

NWA NEWSLETTER

No. 04-12

December 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Paul Croft

We have arrived at the end of yet another eventful, very busy, and highly successful year in the NWA – many thanks and congratulations to all members for making this happen. Special thanks to those members finishing their terms on the NWA Council: **Liz Quetone**, *Vice President*, who has volunteered to be appointed as *Commissioner of Committees*; **Alan Gerard**, *Treasurer*, who is running for a councilor position; **Mary Cairns**, *Councilor*, who will keep busy as Chair of the Annual Awards Committee; **John Livingston**, *Councilor*, who volunteered to head up the new IT Committee; **Dr. Jim Moore**, *Councilor*, who volunteered to co-chair the Program Committee with Dr. Chuck Graves for the October 2005 Annual Meeting in their hometown of Saint Louis; **Alan Sealls**, *Councilor*, who is running for President-Elect; **Dave Knapp**, *Commissioner of Committees*, who is also running for President-Elect; and, **Bill Read**, the *immediate past-president*, who will continue to contribute his talents to committee work.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Committee Chairs who are completing their volunteer terms: **Chet Henricksen** of the Home Page Advisory Committee; from the Membership Committee, **Alan Johnson**; **Carolyn Kloth** of the Publications Committee; and, **Larry Burch** co-chair of the Aviation Committee.

The membership continues to expand in breadth and depth, our committees continue to perform impressive work, and our annual meeting pleasantly reminded us as to what we can achieve and accomplish together. The NWA has emerged even stronger than before – and is more determined than ever – to fulfill its mission to the operational community. As this year ends, plans are already underway for 2005 (and 2006) and in January our newly elected Officers and Councilors will diligently pursue our organization's mission supporting and promoting excellence in operational meteorology and related activities. I congratulate them and wish them well!

However, as we move forward, we do remember to look back. We are not the same organization as we were nearly 30 years ago and an analysis of our member survey information reveals that quite well. Thanks to the many members who submitted survey data at the beginning of 2004. Cynthia Nelson, the assistant executive director,

analyzed that data and provided it to the NWA Council members to use during the year. Councilor Cecilia Sinclair also analyzed the demographics from the membership data and that also contributed to the planning discussions within the Council. Excerpts from the survey and demographic analyses are presented in this newsletter and will be continued in the next few issues.

One fact that hasn't changed over the years is that the NWA is succeeding because of many volunteers and contributors. It is within this spirit of volunteerism and sacrifice that we find so many of our members helping all of us – and it is within this spirit that I find some sadness as I realize that my term as your President has come to an end. While there is still more to be done, it is with great joy that I recognize that this is a time of anticipation as to what will come during the next year's time and beyond. Whether it is the ordinary operational efforts each one of us makes every day, or the extraordinary demands that we must meet when called upon by the atmosphere. We revel in our ability to both unlock the mysteries of the weather and to help those whom we serve. It has been a great honor to serve you this past year and to work with many great professionals in our Council, Committees, and throughout the membership – I will always value my interactions with you.

May peace be yours in the New Year ahead and may your work continue to help those you serve and be of value to NWA members as well.

P.S. This Newsletter is going to press late, but it allows me to add some information regarding the catastrophic events that occurred on 26 December.

A massive earthquake (magnitude 9.0) occurred on the Indian Ocean floor just west of the Northwest coast of Sumatra at 00:58:53 UTC (<http://earthquake.usgs.gov>). A tsunami resulted and devastated numerous coastal communities throughout the Indian Ocean especially in Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India and Somalia. By the end of the day of 26 December 2004, estimates of over 100,000 deaths were being stated on every media outlet with projections doubling that estimate. The NWA Council corresponded via e-mail and approved donating funds to the Tsunami Relief efforts. **A check for \$5,000 was sent to the American Red Cross International Response Fund on behalf of all NWA members.** More donations are being considered such as to the WMO Natural Disaster Assistance Fund for Meteorological and Hydrological Services. *Yours in Service – always, Paul Croft*

BROADCAST COMMITTEE NEWS

The Key is Consistency...

There are many pressures that we deal with every day, week, and month on the air and behind the scenes in broadcasting. Most of those pressures come from the fact that we are in a business to get ratings, and weather is generally the most watched part of the newscast, so the responsibility for getting ratings falls heavily on our shoulders. The trouble comes when we try to do too much, or are encouraged to make big changes in our weathercast, to provide a new look for the viewers. Change can be good, but consistency is of utmost importance. So how do we balance the two seemingly contradictory views?

Let's start with consistency. I grew up listening to Paul Harvey on the radio, watching Dick Clark on *American Band Stand*, and getting my weather every night from John Coleman (who helped found The Weather Channel) on WLS-TV in Chicago. There are many other examples I could include such as *Scooby-Doo* on Saturday mornings and *The Wonderful World of Disney* every Sunday evening. So what do these different broadcasts have in common? I could count on them being on at the same time and the same day for years. There was a sense of comfort in knowing that I would hear Paul Harvey sign off with "Good Day" every afternoon and that John Coleman would have a weathercast that was as much entertainment as science every night at 10 p.m. Even as a broadcaster with 19 years of experience, I still have radio talk shows and television programs that I count on hearing or seeing each week. They are part of my routine and give my life a little bit of stability in an otherwise rapidly changing world. Your viewers count on you the same way, maybe not at first, but certainly over time. I think about this a lot. If a 10 year old started watching me when I got to town over 11 years ago, that person may be graduating from college this year and heading off into a career, possibly a weather career. Imagine that; hundreds or thousands of kids have grown up watching me on FOX19 in Cincinnati. I was their consistency and stability, and part of their routine for over a decade, – that's scary. I may have gained some weight and lost some hair, but I am the same person who came to *Cincy* in 1993, and that's important to my viewers.

On the other hand, we just received a new computer system at our station with much more capability than we have had in the past. It just makes you want to change your entire show, and I have already started doing animations and a bunch of new graphics each night. I don't want to shock my viewers, so the show still has many of the same elements I used before, but with some fun twists that the new equipment provides. I plan to make many more changes to the show to make use of the system, and to impress my bosses who want to know that their money was well spent. New technology, new news

formats, new ownership, poor ratings, etc., all play a role in altering our daily routines and most of us will face one or more of those elements in our broadcasting careers. Your looks will vary, your education will continue, your on-air and forecasting skills will improve, and your audience will be in flux as new people start watching and long-time viewers grow older along with you. It's all part of change and a natural part of life. However, some things should remain the same such as your passion for weather forecasting and a desire to share that passion with your viewers. Computers, news formats, bosses, owners, and ratings all come and go, but if you're consistent day after day, year after year, your viewers will find comfort in knowing you'll be there adding a little sanity in their ever-changing lives. Before you know it, some kid will come up and tell you how he or she grew up watching you. "I'm Rich Apuzzo... Good Day!"

Send your thoughts to me at rapuzzo@fuse.net

- Rich Apuzzo, Broadcast Meteorology Committee Chair

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

Arkansas Chapter - The second Chapter meeting for the fall 2004 season was held on 2 November at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in North Little Rock. Nine members and guests were present.

Chapter President Chris Buonanno informed the group that it was time to submit nominations for chapter officers for 2005, and that the Chapter Christmas Party would be held on Thursday 16 December.

Chapter member John Lewis provided the program for the evening. John is a senior forecaster with the National Weather Service in North Little Rock. His presentation was on the "Forecasting Game." Forecasters have a lot to consider when predicting future weather conditions. Model data can give some idea of what may happen, but factors such as terrain (e.g., Ozark and Ouachita Mountains of northern and western Arkansas) can affect the timing of approaching systems (e.g., such as the intrusion of cold air in the Winter). The presentation focused on how the forecast is prepared, with a look at a few cases where pattern recognition (i.e., accurately reading the models) and knowledge of the terrain, as well as situational awareness, proved to be very beneficial in providing high quality and accurate forecasts.

- Newton Skiles, Corresponding Secretary

Central Iowa Chapter - The Chapter is continuing preparations for their 2005 Severe Storms Conference to be held 31 March - 2 April. (See the Meeting Notes on page 7 for details.) Vendor fees have been reduced to \$200. Registration for the conference continues until 10 March.

Applications are still being accepted for the Pam Daale Scholarship that will be presented at the conference. Go to www.iowa-nwa.com or the November NWA Newsletter for details.

The January meeting is scheduled for 20 January at the National Weather Service Office at 6 p.m. and membership dues will be due at this meeting.

- Janet Schenck, Secretary

IN THE CENTER OF WIDESPREAD DEVASTATION

By Allen Strum

As chief meteorologist for the ABC television affiliate in Pensacola, Florida, I was responsible for providing anxious viewers with comprehensive weather information during this past hurricane season. Never had the news been so bad for our television viewers until the devastation visited our own little slice of heaven. Shortly before Hurricane Ivan made landfall, as I noticed a slight shift to the east in the storm, I realized that things were going to be bad for northwest Florida.

Within hours, power had been knocked out and our viewers became listeners. Hunkered down in boarded-up homes with howling winds above and all around, our broadcasts were carried by the local radio stations to listeners who sat huddled in the dark, full of fear. While I was secure in a safe studio with bright lights powered by a huge generator, I felt a sense of helplessness as I told people the news that the storm was headed their way. I pictured them waiting hours and hours for the storm to pass, armed with only flashlights, a battery-powered radio, and whatever stockpile they had amassed in preparation for Hurricane Ivan.

While phone lines were still working, calls rang through to the newsroom and weather center. Frightened listeners phoned in asking, "When will this end?" The worst is occurring, I had to tell them, and hours of bad weather are still upon us.

One panicked call came from a man who was in fear of losing his life. He had decided to ride out the storm in an evacuation zone, and he wasn't alone. His wife and children stood with him in the family's kitchen, their feet and legs submerged in two feet of water. His home, he told us, is on a canal just off of a bay, with which his entire neighborhood had temporarily merged. He asked us what to do and said that he wanted to leave the home. An upside down boat had floated up in front of his house, and he considered flipping it over and using it. We convinced the man to stay put. As the conversation ended, his wife could be heard in the background instructing the kids to climb up on the counter. The water was now waist deep.

The storm made landfall at night with an invisible but audible and emotional punch. Once daylight arrived, winds still howled but the damage was done. As I looked outside, I noticed first that the trees that still stood were completely bare of any greenery. It was unlike anything I could imagine.

After twenty hours at the station, and a slight calm in the still-persistent storm, I decided it was my chance to head home and survey the damage. As I ventured out, I was in complete amazement at how different my commute, my home, and my community had become.

Emergency crews had already begun to use chain saws to clear pathways just large enough for a car to pass through, and my slow drive down home was like navigating an obstacle course. I dodged and swerved around the trees and debris that littered the roadways, not to mention power poles, awnings, crumbled bricks, shingles, scattered wood, and much more. Occasionally, power lines would drag across the roof of my car, and I was constantly driving over downed lines. None were live.

Electric power was nowhere to be had and wasn't to return for quite sometime.

Once I did make it home, I counted myself among the lucky. Damage appeared minimal, limited to a blown-out window and some water damage. After parking the car, I had to navigate the debris that was everywhere, including parts of a roof from nowhere nearby that were scattered in the yard.

One of my storm preparations was filling the bathtub with water, a wise suggestion on the part of my girlfriend. A resident of Pensacola's downtown historic district, I was lucky to have power restored within five days. But I could have never imagined what life would be like without running water or power for five days.

In the days following, we continued to broadcast. People listened on their battery-powered radios. And — our employees smelled bad — the town smelled bad.

After about two days, the water returned to my home. It was cold, flowed slowly, and most of the time had a coffee-like color. As sweaty, greasy, and stinky as I was, it still made for a well-needed shower. Unbelievably, a slow trickle of freezing-cold, coffee-colored water made me feel fresh and re-energized.

For simple washing and teeth brushing, I used the water in the tub, though slowly the tub water became less and less desirable. Still, it was clean and I was not about to use precious bottled water to pour over a toothbrush. I used a big plastic cup to gather the water from the tub. The daylight or my flashlight helped avoid the hair and bugs that had developed a film on the surface of my prized and treasured tub water.

Once daylight returned and patches of power sparked life, gas stations opened to sell the remaining fuel in their wells. Lines formed as much as a mile long. Drivers pushed cars either to save gas or because they were on empty. For the most part, the process was orderly, and a strong police presence didn't hurt either.

In the meantime, crews worked hard, power was restored, and roadways were cleared.

Through it all, a certain communion existed. People had the time to really get to know those they were with, and laughter flirited with periods of struggle and desperation.

While life for Pensacolians was greatly upset, it soon crept back to a state of normalcy. In the process, I think we all realized that our sense of "normal" would never be the same. □

San Diego native Allen Strum has worked for television stations in the Carolinas, Kentucky, and Florida. He holds a degree in speech communications from Wake Forest University and he has also earned a BS in geosciences with an emphasis in broadcast meteorology from Mississippi State University. Allen is currently chief meteorologist for WEAR ABC 3 in Pensacola, Florida. He has been a NWA member since 1998 and earned the NWA TV Weathercaster Seal of Approval in 1999. You can reach him at astrum@sbgnet.com.

Are you prepared for a disaster? Do you have an individual, family and business emergency communications plan? To learn more, see Web site: www.ready.gov/index.html

NWA 2004 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

Compiled by Cynthia A. Nelson, NWA Asst. Exec. Director

By mid 2004, the total number of members responding to the Survey was 1,546. This represents about 50% of the membership. The Survey questionnaire was included as part of the 2004 annual dues renewal statements that were mailed to all members near the end of 2003. Over the next few months, portions of the Survey Results will be included in the NWA Newsletter for the information of all. The format will start with the survey question (*in italics*) and be followed by the compilation of the responses, which may include a graphic figure as appropriate. The responses to the first three questions of the survey are summarized in this issue.

1. NWA Council should consider these initiatives.

The responses were: workshops in conjunction with annual meetings; conference having presentations only from students; *Digest* dedicated issue on lightning and safety; education and community work with 4-H and scouts; modified and streamlined publications, workshops apart from annual meeting; more regular meetings; more river gauges will help; need marine meteorology committee; and need more representation on the Council from members in the western part of the country. *Not many responses were received to this question. Members are reminded that they are most welcome to contact Council members at anytime with questions, recommendations and suggestions. All Council meetings are open and members are invited to attend and participate.*

2. How often do you read, attend or visit:

	<i>Always</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Seldom</i>	<i>Never</i>
<i>The Newsletter:</i>					
<i>The Digest:</i>					
<i>The Annual Meeting:</i>					
<i>The NWA Website:</i>					
<i>The Electronic Journal:</i>					

MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

READ, ATTEND OR VISIT

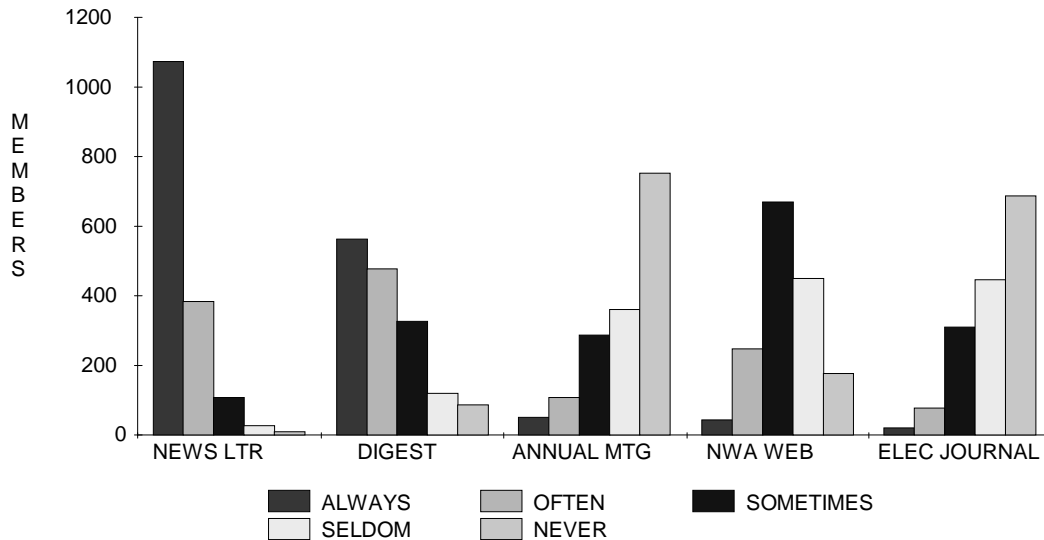


Figure 1. Participation in the various forms of NWA publications and interactions.

Figure 1 shows that most members regularly read the NWA Newsletter, often read the *Digest*, and sometimes visit the NWA Website, but only a small percentage attend the Annual Meeting or check the on-line *Electronic Journal*. *The Electronic Journal is gaining in submissions and we hope more members will find it useful. The Annual Meeting will continue to be held at different locations across the country to make it easier for members to attend every few years. Local chapters are also organizing regional meetings to provide more opportunities for members to share studies, network and learn about new techniques, products and services.*

3. *One of the main objectives of the NWA is to give members opportunities to share studies, technical reports, meeting summaries, news and correspondence through the printed publications, Web pages and the Annual Meeting. When submissions do not come in the publications are delayed. Over the next two years, will you plan on making at least one submission to the Newsletter, Digest, Annual Meeting or Web site? (Total responses = 1,377)*

Strongly agree Agree Somewhat agree Neutral Somewhat disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

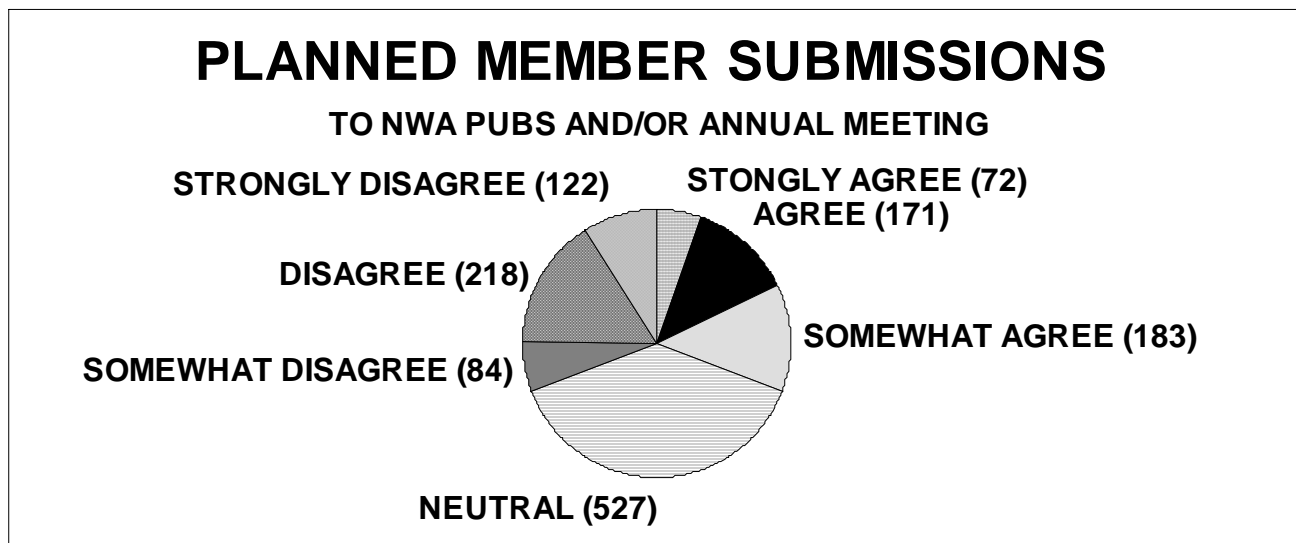


Figure 2. Currently planned submissions to NWA publications and/or the Annual Meeting.

The majority of the members were either neutral or not inclined to contribute to any of the written media or the Annual Meeting. Thanks to the 400 plus members who agreed to submit items. We encourage you to fulfill your plans. *The Editors of NWA publications would welcome more submissions and were hoping many members would pledge to submit. If submissions are not received, Editors and Committee Chairs will have to gather information from other sources to keep producing the publications. Members are most welcome to submit articles, technical reports, essays, news items, letters to the editors and Sound Off items for the Web site at anytime. The more participation, the more successful the organization will become in supporting its members and the related professions.*

ANALYSIS OF NWA MEMBERSHIP

By Cynthia Sinclair, NWA Councilor

The 2004 NWA membership list of near 3100 entries was analyzed to determine the demographics of the current membership. The NWA has members in every state and several foreign countries. Texas has the most members at 231; Florida is second with 176. Other states with over 100 members are: NY, MD, PA, CA, VA, GA, MO and OH.

Women comprise 16.5% of the membership. This percentage has increased over the years. In 1989, only 3% of the Association's members were women. In 1994, the percentage climbed to 5% and to 10% by 1999.

The greatest number of members and the most rapidly growing group (34%) work for the news media and are primarily television weather broadcasters. Those in the second largest group work either for the National Weather Service or other segments of NOAA (24%). Another growing group follows and that is students at 12% followed by members who are either self-employed or working for private companies (12%). Retired members are at 7% followed by professors and instructors at 5% and military members at 3%. Weather enthusiasts are a little over 1% of the membership.

Charter members, those joining in 1975 and 1976, account for 8% of the membership. New members joining in 2004 amounted to 320 – a little more than 10%. We lost a little under 10% in 2004, therefore, the total membership only increased slightly. *With every member helping to recruit, we hope to gain at least 400 new members in 2005.*

MEMBER NEWS

Retirements Announced

After decades of distinguished service to the National Weather Service, two veteran meteorologists will soon leave their positions as NWS Southern Region Headquarters division chiefs. NWA Charter Member **Thomas Grayson**, chief of the Systems Operations Division; and **Dan Smith**, chief of the Scientific Services Division, have announced their retirements to be effective 3 January 2005.

Prior to joining the NWS, **Tom Grayson** served as an officer in the U.S. Navy and as a civilian research meteorologist at the Navy's Fleet Numerical Weather Prediction Facility. He continued his military service as an oceanographer/meteorologist in the U.S. Naval Reserve until he retired with the rank of Captain in 1991. He began his NWS career as a research meteorologist with the Techniques Development Laboratory at NWS Headquarters in 1971.

He also served as Deputy Meteorologist-in-Charge at forecast offices in Reno, NV, and Ann Arbor, MI; Chief of Scientific Services Division, Central Region; Deputy Regional Director, Southern Region; and Regional Director, Western Region. While he proved to be an effective administrator, Tom preferred to focus his career on the rapidly developing disciplines of computers and information technology and elected to return to the Southern Region to oversee the newly created Systems Operations Division.

During his NWS career, Tom has served as researcher, forecaster, field office supervisor, program manager, and senior manager. Just a few of his accomplishments include helping develop numerical guidance models used by all NWS field forecast offices for critical storm warnings and forecasts; implementing comprehensive training programs that contributed significantly to staff's scientific training and professional advancement; implementation of the computer-based Automation of Field Operations and Services (AFOS) into nationwide field operations; playing a critical role in modernization and restructuring Southern Region field offices; and leading a national project to design and implement a unified NWS approach to display all WSR-88D data.

Tom attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he earned a BS in Meteorology, and a MS and PhD in Atmospheric Science. He has authored numerous scientific and technical articles and served as an editor for several scientific publications. Tom was the Editor of the NWA Newsletter from 1990-93 and a Councilor from 1993-94. He received the NWA Member of the Year Award in 1992 and led the NWS Radar Display Team that won the NWA's Larry R. Johnson Special Award in 2001.

Dan Smith began working at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami while still a high school student. He continued at NHC as a U.S. Weather Bureau student trainee while earning a BS and MS in Meteorology at Florida State University (FSU). Additional post-graduate studies followed at FSU. Dan assumed a full-time Weather Bureau (soon to be renamed National Weather Service) position in 1970.

He joined the NWS Southern Region Headquarters (SRH) in Fort Worth, TX, as a Techniques Development Meteorologist for the Scientific Services Division (SSD). In this capacity, Dan pioneered the development of computer applications for daily operations in local Weather Forecast Offices (WFO). He developed software to automate the process of generating text forecasts. He also developed the Manually Digitized Radar program, which was the first operational procedure for using digitized observations from the nation's WSR-57 radars.

Dan served as an operational forecaster at the WFO in Birmingham, AL, before returning to SRH in 1979. A year later, he was promoted to his present position of SSD Chief. During his tenure, he vigorously supported the professional development of meteorologists throughout the region and was instrumental in providing the critical training needed to help them become successful forecasters. Dan actively promoted collaborative research between the NWS and the academic community and has received numerous NOAA and NWS awards and performance commendations. He is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society and a long-term member of the National Weather Association. The author of dozens of professional papers published in *Monthly Weather Review*, *Journal of Meteorology*, *Bulletin of the AMS*, *Weather and Forecasting* and *National Weather Digest* -- he also served as the Editor of the *National Weather Digest* (1991-94) and the NWS Southern Topics monthly newsletter. - NWS Southern Region Headquarters

Emmy Awarded

Max Mayfield, director of NOAA's National Hurricane Center, has been honored by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) as this year's recipient of the Governor's Award for his devotion to television audiences during the record-setting 2004 hurricane season. With 1,128 television and radio interviews conducted during four landfalling hurricanes in only a six-week period, Max and other NOAA hurricane experts became familiar faces in households around the United States, and internationally, during frequent on-air storm updates. Mayfield was presented with an Emmy statuette by the Suncoast chapter of the NATAS during a ceremony held 11 December in Miami. "This award is truly for the entire staff of the National Hurricane Center and the NOAA team," said Mayfield. "Countless lives are saved during each hurricane season because of the talent and dedication of these men and women."

- NOAA Public Affairs

MEMBER NEWS continued

NWS SOO Moves to Florida

Pete Wolf, science and operations officer (SOO) at the Wichita NWS Office, and president of the Wichita AMS/NWA Local Chapter, is moving to Jacksonville, Florida, to become the SOO at the NWS Office there. Pete is scheduled to report to his new position in early January.

Members of NWA are leaders in other associations

Walter A. Lyons, CCM, President and Senior Scientist, FMA Research, Inc., is President of the American Meteorological Society for 2005. AMS Web site is at: www.ametsoc.org.

Steven A. Root, CCM, President & CEO WeatherBank, Inc., is the President of the Commercial Weather Services Association. For more information on CWSA see their Web site: www.weatherbank.com/cwsa/

John Toohey-Morales, CCM, President, ClimaData Corp and Chief Meteorologist, NBC Telemundo, is the President of the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists. For more information on this Council, see Web site: www.ncim.org.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

• **The TESSA 2005 Texas Storm Conference will take place on Saturday, 26 February 2005 at the Bob Duncan Center in Arlington, Texas.** The all-day event will begin with the first-ever Super Storm Spotter (SSS) session, a uniquely advanced storm spotter training session designed for spotters who have attended NWS basic and advanced training. The SSS session will feature the most advanced training available in the country. Spotters from across the region are expected to attend. **Gary Woodall**, WCM, National Weather Service - Ft. Worth, Texas, a primary developer of the storm spotter training system utilized nationwide, will present. Afternoon presentations will be delivered by **Alan Moller**, National Weather Service - Ft. Worth, Texas; **Roger Edwards**, Storm Prediction Center; and **Martin Lisius**, Chairman, Texas Severe Storms Association. The event will conclude with the feature presentation by **Louis Wicker**, National Severe Storms Laboratory. The TESSA 2005 Texas Storm Conference is free and open to the public. Registration is not required but attendees should arrive early as seating is limited to 500. See Web site: www.tessa.org.

• **National Severe Weather Workshop 2005 will be held at the Reed Center in Midwest City, OK, 3 - 5 March 2005.** It is sponsored by many local NOAA offices, the Oklahoma Emergency Management Association and the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the AMS/NWA. It will feature the nation's premier severe weather experts discussing their latest research and forecasting techniques. Designed for emergency managers, storm spotters, and other weather enthusiasts, the workshop offers a unique opportunity to learn about the National Weather Service's outlook, watch and warning process, severe weather preparedness and safety, StormReady, EMWIN, severe storm

risks, lightning effects, wind damage effects and new ways to get radar data. Spotter training will be offered in conjunction with the workshop. More information is at Web site: www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2005/

• **The Fourth Southeast Severe Storms Symposium will be held 4 - 6 March 2005 at Mississippi State University.** The East Mississippi NWA & AMS Chapter sponsors it. This year they will highlight a Broadcasters Workshop. For more about the symposium, hotel, and registration go to the Web site: www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/symposium.htm.

• **The 30th Northeastern Storm Conference will be held on 18 - 20 March 2005 in Burlington, Vermont.** The Lyndon State College AMS & NWA Chapter sponsors it. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel. For more information, please go to the chapter's Web site: apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/index.html. The deadline for registration is 11 February 2005.

• **The 27th Annual National Hurricane Conference will be held 21 - 25 March 2005 at the Hilton Riverside Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.** Deadline for their annual awards' nominations is 21 January 2005. For more information, see Web site: www.HurricaneMeeting.com or call Lisa Tait at 850-906-9224.

• **The Ninth Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference will be held 31 March - 2 April 2005 in West Des Moines, Iowa at the Marriott Hotel.** The Central Iowa NWA chapter sponsors it. Speakers this year include Paul Markowski, Professor, Penn State University; Paul Kocin, Meteorologist, The Weather Channel; Tim Samaras, Storm Chaser; and, Allen Strum of WEAR-TV3, Pensacola, FL, who will talk about Hurricane Ivan. **Abstract deadline is February 15th** and can be e-mailed to wgallus@iastate.edu. More information, and registration details can be found on Web site www.iowa-nwa.com. Questions? E-mail: iowanwa@everythingweather.com.

• **AIR-MASS 2005 Mid-America Storm Symposium will be held 14 - 15 April 2005 in Wichita, Kansas.** The Wichita AMS & NWA Chapter sponsors it. The conference will be held at the historic Radisson Broadview Hotel. In addition to the science-sharing presentations, a couple of special events are planned including a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Udall, Kansas, tornado. The invited guest speakers are Don Burgess, renowned radar expert and retired assistant director of NSSL; Dr. Hugh Christian, lightning research team head at the Global Hydrology and Climate Center; Mike Looney, chief, Meteorological Services Division at NWS Central Region Headquarters; Mike Smith, CEO, WeatherData, Inc.; Dave Freeman, chief meteorologist at KSNW-TV; and Steve Weiss, science and operations officer at the Storm Prediction Center. See Web site: wichita-amsnwa.org/index.php for more details.

• **The NWA's 30th Annual Meeting will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Saint Louis, Missouri, 15 - 20 October 2005.** Watch the NWA Web site: www.nwas.org for details. Notify the NWA office at 434-296-9966 or natweasoc@aol.com if you would like to help in organizing this special 30th anniversary event.

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.

NATIONAL WEATHER DIGEST

The *National Weather Digest* Volume 27 is finally in the mail to all members. At Standard A bulk mail, it may take time to reach all addressees. If you do not receive your copy by the end of January, please notify the NWA office. This issue contains articles from 2003. Volume 28 of articles from 2004 is planned to be sent out in April. With continued volunteer help and more submissions, we plan on getting back on schedule by the end of 2005. Thanks very much to the authors and all members for your patience and support.

- Exec. Dir.

Wanted - News items-; including news about NWA Members, Local Chapters, Weather Events and more.

Send your news items to:
nwanewsletter@nwas.org

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Submit newsletter items directly to: Editor NWA Newsletter, at nwanewsletter@nwas.org 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 *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. 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.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

2 February – Groundhog Day – Job Shadowing Day

5 February – National Weatherperson's Day

26 February – TESSA meeting, Arlington Texas

3-5 March – National Severe Weather Workshop,
Midwest City, Oklahoma

4-6 March – Fourth Southeast Severe Storm Symposium,
Mississippi State University

18-20 March – 30th Northeastern Storm Conference,
Burlington, Vermont

23 March – World Meteorological Day

15-20 October – NWA Annual Meeting, Saint Louis, MO

Please see **MEETINGS** on page 7 for additional dates

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

NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION

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