



Cultural Diversity

National Weather Service
Alaska Region Newsletter
Volume 4, Issue 2 November 2009

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER **By Frank Kelly**

Carrying out the NWS mission through Decision Support Services

As you are all aware, NWS is in the process of updating our Strategic Plan. This activity has been going on for the past year and Version 1.0 of the plan was recently released. The plan describes six strategic goals for the NWS. In a nutshell our goals are strategically chosen to communicate that the NWS knows its mission, is committed to performing that mission the best way possible and ensuring we can continue to perform at the highest levels into the future while working with valued partners and dedicated public servants within a global environment.

For this note, I'd like to focus a little more discussion on the first and fifth goals. The first goal is a statement of our mission, "Prevent loss of life and maximize economic well-being by delivering trusted, impact based weather, water, and climate services." The fifth goal, "Achieve organizational excellence through a diverse, multi-disciplined, and dedicated workforce, modern infrastructure, and sound business processes" is a statement about us, the people accomplishing the mission.

The first goal has an important component in the use of the term 'impact based'. The NWS has always provided high quality services structured around severe weather, winter storms, high winds, floods, and other environmental phenomena. Our performance metrics include measuring our ability to provide adequate lead-time for events and our ability to detect these events. In this new strategic goal, we plan to focus our metrics on the impact our services have on needs and requirements of our customers, users, and stakeholders. This shift in emphasis is based on realizing what we as an agency are passionate about, what we can be the world's best at, and where we make the greatest impact. The underpinning of what we do, as an agency is to make the decisions people need to make, easier for them to make. In all we do we provide decision support services whether it be through the data and information we disseminate or personal interpretation of complex environmental situations on a one to one basis.

To accomplish our mission through decision support services requires the dedication, discipline, and determination of all the people within the NWS. Our fifth strategic goal addresses the 'people part' of the effort. I find it truly astounding to see day to day the way in which the NWS team in Alaska works together in so many ways to meet the mission the public expects from us. At the front of the draft NWS Strategic Plan, our Director, Jack Hayes, writes a letter to us and to the community at large describing who we are, what we do and why. I think Jack sums up the 'people part' of our agency as he states,

"Today's NWS was built by our workforce. We are public servants on the front lines with first responders, dedicated to protecting communities; trusted partners, working across government, academia, and the private sector to advance the science, technology and societal benefits of weather, water and climate services. We are bold innovators in a pioneering service organization - responsive to customer needs, an increasingly sophisticated society, and a changing climate."

When we are working together as a team toward a mission we can all buy into, we will continue to be one of the most effective agencies within the government. We know what we need to do, we do it well, and we are proud to be the National Weather Service! ☺



By Alberta Vieira

The 2nd Annual Anchorage Forecast Center Cinco de Mayo Burrito sale was a success. To spice up the event, a salsa judging contest was held prior to the burrito sale. Six entries vied for the coveted title of "Best Salsa Maker" and five judges carefully narrowed down their favorites to just one. The work was hard. It's a good thing there were burritos in addition to the salsa and chips.

My husband and I prepared over 90 burritos and biscochitos, a New Mexican cookie. The five variety of burritos were green chile and beans; green chile and potato; red chile and beans; red chile and Spanish rice; and one vegetarian burrito made of rice and beans. All but the vegetarian burritos contained cheese and beef. In consideration for those who don't like or can't eat spicy food, squash soup was available for sale. All purchases included a biscochito.

Approximately \$235 in proceeds went to Bean's Café, a local charity that helps feed and offers temporary housing for those who are in need.

The judges found it difficult to pick just one winner because the entries were so delicious in their own way. After nearly eating all the salsas, the judges finally selected Andy Dixon's salsa for its finely chopped consistency and overall spice that was just hot enough without being overpowering. Andy took home \$25 and 2 burritos of his choice as the overall salsa contest winner.

Andy would like to thank all the farmers who made the winning of this contest possible and I would like to thank everyone for making this year's 2nd Annual Burrito Sale and 1st Annual salsa contest a success. ☺



Andy Dixon shown at a balloon release.

ANDEAN EXPERIENCE 2008

*By Michael Richmond
WFO Fairbanks*

Part II: Andean Experience 2008: Destination Bolivia

Day three of my trip was spent visiting the ancient ruins of Tiwanaku, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiwanaku>.



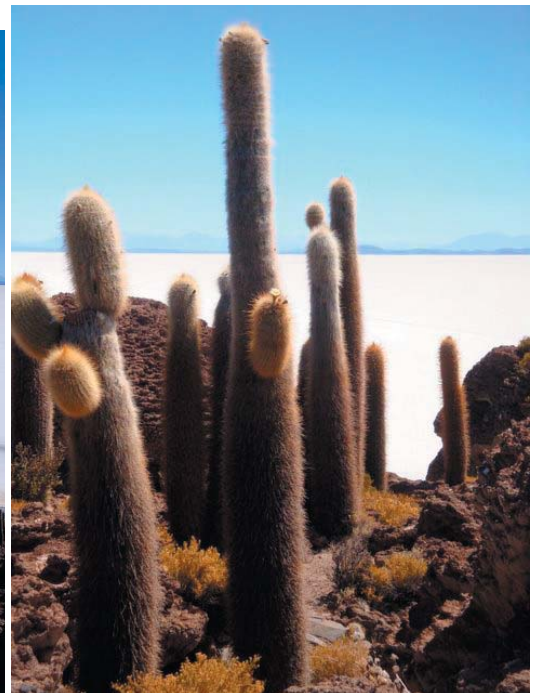
Thought to have been built by the ancestors of the Aymara people, the largest indigenous group in Bolivia, beginning around 1200 b.c. It is still unknown how the large multi-ton rocks were moved 40 miles from their source near Lake Titicaca, then cut and placed so precisely, without iron or steel tools, and modern technology. There are some areas on the walls where a piece of paper or pocket knife blade cannot be inserted. Many fanciful theories involving ancient high-technology lost civilizations or space aliens have

been brought forward, but I'm sure the real methods of its construction will someday be found. The Bolivian government is now conducting more active research and restoration of the ruins. It was fascinating to see them and also good to see, on the day I was there, hundreds of well-behaved schoolchildren from La Paz on a field trip learning about their heritage.



Next on the agenda was my 3-day 2-night tour of the Uyuni Salt Flats, the colored lakes, and bizarre high-altitude landscapes of southwest Bolivia. Seemingly, everywhere you look in central La Paz, tour agencies advertise these, along with mountain climbs, and mountain bike tours. Unless you pay attention, when you pay the standard \$200, you may get to ride with five other tourists, a guide/driver, and a cook (a total of eight people) in a 10 to 25 year old Toyota Land Cruiser. Three long driving days spent jammed in the back and on center seats was hard on my knees, but well worth it. In addition to me, there were three young Irish tourists, a German woman,

and another American along for the ride. First though, I had to hop a jammed local bus from La Paz to Oruro, in central Bolivia, then catch a train from there to Uyuni, the small city on the edge of the salt flat. The bus ride was crowded and long, as to be expected in Latin America. But the train ride was something else entirely. It was clean and modern, with comfortable reclining seats and good food. Amazingly enough, our 12-hour ride to Uyuni was only \$20.00!



Setting out from Uyuni in the Land Cruiser, we just took right off over the salt flat at 60 mph. As you can see, it looks like crusty spring “corn” snow, but the surface is as hard-packed as an asphalt road. In the tropical sun at this high altitude, eye protection is essential! It is the biggest salt flat/lake in the World, three times bigger than our Great Salt Lake, and at an elevation of 12,500 feet. There are several small volcanic islands sprinkled around the flat and, after about two hours driving, we came to the world famous, Incahuasi - the cactus-studded rocks. Looking very much like Arizona with those large cacti, the only clue we had of the high altitude, besides the relatively cool 60°F day, was the extra effort required to ascend several hundred feet to the

top of the island. What is also amazing about this area is the climate. Although it is still in the tropics, at 20 degrees south latitude, that is far enough from the Equator for decided seasonal differences in temperature to occur. This combined with the altitude produces a climate like no other on Earth. Average high and low temperatures in winter on the salt flats are 45°-50°F, and 8°-15°F, respectively! Summer temperatures are comfortable, 60s by day, around 40°F at night. Winter brings the dry season, so snowfall there is rare. The little moisture that comes in summer occurs when convection from the lower elevations to the north and west is forced over the region by the northeasterly trade winds. In the even higher elevations of southwest Bolivia, which we visited on our second and third days, temperatures are even colder and conditions drier!



The above pictures show the amazing and strange scenes to be found in southwest Bolivia. All of these features are found in the Eduardo Avaroa National Park, which covers the extreme southwest corner of the country. Our first night on the salt flat tour was spent in the little village of San Juan de Lipez, near the park, where the accommodations were less than rustic. Tiny beds in a tiny, crowded room up a narrow staircase, with the only bathroom (clean though!) on the bottom level and around the courtyard. But the food was good, our Bolivian cook provided

us with three home-cooked authentic meals daily. I even had Vicuna (the smallest relative of the llama) steak for lunch our first day, which was similar to beef in taste and texture. The flamingoes in the picture on the top, right (previous page), were found in several lakes around the region. They live year-round there, eating algae, even though the lakes partially freeze every night. The strange rock, lower right, was formed by eolian processes; i.e., by the strong prevailing winds in the region blowing sand, which eroded the softer rock. This rock (previous page, bottom left) was on a plain at 15,500 feet, and on our day, a strong northeast wind of 35-45 mph was blowing, and it was about 45°F. The red lake (previous page, lower right) is Laguna Colorado, our destination on day two. The amazing red color of the lake is from algae and there were thousands of flamingoes on it. Truly a strange site, the more so because the wind was even stronger, than up the road where the eolian rock was. All the salt flat tours spend the night at the Laguna Colorado camp, which is a collection of cabins with 8 beds, one cabin per land cruiser. The accommodations were just as rustic as the night before, but comfortable. As it got down to about 15°F that night, and the cabins are unheated, we had all been warned to bring warm clothing and down sleeping bags, and we were glad we did.



We were awoken at 0430 the morning of the third day so we could depart at 0500 to arrive at the geyser area of the park by sunrise, around 0600. This unusual steam geyser was only lukewarm to the touch and there were several others in the vicinity. After breakfast, we headed south and west toward the Chilean border, over a 16,500 foot pass. On the other side of that pass, we came to Laguna Verde (above right) the green lake. It has an otherworldly appearance, as you can see, and there were flamingoes in it. This lake lies at about 14,500 feet. We made a brief foray to the Chilean border, to drop off one our riders so she could catch a bus into that country. Then we made the long, 8 hour ride back to Uyuni, over more windy, narrow, mountain gravel/sand roads. By the time we got back to Uyuni, we all had sore knees and were tired, dusty, and parched, but still stunned by the amazing scenery, something none of us will ever forget. ☺

Sensory Integration Disorder

By Ursula Jones

Not all disabilities are easily identifiable. Sensory Integration Disorder (SID) is one of those relatively hidden disabilities because it isn't always clear there is a problem. Individuals who have SID may have trouble with anything that affects the five senses - touch, sound, sight, hearing, and taste.

SID can manifest in a variety of ways. A child diagnosed with SID may have a mild case where they have difficulty touching soft objects - sand, stuffed animals, shaving cream, etc. Others may have a large range of difficulties, from not being able to cope when more than one activity is occurring to disliking noisy places; i.e., classrooms, sporting events, concerts, etc. Frequently what happens if something occurs that affects individuals with SID, they just shutdown or they have an outburst, which can include, but is not limited to throwing items, yelling, hitting, kicking, and more. This can occur in mild or severe cases.

SID has been overcome successfully in the past, but the right kind of assistance isn't always available when it's needed. I recently attended a SID workshop put on by Kathleen Morris, founder and publisher of S.I. Focus magazine. The workshop began by showing us how severe SID can be, moved into personal experiences she has had working with individuals (children and adults alike), and then onto suggestions on how to overcome SID.

One of Kathleen's biggest successes included working with an orphanage in Romania. When she arrived, most of the children wouldn't communicate, either verbally or visually. Her arrival stimulated their senses so much that they went into sensory overload. During the week she was there, Kathleen gently worked with a little girl who had the severest SID. The girl allowed Kathleen to place a weighted blanket on her and, by doing so, it helped the little girl relax significantly. For some reason, slightly heavy pressure or a weighted blanket can help someone with SID relax. By the time Kathleen left, some of the children were actually talking; something that had never occurred before. The little girl with the severest SID was even smiling before Kathleen left at the end of the week.

As with other disabilities, SID takes patience and understanding to overcome it. You might meet someone who doesn't want to shake your hand. This doesn't mean they don't like you, it could mean that touching your hand makes them feel uncomfortable. Don't make a big deal about it. Move onto something else. Perhaps after you get to know them, they may feel comfortable enough to shake your hand. If SID affects a child, sometimes it helps to hold them when they are having an outburst. It even helps to apply gentle pressure similar to a tight hug to help them calm down faster.

If you ever experience SID firsthand, be patient. Try to look at it from their point of view. If you don't like louder noises, individuals with SID may feel that the noise-level is equal to a canon going off. If you know a parent who has a child with SID, offer to give them a break by watching the child for a couple of hours. Frequently, the children do better after they have had a break from their parents - not to mention that the parents would probably feel refreshed too. If you have a child with SID, don't be afraid to ask for help and, again, be patient; more patient than you ever expected to be. ☺

Making “History” at WFO Fairbanks

By Kelly Songster

The History Channel Ice Road Truckers series has profiled several truck drivers who supply the mineral and oil industries in the Canadian Arctic. The third season of Ice Road Truckers takes place in Northern Alaska and, according to The History Channel’s web site, “It is man and his machine vs. nature and the wildest, roller coaster of an ice road in the world. Only the strong and lucky will survive. Hundreds of talented truckers have lost their lives trying to navigate this route, where one literally never knows what lies around the bend—from unexpected weather to dangerous whiteouts to treacherous terrain.”

The History Channel expected to find intense winter weather along Northern Alaska’s Dalton Highway, otherwise known as the Haul Road. They were rewarded with a surprising number of strong arctic storms in February and March of 2009, severe enough to close

the Haul Road and prevent filming for one or more days at a time. This left the film crew with extra time to spend with the Fairbanks Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Meteorologists, Hydro-Meteorological Technicians, and Interns and expose them to a national viewing audience.



Treacherous conditions exist all winter along the Haul Road and active winter weather increases road hazards. The Haul Road stretches from the Elliot Highway at Livengood to Deadhorse and the oilfields of Prudhoe Bay, through four distinct climate zones, and is one of the most economically viable and weather-critical locations within the Fairbanks forecast area. Along most of its length there are no restaurants, gift shops, service stations, nor cell phone towers—just forest, tundra, and mountains, crossed by a parallel ribbon of road and pipe.



Accurate and timely forecasts can help truckers make decisions to continue, or stop and wait for better weather. Time is not always on the truckers’ side and often they have to keep driving even when conditions are less than ideal. The History Channel’s Ice Road Trucker states: “With less than three months to shuttle critical supplies to the

oil camps of Alaska’s North Slope, drivers are pushed to their limits. These are ice roads of a different breed: The truckers will face 400-plus mile journeys fraught with harrowing danger—steep mountain ice, frozen tundra and the treacherous ice roads of the Arctic Ocean.” This section of highway provides numerous challenges for those who must travel its icy stretches, making it a prime location for the Ice Road Truckers series.

Adam Martin, Supervising Producer of Original Productions at The History Channel, called upon the WFO Fairbanks to provide sound bites about the weather’s influence on



travel along the Dalton Highway. John Dragomir, Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) of the WFO Fairbanks Office, referred Martin to perhaps the most enthusiastic and knowledgeable forecaster at the Fairbanks WFO, Science and Operations Officer (SOO), Eric Stevens. Stevens fielded the first and longest interview in front of the operations area, while in the background, several forecasters acted natural. He was asked a variety of questions, ranging from the National Weather Service mission statement, to Alaska climatology and forecast challenges, to product dissemination.

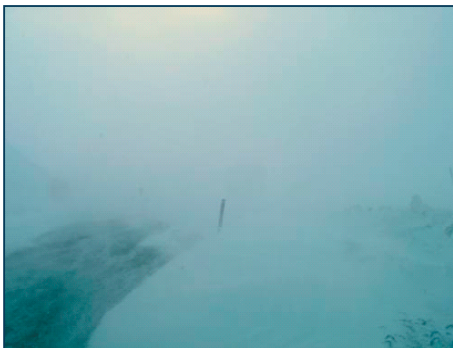
After this initial interview, forecasters were informed the crew would be in the area for the next 10 weeks and they would drop by the office periodically to gain perspective on current weather affecting truckers on the Haul Road.

The film crew visited the Forecast Office in Fairbanks during periods of Haul Road closures to consult meteorologists about the conditions that could compromise the road and what to plan for next. Forecasters Mike Richmond, Corey Bogel, and I were interviewed about daily road conditions. Operational Program Leader, Brad Sipperley and Mike Richmond were accompanied by the film crew for 12 hours as they gathered ice thickness observations on local lakes and rivers for the Alaska River Forecast Center. Sipperley and Ed Plumb, Service Hydrologist, and Daniel Robinson, WFO Intern, were accompanied on their own three day trip up the Dalton Highway to take ice observations as far North as the Sag River.

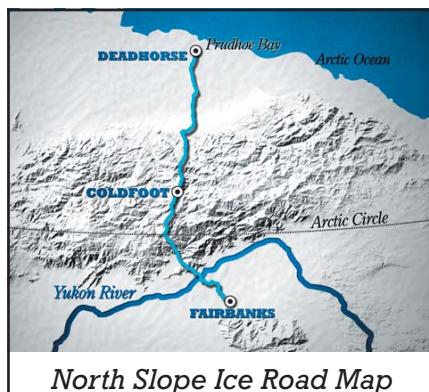
As of this writing, Richmond and some other Fairbanks meteorologists have been included in some of the first episodes. Hopefully, everyone interviewed and filmed gets to see themselves on air. We will be watching each episode eagerly to see if our interviews will be included. Even if our 15 minutes of fame ends up on the cutting room floor, this was the chance of a lifetime and we all had fun “Making “History” at WFO Fairbanks.”

If you missed Season 3 episodes on TV this summer, look for us in full episodes online at The History Channel’s website <http://www.history.com/video.do?name=iceroadtruckers>

Thanks to Kristine Nelson and Carrie Haisley for their editorial help. ☺



Atigun Pass on a GOOD day



North Slope Ice Road Map



The North Side of Atigun Pass

WFO Anchorage New Employees By Alberta Vieira



David Stricklan

In the last six months, the Anchorage Forecast Office has had some changes in personnel.

David Stricklan was born in Salmon, Idaho. After spending 13 years in the Air Force and traveling all over the world, he ended up in Barrow for 2 years. David then spent 3 years in Kodiak before coming to Anchorage for the HMT position.

David is married and has two children. His free time is spent with his family, riding ATV's or snow machines, hunting, fishing, rafting, and camping. David says, "I have been an avid archer for over 15 years and enjoy restoring classic cars". David plans to stay in Alaska and said, "I love it here and see no reason to go anywhere else."

Christian Cassell was just promoted to General Forecaster. He originally moved from Greensboro, North Carolina, to take the internship position in the Anchorage WFO. "I grew up in Danville, Virginia. Before I came to Alaska to work for NWS I was a graduate student at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina."

Christian is married and has one child. His favorite pastimes are nearly every type of sport, movies, researching most anything, playing with his child, and traveling long distances in his car. "So far, I have really enjoyed Alaska, especially the sightseeing from our drive up here and a couple of trips down Turnagain Arm."

He is unsure of how long he will be up here, but the summers might convince him to stay permanently.



Christian Cassell



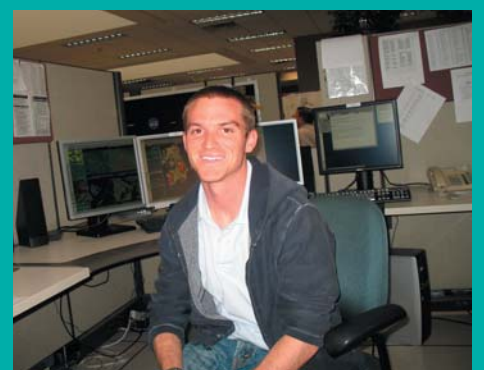
Joshua Maloy

Joshua Maloy grew up in Middletown, a suburb of New York City, which is in the downstate area (southern New York State). He spent four years in Andover, Massachusetts as a Weather Systems Inc (WSI) aviation forecaster. Prior to that, he enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed at Scott AFB, Illinois.

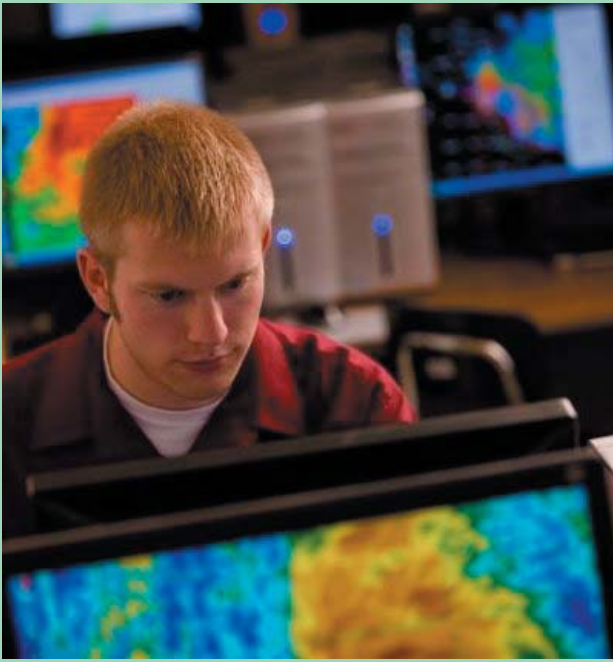
Joshua enjoys bowling, basketball, chess, history books, movies, and watching NFL and MLB. It is too early to say whether he will stay in Alaska, but does want to stay with the NWS.

coming here, I was a graduate student at North Carolina State University." He was recently promoted to a meteorologist position. He is single and interested in almost anything involving fishing. "I have been in Alaska since the last September and think it's a very beautiful state. I don't really plan on being here long term, but just want to enjoy such a unique experience for however long I may end up staying!"

Nathan Hardin was born in Greenville, North Carolina and grew up in both Raleigh and Greenville. "Before



Nathan Hardin



Matt Taraldsen

Prior to coming to Alaska, Matt Taraldsen, a STEP Student (Met Tech) at WFO Anchorage, worked as a student volunteer for two years in Duluth, Minnesota. Matt is currently a senior meteorology major at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Richard Lam was hired as a SCEP for WFO Juneau arriving from Wilmington, Delaware in late May. In 2008, Richard graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in Meteorology and is now pursuing a M.S. degree in Professional Meteorology in the University of Oklahoma.

While in Juneau he has taken advantage of the local trail system because he enjoys hiking, running, and biking. He is the oldest of three boys, with the middle boy attending Cornell University and his youngest brother is in sixth grade.



Richard Lam

Andrea Thorstensen, a STEP student at WFO Juneau, grew up in Hermantown, Minnesota and is currently attending school in St. Cloud, Minnesota. She is currently a third year student



Andrea Thorstensen

majoring in Meteorology and minoring in Hydrology. Andrea previously worked for ERA labs in Duluth and has worked as a tutor and a student grader during the school year.

Andrea has two older siblings and wonderful parents. She enjoys running, fishing, Nordic skiing, swimming, and just about anything else outdoors. This summer she was able to enjoy Juneau's vast trail system. Andrea also enjoys painting, volleyball, and basketball.

The Winds of Change The Winds of Change

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



Geri Swanson, hired from Wasilla, took a Met Tech position at WSO Cold Bay effective March 2.

Donald Smith, from Elizabethtown, Kentucky, took a Met Tech position at WSO Kodiak effective March 16.

Donald Moore transferred from WFO Billings, Montana taking a Techniques Dev/Radar/Aviation Meteorologist at ESSD effective June 7.

Joseph Putera, a local hire from Wasilla, took a Computer Scientist position at WC/ATWC effective June 8.

Terri Walker, a local hire, took a Contractor - IT Specialist position at WC/ATWC effective September 14.

Carrie Larsen, from Wake Forest, North Carolina, took an Intern position at WFO Juneau effective September 14.

STEP Students:

Katherine Lindsey arrived from Provo, Utah effective May 4 (departed July 10) as a Computer Clerk at the APRFC.

Lindsay Tardif arrived from Norman, Oklahoma effective May 18 (departed August 7) as a Met Tech at the APRFC.

Emily Niebuhr arrived from Madison, Wisconsin effective May 20 (departed August 8) as a Met Tech at the WFO Anchorage.

Shannon Hefferan arrived from Venetia, Pennsylvania effective May 26 (departed July 31) as a Computer Clerk at the SIB.

Matthew Taraldsen arrived from St. Cloud, Minnesota effective May 26 (departed July 29) as a Met Tech at the WFO Anchorage.

Charly Clendenning arrived from Columbia, Missouri effective May 27 (departed August 14) as a Physical Science Aid at the AAWU.

Frank Dale arrived from Columbia, Tennessee effective June 1 (departed July 31) as a Met Tech at the AAWU.

Andrea Thorstensen arrived from St. Cloud, Minnesota effective June 8 (departed August 12) as a Met Tech at the WFO Juneau.

SCEP Students:

Richard Lam arrived from Wilmington, Delaware effective May 26 (departed August 12) as Student Trainee at the WFO Juneau.

Travis Wilson arrived from Los Angeles, California effective June 15 (departed September 14) as Student Trainee at the WFO Anchorage.

Promotions:

Nathan Hardin of WFO Anchorage was promoted from a Meteorologist Intern to Meteorologist effective July 5.

Stephen Senisch of WSO St. Paul was promoted from Met Tech to Supervisory Met Tech (OIC) effective July 19.

Christian Cassell of WFO Anchorage was promoted from Meteorologist Intern to Meteorologist effective August 2.

Resigned/Retired/Transferred:

Michael McLaurin, Met Intern, transferred to WFO Wakefield, Virginia from WFO Juneau effective April 11.

Jason Anderson, Meteorologist, transferred to WFO Eureka, California from WFO Anchorage effective April 25.

Edward Doerr, Regional Equipment Specialist, of SIB retired effective May 1.

Ronald Williams, Met Tech, transferred to WFO Duluth, Minnesota from WSO Valdez effective May 8.

Avee Evans, EEO Manager, of AR Headquarters retired effective May 8.

Michael Sullivan, Maintenance Mechanic, of Facilities Shop retired effective May 26.

George Strother, Computer Specialist, of SIB transferred to the Department of Defense effective May 29.

Homer Lane, Quality Control Specialist, of DATAQ retired effective July 2.

Scott Frickey, Met Tech, of WSO Cold Bay resigned effective July 4.

Dutch Smith, Met Tech, of WSO Annette retired effective August 1.

Renee Wise, Meteorologist, of WFO Anchorage transferred to WFO Aberdeen, South Dakota effective August 2.

Joseph Cannon, Special Applications Program Manager for SIB, transferred to the Department of Defense in Germany effective August 24.

Corriene Demientieff, Secretary for SOD, transferred to Bureau of Land Management effective August 28.

Gregory Brillhart, Met Tech for WSO Yakutat, transferred to WFO Rapid City, South Dakota effective September 13.

Duane Carpenter, Public/Fire/Severe Weather Programs for ESSD, transferred to Pacific Region Headquarters effective September 25.



YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Since March 2009

Employee	Position	Office	Years
Jim Jones	Surface/Coop Program Manager	DATA C	35
Colin Sells	Meteorologist	CWSU	30
Paul Shannon	Information Technology Officer	WFO Juneau	30
Debra Elliott	Official in Charge	WSO King Salmon	25
Craig Eckert	Official in Charge	WSO Kodiak	25
Deborah Brown	Administrative Support Assistant	WFO Anchorage	25
Todd Redinius	Electronics Technician	WFO Fairbanks	20
Anthony Davis	Electronics Technician	EUA	20
John Dragomir	Meteorologist in Charge	WFO Fairbanks	20
Kimberly Vaughan	Observing Program Leader	WFO Juneau	20
Michael Richmond	Meteorologist	WFO Fairbanks	20
John Carrick	Information Technology Officer	WC/ATWC	15
Aimee Devaris	Deputy Director	RD	15
Valerie Flynn	Support Services Specialist	Admin	15
Gregory Brillhart	Meteorological Technician	WSO Yakutat	15
Benjamin Balk	Senior Hydrologist	APRFC	10
Ronald Williams	Meteorological Technician	WSO Valdez	10
William Knight	Tsunami Warning and Science Officer	WC/ATWC	10
Janet Herr	Administrative Support Assistant	WC/ATWC	10

Upcoming Monthly Celebrations

October - National Disability Awareness Month
 November - National American Indian Heritage Month
 February - Black History Month

As always, meeting minutes and other EEO/Diversity information may be found at <http://eeo.arh.nwsar.gov/>. The EEO/Diversity meeting dates (third Wednesday of every other month at 1 p.m.) for FY10 are:

January 20, 2010
 March 17, 2010
 May 19, 2010
 July 21, 2010
 September 15, 2010

Officers and SEPM's for FY10 are:

Co-Chair's – Kristine Nelson (CWSU)/Peggy Perales (WSO Valdez)
 Vice-Chair – Pepper Weimer (WFO Fairbanks)
 Recorder – Geri Swanson (WSO Cold Bay)

Alternate Recorder - Vacant

Alaska Native/American Indian – Alberta Vieira (AAWU)
 Asian/Pacific Islander – Stephen Ahn (WFO Juneau)
 Person with Disabilities – Bill Williams (WSO Bethel)

Hispanic-American – Vacant

Upward Mobility – Cory VanPelt (WFO Juneau)
 Federal Women's – Geri Swanson (WSO Cold Bay)
 African American - Tom Miller (WFO Fairbanks)
 Diversity Catalyst - Ursula Jones (WFO Juneau)