

The WE Eye

A Southern New England
Cooperative Weather Observer Newsletter



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B91 TIDBITS

Back in the day the Government Printing Office printed a plastic Quality Control (QC) Temperature Overlay, known as form TA B-0-27. Perhaps some of you may have one of these fine artifacts lying around your desk. This handy dandy overlay fits perfectly over the B91 form and ensures an observer reports the correct max and min temperatures. For example:

Maximum Temperature

MAX must be *equal to or higher* than highest AT OBSN TEMP IN THESE BLOCKS.

		At OBSN
4th	MAX	_____
5th	_____	_____

In the above example, let's say that on the 4th day of the month your observation temperature was 64. The next morning on the 5th, your observation temperature was 70. Your 24 hour max temp should be greater than or equal to 70.

Minimum Temperature

MIN must be *equal to or lower* than the lowest AT OBSN TEMP IN THESE BLOCKS.

		At OBSN
4th	MIN	_____
5th	_____	_____

In the above example, let's say that on the 4th day of the month your observation temperature was 64. The next morning on the 5th, your observation temperature was 70. Your 24 hour min temp needs to be equal to or lower than 64.

Most observers report correctly, however every now and then an observer trips up. For example, can you see what is wrong with the following max temperature?

		At OBSN
4th	MAX	<u>50</u>
5th	<u>53</u>	<u>55</u>

Assuming the observation temperatures are correct, *the max temp must be equal to or greater than the highest at observation temperature*, meaning equal to or greater than 55! So the max temp should be reported as 55 and not 53.

The following example comes from an actual B91 form. Try to figure out what is wrong with the min temperature.

		At
		OBSN
4th	MIN	<u>59</u>
5th	60	<u>63</u>

Assuming the observation temperatures are correct, *the min temp must be equal to or lower than the lowest at observation temperature*, meaning equal to or lower than 59! So the min temp should have been reported as 59 and not 60.

Sometimes errors occur because of rounding errors when reading off of the temperature displays. For example, an observer may record 64.4 degrees as 65 instead of 64. Or perhaps an observer may record 55.5 degrees as 54 instead of 56 degrees.

I have enclosed a copy of the QC Temperature Overlay, a fine piece of government handy work, for your use!

WXCODER FOLKS

We are not ready to go paperless yet. For those using the WxCoder software, some of you still mail me paper copies of your B91s or you email an Excel version of your B91. Meanwhile, at the end of the month I download your B91s from WxCoder and do a horizontal QC with the B91s mailed/mailed to me. Many times the paper copies don't match up with the

WxCoder forms. This is not good. Sometimes I think the errors are just a keystroke error. But could you please QC your WxCoder monthly form against your paper records? It will help the cause tremendously. Our regional and national climate centers have access to WxCoder, so please ensure your WxCoder data is correct. At the end of a month, please review your WxCoder B91 against your paper records and make any edits or corrections, preferably before the 5th of the next month.

PAPER FORMS OF THE B91

Please remember to send your paper copy of your monthly B91 to our office by the 5th of following month. In other words, try to get it in the mail by the 5th! If the 5th is not feasible for some reason, please forward no later than the 10th. This will give me time to QC the data before forwarding to the National Climate Data Center. This is not necessarily an easy task, as there are about **76 forms** to QC! Yikes!

ROSA FOLKS AND IV-ROCS

It is unbelievable but true. The ROSA computers are still working! Like the Energizer Bunnies, they take a licking and keep on ticking – *until you pull the battery!*

On a national and regional level, the Coop Program Managers are being advised to switch ROSA folks over to the Interactive Voice-Remote Observation Collection System (IV-ROCS). This system is very similar to ROSA. You just need a touch tone phone – even a cell phone would do! And the beauty of IV-ROCS is that it works with the WxCoder software. Each day when you phone in your ob, our office not only receives your valuable data but in addition, IV-ROCS will write your ob into the

WxCoder software where it will build your B91. Allow me to show you this technology when I come around for a visit.

To clarify, to use IV-ROCS you do not need a computer; however I only mention it's relation to the WxCoder software if you have a computer.

WxCoder folks can also use IV-ROCS. For example, one observer who uses WxCoder daily had a computer virus so they could not log into WxCoder for awhile. Until their computer got replaced, they phoned in their ob each day via IV-ROCS and in so doing were able to build their B91 day by day while ensuring our office received their valuable data. Pretty cool!

CLOUD CHART

Do you like looking at clouds or perhaps have your head in the clouds? Want to see what clouds you are looking at or what clouds you are in? Check out the following link for a cloud chart:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/brochures/cloudchart.pdf>

EXACTLY 2.00 INCHES MEASURED IN YOUR CAN

Have you ever received exactly 2.00 inches of rain in your Standard Rain Gauge? This can happen in a heavy rain event. But, if you measure exactly 2.00 inches, you should check your overflow can. The Standard Rain Gauge is designed in such ways that when your inner tube fills to the top, the overflow will flow into the overflow can – thus its name! So if you measure exactly 2.00 inches of rainfall, better check the

overflow can for any overflow! If there is overflow, pour the remainder in the inner tube, measure, and then add this to the 2.00 inches. In rare instances, you could have more than 4.00 inches of rain which would mean doubling your fun (besides doubling the pumping of water out of your basement)! In this instance, you would have more than 2 inner tubes full (each inner tube holds exactly 2 inches of water) to measure the amount of rainfall. Just measure each inner tube after it is filled, and total them up.

NON-SCHEDULED REPORTING OF ABUNDANT RAINFALL (≥ 2.00 inches)

We would like to encourage our Coop observers to relay to our office when you receive an unusual **2.00 inches or more of precipitation**. This report would be above and beyond your normal scheduled 24 hour observation. Please relay this observation to our office at:

800-243-1686

If you have a WxCoder account, you can send this additional observation through WxCoder or simply just call our office with your interim report. But if you wish to send the additional report through WxCoder, when you go to enter a non-scheduled observation, the default Type of Observation is for the 24-hour period immediately preceding the time of observation (e.g., if your observation is at 7:00am today, the 24-hour period is 7:00am yesterday to 7:00am today). WxCoder will allow you to enter other, more specialized observations as shown in the Type of Observation pull-down menu. Note that these observations will NOT replace or act as a substitute for your regular 24-hour observation - these are above and beyond observations that you are welcome to enter. If you were to enter an

additional non-scheduled report of 2.00 inches or more of rainfall, chose the Type of Observation from the pull-down menu that best applies.

If you are an IV-ROCS or ROSA observer and want to relay 2.00 inches or more of rainfall inbetween your scheduled observation, please call our office with your special report.

So you ask yourself why? The Northeast River Forecast Center (NERFC) provides river forecasts for our region (amongst other things). Much of the data they ingest come from Cooperative Weather Observers who report once a day. Receiving interim significant and unusual precipitation events can only help with the NERFC river forecasts. This could mean more timely issuances of flood watches, advisories and warnings which are issued by your local National Weather Service offices – which in Southern New England are issued by the Taunton office.

You are the eyes and ears of our community and your data is not just the backbone of our nation's climate history, but your timely observations, whether scheduled or interim, aid in timely issuances of watches, advisories and warnings!

So, we ask that you relay to the NWS in Taunton (800-243-1686) when you receive ***2.00 inches or more of rainfall in your rain can.***

STANDARD RAIN GAUGE TIDBITS

If you rub Ivory soap on your precipitation stick from time to time, it will help it be more absorbent.

Rubbing wax on your Standard Rain Gauge funnel will allow for a free flow of water into your inner tube.

WINTER TIME PREPARATION



As winter nears, remember to remove the funnel and inner tube from your Standard Rain Gauge. This will allow frozen precipitation to freely gain access to your overflow can! Once the frozen precipitation (which could be mixed with liquid rain) makes it into the overflow can, you can melt it down, pour into the inner tube and get an accurate measurement.

WE SAYS GOODBYE AND WE SAYS HELLO – 🎵 Hello Hello 🎵

Jeanne Walsh was our observer from Milford, NH since December 2000. She took her last observation from her backyard on May 22, 2008. Jeanne and her husband Bob retired and moved to Arizona for new adventures.

With Jeanne's departure, the Milford Water Utilities Department took over observations for Milford, NH. Milford Water began observations June 2008.

So goodbye Jeanne and hello Milford Water!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Have questions? In need of equipment or supplies? Equipment not working? Please call Kimberly Buttrick or William Simpson.

National Weather Service
445 Myles Standish Blvd.
Taunton, MA 02780

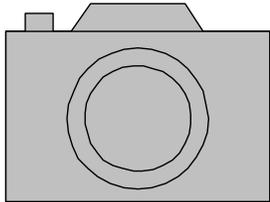
508-823-2262 or 508-823-1983 or
800-243-1686
Fax: 508-823-2321

Email: Kimberly.Buttrick@noaa.gov

William.Simpson@noaa.gov

Web: www.weather.gov/boston

WE RECOGNITION



Without further adieu, let's get to the award recipients. WE (*The Weather Eye*) of Southern New England thank all of you for your dedication to and interest in weather data collecting. Your daily efforts are much appreciated. Look ahead to the following pages to view a number of folks and institutions that have received length of service awards over the past year.

Those not pictured but who received awards are as follows:

Water Supply Division of the Metropolitan District Commission – Burlington, CT

- 75 Year Institutional Award

Pennichuck Water Works of Nashua, NH

- 75 Year Institutional Award

Doug Williams of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Quabbin Section – Belchertown

- 25 Year Length of Service Award

Pat Tetreault of The Army Corps of Engineers – East Brimfield Lake, MA

- 25 Year Length of Service Award

Jeanne Castles of Fitzwilliam, NH

- 25 Year Length of Service Award

Michael Iacono of Blue Hill Observatory and Science Center, MA

- 20 Year Length of Service Award

Keith Beecher of The Army Corps of Engineers – East Brimfield Lake, MA

- 15 Year Length of Service Award

John Slamin of Natick, MA

- 15 Year Length of Service Award

Delia Vogel of The Army Corps of Engineers – Barre Falls Dam, MA

- 10 Year Length of Service Award

Eleanor Linkkila of Hampton, CT

- 5 Year Certificate of Appreciation

Fintan P. Moore, Jr. of Keene, NH

- 5 Year Certificate of Appreciation



The venerable Robert E. Lautzenheiser (center) of Reading, MA receives a 45 Year Length of Service Award from Ed Capone, Service Coordination Hydrologist with the Northeast River Forecast Center. Bob's wife Dorothy stands by his side. Being the quintessential weather man and former Massachusetts State Climatologist, Bob met Dorothy in a snow storm in February 1969 – aptly so!



The Milford Water Company, MA receives a double header! Frank Astephen (left) receives a 30 Year Length of Service Award from Nicole Belk, Service Hydrologist with the National Weather Service in Taunton. Robert Klein (right), the Operations Manager at Milford Water accepts a 75 Year Institutional Award for the Company!



Kingston, RI hits the trifecta! Carl Sawyer (left) and Don Timpson (right) accept a 75 Year Institutional Award for their site. Carl receives a 20 Year Length of Service Award and Don receives a 10 Year Length of Service Award. The Kingston site is located at the University of Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station. This site is part of our nation's Historical Climate Network with records dating back to July 1888!

The Woonsocket Water Treatment Plant, RI receives a 75 Year Institutional Award. The award is accepted by Dan Darling!





The Southbridge Water Department of Massachusetts receives a 50 Year Institutional Award. Those accepting the award are from left to right: Tom Cutler, Don Dashnaw and Steve Gregoire.



The Army Corps of Engineers – Buffumville Lake, MA receives a 50 Year Institutional Award. Jamie Kordack (right) accepts the award from Kim Buttrick.



Charles B. Strickland (center) of Marlow, NH receives a 30 Year Length of Service Award from Bill Simpson. Standing to Charlie's left is his family pet, Bridget. Charlie and Bridget walk daily around the neighborhood, rain or shine, hot or cold! But we wonder who is walking who?

Ralph Gendron of The Army Corps of Engineers – Barre Falls Dam, MA receives 2 awards! Ralph personally receives a 25 Year Length of Service Award while Barre Falls Dam receives a 50 Year Institutional Award.





The Army Corps of Engineers – Otter Brook Lake, NH receives a 50 Year Institutional Award. Christie Baker (center) holds the institutional award. James Lewis (right) receives a 20 Year Length of Service Award and John Asseng (left) receives a 10 Year Length of Service Award.



Here is the gang at The Army Corps of Engineers – East Brimfield Lake, MA. Pictured from left to right: Thomas Chamberland (receiving a 25 Year Length of Service Award), Glenna Vitello, Pat Tetreault, Matt Coleman and Keith Beecher.



William E. Houghton (center) of Walpole, NH receives a 25 Year Length of Service Award from Bill Simpson and Kim Buttrick.



Richard F. Leavitt (2nd from left) of Franconstown, NH receives a 25 Year Length of Service Award. To Dick's left is his wife Lois of 56 years! On Dick's right is his daughter Sylvia, a retired Air Force nurse, holding Oreo and Ginger. To Sylvia's right are Dick's grandson Stephen and his girlfriend Desiree.



Steve Olsen of Storrs, CT receives a 20 Year Length of Service Award from Kim Buttrick. Steve works at the University of Connecticut with the Department of Plant Science – College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Storrs coop site is part of our nation’s Historical Climate Network with a weather record that dates back to June 1, 1888!



Peter Izyk of Belchertown, MA receives a 20 Year Length of Service Award. Peter works with The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation – Quabbin Section. Peter stands in front of a portion of the Quabbin Reservoir.



Jeff Phillips (left) of The Army Corps of Engineers – Birch Hill Dam, MA receives a 20 Year Length of Service Award. His co-worker Zach Koziol congratulates him! Jeff is not in uniform for this picture because the day he received this award was his last day with The Corps! We wish Jeff well in his future career – out of uniform!



Tom Mattus of Ashburnham, MA receives a 20 Year Length of Service Award with his wife Karen by his side. Tom is a Meteorologist with Commander's Weather located in Nashua, NH.



Ed Greenough (left) of The Army Corps of Engineers – West Thompson Lake, CT receives a 15 Year Length of Service Award from Bill Simpson.



Jeff Mangum and James West of The Army Corps of Engineers – Tully Lake, MA receive 10 Year Length of Service Awards.



Jeff Aborn (right) of Staffordville, CT receives a 5 Year Certificate of Appreciation from Bill Simpson.



On May 22, 2008, Jeanne Walsh (center) of Milford, NH received a Special Act Award from Bill Simpson (right) on her final day as a Cooperative Weather Observer in Southern New England. Standing to Jeanne's right is her husband Bob. Jeanne and Bob retired and moved to Arizona. We wish them well in their new life and new location!



Thanks to all of You!