

**GLOBAL CRYOSPHERE WATCH (GCW)  
Snow Watch Team – Second Session**

Date: 20.IV.2016

COLUMBUS, OH, UNITED STATES  
13 – 14 JUNE 2016

Original: English

**INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**

**A. PLACE OF THE MEETING**

*Opening date and place of the session*

The second session of the GCW Snow Watch Team will be held at the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center of The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, United States (see location map at end of document) with an objective to evaluate current progress and future actions for the Snow Watch activity of the GCW

Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center  
Scott Hall Room 240  
1090 Carmack Road  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1002  
Telephone: (614) 292-6531  
Fax: (614) 292-4697

Hours: Regular hours are 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

The session will begin on 13 June 2016, at 0900 in Room 240, the Scott Hall auditorium.

**English will be the language used at the meeting and for all documents.**

Lunches can be purchased from nearby restaurants. Coffee/tea will be provided in the meeting room. A group dinner is planned on Monday evening directly after the end of the day's discussions. The workshop is scheduled to end at 1600 on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Focal points for the meeting*

Ross Brown – organizer (Email: [ross.brown@canada.ca](mailto:ross.brown@canada.ca), phone: +1 514 282-6464 ext 335)  
Michael Durand – local arrangements (Email: [durand.8@osu.edu](mailto:durand.8@osu.edu), phone: +1 614 302-8920)

**B. TRAVEL INFORMATION**

*Visa Requirements*

Participants are asked to check to see if they require a visa to enter the United States. There are currently 38 countries participating in the Visa Waiver program (<https://www.dhs.gov/visa-waiver-program-requirements>). A visa is not required for Canadian citizens but the Government of Canada recommends that Canadian citizens travel with a valid Canadian passport.

### *Languages, Currency and Credit Cards*

English is the de facto official language of the United States and the Columbus region is predominantly English-speaking.

The currency is the United States Dollar (USD). Most hotels, restaurants and shops accept internationally valid credit cards. Some restaurants accept cash only, so please check when entering the restaurant. Currency exchange and ATM's are available at the airport and many locations.

### *Time Zone*

Columbus is located in the North American Eastern Standard Time (EST) zone which is Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) - 5 during the period of the meeting.

### *Electricity*

The electricity voltage is 110-120V 60 Hz. Plugs/outlets are the standard North American Grounded (3-prong).

### *Business Hours*

Shopping hours vary considerably across Columbus but are typically 1000 to 2100 weekdays and Saturday, and 1200 to 1700 on Sunday. Banks and Post Offices are generally open weekdays 0900 – 1700 with branches in shopping malls open Saturdays. Restaurants hours are typically 1100 - 1400 and 1900 - 2300.

### *Climate*

In mid-June, expect warm, humid weather conditions. The average June daily maximum temperature is 28°C with average daily high relative humidity ~90%. The average probability of precipitation in June is ~35% mainly from thunderstorms. More detailed information is available at <https://weatherspark.com/averages/30710/Columbus-Ohio-United-States>.

## **C. ARRIVAL AT PORT COLUMBUS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

The airport is located about 20 km from the meeting location. The typical taxi fare from the Airport to the meeting hotels is USD30.00 (15 minutes without traffic). Information on public transport options to and from the airport are provided at <http://flycolumbus.com/to-from-port-columbus/public-bus-service/>

## **D. YOU ARE URGED TO BOOK YOUR HOTEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Special rates for the Workshop have been negotiated at two hotels near the meeting venue:

### **1. Holiday Inn Express and Suites Columbus University Area - OSU (5 km by car from Byrd Polar Center; 3.5 km or 40 minutes walking)**

Address: 3045 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH, 43202

Reservations: Tel: +1 614 447-1212 (mention "Eastern Snow Conference" for special rate)

Tel: +1 614 447-1212

Fax: +1 614 447-1211

Standard non-smoking, single occupancy USD119.99 + 17.5% taxes (breakfast bar included)

Deadline for special rate: May 23

Hotel features: free wireless internet, indoor pool, fitness centre. The hotel is located approximately 20 km from the Port Columbus International Airport (a 15 minute USD30.00 taxi ride). There is a shuttle bus service to the Airport and to the Byrd Polar Center.

**Note that the Eastern Snow Conference block of rooms is for June 13-17 so you need to ask them to extend the rate to the earlier period. They offered to do this on a case-by-case basis.**

**2. Hilton Garden Inn Columbus University Area (4.7 km by car from Byrd Polar Center; 3.8 km or 45 minutes walking)**

Address: 3232 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. OH, 43202

Reservations: +1 614 263-7200 (mention "ESC16" for special rate)

Tel: +1 614 263-7200

Fax: +1 614 263-7201

Standard non-smoking, single occupancy USD139 plus 17.5% taxes (breakfast is not included but can be added for USD9.99/night)

Deadline for special rate: May 14

Hotel features: free wireless internet, indoor pool, fitness centre. The hotel is located approximately 20 km from the Port Columbus International Airport (a 15 minute USD30.00 taxi ride). There is a shuttle bus service to the Airport and to the Byrd Polar Center.

**Note that the Eastern Snow Conference block of rooms is for June 13-17. The hotel has offered to extend this rate to cover Snow Watch on a case by case basis. To do this, you must first reserve under the existing ESC16 block then send an e-mail to Ms. Maggie Mungai (Sales Manager) at Maggie.Mungai@Hilton.com notifying her of your check in date. She will then modify your reservation to apply the ESC rate to the full period of your stay.**

## E. TRANSPORTATION / PARKING

**Public Transportation:** Port Columbus is served by the [Central Ohio Transit Authority](#) (COTA) public bus service, available to take you almost anywhere in the city. Please visit their website for route information. Local one-way fares are USD2.00. Be sure to have exact change when boarding. Free transfers, available upon request, are good for two hours.

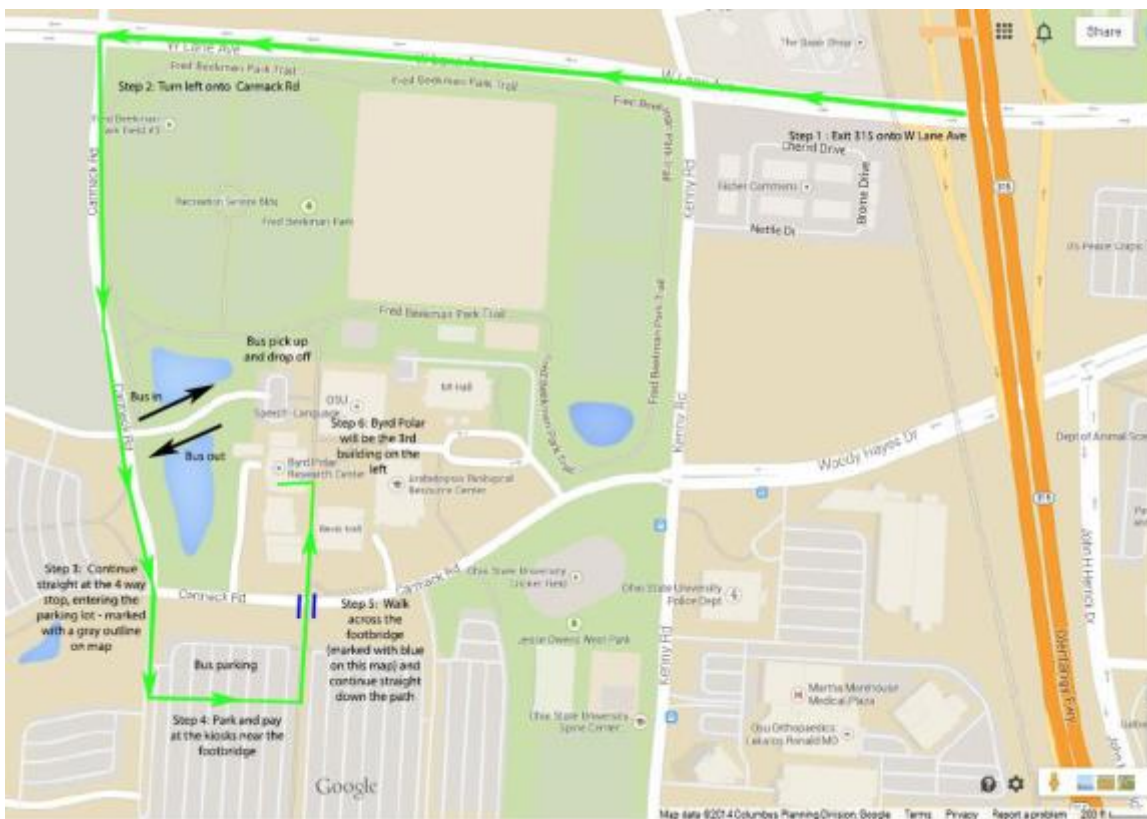
**Byrd Polar and Climate Research Centre Parking: Please note that you must pay for parking in the lots, or you will receive an expensive parking ticket. Parking information is provided below; please read carefully:**

1. Take 315 to the Lane Avenue exit. This is one of the major exits for The Ohio State University. Go West (left if you are coming from the South side of the city; right if you are coming from the North side of the city) onto Lane Avenue.
2. Once you are on Lane Avenue, pass Kenny Road. The next road (there will not be a traffic light) is Carmack Road. Take a left.
3. Once on Carmack Road continue straight – past Arthur Adams Road - through the 4 way stop and into the parking lot.
4. Park and pay at the kiosks located at the north end of the lot near the footbridge (marked on map below). If you are paying at the kiosk, you may park at spaces marked WA, WB, WC, or VISITOR. If the machine is out of paper and you do not receive a receipt, it is OK as long as you entered your license plate correctly. **(If you happen to have a pre-paid parking permit, you may park in the WA, WB, or WC spaces. Do not park in the VISITOR spaces.)**
5. Go over footbridge and follow the path straight into the compound of buildings.

6. The Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center is the third building on the left. Meet in the Auditorium, Room 240, on the second floor of Scott Hall. You will need to enter Scott Hall through Door #2 (each door is labeled) on the east side of the building and ascend the steps near the statue of Admiral Byrd.

#### Additional Options to Pay for Parking Via Computer or Mobile Device

- **Visitor Day Permit:** Day permits are valid for one calendar day in any unrestricted surface lot space (restricted spaces are loading zones, ADA, reserved). They can be purchased by creating a guest account at [osu.campusparc.com/guest](http://osu.campusparc.com/guest). Permits are license plate based and do not require the display of placard or permit. Purchase of the permit can be done in advance, with desired active date set during purchase.
- **Parkmobile:** Parkmobile is a payment option that uses pay-by-phone and smartphone applications. Visitors can create a Parkmobile account online at [parkmobile.com](http://parkmobile.com) or via the Parkmobile app. Hourly parking prices mirror that of a pay-by-plate (pay-n-display) and single space meters.



The above parking instructions and map are copied from information provided online at the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center website (<http://bpcrc.osu.edu/about>).