The NASA Short-term Prediction Research and Transition (SPoRT) Center has transitioned to a new host for their community and partner blog, “The Wide World of SPoRT”. Although the authoring and editing of posts is largely the same, there are two primary advantages to the new system:

1. Individuals can create their own logins and participate. In the previous system, accounts were limited to one user for each partner or NWS forecast office. Now, individuals with user accounts can set their own subscriptions to blog content and post updates rather than having a single point of contact.

2. Uploaded images will be hosted on the blog server rather than resources at individual forecast offices or partner locations. Once inserted, images are uploaded automatically to the host and can be removed from your local server, although it is a good idea to keep them for a couple of days in the event there is an error.

Access to the new “Wide World of SPoRT” is obtained in the following steps:

1. Go to https://signup.wordpress.com/signup/?user=1. This is the signup page for WordPress, the host site for the SPoRT blog.

2. Fill out the information required for an account. Your username should be something specific to each individual, or alternatively, an account for the office. Please use your @noaa.gov or other agency email address to register. You will receive an email from Wordpress.com explaining various features of their website. Keep this for reference.

3. In order to get permission to post content to the SPoRT blog, you need to be invited as an author. You will need to send the following to Kris White (kris.white@noaa.gov) or Andrew Molthan (andrew.molthan@nasa.gov): your wordpress.com username and the email address you used to register.

4. To log into the blog, you may follow the link available from the SPoRT homepage at http://weather.msfc.nasa.gov/sport and use the “Log in” link at the bottom of the right hand menu item (Organization). Or, you may go directly to the SPoRT blog at http://nasasport.wordpress.com.

5. Once you log in, you will be presented with the “Dashboard” for The Wide World of SPoRT. This is functionally equivalent to the old site, and the posting of blog entries is the same. You will also see an additional set of links at the top of the screen, related to your specific http://www.wordpress.com account. You can disregard these as they have no impact on your posting abilities. When articles are posted to the blog, an email is sent out to all subscribed users. To change your subscription preferences, check out the link on the Dashboard.
On the Dashboard, you can modify the frequency of email updates you receive from the blog.

To make a new post, follow the instructions found below.

In the page that opens, you can select and title for the post and begin writing. Notice that you can also toggle back and forth between Visual and HTML styles when composing your post.
To include imagery in your post, see the figures below.

Click the Add Media button to insert images.

The title for the post goes here.

Text and imagery go in this block.

Notice that you have the option to toggle between visual and HTML styles.
You may enter a caption for your image and select the desired image size. When you are finished, click the “Insert into Post” button.
Assign to your post one or more categories (uncheck “Uncategorized”), then save your draft and click “Preview” to **proofread and look over your post before publishing**. Preview will open your post in a new window, appearing as it will on the blog. Read for grammar errors and make sure that image widths are appropriate. You may also choose to show any likes and sharing buttons on your post.
You’ll notice a new feature in the SPoRT blog. Posts will now be sent automatically to the SPoRT Facebook and Twitter accounts. The title of your post will serve as the text in the tweet and as the description on the Facebook post. In addition to the tweeted title, a URL to your blog post will be sent with the tweet.

New Feature! Your posts will now be sent automatically to the SPoRT Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Notice the “Edit” link next to Facebook, Twitter. If you click this, a dialog box will extend and provide you some options about sending to Facebook and Twitter. By default, the blog is set to post to these automatically. However, if you wish not to send your post to Facebook and/or Twitter, then uncheck the box(es) and send a message to Kris White (kris.white@noaa.gov) or Andrew Molthan (andrew.molthan@nasa.gov). Also, by default, the blog is set up to use the title of your blog post as the tweet and the description of the post in Facebook. However, notice that you have the option to change this in the text box that opens. A character count is provided (remember the 140 character limit in Twitter).

After clicking the Edit link, you will have the option to send to Facebook and Twitter and edit your message.
Notice that you can also add tags, or searchable keywords to your post.

You can choose to add tags (searchable keywords) to your post. For example, an article with the category “Lightning Mapping Array” might have tag(s) with “warning decision” and/or “total lightning”.

When you are finished with your post, click the Publish button.
If you decide you need to edit your post after publishing, click “All Posts” on the Dashboard, then mouse over the title to obtain links for editing. You will be returned to the posting interface. Make changes and click Update in place of the Publish button.

Thank you for participating in The Wide World of SPoRT blog! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the blog, please send an email to Kris White (kris.white@noaa.gov) or Andrew Molthan (andrew.molthan@nasa.gov) for assistance.