9 Common Station Model Plotting Errors

1) Make sure to place a small dot in the center of the station circle to indicate that the sky is "clear" and not "missing" or "obscured."

2) The visibility is plotted to the left (in front of) the present weather. For example, 2 SM –SN would be plotted as: 2 ** and not as ** 2

3) Use fractions when plotting visibility. For example, plot 1 1/2 rather than 1.5.

4) When plotting the 3-hour pressure tendency to the right-center of the station model, the plotting order should be:

A) Tendency ("+" or "-")
B) Actual change; no decimal point, but carry the leading zero; example: "003" would be coded as "03"
C) Symbol for actual tendency

For example, "57004" is drawn: -04 \

5) Any time the pressure tendency is less than 10.0 mb, drop the first zero digit. For example, "043" is plotted: 43

6) Any time the pressure tendency is less than 1.0 mb, drop the first zero digit, but always carry one leading zero digit. For example, "003" is plotted 03. Basically, write the pressure tendency out to the nearest tenth of a millibar, but don't actually draw the decimal.

7) When any weather parameter is not given, put an "M" for "missing" in its place. However, no *present weather* or *pressure tendency* is just left blank. When "VV###" appears instead of a cloud cover, place an "X" in the station circle for "obscured." In this case, there should also be some sort of major reduction in visibility listed (e.g., FG, +SN).

8) Variable winds are often plotted with no wind barb at all. Occasionally, variable winds are plotted with a wind barb in any direction, and VRB drawn at the end of the barb, denoting variable direction.

9) The most dominant weather symbol gets plotted. This is always the *first* of the two-letter weather/obscuration listed in the METAR observation.