

Weather or Not

NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard

September 2003

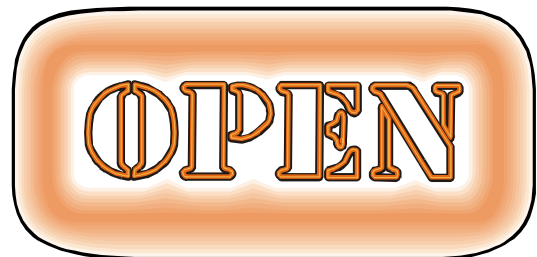
Weather Rock on Display!!!!

Come one...come all to see the latest in sedimentary science. Just kidding!!!!

On October 25th, the National Weather Service in Oxnard will once again host an Open House this time to celebrate our 10 year anniversary at our current location. The Open House will be free and open to the public.

At the Open House, various displays will be available, detailing the many facets of weather forecasting as well as our local operations. It will be a good opportunity to better familiarize yourself with the National Weather Service. Also, you will have the chance to discuss weather and other related topics with other individuals who have the same interests.

The Open House will begin at 900 AM and will continue until 600 PM. On our web site at www.nwsla.noaa.gov, there is an electronic version of the promotional flyer for the Open House. The flyer details the various areas of forecast and warning operations to be presented at the Open House as well as directions to our office. The National Weather Service looks forward to the chance to meet our customers and discuss the weather. With your attendance, the NWS can make this Open House a rousing success.



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Office Anniversary

By: Todd Morris and Rich Thompson

In October, the National Weather Service Los Angeles/Oxnard office will be celebrating our 10th anniversary at our current location in Oxnard, CA. With such an anniversary, I thought it would be interesting to provide a history of our office.

Prior to 1940, there was no weather forecast office in Southern California. All forecasts for the western U.S. were produced by the forecast office in San Francisco. However, on September 25th, 1939 a tropical storm moved onshore, just south of Los Angeles. This tropical storm generated over 5 inches of rain, caused two million dollars in damage and killed 45 people at sea. With a forecast of mostly cloudy skies with a chance of rain issued by San Francisco, a change was needed.

In February 1940, the U.S. Weather Bureau (renamed the National Weather Service in 1967) established a forecast office in Southern California, located at the Lockheed Terminal at Burbank airport. Under the supervision of Bob Fletcher, the office produced public, aviation and marine forecasts for Southern California as well as taking surface and upper air observations.

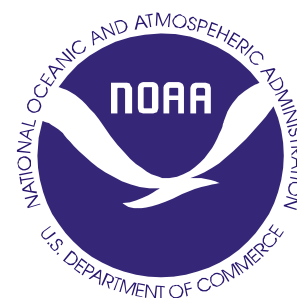
In 1949, the office moved to Los Angeles Airport on Century Boulevard. At this time, the office shared a building with the then-famous Mike Lyman's Café. Given its location, the office received visits from famous meteorologists such as Dr. Bjerknes and Paul Mantz as well as an actor named Ronald Reagan.

In February 1966, because the building was a fire hazard, the office was forced to move to a FAA-shared building on Manchester Boulevard. It was at this location that the National Weather Service began 24 hour broadcasts on NOAA Weather Radio.

In September 1969, the office once again moved, this time to the Federal Building on Wilshire Boulevard. Eventually as technology advanced, many manual tasks were automated, allowing for the expansion of our public, aviation and marine programs.

Finally, in October 1993, as part of the NWS's Modernization and Associated Restructuring, the forecast office moved to its current location in Oxnard, CA. From its current location, the forecast office accepted forecast and warning responsibilities for San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties.

Since 1940, the NWS office in Southern California has seen many changes both in location and technology. From the age of hand drawn charts and teletype machines to highly advanced Doppler Weather Radar and AWIPS, the science of meteorology and forecasting has advanced dramatically, allowing the NWS to provide our customers with improved forecasts and warnings. With continued technological advances, the NWS will continue to provide our customers the best forecast and warning services available.



Weather Wrap-Up

By: Rich Thompson

The first eight months of 2003 have provided several interesting weather events for our forecast area. In January, gusty offshore winds up to 75 mph knocked down trees and power lines across parts of Ventura and Los Angeles counties. These offshore winds also fueled a 2,200 acre brush fire in the Santa Monica Mountains.

In February, heavy rainfall of 1 to 5 inches produced widespread urban flooding across sections of Los Angeles county on the 12th, mainly in the communities of Van Nuys and Quartz Hill. On the 24th and 25th, a powerful Pacific storm brought heavy snowfall to the mountains of Ventura and Los Angeles counties. Snowfall totals ranged from 3-12 inches below 7000 feet and up to 24 inches above 7000 feet.

In March, a Pacific storm brought heavy rain and flooding to sections of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties on the 15th. Rainfall totals ranged from 1-3 inches across coastal areas and up to 7 inches in the mountains. Numerous road closures due to flooding and runoff were reported.

In April, the last major storm of the season brought heavy snow to the mountains of Ventura and Los Angeles counties on the 14th. Snowfall totals in the mountains ranged from 8 to 10 inches around the Mount Pinos area to 14 to 20 inches around the Mountain High area.

In July, a monsoonal flow pattern produced thunderstorm activity across the mountains and the Antelope Valley. On the 29th, severe thunderstorms produced penny-size hail and wind gusts up to 65 MPH across the Lake Los Angeles area in the Antelope Valley.

In August, another round of monsoon activity affected the Antelope Valley. On the 20th, monsoonal thunderstorms produced heavy rain and flash flooding in the Palmdale area.



Photos from July 29th in the Antelope Valley

Electronic Newsletter

By: Rich Thompson

In an effort to decrease the number of newsletter mailings and the workload associated with assembling this newsletter, I would like to start an e-mailing list for spotters who would like to receive Weather or Not in electronic form. So, if you would like to receive the newsletter through e-mail, please let me know. My e-mail address is Richard.A.Thompson@noaa.gov. I will try to send the newsletter in a .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) format. Since the Adobe Acrobat reader is readily available (and free), this would hopefully work for everyone involved. If I do not receive a response, I will continue to mail out a hard copy of the newsletter to your current address.

New Arrivals

By: Rich Thompson

The NWS office in Oxnard would like to officially welcome our two newest arrivals to the forecast staff: Dan Keeton and Bill Forwood.

Dan Keeton was named Meteorologist-In-Charge (MIC) on June 1st. As MIC, Dan will supervise all forecast operations conducted by the NWS office in Oxnard. Before coming to our office in Oxnard, Dan was the MIC of NWS offices at San Diego, Pendleton (Oregon) and Kodiak (Alaska). Dan's vast management experience will be a great benefit to our office.

Bill Forwood was selected for a General Forecaster position at the NWS office in Oxnard on March 18th. Previously, Bill worked as a General Forecaster at the NWS office in Eureka, California. With experience as Marine, AWIPS, and CRS Focal Points, Bill will be a great asset to the forecast operations at NWS Oxnard.

Weather Spotter Training

By: Rich Thompson

In January 2004, the National Weather Service will once again be conducting several Weather Spotter Training and Recruitment sessions across our forecast area. The training sessions will be for current spotters as well as any individuals who are interested in joining the program. If you have any friends who would like to join the Weather Spotter Program, please invite them to one of the talks.

The dates/times/locations of the Spotter Talks are listed below. Please RSVP for the talks either through e-mail (Richard.A.Thompson@noaa.gov) or voice mail (805-988-6615 x466). Leave your name, phone number and Spotter ID (if you are a spotter). Also, the talk information will be available on our web site: www.nwsla.noaa.gov.

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| January 6th, 2004:
(7-9PM) | Oxnard
NWS Office
520 North Elevar St. |
| January 7th, 2004:
(7-9PM) | Santa Barbara
Public Health
Department
300 San Antonio Road |
| January 8th, 2004:
(7-9PM) | Morro Bay
Morro Bay Community Ctr.
1001 Kennedy Way |
| January 13th, 2004:
(6-8PM) | Palmdale
Palmdale Youth Library
38510 North Sierra Hwy. |
| January 14th, 2004:
(6-8PM) | Santa Clarita
City Hall/Council Chambers
23920 Valencia Blvd. |
| January 15th, 2004:
(6-8PM) | Long Beach
El Dorado Public Library
2900 Studebaker Road |