

March 13, 2009 Conference Call Notes

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

Presentation by Gary Votaw and local statistical study on wind direction and snow events for WFO JKL area:

Everyone on the conf call email list should have received [Gary's presentation](#). Approach used JKL COOP data since 1948 for all snow events and the NCEP reanalysis-derived wind direction/speed at various levels for those dates, and did statistical analysis of which directions favored most significant differences in significant snowfall vs the opposite direction having minimal snowfall (to try and determine orographic influences). Results showed a strong synoptic signal (with generally NE or E flow resulting in biggest snowfall difference (positive) from the opposite (W or SW) direction. Any orographic signal was subtle, and even seemed to favor more SE flow in the mtns of SE KY (suggesting that SE flow in synoptic events produces a whole lot more snow than NW flow in pure upslope events). Gary will also look into [Baker Perry's thesis](#) since Baker and Chip Konrad got a strong NW flow influence in this same region, but took a different approach.

BAMS article: Article is in final draft form ready for publication at AMS, with only final format edits by AMS staff to take place (all reviews have now been responded to). Publication in BAMS is expected by late summer or early fall.

UNC-A Field Project status: Last IOP was in early February (3rd-5th) and still hoping for a change in pattern to get one or two more IOP's in this season (still have half of expendable equipment left to use). Pattern does not look good, but perhaps hope way out on the horizon (late March or April). In the meantime, would consider short IOP to sample environment ahead of a significant mesoscale convective system like a squall line, or also a strong gradient high wind event, so use the listserv or our conf call email list to contact Doug Miller and the rest of us about any potential for these scenarios so an IOP can be coordinated. Equipment will be available through the end of April.

Plans are to use this year's events (3 so far and hopefully more) as an independent data set to test WRF configurations developed from last year. Challenge is that this year's events were not classic pure upslope NWFS events (strong clipper wave and deeper moisture present in some).

We'll lose the NCSU MRR on Poga Mtn after this year, so will have to look into sources for replacing this, possibly from RENC1, if we want to continue vertical sampling of these events.

Local model updates: No changes noted. Question was posed as to whether anyone had loaded in the new WRF-EMS ver 3.0, and the answer was no at this point. Some hope to by summer.

Future calls: While there will be no scheduled call for April since Steve K is basically not available at any convenient time, we will aim to schedule another call in early May (one of the first two Fridays at 10am). However, anyone in the group can suggest and set up a call as needed if an interesting event approaches or occurs that would be worth talking about. Steve K will possibly be available through late March for this too.