

National Weather Service, WFO Juneau

COOP Corner

Dr. Bruce Wing Receives His 30 Years of Service Award

Special points of interest:

- Congratulations, Bruce!
- 10 things to do before we come knocking
- Do you know where the “windy place” is?
- To measure or not to measure?
- Wrangell, Way to go!
- Going Paperless with WxCoder

The Auke Bay COOP was established in February 1963. Kennedy was President. This was the year Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I have a dream” speech. The price of gas was 29 cents a gallon, a loaf of bread cost 22 cents and you could buy a brand new Plymouth Fury for less than \$3000.

Dr. Bruce Wing watched as the weather equipment was installed in 1963. In July 1979 Bruce became the primary observer for the Auke Bay COOP. Bruce is our longest running observer, with Auke Bay being one of the oldest stations. Auke Bay COOP is also one of the most complete

Photo by: Dodie Leopold



observation databases in Southeast Alaska. His dedication and attention to detail is strongly reflected by the quality of data that is collected.

Since the start of this station over 17,000 days of data has been collected. Since 1979, Dr. Wing has single handedly ensured that nearly 11,000 of those days were recorded. He has accomplished this not only by collecting the data himself but more importantly, found someone to collect the data in his absence.

Dr. Wing and the staff at Auke Bay Lab have aided in better daily forecasting and understanding the dynamic climate of the local Juneau area, the Panhandle, Alaska, and the globe.

Thank you, Bruce!

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We have started planning for this year’s station visits and we are looking forward to see all of you!

To help us help you better here is a list of things to do before we come:

1. Do I have a snowboard?
2. Do I have a snow stick and can I read the tic marks?

Station Visits

3. Do I have a rain stick and can I read the tic marks?
4. How do the plugs and wiring look for the Temperature sensor (a.k.a. Beehive) and display?
5. Is anything wrong with the Beehive or display?
6. Do I have at least 15 sheets left in my B91 book?
7. How many envelopes do I have with the correct postage?
8. Do I have any envelopes with insufficient postage?
9. Is the snow stake readable and in good condition?
10. Is the sea water temperature thermometer readable and in good condition?

Observer Spotlight By: Nikki Becker



John, Dyea CoCoRaHS
Observer

John is a CoCoRaHS observer from Dyea, which is about 8 miles northwest of Skagway. He and his wife live along the banks of the Taiya River near the start of Chilkoot Trail. Skagway is from the Tlingit word “skagua”, which translates to “windy place,”¹ and maybe that is why he lives in Dyea (Tlingit for “to pack”²), where there is normally less wind and more snow than Skagway.

In the early 1970s, John ventured to Skagway from Washington to teach science, after receiving his degree from University of Washington in Fisheries. Like so many other Alaskans, he came here for adventure and discovered he had found a home.

A few years later, John decided on a career change to become a railroad conductor for the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad and has been working there ever since.

In the summer he pilots one of the daily tourist trains to Carcross. When the tourist season ends, he pilots the rotary snow plow train. John enjoys gardening and fishing when he is not piloting trains or checking the weather.

¹ Source: Jeff Brady, “Skagway History,” Skagway Convention & Visitor Bureau, 2003. <http://www.skagway.com/>

history.html.

² Source: “Dyea,” National Park Service, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, 2006. <http://www.nps.gov/klgo/historyculture/dyea.htm>.

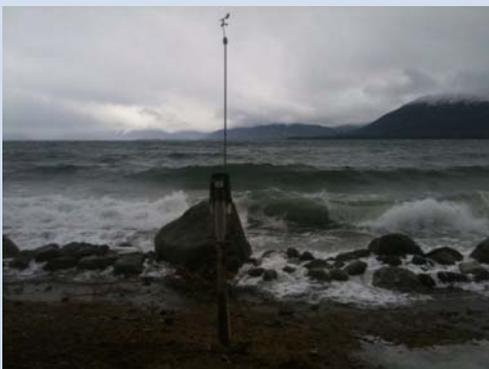
Photos Provided by John



Rotary snow plow train on the White Pass and Yukon Route

*A good snapshot
stops a moment
from running
away.
~Eudora Welty*

Photos from the Field



From our best Weather Spotter on South Shelter Island. Ken sent us these pictures he took from his home on Shelter Island.

Left: This was taken during a 17.1 ft tide with 4 ft seas.

Right: A beautiful sunset on a calm evening.



Time for Training

Don't put away those snowboards quite yet! As spring creeps closer, here are some important things to remember.

Questions

Q1: Do I need to enter a snow amount on the form if no snow fell?

Q2: Do I need to enter a snow on ground when there is no snow on the ground?

Q3: Do I measure hail, ice/snow pellets, and snow grains?

Q4: If heavy frost accumulates, do I measure it as precipitation?

Q5: What day of each month do I need to mail off my B91 and/or close out my station in WxCoder by?

Answers

A1: Yes! This is very important for both the paper and electronic version. Hail is also entered in the snow, ice pellets and hail column and can occur year round.

A2: Yes! Just like the snow amount this should be entered every day. Ice pellets and hail can accumulate.

A3: Any frozen precipitation shall be measured and recorded.

A4: Nope! Precipitation is only what actually "falls" from the sky. Frost is a deposit of moisture on to surfaces.

A5: No later than the 5th of each month. A good rule of thumb is to double-check your form everyday and then, after entering the last day of the month, triple check the form and mail off and/or close the form.

Photo by: Kimberly Vaughan



8 inch rain gauge in Meyers Chuck

Get over the idea that only children should spend their time in study. Be a student so long as you still have something to learn, and this will mean all your life. ~Henry L. Doherty

Roland is January's Observer of the Month

Photo by: Kimberly Vaughan



Roland and his Daughter
Kathleen

The observation forms are looking good! The people using WxCoder have been doing a great job at checking over their data and remembering to close out their form each month. It is hard to decide on just one observer to recognize each month, but I am excited about the challenge. I hope to have this task become more difficult as time goes by.

What we are looking for:

1. Completeness of data.
2. Sending form in on time.
3. Correctness of data.
4. Is important information being communicated?

We want to recognize all the hard work and dedication that is being done around Southeast.

Great job, everyone!

If you ever have any concerns about your form or data being collected, do not hesitate to call Nikki, Cory, or myself. We are here to serve your COOP needs.

January Observer

of the Month

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Wrangell

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

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Check us out on the web!
<http://pajk.arh.noaa.gov>

2010 is Here and We Are SO Excited!

A new year is here and, with it, the hope for great weather! Some like a lot of snow, some like cool summer temperatures and some love the rain. Whatever type of weather you might like, the question is: Will it get recorded?

Share the Fun

Our COOP network here in Southeast Alaska is doing well, but we still need more COOP stations, do you know of anyone that might enjoy the opportunity to become a COOP?

Some of the obvious places we would like to have a COOP station are: Tenakee Springs, Kake, Klawok, and

Hydaburg. Some places that could use more COOPs are Ketchikan, Yakutat, and Sitka.

WxCoder

WxCoder has had a few hiccups and improvements. Has everyone seen the new way to enter multiple days of precipitation? We are going to be moving to the next step with WxCoder this year, by selecting a few stations at a time to go completely paperless. Many of you are already doing a great job completing your form electronically and closing it out for the month. We will be working towards having all of the stations "paperless", by year's end.

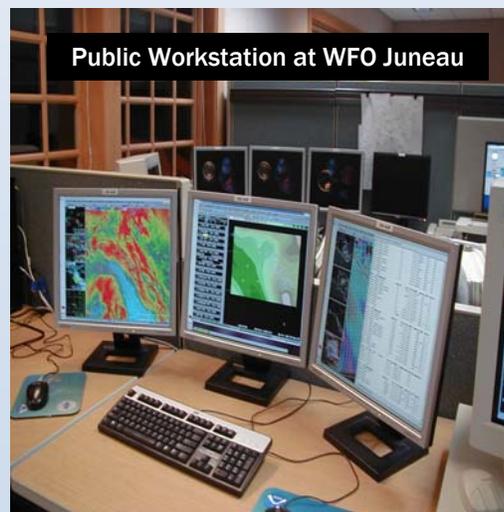


Photo by: Kimberly Vaughan

Not to worry if you are one of the stations without computers or Internet access, we will continue to do business as usual.