

Rodney Viereck

Rodney Viereck was born in 1959 in Fairbanks Alaska. He grew up watching the aurora and visiting the Poker Flat Rocket Range to watch sounding rockets launch into the aurora. Later Rodney earned a PhD from the University of Alaska studying space physics and the aurora and worked at the Poker Flat Rocket Range. His first professional job was with the Air Force Research Lab in Boston analyzing the interaction between spacecraft and the upper atmosphere. They flew many experiments on the Space Shuttle. Rodney has been working for NOAA since 1996 at the Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colorado. The Space Weather Prediction Center is one of the nine National Centers for Environmental Prediction, which include the Storm Prediction Center in Oklahoma and the National Hurricane Center in Florida. These Centers are all part of the National Weather Service. Rodney is currently the Director of the Space Weather Prediction Testbed where they develop new models and products to improve the accuracy and lead time of space weather forecasts. His areas of expertise include space weather, the aurora, and solar irradiance and its impact on the Earth's atmosphere and climate. Rodney recently developed a new real-time product for estimating where the aurora is (www.swpc.noaa.gov/ovation). He lives with his wife at 8500 feet in the very small town of Pinecliffe in the mountains above Boulder, Colorado. Living where the weather is very dynamic, he is a big fan of CoCoRaHS.

