

COOP NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2009

Southeast Alaska

New News

New Observer:

In the month of February Nikki is in the works for getting the Thane observer, Chris, registered in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). Chris has done a great job calling in his weather during the past year. His information has been especially helpful for writing the local Juneau area forecast with detailed snow amounts, which can differ drastically in a very short distance.



Time for Training



The forms are looking good, but there is always something to talk about. So let's talk: ERRORS. Errors happen and the good news is there is a way to fix them. If there is a mistake that is manually entered on the sheet, just put a red line through it and with a red pen and write the correct entry next to it, or if there is no room then enter it in the remarks. When fixing an entry in WXCoder, the form will not show the correction. Only the corrected data will be displayed. Many of you were given correction tape...sorry we must stop using it on the forms. I'm sure you'll find something else to use it on.

Step by Step Correction using WXCoder

1. Select: "My observations"
2. Select: "Browse previous observations"
3. Find the day that you want to correct and click on that date.
4. The observation for that day will be displayed, Select: "Add correction"
5. Make the corrections has needed.
6. Select: "Submit"
7. Select: "Confirm"



This is the best way to do a correction, although not the only method. Next month we'll talk about another way, but it can be a bit tricky!!

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. Don't know how to send in a Spotter report, let me tell how easy it can be.



Call: Anyone with a phone is welcome to call us, **1-877-807-8943** if outside of Juneau and **790-6824** if in the local Juneau area. We will enter your information and POW! It is archived and message comes up immediately on our screens, showing us the new data.



Computer: Oh yes, there is even a way to send us a Spotter report via the web.

1. Go to: <http://pajk.arh.noaa.gov/spotter.php> or the “SpotterNet” link on the left side of our homepage.
2. Select: **“Enter report”**
3. Fill out the form, as appropriate. Take extra care to put in the correct date and time at the top of the form. If you have not received your spotter number yet (coming soon), do not worry. As long as you select the nearest city, it will be archived in the right area. Putting the location and your name is a huge help in knowing who sent the report.
4. When done with form, Select: **“Submit Observation”**

This is where the POW! part happens on our computers and we get alerted to your report...it’s a very happy moment for us. These reports help us better our forecasts. Ground truth data is a wonderful thing!!!

The Share Lair

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



It was great, I asked for some photos and WOW, I got some!!! Don’t stop, keep them coming.

As was mentioned last month, Ketchikan had gotten A LOT of snow. Here are a couple of other pictures taken on the 28th of December from the COOP observers at 12.8N. He said this was the most snow he has recorded at his site. Check out the beautiful snow garland in the picture on the right.



Pictures provided by: Bill and Wynn

Elfin Cove, “Main Street”, after the storm on January 9th.



Here are a couple of other pictures from around town that day. On the left is a boardwalk. On the right the walk way was dug out, but they missed digging out the swing.



Pictures provided by: Mary Jo

Elfin Cove had three days with more than 10 inches of snow, with five consecutive days of 4 inches or more. As you may have been wondering, yes a snow record was broken. They measured 78.9 inches of snow for the month, breaking the previous record of 67.7 inches set back in 1980. The heavy snow that fell on the 9th of 15.2 inches was only the 8th highest amount on record. Elfin Cove's record daily snowfall is 29 inches that fell on January 11th, 1983. How does this all compare? Elfin Cove's daily average for January is 1 inch, with a monthly average of 29.8 inches....so yeah, this was a lot of snow!!!



Just for Fun



Circle the correct answer to whether or not to do a Spotter Report. Answers at the bottom of this page.

1. I just heard thunder? Yes No
2. It's snowing and I've gotten about 2 inches in an hour? Yes No
3. The wind is very strong and I saw a tree down in town? Yes No
4. My neighbor just told me about his roof getting damage from the wind storm yesterday? Yes No
5. Water levels are high on the local rivers and there is standing water across Main Street? Yes No



Team assignments:

Kimberly Vaughan

Elfin Cove
 Wrangell
 Blashke Island
 Meyers Chuck
 Point Baker
 Coffman Cove
 Snettisham
 Annex Creek
 Hyder
 Angoon Power
 Angoon Water
 Juneau-Douglas WWTP
 Canyon Island
 Hidden Inlet

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
 Petersburg
 Pelican

Nikki Becker

Hoonah
 Lena Point
 JNU Mile 17
 Eaglecrest
 JNU Outer Point
 Hidden Falls
 WFO Juneau
 Auke Bay
 Thorne Bay
 Craig
 12.8N Ketchikan
 Beaver Falls
 Dyea-CoCoRaHS
 Thane-CoCoRaHS
 Hollis

We moved a few stations around, as we have been noticing that different team members are having more contact with stations on someone else's team. So, to try to provide better services, it made sense to make some changes.

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

In Juneau: 907-790-6824

Outside of Juneau: 1-877-807-8943

Kimberly Vaughan: kimberly.vaughan@noaa.gov

Cory VanPelt: cory.vanpelt@noaa.gov

Nikki Becker: nichole.becker@noaa.gov



Answer: Yes to all of them, anytime there is something of any interest let us know.