-5: The Tenth Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Billings, Montana from October 3-5, 2006. NOAA's National Weather Service Offices in 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 NOAA's 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

TA-Lites

- WR TA-Lite 06-13 06-14
[Correlating Upper Flow Patterns to Hydrologic Site QPF Using an Archived WES Case](#)
By Danny Mercer and Doug McDonnal, WFO Seattle

Training Update

COMET: The COMET Program released a new training module on “Microwave Overview”, an introductory module on microwave remote sensing (http://meted.ucar.edu/npoess/microwave_topics/overview/index.htm).

This module presents an overview of space-based microwave remote sensing for environmental applications. It provides basic information on polar-orbiting satellite characteristics, current microwave instruments, and the imagery and products currently available. Special attention is given to the improvements expected in the NPOESS era. This module is an introduction to other, more in-depth modules covering the science and application of cloud, precipitation, water vapor, and land and sea surface observations. It takes about 40 minutes to complete.

Warning Decision Branch – AWOC Winter Track Open for Registration: 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. To register for your AWOC Winter Track Orientation session go to: <https://wdtb.noaa.gov/security/logon.aspx>

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

New UPS: Lee Jenson and Grant Garner installed a new APC UPS at WFO Pocatello. This makes the 5th APC UPS installed this fiscal year.

New Observer Space: Jim Maclellan and Tom Page built a new observer space in the recently installed building at the Mirimar upper air site.

New ESA Orientation: On April 11, the Western Region Systems Operations Division held a New ESA Orientation. This was the first time that Western Region held this type of a meeting, attended by new ESAs and their Mentors. The ESAs met with each Division in Western Region Headquarters and learned about division responsibilities and functions that have or may have an impact on the ESAs. They also received training and input in: Labor Relations, USOS/EMRS, Administration Overview (procurement, travel, etc.), IDPs and preparing ETs for future ESA positions, SOD expectations, facilities overview, and electronics overview. Based on the positive feedback from those in attendance, this will be a routine part of the training for all newly hired ESAs in Western Region.



Safety: Harold Knocke and Joe Lachacz conducted an upper air and safety inspection for WFO Reno.

Photo: Jessica Kielhorn from WFO Reno launches an upper air balloon.