Note: I hadn't seen your last message before writing that last one. I'll check your example.

On Friday, January 9, 2015 at 2:34:53 PM UTC-8, laura...@gmail.com wrote:
> But it still won't work. Now I get a generic "Unable to define variable" error. Maybe I'll give up,
write a tiny new file, and append it to the other using NCL or NCO.
>
>
> On Friday, January 9, 2015 at 2:14:12 PM UTC-8, laura...@gmail.com wrote:
>> Oh, cool! Hidden in the generic NetCDF command, I see. All I want to do is add one variable
to a file....
>>
>>
>>
>> On Friday, January 9, 2015 at 1:36:47 PM UTC-8, David Fanning wrote:
>>> laura.hike@gmail.com writes:
>>>
>>>> Ha, ha! :^) Something that can be done simply using basic IDL commands instead of
having to download a whole library. It looks like all that's missing from the existing commands is a
way to enter define mode. All the other commands you need are there.
>>>
>>> Maybe you are looking for this:
>>>
>>>   NCDF_Control, fileID, /REDEF ; Put open file in DEFINE mode.
>>>
>>> Cheers,
>>>
>>> David
>>> --
>>> David Fanning, Ph.D.
>>> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
>>> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
>>> Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")