

My name is Keith Heidorn.

If you asked me to describe myself in the context of the Weather Doctor, I would tell you that I am both an artist and a scientist who is deeply involved with the weather and other atmospheric phenomena on many levels.

I have had a love affair with the weather for about 45 years.

You see, I think that weather is the most sensual aspect of life, stimulating all my senses at one time or another and often several at once.

I was born in Chicago and grew up in northeastern Illinois where I first fell in love with the weather.

The Great Lakes region has its variety of weather extremes generally with a rapid turnover of daily weather events.

UNITED STATES

1 October 1989, Moultrie, Georgia: A tornado southwest of Moultrie kills two persons and injures a dozen others. Tornadoes also injure one person north of Graceville, Florida and two at Bartow, Georgia.

1-2 October 2006, Wichita, Kansas: Wichita records its hottest October day ever on the 1st with a 97°F (36.1°C) high. That record is threatened the following day as the thermometer reaches 95°F (35.0°C).

2 October 1858, San Diego, California: The only tropical cyclone known to produce hurricane-force (estimated) winds on the California coast hits near San Diego. Damage to property is considerable.

2 October 1882, Oregon and northern California: An early season windstorm over Oregon and northern California blows down thousands of trees and greatly damages crops in the Sacramento Valley.

2 October 2003, Alaska: Temperatures around 70°F (21°C) in many Alaska communities set many all-time October maximum records (17). In Chalkytsik, the high of 75°F (23.8°C) broke the old record by 16 F degrees (8.9 C degrees).

3 October 1912, Bagdad, California: The longest dry spell in U.S. records begins. The 767 rainless period ends on November 9, 1914.

3 October 1986, Hardy Kansas: An incredible 21.79 inches (553.5 mm) of rain falls on Hardy as the remnants of Hurricane Paine passes into mid-America. The storm also brought 6-10 inches (152-254 mm) of rain to Oklahoma and Kansas.

3 October 2006, Illinois: Several cities tie or set new maximum temperature records. Peoria and Springfield hit 93°F (33.9°C); Moline and Burlington, 95°F (35°C).

4 October 1777, Germantown, Pennsylvania: In a dense morning fog, the American troops fight the British at the Battle of Germantown. The thick fog, that grew more dense with the smoke of battle, causes Americans soldiers to fire at each other.

4 October 1998, Oklahoma: 27 tornadoes touch down across Oklahoma establishing the national record for tornadoes in any state on a single October day.

4 October 2005, Minneapolis, Minnesota: Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport receives 4.61 inches (117 mm), breaking the local daily rainfall record for October. North of the Twin Cities, weather spotters reports 9 inches of rain (229 mm) in the town of Spencer Brook.

4 October 2006, Shoshone, Idaho: A rare October tornado touches down near this Idaho community but causes no significant damage. NWS reports this is only the second recorded October tornado in the state. The previous occurred in October 1984 in Ada County.

4-5 October 1679, New England: The Great Northeastern Rainstorm and Flood of October 1869 dumps 182 mm (7.15 inches) of rain in 24 hours on Middletown, Connecticut, most coming the morning of the 4th. Northeastern coastal Maine takes the full brunt of the hurricane as the storm surge produces tremendous tides. At the entrance to the Bay of Fundy, the islands of Deer, Grand Manan, and Campobello all sustain severe damage from wind and tide, as did the communities of Eastport and Calais, Maine .

4-7 October 1972, Arizona: Remnants of Hurricane Joanne brings heavy rain and flooding to much of Arizona. It is the first documented tropical storm to reach the state with its cyclonic circulation intact. Severe flooding occurs in the Clifton, Duncan and Safford areas.

5 October 1638, Massachusetts Colony: The journal of John Winthrop records that a mighty tempest struck eastern New England, the second severe hurricane in three years. It blows down many trees in mile-long tracks.

5 October 1786, Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers, Pennsylvania: The famous Pumpkin Flood swells the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers. Harrisburg reports a river stage of 22 ft (6.7 m).

5 October 2005, North Dakota: After sweating through 90 °F (32 °C) plus heat at month's onset, North Dakotans see heavy snow fall across much of the state. Observers report 12 inches (30 cm) of snow around Halliday and 10 inches (25 cm) at Fairfield, north of Belfield in Billings County. Minot measures 8-10 inches (20-25 cm).

6 October 1836, New York and Pennsylvania: A second early season snowstorm drops eleven inches (28 cm) at Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania and 26 inches (66 cm) at Auburn, New York. All northeastern US mountains are whitened with snow.

7 October 1981, Seattle, Washington: The Emerald City receives 4 inches (102 mm) of rain in 24 hours, one of the rainiest days on record.

7 October 2007, Chicago, Illinois: With the mercury soaring to a record-breaking 87°F (30 °C). race organizers cancel the Chicago Marathon 3.5 hours into the race.

8 October 1871, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan: The Great Chicago Fire burns much of the city to the ground, fanned by strong southwest winds; 250 are killed. On same night, forest firestorm sweeps Peshtigo, Wisconsin. An estimated 1,100 die as gale-force winds push flames across town. Severe drought blamed for tinder-dry conditions. An additional 200 die in Michigan fires.

8 October 2008, Panama City, Florida: A cold front passing across Florida produces a tornado in Panama City that brings down power lines and blows out windows.

8-10 October 2006, Valdez and Seward, Alaska: Days of torrential rains, closing portions of the Seward Highway, cut off road access to these Alaskan communities. Rainfall measured in the Seward area ranges from 9 inches to almost 15 inches (229 to 381 mm).

9 October 1903, New York, New York: New York City is deluged with 11.17 inches (283.7 mm) of rain, its greatest daily rainfall total.

9-11 October 1954, Chicago, Illinois: A 48-hour deluge of 6.72 inches (170.7 mm) floods the Chicago River, causing ten million dollars damage in the Chicago area.

10 October 1804, New England States: Famous snow hurricane blows northerly gales from Maine to New Jersey. Heavy snow falls across New England with three feet (90 cm) reported at the crest of the Green Mountains. A foot (30 cm) of snow is reported in the Berkshire Mountains of southern New England at Goshen, Connecticut.

10 October 1928, Minneapolis, Minnesota: Late year heat pushes the temperature at Minneapolis to 90°F (32.2 °C), their latest 90° reading of record.

10 October 2009, Nome, Alaska: Nome experiences its first ever October (Autumn) thunderstorm with five lightning strikes between 8 and 9 PM ADT.

10-12 October 2008, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho: A significant winter storm brings heavy snowfall to areas of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho over three days. The city of Red Lodge, Montana records its highest 24-hour snowfall total with 42 inches (107 cm) of snow. Glasgow, Montana also sets a new 12 October record when 12.8 inches (32.5 cm) of snow falls.

11 October 1977, Ketchikan, Alaska: The wet community of Ketchikan experiences its wettest day: 8.71 inches (221 mm).

12 October 1836, New York State: Third heavy snow to fall in season. Storm totals: 18 in (46 cm) at Bridgewater and 12 in (30 cm) at Madison.

12 October 2006, Chicago, Illinois: With 0.3 inches (0.76 cm) of snow falling at O'Hare International Airport, Chicago sets a new record for the earliest measurable snowfall since record-keeping began in 1871. The previous earliest date was 18 October in both 1972 and 1989.

12-13 October 2006, Buffalo, New York: An unusually-early and intense lake-effect snow storm, dubbed Aphid by the local Weather Service office, hits the Buffalo region with up to 2 ft (60 cm) of snow. The storm is punctuated by several thundersnow bursts. The storm knocked out power to 155,000. The 8.3 inches (21.1 cm) measured at the official Buffalo weather station on the 12th set a record for the snowiest October day in the station's 137-year history. The record did not last long, however, as the measurement on the morning of the 13th totals 10.9 inches (27.7 cm). The two day event totalled 22.6 inches (57.4 cm), breaking the October record for a single snowfall event. The storm is the sixth heaviest snowfall on record.

12-14 October 2005, Central Park, New York, New York: On its way to setting a local record for the month, Central Park receives 8.5 inches (216 mm) over this three-day period. (16.73 inches [425 mm] will fall during October to eclipse a 102-year record.)

12-14 October 2009, California: A mammoth Pacific storm system, the remnants of former Typhoon Melor, has whips California's mountains with 100 mph mountaintop wind gusts. The rainfall total reaches 21.34 inches (544 mm) at Mining Ridge in Monterey County, roughly halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The weather station at Three Peaks (elevation 3362 feet) near Monterey accumulates 16.46 inches (418 mm) of rain.

13 October 1846, East Coast: A major hurricane roars across Cuba, Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia and Pennsylvania inflicting extreme damage along its entire path. Key West Florida, and Philadelphia Pennsylvania are particularly hard hit.

14 October 1984, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Dense fog contributes to a 118 vehicle accident on I-94, just south of Milwaukee, the seventh day of an eight day stretch of dense fog. At the time of the accident the visibility was reportedly close to zero.

15 October 1880, Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas: A violent early season blizzard hits Iowa, Minnesota and the two Dakotas. Winds gust to 70 mph (112 km/h) at Yankton, South Dakota, and snow drifts 10 to 15 feet (3 to 4.5m) high are reported in northwest Iowa and southeast South Dakota. Railroads are blocked by drifts of snow which will remain throughout the coming, severe winter.

15-17 October 2005, Mount Washington, New Hampshire: The summit of the highest peak in the Northeast accumulates 34 inches (86.4 cm) of snow between Saturday and Monday. The 24-hour record for the most snowfall falls when 25.5 inches (64.8 cm) of snow piles up between noon Sunday and noon Monday.

16 October 1913, San Francisco, California: Downtown San Francisco thermometer soars to 101 °F (38.3 °C) to equal their October record.

16 October 2007, Los Angeles County, California: A blinding sandstorm in the high desert north of Los Angeles wreaks havoc with local traffic causing a highway pileup involving dozens of vehicles. Two die and 16 are injured as a result of the storm which reportedly raised dust to 1000 foot (305 metres) high.

17 October 1971, Wray, Colorado: Large balls of fire are observed just ahead of a tornado moving down the main street of Wray. Little other electrical activity accompanies the storm.

17 October 2009, Miami, Florida : Miami registers a record high of 92 degrees., extending an October record of 14 straight 90-degree-plus days.

17-18 October 2005, Las Vegas, Nevada : Heavy rains over the period accmulates 36.1 mm (1.42 inches). The rainfall breaks the full month record for October set in 1992. The rainfall floods roadways and knocks out power.

17-19 October 2007, United States : According to NOAA's Storm Prediction Center, 87 tornadoes were reported in the United States from Oct. 17-19 – a new record outbreak for the month. With the outbreak, the monthly total of confirmed tornado reaches 105, the second highest for October, behind the 117 in October 2001 since records began in 1950. Over 300 reports of severe weather were filed on 18 October across the lower and mid-Mississippi Valleys.

18 October 1906, Florida Keys: A hurricane strikes South Florida drowning 124 persons stranded in the Florida Keys.

19 October 1844, Lake Erie and Buffalo, New York: The famous Lower Great Lakes Storm strikes with hurricane force, southwesterly winds rage for five hours, driving lake waters into downtown Buffalo. The storm drowns 200 persons.

19-20 October 2004, Nome, Alaska: A severe Bering Sea storm generates waves atop high tide to flood downtown Nome with a storm surge as high as 20 ft (6.1 m). Flooding of downtown streets causes evacuation of dozens of Nome businesses and homes when surge knocks loose 1,000-pound propane tanks.

20 October 1989, Marquette, Michigan: Squalls off the Great Lakes bury Marquette under 12.7 inches (32.3 cm) of snow, a record October 24-hour total.

20 October 2003, Seattle, Washington: A persistant Pineapple Express flow drops torrential rains across the Pacific Northwest. Seattle breaks a one-day rainfall record, 5.02 inches (127.5 mm), shattering the old record of 3.41 inches (86.6 mm). Governor Gary Locke declares a state of emergency for 7 counties as 10 rivers in Washington rise above flood stage.

20-21 October 1957, Southern California: Southern California hit by second major storm in the month, causing widespread thunderstorms; waterspouts are sighted off Point Mugu and Oceanside. Santa Maria is drenched with 1.13 inches (28.7 mm) of rain in two hours; hail drifts to 18 inches (46 cm) in East Los Angeles.

19-21 October 1983, Oklahoma: Remnants of Pacific Hurricane Tico drops heavy rain which causes extensive flooding in central and south central Oklahoma. Oklahoma City set daily rainfall records with 1.45 inches (368 mm) on the 19th, and 6.28 inches (1595 mm) on the 20th.

21 October 1989, Daytona Beach, Florida: Cold air settles across the American South dropping Daytona Beach's low temperature to 41°F (5 °C) .

22 October 1965, San Diego, California: The temperature soars to 104°F (40 °C) in San Diego as Southern California endures a late October heat wave.

22 October 2007, New England: A tropical air mass along the Atlantic Seaboard pushes the afternoon high temperatures 10 to 25 Fahrenheit degrees (4.6 to 11.6 Celsius degrees) above the long-term average highs for the third week of October. Daily record high temperatures are tied or exceeded with 80°F (26.7 °C) readings at Montpelier, Vermont, and Millinocket, Maine .

23 October 1843, New York and New England: Indian Summer is rudely ousted by cold and snow. A foot (30 cm) of snow blanketed Haverhill New Hampshire and Newberry, Vermont, and 18 to 24 inches (46-60 cm) were reported in some of the higher elevations, bringing early sleighing from the Poconos to Vermont.

23 October 2003, Phoenix, Arizona: Phoenix sets a record high and also breaks the record for the latest date for a triple-digit temperature as the temperature soars to 100 °F (37.8 °C).

23 October 2007, Northern Louisiana: Cold air descends over northern Louisiana setting daily low maximum temperature records. El Dorado only reaches a high of only 52°F (11.1 °C) and Monroe, 54°F (12.2 °C).

24 October 1951, Sacramento, California: Sacramento reports a barometric pressure of 29.42 inches (99.63 kPa), to establish a record for October.

25 October 1977, Dutch Harbor, Alaska: Barometer plunges to an unbelievable 27.31 inches (926 mb) during a major storm at Dutch Harbor, St Paul Island in the Pribilof Chain.

26 October 1859, New York, New York: Four inches (10 cm) of snow blanket New York City, its earliest significant snowfall.

26 October 1919, Bismarck, North Dakota: The temperature plunges to -10 °F (-23 °C), the earliest subzero reading of record for the city and a record low for the month of October.

26 October 2005, Mount Washington, New Hampshire: The summit receives another 27.5 inches (69.9 cm) of snow overnight to break the 24-hour snowfall record set nine days ago. In the last 12 days, 72 inches (177.5 cm) has fallen, nearly 25 % of a normal year's total.

27 October 1989, Central Rockies: Wintry weather invades the northwestern US as a storm crossing the Central Rockies produces up to 23 inches (58.4 cm) of snow in the mountains east of Salt Lake City Utah.

28 October 1938, Layton, New Jersey: Layton's morning temperature drops to 9°F (-12.8°C).

29 October 1917, Soda Butte, Wyoming: Temperature falls to -33°F (-36°C).

30 October 1947, Donora, Pennsylvania: Five days of temperature inversions in the Monongahela Valley raises air pollution to deadly levels. 20 deaths are blamed on Donora Smog Disaster.

30 October 2004, Oahu, Hawaii: Exceptionally heavy rain drenches the Manoa Valley near Waikiki. Ten inches (254 mm) of rain falls at the Manoa Arboretum in just 12 hours, causing flooding that rushes through the University of Hawaii's main research library.

31 October 1965, Fort Lauderdale, Florida: Fort Lauderdale is deluged with 13.81 inches (350.1 mm) of rain, which brings the city's rainfall total for October to an all-time record of 42.43 inches (1077.7 mm).

31 October 1989, Colorado: Chatter or treat? Alamosa begins the day as the cold spot in the nation with a record low 2°F (-16.7°C). Halloween night brings a snowstorm that dumps 3 to 6 inches (7.6 to 15 cm) of snow to the Front Range, and 5 to 10 inches (13-25 cm) to the nearby foothills.