

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bill Read

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The busy season is underway on the Gulf Coast. Operationally, we are entering our peak severe weather and flash flood period, mid April through mid June. As if severe weather is not enough...preparations for hurricane season get going in full swing during the same time period — be sure to read page 4. Many of us in operational meteorology look forward to the challenge of working these annual weather events but are tempered with the knowledge of the impact severe weather and floods has on the public. While we have a high frequency of severe weather, flooding takes the lead by a wide margin for impact in the Houston area. Over the past decade flooding has resulted in nearly 50 lives lost and over \$6 billion in property losses. Severe thunderstorms and tornadoes have added losses over the same period on the order of several hundred million dollars, 5 deaths and almost 200 injuries.

Successful warning and forecast service to the citizens requires the hard work and cooperation of meteorologists, the media, and the community. It begins with hazard awareness education. Meetings with local emergency management officials, SKYWARN spotter training, media workshops, school presentations, and special features on TV, radio, and in the newspapers all help raise the level of awareness in the community. During an event, clear and concise information from forecasters and prompt dissemination through the media and other means are musts, and work best when the various agencies and media outlets work within the spirit of serving the common good. After a major event, follow up studies by operational and research meteorologists develop lessons learned and advance warning capabilities. I feel blessed that in the Houston area we have had a lot of success in serving the public in partnership with community emergency management, the media, and research meteorologists. The floods of Tropical Storm Allison showcased the above-mentioned keys to success, and changes based on lessons learned from Allison continue two years after the flood.

Our NWA membership is nationwide. While severe thunderstorms and massive floods may not be the big tickets in your region, there is bound to be a hazard with

significant impact. Whether it is severe weather, winter storms, wildfire danger, or other extremes of nature, the same approach to serving the public as described above applies. I am certain that many of you can relate to how the spirit of cooperation for the common good resulted in successful forecasts & warnings for an event in your area.

I discuss the hazardous weather scenario to lead into the focus for this issue of the Newsletter — our Awards program.

One of the rewarding aspects of being a member of the NWA has been our collective dedication to recognizing the work of our members and those who partner with us to provide service to the citizens of the U.S. It is noteworthy that a significant percentage of the awards go to work done either during potentially life threatening weather events, research involving better understanding or forecasting hazardous weather, providing support as volunteers, or in education for the better public understanding of hazards. A quick read of the awards history (on our Web site) since the NWA was founded shows recipients from the NWS, media, military, emergency management, academia and private sector — in other words, the whole spectrum of our membership — under many of the categories.

I am also reminded of individuals and groups just in my area who would be deserving of an award but have not been nominated. I think I'll put keyboard to blank screen and get to work on that. **I encourage all of you to consider nominating a deserving person, group or organization for one of the many award categories offered.** For more on this year's awards program, see other articles in this Newsletter and on our Web site at www.nwas.org/award.html.

Also — please remember this is your Association so don't hesitate to send in suggestions for other award categories and other ways to promote excellence in operational meteorology and related activities. Your elected officers and councilors are always open to member concerns, comments and suggestions on any Association topic.

FYI — Nineteen completed applications arrived by the deadline for the Arthur C. Pike Scholarship. The NWA Education Committee is busy reviewing each entry and the student selected will be announced in June. Applications are still being accepted for the David Sankey Scholarship up until May the 15th. Please see the March Newsletter or the NWA Web site for complete information.

Plan now to attend the NWA Annual Meeting (pg 5)!

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

The High Plains Chapter of the NWA met on 2 April 2003 at the Smoky Hill Country Club in Hays, Kansas. Three of the attendees were new to our chapter: two from WFO Goodland, KS and one from WFO North Platte, NE. After President Mike Moritz called the meeting to order, Vice President Jared Guyer brought us up to date on the planning for the Seventh Annual High Plains Conference, set for 8 – 10 October in Hastings, NE. Many of the details are set and information is being updated on our Web site: <http://www.highplains-amsnwa.org>. Several prominent speakers have been lined up, and this looks to be another dynamic conference. Abstracts are still being accepted and first-time presenters are encouraged to submit. Anyone working on a project or paper should consider presenting it at this low-key, non-stressful conference. We strive to make it a comfortable environment to share your work. We will once again be offering \$500 to the best student presenter. Matt Gerard made a proposal for our conference T-shirt. He will give a report on the feedback he receives at our next meeting. The next meeting is tentatively set for July or early August, and will most likely be in Hill City, KS or McCook, NE.

– *Tim Burke, Secretary*

WOW - Wyoming On Weather NWA Chapter –

The newest chapter of the National Weather Association, WOW - Wyoming On Weather, held its inaugural meeting on 25 March 2003. New members include Emergency Managers, Public Information Officers from Fire Departments, Healthcare Administrators, National Weather Service employees, teachers from throughout the state and local television meteorologists. Joe Sullivan, Meteorologist in Charge of the Riverton National Weather Service Forecast Office was the guest speaker. Discussion topics included Wyoming's drought status and the fire threat for this season. WOW's chapter serves all 23 counties in Wyoming covering nearly 98,000 square miles. It was founded by Andy Shaw, Chief Meteorologist of K2-TV in Casper and he is the first president. The Vice President is Jason Lindsey, Chief Meteorologist at KGWN-TV in Cheyenne. Secretary/Treasurer is Blake Smith and Corresponding Secretary is Flint Adam, both of K2-TV in Casper. Andy and Flint have started a Web site for the chapter at www.wownwa.org.

– *Andy Shaw, President*

More Local Chapter News can be found in the Meeting News section and also on the NWA Web site at:

www.nwas.org/chapters.html

MEMBER NEWS

JIM CANTORE of The Weather Channel received the prestigious NOAA-David S. Johnson Award for his innovative use of environmental satellite data, including water vapor imagery, and educating viewers about the causes behind weather events. NOAA and the National Space Club presented the award to Jim Cantore at the 46th Annual Goddard Memorial Dinner on 28 March 2003. The NOAA-Johnson Award, named after the first NOAA assistant administrator for satellite and information services, recognizes professional scientists who create new uses for observational satellite data that can predict atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial conditions. Jim Cantore, long acknowledged for his live coverage of major weather events – from Hurricanes Andrew in 1992 to Mitch in 1998, was singled out for this year's award based on the way he incorporates satellite data and water vapor imagery into his Weather Channel broadcasts. A native of White River Junction, Vermont, Jim is co-host of The Weather Channel's prime-time magazine "Atmospheres" and is a frequent host for other Weather Channel programs. He first appeared on the Weather Channel in 1986 – it was his first job after graduating with a BS degree in Meteorology from Lyndon State College in Lyndonville, Vermont.

– *NOAA Public Affairs*

DAVE ROBERTS joined the staff of Fox 4 News in Fort Myers, Florida. Dave's weather forecasting background includes positions in Jackson, Mississippi; Cincinnati, Ohio; Montgomery, Alabama and WINK-TV in Fort Myers. He earned the NWA and AMS Seals of Approval. Dave joins Chip McAfee and Darren Sweeney as part of the Fox 4 Forecast team – all NWA members.

MIKE VESCIO, has been selected as the new meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Pendleton, Oregon. His NWS career started in 1990 and included assignments in South Carolina, North Carolina, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. In Texas, he was the science and operations officer at the NWS Forecast Office in Fort Worth and prior to that he spent several years as lead forecaster at the NWS Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma. In his new assignment, he will oversee forecast operations and supervise 24 employees that serve the citizens of eastern Oregon and eastern Washington. Mike is well known to many NWA members for his expertise at organizing the Annual Meeting programs. He started by helping Steve Harned and other members of the Raleigh NWS Forecast Office with the Annual Meeting in Raleigh NC in 1993, was Program Chairman for the Oklahoma City meeting in 1998 and Program Chairman for last year's great success in Fort Worth. Mike has also been a NWA Councilor (1999-2000).

NWA AWARDS PROGRAM 2003

The National Weather Association began its awards program in 1977 to provide deserved recognition to those individuals involved in operational activities and to promote excellence. The Awards Program recognizes the professional as well as the volunteer. The emphasis is on the people who perform the day-to-day duties of providing meteorological information and weather support services to the public. Names of previous winners and additional award information are available on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org/award.html).

Award Categories are:

- **Member of the Year Award:** is presented to an NWA member in good standing who has made significant contributions to the organization over a period of time.
- **Operational Achievement Individual Award:** The award is presented to an NWA member who has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology (e.g., an accurate and timely forecast for one or more significant weather events or for long-period achievement).
- **Operational Achievement Group Award:** The 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.**
- **Broadcaster of the Year Award:** This award is presented to an NWA member who is a Radio or Television weathercaster, or other member of the broadcast media, whose activities have significantly contributed to the development and presentation of weather information to the public service.
- **T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award:** This award is presented to an NWA member whose research has made a significant contribution 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, group or organization providing significant contributions to increase the public's weather awareness.
- **Aviation Meteorology Award:** This award is presented to an individual, group or organization 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.

- **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.

- **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.

Narrative nominations (no more than two pages) with optional endorsements should be forwarded by 1 July 2003 to:

**NWA Awards Committee
Andrew Horvitz, Chairperson
1697 Capri Way
Charlottesville VA 22911-3534**

Although there is no rigid time requirement for the awards, the awards committee prefers that the accomplishment, if not on a continuing basis, occur within 18 months prior to the nominations. Please consider the appropriate category in your nomination. Self-nominations will not be accepted. If the nomination is not selected as the winner this year, it will remain valid for two additional years and the nominator(s) may update the submission if they desire. Winners will be honored at the NWA Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon, 22 October 2003, at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida.

- Andy Horvitz, Awards Committee Chair

GRANTS for K-12 TEACHERS

The NWA Education Committee needs help from all members to spread the word to teachers in grades K-12 that \$500 grants are available annually. The annual Sol Hirsch NWA Education Fund Grants are available to help teachers improve the education of their students in meteorology. 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. Five grants or more are possible in 2003 thanks to the many members who have contributed to this fund in honor of Sol Hirsch who retired in 1992 after being the NWA Executive Director for 11 years.

Applications and more complete information can be obtained from the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html, from the NWA office or from the NWA Education Committee, P.O. Box 15011, Baltimore, MD 21282-5011

Completed applications are due to the NWA Education Committee by 1 August 2003.

AVIATION WEATHER NEWS

May 16, 2003 marks the 25th anniversary of the National Weather Service's Convective SIGMET program. This program was established following the tragic crash of an airliner in 1977 after an encounter with a severe thunderstorm. The Convective SIGMET Unit was formed in 1978 at the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Missouri (and now at the Aviation Weather Center) to issue a product intended to alert pilots to thunderstorms that are a threat specifically to aviation operations. Ever since then, the Convective SIGMET product has provided routine thunderstorm information to pilots on an hourly basis, a significant change from the days of thunderstorm SIGMETs that were valid for 4 hours at a time, and were issued only as conditions warranted. For additional information on this aviation milestone, please visit the NWS/Aviation Weather Center Web site at aviationweather.gov

- Carolyn Kloth, Aviation Weather Committee

REMOTE SENSING NEWS

NASA's Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) Mission - As follow-on to the highly successful Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM), NASA is planning a follow-on program called **Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM)**. GPM will consist of a "core spacecraft", containing a dual-polarization radar (built by Japan) and microwave radiometer (built by NASA), scheduled for launch in the late 2007 - early 2008 time frame. GPM will be flown in a near polar orbit, supplemented by a "constellation" of polar orbiting spacecraft containing microwave radiometers from both national (e.g., NOAA/DoD's NPOESS and DMSP) and international (i.e., NASDA, ESA, etc.) space agencies.

The primary objectives of GPM are as follows: (1) **Improve ongoing efforts to predict climate** by providing near-global measurement of precipitation, its distribution, and physical processes; (2) **Improve the accuracy of weather and precipitation forecasts** through more accurate measurement of rain rates and latent heating; (3) **Provide more frequent and complete sampling of the Earth's precipitation.** GPM will also maintain and operate an extensive ground validation campaign, taking advantage of both national and international assets already in place. Data will be provided through a Global Precipitation Data Center located at NASA/GSFC. NASA and NOAA are presently defining partnering opportunities for GPM. For more details regarding the mission, please visit Web site: gpm.gsfc.nasa.gov.

- Ralph Ferraro, Remote Sensing Committee

HURRICANE AWARENESS WEEK

18 - 24 MAY 2003

Max Mayfield, the Director of the NWS National Hurricane Center and a NWA charter member says,

"Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy."

History teaches that hurricane disasters have occurred in the past and will again in the future. A lack of hurricane education and planning are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

The goal of the NHC Hurricane Awareness Web site (www.nhc.noaa.gov) is to educate the public about the hazards of hurricanes and provide knowledge, which can be used to take ACTION.

Hurricane hazards come in many forms: storm surge, high winds, tornadoes, and flooding — and in accidents preparing for a storm and evacuating. If you live (visit or vacation) in a coastal or low-lying area, an area that floods frequently or in manufactured housing, emergency managers will ask you to evacuate if storms threaten. It is important for all to have a plan for safety in areas vulnerable to hazards. FEMA has just published ***Are You Ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness*** (www.fema.gov/areyouready) on survival techniques, disaster-specific information, and how to prepare for and respond to both natural and man-made disasters.

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from 1 June through 30 November. However, **Ana** was born premature as a Subtropical Storm on the 20th of April about 110 miles southwest of Bermuda, and stayed south of Bermuda as it progressed eastward into the mid-Atlantic becoming extratropical four days later. According to National Hurricane Center discussion bulletins, this was the second known Atlantic subtropical or tropical cyclone to form in April...with the other occurring as Subtropical Storm One, 21-24 April 1992. The remaining names for 2003 are: Bill, Claudette, Danny, Erika, Fabian, Grace, Henri, Isabel, Juan, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor and Wanda

The Eastern Pacific hurricane season runs from 15 May through 30 November. Names will be: Andres, Blanca, Carlos, Dolores, Enrique, Felicia, Guillermo, Hilda, Ignacio, Jimena, Kevin, Linda, Marty, Nora, Olaf, Patricia, Rick, Sandra, Terry, Vivian, Waldo, Xina, York and Zelda.

Changes in forecast products -- Effective 15 May 2003 the NWS Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) in Honolulu will extend tropical cyclone forecast products from 3 days (72 hours) to 5 days (120 hours). - *information gathered from NHC Web site*

Next NWA Annual Meeting — 18-23 October, Jacksonville FL

Call for Abstracts

The National Weather Association's 28th Annual Meeting will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 225 Coastline Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32202, 18-23 October 2003.

The Annual Meeting will include:

19 October: WEATHER BROADCASTER WORKSHOPS all-day Sunday 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.

20-23 October: 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.

The Annual Meeting Program Committee Co-Chairs are: **Patrick T. Welsh**, Science and Operations Officer, National Weather Service Forecast Office, 13701 FANG Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218; pat.welsh@noaa.gov and **Richard Bagby**, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Aviation Sciences, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, 600 S. Clyde Morris Boulevard, Daytona Beach, FL 32114-3900; bagby@erau.edu. **Broadcaster Workshop Program Chair is Bryan C. Karrick**, KCCI-TV, 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 2003. Abstracts can be sent via e-mail to Richard Bagby at bagby@erau.edu. Please write "NWA Abstract" in the subject box. The abstract may be included within the body of the e-mail or as a WordPerfect or Microsoft Word attachment. Please include the following information in the e-mail message: full abstract title, author(s) name(s) and affiliation(s)/address(es) [designate which author(s) will be giving the presentation and whether poster or oral presentation is preferred], audio/visual requirements including software (e.g., PowerPoint, Corel, Internet access) and equipment (e.g., laptop, PC, overhead projector), and list the primary contact with their phone number and e-mail address.

ABSTRACTS may also be sent via an Internet online form on the NWA Web site: www.nwas.org/2003abstracts.html. Simply fill out the form in its entirety (you may cut-and-paste your abstract from your word processor into the form), and click on the "Submit Query" button at the bottom of the form.

If you are unable to submit your abstract via e-mail or the online form, please contact Richard Bagby at (386) 226-6858 or by FAX (386) 226-7739. Presenters will be notified regarding the disposition of their abstracts by 15 August 2003.

ANNUAL MEETING HOTEL INFORMATION:

The Adam's Mark Hotel is at 225 Coastline Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32202. It is a full-service hotel located downtown along the St. John's Riverfront. The NWA discount room rates are \$81 for a single room and \$101 for a double room. Please call the Adam's Mark Hotel at 904-633-9095 (reservations department)

between 8 AM and 5 PM Monday-Friday or call their Central Reservation Department at 1-800-444-ADAM at anytime and request the National Weather Association 28th Annual Meeting group rate. Please reserve rooms by 18 September to be able to obtain the discount rate.

A Golf Tournament is also being scheduled for Saturday, 18 October to benefit NWA Scholarship Funds. The NWA Annual Awards Luncheon will be at the Adam's Mark Hotel on Wednesday, 22 October. For 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. Current information will also be on the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org

METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE APPLICATIONS AWARD/GRANT for Undergraduates

The Meteorological Satellite Applications Award has been established by the National Weather Association (NWA) 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 stipend of \$500* and be invited to present their paper at the NWA Annual Meeting, which will be held in Jacksonville, Florida, 18-23 October 2003.

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 he/she is attending. The student must be a U.S. citizen or hold permanent resident status.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 15 JUNE 2003

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

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

Submissions should be sent by 15 June 2003 to the National Weather Association, METSAT Award Committee, 1697 Capri Way, Charlottesville, VA 22911-3534. Announcement of the recipient of the award will be made by 1 September 2003.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

• **Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference on the Inland Effects of Tropical Weather Systems will be held 11-13 May 2003 at the Holiday Inn Brownstone, Raleigh, NC.** The Central North Carolina AMS Chapter is sponsoring this operational and emergency management focused regional conference. It begins on Sunday evening, 11 May, with a reception and presentation from Dr. Steve Lyons of The Weather Channel. More information on the conference may be found at Web site: <http://www.nc-climate.ncsu.edu/ams/conference>.

• **NESDIS Data Users Workshop on 11-12 June 2003 in Boulder, Colorado.** Workshop goals are to solicit users' opinions on current NESDIS data and information products and services (e.g., How can we improve?); inform users of future capabilities, plans, and data sets; review & update user needs for new products, data archiving and access to stored data; assess users' needs and societal benefits; improve communications and rapport with users. More information is available at Web site: <http://www.osd.noaa.gov/datausers>.

• **University of Northern Iowa STORM Project Short Course 22 June - 3 July 2003.** The Science center for Teaching, Outreach, and Research on Meteorology (the STORM Project) at the University of Northern Iowa is sponsoring an applied weather analysis and forecasting course designed for undergraduate atmospheric science students. STORM is a cooperative program between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). The course will explore the forecast process through the use of case studies and hands-on forecasting. Participants will gain experience with FX-Net, a software package developed at NOAA's Forecast Systems Laboratory that emulates the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS). AWIPS is the data analysis system used in National Weather Service forecast offices to examine surface and upper air observations, satellite and radar imagery, and numerical weather prediction model output. An added focus of the course will be on how end users (e.g., emergency managers, school superintendents) use weather forecasts in their decision making process. The STORM Project will provide housing, meals, course materials, and 3 hours of academic credit (undergraduate or graduate) from the University of Northern Iowa. Participants are responsible for a refundable application fee [\$50], a non-refundable admission fee [\$30], as well as their own travel to Cedar Falls, Iowa.

For more information and application procedures, please browse to Web site: <http://www.uni.edu/storm/swaf2003/index.shtml>

• **The Seventh Annual Great Divide Workshop will be held in Glasgow, Montana 26-28 August 2003,** hosted by the NWS in Glasgow. The workshop will begin at 1 PM on 26 August and conclude at about 11 AM on 28 August. The Great Divide Workshop provides a forum for participants to share information and to discuss ideas involving new tools and techniques for providing weather forecasts for the Inter-mountain West and Western High Plains, across the U.S. and Canada. This year's workshop will be held at the Cottonwood Inn (telephone 1-800-321-8213). Cottonwood Inn offers a shuttle service to and from the airport and is located within a short distance to a few restaurants. A block of rooms has been secured for the workshop. Please mention the National Weather

Service when making your room reservation. **All presenters are asked to provide a presentation topic before 1 June 2003.** Abstracts will be taken through 1 August 2003, and can be e-mailed to Thomas.Salem@noaa.gov or mailed to: NWS Weather Forecast Office, 101 Airport Road, Glasgow, MT 59230, Re: Great Divide Workshop. For further information, call (406) 228-4042.

• **The Seventh Annual High Plains Conference will be held in Hastings, Nebraska, 8-10 October 2003.** It is sponsored by the High Plains AMS/NWA Chapter. Oral presentations are currently being solicited for the conference, with an emphasis on the weather of the High Plains region. **One page abstracts may be submitted until the 15 August 2003 deadline.** The conference will be of interest to not only public and private meteorologists, but broadcast meteorologists, meteorology students, emergency managers, storm chasers, and other weather enthusiasts as well. Keynote speakers will be announced at a later date. The High Plains Chapter is proud to once again sponsor a student paper competition for both undergraduate and graduate students. Two monetary scholarships will be awarded, with the top finisher receiving \$500 and a free one-year membership to the chapter. Registration for the conference is \$50, while student registration is only \$25. Conference fees will include lunch and refreshments. The banquet dinner on Thursday evening (October 9) is an extra nominal fee. Provisions for vendors will be made available at little or no extra charge. The latest conference information, including local lodging and pre-registration, can be found at the High Plains Chapter website: <http://www.highplains-amsnwa.org>. Any questions or abstract submissions may be sent to the co-chairs: Michael.Moritz@noaa.gov and Jared.Guyer@noaa.gov or by regular mail to: 7HPC c/o National Weather Service, 6365 Osborne Drive West, Hastings, NE 68901. Phone: 402-462-2127; Fax: 402-462-2746

• **Symposium on the 50th anniversary of the Joint Numerical Weather Prediction Unit: The foundation for operational numerical weather prediction, will be held 24 – 27 May 2004 in College Park, Maryland.** Please indicate your interest in participating and/or presenting a paper by contacting Eugenia Kalnay at ekalnay@atmos.umd.edu and Kenneth Carey at kcarey@mitretek.org. Preliminary programs, registration, hotel, and general information will be posted on the AMS Web site: www.ametsoc.org/AMS in mid-September 2003.

NWA Newsletter (ISSN 0271-1044)

Editor: Frank Brody

Publisher: Kevin Lavin, Executive Director

Published monthly by the National Weather Association, 1697

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Submit newsletter items directly to: Editor NWA Newsletter, Frank Brody at NewsletterNWA@aol.com or to the NWA office. Material received by the 5th will be considered for that month's issue. If submissions are not received, the Newsletter may be delayed.

Members receive the monthly NWA Newsletter and quarterly *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. Contact the NWA office or view the Web site for membership information. Newsletter subscriptions are available at \$18.00 per year plus extra shipping costs outside USA. Single copies are \$1.50. Contact the NWA Executive Director's office (listed above) with **address changes** by phone, regular mail or e-mail.

JOB CORNER

The NWA posts jobs from equal opportunity employers at no cost for the benefit of NWA members. Please see the Job section on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org) for more complete announcements and job links. Members who do not have Internet capability may request announcements from the NWA office at (434) 296-9966. Employers should send job announcements via e-mail to NatWeaAsoc@aol.com

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY, West Chester, PA, seeks a Meteorology Instructor with a MS, ABD, or PhD in Meteorology to teach four meteorology courses per semester, including general education courses and possibly one graduate course. This is a one-year appointment (8-25-03 through 5-27-04) with the possibility of renewal. Department resources include a 12 work-station Gempak lab and a weather station. Salary is \$38,269 plus benefits. More information about the department is available on the Department Web Site (geology.wcupa.edu) and WCU homepage (www.wcupa.edu). Please send a letter of interest and vita to: Dr. C. Gil Wiswall, Professor and Chair, Department of Geology and Astronomy, West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383. Electronic submission to cwiswall@wcupa.edu is preferred. Review of applications will begin as they are received and continue until the position is filled.

WCBI-TV in Columbus, MS is looking for a morning meteorologist. You'll handle weathercasts for our hour and a half long Sunrise cast as well as morning updates. We've just installed new Baron's severe weather systems in addition to our WSI equipment. And, you'll need it. Our market is a prime spot for severe weather all year round, so we need someone who's ready to take on tornadoes, hurricanes and everything in between. Personality, and great attitude are major pluses. If you're ready to join the best weather team in Mississippi, send tape and resume to: Jon Turner, WCBI TV, PO Box 271, Columbus, MS 39703; No phone calls, please. WCBI is an equal opportunity employer

3D RESEARCH CORPORATION has immediate openings for weather observers at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Qualified applicants must meet the following requirements:

ALL APPLICANTS - Previously granted security clearance (SECRET), be able to re-locate, willingness to work shift work. Be familiar with quality control standards, safety management programs, and training programs.

OBSERVERS - Certification of at least 2 years in support of DOD, AF, Navy, Marines, Army, or FAA operations. Be able to operate meteorological and communications equipment. Supervisor will be required to supplement work schedules as necessary, be available for severe weather or other contingency events, and provide staff briefings when required.

These positions will begin in June 2003. Please include the following information on your resume: Locations of preference; locations of weather training; locations of experience. Salary requirements, date of availability, dates of previous security clearance. Current address, phone number, and e-mail address.

3D Research provides competitive wages, an excellent benefits package, retirement and 401k plans. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Please send all resumes or inquiries to the following point of contact: Rocco Calaci, 923 Holbrook Circle, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547; e-mail: rjism99@cox.net; phone: 850-315-1021

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE (UAH) announces an exciting opportunity for a talented and visionary individual to collaborate with NASA and UAH scientists, and NWS forecasters. Together, they are pioneering the transition of the next-generation observing systems, models, tools, and techniques to improve weather forecasting for the Nation. We are seeking a highly motivated science and technology transition meteorologist to serve as a liaison between the operational and research communities. The individual will provide scientific and technical expertise in support of on-going collaboration between the Huntsville NWS Forecast Office (HUN) and the NASA Short-term Prediction Research and Transition weather

forecasting improvement project in Huntsville, Alabama. Under the guidance and direction of NASA and UAH investigators, the liaison will evaluate, demonstrate, and document the operational and public benefit of NASA technologies for short-term weather forecasting. The position is located at the National Space Science and Technology Center (NSSTC) in Huntsville, a research center, where NASA and university scientists are collocated with the NWS WFO. The successful candidate must have a meteorology or atmospheric science background, with more detailed knowledge of mesoscale meteorology, numerical weather prediction, physical meteorology, statistical methods, and remote sensing; a minimum of a B.S. degree in a Science discipline with 2 years of related experience or a M.S. degree in a Science discipline with at least 1 year experience, excellent written and oral communication skills, and the ability to foster collaboration and interaction within a combined research and operations team. The starting salary is negotiable, with an excellent benefits package. Qualified applicants should apply at the UAH Staff Employment Office, 135 Madison Hall, from 2-5 p.m. or visit UAH's Web site at www.uah.edu to obtain an application on-line. Applicants may call (256) 824-6381 to request an application set be mailed to their home. AA/EOE

WEATHERBANK, INC., has immediate openings for entry-level meteorologists. Successful candidates will be responsible for forecasting a variety of weather parameters and issuing alert statements for industrial and commercial clientele across North America. Each applicant should have at least a B.S. in Meteorology or a related field. Pending degrees are reviewed on an individual basis. Professional forecasting experience, a strong and positive work ethic, and working knowledge of Microsoft® dos, Windows® 98/2000/NT, and Microsoft Excel® is desirable. Most openings are full-time, salaried positions and include WeatherBank's full compliment of benefits including: life, disability, dental and health insurance packages; Cafeteria 125 and 401K plans; paid sick leave, vacations and holidays. Please send your resume, and include a copy of your transcripts (if recently completing school) and a minimum of three references, in order to be considered and for application processing to begin. Send your packet via fax or E-mail to the attention of: Mr. Michael Silva, Senior Meteorologist/Consulting Shift Supervisor WeatherBank, Inc., 1015 Waterwood Pkwy, Suite J, Edmond, OK 73034; Fax: 405-341-0115; E-mail: mgs@weatherbank.com

ACCU WEATHER, INC., offers career opportunities with the world's leading and most diversified commercial weather service. You will have exciting opportunities to handle all types of weather forecasting for major business, media and government organizations. These include on-air broadcasting for radio stations; creative presentation of weather graphics; preparation of television and newspaper forecasts; snow and ice warning services; worldwide forecasting for agriculture; specialized forecasts for the transportation industry, utilities, businesses and resorts; computer applications and many others. You will work with some of the nation's leading forecast meteorologists in our new state-of-the-art Global Forecast Center, interacting with a staff of 350 employees. Our facility provides our 93 forecast meteorologists with tools and computer technology unavailable elsewhere. Applicants need to be articulate and productive with outstanding forecasting and communication skills. Through progressive advancement, forecasters can become on-air meteorologists in major radio and television markets, or become involved in computer operations, graphic design, new product development or customer relations. AccuWeather also has positions available on their computer staff for meteorologists with programming experience. AccuWeather offers competitive salaries and an extensive benefits package including health insurance, 401K and profit sharing plans, life insurance and disability income. If you are an enthusiastic, hard working forecaster interested in employment in a dynamic growing company which offers superior opportunity for advancement, send a detailed resume to: David H. Dombek, Director of Forecaster Hiring, AccuWeather, Inc., 385 Science Park Road, State College, PA 16803; Fax (814) 231-0621 E-mail: resume@accuwx.com

NOAA STRATEGIC PLAN

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, United States Department of Commerce, recently announced the completion of the NOAA Strategic Plan for FY2003 - 2008 and beyond. He briefed, "more than 1,000 external and internal stakeholders across our Nation helped to shape the plan's goals, strategies and performance measures, and I am very appreciative of this extensive support. The feedback we received during the public comment period further helped to strengthen the plan. All of this input, along with the work of last year's full Program Review, sets an agenda for wise investment of America's finite resources through four slightly reworded mission goals. These goals are to:

- * Protect, restore and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management;
- * Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond;
- * Serve society's needs for weather and water information; and
- * Support the Nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient and environmentally sound transportation.

Many thanks for helping us to reach this important point. I look forward to working with you as we assess, update and, when warranted, modify the plan. Please review the Strategic Plan at: <http://www.osp.noaa.gov>."

Q: Interested in doing more for your NWA?

A: The committee chair's list in the February Newsletter provides contact information. Send a message to a committee chairperson indicating your interest in volunteering to help or submit an article or news story to an editor.

Pay your annual dues yet?

Second notices have been sent to individuals who have not yet renewed their membership for 2003. The NWA Bylaws state, *members shall be considered not in good standing if (dues) payment is not received by mid-May and all voting privileges shall be suspended.*

FIRE WEATHER EDUCATION

The Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training (COMET) Program has converted part of their Fire Weather Training module into a Web site for use by a wider community. Check it out at:

meted.ucar.edu/fire/fwv/index.htm

Check on the full index from COMET at: meted.ucar.edu

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

15 May 2003 – NWA David Sankey Scholarship nominations due. See www.nwas.org/dsscholarship.html.

18 - 24 May – National Hurricane Awareness Week (pg 4).

1 June – Abstracts due for NWA Annual Meeting (pg 5).

15 June – METSAT Award/Grant applications due (pg 5).

22-28 June – National Lightning Safety Awareness Week
www.nwas.org/links/lightning.html

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

1 August – Sol Hirsch NWA Education Fund Grant nominations for K-12 teachers due (pg 3).

18-23 October – NWA 28th Annual Meeting (pg 5).

Please see **MEETINGS** on page 6 for additional dates.

Also check www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html
and www.nwas.org/awardsgrants.html

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