

# The WE Eye

A Southern New England  
Cooperative Weather Observer Newsletter



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Editor: Kimberly Buttrick

Volume II, Issue 1

## Introduction

My name is Kimberly Buttrick (McCartney before marriage) and I am your new Cooperative Program Manager. My plan is to visit all coop sites within the next year so we can place names with faces and take inventory of what all we have (or don't have) in the field. Of course I'll have to find your place first, before even beginning to match faces with names! Some observers I have met already but I look forward to meeting all of you, whether for the first or for the second time!

The venerable Michael Carbone started *The Weather Eye* (WE) years ago. The last one he published was in the winter of 2001/2002. Mike has since retired and this is my attempt to keep his legacy going. My hope is to publish this newsletter for you twice a year, maybe even quarterly, so here is my first attempt! Mike ended with Volume I, No. 2, so I guess that makes this Volume II, No. 1? Perhaps our cooperative observer and writer on Martha's Vineyard, who writes for the Vineyard Gazette, can give me a lesson in this newsletter numbering scheme!

## KISS

No I am not being fresh! "K.I.S.S.," is an acronym so fondly used by some meaning to "keep it simple stupid!" So with the launching of this newsletter I plan to keep things simple and to the point (but not be stupid). Later issuances may get more wordy and more involved, but for now – simple!

## Supplies

Is your site in need of supplies? Such as envelopes for mailing your B91s? More postage for your envelopes? B91 forms? If you are in need of any supplies, please let me know and I will send it to you post haste pronto!

You can reach me at: 508-823-2262 or 508-823-1983. Or if you prefer: 800-330-1147. If I am not in the office, ask to leave a message in my voicemail, extension 289.

## B91s and Other Monthly Forms

At the end of each month, please send your B91s (and other monthly forms) to me **by the 15<sup>th</sup>** of the following month (or sooner if you can). I need to have

your B91s (and other monthly forms) consolidated, packaged and sent to the National Climate Data Center (NCDC) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. So if you get your B91s to me by the 15<sup>th</sup>, that will give me a cushion of 10 days to process and quality control the forms before sending off to NCDC. Thanks for helping me keep your data timely and flowing!

### **WxCoder**

For those of you hooked up onto WxCoder, there have been some problems with your observations getting into our morning hydro collection. The problem is actually not with WxCoder itself, but the communication highway from WxCoder into our Advanced Weather Interactive Processing Systems (AWIPS). And to complicate troubleshooting efforts, the problem is intermittent. In the meantime, please continue using WxCoder. Stay tuned, as those “in the know” are working on a solution!

### **More on WxCoder**

The problem with making corrections to a daily observation in WxCoder remains a fly in the ointment. When you make a correction, rather than WxCoder writing over the bad data, it instead creates a new line with the corrected data. This in turn throws off the monthly tally and the subsequent monthly B91 form. But the good news is that any corrections that you may make to your observations, does get into our morning hydro collection via AWIPS! So your daily effort with WxCoder pays off in that we

get your real time observations every morning. Until this WxCoder bug gets fixed, please still manually annotate your B91 form, afterwhich send the form to me at the end of the month! Of course, if you are the type that does not make mistakes, then your WxCoder monthly B91 form will be fine!

### **Excel B91s**

For those observers who have been utilizing the Excel version of the B91 form, you have all been doing a great job! Keep up the good work!

### **You and Snow Caps**

Did you know about the word “nonpareil?” If not, it is just not a favorite candy of mine but it makes a great descriptive word to describe your efforts and dedication in observing weather. The word “nonpareil” is French and means having no equal. To give you a bit of history trivia, during the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis, MO, a confection was introduced. It was dark chocolate with white sugar on top but it did not have a name. To describe its delectably scrumptious sweet taste, taste testers called the confection nonpareil, meaning unlike no other or having no equal. Thus the name of the candy became known as Nonpareils. Well, nonpareil describes all of our nation’s cooperative weather observers – you are unlike any other, just like the candy! So when I come by for a visit, don’t be surprised if I give you a bag of nonpareils, or better yet a bag of Snow Caps!

## Awards

There are many of you nonpareil folks due Length of Service awards. As I make my way through Southern New England over the next year, I'll deliver these achievements and milestones to you personally. The following institutions and individuals are due length of service awards!

- 75 year award to:
  - Woonsocket Water Treatment Plant, RI due 75 year Institutional Award
  - Milford Water Company, MA due 75 year Institutional Award
  - Metropolitan District Commission Burlington, CT due 75 year Institutional Award
  - Pennichuck Water Works in Merrimack, NH due 75 year Institutional Award
- 50 year award to:
  - Southbridge Water Department, MA due 50 year Institutional Award
- 45 year award to:
  - Robert Lautzenheizer of Reading, MA
  - John Anderson of Walpole, MA
- 40 year award to:
- 35 year award to:
  - Stacey Swift of North Foster, RI
  - Sandra Shields of Greenfield, MA
- 30 year award to:
  - Gerard D'Errico of Maynard, MA
  - John Bagdon of Sunderland, MA
  - Charles Strickland of Marlow, NH
  - Francis Astephen of Milford Water Company, MA
- 25 year award to:
  - Jean Castles of Fitzwilliam, NH
  - Richard Leavitt of Francestown, NH
  - William Houghton of Walpole, NH
  - Otter Brook, NH due 25 year Institutional Award
- 20 year award to:
  - Thomas Mattus of Ashburnham, MA
  - Jeffrey Phillips of Birch Hill Dam, MA (Army COE)
  - James Lewis of Otter Brook, NH (Army COE)
  - Richard Tracy of Groveland, MA
  - Pamela Turnbull of Ipswich, MA
  - Ray Whitley of Newburyport, MA

- 15 year award to:
  - Edward Greenough of West Thompson Lake, CT (Army COE)
  - John Slamin of Natick, MA
  - Ed & Sheri Caron of Plymouth, MA
  - Charles Buttrick of Greenville, NH
- 10 year award to:
  - Steven Sauter of Ashfield, MA
  - Donald Ives of Worthington, MA
  - John Asseng of Otter Brook, NH (Army COE)

Quite a list for a stellar bunch of observers!

**New Observer**

And we can not forget Leo DuBois, of Bridgewater Correctional Complex, MA. Leo has worked there for 63 years and began taking weather observations in June of 1950! He says all he wants is a donut and coffee when I come by for a visit. So instead of Snow Caps, I plan to bring him another type of confection from the not so French Duncan Donuts!

WE (*The Weather Eye*) welcome our newest observer, Chuck Kidd, from Hardwick, MA. On April 30, 2007, I met Linda Marler Hutchins and Bruce Hansen of the Massachusetts Department of Recreation and Conservation (DCR) at Chuck's house where we set up his station and provided him training. On May 1, 2007 Chuck began providing daily rainfall measurements from his 8 inch Standard Rain Gauge. His observations will not only get archived at our NCDC, but also locally with the DCR. Like many cooperative weather sites, the Hardwick area has a long history of weather observations dating back to 1925!

A few awards have been personally delivered already! F. Robert Skilling earned a 45 year award for his years of dedicated service at his home in Hingham, MA as well as his service at Blue Hill Observatory. Mark Alan Lovewell of Edgartown, on the lovely Martha's Vineyard, received not only a 25 year award, but a 30 year award also for his years of dedicated service! Way to go to these observers and all of you! See the following pages for sneak peek photos of 2 of your nonpareil colleagues.

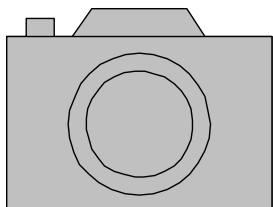
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Above: Bob Skilling (right) receives a 45 year Length of Service award from Meteorologist-in-Charge Robert Thompson at "The Beach House" in Hull, MA. Below: Bob Skilling in front of his "shop" in Hingham, MA which houses his Hammond Organ! Of note: Mr. Skilling is quite the talented musician!



**Mark Alan Lovewell of Edgartown, MA receives a 25 year Length of Service award from Cooperative Program Manager Kim Buttrick. Of note: Mr. Lovewell is a writer, photographer and singer. He is the quintessential Renaissance man!**

