

LOCAL FLOOD WARNING SYSTEMS

A short course on automated local flood warning system technology will be held May 16, 17, 18 in Austin, Texas. The course will cover many aspects of automated systems including how to select a system, determine benefits and costs of various types of systems, achieve a 90% reduction in flood losses, how to maintain systems to achieve a high level of success, establishing an effective emergency action plan and how to obtain funding. Federal, State and local experts in warning systems will participate. Cost of the course is \$350.00. Deadline for registration is May 1. Call (301) 774-1616 or write: River Services, Inc., 2923 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Suite E, Olney, Maryland 20832.

WEATHER FLIGHT PLANNING CONTRACT

Contel Federal systems announced that it has been awarded a contract from the FAA to provide weather and flight planning services directly to general aviation pilots. The estimated value of the contract to Contel is approximately \$12,000,000 over five years.

Under terms of the contract, pilots in the continental United States may use personal computers to access basic weather and flight planning services without charge. Called DUATS, which stands for Direct User Access Terminal Service, the program will also enable pilots to file flight plans directly with the FAA, a service previously available only at FAA Flight Service Centers.

The program is a major step in the modernization of the National Airspace System and FAA's efforts to increase the safety and control of the nation's airways.

MERITORIOUS EXECUTIVE AWARD

The White House has announced Presidential approval to the naming of Assistant Administrators Thomas N. Pyke, Jr., (NESDIS), and Elbert W. Friday Jr., (NWS) to the rank of Meritorious Executives. The ranking, a program of the Office of Personnel Management, honors outstanding employees in the Executive Branch.

NAVAL WEATHER SERVICE ASSOCIATION

The Naval Weather Service Association (NWSA) will hold its fifteenth annual reunion convention on June 21-24 in Carmel, California. Host for this annual event will be the Monterey Chapter of the (NWSA). Convention headquarters will be at the Carmel Mission Inn.

All past or present members of Navy Aerology, Naval Weather Service Command or Naval Oceanography Command and their comrades, associates and friends are cordially invited to attend this event on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula.

For additional information contact Sam Houston, NWSA 15th Reunion, P.O. Box 8662 NPS, Monterey, CA 93943 or telephone 408-649-0109.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I would like to bring up for discussion the plight of the National Weather Service. Although not being directly involved with NWS operations, I have enough contacts through friends and former students to get an idea of what has been going on. Budget cuts have taken a tremendous toll. Many stations are seriously understaffed. The National Meteorological Center has been particularly hard hit. Technological advances which could improve weather services are being delayed or cut. This country is willing to pay billions of dollars for weapon systems to protect us against some imagined enemy, but is unwilling to spend a fraction of this amount to protect us against the very real threat of severe weather. There is no doubt in my mind that at some point cutbacks in services will result in the loss of life in a severe weather event. An associated problem with this is the collapsing morale of NWS employees. Besides the uncertainty of the future, there is a growing feeling that extra effort is not rewarded and minimal efforts are enough.

The reason for the budget cuts are obvious. One does not get elected to serve in Washington by touting improved weather services. A pro-military and anti-crime platform are much more appealing. In a strange twist, the NWS which serves everyone has no constituency. There is seemingly nothing to gain by supporting the NWS, which makes it an appealing target for budget reductions.

If anyone has any suggestions on how to change Federal policies, now is the time to speak out.

E. A. Brotak
Atmospheric Sciences
Univ. of North Carolina
Asheville, NC 28804

BOOK REVIEW

Publisher: University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK
Copyright: 1988, 235 pages
Title: Instruments and Techniques for Thunderstorm Observations and Analysis, 2nd edition
Editor: Edwin Kessler

"Instruments and Techniques for Thunderstorm Observations and Analysis" is the third in a series of review volumes edited by Edwin Kessler. In the Tradition of the earlier volumes this book is an excellent collection of thirteen articles by twenty-two respected authors and researchers. These articles cover a wide variety of topics on thunderstorm observation and analysis methods.

Topics covered by the text include observation and analysis of special network data, techniques used by tornado intercept teams, measurement of thunderstorms from aircraft, photogrammetry techniques for thunderstorms, storm acoustics and infrasound, the electrical nature of thunderstorms, hailfall observation and measurement methods, conventional and doppler radar concepts, and use of satellite observations.

Individual articles provide considerable detail, including mathematical treatments as needed. For example, in Chapter

1, Wilk and Barnes review early mesoscale observation networks and examples of the results obtained. The current NSSL network and the types of instrumentation are also discussed. The chapter concludes with a discussion of objective analysis techniques for spatially distributed time series observations.

As another example, Doviak, Sirmans and Zrnica, in Chapter 10, discuss weather radar from the principles of radar through doppler formulations. Observations of weather phenomena with radar are examined in detail including numerous examples of doppler applications. Each chapter is interlaced with numerous references for those who wish to pursue the topic in greater depth.

"Instruments and Techniques for Thunderstorm Observation and Analysis" is an excellent starting point for anyone interested in thunderstorm observation and analysis methods. It will be a valuable resource for those who need at least a basic knowledge of how specific measurement and analysis systems function. This text is strongly recommended as an addition to the library of anyone with an interest in thunderstorm phenomena.

R. P. McNulty
Topeka, Kansas
Severe Weather Feature Editor

Are Your Dial-Up Costs Out of Control?

Dial-up acquisition of NWS alphanumeric services can leave you with a staggering bill at the end of the month.

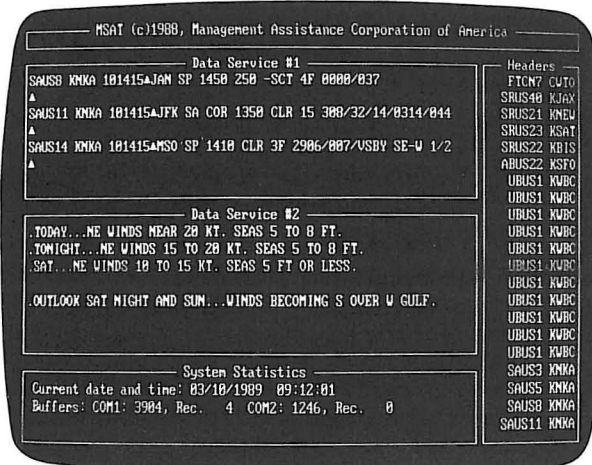
Every time you log on, the meter starts running.

Alden introduces MSAT-90™, a new software program to let you process these services, with unlimited access and unlimited information at a low, fixed monthly rate.

MSAT-90 runs on most PC-compatible computers and can handle any NWS alphanumeric data stream, whether from Alden, Zephyr or any other source. Menu driven and user friendly, MSAT-90 lets you choose all the data available from a particular location, or receive specific bulletins such as FPUS 5 for any selected locations.

MSAT-90 can process up to three data services simultaneously, and operates in background mode while you use your computer with other MS-DOS programs.

For complete information, call or write Alden Electronics, 50 Washington St., Westborough, MA 01581 (508) 366-8851.



MSAT-90™ is a trademark of Management Assistance Corporation of America.

ALDEN ELECTRONICS