



NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Western Region Notes

September 21, 2006

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Congratulations to the following winners of the Western Region's Regional Cline Awards. I was pleased to see the many nominations reflecting the high level of accomplishments and contributions in our region. We can all be proud of our local and regional Cline Award winners. Your collective contributions and the day-to-day work of all WR staff have resulted in an efficient and effective delivery of WR's mission.

Hydrology: Gina Loss, SSH, WFO Great Falls
Electronics: Lyndall Siverly, ET, WFO Glasgow
Support Services: Diana Locke, ASA, WFO Pendleton
Program Management: Jennifer Zeltwinger, Lead Fcstr., WFO Glasgow
Hydrometeorology: Donald Moore, SOO, WFO Billings
Outreach: James Maczko, Fcstr, WFO Billings
Leadership: John Jannuzzi, MIC, WFO Boise
Meteorology: Chris Gibson, Fcstr., WFO Salt Lake City
Upper Air: WFO Reno

Congratulations to all of our regional winners...Vickie Nadolski, Regional Director.

Leadership Corner: PERSONAL GROWTH

By Andy Bailey, WFO Las Vegas WCM

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I vividly remember a conversation I had many years ago in 1974, which marked a turning point in my leadership journey. I was sitting at a Holiday Inn with my friend, Kurt Campmeyer, when he asked me if I had a personal growth plan. I didn't. In fact, I didn't even know you were supposed to have one.

Up until that point, the best term for my growth would be "accidental growth." I didn't grow on purpose, but I loved people and worked hard so that I caught a few things along the way.

That night with Kurt, I realized that to grow like I wanted, my personal development couldn't be hit-and-miss. I needed to initiate and activate. I made a decision to devote myself to personal growth. I literally made personal growth my personal mission.

We don't mature momentarily, but over the long-term. As we continue on our quest to become more skillful as leaders, let's look at seven statements about the growth process.

1. *Growth is not automatic.*

Paul Harvey said it best: "You can tell you're on the road to success; it's uphill all the way." You can't coast uphill. Growth doesn't happen by itself; it requires an active investment of time.

Earl Nightengale said, "If you'll spend one hour a day, every day for five years on a given subject, within five years you'll become an expert on that subject." In 1974, I made that decision—to set aside one

hour per day for personal growth. Over thirty years later, I find that the more I learn and grow, the more precious that hour is to me.

2. *Growth is the great separator between those who succeed and those who do not.*

When I see a person beginning to separate them from the pack; it's almost always due to personal growth. As Bennis & Nanus say, "It is the capacity to develop and improve their skills that distinguishes leaders from followers."

When I went to college, there was no gap between me and my peers, none at all. Since 1974, I have diligently followed through on my commitment to grow an hour every day, and now the gap, in most cases, is wide. Am I smarter than my former classmates? Many of them danced circles around me academically. The growth factor—my long-term commitment to personal development—made the difference.

3. *Growth takes time, and only time can reveal certain lessons to us.*

We've all heard, "Experience is the best teacher," but it never has been and never will be. *Evaluated* experience is the best teacher. Reflective thinking is required to turn experience into insight. If you're a young LW subscriber without a wealth of personal experience, borrow the experience. Ask questions, listen, and learn from a successful leader that has gone before you.

4. *The more we grow, the more we know we need to grow.*

In other words, when you start developing yourself, instead of feeling wise, you'll be struck by how much you *don't* know. Alvin Toffler, in *Future Shock*, once observed, "The illiterate of the future are not those who cannot read or write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."

5. *Growth equals change.*

To develop, we must step away from comfort and welcome fresh and challenging experiences. Growth demands a temporary surrender of security. It may mean giving up familiar but limiting patterns, safe but unrewarding work, values no longer believed in, and relationships that have lost their meaning.

6. *Growth inside fuels growth outside.*

The highest reward of our toil is not what we get for it, but what we become by it. At the age of 17, I decided to read extensively, file my favorite articles, and prepare lessons. Little did I realize that out of the simple discipline of reading, filing, and preparing lessons, I would receive content, develop creativity, begin to speak, and eventually author numerous books.

7. *Choose to grow in the areas of your strengths, not in the areas of your weakness.*

There are only four things I do well, just four, and I focus exclusively on them. I lead, communicate, create, and network. That's it. I spend all of my time on one of those four strength zones. The secret of successful people lies in their ability to discover their strengths and to organize their life so that these strengths can be applied.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

External Service of the Week: Late last week, the Western Region saw an abrupt change in the weather as the first strong Pacific trough moved across the northern tier. Customer concerns went from hot, dry, wildfire-inducing weather to dealing with cold temperatures and abundant rain and mountain snow. WR WFOs did a great job highlighting the upcoming changes in their outlook, watch, and warning products. WFO Missoula exemplified the service our customers expect from us, using multiple briefing and service formats to inform them of the upcoming major changes. Temperatures dropped from 15 to 20 degrees above normal Monday and Tuesday to 15 to 20 degrees below normal by the end of the week. WFO Missoula staff briefed fire customers about the huge changes using daily internet/conference calls throughout last week. Emergency managers, media, and transportation officials were provided a special conference call/internet briefing. Forecasts, AFDs, and HWOs

highlighted the change. The change was the highlight of the western Montana newspapers and Missoula staff featured within the top news story in local TV evening news. Conditions went from ranging wildfires, mountains obscured in smoke, red flag warnings, and temperatures in the 80s Monday and Tuesday to highs in the 30s and 40s Friday and Saturday, muddy roads, and significant snows down to 4500 feet.

Internal Service of the Week: Matt Ocana at WRH AMD has been going well above the expected service level to help our field management deal with a frustrating access problem in Quickhire, the program they used to evaluate applicants for vacancies. For weeks, rather than wait for the program to be fixed and subject WFOs to further delay filling vacancies, Matt has been manually accessing the certification information and faxing or emailing it the proper officials so they can take action. This has been very time consuming for Matt, but is very much appreciated by our MICs and HICs. On behalf of our field offices...thanks Matt!



Cooperative Observer Awards: Two COOP awards were presented to longtime observers in the Pendleton CWA on August 30th, 2006. The Holm Award was presented to Vera June Breider (Eltopia 8 WSW) posthumously, with her daughter Iris accepting the award. The 55 year Thomas Jefferson award was presented to the Grassl family (Connell 12 SE). Both awards were presented by MIC Mike Vescio. OPL Jim

Zdroweski, HMTs Jim Smith and Ann Adams, as well as the local media attended the ceremonies.



WFO Receives CFC Award: WFO San Joaquin Valley was recently honored for its role in the 2005 Combined Federal Campaign. The staff had the highest contribution rate per capita of any federal agency in the local Tulare and Kings Counties area. A CFC breakfast was held at Lemoore Naval Air Station to honor last year's participants and kick off the 2006 season. MIC Steve Mendenhall is pictured accepting a plaque on behalf of the office.



CNRFV Visits WFO San Diego: Rob Hartman (HIC) and Alan Haynes (HAS Forecaster) at CNRFV paid an outreach visit to WFO San Diego. They made 3 one-hour presentations to both the day and evening shifts on RFC Operations, RFC Modeling, QPF Forecasting and Guidance, Dam Break Support, Flood Forecasting, HAS Support, and specific information about the San Diego River flood forecast point at Fashion Valley.



National Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration: WFO Las Vegas celebrated National Hispanic Heritage month September 20th by feasting on a lunch of Mexican food, taking a quiz on the historical contributions of famous Hispanic Americans, and breaking a piñata. SOO Stan Czyzyk was rewarded for getting the most correct on the quiz by getting first crack at the piñata. Since Stan's meteorological skills are much better than his piñata hitting skills, several more office employees got to hit it before ET Allan Phillips finally broke it open.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Following the CPC's announcement for the development of El Niño conditions on Wednesday September 13th, Paul Iniguez, WFO Phoenix, created an El Niño fact sheet for the Southwest. The fact sheet offers a brief description of El Niño and its affects on temperature and precipitation patterns across the U.S., emphasizing the Southwest. The current CPC seasonal outlooks for temperature and precipitation are also highlighted in the document and will be updated on a monthly basis as they are released. The fact sheet is currently available on the Phoenix WFO homepage:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/psr/general/ElNino.pdf>

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

New WES PC - Shipping and Set-up: WDTB is drafting a WES Implementation and Operations Plan (WES IOP). The WES IOP will provide technical assistance on how to set up the WES. The plan will be sent out the week of September 18. WR/SSD suggests that the offices leave the new PC alone until the WES IOP instructions are sent out.

The new WES PCs from HP should have arrived at most of the Forecast Offices. ***If an office has not received their PC, please contact Mark Mollner.***

WR Verification Project: The next verification call occurred on Wednesday, September 20. The offices that volunteered are:

- Glasgow (Tom Salem)
- Flagstaff (Dan LeBlanc)
- Eureka (Mel Norquist)
- Sacramento (John Juskie)
- Spokane (Ron Miller)
- Seattle (Kirby Cook)

A recording of the GOTO meeting session can be accessed via

http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/digital_services/projects/verification.php

AWOC Winter Weather Training (AWWT) Update: The following list is the completion percentage by Western Region WFO of those who have registered to take AWOC Winter Instructional Components (ICs) 1- 4.

	<u>IC1</u>	<u>IC2</u>	<u>IC3</u>	<u>IC4</u>
Billings	80%	87%	80%	69%
Boise	59	53	53	37
Elko	91	91	91	79
Eureka	76	71	61	39
Flagstaff	33	15	9	4
Glasgow	80	73	69	47
Great Falls	75	75	75	63
Las Vegas	71	71	64	43
Los Angeles	75	78	58	44
Medford	79	71	67	52

Missoula	58	58	51	47
Pendleton	67	69	59	46
Phoenix	92	83	83	67
Pocatello	100	93	93	93
Portland	84	82	77	74
Reno	93	93	93	83
Sacramento	86	82	69	36
Salt Lake City	93	90	82	44
San Diego	81	78	75	75
San Francisco	100	100	100	100
San Joaquin Valley	93	92	85	69
Seattle	85	709	65	57
Spokane	47	47	47	29
Tucson	47	29	19	12

As a reminder, the AWOC Winter Training Module must be completed by **November 30, 2006**. Per the November 28, 2005 training memorandum, completion of the AWWT is required by all WFO staff who issue warnings and forecasts. This does not include CWSUs and RFCs, although they are encouraged to take the training as part of career development or personal interest.

NOAA/USGS Debris Flow Project: A planning and evaluation meeting for the southern California demonstration project was held at the San Diego WFO on September 5-6. The meeting was attended by WFO Oxnard, WFO San Diego, WRH/SSD, NSSL, ESRL, USGS, and UCLA personnel. Research results were shared from the intensive research area near Burbank, CA. Jayme Laber (SSH, Oxnard) and Jim Purpura (MIC, San Diego) shared their experiences with the prototype watch and warning system. The demonstration project will continue through the upcoming winter season.

USGS Hydrologic Model Training: SSD and the USGS organized a training session for interested hydrologists to learn how to operate the USGS Precipitation – Runoff Modeling System (PRMS) and Modular Modeling System (MMS). These systems were developed by USGS scientists in the early 1990s to provide hydrologists with an open source platform adaptable to many problems in hydrology. PRMS is a modular-design, deterministic, distributed-parameter modeling system developed to evaluate the impacts of various combinations of precipitation, climate, and land use on streamflow, sediment yields, and general basin hydrology. Basin response to normal and extreme rainfall and snowmelt can be simulated to evaluate changes in water-balance relationships, flow regimes, flood peaks and volumes, soil-water relationships, sediment yields, and ground-water recharge. Parameter-optimization and sensitivity analysis capabilities are provided to fit selected model parameters and evaluate their individual and joint effects on model output. The modular design provides a flexible framework for continued model-system enhancement and hydrologic-modeling research and development. The training was held in Lakewood, CO from August 28-30, 2006. 14 NWS hydrologists attended representing 4 RFCs, 6 WFOs, and OHD.

RTMA Evaluation: SSD has updated the RTMA evaluation web page to include more observations. The radiosonde data is also plotted at 11 and 23z. Chad Kahler is the contact. The website is: www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/rtma

Upcoming Science Workshops:

10th Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop: 3-5 October 2006: The 10th Annual Great Divide Workshop will be held 3-5 October 2006 in Billings, Montana. 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. The workshop will be held at: Billings Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Billings.

Thirteenth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West: Thursday

November 16, 2006: The Thirteenth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West will be held Thursday, November 16 on the University of Utah campus. This Workshop will be hosted by the Mountain Meteorology Group in the Department of Meteorology. This year's workshop is focused on the lessons learned from field programs and operational deployments of surface meteorological equipment in the West. The Workshop is intended to be a forum to discuss the impacts of the practical limitations associated with surface instrumentation in the mountainous West on environmental records, data assimilation systems, and weather forecasts. To submit an abstract or register, please access the on-line registration form found at http://www.met.utah.edu/jhorel/workshop2006/workshop_reg.html. The deadline for abstract submission is October 1. The registration deadline is November 1.

Training Update:

COMET: WRF Training Modules: The COMET Program has released a new web module entitled Watersheds: Connecting Weather to the Environment found at <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/broadcastmet/watershed/>. The goal of the course is to provide an understanding of a watershed as the local environment in which people's actions and decisions play against the background of daily and seasonal weather to affect the quality and health of the local watershed in which they live as well as the larger system of watersheds of which their watershed is one part. The module will take approximately 2 hours to complete. All NWS employees should access this training module and complete the final quiz through the NOAA LMS at <http://e-learning.doc.gov/noaa/>.

Warning Decision Branch – AWOC: AWOC Winter Weather training is now available through the LMS. Please see <http://www.wdtb.noaa.gov/courses/winterawoc/index.html> for more details on the AWWT.

Teletraining Sessions: The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) calendar for September 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 September are:

- Cyclogenesis: Analysis utilizing Geostationary Satellite Imagery (Basic, Sep 26)
- Use of GOES/RSO imagery with other Remote Sensor Data for Diagnosing Severe
- Forecasting Convective Downburst Potential Using GOES Sounder Derived Products (Basic, Sep 21)
- Water Vapor Channel Satellite Imagery (Basic, Sep 25)

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

Battery Monitoring Systems (BMS): WR facilities technicians have begun to install APC Battery Monitoring Systems on the Mitsubishi UPS units. Completed thus far are Monterey, Missoula and Billings, with seven more installations to go. The Battery Monitoring System will serve a vital role in monitoring and protecting critical power at the WFO'S.

HVAC: FET Randy Miller met with contractors at the Las Vegas 88D site to perform the ROC approved duct work modification. After completion of this modification, Transmitter Air temperature drop 10 degrees Celsius. Randy was also able to complete all scheduled preventive maintenance at the WFO.

Environmental and Safety: FET Tom Page traveled to the Elko Radar site September 11th to install a fuel return line on the 1000 gallon diesel storage tank. This line will prevent fuel spillage if the system should ever fail. Tom also completed several Facilities maintenance items as well.

ORDA: The Santa Anna WSR-88D ORDA was completed this week.

Welcome: SOD would like to welcome Kristina Larson as the new Program Assistant for the Systems Operations Division. She previously worked for the Census Bureau and the IRS. Welcome Kristina to the NWS!