

The WE Eye

A Southern New England
Cooperative Weather Observer Newsletter



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COOP PAGE REMINDER

A Coop Page has been launched on Taunton's National Weather Service web site thanks to our Information Technology Officer, Jim Notchey. To access the Coop Page go to:

www.weather.gov/boston

On the left hand side of the website, look for a yellow highlight titled "Office Programs." Under Office Programs, look for "Coop Program." By clicking on Coop Program, you will be led to some informative links. You will notice that we are now posting current and past copies of *The Weather Eye*!

SNOW MEASURING TIPS



As you recall, when measuring snow, the B91 has 3 blocks for you to fill out. The first column is for melted snow (or a wintry mix of precipitation) that you measure from your rain gauge in hundredths. The second column is for snowfall that you measure in

tenths. And the third column is for snow on the ground measured to the nearest whole inch.

Here is an example of those 3 columns:

<u>H²O</u>	<u>SF</u>	<u>SD</u>
0.23	2.5	3

What if you observe snow within a 24 hour period, but when you go to do your observation there is no snow on the ground? You still need to carry snowfall in the snowfall column. Perhaps the snow melted on the ground and did not accumulate. In this case you must carry at least a trace in the snowfall column. You would enter a "T" for trace. Check your rain gauge for any liquid measure. There may be times where you carry a "T" for melted precipitation and a "T" for snowfall. If there is no snow on the ground, then enter a "0" in the snow depth column.

You may observe snowfall that accumulates on the ground that either mixes with or changes to rain. Perhaps the snow accumulates 3.5 inches on the ground before the mix or changeover leaving your site with no snow on the ground by the time you go to do your observation. In this case, if you

observed an accumulation, please enter that amount in the snowfall column. You will no doubt have a liquid measure to report. And in the snow on the ground column you would enter a "0."

If you have snow on the ground, please continue to enter a whole number or a Trace in the third column every day until no snow remains. Snow on the ground is measured to the nearest whole inch of all snow, sleet, ice and hail remaining on the ground at the time of your observation. When no snow remains on the ground, then enter a "0." For example, you could have a snow depth of 10 inches that decreases each day. Then each day the snow depth reported would cascade down from 10 inches until no snow remains on the ground when you would enter "0." Or the snow depth could fluctuate upward after a measurable snow (or wintry mix) event. Whether the snow on the ground increases or decreases each day please carry something in this field as long as snow remains on the ground.

INNER TUBES AND ALGAE

If you have a plastic inner tube that has become more green in color than clear over the years, intervention is needed to combat the algae. Try pouring a bleach and water mix into the tube and let it sit for awhile, stirring occasionally with your precipitation stick. Hopefully this will transform your inner tube from green to clear!

DAVIS WIND SYSTEMS

Are you an observer with a Davis Wind System at your site? If so, our office would be interested in your wind data. During high wind events, your NWS in Taunton would value your reports.

Forecasters at our office issue Wind Advisories when they expect the following criteria to be met:

31-39 mph (27-34 Kts) sustained and/or
46-57 mph (40-49 Kts) gusts

High Wind Warnings are issued when the following criteria are expected to be met:

≥ 40 mph (35 Kts) sustained and/or
≥ 58 mph (50 Kts) gusts

If your Davis Wind System measures wind that meets or exceeds the above criteria, we ask that you call this information into our office.

Please call: 800-243-1686

AUGUST RAINS

There was a long duration rainfall across Southern New England which began Sunday, August 22 and continued through Wednesday, August 25, 2010. Here are some storm total rainfall reports from our Coop Observers:

Connecticut:	<u>inches</u>
Burlington	4.06
New Britain	3.49
Storrs	2.59
Hampton	2.47
Staffordville	2.43

Massachusetts:	<u>inches</u>
Blue Hill	7.47
Hingham	6.19
Marblehead	5.32
Newburyport	5.21
Beverly	4.94
Bridgewater	4.72
Norton	4.55
Middleton	4.43

Chatham	4.36
Plymouth-Kingston	4.18
Natick	4.14
Groveland	4.13
Haverhill	4.10
Brockton	3.98
Walpole	3.96
Reading	3.87
Franklin	3.34
Edgartown	3.40
Maynard	3.33
Lawrence	3.28
Lowell	3.25
Middleboro	3.16
Rochester	3.02
East Wareham	3.02
East Sandwich	2.97
Milford	2.88
Southbridge	2.55
Northbridge	2.32
East Brimfield	2.31
Ashburnham	2.09
Woods Hole	2.00

New Hampshire:	<i>inches</i>
Greenville	2.88
Hudson	2.49
Massabesic Lake	2.20
East Milford	2.10
Francestown	2.00

Rhode Island:	<i>inches</i>
North Foster	3.55
Woonsocket	2.99
Kingston	2.68

HURRICANE EARL

Remember Hurricane Earl? The storm is a distant memory but it brought some heavy rains, high winds and storm surge flooding to parts of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

Hurricane Earl moved up the mid-Atlantic coast the afternoon of September 3, 2010.

Earl passed about 75 miles southeast of Nantucket as a weakening Category 1 hurricane just after midnight on September 4, 2010. The core of heaviest rainfall was along a line from mid Cape Cod southwest to Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard.

Here are some rainfall reports:

	<i>inches</i>	
Edgartown	6.21	NWS COOP
Centerville	5.44	WQRC
S. Yarmouth	5.17	COCORAHS
Hyannis	4.47	HYA ASOS
Vineyard Haven	4.30	MVY ASOS
East Falmouth	4.20	Spotter
Wellfleet	4.05	Spotter
Chatham	3.51	CQX ASOS
Orleans	3.50	WQRC
West Tisbury	3.45	Ham Radio
Chatham	3.35	NWS COOP
Falmouth	3.18	COCORAHS
Eastham	3.19	Ham Radio
East Sandwich	2.90	NWS COOP
Woods Hole	2.76	NWS COOP
Nantucket	2.73	Ham Radio
Nantucket	2.29	ACK ASOS

Here are some sustained wind reports:

Horseshoe Shoals	48mph	Cape Wind
Nantucket	41mph	ASOS
Buoy 44020	40 mph	NDBC
Nantucket Hbr	31mph	NOS NTKM3
Hyannis	31 mph	ASOS

Here are some wind gust reports:

Horseshoe Shoals	60mph	Cape Wind
Hyannis	58mph	Kalmus Mesonet
Nantucket	54mph	ASOS
Buoy 44020	52mph	NDBC
Hyannis	47mph	ASOS

There were reports of flooding in Chatham, Harwich and on Nantucket at Madaket Beach.

Overall our region was only grazed by the effects of what was Hurricane Earl. Its path, well offshore of Nantucket, kept our region from experiencing the full impacts of a land falling hurricane. If the center of a weakening Category 1 to Category 3 hurricane were to move over or just west of Narragansett Bay, the east side of the hurricane could potentially bring devastation to our coastal communities along the south coast. Since it has been a long time after the last direct hit from a hurricane, we have to guard against complacency.

MONTHLY B91 DEADLINE REMINDER

If you mail, email or fax your monthly B91 form to our office, please send by the 5th of the following month. If you can send your form earlier than that, then please do so!

If you submit your B91 form through WxCoder, please close out your form by the 5th of the following month. If you can close out your form earlier than that, then please do so! An end of month close-out in WxCoder is the digital equivalent of reviewing Weather Service forms, putting them in a sealed envelope and dropping it in the mail. No further changes will be accepted after a month is closed; however if you need to make changes after you have closed out your account, please let Kim Buttrick know. As the local administrator of WxCoder, she can unlock your account.

Getting your forms to our office in a timely manner helps speed up the quality control process. The quicker your forms are quality checked, the quicker they will be forwarded to the National Climatic Data Center for

processing, archiving and publishing! For those Coop Observers who are already submitting their forms swiftly, thank you very much!

EDWARD H. STOLL AWARD

The Edward H. Stoll Award was created in 1975. It is presented to a Cooperative Weather Observer who has completed 50 years of service. This award is named after Edward H. Stoll (Ed) who was a Cooperative Weather Observer from Elwood, Nebraska for 76 years. Ed began taking observations in 1905 on his family's farm in Elwood. In June 1980, when Ed reached 75 years of service as a Cooperative Weather Observer, he earned a trip to Washington D.C. to receive congratulations and a diamond pin from President Jimmy Carter.

When a Cooperative Weather Observer has performed 50 years of service, they are presented with the Edward H. Stoll Award. The award includes a water mark of President Jimmy Carter presenting Ed with the diamond pin.

Two Coop Observers from Southern New England were the proud recipients of the Edward H. Stoll award this year. Please look ahead for the stories and pictures of these two renowned observers.

WE WELCOME

A new Cooperative Weather Observing station has been established at Woods Hole Golf Club, MA. Located on Cape Cod, this private golf club has been in existence for over 100 years. Beginning September 1, 2010, the greens' keepers at Woods Hole Golf Club began reporting daily 24 hour temperature and precipitation data.

WE RECOGNIZE

Thanks to all of you for your dedication to and interest in weather data collection. Your daily efforts are much appreciated. When it comes to weather, you are the eyes and ears of your community. Look ahead to view a number of fellow Coop Observers that have received length of service awards over the past 8 months.

Those not pictured but who received awards are as follows:

Thomas Chamberland, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – East Brimfield Lake, MA
-35 year Length of Service award

Duane Klimczyk, Amherst Waste Water Treatment Plant – Amherst, MA
-25 year Length of Service award

Steven Sauter, Ashfield, MA
-15 year Length of Service award

Ann Mastroianni, Town of Barnstable Department of Public Works, Water Pollution Control Division – Hyannis, MA
-10 year Length of Service award

Glenna Vitello, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – East Brimfield Lake, MA
-10 year Length of Service award

Ken Hester, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Buffumville Lake, MA
-10 year Length of Service award

Jim Jordan, Amherst Waste Water Treatment Plant – Amherst, MA
-5 year Certificate of Recognition

Sean Fernandez, Lowell Regional Water Utility – Lowell, MA
-5 year Certificate of Recognition

Judy Mitchell, Water Supply Division of the Metropolitan District Commission – Burlington, CT
-5 year Certificate of Recognition

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Merry Christmas to all of you and wishing you all a Happy New Year! Look forward to seeing you all in 2011! Until then stay well.



It's All About: MR. ROBERT E. LAUTZENHEISER!

From his home in Reading, MA



Robert E. Lautzenheiser (Bob) receives the Edward H. Stoll Award for 50 years of service as a Cooperative Weather Observer from his home in Reading, MA. For this honored milestone, a gathering of Bob's family, friends and colleagues met at his home on July 27, 2010 for a luncheon celebration.

Bob's wife Dorothy and their children put together a delectable buffet for the attendees.

Pictured above is Bob's family. From left to right are: son John, daughter Mary Wasserman, son Will, wife Dorothy, Bob holding his award and umbrella, son Tom and his wife Claire.

(Daughter Anne Andrews could not attend but was with her dad in spirit!)

About Robert E. Lautzenheiser:

Mr. Lautzenheiser (Bob) is the senior cooperative observer in Southern New England. Born October 26, 1915, as of this writing, Bob is 95 years old! Bob has degrees in both math and physics. During the depression days, while working on his PhD in physics, Bob saw a job opening for a weather observer with the U.S. Weather Bureau, now the National Weather Service (NWS). Thus began Bob's career in 1940 as a weather observer and forecaster in Akron, OH. The following year, Bob was working as a forecaster at the Weather Bureau's Fort Wayne, IN office. From 1942-1956, Bob was assigned to the Weather Service Forecast Office at Midway Airport in Chicago, IL. While at the Chicago office, Bob became the Chicago climatologist with a temporary position at the University of Illinois, Urbana where Bob served as interim Illinois State Climatologist. With climatology now part of his repertoire, in 1956 Bob jumped at the chance to become the NWS Northern New England Climatologist. Bob and his family arrived in Boston in 1956 and settled in Reading. It was at his home in Reading where Bob began as a Cooperative Weather Observer – officially starting on January 1, 1960. Bob served as climatologist for four New England states from 1956 until 1972 when the NWS abolished the position due to budget constraints. In 1973, the MA State Resources Commission, now the Department of Conservation and Recreation, paid Bob a small stipend to provide climate data for the state. But by 1975, like the NWS, the state's funding fell through. Bob then moved his office, his work and his

passion to his home in Reading. While working from home, Bob continued as Massachusetts' official climatologist – an unpaid position – through a joint agreement between the state and the NWS. As Bob's age advanced, in 1982 he passed on the baton and his honorary title to David Taylor of Lunenburg, MA. However, Bob still remains very active as an assistant climatologist. The NWS in Taunton receives occasional emails and phone calls from Bob when Boston's climate data from Logan Airport is erroneous. Ever a man of detail, Bob keeps all of us in the weather data collecting field honest. Even some of the television Meteorologists in the Boston market can call upon Bob for weather statistics and know that the response will be reliable with unparalleled detail.

A Tale of Two Significant Snow Storms:

Weather and climate are not the only loves in Bob's life; his family is also. Bob is like a cat with nine lives. He is a man who lives life to the fullest and rebounds no matter what hand gets dealt him. A significant snow storm occurred on February 23, 1967 affecting the greater Boston area. The following day, Bob lost his first wife Elizabeth. Thus, at age 51, Bob became a young widower with 2 daughters, Anne and Mary. Two years later, during a snow storm on February 9, 1969, Bob found love again. Bob met Dorothy Potter through the Appalachian Mountain Club, when, on that day, the members were planning a snowshoe outing. No snowshoeing took place due to the intensity of the snow; however a love was kindled that day. Bob and Dorothy began a courtship, fell in love and married. A second family soon followed with the birth of their son John, then 2 years later, identical twins Will and Tom. Bob is a beloved husband, father and grandfather. At age 95, he shows no signs of slowing down. Through the ever changing climates of our lives, may we all have the same endurance and zest as Bob!



Pictured above are some of Bob's friends and colleagues who were present for his 50th celebration. From left to right are: Edward Capone, Service Coordination Hydrologist, Northeast River Forecast Center, Taunton, MA, Doug Webster, fellow cooperative observer from Hudson, NH, Kim Buttrick, Cooperative Program Manager, NWS Taunton, Bob holding his award, Robert Thompson, Meteorologist-in-Charge, NWS Taunton, David Taylor, Massachusetts State Climatologist, Joe Balsama, Science Department Head (retired), Swampscott High School and Arthur Francis, Climatologist, Salem State University.

It's All About: MR. F. ROBERT SKILLING!

Mr. Skilling at Blue Hill



F. Robert Skilling (Bob) receives the Edward H. Stoll Award for 50 years of service as a Cooperative Weather Observer at the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton, MA. Blue Hill is part of our Nation's Historical Climate Network with over 100 years of weather data dating back to 1885. Blue Hill is a benchmark site because the history of weather data is all from the same location. To honor Bob, an award ceremony took place at the Blue Hill Observatory and Science Center on October 2, 2010.

Pictured from left to right are: Eleanor Vallier-Talbot, Forecaster, NWS Taunton, Robert Thompson, Meteorologist-in-Charge, NWS Taunton and Bob holding his award.

About F. Robert Skilling at Blue Hill:

In early October 1960, Mr. Skilling (Bob) was hired as a NWS part-time contract weather observer at the Blue Hill Observatory to take weekend surface weather observations. Bob's beloved work was interrupted when he was drafted into the Army on January 23, 1962. Two years later, Bob was separated from the Army on January 22, 1964. While Bob was in the Army, a part-time civil service position had been established at Blue Hill. After being discharged, Bob applied for this position and was hired. He continued his part time work atop Blue Hill until he was hired as a full time employee and Chief Weather Observer on May 1, 1978.

When Bob became the full time Chief Weather Observer, working Monday through Friday, he needed part-time weekend observers. From 1978 to the present, Bob has trained dozens of observers to work weekends and fill in when needed. One observer that was trained by Bob was Eleanor Vallier-Talbot, a forecaster at NWS Taunton (pictured above).

There was a change of hands on April 30, 1999 when the NWS relinquished responsibility of Blue Hill. On this same date, Bob retired from the NWS after 21 years of full time government service. On the

following day, May 1, 1999, the non-profit Blue Hill Observatory and Science Center began and opened its doors to the public. Bob remained the full time Chief Weather Observer but became an employee of Blue Hill. Weekend tours for the public and weekday tours for school groups commenced. While continuing to perform his daily chores as Chief Weather Observer, Bob has enjoyed being a mentor to thousands of students who have come through the observatory since the science center opened.

Bob has been leaning more toward part time work the past few years. But whether full time or part time, Bob continues to do the job he loves – taking detailed observations of the day to day weather at one of our Nation’s benchmark historic climate sites.

Mr. Skilling at his home in Hingham, MA



F. Robert Skilling (Bob) receives the Edward H. Stoll Award for 50 years of service as a Cooperative Weather Observer from his home in Hingham, MA. For this honored milestone, a gathering of Bob’s family, friends and colleagues met at his home on November 6, 2010 for a brunch style celebration.

Bob’s wife Beverly put out some delicious treats for the guests, to include Dunkin Donuts coffee!

Pictured from left to right are: Robert Thompson, Meteorologist-in-Charge, NWS Taunton,

Kim Buttrick, Cooperative Program Manager, NWS Taunton, Bob and

Peter Gabrielsen, Chief, NOAA/NWS Eastern Region Systems Operations Division.

About F. Robert Skilling at Hingham:

Mr. Skilling (Bob) was born on June 3, 1938 and first became interested in the weather around 1950 at age 12. He purchased his first instruments in 1952, including a barometer, plastic rain gauge and Taylor U-Tube Max/Min thermometer. On January 1, 1953, at age 14, Bob began recording continuous daily weather observations while a freshman at Hingham High School. In 1956, Bob won first prize in the high school science fair.

After high school, Bob continued his record of observations while continuing higher education. In 1960, Bob visited the office of Massachusetts State Climatologist, Robert Lautzenheiser, in Boston. After reviewing Bob's observations, Mr. Lautzenheiser selected him to become an official Cooperative Weather Observer. Thus on September 1, 1960, Bob began keeping official Hingham daily observations using official NWS forms and weather instruments.

Besides his avid interest in weather, Bob also loves music. His father guided him into playing the organ. Bob's father said that to play a guitar one must be able to sing. To play a horn instrument, one must need a band. But to play an organ (or a piano) one must neither sing nor need accompaniment. So, Bob learned how to play the Hammond organ. By day, Bob was a weather observer while at night he was a musician playing the Hammond organ in clubs and restaurants. By following his father's advice, Bob's mastering of the Hammond organ ended up providing his family a main source of income.



After the award presentation, Bob gave his guests a free concert on the Terrace at the Chalet (located in his backyard). On the left, Bob plays his Cordovox which is an organ and accordion combined. On the right, Bob plays his Hammond B3 Organ.

Following the free concert, some attendees went to lunch with Bob and his wife at The Red Parrot in Hull, MA. We had a window seat and could look out at the Atlantic surf dotted with surfers – and in early November!



Power Plant Engineers at Lawrence Hydro-Electric Associates, MA (aka The Essex Company) receive an Honored Institutional Award for 125 years of service. Lawrence, MA is part of our Nation's Historical Climate Network with over 100 years of weather data collected from this site.

Pictured from left to right are: Lucas Restituyou, Pat Donahue and John Bowers.

Pat is an encyclopedia of knowledge about the history of Lawrence. We have relied on this knowledge for flood stage data, past and current, on the Merrimack River (pictured in the background).



Frank Astephen (left), Lead Operator at the Milford Water Company in Massachusetts, receives a 35 year Length of Service award. In attendance for the presentation were fellow operators Jeff Papuga (right) and Kevin Kellett (not pictured).



Jean Castles of Fitzwilliam, NH receives a 30 year Length of Service award. Jean and her husband Dick are the proud owners of many pets: 2 beautiful German Shepherds Oden & Brenda, 2 donkeys Dotsie & Tortilla and 2 sheep named Oliver & Lancelot.

Any visitor will find that all the animals are friendly; however this is not the case with Oden. Dick keeps Oden on a short leash.

Oden may be beautiful but he was not bred to be friendly!



Richard Leavitt (Dick) of Francestown, NH receives a 30 year Length of Service award with his wife Louis and Lucky the dog by his side. Dick has many milestones to celebrate. He has recently retired with 100 years combined service in serving the community of Francestown, NH. Dick spent 55 years as a volunteer fireman and 45 years as the Forest Fire Warden. Another milestone on the horizon to celebrate will be his wedding anniversary. Dick and Louis will celebrate 60 years of marriage on February 2, 2011!



Tom Mattus of Ashburnham, MA receives a 25 year Length of Service award. Tom is a Meteorologist who works for Commander's Weather out of Nashua, NH. He provides worldwide weather routing for sailboats and motor yachts. Tom also provides detailed wind forecasting for sailboat races all around the world - working with some of the top sailors in the world!



Doug Webster of Hudson, NH receives a 25 year Length of Service award. You may recall seeing Doug pictured in the September 2009 issuance of *The Weather Eye* receiving a 5 year Certificate of Appreciation. Since then, Doug provided past weather records from his home dating back to November 1985. These records have been forwarded to and archived by NCDC. Thus, Doug's length of service as a Cooperative Weather Observer spans 25 years!
Doug works as a Senior Meteorologist at DTN Meteorlogix out of Woburn, MA.



Jim Lewis (center) receives a 25 year Length of Service award. Jim is the Project Manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Projects at Surry Mountain Lake and Otter Brook Lake in New Hampshire. Pictured with Jim are his co-workers Park Rangers, Kerry Howe (left) and Eric Chouinard (right).



Ed Caron (left) and Sheri Rood Caron (center) both receive 20 year Length of Service awards for their efforts in preserving a long history of weather data at the Plymouth-Kingston, MA station. This station has the distinction of being part of our Nation's Historical Climate Network with over 100 years of data. Sheri's sister, Jackie Murphy (right) receives a Certificate of Recognition. Jackie gladly fills in as the back-up observer ensuring the legacy of over 100 years of weather data continues at this station.



Buttrick and Buttrick. Charles Buttrick (right) of Greenville, NH receives a 20 year Length of Service award from Kim Buttrick. For those who wonder if there is any relation, Kim's husband could be a distant relative of the Buttrick's from Southern New Hampshire.



Don Dashnaw (right), an operator with the Southbridge Water Department, receives a 20 year Length of Service award from Kim Buttrick. The body of water in the rear of the picture is the northern tip of a large reservoir.



Operators from the Ware Water Works in Ware, MA receive some awards. Pictured from left to right are: Don Dunbar, Jimmy Boucier receiving a 5 year Certificate of Recognition, Mark Lussier receiving a 10 year Length of Service award and Donny Sullivan receiving a 5 year Certificate of Recognition.



Pat Donahue (center) receives a 5 year Certificate of Appreciation for his weather observing at Lawrence Hydro-Electric Associates, MA. Pat's fellow operators are Lucas Restituyou (left) and John Bowers (right). Lucas is originally from the Dominican Republic, Pat is originally from Haverhill, MA and John is originally from Virginia. Of honorable mention: Lucas served our country as a marine where he specialized as an aircraft mechanic. And Lucas reminds us that once a marine always a marine!



GOT BEES?

Rick Tracy of Groveland, MA has a Davis Weather System that complements his NWS equipment. Rick's Davis System is used as part of the Citizens Weather Observing Program network. During the site visit, Rick and I decided to inspect the Davis Tipping Bucket. We removed the cover and were surprised by a couple of bee hives!



Here is a close up of one of the bee hives and a closer look at a tipping bucket mechanism. Fortunately for Rick and me, we discovered the bee hives in late October. Due to the cool temperatures, the remaining bees in the nest were moving real slow. If it had been summer, I believe Rick and I would have bolted down the street like a couple of convicts running from the law!



Pictured at left is the "lid" to the tipping bucket called the funnel. You can see the other bee hive under the precipitation funnel. If you look close, there are 2 bees trying to seek shelter from Rick and me! The bees were slow about their business which was fine with us.



Thanks to all of You!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Have questions? In need of equipment or supplies?
Equipment not working? Please contact Kim or Bill.

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