

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Knapp

Recognizing and honoring our peers has been a wonderful annual tradition for NWA members. **The NWA Annual Awards program is set up as THE way we recognize those individuals and groups making significant contributions to the operational meteorology community and its products and services. The deadline for submitting award nominations is fast approaching (1 July),** and I encourage all members to consider those who you know, who you work with, and any others who you believe are deserving of one of the annual awards. If you think of someone or a group worthy of recognition, and I'm sure most of us can, please take the short amount of time needed and put together a nomination package and submit it to our Awards Committee. Details on all award categories and nomination submission procedures are listed on page 3 and on the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org/award.html. I realize we all lead busy lives and the small amount of extra time we have is precious. However, please consider using some of that extra time to create and submit a nomination package. There are many of our co-workers and professional acquaintances who I know are worthy of a nomination for their outstanding efforts each year. Look around you (and glance through your e-mail inbox) and I'm sure you can think of at least one deserving person or team. I'd love to see the Awards Committee swamped with nominations this year.

NWA Annual Meeting Plans continue to evolve and progress. I'm looking forward to the 31st Meeting in Cleveland this October. The Program Committee has many great events planned which will make this meeting among the best we've had. **Please consider submitting an abstract for an oral or poster presentation by 1 June. The Annual Meeting provides a great opportunity to let your peers know about the great work you do.** The meeting is for sharing, discussing and learning more, and to excite ideas for future studies, products and services. The focus isn't just on research topics. What you do every day for your customers, and how you do it, is of interest to many attendees and should be considered for a presentation. Such topics coincide with our NWA theme for the year, "Working Together To Support Our Customers." See page 7 for more details.

I am very pleased to announce we are making significant progress in getting the NWA *National Weather Digest* back on a good publishing schedule. You can expect to see three issues delivered to your mail box by the end of 2006. The first issue, the long-delayed Volume 28, was mailed out on 10 April and members receiving it through bulk rate mail should receive it by 5 May. Volume 29 is being spearheaded by Steve Harned our new publisher (see December 2005 newsletter) and should be in the mail in July. Volume 30 is scheduled to be sent to members by the end of the year. The NWA Publications Committee is considering a new look for the *Digest* in 2007 and would appreciate suggestions. Many thanks to all who have submitted articles for *Digest* publication the past few years and thanks especially for your patience. We owe the new production schedule to the increasing number of excellent papers we have received from you, and to the focus on improving our publications to meet goals set in our NWA Operating and Annual Plans. I send special thanks to the volunteer *Digest* co-editors Peter Roohr and Pat Market and technical editor Scott Rochette who have worked many papers. Their great efforts are now being published and mailed on a more regular schedule. Once again, I encourage members from all sectors of our operational meteorology community and related fields to submit papers for publication in the *National Weather Digest* and the online *Electronic Journal of Operational Meteorology* (www.nwas.org/ej/index.html).

NWA Council Activities: Here is a short list of the topics the Council has been addressing in recent weeks:

- Annual Meeting ideas, plans and the program
- Annual Awards program and encouraging submissions (see paragraph one in this article)
- NWA Strategic Plan, Operating Plan and 2006 Plan actions
- NWA Broadcaster's Seal of Approval procedures updates with Broadcast Meteorology Committee
- Drafting letters of support for future weather satellite sensors with Remote Sensing Committee
- The latest "hot button" topics in the news, to include the continuing Global Warming debate, NPOESS deployment and capability topics, and the potential changes to the way FAA and the NWS support the aviation weather needs of the nation.

Regarding the Global Warming debate and open scientific discussions on the topic, I wish to close this month's message with a quote from NWA past President Tom Adang in the November 1997 Newsletter. Tom voiced concern that we as a community need to, "...separate the science of global warming from social/economic/political views that could taint objective analysis of the data — a concern consistent with our professional association's mission of enhancing the science of operational meteorology and related disciplines." I believe this is an accurate statement we need to apply to today's continuing debate as well.

- *Sincerely, Dave Knapp (President@nwas.org)*

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

Arkansas Chapter

The first Chapter meeting of the spring season was held on 21 February at the NWS Office in North Little Rock. Thirteen members and guests were present.

After a short business meeting was conducted by Chapter President Chris Buonanno a presentation was given by NWS Little Rock Senior Forecaster and Incident Meteorologist (IMET) Joe Goudsward. His presentation was about the NOAA/NWS Fire Weather Program. He discussed national fire statistics, the benefits of prescribed burning, and the wildland - urban interface. Focus then shifted to the local NWS fire weather program and the services that are provided by the Little Rock NWS Office including fire weather forecasts, spot forecasts and IMET support. The role of the IMET and their specific duties and equipment were also discussed at length. Joe is routinely detailed to wildfire sites across the country. He recently traveled to Texas to provide IMET support to the state during a large outbreak of wildfires.

- *Newton Skiles, Corresponding Secretary*

Central Iowa Chapter

We are sponsoring the golf event at the Iowa games in July 2006 with a donation of \$1000. Planning has also begun for the 2007 Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference which will be held 22-24 March 2007.

- *Janet Schenck, Secretary*

North Texas Chapter

The March meeting presentation was given by Victor Murphy, Climate Service Program Manager at NWS Southern Region Headquarters in Fort Worth. Victor explained La Niña, what part of the Pacific Ocean is monitored by the U.S. to determine if we are in a cold or warm episode, current sea surface temperatures and trends, weather patterns that typically exist in a La Niña, and the impact on North Texas. The current La Niña conditions began in December and were expected to continue. North Texas usually experiences warmer and drier than normal conditions during a La Niña. Outside of one recent weekend with flooding rains, North Texas has had below normal precipitation for the past 12 months.

- *Janice Bunting*

BUDGET PRESSURES IMPACT SATELLITE PROGRAM

A recent Associated Press (AP) article warns that the Nation's fleet of research and operational environmental satellites are at risk. Mounting budget pressures, changing scientific priorities and technical problems are challenging the development of the next generation of Earth-observing satellites and jeopardizing the continuity of space-based environmental monitoring. A report by the National Academy of Sciences issued last fall states that rapidly shrinking federal budgets have placed Earth science and application programs at substantial risk. The consequence is that people in harm's way, and those responsible for their safety, may have less information than they'd like about impending natural disasters.

Within NASA, a shift in scientific and funding priorities from Earth science to the "Moon, Mars, and Beyond" has forced the agency to cancel, mothball, or delay at least three planned research environmental satellites. NASA's Global Precipitation Measurement mission has been delayed until 2012 at the earliest; the Hydros mission that was designed to make passive microwave measurements of soil moisture and differentiate between frozen and unfrozen ground has been cancelled; and the Deep Space Climate Observatory will also be cancelled.

Tight budgets are also impacting the development of the next generation weather satellites. Cost overruns resulting from technical and management problems on the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) that is jointly managed by NOAA, the Department of Defense, and NASA have forced a Congressional review and recertification of the program. The first launch of NPOESS will likely be delayed until 2010 at the earliest, and may even be stretched out to 2012. Because polar-orbiting operational environmental satellites are critical to weather forecasting, the risk of a gap in coverage between the last of NOAA's Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites (POES) and the first NPOESS is a very serious concern.

The full text of the AP article can be read online at: abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=1689309

- *Craig Nelson, Remote Sensing Committee*

GOES-N LAUNCH – 18 MAY 2006

The launch of GOES-N is scheduled for 18 May 2006 between 6:14 and 7:14 PM EDT out of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. This is the first in the new series of multimission GOES N-P satellites. This series will be a vital contributor to weather, solar and space operations, and science. NASA and NOAA are actively engaged in a cooperative program to expand the existing GOES system with the launch of the GOES N-P satellites.

The launch schedule is available at Web site: www.nasa.gov/missions/highlights/schedule.html

Call for Nominations for the 2006 NWA ANNUAL AWARDS

The National Weather Association (NWA) began its annual awards program in 1977 to provide deserved recognition to those individuals involved in operational activities. The NWA Annual Awards Program recognizes the professional as well as the volunteer. The emphasis is on the people who perform the day-to-day tasks of providing meteorological information and weather support services to the public.

Please review the award categories carefully and use the category most appropriate for the nomination being submitted.

Award Categories are:

Operational Achievement Individual Award: This award is presented to a NWA member who has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology. This could be for an accurate and timely forecast for one or more significant weather events or for long-period achievement in operational weather support or related activities.

Operational Achievement Group Award: This award is presented to a group of two or more individuals for a significant contribution to operational meteorology. At a minimum, a majority of the group (greater than 50%) must be NWA members.

Member of the Year Award: This award is presented to a NWA member who has made significant contributions to the organization over a period of time.

T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award: This award is presented to a NWA member whose research has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology.

Broadcaster of the Year Award: This award is presented to a NWA member Radio or Television weathercaster, or other member of the broadcast media, whose activities have significantly contributed to the development and presentation of quality and timely weather information to the public service. Radio and Television weathercaster candidates must be current NWA Seal of Approval holders and have had the NWA Seal of Approval for at least one year prior to being nominated for this award.

The Larry R. Johnson Special Award: This award is presented to an individual or a group to recognize unique events or extraordinary accomplishments, which significantly contributed to operational meteorology.

Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award: This award is presented to an individual or organization directly assisting the meteorological community in providing weather-related information to the public. Individuals and organizations in the meteorological profession are ineligible for this award.

Public Education Award: This award is presented to an individual or organization providing significant contributions to increase the public's weather awareness.

Local Chapter Award: This award is presented to a Local Chapter of the NWA whose activities have significantly increased awareness of the weather and of the NWA in their local area.

Aviation Meteorology Award: This award is presented to an individual or group to recognize significant contributions to aviation meteorology, such as impact of operational forecasts on aviation operations or advances in aviation meteorology including research in detection and forecasting of aviation hazards.

Other Special Achievement Awards are detailed on the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org/award.html. Names of previous annual award winners and additional award information are also available on that Web site:

Submitting Nominations:

Please use the award cover sheet that can be copied from the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org/award.html or sent via Fax from the NWA office (call: 434-296-9966), attach a narrative nomination (up to two pages in length) with no more than three supporting letters of endorsement. Nominations should be mailed by 1 July 2006 to:

**NWA Awards Committee
Daniel McCarthy, Chairperson
1697 Capri Way
Charlottesville, VA 22911-3534**

Although there is no rigid time requirement for the awards, it is preferred that the accomplishment, if not on a continuing basis, occur within 18 months prior to the nominations. Self nominations will not be accepted. If the nomination is not selected as the winner, it will remain a valid nomination for two additional years unless the nominee(s) are no longer in positions applicable to the award. The nomination may be updated by the submitter in each of those additional two years. Presentation of the annual awards for 2006 will be made at the NWA Annual Meeting, Awards Luncheon, 18 October 2006, at the InterContinental Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio.

NWA - SOL HIRSCH EDUCATION FUND GRANTS for K-12 teachers

The NWA Education Committee needs help from all members, to inform teachers in grades K-12 that \$500 grants are available annually from the NWA. These grants are designed to help teachers improve their meteorology education programs. The teachers selected will be able to use the funds to take an accredited course in atmospheric sciences, attend a relevant workshop or conference, or purchase scientific materials or equipment for the classroom. Seven grants or more are possible this year, thanks to the many members who have contributed to this fund. The grants honor Sol Hirsch, who retired in 1992 after being the NWA Executive Director for 11 years.

Completed applications are due by 1 August 2006 to:

NWA Education Committee
P.O. Box 15011
Baltimore, MD 21282-5011

Application guidelines are available at Web site: www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html, or can be obtained via mail or fax by contacting the NWA office at NatWeaAsoc@aol.com or Tel/Fax: (434) 296-9966.

CALL FOR PAPERS – THE NWA METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE APPLICATIONS AWARD

The Meteorological Satellite Applications Award was established by the National Weather Association (NWA) in 1999 to stimulate interest and foster the study and use of satellite remote sensing data in weather analysis and forecasting. **Undergraduate students are invited to write an original paper on meteorological satellite applications.** Themes of the papers may include original research, case studies, or a survey of applications. **The recipient of the award will receive a Grant of \$500 and be invited to present their paper at the NWA Annual Meeting.** The student must be enrolled as an undergraduate at the time the paper is written and be in good academic standing at the college or university attending. The student must be a U.S. citizen or hold permanent resident status.

Submission of Papers: Student papers should not exceed ten (10) pages including figures, photographs and appendices.

Candidate authors should submit:

- an original and three copies of their paper
- a letter of application with the paper title, university affiliation, and contact information including mailing address, phone, fax, and e-mail address if available
- a letter from their Department Head or other faculty member that confirms the student author was an undergraduate when the paper was written and that the student is in good academic standing at the college or university. Additionally this letter should highlight the original research or contributions the student has made to this paper.

Submissions should be sent by 15 June 2006 to:

National Weather Association
Attn: MetSat Applications Award
1697 Capri Way
Charlottesville, VA 22911-3534

Formal Announcement of the recipient of the award will be made in October 2006 at the Annual Meeting (and earlier to the individual).

HURRICANE NAMES RETIRED

An international committee of the World Meteorological Organization recently retired five Atlantic hurricane names from the 2005 season. The 2005 season had the greatest number of storm names retired in a single season since 1953 when tropical cyclones were first named.

The 2005 names Dennis, Katrina, Rita, Stan and Wilma will be replaced with Don, Katia, Rina, Sean and Whitney. The list containing these new names will be used in 2011.

More information about these retired storms is available at the following Web site.
www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2006/s2607.htm

MEMBER NEWS

Jeffrey Craven current NWA Councilor, Editor of the NWA *Electronic Journal of Operational Meteorology and Science and Operations Officer (SOO)* of the NWS Forecast Office in Jackson, Mississippi, will soon be leaving Jackson to become the SOO of the NWS Forecast Office in Milwaukee/Sullivan, Wisconsin. He will be reporting to the Milwaukee office on 1 June.

Ray Wolf, was named the “Senior Scientist of the Year” by The Quad City Engineering and Science Council (QCESC). He was presented the award at the 44th Annual National Engineers Week Banquet held in February. According to a publication from the QCESC, Ray was recognized for his work in the NWS as well as his efforts to promote science knowledge in the local community. Ray is the Science and Operations Officer at the NWS Forecast Office in Davenport, Iowa.

IN MEMORIAM

Francis Joseph Socey, Jr., 92, of Weems, Virginia, died Sunday, March 19, 2006. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II serving as a weather observer and after training at MIT, he served as an instructor of meteorology to pilots. Mr. Socey had a life-long interest in meteorology, beginning at the age of 12. With a thermometer placed under a rose rack in his hometown of Altoona, Pennsylvania, the pre-teen began tracking daily temperatures, rain dates, rainfall amounts and what the sky looked like. His mother also gave him a barometer which became his steady companion through life. His interest in weather spanned almost 80 years while employed in many jobs. He retired from the US Postal Service in 1975. He lived in New York, New Hampshire and Massachusetts prior to moving to Virginia in 1987 to live with his daughter. He liked to be known as “The Weatherman” and had a reputation for accurate forecasts. For many years, he wrote “Weather Review”, a monthly article for the Rappahannock Record. He also was a regular contributor to the Atlantic Coast Observer Network. Mr. Socey joined the National Weather Association in 1978 and was also a member of many other professional and scientific organizations. John Wilson wrote a profile on Mr. Socey at: www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/1667/acon/socey.txt and found his Favorite Pastime to be: “*Weather analysis;*” his Advice to Youth: “*When you become interested in something, make sure your parents help, regardless of what it is;*” and, his Greatest Influence: “*My mother, and Dr. Charles F. Brooks, who was affiliated with the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton, Mass.*” Surviving are his daughter, Margaret Ellen Socey and her husband Peter Fallon both of Weems. Memorials may be made to the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic, PO Box 1694, Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482 or a charity of choice.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

• **The Tenth Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop will be held 3-5 October 2006 at the Sheraton Hotel in Billings, Montana.** NOAA's National Weather Service Offices in Billings and Glasgow are sponsoring this workshop that focuses on the exchange of weather and hydrologic forecasting information unique to the Northern Rockies and High Plains. **Please submit abstracts or topics to Wr.Great.Divide.Workshop@noaa.gov by 1 July 2006.** More information can be obtained on Web site: www.weather.gov/Billings, or by contacting the NWS Forecast Office in Billings, at (406) 652-0851 or by e-mail: Wr.Great.Divide.Workshop@noaa.gov.

• **The Tenth Annual High Plains Conference will be held 4-6 October 2006 in Dodge City, Kansas.** The High Plains Chapter of the AMS-NWA sponsors it. The theme, High Plains Severe Storms, will focus on events ranging from severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, to drought, dust storms, flash flooding, and winter weather. Topics from both the research and the operational communities are welcome. Each session will open with an invited speaker. Remaining speakers will each receive 20 minutes for their presentations and any questions. This conference is intended to be less formal than national conferences, so those who are presenting for the first time, and those whose work has not yet gone through the academic peer review process, are welcome to participate. The Chapter will sponsor a student competition. Students are encouraged to submit papers for presentation on all topics in meteorology. First and second place papers will receive scholarships of \$500 and \$250 respectively. Students should contact the Conference Committee for information. **The deadline for submission of titles and one page abstracts is 8 September 2006.** Please include the author's name and affiliation, corresponding author address, telephone/fax number, and e-mail address. Send submissions to: Tenth High Plains Conference Committee, National Weather Service, 104 Airport Road, Dodge City, KS 67801 (tel: 620-225-6514; fax: 620-227-2288; e-mail: Matt.Gerard@noaa.gov). For more information contact the Conference Committee or visit Web site: www.highplains-amsnwa.org.

• **The NWA's 31st Annual Meeting will be held at the InterContinental Hotel, 9801 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, 14-19 October 2006.** Go to page 7 of this Newsletter, or the NWA Web site: www.nwas.org for details.

• **The Seventh New England Weather Conference will be held on 28 October 2006 at the facilities of the Dexter and Southfield Schools, and the Clay Center Observatory, in Brookline, Massachusetts.** It is sponsored by the Southern New England Chapter of the NWA and several other sponsors. Watch the Chapter Web site for details. www.snewweatherconf.org/index.shtml

NEW COMET RESOURCES

Spring greetings from the COMET Program in Boulder! The past few months have seen the publication of 7 new training resources that span a broad range of topics that likely include something of interest to everyone. The subjects covered in these new materials include Broadcast Meteorology, Satellite Meteorology, NWP Ensemble Prediction, Marine Meteorology, Radar Meteorology, Hydrology, and Tropical Meteorology. Read on below for more details or check out the "What's New" section of our MetEd site at: www.meted.ucar.edu.

In January we published the module, **Wave Life Cycle II: Propagation and Dispersion**. The goal of this module is to enable a marine forecaster to manually predict how the wave height and period will change as the waves leave their generation area, become swell, and then propagate and disperse into the forecaster's offshore coastal waters.

Also, in January we launched the **Broadcast Meteorologist Community Website** (<http://meted.ucar.edu/broadcastmet.php>) that provides the Broadcast Meteorologists with a location for accessing COMET modules, resource materials and links to support the professional development of the Broadcast Meteorologist and Weathercaster communities. This site also provides initial information on a course being developed for Broadcast Meteorologists called, "Watersheds: Connecting Weather to the Environment" which is being developed in cooperation with the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF) and with support from the EPA.

In February we published a Website entitled, "**Lectures on Radar Applications in Mesoscale Meteorology**" that provides access to the streaming presentations and PowerPoint source files for the 11 lectures delivered during the AMS Educational Forum "A Primer on Radar Analysis Techniques Used in Mesoscale Meteorology". The presentations discuss how many advanced techniques for the analysis of meteorological radar data can be used to improve understanding of the structure, dynamics, and evolution of mesoscale circulations.

In March we published the third module in the Basic Hydrologic Science Course series. **The Streamflow Routing module** offers a thorough introduction to streamflow routing methods and applications in the river forecasting process. The target audience for this module is meteorologists working in hydrology-related areas.

And, most recently in early April we published:

- 1) "Microwave Remote Sensing Overview", a module that presents an overview of space-based microwave remote sensing for environmental applications.
- 2) A new Website, the Ensemble Prediction System Matrix: Characteristics of Operational Ensemble Prediction Systems."
- 3) A Webcast entitled, "Conceptual Models of Tropical Waves."

These materials are freely available to everyone, courtesy of COMET sponsors who include NOAA's NWS and the NOAA's NESDIS GOES and NPOESS programs, the Air Force Weather Agency, the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, the Meteorological Service of Canada, and Australia's Bureau of Meteorology. We hope that this broad array of training topics includes something of interest to help meet your own professional development goals.

- Wendy Schreiber-Abshire (abshire@ucar.edu)

GUAM FIRE WEATHER

Guam Wild Land Fire Characteristics

Guam is well known for its location in Typhoon Alley, and for having the highest risk of getting hit by a tropical cyclone of any U.S. coastal location. Believe it or not, Guam also has the greatest number of fires per unit area of any U.S. location. Virtually all of the fires on Guam are human-caused. Fires are occasionally started by unattended backyard trash burns, and by poachers and betel nut gatherers who want easy access to hunting and harvesting sites. Poachers will burn to either flush out game or to attract them back to tender young seedling growth a few weeks after the burn. These are often the most serious fires because they are often inaccessible. The majority of wild land fires on Guam are started from the careless disposal of cigarette butts from moving vehicles during dry periods. Lightning has not been known to cause wild land fires on Guam since lightning does not normally occur in the dry season.

Guam Dry Season and Fire Threat

Are severe drought conditions possible on a tropical island where the average annual rainfall is around 100 inches? The answer is an unequivocal “yes”! Guam has two main seasons—the wet season and the dry season. Normally, the dry season lasts from December through May, with the six months from June through November constituting the wet season. By CONUS standards, even the dry season is rather wet, averaging about 4-5 inches of rain per month. However, when less than 4 inches of rain falls in a month or so, dew stops forming, and the grasses and other fuels on the sun-parched hillsides dry out rapidly. The most severe dry periods occur during the winter and following spring months of a moderate or strong El Niño event. Strong subsidence and strengthened trade winds during these events lead to a long period of very dry conditions and a very high risk of wild land fires. Table 1 illustrates the severe wild land fire problem Guam faces in association with moderate and strong El Niño events. Note the severity of back-to-back (two year) occurrences.

NWS Forecast Office Guam Fire Weather Program

The NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Guam formal Fire Weather Program began in the fall of 2004. The spin-up process included months of coordination with regional and national weather and forestry people, installation of a fire weather observing system (RAWS) and a fuel stick measurement site, determination of customer needs and Red Flag criteria, development of IFPS (Interactive Forecast Preparation System) formatters and smart tools, production of a Station Duty Manual and Reference Binder, development and execution of seminars and training sessions, and the acquisition of passwords and user IDs in support of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS).

Concurrent with development of the new Guam Fire Weather Program, the USDA Forest Service organized a Forestry Management Course for the forestry and fire personnel of the Pacific. At the request of the USDA, WFO Guam participated, conducting 12 hours of lectures on Pacific Climate and Fire Weather. Dr. Mark Lander, a University of Guam and Pacific ENSO Applications Center meteorologist and WFO Guam partner, also presented lectures.

On 1 June 2005, WFO Guam officially kicked off its formal Fire Weather Program for Guam, with the issuance of its first Fire Weather Planning Forecast. Other products include Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings, Spot Forecasts for agencies involved in fighting wildfires or prescribed burns, graphical images available from the National Digital Forecast Database, and Weather Information Management System (WIMS) observations and point forecasts for sites in southern and central Guam in support of the NFDRS. At the request of its customers, WFO Guam recently added Keech-Byram Drought Index forecasts to the Planning Forecast. The Guam Fire Weather Program is greatly appreciated by the Division of Forestry and the local fire-fighting community. The program will likely be expanded to include the neighboring islands of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in the next year or two. Many of the other islands of Micronesia experience similar fire threats, and have expressed the desire to develop a fire weather program.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Fires</i>	<i>Acres Burned</i>
1983	960	10,247
1984	499	1,517
1985	313	1,153
1986	322	1,245
1987	1,541	10,473
1988	873	11,070
1989	289	2,456
1990	641	4,528
1991	473	1,551
1992	993	12,505
1993	1,187	3,205
1994	152	350
1995	622	5,726
1996	284	848
1997	500	800
1998	1,900	13,000
Total:	9,849	66,874

Table 1. Number of wild land fires and acres burned on Guam for the years 1983 through 1998. Data in bold correspond to extreme dry periods following moderate and strong El Niño events. (Courtesy Division of Forestry, Government of Guam.)

- Timothy Hendricks, NWS Forecast Office Guam

NWA 31st ANNUAL MEETING

Call for Abstracts

The National Weather Association's 31st Annual Meeting will be held at the InterContinental Hotel, 9801 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, from 14-19 October 2006.

The Annual Meeting will include:

14 October, Saturday: Training may be offered by corporate members, exhibits will set up, and the fifth annual golf outing in support of scholarships will occur.

15 October, Sunday: WEATHER BROADCASTER WORKSHOPS -- will include special presentations, exhibits and hands-on workshops appropriate to continuing education for weathercasters, but **open to all interested**. The annual TAPE SWAP will be on Sunday evening.

16 - 19 October, Monday - Thursday: ANNUAL MEETING GENERAL SESSIONS will include a mix of formal presentations, poster sessions, training workshops, and exhibits on a wide variety of topics relating to OPERATIONAL meteorology, hydrology, weather broadcasting, new research applications, and related activities.

In keeping with the President's theme for this year, "Working Together to Support Our Customers," related presentations will be most welcome. Abstracts will also be most welcome for special sessions on:

- *Remote Sensing Applications and Technologies, and a session honoring the late Roderick A. Scofield*
- *Better use of Uncertainty and Probabilistic Forecasting for winter weather, heavy rain, aviation, severe weather, tropical weather, long range forecasting and climate change related products*
- *The Hurricane Seasons of 2005 and 2006*
- *Great Lakes Meteorology*

Student presentations will be reviewed by the NWA Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee members and monetary awards will be presented to the best in undergraduate and graduate student categories.

The Annual Meeting Program Committee Chairperson is: **Theresa Rossi**, NWA past-president (1994) and NOAA/NWS Forecast Office MIC, 192 Shafer Road, Moon Township, PA 15108; Theresa.Rossi@noaa.gov. The Broadcaster Workshop Program Chair is **Bryan C. Karrick**, NWA Councilor and KCCI-TV meteorologist, 888 Ninth Street, Des Moines, IA 50309-1288; bkarrick@hearst.com.. Contact them with your suggestions and to volunteer to help with the program.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: The deadline for submission of abstracts is **1 June 2006**. Abstracts should be sent via the online form on the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org/2006abstracts.html. Simply fill out the form in its entirety (you may cut-and-paste your abstract from your word processing program into the form), and click on the Submit Query button at the bottom of the form. Abstracts will be published in the Meeting Agenda as submitted, so please make sure that they have been carefully reviewed and edited before they are submitted.

If you are unable to submit your abstract via the online form, please contact the NWA office at Tel/Fax: (434) 296-9966 or NatWeaAsoc@aol.com.

Presenters will be notified regarding the disposition of their abstracts by 15 August 2006. Prior to the meeting an FTP site will be established for authors to upload their presentations so that they can be run on NWA computers. This will facilitate a smooth transition from one speaker to the next during the Annual Meeting sessions.

ANNUAL MEETING HOTEL INFORMATION: The InterContinental Hotel is at 9801 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. It is a full-service hotel and information can be viewed at Web site: www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ic/1/en/hd/clehajust. NWA discount room rates are \$99 plus tax for a single, double, triple or quad room. The discount rate will be honored three days before Group arrival through three days after Group departure.

To reserve a room, please call the InterContinental Hotel at 216-707-4000 or 1-877-707-8999 and request the group rate for the National Weather Association Annual Meeting.

Please reserve your hotel room NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM EST 13 September 2006 to be able to obtain the NWA discount rate.

ADDITIONAL PLANS: Thanks to Betsy Kling, the Fifth Annual Golf Outing is being scheduled for Saturday, 14 October to benefit the NWA Scholarship Fund.

The NWA Annual Awards Luncheon will be at the InterContinental Hotel on Wednesday, 18 October 2006.

The preliminary agenda is expected to be published in early August in the Newsletter and on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org). Registration information and forms will be available on the Web site and Newsletter by June.

Broadcasters that may be interested in sending live or taped shows from Cleveland to their home station, please e-mail Betsy Kling at: betsykling@wkyc.com.

For more information on exhibits, special accommodations, registration and the overall meeting program, please contact the NWA office at Tel/FAX: (434) 296-9966 or e-mail: NatWeaAsoc@aol.com.

WEATHER TIDBITS

During a post-season review, the NOAA/NWS/Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center determined that there was a short-lived subtropical storm 4-5 October 2005 near the Azores Islands. Adding this storm to the records increases the number of tropical and subtropical storms to 28 in 2005. To learn more about this storm, go to Web site: www.nhc.noaa.gov and click on "News Archive".

It has been an active spring severe storm season in many parts of the country this year and unfortunately it seems like many locations keep getting hit over and over. According to the NOAA/NWS/Storm Prediction Center, from January through mid April during the past ten years, we have averaged 144 tornadoes per year. The 30-year average for the same time period is 169. This year (2007) there have been preliminary reports of 472 tornadoes as of 11 April. Keep in mind this number will change as final storm reports are submitted, but this still indicates just how active the severe weather season has been so far. The unfortunate tally is the number of tornado related deaths. The preliminary data show 48 fatalities from 1 January - 10 April. The total number of tornado fatalities in 2005 was 39, 2004 had 36 and in 2003, 54 were reported. To view this data on the SPC Web site, go to www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/torn/monthlytornstats.html. A NOAA article on the active 2006 storm season is at: www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2006/s2605.htm.

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1697 Capri Way, Charlottesville, VA (USA) 22911-3534
Tel/FAX: (434) 296-9966; e-mail: NatWeaAsoc@aol.com

Web site: www.nwas.org

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Contact the NWA Executive Director's office (listed above) with **address changes** by phone, regular mail or e-mail.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

15 May – NWA AccuWeather Undergraduate Scholarship applications due (March Newsletter or Web site)

21-27 May – Hurricane Preparedness Week
(www.nhc.noaa.gov)

1 June – Abstracts due for NWA Annual Meeting (pg 7)

9-10 June – Midyear NWA Council Meeting in Irving, TX

15 June – NWA Meteorological Satellite Applications Award papers due (pg 4)

21 June – Summer begins at 1226 UTC or 6:26 AM EDT

18-24 June – Lightning Safety Awareness Week
(www.nwas.org/links/lightning.html)

1 July – NWA Annual Award nominations due (pg 3)

1 August – NWA Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grant applications due (pg 3)

Please see **MEETINGS** on page 5 for additional dates

Also check Web site: www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html

NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION

1697 CAPRI WAY

CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 22911-3534

*Supporting and Promoting Excellence in Operational
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