



The Co-Op Contributor

Serving the Co-Op Observer Network of the National Weather Service - Fort Worth Office

Spring 2008 Issue

- ▶ Page 2
**North Texas
Snows!!**
- ▶ Page 3
**Pictures From
Observers**
- ▶ Pages 4
**Cooking Corner
Recipe**

Co-Op Contributor

Editor

Jennifer Dunn

jennifer.dunn@noaa.gov

Program Manager

Gerry Shultz

gerald.shultz@noaa.gov

Moving Toward Automation

There are several changes taking place within the COOP program that prove to be exceptionally beneficial to the program, the observer, and the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). The ultimate goal of these changes is to eventually automate the transfer of data to NCDC. This is going to be achieved by making the daily reporting process "paperless". Daily entry of data will provide the local Forecast Office with much needed information necessary for forecasting, storm data verification and near immediate archiving of data at NCDC. Daily reporting will be completed using either IVROCS or WxCoder, and it will eliminate the need to mail in forms each month. It goes without saying that postal rates are not going to decline and with the elimination of mailing monthly forms the savings become self evident.



When will this happen? Well, it's already begun.

For observers already using WxCoder, WxCoder III is now a reality. With the updated WxCoder in operation (effective 2/1/08), it continues to make for an easy method of reporting data on a daily or near daily basis and allows the

Weather Office to download the monthly forms in a matter of minutes for transfer to NCDC. Observers will be notified over the next few months as to when the need to submit paper forms will no longer be necessary. The necessity for paper forms being submitted is expected to end by the end of the year.

For the observer using IVROCS, the necessity to mail in forms will also come to an end with the merger of IVROCS and WxCoder databases. Observers will continue to keep a log for personal and backup but otherwise cease mailing in a monthly form. Again, as with individuals using WxCoder, observers will be notified when they can stop sending in paper forms.

For observers who currently do not use WxCoder or IVROCS, you will be required to. A quick explanation of IVROCS vs WxCoder: IVROCS reporting is accomplished by dialing in to a toll free number and responding to a computerized voice. WxCoder reporting is accomplished by logging on to the Internet and entering data on a web page. Both methods allow data to be entered daily and both allow the observer to contact our office for assistance. New or updated training on IVROCS and WxCoder will be provided as needed. Over the next several months we can expect more changes within the process, and although that process will be mainly behind the scenes, it will benefit everyone involved with the program.

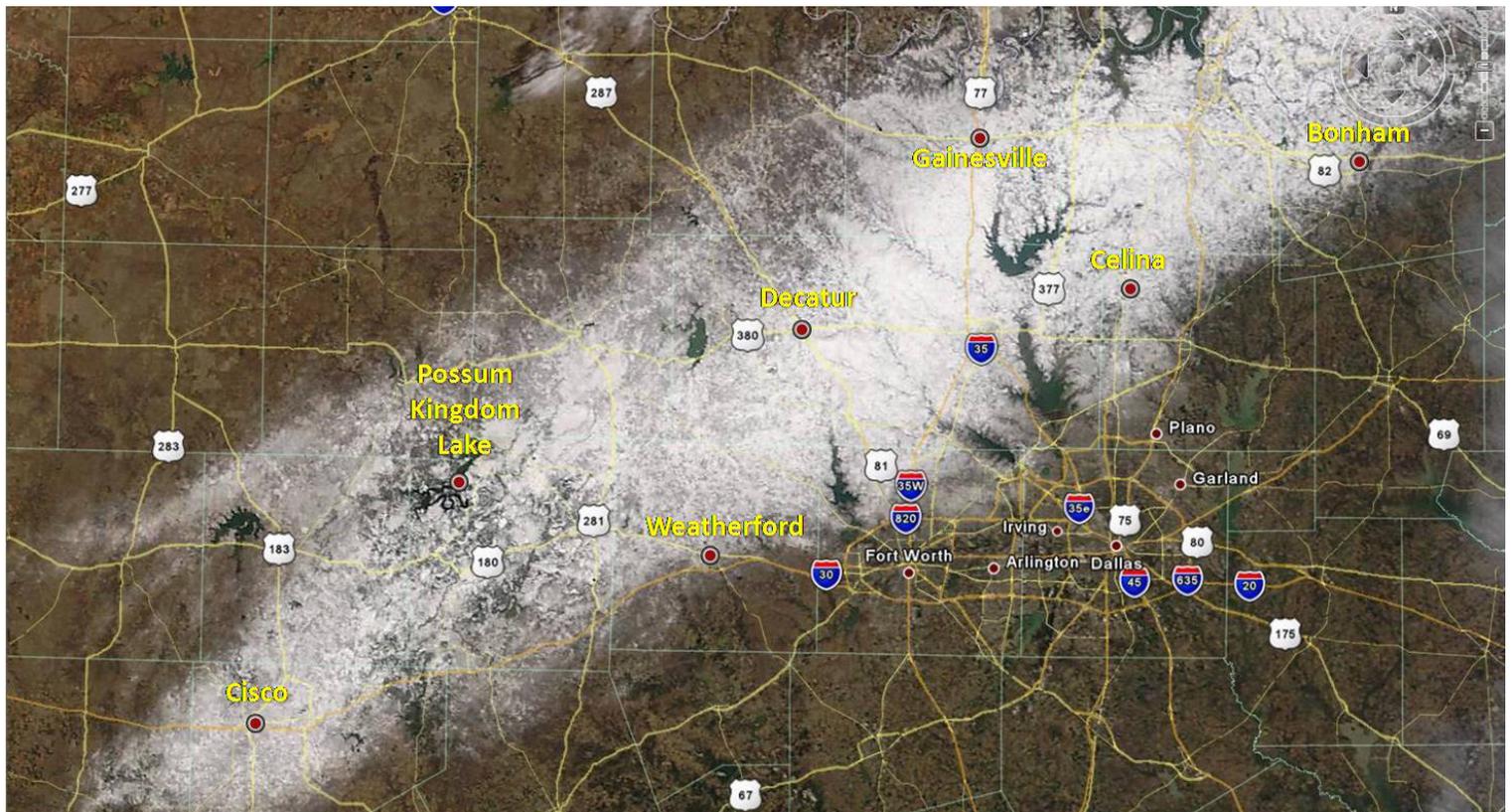
Thank You for your cooperation in this matter!



North Texas Sees Snow Twice in One Week

During the week of March 3rd, 2007 north Texas had the pleasure of seeing snow not once, but twice! It is a rare occurrence for us to get two snow events in one week, but we are more prone to get two ice storms in one week. The first snow event on March 3rd left up to 5" inches of snow in a few locations near the Red River. The second snow event, on March 6th, was impressive with more widespread snowfall and up to 9" of snow being recorded in some places. A summary of the March 6th event is highlighted below:

On March 6th, a deep upper level trough was slowly moving across Texas. During the day before (March 5th), upper level moisture had been fed into the region from the Pacific Ocean along the jet stream. At the same time, southerly winds at the surface were bringing low level moisture into north Texas. Most of north Texas saw high temperatures on the 5th in the 60s! However, a cold front was also sliding into the region on the 5th; but the much colder air behind the front didn't filter into north Texas until the night of the 5th-6th. Scattered rain showers started to develop during the morning of the 6th. Then as temperatures continued to drop across the northern half of north Texas, the rain transitioned to sleet and then snow. The far western counties of north Texas were actually seeing snow by the late morning hours. The areal coverage of snow quickly increased as the upper level trough moved closer and before we knew it, north Texans were seeing big snowflakes falling so hard they reduced visibilities at times to less than a mile in some locations! The bulk of the snow lasted from the late morning hours until late afternoon, but some locations in north Texas saw some snow as late as the morning of the 7th. Most of the snow fell north of a line from Rising Star to Fort Worth to Paris. Temperatures during the event remained at 30-34 degrees.



Above: High resolution satellite image of north Texas snowfall taken on March 7.



Pictures From Observers!



Heavy snow falls in Decatur on March 6. The observer measured 9 inches of snow.



Farmersville received nearly 2 inches of snow on March 6.



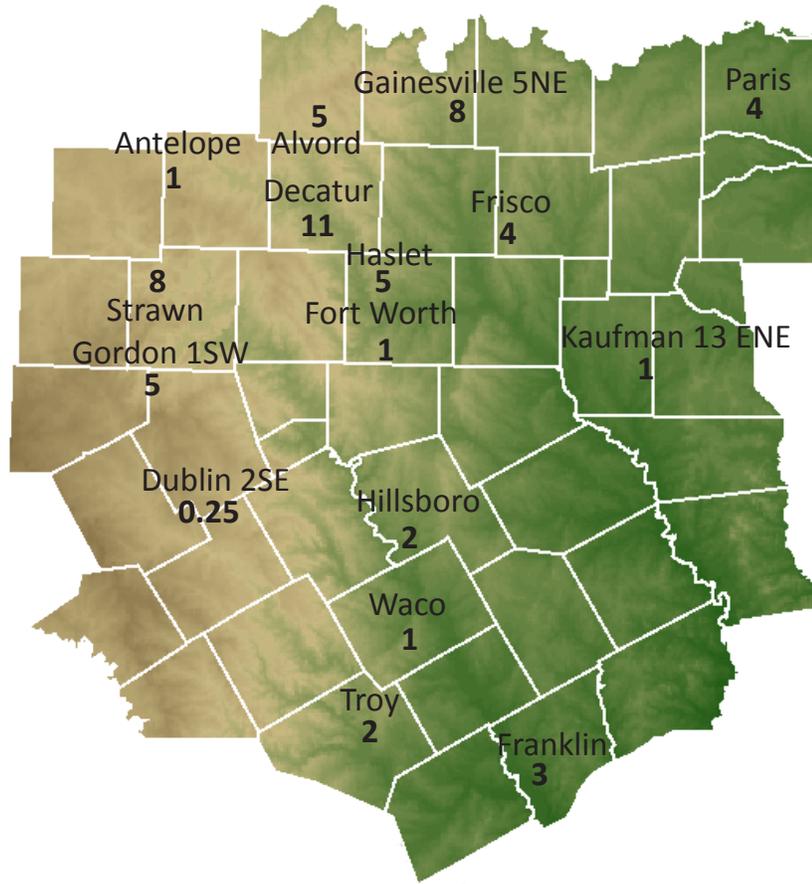
Granddaughter Lily plays in the snow in Decatur on March 6.



A Texas snowman in Haslet.



Some March Snowfall Totals



Cooking Corner Recipe - Mexican Cornbread Casserole

- ▶ 1 Box of Cornbread Mix (include additional ingredients listed on cornbread box)
- ▶ 1 Pound of Ground Beef
- ▶ 1 Small can of chopped Green Chilies
- ▶ 1 Package of Taco Seasoning Mix
- ▶ 1 Can of regular corn
- ▶ 1 Can of creamed corn
- ▶ 1 1/2 cups of shredded cheddar cheese

Brown ground beef, add taco seasoning per package directions; add green chilies; set aside.

Mix cornbread per package directions; to corn bread add 1/2 can cream corn and 1/2 can drained regular corn.

Add 1/2 of cornbread mixture in bottom of 9 X 13 pan. Top with cornbread mixture; remaining can of corn and cream corn over that; add 1/2 of cheese; top with remaining cornbread mixture and cheese over top. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes.