August 27, 2010 Conference Call Notes

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

Field project plans: Doug (and Baker via a brief email) reported that some sort of field project is hoped for this winter, mostly dependent on some modest funding to support the purchase of sondes/balloons/helium, as well as the undergrad students to do the field work at Poga Mtn. Doug will be contacting the sources who have provided the support from the State in the past. Steve K will check with Jeff W for any ideas. Baker is still working on installing equipment at Grandfather Mtn.

Doug and Baker will also be communicating next week about putting a paper together on the field work and modeling from the last few years and what would be best to include and focus on. They can brief the group on some of their thinking at our next call, and what help they need.

Future research (Google Sites NW Flow Snow collaborative web page): Introduced Gary L to this site and the sub-topics we've included. Steve K hasn't added too much to the sub-categories work, but will ask for a smaller team to have a separate call soon to work on this (hopefully we can have an initial call before the next general NWFS call). Need some help with definitions and database of past cases (was thinking 2006-2010).

Larry will continue to pursue how the CIPS Analog group at St. Louis may be able to help the specific NWFS issue. He will share a summary (via the Google Sites page) of some input he has already received about how we can use their tool to identify NWFS synoptic signals. Maybe we can invite someone from that group in on a future call. We may also want to try and have someone attempt to utilize this site in real time this winter during NWFS events and report on the potential of this tool for helping to recognize maybe significant events. We can utilize the main CSTAR_NWFS listserv to chat about this during the winter.

Modeling: We talked a little about the new BUFKIT 10.7 and ability to view ensemble BUFKIT output. We can currently view SREF BUFKIT soundings (if you can generate the collection of members into a .buz file), and hope to soon do that with the High Res Ensemble (HME) output once all members are submitting BUFR output to Brian at RENCI. Steve Z shared a method they are utilizing at LWX to generate time-lagged ensemble BUKIT files from past NAM versions they store. He and their ITO can share the details of how they created these files and also how to configure BUFKIT 10.7 to display any model name.

Next call: Generally Friday morning's still seem to work well, so we'll go with Friday Sept 24 at 9am for our next call.