

Pacific NW Spotter Newsletter

www.weather.gov/Portland

MARCH 2006

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New Editor for the Pacific NW Spotter Newsletter

Former Pacific NW Spotter Newsletter Editor, Mr. Mark O'Malley departed the Portland NWS office this past January for the Pleasant Hill, Missouri NWS office. Mark conducted a number of the spotter training sessions over the past 2 years; and many of you may remember his energy, enthusiasm, and passion for severe weather. Please join us in wishing Mark well at his new location. He has already realized part of his passion with the recent severe weather outbreaks in the Midwest this March. And, no doubt, Mark is sharing his energy and passion with his new

spotter contacts in Missouri. Your new Pacific NW Spotter Newsletter editor is Mr. Dan Keirns. Dan is a fairly recent arrival to the Portland NWS office; arriving from Anchorage, Alaska in the fall of 2004. Dan has varied experience with the NWS at working at several locations around the country including Kansas, Idaho, and South Dakota. Dan is both an HMT (Hydrometeorological Technician) and a Meteorologist. Dan hopes to adequately fill the rather large shoes left by Mark's departure. Please join us in welcoming Dan aboard.

Trivia: Triple digit temperatures were absent last summer. Will we see them this summer? What is the earliest Portland has ever recorded a triple digit temperature?

Give yourself 1 point for the month, 2 points for the day of the month, and 5 points for the year of occurrence.

*Trivia answer:
See Page 4.*

Thunderstorm Season Ahead

Even though spring arrived on the calendar at 10:26AM on March, 20th, temperatures around the area have remained chilly and snow fell at many locations during March. However, warmer temperatures are on the way. And, along with the warmer temperatures, comes the thunderstorm season. Spotters are reminded to stay safe while observing weather events to report to the National Weather Service. An excellent web site for lightning safety can be found at www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov. Along with a review of lightning safety tips, please review the summer severe weather spotter checklist on page 4.

Climate Page

Fall 2005 was colder than normal with near normal rainfall—except for the South Willamette valley where Eugene continued a much drier than normal year. Winter 2005-2006 was a tale of 3 winters. December arrived with temperatures at the coast and along the Columbia much colder than normal and much less precipitation than normal. The Willamette Valley saw temperatures slightly above normal, but precipitation in the valley was also much less than normal. During December most of the West Coast storms drove much further south and took their weather into California instead of the usual Pacific Northwest locations. The New Year saw a complete reversal of December with much warmer than normal temperatures and copious amounts of precipitation at all locations. The nearly steady rains from near Christmas into the first week of February caused flooding problems at several locations around the Northwest part of the state. After the first week of February, the weather returned to the December-like pattern with colder than normal temperatures and a return to the drier than normal trend.

Measured Averages & Departures from Normal

Astoria	SEP	OCT	NOV	Autumn		DEC	JAN	FEB	Winter
Avg Temp	44.7	46.2	42.7	44.5	Avg Temp	56.0	53.2	45.2	51.5
Departure	-3.2	0.0	-2.2	-1.8	Departure	+1.3	+3.1	-2.2	+0.7
Precipitation	1.22	8.90	10.53	20.65	Precipitation	5.78	24.10	1.41	31.29
Departure	-1.40	+3.37	+0.22	+2.19	Departure	-4.43	+14.50	-6.15	+3.92

Eugene	SEP	OCT	NOV	Autumn		DEC	JAN	FEB	Winter
Avg Temp	60.5	54.3	42.1	52.3	Avg Temp	41.5	43.9	41.1	42.2
Departure	-2.1	+0.6	-3.3	-4.8	Departure	+1.2	+3.3	-2.7	+1.8
Precipitation	1.04	2.95	5.19	9.18	Precipitation	1.66	12.68	3.02	17.36
Departure	-0.51	-0.40	-3.24	-4.15	Departure	-6.63	+5.03	-2.97	-4.57

Portland	SEP	OCT	NOV	Autumn		DEC	JAN	FEB	Winter
Avg Temp	62.5	56.3	44.1	54.3	Avg Temp	41.8	45.5	42.0	43.1
Departure	-2.2	+1.0	-2.7	-3.9	Departure	+0.7	+4.7	-2.1	+3.3
Precipitation	1.71	3.40	4.98	10.09	Precipitation	1.94	10.92	2.15	3.5201
Departure	+0.06	+0.52	-0.45	+0.13	Departure	-3.76	+5.85	-2.03	+0.06

Salem	SEP	OCT	NOV	Autumn		DEC	JAN	FEB	Winter
Avg Temp	60.6	54.2	42.5	52.4	Avg Temp	41.8	44.4	41.5	42.6
Departure	-2.1	+0.8	-3.1	-4.4	Departure	+1.2	+3.7	-2.0	+2.9
Precipitation	2.33	2.70	6.04	11.07	Precipitation	1.43	13.37	2.12	16.92
Departure	+0.90	-0.33	-0.35	+0.22	Departure	-5.03	+7.54	-2.97	+1.54

Spring New Spotter Training Sessions

There are no specific requirements to become a Spotter. Just a willingness to learn and enthusiasm for weather. For additional information on Spotter training, contact Dan Keirns at (503) 326-2340 ext. 239 or dan.keirns@noaa.gov.

Dates and Locations

April 5, 2006 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Portland, OR at the Multnomah County Education Center
11611 NE Ainsworth Circle (across the street from Shiloh Inn on Airport Way)
Portland, OR 97220

April 13, 2006 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Clackamas, OR at the Clackamas County Fire District #1 Training Center
15990 SE 130th (off hwy 212/224 & SE 130th) Clackamas, OR 97015
Special Notes: Training for Clackamas County HAM Radio Group (ARES)

April 17, 2006 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Lebanon, OR at the Lebanon Senior Center
65B Academy Square (intersection of Hwy 34 and Hwy 20) Lebanon, OR 97355

May 3, 2006 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Hood River, OR at the Rockford Fire Station (West Side Fire Dept)
4250 Bennett Drive Hood River, OR

May 9, 2006 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Location: Eugene, OR
Address: To Be Determined

May 22, 2006 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Kelso, WA at the Cowlitz County Hall of Justice Bldg
Emergency Operations Center 312 SW First Ave. Kelso, WA

Summer Severe Weather Spotter Checklist

High Winds : Sustained
40 mph and greater or
gusts over 58 mph.

Heavy Rain : Over 1.5
inches in 24 hours, or
0.75 inches in 1 hour.

Flooding : Any kind of
river flooding.

Hail : 1/2 inch (dime
size) or larger

Lightning : Frequent
cloud-to-ground which
poses significant danger

Tornadoes, Funnel

Clouds, Wall Clouds :
Always look for rotation
and report direction of
movement

OREGON WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Oregon water supply and spring flood potential outlook as of March 10, 2006. The water supply is above normal for most Oregon river basins for spring and summer 2006. The exception is for near-normal water supply in north-west Oregon river basins. The water supply information is based on current conditions and expected temperatures and precipitation through the remainder of the spring months. The spring flood potential is moderate for several rivers in central and eastern Oregon due to the above-normal snowpack.

February precipitation was below normal in all Oregon river basins, but seasonal precipitation remains above normal. Snowpack is also above normal in the Cascades and eastern Oregon mountains. NOAA's climate outlook for the spring leans toward above normal temperatures and indicates near-normal precipitation. Mountain snowpack as of March first remains above normal, ranging from 107 percent in

the Willamette and Umatilla basins to 144 percent in the Klamath basin. February precipitation ranged from 46 to 78 percent of normal. Seasonal precipitation remains well above normal, ranging from 121 percent in the Willamette Valley to 165 percent in the Klamath basin.

At the close of February, 2,054,000 acre-feet of water was stored in 27 major irrigation reservoirs around the state. The current storage represents 97 percent of average and is 63 percent of the reservoir's combined holding capacity. Current irrigation reservoir storage is 149 percent of the storage at this time last year. Reservoir data is provided courtesy of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Corps of Engineers. Snowmelt flooding this spring is possible but not probable for several rivers in central and eastern Oregon due to the above-normal snowpack. Flooding in western Oregon rivers in April would only be caused by a combination of prolonged heavy rain and warm temperatures leading to rapid snowmelt; and is unlikely.



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*Trivia answer: 100 de-
grees on May 28th, 1983.*