

EDITORIAL

New Policy on the Weather and Circulation Articles in the Monthly Weather Review

Effective with this issue, the regular monthly feature Weather and Circulation will not be published in the *Monthly Weather Review*. As suggested by the Climate Analysis Center, who have been responsible for preparing these articles, most of the information in the monthly summaries is available from other sources, including the *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* of NOAA. Thus, there is little scientific justification for reproducing much of this information in the *Monthly Weather Review*.

In place of this feature, a new quarterly weather summary will be prepared by the Climate Analysis Center. Published at three-month intervals, these papers will discuss the weather for each meteorological season (defined by the Climate Analysis Center as December–February, March–May, etc.) and include charts and discussions of both seasonal and monthly mean Northern Hemisphere circulation, and U.S. temperature and precipitation patterns. When appropriate, illustrated discussions of important weather events on time scales shorter than a month would be included. Other aspects of global weather will be discussed including tropical and Southern Hemisphere circulation, snow and ice anomalies, sea surface temperature, and selected indices of global climate fluctuation such as a Southern Oscillation Index.

It is expected that this new format will provide an additional source of weather data to researchers in and forecasters of synoptic and hemispheric weather and climate patterns. By summarizing the weather by meteorological seasons, it will be easier to discuss weather events by regimes (e.g., the hemispheric wave pattern), rather than the arbitrary constraint of a month time period. Since the information published in the past in the monthly Weather and Circulation articles is readily available, this new format should be a valuable new addition to the meteorological community. This new regular series will be initiated with a discussion of the Spring season.

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