

Thermoscreen in Brillion, WI



What does a retired meteorologist do when the cold winds blow and all the lakes and streams are covered in ice? He builds a thermoscreen, of course. Having long since tired of bum readings caused by wrong exposure, I decided it was time to do what the Navy Weather Service did decades ago – house the sensors in a thermoscreen.

The honey-comb looking thing shown in the first photo is the temperature and RH sensor, plus a receiver/transmitter. It receives data from the solar-powered wind vane and 3-cup anemometer, along with data from the 4-inch tipping bucket rain gauge, both mounted on the roof of the thermoscreen, then periodically, at frequent intervals, transmits these data, along with temperature and RH, to the receiver and display unit inside our house.

The display unit houses its own barometer with a digital readout along with digital readouts of all other parameters. Max/Min values are available as are peak wind gusts. Software is available (free) to enable wireless computer connection using the provided USB transceiver but I will not activate that feature for a while (maybe never). The system is La Crosse Technology Model C86234 and sold for something over \$70 at CostCo.

Considering I paid more than \$50 to acquire a 4-inch plastic rain gauge by mail order, it represents a real bargain. The anemometer spinning in close proximity to the rain gauge is so located to discourage birds from perching on the rim of the rain gauge. Time will tell if that part of the plan works. I only got it installed yesterday because I had to wait for the frost to get out of the ground in order to dig a deep post hole.

Sorry, but plans are not available. I made it up as I went. I can provide dimensions should anyone want them.



Submitted by CAPT Frenchy Corbeille, USN RET