



Cultural Diversity

National Weather Service
Alaska Region Newsletter
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"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color." - Maya Angelou



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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Frank Kelly

As Easy As 1, 2, 3....

One of the things about working in the field of weather is it can, at times, be fun! Of course we all take our mission to protect life, property, and enhance livelihoods seriously. However, we know that what we do is not perfect and sometimes we don't quite get the forecast just right. When those rare occasions do happen, it can be a challenge explaining to someone why the forecast was not spot on.

For the sake of having some fun, I wanted to pass along an excerpt from a technical memorandum from May 1983. The memo was published by one of our sister services and the section I'm about to repeat was called "Exculpations." A standard definition of exculpation is: to free from blame or guilt; vindicate or exonerate. In our business of forecasting, we sometimes need to exculpate our decisions when they don't come to pass as expected.

So here is the process of Exculpation:

Group A		Group B		Group C	
0	INTEGRATED	0	THERMAL	0	EQUILIBRIUM
1	PSEUDO	1	VORTICITY	1	TRANSFER
2	DYNAMIC	2	SOLENOIDAL	2	STRATIFICATION
3	POTENTIAL	3	MOLECULAR	3	BALANCE
4	DIURNAL	4	OROGRAPHIC	4	FIELD
5	STRATOSPHERIC	5	TURBULENT	5	CORRELATION
6	CUMULATIVE	6	SOLAR	6	DISCONTINUITY
7	ABSOLUTE	7	INERTIAL	7	ADVECTION
8	KINEMATIC	8	ROTATIONAL	8	TRAJECTORY
9	CONCITIONAL	9	VAPOR	9	FUNCTION

The table above provides one thousand technical terms which can be used for exculpation purposes.

For example....the local mariner wants to know why yesterday's forecast went to pot. First, think of a three digit number such as 123. Use the above table....number 1 in Group A; number 2 in Group B and number 3 in Group C. You can then immediately state that the "pseudo solenoidal balance" was in error so we had 6 inches of snow instead of sunny skies. Who would ever want to question that?

So using this simple process you can exculpate those prognostications which are sometimes less than completely accurate. If nothing else...have some fun! ♦

Annual Cookie Contest By Alberta Vieira

Last November, the Anchorage Forecast Office held their annual cookie contest. Winning for a second year in a row, David Stricklan won with his Moose-Dropping cookies. He admitted that although the cookies were 'like' last year's, they had different ingredients.

Second place went to Shaun Baines' Chocolate Chip Cookies. With about 15 entries, there were some interesting entries like chocolate chip cookie with bacon bits and root beer cookies.

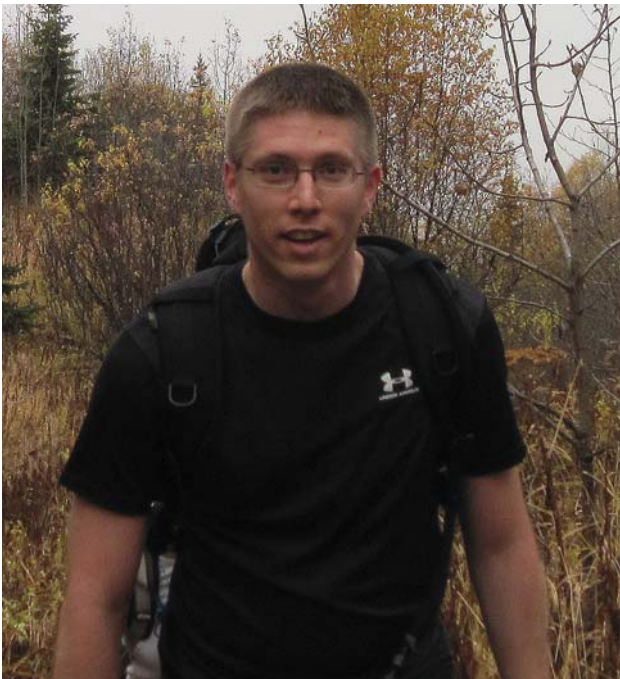
Although chocolate seems to be a favorite of this year's judges, in the past, non-chocolate cookies have taken first place. Other contestants stated that the contest should be scheduled when David is out of town.

David took the money from the sale of the cookies and his prize money and donated it to the Bean's Café in Anchorage.

Congratulations David! It will be the last time! ♦



Top Chef David Stricklan



Welcome David Kramer!

The Anchorage Forecast Center has a new intern. David Kramer received his meteorology education degree at Wayland Baptist University in Houston and is currently working on his Master's in education.

David joined the office in October after leaving the Air Force where he was stationed at Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage. In 2005, David went to work as a teacher and then at Alaska Regional Hospital.

He began his internship at the WFO with hopes of becoming a forecaster.

His hobbies include hiking, basketball, soccer, volleyball, snowboarding, and other random things. Just ask him, it's easier. He also enjoys volunteering with youth through the church. ♦



Outreach Opportunities By Allura "Pepper" Weimer

Outreach can mean many different things from working a science fair to volunteering in your local neighborhood. From buying groceries for a homebound elder, to helping paint a house, or even participating in a fund-raiser for someone who is in need of help. These are just a few ideas, but there are a lot more volunteer opportunities out there.

For example: WFO Fairbanks has adopted a highway through the Department of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway Program. The contract states the group will clean the assigned area three times between April and September.

Would your office be interested in the Adopt-A-Highway Program? Here is the website: <http://www.dot.alaska.gov/>.

Under Highlights, click on "Adopt-A-Highway Program" then on the right-hand side under Program Information, click on "Contact a Regional AAH Coordinator". You have three choices to choose from to get you started.

If you do not live on the road system, but live in a city like Nome or Barrow, you could ask the City Council or the Mayor if they have a similar program. Another option might be to adopt a park, bus stop or even an area used for picnics.

When you do an outreach event, if you have it, wear something with a NOAA or NWS logo on it. ♦



Left to right: Nicole Hannon, Tom Ainsworth, Paul Shannon, Aaron Jacobs, Tim Steffen, Pete Boyd, Nikki Becker, and Richard Lam

In early June, several WFO Juneau employees performed the Adopt-A-Highway cleanup for their portion of the highway.

Juneau has been taking care of their one mile stretch of highway since 2002. One mile doesn't seem like a lot, but this is one of the busiest highways in Juneau for foot traffic and vehicles.

There are two schools, a busy convenience store, and four city bus stops. Our stretch of highway tends to have a lot of cigarette butts and beverage containers. This go around brought a lot of Starburst wrappers. Go figure... ♦

Snow is For Mary-Beth

By Alberta Vieira

The Anchorage Weather Forecast Office has a new forecaster. Mary-Beth Schreck came to the office in October from the Wichita, Kansas Forecast Office.

She grew up in central New Jersey, in a town that actually had more cows than people. "I got my degree from North Carolina State University, to get away from all the snow and cold weather we had one year in New Jersey, but it only made me realize how much I love both the snow and cold. I am looking forward to snowshoeing."

"I have three cats - Sami, Smokey, and Kimba. They each have very different personalities, but each is a lap cat, which I enjoy. Driving to Alaska with the three of them in the car was quite an experience, but I was impressed with how well they all did being in the car for eight days and in a different hotel room each night."



Mary-Beth loves photography and is excited to have so many photo opportunities in Alaska. She also enjoys many different crafts, such as crocheting, knitting, scrap booking, quilting, and cross-stitch. When she has extra time after all that she enjoys doing puzzles and playing the trumpet. "I plan to get involved with the Anchorage Community Concert Band very soon." During the warmer months, Mary-Beth plans to be hiking and running.

Mary-Beth, like so many people, developed a fascination with Alaska after 10 years of researching the state. "I see there are so many opportunities here that a person just can't experience in the lower 48 and I want to soak them all in."

What does she like about Alaska? "I love the fact that winter is actually winter...and the snow sticks around. I enjoy the laid-back lifestyle, friendly people, and, of course, the scenery. It is truly an amazing state." ♦



Winter Survival

By Alberta Vieira

A three hour Winter Weather Survival Course was presented to the Anchorage Forecast Office and Center Weather Service Unit by Don Bolton last December. Participants received instruction on layering clothing, the best items to carry in your vehicle on long trips, and the most important medications to bring when backpacking.

Forecasters took turns getting wrapped up in burrito fashion during a demonstration of hypothermia prevention and they practiced different rope ties found to be useful for a multitude of purposes.

Mr. Bolton acquired his winter survival skills after traveling to so many areas to repair and maintain equipment around Alaska. He is also very active in working with and teaching Boy Scouts these survival skills.

The information was interesting and very useful for winter conditions anywhere. Don had so many stories to share which made the training more memorable. So much information was given he could have given a week's worth of instruction. It was agreed that if given the opportunity, this course should be offered annually to all the offices. Great job Don! ♦



Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair

By Ursula Jones

The city of Juneau proudly hosted its 19th Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair for high school students March 12, 2011. The fair has grown tremendously from just 10 featured projects in 1993 to over 125 projects in 2011. Students from the two Juneau high schools and nearly a third of Skagway's 28 high school students participated in this year's fair. Due to the large number of participants and projects, over 350 volunteers were needed. Five of those who judged were from the Juneau National Weather Service Forecast Office, and I was proud to be one of them.

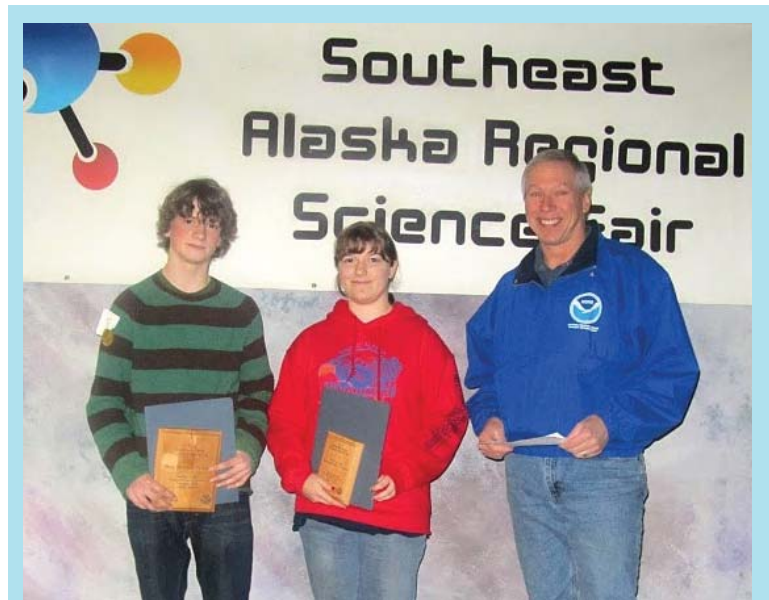
One of the most interesting projects to me, as a Mom, was whether the new "mosquito" ringtone was inaudible to anyone but kids and young adults. The student who tested the mosquito ringtone theory had the inner workings of the ear as her prop, as well as her cell phone, and poster. The advertisement for the "mosquito" ringtone says that it is a tone outside the audible range of hearing for most people over the age of 30. This means that students would be able to receive phone calls and texts in class without the teacher hearing it. The student found that none of her teachers could hear the ringtone and, after listening briefly, I found I could not detect the sound of the "mosquito" ringtone. Despite the fact that this project did not earn an award, I was glad I had the chance to learn about this new ringtone so that as my child gets older, I'll be able to effectively monitor his cellphone usage.

Some of the other projects that WFO Juneau judged were: Does fluoride affect plant growth? What are the best snow shelters for keeping you warm? Can taking a placebo increase your ability to lift heavier weights?

It was exciting to see all the different projects that the high school students had worked on. This year's finalists included projects on the effects of methyl farnesoate on the molting biology of juvenile Red King crabs; how norepinephrine affects color change in humpy shrimp; toxicity and effectiveness of a 'Green' dispersant for oil spills; and solar reflectors: how does the reflector's material and shape affect a solar panel's output?

The National Weather Service project winners were Lucas Browning, "How Temperature Affects the Static/Dynamic Friction Coefficient of Different Types of Shoes", and Ali Hiley, "How Snow Density Affects the Reliability of the Reutschblock Snow Stability Test".

I felt that with all the hard work and time put into each project that they were all winners. I enjoyed viewing the projects and I hope to be a judge for next year's fair. ♦



Lucas Browning, Ali Hiley, and Joel Curtis

An Australia Educational Experience

By Nathan Eckstein

I wasn't off the plane for thirty minutes and I'd already heard my first "no worries mate." It made me think of two things after I held back my chuckle at the accent and the saying; first, maybe I should relax, I'm on a holiday, and how cool and relaxed is this guy working in the customer service sector at a busy international airport. If there were two things I witnessed over and over again in Australia, it was the friendly and relaxed nature of the Aussies despite how serious they are about ecology and climate. My brother-in-law tells me that on his arrival back from Indonesia an Australian customs' agent tells him his uncured bamboo books are not allowed because they may contain non-native micro-organisms. Knowing the books were of little value, my brother tells the agent no problem. As the customs' agent apologizes for having to confiscate the books, a green fly emerges from the luggage. Without missing a beat, the agent remarks "Well, I guess the invasion has begun!" The ability of the Aussies to be sincere, friendly, and relaxed while doing something as important as protecting their fragile ecosystem is an endearing trait.



Tasmanian Devil

One of the highlights of my trip was visiting Tasmania and seeing a unique place and unique animals, none more so than the Tasmanian Devil. Outside of Hobart, the capital of the Tassie state, are a few

conservation parks making an effort to prevent the Tassie Devils' extinction. As the Warner Brothers' cartoon depicts and as the conservation park worker says, there is a reason why they are not called Tasmanian Angels. These seemingly nice bear cub sized marsupials are extremely nasty towards one another, and they need no reason to fight. Many of the older devils in the park have numerous scars on their faces from bouts with each other, and are so aggressive that the fathers are known to cannibalize their own young in the wild. Another problem in facing their extinction is the mother's inability to care for a normal litter of four or five, and often only two or three will make it without human intervention. If eating your own young and not being able to care for all of your own offspring isn't cruel enough natural selection; a devastating facial cancer has nearly wiped out the entire wild population of Tasmanian Devils. This cancer, unlike any other, is able to spread by contact through fighting and biting of each others' faces. This is a favorite pastime of the devil which occurs without instigation and even frequently during our visit.

The park also had the closest relative to the devil, an Eastern Quoll, also a carnivorous marsupial native to Tasmania. The interesting thing about the Quoll was a discussion we had about the possibility of their domestication. About the size of a cat and much more friendly than the devil (although the Tassie devils can be quite friendly to people), the Quoll, unlike the domestic cat, poses no threat to the



Eastern Quoll

ecosystem if it started to breed wildly. The introduction of foreign species in Australia has caused some horrible ecological problems. To the conservation worker's knowledge, no one has yet to take a Quoll in as a pet.

recovery of their ancestors' environmental policies. They have learned the hard way how severe anthropogenic impacts can be; one of the reasons climate change policy in Australia is extremely progressive.



Bronte Beach, just outside Sydney

Perhaps, no modern country in the world has had more of its share of environmental problems than Australia. The former penal colony's massive native vegetation clearing programs combined with the introduction of foreign species such as rabbits and sheep have almost irreversibly damaged the country's soil. Native vegetation clearing for foreign animal

One of the things I had noticed before my trip was Australia recruits foreign meteorologists, particularly from the States. I wondered why they needed to do this and why there were not enough Aussies to fill these jobs. The answer I was given, while also being asked if I was immigrating, was that Aussies love to be outside, and they want jobs where they work outdoors. Something very few



Fitzroy Gardens, Melbourne

domestication and grazing has exacerbated floods and droughts, damaged rivers, and wiped out offshore fisheries. Australia's soils lack nutrients which have resulted in a slow

meteorologists do with great frequency, and who could blame them given how comfortable the climate is down-under. But to say Aussies love the outdoors might be understating the fact, as my new brother-in-law's relatives have this absolute desire to go to the beach daily. Perhaps, I never thought of that as a necessity, but to them it seemed as important as the sun rising. This love for their environment also plays a big role in the country's policies and attitudes when dealing with environmental problems.

The Aussies' love for the outdoors and respect for the environment is seen across the country, the lack of litter on the streets, public recycling on the street corner, magnificent public parks, and of course the necessity to go to the beach daily. However, this respect would have to be shared by a majority of the population for it to be so evident in every city I visited. The respect for the environment is only really part of a greater social connection and community that drives Australia's policies. In Sydney, we had an extremely enlightening conversation with a cab driver

way, by investing in its people, the return will help everyone. One major incentive to get off unemployment for lower income workers, is Australia's generous (by American standards) minimum wage, which this year was raised to fifteen dollars an hour. After a further look into this, the federal government raises the minimum wage almost every year to meet inflation or cost of living indices. Currently, the Australian dollar and the cost of living in major cities is comparable to those in the States.



about Australia's unemployment program. He explains the robust system of placing the unemployed with a social worker who works for a central agency. The agency not only provides monetary assistance, but helps them get interviews or get applications, provides training if it is necessary, all in an effort to get people back to work. He says, the agency is extremely productive and successful, and that Australian's are only unforgiving of people who abuse the program. Australian's seem to understand that the program pays for itself, by getting people back to work, they are then supporting the program for others to use. The system benefits the government the same

There is a sense that everyone gets the purpose of government, that if the government invests in its people through strong social programs, the government and the people will reap the benefits of a strong economy. It is these kinds of policies that make Australia's economy one of the strongest in the world. This strong social policy is a reflection of the Aussies' attitudes, their respect and responsibility to their land, society, and to each other is of greater benefit to them than personal selfish actions. It is the sense of shared land, community, and respect that creates this free spirit, a relaxed, open, and seemingly stress free place, where there are no worries. ♦

Diversity Training Unveiled on the Commerce Learning Center

By Todd Hall
WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard

Over the last several years, the Western Region Diversity Action Committee (DAC) has strived to define the differences between diversity, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), and Affirmative Action (AA). To accomplish this goal, the DAC sought to explain differences by educating Western Region's Diversity Focal Points and WR Managers and Supervisors. EEO and AA are components of diversity, but no conclusions can be drawn about the conjugate. Utilizing the Commerce Learning Center (CLC) website, the DAC previewed over 170 courses and arrived at a list of courses that encompassed the true meanings of what diversity is and what it represents for NWS employees. Last year, the WR DAC rolled out sets of recommended training courses for all WR Employees, Focal Points and Managers.

Following the WR DAC review of the courses, the NWS Diversity Council in cooperation with the NWSEO chartered a team of employees across all regions and in different locations across NOAA and the NWS to provide a full review of the course on the CLC. The WR DAC's former Person with Disabilities Special Emphasis Program Manager, Connie Clarstrom, and I were part of this team along with Carolyn Willis, the NWS Diversity Council NWSEO Representative, providing oversight. A voluntary NWS Diversity Management

Training Curriculum came to fruition after a period of approximately 18 months.

Launched on the CLC website on January 12, the curriculum offers all employees a chance to learn about what diversity is and how to incorporate diversity into the workplace. Communication, emotional intelligence, and leadership techniques are common themes within the concepts of diversity and the training curriculum strives to support these themes.

Workplace diversity is about incorporating the concepts of diversity by including all people's thoughts, views, and ideas into

The screenshot shows the National Weather Service Commerce Learning Center website. The main heading reads "Welcome to the Commerce Learning Center @ National Weather Service!". Below this, there is a "NWS News!" section with several bullet points. A red arrow points to the following item: "New DOC PII Course! DOC has launched a new course on Personally Identifiable Information. Look for the course on the New Training page under January." The right sidebar contains a "HOT COURSES" section with a list of courses including "REQUIRED TRAINING - IT SECURITY, SAFETY, NO NERK...", "CLIMATE CHANGE: FITTING THE PIECES TOGETHER", "2011 CWP TRAINING", "INCIDENT SUPPORT (FEMA)", "NOAA AVIATION SAFETY COURSES", "WELCOME TO NOAA", "NOAA SUPERVISOR SERIES", and "HIRING REFORM TRAINING".

the process for determining how the office will operate. Each office's employees will benefit much by having discussion sections immediately following each of the course's completion. This interaction will increase the workplace's understanding of one another and encourage camaraderie throughout the workplace. While the results of work-place diversity may take time, the NWS Diversity Management Training Curriculum seeks to build a solid foundation for a starting point. ♦

What is Cultural Diversity?

By Paul McTamney

Cultural diversity, or multiculturalism, is based on the idea that cultural identities should not be discarded or ignored, but rather maintained and valued. The foundation of this belief is that every culture and race has made a substantial contribution to American history.

However, many people remain opposed to the idea of multiculturalism, or cultural diversity awareness, while others often support it and yet have no clear idea of how it should be taught.

Oftentimes we leave this difficult task up to our local schools and teachers, under the catch-all phrase of "multicultural education." We assume that during February our children will learn about "Black History" and in March about "Women's History." A particular month or week is dedicated to a certain ethnic group or belief, as if this somehow acknowledges their full contribution to American history.

This can often be as divisive as it is informative. If U.S. history is taught year round, but February is "Black History Month," then the logical assumption is that African American history and achievements are often overlooked during the normal school year. Or, that other cultures are somehow ignored during February.



The cultural diversity of the United States is truly astounding, as many different ethnic and cultural groups have contributed to the social, economic and cultural values of our society. This has been true throughout our history, even though many of our school books have not always taught that fact. In fact, the very idea that cultural diversity should be taught has only been promoted in the last few years.

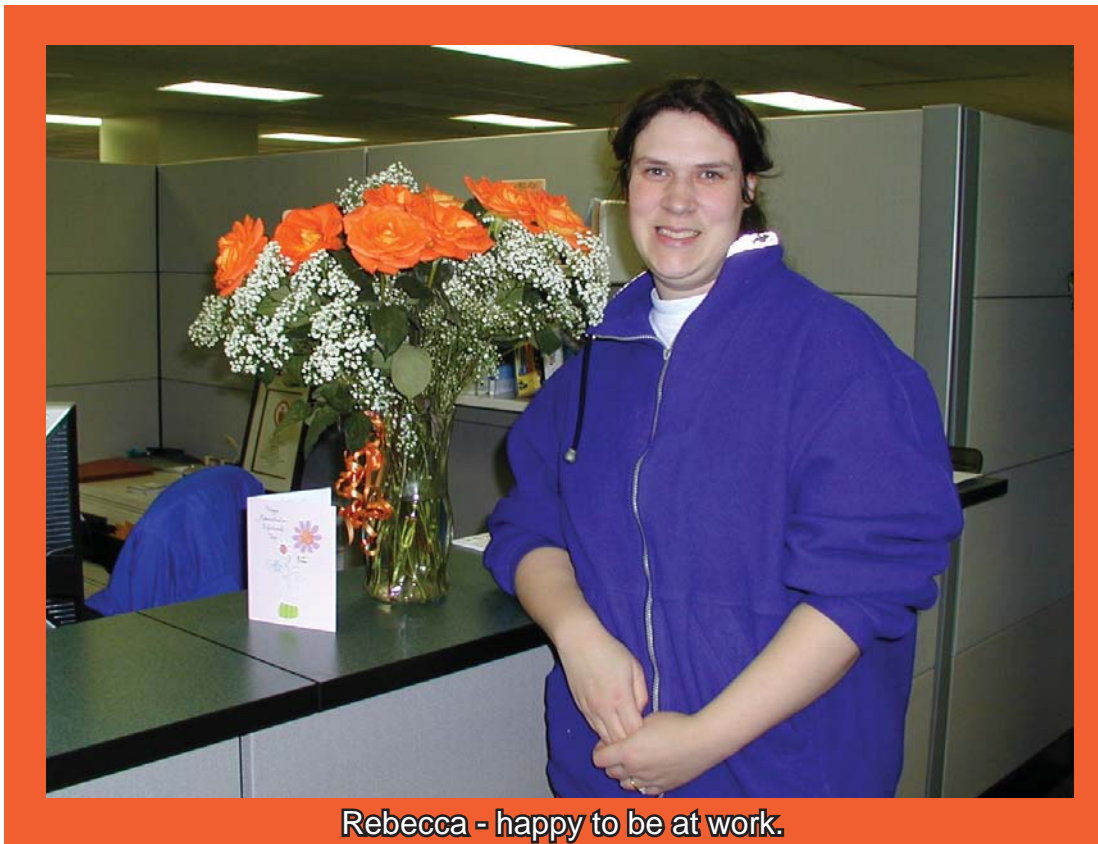
The bottom line is that when we fully recognize that America is great because of the contributions of the many, then we as a people will be even more united in our common goals, and even more proud to be American citizens. ♦

My Job Supporting the Alaska Region National Weather Service
By Rebecca Schwab

When people ask me where I work, they immediately ask me if I deal with the Weather Information and I tell them, "No, I do not". People assume that everyone in the National Weather Service deals in weather and/or weather information. I tell them that we have Forecasters and observers that deal with the Weather Information. In addition, we also have Hydrologists that deal with River information, Tsunami forecasting experts, Space Weather Physicists, and the variety of technical support functions. I work for the Administrative Management Division in the ARH as the front desk Secretary and I am the first person people see when they arrive at NWS Alaska Region Headquarters.

I help people who come into the NWS Alaska Region Headquarters with anything they need or, if they are visiting someone, I make sure they get to that person. I also perform other duties like work with property, make copies, fax paperwork, make folders for employees who come on board, update spreadsheets or files, prepare requisitions, distribute mail, stamp and bundle outgoing mail, print out certificates, applications, and letters for new employees, and also answer the phone.

I began working for the National Weather Service while I was in high school the summer of 1993. The Summer of 1996 I was with the Alaska Job Corps and then returned the ARH May 1996 as an Office Automation Clerk (Receptionist) for the Administrative Management Division. In 1998, I was promoted to my current job as a Secretary. I've been with the National Weather Service for 15 years, and I enjoy continually learning about the many different facets of the National Weather Service. ♦



Rebecca - happy to be at work.

Sweat Victory By Kristine Nelson

Inspiration cannot be forced. It is born of a natural process brought on by unsuspecting mentors and adopted by unsuspecting recipients. Each time I have competed in the Gold Nugget Triathlon – a women only event, I have been inspired. The first time, I was inspired by my friend who learned to swim so she could compete in the triathlon. I figured if she could get over her fear of swimming, I could get over my fear of running. The second triathlon, my inspiration came near the end of the race. “It doesn’t hurt to tri”, read the t-shirt on the back of a competitor, who, it turns out, had lost 80 lbs while training. I read about her in an Anchorage Daily News article. I really wanted to compete again, but after two years of illness and injury, it was hard to be inspired. I was out of shape with a sprained ankle that healed just 3 months shy of the event. I was sure I couldn’t do it. Then I was inspired again.

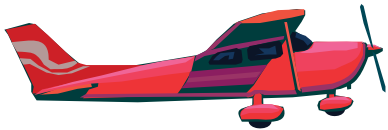


I started working out at 5 a.m. nearly every weekday. I dedicated this time to me. My training. My time. How could I tear myself from my warm bed in the dark to plod along on a treadmill with a handful of other dedicated athletes? I was going to do the triathlon and time was not on my side. I had to be efficient and dedicated. Besides, my friends who were doing the triathlon with me trained in the morning.



I never thought I could work out in the morning. I much preferred the afternoon. Unfortunately, I learned that afternoon workouts easily fall to the wayside because of work and kid scheduling demands. If I didn’t put my workout first, it would be last. And then something amazing happened. I learned that much to my surprise, it felt good to train in the morning. I looked forward to the alarm and my early morning swim, bike, and/or runs.

My friends each had their own inspiration. For most of them, this was their first triathlon. One of us was a borderline diabetic before losing 90lbs training. She also spent the winter learning to swim. The rest of us were after a healthier, trimmer, stronger body. We all trained as much as we could. Our Team name, “Sweat Victory” says it all. Although, it could have been “Sweat Equity” because that is what it took. We trained, we sweated, we cheered each other on. We all crossed the finish line faster than we had planned. We were victorious. We were “Sweat Victory”. ♦



2011 Alaska State Aviation Trade Show

By Carrie Haisley Almon



From l-r: Celine Van Breukelen, Carrie Haisley Almon, Christian Cassell, David Kochevar

On April 30 and May 1, ten employees from four different National Weather Service offices helped to staff a booth at the Alaska State Aviation Trade Show at the Anchorage International Airport.



Alberta Vieira & Brian Hagenbuch



Tony Hall & Brian Hagenbuch

Visitors to the booth were asked about how the weather impacts their ability to fly and were able to pick up several pamphlets filled with weather information. We had a great time talking to all of the people who stopped by. ♦



Nathan Eckstein & Dave Hadley

2011 Valdez Fly-In

By Carrie Haisley Almon

On May 6, 7, and 8 employees from the National Weather Service Office in Valdez staffed a booth at the annual Valdez Fly-In at Valdez's Pioneer Field. Visitors to the booth were able to pick up pamphlets about our products and services, get an up-close look at some of our forecasting tools, and ask their weather-related questions. Over 200 pilots were in Valdez for the events. ♦



Valdez airport

The Winds of Change The Winds of Change

**A WARM WELCOME GOES OUT TO
ALL NEW EMPLOYEES AND
CONGRATULATIONS ON PROMOTIONS
AND RETIREMENTS!**



New Employees

Christopher Shafer, a local hire from Ft. Richardson, took a temporary Science Aide position at the WC/ATWC effective January 3.

Celine Van Breukelen, from Fairbanks, took a Hydrologist position at the APRFC effective January 18.

Richard Lam transferred from WFO Wilmington, DE to WFO Juneau effective February 13 as a Met Intern.

Patrick Doll, from Algonac, MI, took a Met Tech position at WSO Cold Bay effective March 14.

Jimmy Jones, from McColl, SC, took a Met Tech position at WSO Cold Bay effective March 14.

Rebecca Legatt, from Fairbanks, took an Oceanographer position at the WC/ATWC effective March 14.

Steven Erickson transferred from the Dept. of Defense in Huachuca City, AZ to WSO Valdez and took a Met Tech position effective March 27.

David Streubel, from Salt Lake City, UT, took a Development Operations Hydrologist at APRFC effective March 27.

Michael Lawson, from Grand Forks, ND, took a Met Intern position at WFO Anchorage effective March 28.

James Ellis, from Abilene, TX, took a Met Tech position at WSO Barrow effective March 28.

Retired/Transferred:

Larry Rundquist (Service Coordination Hydrologist) retired from the APRFC effective January 31.

James Salzwedel (Met Tech) transferred from WSO Barrow to WFO New Orleans, LA effective January 15.

Paul Suffern (Meteorologist) transferred from WFO Juneau to the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington, D.C. effective January 31.

Caroline Larsen (Met Intern) transferred from WFO Juneau to WFO Sterling, VA effective January 31.

James Peronto (TV Meteorologist) transferred from AR HQ to Public Affairs Division in Silver Spring, MD effective February 25.

Philip Beda (Met Tech) transferred from WSO Cold Bay to WSO Williston, ND effective March 12.

Scott Beauchamp (Met Tech) transferred from WSO Yakutat to the NWS Data Collection Office in Hilo, HI effective March 12.

Jefferson Wood (Meteorologist) transferred from WFO Anchorage to WFO Buffalo, NY effective March 13.

Cory VanPelt (Hydro-Met Tech) transferred from WFO Juneau to WFO North Platte, NE effective March 20.

Wasyl Hewko (Met Tech) transferred from WSO St. Paul to WFO Boise, ID effective March 26.

Kevin Skow (Met Intern) transferred from WFO Anchorage to WFO Des Moines, IA effective March 27.

YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Employee	Position	Office	Years
Scott Lindsey	Hydrologist	APRFC	20
Rebecca Schwab	Secretary	ARH	15
Robbie Parker	Electronics Technician	WFO Fairbanks	15
David Boytor	Meteorological Technician	WSO Barrow	15
Joe Adkins	Meteorological Technician	WSO Nome	10
Eddy Allen	Maintenance Mechanic	Facilities	10

Monthly Diversity Celebrations

July 4 - Independence Day

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

August 26 - Women's Equality Day

Ninety-one years ago, on August 26, 1920, the ratification of the 19th Amendment to our Constitution was completed, guaranteeing women the right to vote, renewing our commitment to equality and justice, and marking a turning point in our Nation's history.

September 15 - October 15 - National Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, Americans celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

October - National Disability Employment Awareness Month

As Americans, we understand employment and economic security are critical to fulfilling our hopes and aspirations. We also know we are stronger when our country and economy can benefit from the skills and talents of all our citizens. No individual in our Nation should face unnecessary barriers to success, and no American with a disability should be limited in his or her desire to work.

Meetings

As always, meeting minutes and other EEO/Diversity information may be found at <http://eeo.arh.nwsar.gov/>. Meetings are typically at 1 p.m. on the third Wednesday every other month.

July 20, 2011 - nominations
September 21, 2011 - elections

The views expressed in this publication are specific to each author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NWS or US Government.