

National Weather Service, Juneau, Alaska

COOP Corner

Special points of interest:

- Tears of joy and sadness
- Test your B91 and WxCoder knowledge
- Observers of the month
- Getting to know Nikki

Inside this issue:

New News	1
Time for Training	2
Observer of the Month	3
Observer Spotlight	4
Contact Information	4

New News: A Double Farewell

Farewell to Paul and Carrie!

Two forecasters from WFO Juneau have moved on to the big city in the lower 48 this past January after getting married in December 2010.

Paul came to Juneau in January 2007, fresh out of graduate school, and worked his way up from intern-meteorologist to General Forecaster. Many of you, at one point, have probably talked to him on the phone or even had the pleasure of meeting him. Paul left the National Weather Service to work in our nation's capital as a Meteorologist for the National Transportation and Safety Board.

Carrie came to Juneau in September 2009 and worked as an Intern Meteorologist. She transferred to Sterling, Virginia forecast office to follow her new husband, Paul.

They will both be missed, but we wish them the best of luck in there new adventures.



Time for Training:

It is always amazing how much data is collected by dedicated volunteers in SE. With 38 stations, there are more than 220 weather element being recorded every day! With so much information, it is inevitable that there might be few mistakes. I have made up a fun little quiz to help everyone to do. Some answers may have more than one correct answer.

Questions are on the left with answers on the right.

QUESTIONS

- No snow has fallen in the last 24 hours, for snowfall I will:
 - Leave the snowfall blank for the day
 - Enter 0
 - Enter 0.0
 - Enter M (missing)
- I saw snow fall during the 24 hours, but it never accumulated on the ground. For snowfall I will:
 - Leave the snowfall blank for the day
 - Enter T (trace)
 - Enter 0
 - Enter 0.0
- It snowed during the day and I measured 2.4 inches on the ground before going to bed. The next morning when I measured for my daily reading, there was only 1.7 inches on the ground. For snowfall I will:
 - Enter 2.4
 - Enter 1.7
 - Enter M (missing)
 - Enter E (estimated)
- I enter my data in WxCoder every day, what else do I do.
 - Review the monthly form to ensure that the paper form and the electronic form match
 - Close out the form no later than the 5th of the next month
 - Do nothing, I know I entered it right the first time
 - Close out the form whenever I get around to it

ANSWERS

- (c) is most correct, but (b) is acceptable on the paper version. The electronic version will automatically enter it to the nearest tenth. Even when the value is zero, there needs to be an entry. This ensures that the value is correctly understood. There may be a time when the snowfall measurement might not have been taken and the correct entry would “M”, for missing. This is true for all of the entries that you do.
- (b) Anytime that snow or other frozen precipitation falls during the 24 hour period, even if there is never any accumulation, is measured as a trace (“T”).
- (a) You enter the highest measurement taken during the 24 hours. This is one of the reasons it can be important to take snow measurements more than once a day (do NOT clear the board, until the end of the day). Temperatures around SE can fluctuate and snow cover can come and go quickly. You can make a remark to help clarify the snow happenings of the day. An example might be REMARKS: Snowed 2.4 inches by noon and then completely melted away overnight.
- (a) and (b) are the correct answer. Just like the paper versions you should be done with your form no later than the 5th of the next month. This ensures that the data you meant to enter was what you actually entered and have written on you paper version. As we transition to paperless, this becomes more and more important.

December Observer of the Month – Skagway



Photo courtesy of Skagway Convention and Visitor Bureau

Skagway COOP has been doing a great job for years. The site is at Alaska Power and Telephone, and whether it is Darren's work day or his day off he is diligently ensuring that the observations are done everyday. He also collects a daily river reading for our River Forecast Center.

It is his tireless duty that makes this one of our top stations month after month...year after year.

Thanks!!

January Observer of the Month – Little Port Walter

Little Port Walter has been a COOP site for nearly 75 years. There have been many different observers during this time, but the common thread has been the always diligent collection of data.

At the end of last summer, you might remember that our observers changed hands down there at Little Port Walter. The latest observer has been doing a great job and January was another stellar month. A huge thanks to Angela for taking the time in an already busy schedule to complete the daily observations.



Observer Spotlight: By: Cory Van Pelt

Nikki was born in North Carolina, but considers the whole East Coast her home because she moved frequently with her family as a “military brat”. She continued that lifestyle on her own when she joined the U.S. Air Force at the age of 20. Specializing in weather, she worked in Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, South Dakota, Anchorage, Egypt, Bosnia, and even Antarctica, where she performed surface observations and launched weather balloons.

She arrived at WFO Juneau in May 2007 as a Hydro-Meteorological Technician. In August 2009, she received her Bachelors degree in Meteorology from Mississippi State University.

Outside of work, Nikki spends all of her free time with her 4 year old son and her husband. They are expecting a second child in July. Now that she has attained her degree, she plans to be reclassified as a Meteorologist and begin moving further into the forecast operations at WFO Juneau.



Nikki and her dog, Kuma.



Launching a weather balloon in Antarctica.

8500 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, Alaska 99801

COOP Team: 907-790-6818
Office: 907-790-6824
Fax: 907-790-6827

Contributing writers:
Nikki Becker (HMT)
Cory Van Pelt (HMT)
Kimberly Vaughan (OPL)
Editor: Ursula Jones (ASA)

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

In Juneau: 907-790-6824 or 907-790-6818
Outside of Juneau: 1-877-807-8943

Kimberly Vaughan: kimberly.vaughan@noaa.gov
Cory Van Pelt: cory.vanpelt@noaa.gov
Nikki Becker: nichole.becker@noaa.gov

Check us out at: <http://weather.gov/juneau>