

COOP NEWSLETTER: MARCH 2009

Southeast Alaska

New News

Calling all Weather Watchers

Do you know someone that likes to watch the weather? If so, we would like to meet them. Tell them about us and how valuable people in the different communities are to us. Find out more about our Weather Spotter Program at <http://pajk.arh.noaa.gov/spotter.php>



Time for Training



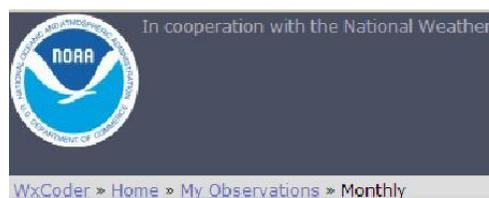
I promised a trick, so here it is! This is for WXCoder users. For everyone out there not using the electronic version, no worries! I'll have something for you, too.

At the end of each month, everyone should be comparing their electronic version of their B-91 with their paper copy. Here is the easiest way I have found, so far.

1. From the **Observations** page, under the **End of Month Close-out**, select: **Review observation for** (Image 1)
2. You will now be on the Monthly page (Image 2). Compare the entries of the electronic version with the paper copy. If a mistake is found on the electronic version, left mouse click on the date that needs to be changed.
3. This will take you directly to the observation for that day and give you the option to correct it. (Image 3)



Image 1



		TEMPERATURE					
		24 HRS			24 HRS		AT OBS
lock	Day	Max	Min	At obs	Rain	Snow	Depth
	1	36	29	33	0.15	0.5	5
	2	38	31	33	T	0.0	4
	3	45	33	43	1.42	0.0	2

Image 2

[Add correction](#)

Observation for Meyers Chuck, AK

Now you can make correction, just like February's newsletter explained by selecting: **Add correction.**

Time of Observation	Feb 1, 2009 at 8AM
Time of Submission	Feb 1, 2009 at 10:05AM
Time of Transmission to NWS	Feb 1, 2009 at 7:05PM UTC
Max temperature	39 degrees F
Min temperature	30 degrees F
At observation	37 degrees F
Precipitation	0.07 inch
Precipitation type	Snow
Snowfall	1.0 inch
Snow depth	1 inch
Precipitation Time of Occurrence	Missing [add]
Present weather	
Observation period weather	
Entered by	wfoajk - WX Office Staff WFO Juneau

Image 3

Paper Version: This goes for everyone! The forms are looking great and here are a few things we've noticed that would help with the clarity of data on the forms.

- Do NOT include the “ ” mark after your snow measurement.
- Enter a **0** for days that do not have snow or there is no snow on ground....do NOT leave blank.
- If a mistake is made and there is no room to line it out and write it in next to it, write it in the remarks section for that day. I.e. Snow: 3.3.

The Share Lair

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

The key word here is “SHARE”! I'm hearing that people like seeing what is going on around SE, so start clicking and attaching. We all want to see what is going on in your neck of the woods.



Mary Jo in Elfin Cove caught this picture on the eave of her house. As the snow from the roof slowly slid down and started to curl it forced the icicles hanging down to be pointing sideways and then start to bend towards the ground, again.

Snow + Melting + Gravity = Cool Icicles



Dr. Wing at the Auke Bay Lab was generous enough to share his 2008 write up.

Auke Bay Climatology/Meteorology, Summary for 2008

The Observer's Complaint

I can not do anything about the weather, but I do observe and speculate about it.

Meteorological observations and their summarization in climatological studies are critical data for fisheries oceanographers and ecologists. Solar radiation, temperatures, and precipitation, and their variations drive ocean currents, circulation, and photosynthetic processes which in turn influence the fluctuations of biological populations important to fisheries. Consequently, daily weather observations and the maintenance of these records are important to NOAA's mission and its several components, NWS, NMFS, and NOS.

Daily weather observations at the Auke Bay Marine Station were initiated in February 1963 as part of the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Program. The observations include the daily maximum and minimum air temperature, daily precipitation, daily snowfall and snow on the ground. Sea surface temperatures have been included since 1975. Daily observation are taken at the end of the work day, about 16:30 hrs.

The calendar year 2008 was notable for being a wet cold year. This was particularly evident the sea surface temperatures (SST) observed at the Auke Bay Marine Station float.

The annual average SST since 1975 has been 8.17 C, the 2008 average SST was 7.38 C, the second lowest annual SST in the time series (Figure 1). With few exceptions, the daily sea surface temperature remained well

below average though out 2008 (Figure 2). The July through mid September was unusually cold. Although it is too early to see the results of such a year on our fisheries, these cold winter/spring/summers have been associated with poor recruitment to salmon, halibut, sablefish and rockfish stocks in Southeast Alaska.

2008 was a typical wet year, having 69.11 inches (175.54 cm) of precipitation compared to the average of 60.64 inches (154.03 cm). Maximum recorded precipitation was 84.80 inches (215.39 cm) in 1991. The nearly continuous cloud cover, especially through the summer, left the impression of an unusually wet year. This was especially so for gardeners and berry pickers, because there was a poor set of most local berries and raspberries went moldy before ripening.

2007-2008 snowfall was well above average, 121.3 inches (308.2 cm) compared to the average of 87.6 inches (189.7 cm). December 2008 had 28.6 inches (72.6 cm) snowfall, not greatly different from the average 21.0 inches (53.3 cm). However this snow fall did not penetrate through the tree cover, thus leaving the ground uncovered, and exposed to deep freezing during the middle of the month. This does not bode well for those animals (i.e. toads and some insects) and plants that depend on snow cover insulation during their winter hibernation and stream flows during the winter when salmon eggs and fry are still in the stream bed gravel.

Air temperatures

Monthly average air temperature followed much the same pattern as the sea surface temperatures. The monthly mean high temperature (Figure 3) was below average from May through October. This was probably due to the near continuous cloud cover excluding incoming solar radiation. The monthly mean low temperatures were not significantly different for the long term averages, while the mid range temperature were slightly below normal through the summer and early fall.

Side note:

January 2009 has been unusual by having alternating very cold and record warm periods along with record rains and record snows. With over 72.4 inches snow and 9.65 inches of precipitation, this January was the highest January snowfall and precipitation at Auke Bay. Maximum snowfall for January was 71 inches in 1982. Previous maximum precipitation was 9.38 inches in 1985.

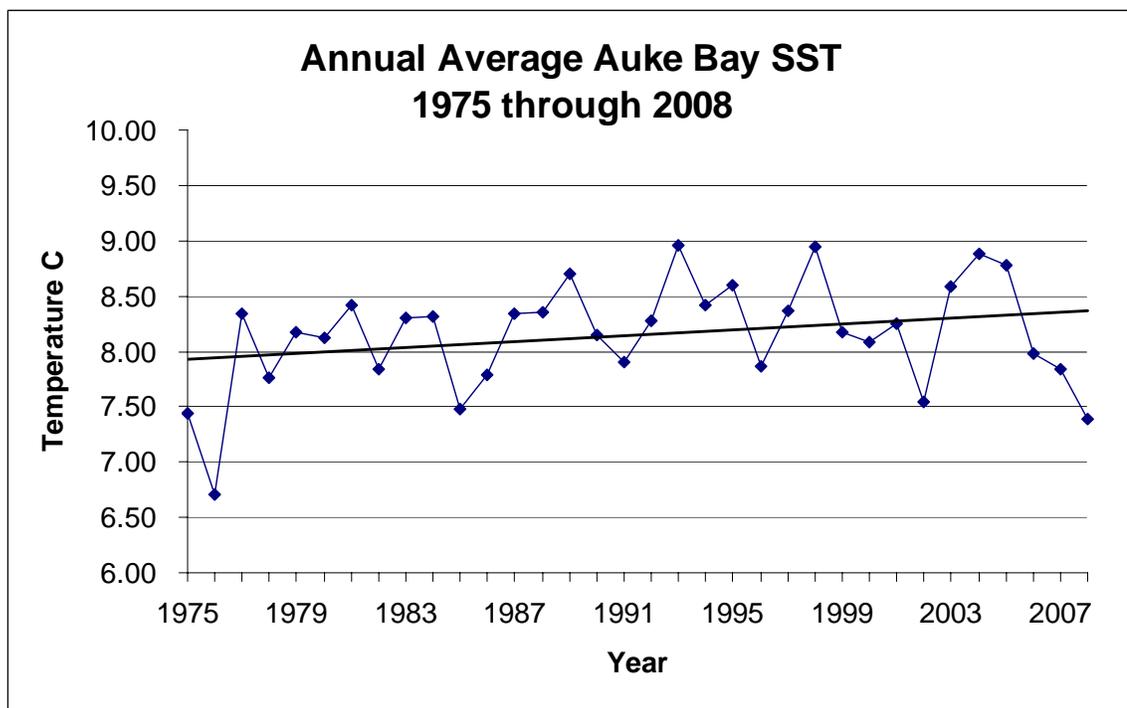


Figure 1.

Figure 2.

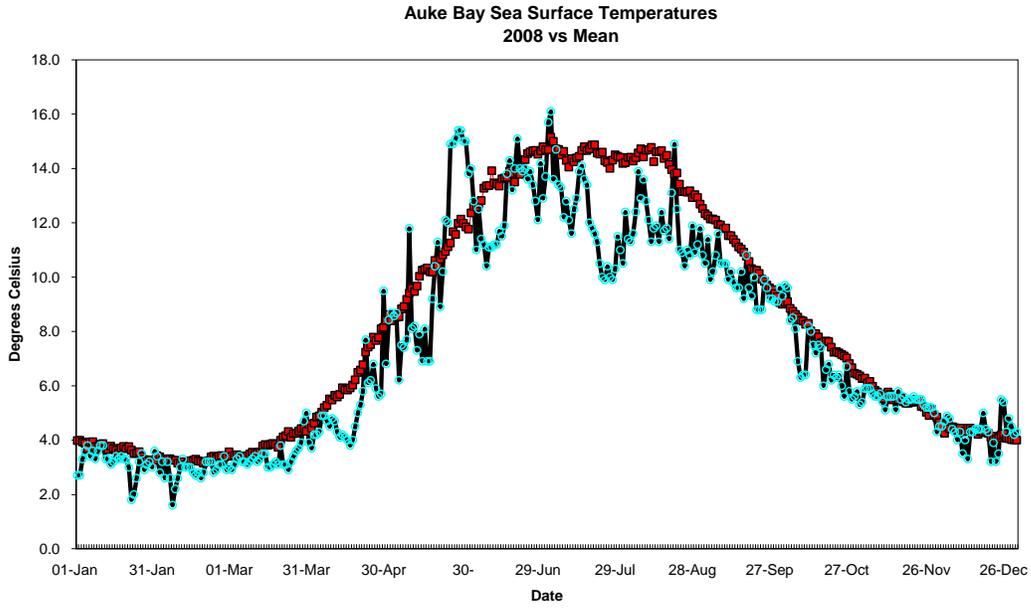
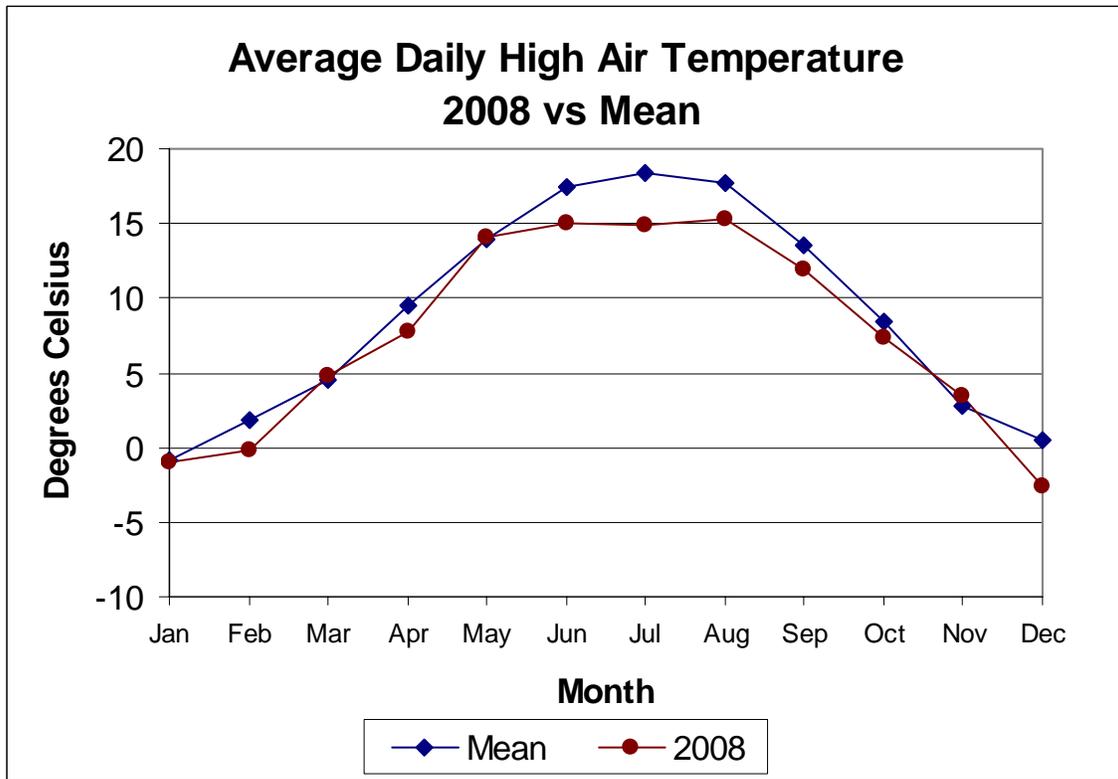


Figure 3.





Just for Fun



Snow is just snow, right? Not so! Check out this interesting site with awesome pictures.

<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/class/class.htm>



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

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

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