

NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Western Region Notes

July 12, 2005

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Dedicated NWS Employees Reach Milestones: Congratulations to the following individuals for their recent length of service awards. We appreciate their dedication to the National Weather Service!

David Westnedge, Senior Hydrologist at the NWRFC, received a 40-year length of service award in June. David began his service with a 6-month career orientation program in Washington, D.C. From there he went to Helena, MT for 2 ½ years and on to the Salt Lake City RFC as a Hydrologist for 22 years. David has been at the NWRFC in Portland since 1990.

Charles Orwig, Senior Hydrologist at the NWRFC, received a length of service award in May for 45 years. Chuck began as a student trainee for three summers in Spokane, Washington. The next assignment was Great Falls, MT for 11 months. In 1966, Chuck was assigned to the NWRFC, in Portland, OR, where he has been ever since.

LIFT Conference Call: We are now accepting applications for the Leadership and Innovation For Tomorrow (LIFT) program! If you would like to apply or are interested in learning more about the program, please join us for a conference call on Thursday, July 14 at 2:00 p.m. MDT. See your MIC for dialing instructions.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: This week's Statement of the Week is public information statement providing an excellent summary of the "history" of 100 degree temperatures in Sacramento. Given the extreme heat over the southwest, we thought this product provided information of interest to the public. Thanks to HMT Johnnie Powell for the effort!

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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SACRAMENTO CA
300 PM PDT MON JULY 11 2005

...HISTORY OF 100 DEGREE READING OR HIGHER IN THE CAPITAL CITY...

HERE ARE THE SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS OF 100 DEGREE OR HIGHER TEMPERATURES
IN SACRAMENTO.

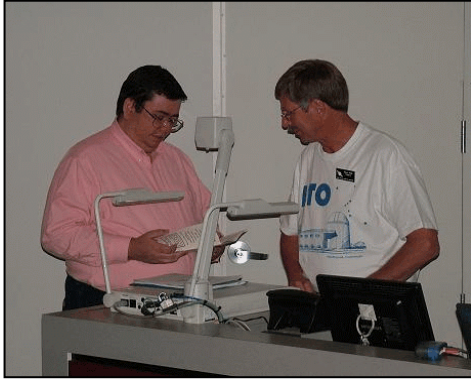
1. THE AVERAGE 100 DEGREE READINGS OR HIGHER IN A CALENDAR YEAR IS 22 TIMES.
2. LAST YEAR IN 2004, THE TOTAL OF 100 DEGREE READINGS OR HIGHER WAS 16. THE HOTTEST DAY LAST YEAR WAS 106 DEGREES ON AUGUST 11TH.
3. THE HOTTEST DAY IN RECENT MEMORY WAS SIZZLING 112 DEGREES ON JULY 10TH 2002. 1.6 DEGREES FROM THE ALL-TIME RECORD.
4. THE RECORD FOR MOST CONSECUTIVE 100 DEGREE READINGS OR HIGHER IS 9 SET 4 TIMES. THE LAST OCCURRENCE WAS AUGUST 8TH TO 16TH IN 1996.
5. THE MOST 100 DEGREE READINGS OR HIGHER IN A CALENDAR YEAR IS 41 TIMES SET IN 1988.
6. THE LEAST NUMBER OF 100 DEGREE READINGS OR HIGHER IN A CALENDAR YEAR IS NONE SET 3 TIMES. THE LAST OCCURRENCE WAS IN 1907.
7. THE LEAST NUMBER OF 100 DEGREE READINGS OR HIGHER IN THE LAST 25 YEARS DURING A CALENDAR YEAR IS 5 TIMES SET IN 1982.
8. THE EARLIEST IT HAS REACHED 100 DEGREES OR HIGHER IN A CALENDAR YEAR IS MAY 4, 1990.
9. THE LATEST IT HAS REACHED 100 DEGREES OR HIGHER IN A CALENDAR YEAR IS OCTOBER 10, 1991.
10. THE MOST 100 DEGREE READINGS OR HIGHER IN A MONTH IS 17 TIMES SET TWICE, LAST YEAR JULY 2003 AND IN JULY 1988.
11. THE HOTTEST DAY IN SACRAMENTO HISTORY WAS 114 DEGREES SET ON JULY 17, 1925, WHICH ACTUALLY ONLY REACHED 113.6 DEGREES ON THAT DAY, WHICH WAS ROUNDED UP TO 114 DEGREES.
12. IT HAS REACHED 113 DEGREES JUST ONE TIME IN SACRAMENTO HISTORY ON JULY 14, 1972.

THE HOTTEST TIME OF THE YEAR IN SACRAMENTO IS LATE JULY THROUGH EARLY AUGUST. SO AS THE SUMMER PROGRESSES, SACRAMENTO RESIDENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THE UPCOMING HEAT THIS WEEK. FOLLOW THESE HEAT SAFETY TIPS.

1. DRINK PLENTY OF WATER.
2. STAY IN AIR CONDITIONED PLACES BETWEEN NOON AND 8 PM.
3. NEVER LEAVE SMALL CHILDREN OR PETS ALONE IN THE CAR.
4. REDUCE OUTDOOR STRENUOUS ACTIVITY.
5. DRESS APPROPRIATELY AND AVOID SUNBURN.

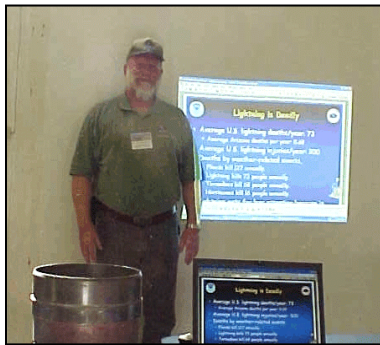
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POWELL



Tucson Forecaster Presents to Local Astronomy Group: Jim Meyer, Lead Forecaster at WFO Tucson, gave a presentation titled “Weather and Astronomy in Southeast Arizona” at the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association’s (TAAA) monthly meeting on July 1. He discussed weather and climate issues in southern Arizona, which impact atmospheric conditions and “star gazing” in the region. Jim also outlined the NOAA/NWS Space Environment Center. He explained how the Center is jointly operated by NOAA/NWS and the U.S. Air Force, providing warnings for disturbances which could adversely affect people and equipment working in the space environment. There were approximately 80

members in attendance. One of those present was Mr. David Levy, Parade Magazine’s Science Editor (and also a comet discoverer). Enthusiasm and interest were high, with many questions during and after Jim’s presentation.



Outreach to Navajo Reservation: Byron Peterson (pictured), WFO Flagstaff’s DAPM, participated in a week- long outreach event on the Navajo Native American Reservation at Window Rock, Arizona, June 20-26. Byron presented daily weather safety talks, focusing on lightning, flash floods, and tornadoes. He also discussed the relationship between science and traditional Navajo explanations of weather, the Southwest Monsoon, Climatology, and careers in NOAA. Several hundred people participated in the weather talks through the week, some coming from as far away as Poland.



San Diego Forecaster Reports Another Successful Storm Chase Vacation: Joe Dandrea (pictured), a forecaster at WFO San Diego, recently had a second successful storm chase vacation. Last year, Joe saw several tornadoes as he traveled across the central and northern plains during June. This year, Joe followed a similar agenda, with a tour group based out of Denver. The trip culminated in tornado sighting near Hill City, Kansas on June 9.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION



WFO Spokane Installs New Rain Gages: In response to last year’s devastating fires in the Wenatchee National Forest, the Spokane National Weather Service recently partnered with the Entiat Ranger District of the Wenatchee National Forest and Chelan County Emergency Management to install two new rain gages. These rain gages were placed in burn areas which are in poor radar coverage. This rainfall data will be transmitted via the Chelan County Alert network and will be available in near real time for use by NWS Spokane meteorologists. Pictured from left to right are Aaron Schmidt, Nate Dalgas, Josi West Entiat RD Fire Crew; Phil Archibald, Entiat RD Fish Biologist;

Patrick Lonergan Chelan County Emergency Management; Charles Ross Service Hydrologist NWS Spokane; and Joni Vanderbilt Entiat RD Hydrologist.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

COMET Tsunami Training Module: COMET has released a new training module on Tsunamis. It takes about 30 minutes to complete and covers the basics of tsunami formation and coastal impacts. It is highly recommended for all offices. It can be found at:

<http://www.comet.ucar.edu/~rkoehler/tsunami/tsunami%20module/>

WR GFE App Server Set-up Coming: Aaron Sutula (WR/SSD) has begun testing the kick-start auto set-up for the GFE Applications (App) Server that will be delivered to all WR offices over the next few weeks. The App Server is the foundation for the standardization of WR GFE application installation, upgrade, and support process. The App Server is one of several steps WR is taking to help better support the office IFPS focal points. The App Server will also keep WR GFE applications off of AWIPS to reduce the impact to AWIPS performance. More information will be coming soon.

Call for Burn Area Hydrology Techniques: A special issue on the topic of burn hydrology is planned by the Journal of Geomorphology. Bill Reed, Senior Hydrologist at CBRFC, is organizing an effort to write a paper describing the various NWS methods for dealing with hydrology in burned areas. NWS field offices have developed a variety of techniques and procedures for addressing flash flooding and debris flow in burned areas. In general these techniques have been developed ad hoc and in isolation from each other. An overview of current and planned techniques utilized by the NWS could be a valuable resource for sharing ideas both within and outside of the NWS.

To contribute to this effort, please contact Bill Reed by August 15, 2005 with descriptions of current and planned methodologies if possible. Bill's contact information is: bill.reed@noaa.gov or 801-524-6341 ext. 338. Kevin Werner, Hydrology Science Program Manager at WR/SSD is the WRH contact.

Two New WR TA-Lites: Two new WR WR Technical Attachment Lites (TA-LITES) have been added to the web site,

WR-TA-Lite 05-10 *An Analysis of a Heavy Snowfall Event over Southwestern Oregon and Northern California.* Authored by James Reynolds, WFO Medford, OR. The article can be found at: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/talite0510.pdf>

WR-TA-Lite 05-11 *Large CAPE, Converging Boundaries: A Mesoscale Complex Event Using the WES - August 13, 2004.* Authored by Dawn Fishler, WFO Tucson, AZ. The article can be found at: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/talite0511.pdf>

Hydrologic Research to Operations Meeting: WR is organizing a hydrology research to operations meeting October 4-6. The purpose of the meeting is to build relationships between the research and NWS operations communities to apply current and future research to solve problems in hydrology operations at the RFCs and WFOs. Please contact Kevin Werner (WR/SSD) with any questions.

The website for the meeting is: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/hydroscience>.

New IFPS Training: The first Digital Services course, *IFPS/GFE Text Formatters for Forecasters*, is available through the NOAA E-learning Learning Management System (LMS). Since the inception of the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD), text products have been generated using formatters to "unload" or "read" the forecasts from the grids. The process involves the use of various statistics and code to determine what values or words are important for including in the text. The training is designed to provide the office with an understanding of the IFPS text formatter processing. Mathew Belk, senior forecaster at Taunton, MA, is the instructor for this lesson. You can access the course via <http://e-learning.noaa.gov>.

Search the "entire catalog" for IFPS/GFE and select the course title.

New Radar Web Page: The next generation radar display, RIDGE (Radar Integrated Display with Geospatial Elements), <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge/>, is the result of a partnership with the North Texas Council of Governments and Southern Region. The RIDGE radar will combine radar images with geospatial elements such as topography maps, highways, and county boundaries. This provides additional reference information for users to understand where the storms are located. RIDGE also adds the ability to overlay polygon warnings issued by the National Weather Service Forecast Offices.

The RIDGE radar will eventually replace the current radar display on the web. Currently southern region is running a prototype version of the software. A brief summary of the implementation process was sent to the offices.

Teletraining Sessions for August: The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) calendar for August is now available. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu. The calendar is 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 August are:

- Monitoring Gulf Moisture Return with GOES Imagery (Basic, Aug 17)
- Downscaling Technique by Climate Team (Basic, Aug 11,22,30)
- CPC Extended Range Forecasts by Climate Team (Basic, Aug 9,25)
- CPC Long Range Forecasting by Climate Team (Basic, Aug 10,24)
- CPC Monitoring Products by Climate Team (Basic, Aug 16,23)

Climate Team sessions are intended for climate focal points and are a prerequisite for additional classroom training.

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

Advanced Warning Operations Course (AWOC): It is important that offices keep up with the training schedule. In WR, we have broken the two track deadlines up into first and second half of FY05. Completion will be tracked by LMS and reported in the WR Professional Development and Training plan.

March 31, 2005:	Complete Core Track (WFO and CWSUs)
August 31, 2005:	Complete Severe Weather Track (WFOs and highly recommended for CWSUs)
TBD (probably March, 2006):	Winter Weather Track (WFOs)

For more info on AWOC and LMS go to; <http://wdtb.noaa.gov/courses/awoc/index.html>.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

ORDA Demo: Son Ngueyn, Nexrad Regional Maintenance Specialist, attended the Open-RDA Demo in Norman Oklahoma. The Demonstration is being held at the Radar Operations Center.

Training for the new RRS: George Montenegro and Kevin Bolton (Regional Maintenance Specialists) attended the Radiosonde Replacement System training in Kansas City.

Replaced Diesel Tank: FET Dan Clark replaced Portland's Dixie Mountain RDA, AST (above ground storage tank) with a new "ACE" brand, steel skinned, concrete vaulted, 500 gallon diesel storage tank. The replacement of the 1000 gallon tank with a 500 gallon tank also will allow the site to discard the SPCC plan for a much easier implemented and maintained BMP (Best Management Plan).

ASOS Improvements: FET Grant Garner completed numerous improvements to the Page Arizona ASOS including painting of the wind tower & building, clearing shrubs & debris, as well as leveling and compacting 16 tons of new gravel around the site and access road.