

# NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Western Region Notes

July 17, 2008

## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

### Regional Director Selected

Robert Tibi has been selected as Director of the NWS Western Region.

Bob has 40 years of experience in the fields of meteorology, hydrology, and related physical sciences, with the past 18 years in senior management and leadership positions at Western Region Headquarters.

Bob's operational experience began with the U.S. Air Force in 1968, where he served on active duty until 1975 in various weather observer and forecaster positions. After leaving active military service, Bob spent seven years as an air pollution meteorologist and the Deputy Meteorologist-in-Charge of a forecast center for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Bob joined NWS in 1982, when he became the Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Weather Service Office in Parkersburg, WV. From there he moved to the Weather Service Forecast Office in Charleston, WV, and then on to the NOAA Global Systems Division of the Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, CO. From 1988 to 1990 he was the program manager for the development of the hydrological portion of the AWIPS prototype. In the fall of 1990, Bob joined Western Region Headquarters as the Chief of the Hydrological Services Division, now the Hydrology and Climate Services Division. In September 2005, he was named Deputy Director of NWS Western Region and has been the Acting Director since July 2007.

Bob's education includes undergraduate degrees in meteorology and physics, graduate work in hydrology and meteorology, and a Master of Business Administration. In addition, he has completed both the Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government's Program on Leadership for Senior Executives and the Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation. In addition, he has earned an Executive Certificate in Leadership and Management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management.

## Leadership Corner - Core Values

*Kim Runk, MIC, WFO Las Vegas*

When an assassin's bullet took the life of William McKinley in 1901, Teddy Roosevelt suddenly and unexpectedly ascended to the presidency, ushering in a major values shift in American government. When Roosevelt became president, power was largely vested in corporate barons and the political cronies who served them. The Industrial Revolution had forged a set of operating values centered on profits and power for a privileged few.

Believing the country was being corrupted by this rampant greed, Roosevelt challenged the system.

Motivated by a genuine concern for the struggles of ordinary people and an undying zeal for democracy, he wrenched reforms from legislators who thought their power to award patronage positions was the purpose of elective office. He broke up railroad trusts, mediated labor disputes and eliminated corporate campaign contributions, all efforts to attack systems that favored the wealthy few at the expense of the disadvantaged many.

At his request, the notoriously unsanitary meat-packing industry was investigated, and with the enactment of the Pure Food and Drug Act, Roosevelt placed public health before industry profits. During a time when exploiting the land was encouraged and popular, TR (as he preferred to be called) set aside 230 million acres of land into public trust, creating scores of national parks, forests and monuments.

TR was driven by a desire for justice, compassion, and belief in establishing a system of government that serves its people and offers opportunity to all. These were his core values.

## **Core Values**

Everyone has core values. They may not be clearly articulated but every person, every family, every team and organization makes decisions and engages in behaviors guided by a set of value-based operating principles.

In his excellent book *“Courage – the Backbone of Leadership”*, Gus Lee describes the importance of understanding and identifying core values that are noble and admirable, then achieving long term success by aligning your decisions and actions with them.

Lee insists it’s important to not only identify our core values but to recognize whether they are high, middle or low.

## **Low Level Core Values**

Nobody wants to admit to following “low level” core values and no corporation promotes them but the most casual observer can see them in action. These are unhealthy practices that damage morale, teamwork and productivity. Unbridled they can sink a corporation.

*They include appearances, bigotry, control, disrespect, egotism, expediency, fear, gossip, greed, hostility, isolation, manipulation, pride, profits, self-interest, and many more.*

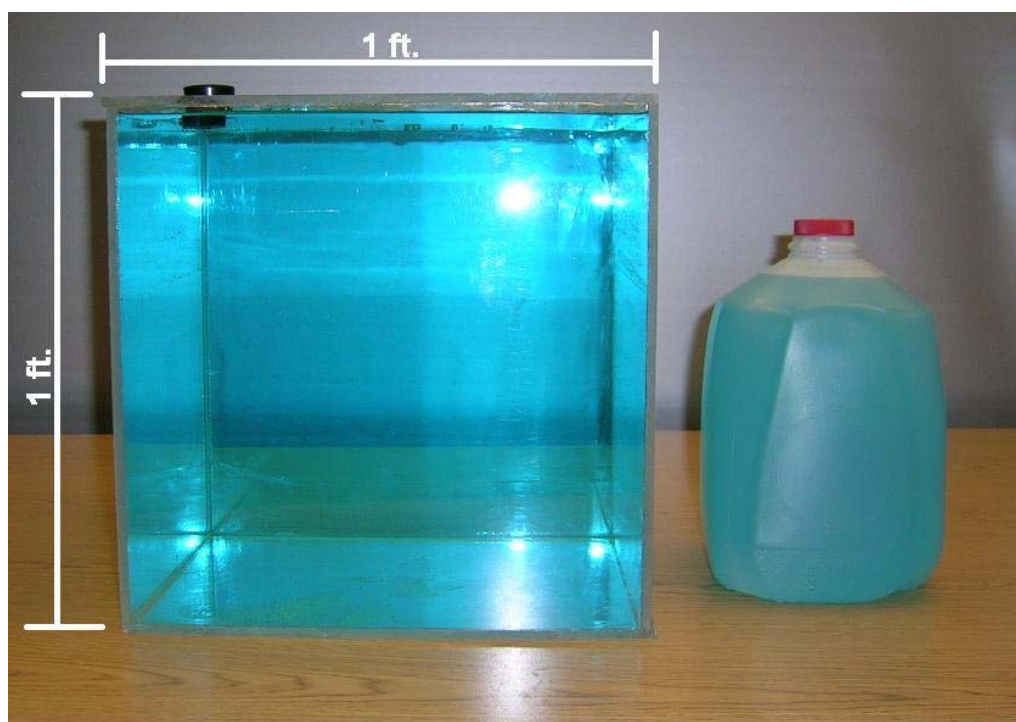
Low core values can be tempting because they often produce short term gains. Plus, there is a “naturalness” to them since they surface from base instincts which, to some degree, are within us all. Over the long haul they inevitably fail because they can’t fulfill higher order needs. Some low values may seem innocuous, even legitimate. For example, profits are a valid goal for commercial companies. But from a values perspective, the distinction is profits are the results of great practices. As Jim Collins says, they’re “not our reason for being but the consequences of applied high principles”.

***Next issue – Middle and High Level Core Values***

**Death of David Brown:** David Brown, former OIC of the Ely Weather Station passed away July 8, 2008 at Desert Springs Hospital in Las Vegas at the age of 70. Brown served in the United States Air Force for four years where he began his career as a meteorologist. After leaving the Air Force he continued his career in weather at Stampede Pass, Washington. He eventually moved to Ely, Nevada, where he was the OIC of the Ely Weather Station for 25 years. He retired in 1995 after 39 years with the National Weather Service. A visitation was held on Monday, July 14, and he was laid to rest in the Ely City Cemetery. All those who worked with David appreciated his loyalty and dedication to the agency. He will be missed by all those who knew him.

## METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

### A Great Outreach Tool – A Cubic Foot of Water



*A gallon of water is displayed next to a cubic foot of water for comparison.*

For about \$50 and a few hours of your time you too can have a great outreach tool. The cubic foot of water was created Spencer Higginson, the service hydrologist at WFO Medford, OR in the spring of 2006. This watertight box is made from 3/16" acrylic and is held together by a liquid bonding agent (Weld-On). The 1 1/8" diameter hole was drilled into the top plate prior to assembly to facilitate filling and draining the box. A stopper maintains the watertight seal. Food coloring can be added to increase appeal.

Experience has shown that the power of water is drastically underestimated. The cubic foot of water is a powerful visual aid used to demonstrate the immense weight and therefore

destructive force of water. It is especially useful for Turn Around, Don't Drown (TADD) and tsunami outreach. In a typical presentation the cubic foot of water is displayed next to a common household item such as a gallon jug of water to compare both volume and weight. A board with questions and answers provides information about the cubic foot of water.

In the past two years the cubic foot of water has been used at outdoor shows, Earth Day exhibits, watershed conferences, office tours, and school presentations from kindergarten through college. Oddly enough, we have yet to find a person who was not intrigued by a cubic foot of water sitting on a table. If you have questions, or would like assistance contact [spencer.higginson@noaa.gov](mailto:spencer.higginson@noaa.gov).

### **Fresno Fire Department HAZMAT**

**Exercise:** WFO San Joaquin Valley (Hanford) recently participated in a full-scale HAZMAT exercise with the Fresno City Fire Department. The incident involved a chemical and explosive terrorism event along with a traffic pileup on a city freeway, also involving HAZMAT. We provided on-site weather support for the event and ran HAZMAT spot request and NCEP Hysplit output. The participation was helpful for us to improve our ability to respond to a real event and provide on-site support when possible. It also demonstrated a further need to educate the response personnel in a training mode on better integrating weather predictions into operations, in addition to using CAMEO or other systems that rely mainly on current conditions.



*From left to right, Rainer Streib, City of Fresno Emergency Services Director, James Brotherton, WCM Hanford CA, and Chief Charles Tobias, Fresno FD.*



*Rose Tibbitts, Bob Scott (Head PGA Professional Meadowood Golf Course, Liberty Lake, WA), and Kerry Jones.*

### **WFO Spokane teaches lightning safety to**

**golfers:** June 25, 2008: ASA Rose Tibbitts and WCM Kerry Jones visited 18 Spokane area golf courses during Lightning Safety & Awareness Week 2008. Rose and Kerry handed out posters featuring PGA professional golfers Rocco Mediate and Vijay Singh as well as local NWS contact information. It was a great opportunity to learn how individual golf courses alert players and guests to impending thunderstorm activity, as well as to share sources of real-time weather information from the NWS.

**NOAA's SeaFest Celebration:** On Saturday, June 28, WFO Portland's Senior Service Hydrologist Andy Bryant and Forecaster, Shawn Weagle participated in NOAA's SeaFest celebration at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, OR. SeaFest is a marine festival and open house with dozens of science exhibits that attracted nearly 5000 visitors to the coastal community. The NWS outreach booth was one of several exhibits in the "Science Zone" where visitors could come by to learn about ocean conditions, climate change, weather topics, aquatic animals and many more science topics. Kids were issued a "Science Passport" when they entered the Science Zone. When they visited the different outreach booths, they had to answer science questions to get a stamp on their 'Science Passport'. When their Science Passport was filled with stamps, the kids received a free gift for participating. Over 1000 children visited the NWS booth, which proved challenging to have good questions to outwit the kids from several different age groups.



*Andy Bryant, PQR SSH and Shawn Weagle, PQR Forecaster staffing the NWS booth at SeaFest.*

**Redwood Environmental Education Fair:** WFO Eureka participated for the sixth time in this 2 day, annual event at the College of the Redwoods, just outside of Eureka, CA. This event gives local elementary and junior high school students a chance to learn about the environment from dozens of different local organizations.



*Arlena Moses guides the students while they make anemometers*

This year the theme was wind. Mel Nordquist, SOO, demonstrated the different methods for measuring wind and discussed the importance of wind forecasts for fire weather, etc.

Meteorologist Arlena Moses taught the students how to create their own anemometer and use it to estimate the wind speed.

Meteorologist Reginald Kennedy showed the

students how to make a cloud in a bottle and discussed the hydrologic cycle, while Meteorologist Intern Rebecca Mazur demonstrated air pressure and the connection to wind.



*Mel Nordquist, guides the students through the scientific method as they do a thunder experiment.*

**Orange County TsunamiReady™ Ceremony:** In a ceremony at the Orange County California Board of Supervisors meeting on June 17, 2008, Orange County and all of the incorporated coastal communities were recognized as being TsunamiReady™. This marks the first coastal county in the U.S. to have the entire county plus all of the incorporated coastal communities TsunamiReady™ (San Clemente, Dana Point, Laguna Beach, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, and Seal Beach).



*Back row : starting from left Jeremy Kirchner (Dana Point); Todd DeVoe (Seal Beach); Tim Olsen (Seal Beach); Battalion Chief Bob Brown (Huntington Beach); Brevyn Mettler (Huntington Beach); Ted Falencki (Laguna Beach); Mike Rose (Dana Point)  
Front Row from left: Gordon A. Shanks (Seal Beach); Charles J. Antos (Seal Beach); Mayor Joel Bishop (Dana Point); Glorria Morrison (Huntington Beach); Katie Eing (Newport Beach); Scott Diederich (Laguna Beach); Vicki Osborn (Orange County); Donna Boston (Orange County); Ed Clark (WFO San Diego); Kneeling: Jim Purpura (WFO San Diego)*

**WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard Holds Open House:** WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard held a two-day open house to showcase NWS services and programs to the public on Friday and Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Day one was reserved for local area school groups, with over 400 students attending. Day two was then open to the public, again with just over 400 stopping by to tour the office. Groups of 25 at a time first attended a 10-15 minute multi-media presentation about the NWS and including a short music video created by forecaster Ryan Kittell that highlighted pictures of weather phenomena. The groups then went to the operations area to see and hear about the various tools used by forecasters to produce warnings and forecasts – including AWIPS, the Graphical Forecast Editor, and WarnGen. Following that demonstration, the tour continued outside for a view of a weather balloon and other instrumentation, including hearing of how observational technology has advanced over the years. To conclude the tour, people were able to visit booths set up to demonstrate the Incident Meteorologist program, hear of and see how the NWS is using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), collect various NWS brochures, test their weather knowledge on the Weather Wheel, and see and touch a vortex generated by the Teaching Tornado machine. Approximately 18



*Students attending the WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard open house listen to forecaster Joe Sirard's demonstration on weather instruments (right), and visit booths set up to demonstrate the IMET and GIS programs, along with other opportunities to hear and learn about the NWS.*

WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard staff managed the open house each day. Two forecasters from the San Diego WFO and one from the Palmdale Center Weather Service Unit also assisted during the two days. Chinese and Spanish language interpretation was made available to those who needed it.

## HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

**Montana Hydrology Workshop:** WFO Great Falls hosted the 2008 Montana Hydrology Conference, May 27 – 29, 2008. The focus of this year's conference was water supply services. The conference was designed to exchange information and ideas from NWS users and cooperators that face challenges of water collection and distribution. Speakers included Montana Lt. Governor John Bohlinger and National Weather Service Western Region Director Robert Tibi. Gina Loss, Senior Service Hydrologist, WFO Great Falls was presented with the regional Cline award for Hydrology.



*Michael Mercer (MIC, WFO Great Falls), Robert Tibi (WRH), Gina Loss (WFO Great Falls, and Lt. Governor Bohlinger*

## SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

### Upcoming Science Meetings:

- **12th Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop, Billings, Montana**  
**October 7-9, 2008:** The focus of the workshop will be on the forecast challenges faced in the Intermountain West and the Western High Plains. Please submit abstracts by **August 1st, 2008**. All abstracts may be e-mailed to: [Wr.Great.Divide.Workshop@noaa.gov](mailto:Wr.Great.Divide.Workshop@noaa.gov) All attendees should register by **August 1st, 2008**. The workshop web page and registration page can be found at: [weather.gov/Billings](http://weather.gov/Billings) and [weather.gov/Glasgow](http://weather.gov/Glasgow)

**Water Supply Workshop:** Kevin Werner (CBRFC/SCH) co-hosted the NWS Western Water Supply team met with ESRL/PSD and Western Water Assessment on May 13 and 14 in Boulder, CO to develop plans for the next phase (fall of 2008) of the western water supply web page. Major outcomes were:

- Map interface is revamped to include access to spatial plotting of past forecasts, ESP forecasts, and observed streamflow using a google map interface.
- Look and feel of website is improved for both performance and appearance.
- Capabilities will be included for any RFC to add ESP forecasts regardless of whether they are water supply forecast points.
- Linkage to water resources outlook in collaboration with OHRFC
- ESP forecasts will include a post adjustment to remove forecast biases.
- Climate change sensitivity experiments will be available for select points.

- National support will be pursued through OSIP and AHPS framework.

**WR RFC Verification Team Report:** The team is working on the final finishing touches of the report. This should be submitted to OHD within a few weeks. We would like to thank all of the team members who participated and Kevin Werner for leading this team.

**AWIPS-II Focal Points:** A conference call was held last week with each office AWIPS-2 focal point. This is the first step in preparing for the AWIPS-2 multi-year transition. The call including the following topics;

- signing up for the national AWIPS II list server,
- obtaining copies and installation instructions of AWIPS II pre-builds (known as Task Orders)
- deciding if you want to be an official UFE (User Functional Evaluation) site
- obtaining current and future AWIPS II training materials
- handling and porting over current AWIPS Local Applications to AWIPS II.

Please contact Mark Mollner for more information

**NSTEP Training Plan for FY09:** A proposed national training plan for FY09 has been nearly completed by the NSTEP team. A draft copy was sent out to the SOOs earlier this month.

**RTMA Expert SOO/DOH Call:** John Horel and Dan Tyndall from the University of Utah presented a very interesting summary of the current RTMA evaluation work. David Myrick provided information on how to access the prototype version of the RTMA, which includes the latest enhancements. Each office will be conducting some summer verification studies to provide NCEP with feedback. David Myrick (WR/SSD) can be contacted for more information.

## SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION



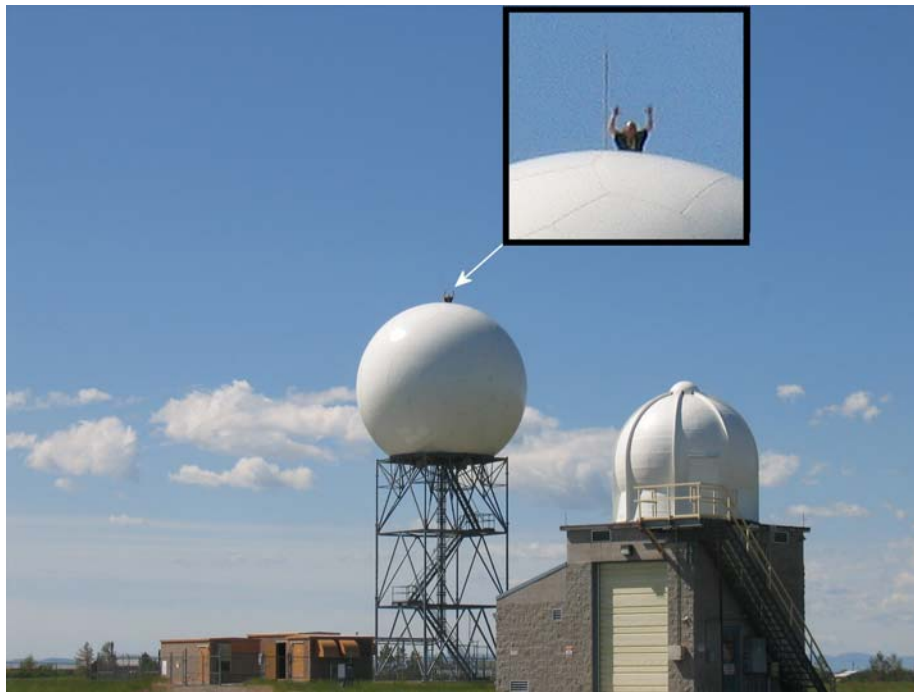
**First Hydrogen Fueled Back-up Generator:** ESA Gary Strickland and FET Jim Maclellan were on hand for the commissioning and start-up of the first hydrogen fueled back-up generator installation in the Western Region. Located at a remote site, Sandberg, California, the generator will support an ASOS and a NWR. This generator promises to be a valuable improvement to the site and to the efforts of the National Weather Service's move towards alternative/greener fuels.



**Emergency Power Generator Installed at Quillayute Office:** Facilities Engineering Technicians Michael Belarde from Spokane, WA and Dan Clark from Portland, OR completed the installation of a 30 kw Emergency Power Generator at the Quillayute Office the week of June 16, 2008. The E/G unit provides emergency power to the office building, the RRS inflation building, and to the centerfield ASOS



equipment. The E/G was installed just in time for a planned 6 hour power outage, allowing continued Upper Air and ASOS operations.



*Jim Hall, ET Great Falls, MT changes the aircraft avoidance light on top the NEXRAD radome.*

### **Safety Tips for Cooking Out**

- Keep meat chilled until you're ready to cook it.

- Allow meat to completely thaw in the refrigerator before placing on the grill.
- Marinate meat in a tight-sealing container, especially when transporting meat in a cooler to a picnic or tailgate party.
- Wash hands frequently with soapy water when working with raw meat.
- Keep food and drink separate.
- Avoid cross contamination. A prime cause of summer food-borne illness is the transfer of bacteria from uncooked to cooked meat.
- Don't forget the cutting board. Remember to wash all cutting boards and containers that touched uncooked meat in hot, soapy water.
- Use a meat thermometer. Meat must reach a temperature of 160 degrees before it is safe to serve. Use a thermometer to avoid serving undercooked meat.
- Take out the trash. Dispose of all refuse in a covered bin or trash receptacle.
- Keep it cool. Avoid overgrowth of bacteria by storing food in a refrigerator/cooler within two hours of serving. When the temperature rises above 85 degrees, food should generally be stored in a cool place within one hour of serving.
- Leftovers should be packed in clean containers and put back in the coolers.
- When in doubt throw it out. Food left out more than two hours has often been contaminated as a result of heat exposure. **DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES**