



Under the Big Sky e-Letter May 21, 2009

What do sea turtles and sea rays have to do with Montana's Weather? Not a whole lot, but the photos was shared with me by retired Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Administrator Jim Greene. Jim knows how to enjoy his retirement and spends a lot of his time in Mexico and the Caribbean snorkeling and scuba diving. He helped me earlier this year get a group of First Lego League students connected with former contacts he had from Kyrgyzstan to compare their climate with ours, and that group of students came in first place for that portion of the competition. Montana and Kyrgyzstan have a relationship in which they exchange people to train in areas such as homeland security and commerce, and Jim worked with them quite a bit before retiring.

Chucksweather.com: We recently had one of the most weather enthusiastic people I've ever met come into our office, and he's doesn't even work in the weather field. Chuck Goble is retired from the Air Force and now lives in Glendive. He's set up his own weather website, and has a weather station at his home in Glendive online for everyone to use. He's also a CoCoRaHS observer. He has some higher resolution radar data that isn't available on the NWS websites, giving you a little more information than is usually available to the public. The radar data does originate from the NWS Glasgow weather radar. If you'd like to talk weather with Chuck, I'm sure he'd be more than willing to do so, just look him up on his website at:

<http://www.chucksweather.com/>

Climate Survey: The NWS is reviewing their climate problem, and would like your input. The survey will be available online until June 10, 2009. I did take this survey, and it took me about 30 minutes to complete, and I'm pretty familiar with most of the products they ask about. But, as many of you are farmers or ranchers, or those who work in fields impacted by weather, your input is very important to improving services!

<https://svy.cfigroup.com/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=GAFP8W>



Chuck Goble with our Science and Operations Office Bill Martin discuss the various computer models that meteorologists utilize in making weather forecasts.

First known tornado photo: The oldest known photo of a tornado was taken 22 miles southwest of Howard, SD on August 28, 1884. This is quite the photo showing not only the main tornado, but two vortices rotating around the main funnel as well.



Ultraviolet Index: Last week, I took a few days off to spend with family who visited. We went to Intake for the opening day of paddle fishing season, and it was cool and breezy. But, there was just enough sun poking through all the clouds that everyone got a bit of sunburn on their faces. NOAA and the EPA have developed the UV Index Forecast map that shows you what the UV Index is, and the recommended precautions to take. The information is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/SunWise/uvindex.html> You can even sign up for a daily email notification, which may be something of interest to those who have had skin cancer, or have a family history of it. Given our northerly latitude, the UV index is rarely higher than a 9, so you should consider that an extreme case here.

NWS Glasgow Happenings:

Skywarn: We have one more scheduled talk, and another one postponed. Thank you to all those who attended the Skywarn sessions this year! We appreciate you all very much!

Upcoming: Wednesday, May 20 in Glasgow at the Cottonwood Inn from 6-8 pm

Postponed: Glendive (no date set at this time)

Possible talks in the future: Bainville and Hinsdale

Wibaux County LEPC Meeting/Tornado Siren: I was able to present at the recent Wibaux County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting and discuss the Emergency Alert System and our services available to the county. Also, prior to the Skywarn talk that evening, the DES Coordinator Frank Datta had a test tornado siren sounded through the town. It's an eerie sound, even if you know it's a test. Sirens are designed to be heard if you live right near it, or you are outside. It's not always reliable if you are inside or too far from the siren. Having a NOAA Weather Radio in your home is still the fastest and best way to get information about a storm in your area. It is also a good idea to be familiar with the sound used for a tornado on your community sirens. Many locations utilize it for fires as well, and they use different sounds (either a long blast, or three short blasts) based on what is in their emergency operating plan. It's good to know the difference between them!

NOAA News:

April is the 5th Warmest Global Temperature on record: While it was cooler than normal in Montana, overall, April was the 5th warmest since records began in 1880. To read more global climate information for the month, go to:

http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090518_globalaprilstats.html



It's National Safe Boating Week this week! Just a reminder to keep it safe when you go out on the water.

http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090519_boating.html

Weather Around the Globe:

Tornadoes last week: An outbreak of severe weather in the mid-west killed three people in Missouri. Kirksville, MO had 30-40 homes damaged as well.

http://www.usatoday.com/weather/storms/tornadoes/2009-05-14-tornadoes-missouri_N.htm?csp=34

Philippine Landslide: 26 deaths were reported in the Philippines after heavy rainfall caused hillsides to give way and bury shantytowns in their gold mining region.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/30815673/>

Silver Lining after Flooding in ND: Calling it “Revitalization through Destruction” the town of Linton, ND is seeing some good from their recent flooding problems. Many businesses that had moved away from downtown into the flood plain are now moving back to the downtown area.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/30807168/>

