

COOP Newsletter: January 2009

Southeast Alaska

A new year is in front of us! What new weather records will be set this year? How often will we hear from our COOP's and Spotters about the weather happening near them, as its happening? I'm excited to see and hear from all of you throughout the year.

New News

New Observer:

On January 1st a new observation site was open in Dyea, near Skagway. Welcome, Jaqueline! Dyea is getting it's start through the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). This site will provide much need data for a data sparse area. Zone 18 aka Skagway, has the unique situation of being our smallest zone measured in square miles, but has the largest elevation variation of all the zones. Most zones have a forecast elevation range up to 300 feet, the exceptions are Skagway (2000 feet), Juneau (1200 feet) and Haines (800 feet).



Weather Coder.....AKA WXCoder

There have been upgrades made to Weather Coder. You can read about the changes on the log-in page of the Weather Coder site. These are changes that the users have been asking for. It's good to know that the developers are listening so if you have any input about Weather Coder, let us know.



Want to hear the buzz? Go to "Forum" to read what other COOPs have to say about things happening around them, or even tell everyone about your latest and greatest weather.



Time for Training





Remember, you are our eyes and ears out there. Anything of interest that you observe or hear about in your area is something we want to hear about, too. Give us a call or send us a Spotter Report.

“Where did all my precipitation go?” Has this ever happen to you?: It’s snowing and the wind is howling. You go out to melt the snow in the can (measuring bucket) and there is hardly anything in it and you know more than that fell because you measured or estimated it on the ground. You can collect a representative sample by finding an area of the new snow that is the depth of the snowfall for the day and take a core sample.

Core sample

1. Find an area of the average depth of the new snowfall for the day.
2. Take the empty can and push it into the snow, open side down.
3. Take a flat object, maybe the snow board, and slide it under the can. Turn can right side up.
4. Melt snow as usual.

Another good source for snow measurement can be found on the National COOP site for the NWS.

Check it out! <http://www.weather.gov/om/coop/snowguid.htm>

Weather Coder observations are looking great! Just remember to measure and report snow to the nearest tenth ie. 1.2, .4 Also, remember to include your snow on ground amount...even when it is 0. Below is an example of correct entries on the B91.

DATE	TEMPERATURE			24 HR AMOUNTS		AT OB
	24 HRS ENDING AT OBSERVATION		AT OBSN	24 HR melted snow, all (in any form)	Snow, ice pellets, (in any form)	Snow, ice pellets, all ice on ground (in)
	MAX	MIN				
1	35	30	32	0.03	T	T
2	32	28	30	0.52	4.3	4
3	31	15	15	0.00	0.0	2
4	39	15	19	0.01	T	0
5	25	3	5	0.00	0.0	0
6	26	5	20	0.75	7.5	8

The Share Lair

This is where YOU get to contribute. Send us photos or tell us about interesting things happening around your area.

Ketchikan had unusually heavy snowfall in December. Eighteen to 24 inches fell in about 12 hours on the 29th. For the month of December, Ketchikan 12.8 COOP measured 41 inches of snow and the Annette Weather Office had 21 inches. The deep snow caused city transportation to suspend bus services and emergency vehicles had to have the plow trucks lead the way. The Ketchikan area normally receives just over eight inches of snow in all of December so this was a lot of snow for Ketchikan!



Picture provided by: Curtis Graham



Team assignments:

Kimberly Vaughan

Elfin Cove
Wrangell
Blashke Island
Meyers Chuck
Point Baker
Coffman Cove
Beaver Falls
12.8N Ketchikan
Hyder
Snettisham
Annex Creek
Hidden Inlet
Canyon Island

Cory VanPelt

Glacier Bay
Gustavus
Haines Customs
Haines #2
Skagway Customs
Skagway Power
Sitka Water
Port Alexander
Little Port Walter
JNU Lemon Creek
JNU Downtown
Pelican
Angoon Power
Angoon Water

Nikki Becker

Hoonah
Lena Point
JNU Mile 17
Eaglecrest
JNU Outer Point
Hidden Falls
WFO Juneau
Auke Bay
Craig
Hollis
Thorne Bay
Petersburg
Juneau-Douglas WWTP
Dyea

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about this or any other COOP matter, feel free to contact us.

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Just for Fun

Find the 9 mistakes

DATE	TEMPERATURE			24 HR AMOUNTS		AT OBS
	24 HRS ENDING AT OBSERVATION		AT OBSN	Rain, melted snow, etc. (in and out)	Snow, ice pellets, (in and out)	Snow, ice pellets, fall ice (in and out)
	MAX	MIN				
1	32.2	30	30	0.02	2	2
2	30	20	18	0.00		2
3	18	12	18	0.75	7.5	8.5
4	35	18	33	0.01	TR	8"
5	38	31	36	0.55	0.0	12
6	M	28	30	0.3	2.3	5

1. Day 1: Max temp should be 32
2. Day 2: Min temp is higher than At OBSN, min temp should be 18
3. Day 2: Missing snowfall entry
4. Day 3: Snow of ground should be 9
5. Day 4: Snowfall should be T
6. Day 4: Snow of ground should be 8
7. Day 5: Snow of ground increased without any snowfall, the two common ways this happens is either: snowfall was not entered or there was blowing snow that drifted the snow, which then an average of the snow depth would need to be done. Mostly likely if no snow fell the correct entry would be 8 or something less, since there was temps above freezing
8. Day 4 or 5: AT OBSN temp on the 5th is higher than the high on the 4th
9. Day6: Rainfall could be anything ranging from 0.25-0.34

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