

January 13, 2006 Conference Call Notes

Provided by: Steve Keighton, SOO - Blacksburg, VA (RNK)

Here's a summary of today's call (I'm really trying to be brief, without leaving out something important for those who couldn't make the call):

Thanks, Larry, for posting your more in-depth NWFS PP presentation on the NCSU RAH CSTAR page. <http://www.meas.ncsu.edu/nws/www/updates/>

I don't recall sending anyone copies of the "WINDEX" Tech Attachments, so if you are interested, please email me and I'll be happy to send copies (and if you asked earlier and I forget, my apologies).

Field input to Blair and Gary on forecaster observations of how NWP models handle or fail to handle various aspects of NWFS are still welcome (Blair got some good input from the folks at GSP when he visited last month).

Blair and Gary are going to first focus their WRF modeling work on issues related to the role of the Great Lakes, and will be starting by doing case studies of the following 4 events: Feb 10, 2005; Feb 12, 1996; Dec 18-20, 2003; Mar 6, 2001. After the case study portion is done, they will begin some sensitivity tests. Anyone who has some insight into unique forecast issues, or data sets, or anything else related to these 4 events that would be helpful to Blair and Gary is encouraged to share that with them.

We spent a little time exploring the potential for additional or not-so-common data sets to take advantage of in our region of interest, and a couple things came up:

- Charlotte TDWR data will soon be available in GSP's AWIPS
- New GOES Sounder products from Bob Raban (NSSL) may be worth looking at, particularly one that depicts a measure of orographic lift. Jeff from ER SSD already sent out the URL for this data to the team (thanks Jeff)
- ACARS (including TAMDAR) data sets should be considered, and CRW is one good upstream location where there is a cluster of observations and no radiosonde data. For locations where there are both decent ACARS coverage and radiosonde (BNA, ILN, IAD, GSO), there is a web site that Bill Moninger (FSL/GSD) developed that allows for direct comparison. Jeff also sent this URL out, but if using a non-NOAA computers you'll need to request a password from Bill. (Thanks Jeff...again!)
- We look forward to when Sandra Yuter from NCSU can join the discussion and explore the possibility of installing a vertically pointing radar at a strategic location in NW NC perhaps?

WFO RLX WRF status: URL has changed slightly (you'll be re-directed if you use the old one), and both WRF versions (NMM and ARW) are using same domain now. They are hot-starting with LAPS, every 3 hrs, and using NAM tiles for boundary conditions. May be able to expand domain (which currently doesn't get into NC or TN) after the addition of new CPUs...soon.

JKL WRF status: Is up and running, beginning to view in local AWIPS and are generating some vertical soundings for view in BUFKIT. Hope to be able to post some images soon. Domain covers well into Sterling's area. Still also running workstation Eta, and seeing some differences in fcst snowfall.

Another thought I had related to the various local models, is that we should compile a list of their basic configurations and post this someone (CSTAR page?) for quick reference.

Spent some time discussing potential mutual sites for generating model soundings from all these WRFs, and we came up with a preliminary list (at least I hope I captured the recommendations), but we need more input on from those who were not on the call (particularly those in Ern TN and wrn NC/SC):

- Upstream: KBNA, KILN, KTYS, KTYS, KJKL, KCRW, anything farther north?
- In Mtns: At least two sites near crest of ridge close to TN/NC border (perhaps in Smokey Mtns and also just west of KTNB?), KBLF, KBCB, KEKN, and BUFR site "PIE" in WV (need lat/lon from Steve R). I might still suggest KTNB as well (Boone) since that is already a BUFR site for the NAM and RUC.
- East of Mtns: KGSP, KGSO, KROA (or KLYH), KW99 in ern WV, and maybe as far north as KCBE in MD) This is just a first guess, so really still need your input, including precise lat/lons if not a MTR or U/A site.

Once we come up with a final list, the idea is that for any of these sites within the domain of you local model, you would generate the vertical sounding in BUFR format so we can compare the models. Any ideas on how to best share these or store them on a common location, or software to allow overlay?

Want to follow up with Doug Miller on his request for unique data sets for the Nov 29 case he asked for. Doug: Anything provided to you yet? Elaboration needed on what specifically you're hoping to track down, or what would be of most benefit?

Finally, we'll plan on our next call for the 1st Friday in Feb (Feb 3) at 10am, and if this proves problematic we'll shoot for the 10th.