

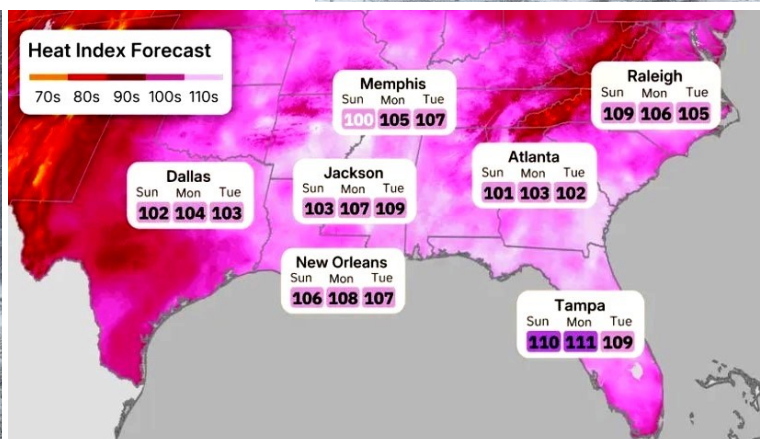
Microvolt

Monthly newsletter of the Utah Amateur Radio Club

August 2025



The Weather



Before engaging in an outdoor activity, we tend to consult the weather forecast. We often measure the meteorological effects of the weather in terms of temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, wind, and precipitation. *Climate* refers to the weather pattern or history in a region or localized area. It turns out that the weather affects amateur radio, but not always how we might expect. Yet, when we do expect severe or an undesirable weather event, what can we do to prepare for it? Let's look into that and similar weather-related questions.

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Cover – Weather

It seems that the weather affects much of what we do, even if we're indoors. When the conditions outside become too uncomfortable, they tend to drive us inside. And when it looks and feels pleasant outside, most of us are tempted to join other adventurers beyond our ability to resist. Still, we allow the outdoor ambient to dictate what we wear and where we might go, such as when deciding whether to work from home.

Adverse weather, hazardous weather, severe weather. Many avid outdoorsmen say that there's no such thing as **bad weather**, only bad clothing, emphasizing the thought that the right apparel can protect them against any adverse weather. It would be curious to know whether any of these nature-hardy folks had ever survived a hurricane.

Weather types and effects

Weather can include the following:

- Rain, drizzle
- Snow, sleet, freezing rain, icing over
- Fog, haze
- Extreme cold
- Heat wave
- Wind, hurricane, tornado, dust storm, squall
- Hail, pellets, grains
- Lightning

But weather can extend into these effects:

- Flooding
- Storm surge
- Inversion, ducting
- Wildfire
- Dew, frost
- Absence of air movement (too calm)
- Drought

Also, these can be affected by weather:

- Sunburn, cancer
- Sleep cycle
- Mood
- Metallic corrosion
- Material degradation
- Ecological system
- World economy
- So much more

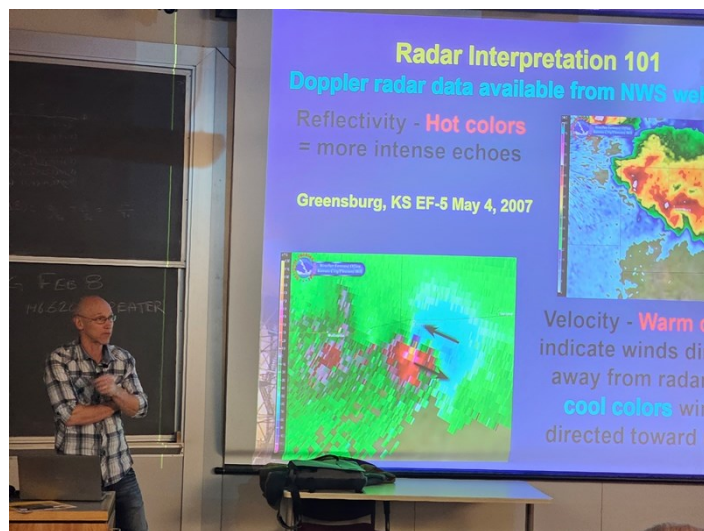


Weather effects on propagation

Many hams wonder how the weather might affect their signal, and that's a great question. In general, rain and snow do not have much effect on your signal unless its frequency is greater than about 2000 MHz (2 GHz). On the other hand, lightning can introduce a lot of noise in an SSB signal.

Talk about the weather

Earlier this year, Kevin Barjenbruch made a presentation in the monthly UARC meeting on "storm watching" and explained how people can get involved. *Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.* Today, he's retired from the NWS (National Weather Service), but you can still see [his presentation](#) on [our YouTube Channel](#).



Finally, when people on the radio start talking about the weather, that's typically your clue that the QSO is about to come to and end. That is, when weather concerns are not the main topic of the conversation.

Microvolt editorial staff