

In Memoriam

The Wisconsin State Climatology Office is very sorry to note the death of former State Climatologist Val Mitchell on December 30, 1991, after a long struggle with multiple sclerosis. Val received his M.S. (1967) and Ph.D. (1969) degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the direction of Professor Reid Bryson. His special interest was the effect of mountain topography on regional climate, an interest he developed during his youth in Salt Lake City, UT. Prior to being appointed Wisconsin State Climatologist, he taught and researched at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT. Val served as the State Climatologist from 1974 to 1982, when he retired due to increasing health problems associated with MS. Under his leadership, the State Climatology Office successfully completed the transition from Federal to state control, within the UW-Extension's Geological and Natural History Survey. Val carried out a wide variety of studies in theoretical and applied climatology; some of these still form the basis of ongoing work in the present State Climatology Office. However, service to the state and the community was his favorite part of the job.

In addition to his widely varied interests in climatology and meteorology, Val was dedicated to service in the LDS Church, including a two-year mission, service in youth programs and several administrative positions. His life was an example of patient yet cheerful endurance, strength in spite of adversity, a love of people and music, and a zest for life and all its joy.

Val is survived by his wife, Margo, and four adult children. Mrs. Mitchell's address is 6105 Monticello Way, Madison, WI 53719.

Pamela Naber Knox
Wisconsin State Climatologist

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Anchorage Meeting

It was a pleasure to renew acquaintances with many of you at our annual meeting in Anchorage. I believe that we had a successful meeting with the discussion of important issues and the presentation of important information. I am sorry some of you were unable to attend and I will highlight some important points.

Total attendance at the meeting was near 45, which included some from the University of Alaska, the local National Weather Service staff, and the local Soil Conservation Service office. Around 40 members and associate members from the "Lower 48" were present. This is somewhat fewer than recent meetings, but certainly adequate for a viable meeting.

The Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) is on the verge of its operational phase. The issue of climate data continuity was discussed at some length. Of relevance to this issue, the National Weather Service (NWS) is planning a minimum one-year period of concurrent manual and ASOS measurements. In addition, the NWS has funded a comparison study for temperature and precipitation between current technology and ASOS. These are positive developments and I believe the AASC can take at least some of the credit for these.

Recently, the Department of Commerce held a ceremony in honor of the Centennial of the National Weather Service and the cooperative network. This ceremony was attended by Mrs. Marilyn Quayle and several high level DOC officials. The AASC contributed \$1,000 for the costs of the ceremony. In addition, President Mark Shulman attended as the representative of the AASC. He reports that the ceremony was very effective. He also reported that his presence was important in raising the visibility of the AASC at high levels of government. Thanks, Mark, for taking advantage of this opportunity on behalf of the AASC.

"The 1992 meeting of the American Association of State Climatologists will be on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky."

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Issues of data quality control and validation came up frequently. Those of you who are regular attendees know that this issue comes up at every meeting. I wonder if we might benefit from a more in-depth treatment of this subject at one of our annual meetings. In particular, we could devote a half-day at our next meeting to discuss methodology and perhaps develop a set of recommendations. If you think it would be worthwhile, please let me know.

New President

Our new President-Elect is Charlie Wax, the Mississippi SC. Congratulations, Charlie!!!

Ken Kunkel
Illinois State Water Survey

1992 AASC Annual Meeting

The 1992 meeting of the American Association of State Climatologists will be on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Meetings will be on August 6th and 7th in the Kentucky Library and Museum. This is an appropriate place to meet in the Bicentennial Year celebrating Kentucky's admission as the 15th state in 1792.

You will receive registration details and forms within a few weeks. A registration fee of about \$60 is anticipated. For the long-range planners, the local arrangements are shaping up this way. Those flying in will arrive in Nashville, Tennessee. It is a major hub for American and also is served by Delta, Southwest, Northwest, and other major airlines. Bowling Green is located about 65 miles north of Nashville on Interstate 65. It is presumed that most of you will be renting a car but the registration form will ask about your interest in a University shuttle between Nashville and Bowling Green since no commercial service exists. A block of rooms is being held at Bowling Green's Marriott Fairfield Inn (which is having its grand opening on

March 26th). The rooms will be about \$37 per night, per room. A hospitality room will be open for your arrival at the Inn on the evening of the 5th and for continental breakfast the next three mornings.

A University bus will provide transportation from the Inn to the Kentucky Library for the meetings on the 6th. Lunch will be provided in a lovely setting in the Museum. The bus will return you to the Inn and, later, from the Inn to the banquet that night. The similar schedule will apply to the 7th except that you will have that evening free.

A Spouse Tour by University bus will be scheduled for the 6th. Possibilities being explored are Shakertown established in 1807, Riverview (The Hobson House), a horse farm, and the Kentucky Museum.

On Saturday, the 8th, a field trip is planned to experience the karst landscape of south-central Kentucky. It will include a visit to Lost River (a karst window), the sinkhole plain, and Mammoth Cave National Park. At the park, we will have a special tour of a portion of the 340 miles (yes, miles!) of explored passages and hear about the research in cave meteorology and radon transport. By the way, my forecast is that the weather in the cave will be clear, dark, and about 56°F so bring along a light jacket or sweater. We hope most of you will stay for this tour.

You can expect to receive at least two mailings. One will be the official registration materials which you will receive in a few weeks. The other will be a visitor's packet which will help you plan a vacation in Kentucky before or after our meeting. We look forward to being your host. Meanwhile, if you have any questions or tourist advice, please call me at (502) 745-5983.

Glen Conner
State Climatologist for Kentucky
