

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Steve Weiss

As we came to the end of 2005, it was clear that a number of very good things have occurred in the NWA during this past year. **The 30th Annual Meeting in Saint Louis, under the guidance and direction of Program Chairs Jim Moore and Chuck Graves (General Sessions), and Bryan Karrick (Broadcasters Workshop) was a tremendous success with a record number of attendees.** These enthusiastic volunteers and their committee members, our small NWA staff and many other individual and corporate members contributed immensely to a very successful conference. I thank you all for your superb contributions. The plans are being developed now for the 31st Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio for 14–19 October 2006 and I hope to see many members there.

During the course of the year, the NWA Council has provided exceptional leadership to the business of the NWA, and a number of exciting new initiatives are underway to make the NWA the premier professional organization for operational meteorology. At the forefront of these initiatives is a visionary, in-depth roadmap formulated by the Strategic Planning Committee under the direction of the Council, to prepare the NWA for the challenges in the years ahead. This includes the detailing of 11 strategic goals and associated implementation activities, which are being prioritized by the Council and incorporated as part of an overall Operating Plan for the association that includes specific Annual Plans for each year. **I am especially grateful for the leadership shown by Dave Knapp, who as President-Elect has been spearheading this ambitious implementation effort. Dave will take over as NWA President in January,** and given his extensive list of accomplishments and serving in many previous roles within the NWA, I have the utmost confidence that the NWA will prosper under his leadership during the coming year.

As part of the ongoing changes within the NWA, **I am most pleased to announce the appointment of Steve Harned, NWA Past-President (1992), to serve as Technical Editor and Publisher of the *National Weather Digest* beginning in January 2006.** This is a new, part-time, paid position on the NWA staff. Submissions to the *Digest* are increasing after a slump and we need staff dedicated to publishing it on a good schedule. Steve is a former Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Raleigh NWS Forecast Office, and currently is in the private-sector as President of Atlantic States Weather, Inc. Steve has had a long and distinguished career in operational meteorology, and has served the NWA in numerous ways including Program Coordinator for the very successful 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting in 2000. He is extremely knowledgeable of the history and traditions of the NWA, and literally knows the Association "inside and out". We are most fortunate to have someone of Steve's stature and expertise to handle the publishing and technical editing of the *Digest*, and I am certain that under his leadership the *Digest* will return to a reliable publishing schedule during 2006.

Of course, as the year comes to a close, I also want to thank the Council members and committee members for their remarkable energy, insights, and visionary leadership in moving the NWA ahead during this last year. I am truly honored to have had the opportunity to work with these many talented individuals who volunteer their time and energy for the NWA, its objectives and its members.

I also send thanks to all NWA members for your great support to the organization, for your many comments and suggestions to me, and for recent messages supporting the dues increase. I'm happy to report that renewals are still high and we've received many new member applications online and through the mail. I thank you again for allowing me to serve this organization in many capacities. I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year!

- Steve Weiss, steven.j.weiss@noaa.gov

BROADCAST COMMITTEE NEWS

A New Year with new goals...

It's 2006, which is amazing to me. I say it every year, but I am always overwhelmed by the rapid passage of time. When you have children, it is especially notable as you see the kids getting taller than you and costing you a lot more money each year. In the case of my three boys, I could swear they were all babies just a few years ago, but my oldest is almost 17 and my youngest turns 6 in a few months. What happened to those years?

Just like our home lives, our careers pass quickly and before we know it, we're passing milestones and thinking about retirement. In my case, this May will mark my 20th year in television. I can still vividly remember my first awful shows on WKJG-TV in Fort Wayne. Ironically, that NBC affiliate no longer does news, and that alone makes me feel a little older. After bouncing to Austin, Texas, and Johnstown, Pennsylvania, I moved to Cincinnati almost 13 years ago (while doing a six month stint in Chicago) and have enjoyed it here ever since. You never really know where you will end up, or how many moves you will make before you get there, but trying to plan your full career is futile. I always wanted to go back home to Chicago, but with my family now calling Cincinnati home, that desire faded many years ago. Then again, I can't tell you how many people I know intended to have a lifetime career in broadcasting and are now selling real estate, or teaching, or have become financial consultants. That scares me because I can't imagine doing anything but weather, and at nearly 44 years old, even if I am not on TV, I will do something weather related...it's my life.

As you set and attempt to achieve your goals this year, be realistic. We all want to be millionaires, and work at number one stations in great markets, but for many, that is not in the cards. Make your goals more personal and realistic. Decide that you are going to improve yourself and your skills. Work on being healthy, making consistent, accurate and timely forecasts, showing better graphics, and serving the community more than ever before. I have lost count of the charity events I attended or em-ceed last year, but there were dozens, and I enjoyed them all. Remember that you are part of a team, and represent your TV station in everything you do. Remember also that you are a role model for young children, some of whom will become meteorologists in the future. When you work to be the best you can be, everyone benefits. You are happier, your spouse and children benefit, your viewers are better served and your employer will respect your hard professional work.

It's not easy, but nothing good is ever easy. I feel for those who have lost their jobs in the past year and are still searching. There are many good meteorologists "on the beach" right now, and it hurts me because I know they love weather and serving the public as I do. However,

I will tell you now that many more TV stations will close their news operations this year as the contraction in the news world continues. Maybe one other goal we can add to our list is to learn another skill that we enjoy, and at which we can make a living if the world of broadcasting kicks us out. I am a meteorologist, and always will be, no matter what the future holds. My goal this year, on top of continued dedication to my family and my viewers, will be to guide as many young meteorologists to a successful career as possible, and to do all I can to help those searching for work to find a niche they can fill in the competitive world of weather and broadcasting. Thank you for allowing me to serve you for the past 5 years! Next month, Mike Goldberg's name will be on this column. I will submit articles from time-to-time, as part of my commitment to you, but I must now release the reins of leadership to the passage of time.

Keep Your Eyes on the Sky and Enjoy the Changing Weather. Send your thoughts to me at rapuzzo@fuse.net
- Rich Apuzzo, Broadcast Meteorology Committee Chair

E-JOURNAL UPDATE

Two new submissions have been added to the NWA Electronic Journal of Operational Meteorology. View them at Web site: www.nwas.org/ej/index.html. The first is an article, written by Robert Handel and Pablo Santos of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Miami, Florida and titled, "Observations from the April 13, 2004 wake low damaging wind event in South Florida."

The latest article, "IEM Chat: A Public and Private Partnership using the Next Generation of IM/Chat Software," was written by Daryl Herzmann, Program Assistant, Iowa Environmental Mesonet, Iowa State University Department of Agronomy in Ames, Iowa; Bradley S. Small, Senior Forecaster at the NWS Forecast Office in Des Moines, and John B. McLaughlin, Chief Meteorologist at KCCI-TV in Des Moines.

MEMBER NEWS

John L. "Jack" Hayes, Colonel USAF (Ret.) will become the **Director of the World Weather Watch for the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva, Switzerland** in February 2006. By regulation, this is a two-year appointment that is renewable. Jack was most recently the Deputy Assistant Administrator of NOAA Research. Previously he was Deputy Assistant Administrator for NOAA's Ocean Service and prior to that was the Director of NOAA's NWS Office of Science and Technology. He served 28 years in the U.S. Air Force and held the position of Commander of the Air Force Weather Agency when he retired. He is a long-term member of the NWA and served as a NWA Councilor from 1997-1998. Best wishes to Jack and his wife Sharon in Geneva!

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

Central Iowa Chapter

Five members of the **Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA** attended the NWA Annual Meeting in October. The conference was great! We all met good contacts for our local conference and all received a good learning experience.

Work continues on finalizing plans for the Tenth Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference. Jeff Trapp will be coming to talk about bow echoes and tornadoes. We will also have representatives from the New Orleans NWS office. Tim Samaras has agreed to come again, and Matt Bunkers will be coming to speak on supercell motion and longevity. Dwayne Hart, an Iowa broadcaster, will be coming to speak about the Iowa tornadoes. The 12 November 2005 tornado event has resulted in the opportunity to include talks, at the Conference, from emergency managers, broadcasters, researchers, etc., about this event. The registration deadline is 10 March 2006 and late fees will be charged after that. A CD of abstracts will also be given out this year. (See page 7 for more details on this Conference.)

- Janet Schenck, Chapter Secretary

Arkansas Chapter

The first meeting of the fall season for the **Arkansas Chapter of the NWA** was held on 27 September 2005 at the NWS office in North Little Rock. Eight members and guests were present.

Paul Iniguez, a Meteorologist Intern with the National Weather Service in North Little Rock, gave a presentation on the Arkansas Drought of 2005. Drought is a natural occurring phenomenon. Different types of drought include meteorological, agricultural and hydrological. Spring 2005 was the seventh driest on record in Arkansas, which sparked the beginning of the drought in meteorological and agricultural aspects. As spring turned to summer, rainfall deficits continued, which lead the state into a hydrological drought. At the height of the drought, a large area of southwestern Arkansas was classified in an Extreme Drought on the U.S. Drought Monitor. Year-to-date rainfall deficits in that area were on the order of 10 to 15 inches. The remnants of Hurricane Rita moved into Arkansas late in September and brought significant drought relief. In the most simple terms, the Arkansas drought was induced by a persistent 500-mb high pressure ridge over the south central United States through the spring and summer. Additional research may show the large scale and more complex processes which caused the drought.

The November Chapter meeting was held on the 3rd at the NWS office in North Little Rock, with 17 members and guests present.

Brian Smith, a Journeyman Forecaster and Digital Services Focal Point with the NWS in North Little Rock, gave a presentation entitled, "Digital Services: What the

NWS has to Offer." In his presentation, he covered the voluminous amounts of forecast information that the NWS produces thanks to the Interactive Forecast Preparation System (IFPS) and the Graphical Forecast Editor (GFE). Information covered included new, high resolution tabular and digital products, graphical forecasts, and enhancements to the standard suite of text forecast products. Brian also provided a hands-on demonstration of the GFE and its capabilities, and answered questions from several media partners related to forecast methodologies. - Newton Skiles, Corresponding Secretary

Central Oklahoma Chapter

Officers for the 2005-2006 season of the **Central Oklahoma Chapter of the AMS/NWA** are President Dave Jorgensen, Vice-President Steve Corfidi, Treasurer Kit Wagner, and Secretary Sarah Corfidi.

Meetings in late 2005 included a presentation on Austria/Finland severe weather training, and others titled, "Update on Phased Array Radar," and "Hurricane Rainband Experiment – Adventures in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita." Slide shows from these presentations can be found on the Chapter Web site at: cocams.nwc.ou.edu/pastmeetings.html.

- Sarah Corfidi, Secretary

North Texas Chapter

At our most recent meeting, Skip Ely presented information about the current drought in North Texas and compared it to past events. As of 15 November, DFW Airport (the official climate site for Dallas/Fort Worth) had only received 18.62 inches of rain for the year. At the end of December, DFW recorded 18.97 inches of rain for 2005. The driest 12 months on record for the metro area extended from October 1955 – September 1956 when only 15.86 inches of rain fell. 2005 was the fifth driest year on record and the driest year since the 1950's drought. Looking at past data, Skip noted that 2005 is comparable to other 12 month dry spells we have experienced, but not yet comparable to the big droughts of 1909-1913 and 1950 – 1955/56.

Brad Barton, meteorologist for radio station KRLD and the Texas State Network, was the guest speaker. Brad began his broadcast career in Wichita, Kansas, at an all news radio station. His first big weather event occurred on a warm and muggy night, 13 December 1975, when four to five F-1 tornadoes moved through Wichita. Being the only person on duty, Brad had to break-up the station Christmas party to get all of the reporters out covering the tornadoes.

In 1978, he came to KRLD in Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW). The station only had a weather wire at the time along with a small display of the Stephenville, TX, radar.

On 3 May 1979, one of three severe weather events for the day began at 10:40 a.m. That day, the station logged 22 EBS (Emergency Broadcast System) activations. Early in the event they went to all local

weather coverage and this continued into the evening. There were no network news breaks or commercials. They went from reporter to reporter covering the events in the field. At the end of that day, 60% of all radios in the DFW area had been tuned to KRLD due to the weather coverage. That day was the beginning of KRLD's focus on severe weather coverage. Since then, the station has allowed Brad and the staff to break into the broadcast at any time with weather information.

The KRLD Weather Center is completely isolated from electrical failures. It has auxiliary power and an analog system that allows the meteorologists to continue broadcasting even if the computer servers fail.

Brad stated that they no longer use the EAS (Emergency Alert System, the replacement for EBS) because that can delay the broadcast of a warning by one to five minutes. Now they run four beeps and broadcast the weather information live. *– Janice Bunting, Secretary*

WINTER WEATHER PRODUCTS

The NOAA/NWS/NCEP Hydrometeorological Prediction Center Winter Weather Desk has developed an interactive Web page to display new experimental winter weather products. The products display the expected impacts of winter weather such as visibility, snowfall rates and ice accumulation. To learn more, and to access the interactive display, see their Web site page: www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/impactgraphics. For their full suite of Winter Products view Web site: www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/winter_wx.shtml

NOS MAPPING PORTAL UPDATED

The NOAA/NOS Coast Survey Development Laboratory recently released version 3.0 of its nowCOAST GIS Web mapping portal to real-time coastal observations and NOAA forecasts for U.S. coastal areas. The new version (<http://nowcoast.noaa.gov>) provides on-map displays of recent GOES satellite imagery, the NWS weather radar reflectivity mosaic for the contiguous U.S., and surface in-situ meteorological and SST observations on land and offshore. Previously, nowCOAST gave access to real-time coastal observations and NOAA forecasts only by the use of geo-referenced hyperlinks to Web pages posting this information.

With the new version, users can now view directly on nowCOAST twice hourly updated visible or infra-red imagery from GOES-East and West, hourly surface in-situ observations, along with a base reflectivity mosaic from NWS Doppler weather radars, updated every 15 minutes. The surface in-situ observations include data from traditional airway stations, C-MAN stations, fixed and drifting buoys and ships as well as some regional ocean observing systems. In addition, nowCOAST's GIS functionality allows a user to overlay several of these map

layers on top of each other, or in combination with any of nowCOAST's layers of geo-referenced links to observations and NOAA forecast products. For example, a user can overlay surface meteorological observations with links to NWS marine weather forecasts, weather forecast discussions, or point forecast guidance from NWS and NOS prediction models. The new version was developed in cooperation with NOAA/NESDIS Satellite Services Division in Camp Springs, Maryland

The nowCOAST GIS Web mapping portal is a planning aid to assist users in discovering and displaying real-time weather, oceanographic, and river observations, point forecast guidance from NOAA's prediction models and NWS and NOS text forecasts.

– John Kelley, NOAA/NOS/CSDL

Do you want your news items published in the NWA Newsletter?

**Send news items to
nwanewsletter@nwas.org,
or the NWA Office.**

We want to hear from you!

Pam Daale Memorial Scholarship in Meteorology

The **Central Iowa Chapter** of the National Weather Association and WOI-TV in Des Moines, IA, are sponsoring a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of broadcast meteorologist Pam Daale.

Eligibility: The \$1,000 scholarship is available to all full-time meteorology students having sophomore or junior status at the time of the chapter's annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference (23 – 25 March 2006) and a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or greater (on a 4.0-point scale). The award will be presented at the conference, and **the winner must attend the conference to receive the scholarship.**

More information about this scholarship and the application procedures can be found at: <http://www.iowa-nwa.com/projects/index.html>:

Deadline: Application materials must be received by **February 8, 2006**. The winner will be notified on or before March 3, 2006 to plan to attend the meeting.

For additional information, send e-mail to iowanwa@everythingweather.com.

Renewed your membership for 2006 yet?

*You can renew online by credit card at Web site page:
<http://www.nwa-registration.org/nationaldues.shtml>*

Join the NWA online at page:

<http://www.nwa-registration.org/>

HURRICANE KATRINA REPORTING and what's *OFFICIAL*

On 20 December 2005, the NOAA/NWS/NCEP/TPC National Hurricane Center completed the "official" Tropical Cyclone Report on Hurricane Katrina of 23-30 August 2005. It was authored by Richard D. Knabb, Jamie R. Rhome, and Daniel P. Brown. They reported that, "**the hurricane made landfall, at the upper end of Category 3 intensity with estimated maximum sustained winds of 110 kt, near Buras, Louisiana at 1110 UTC 29 August 2005.** Katrina continued northward and made its final landfall near the mouth of the Pearl River at the Louisiana/Mississippi border, still as a Category 3 hurricane with an estimated intensity of 105 kt." The full report can be viewed along with other Tropical Cyclone Reports on Web site page: www.nhc.noaa.gov/2005atlan.shtml

This report differed with the initial Post Storm Data Acquisition (PSDA) report that estimated Cat 4 for landfall near Buras. This reminds us all to double-check reports, press releases and the like and to know which one is the "Official Report" before publicizing data.

Within 12 to 24 hours after a significant event, the NOAA/NWS dispatches teams to collect meteorological data and assess damage. The result is the collection of perishable data and a classification of the event. Those reports can also be viewed on the Web at: www.weather.gov/os/data/stormdata.shtml.

At the bottom of the first page of the PSDA reports is a note similar to this one, * *The data contained in this report are preliminary and subject to change. Please refer to the Tropical Cyclone Report on Hurricane Katrina issued by the NOAA/NWS/NCEP Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center for official information on Katrina.*)

The PSDA team determined that Hurricane Rita made landfall as a Category 2 between Sabine Pass, Texas and Johnson's Bayou, Louisiana, but the Tropical Cyclone Report hasn't been completed yet.

The Tropical Cyclone Report on Hurricane Cindy is due out soon and it will show Cindy upgraded to a Category 1 hurricane at landfall just southwest of Grand Isle, Louisiana on 6 July. This means a new record of 15 Atlantic hurricanes occurred in 2005, but please check the published report for the "official" words.

NOTABLE END TO 2005

Several events kept weather in the headlines for the last few days of 2005.

The Atlantic Tropical Cyclone season continued through the end of the year as Tropical Storm Zeta formed on 30 December. It was the 27th named storm of 2005 and it may tie Tropical Storm Alice (1954) as the latest named tropical cyclone in a calendar year. According to The

NOAA/NWS/NCEP/TPC National Hurricane Center (NHC), we will not know for sure if Zeta tied Alice until the final analysis and report of Zeta is complete.

Products issued by the NHC, in combination with data from the NOAA/OAR Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, indicate that Tropical Storm Alice (the second Alice of 1954) was the named storm that developed the latest in a calendar year. It became a tropical storm at 1200 UTC on 30 December 1954 and became a hurricane the next day. It sustained hurricane status until 5 January 1955. Zeta was named at 1200 UTC on 30 December 2005. The NHC indicated that there was a possibility that Zeta actually became a tropical storm a few hours prior to that time. After the final report is complete on Zeta, we will know if Zeta tied Alice.

Heavy rain and snow fell across the Pacific Coast states resulting in flooding and mud slides in parts of California. A few preliminary rainfall amounts in California for 31 December included Santa Maria with 1.03 inches, Downtown Sacramento 2.34 inches and Santa Rosa 1.93 inches after receiving 3.42 on 30 December.

Wild fires in Oklahoma and Texas destroyed hundreds of thousands of acres and many homes as well as a few towns in Texas.

A WARM AND STORMY YEAR

NOAA scientists report that the 2005 annual average temperature for the contiguous United States (based on preliminary data) will likely be 1.0 degrees F above the 1895-2004 mean, which will make 2005 one of the 20 warmest years on record for the country. Mean temperatures through the end of November were warmer than average in all but three states. No state was cooler than average.

Drought disasters were declared in all or parts of Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Wisconsin. Drier-than-average conditions contributed to an active wildfire season. Based on preliminary data from the National Interagency Fire Center, wildfires burned more than 8.5 million acres in 2005, with 4.5 million acres consumed in Alaska alone. This exceeds the old record set in 2000 for acreage burned in a wildfire season, for the United States.

On the flip side, Los Angeles had its second wettest water year (July 2004 – June 2005) with 37.25 inches of rain. The 'Blizzard of 2005,' which brought more than two feet of snow across much of southern New England in late January, ranked as the seventh most extreme snow event in the Northeast as measured by a newly developed Northeast Snowfall Impact Scale index. The blizzard contributed to the snowiest January on record in Boston, where 43.3 inches of snow fell at Boston's Logan Airport. The full report is available on Web site: www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2005/s2548.htm. More summary reports will no doubt be published in early 2006.

- NOAA Public Affairs

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

• **The Fifth AMS Student Conference and Career Fair will be held 28-29 January 2006 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia.** It is sponsored by the AMS 21st Century Campaign. For more information, go to www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/studentconference.html.

• **86th AMS Annual Meeting will be held 29 January – 2 February 2006 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia.** Information about the meeting may be found at www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/.

• **The National Severe Weather Workshop 2006 will be held 2-4 March 2006 in Norman, Oklahoma.** The Central Oklahoma Chapter of the NWA and AMS sponsors it. Find details at www.caps.ou.edu/cocams/.

• **The Fifth Southeast Severe Storms Symposium will be held 3-5 March 2006 at Mississippi State, Mississippi.** The Symposium is designed to share forecasting and technical expertise primarily related to weather phenomena in the Southeast U.S. It is sponsored by the East Mississippi Chapter of the NWA and AMS. For more complete information, see Web site: www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/symposium.htm.

• **The Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop will be held 3-4 March 2006, at the NOAA Western Regional Center campus at Sand Point in Seattle, Washington.** This annual conference, sponsored by NOAA's National Weather Service, the University of Washington, and the Puget Sound Chapter of the AMS, covers recent developments in weather forecasting and observational technologies, major weather events of the past year and topics dealing with Western U.S. meteorology. The 2006 theme is *Climate, Climate Change, and Weather of the Pacific Northwest*. Pre-registration is requested for all attendees. For the latest information, and to register online, visit: www.atmos.washington.edu/~cliff/PNW2006.html. For more information contact: Brad Colman/Chris Hill, NWS Forecast Office, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 (206.526.6095 x 224/222, brad.colman@noaa.gov or chris.hill@noaa.gov), or Clifford Mass, Dept of Atmospheric Sciences, Box 351640, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195 (206.685.0190, cliff@atmos.washington.edu).

• **The 31st Annual Northeastern Storm Conference will be held from 10–12 March 2006 in Saratoga Springs, New York.** The Lyndon State College AMS & NWA Chapter sponsors it. Abstracts are being accepted through **14 January 2006. Please register by 11 February 2006.** For more information, please go to the Web site: apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/NESC.html.

• **The Third Texas Severe Storms Association (TESSA) Texas Storm Conference will be held 11 March 2006 at the Colleyville Center in Colleyville, Texas.** It is sponsored by TESSA and the National Weather Service. Speakers include Gary Woodall with the Second Annual Super Storm Spotter Training Session, Tim Marshall on Hurricane Katrina, Scott Rae will discuss a Dallas/Fort Worth Tornado Scenario and Dr. Charles Doswell on Storm Chasing Ethics. Events include a tribute to veteran storm chaser David Hoadley who will give a presentation on his 50 years of storm chasing. A special dinner honoring Mr. Hoadley will take place at the conference. This conference is free and open to the public. Registration is not required, but there is only seating for 500 so arrive early. For more information see Web site: www.tessa.org/meeting.html.

• **The 2006 NOAA Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop will be held 21-24 March 2006 in Tucson, Arizona.** The NWS Climate Services Division, the University of Arizona Climate Assessment for the Southwest and the Arizona Cooperative Extension are hosts for this workshop. Details about the Workshop can be found at Web site: cals.arizona.edu/climate/CPASW2006/index.htm.

• **The Tenth Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference will be held 23-25 March 2006 at the West Des Moines Marriott in West Des Moines, IA.** It is sponsored by the Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA. Registration is now being accepted for this Conference. More information can be found at the Chapter's Web site: www.iowa-nwa.com/#conferencelinks.

• **The Tenth Annual Ohio Severe Weather Symposium will be held 7 April 2006 at the Fawcett Center at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.** It is sponsored by The Ohio State University Meteorology Club. For more information, go to geog-www.sbs.ohio-state.edu/metclub/.

• **28th Annual National Hurricane Conference will be held 10-14 April 2006 in Orlando, Florida.** Details on this conference may be found at www.hurricanemeeting.com/.

• **The Fourth GOES-R Users Conference is planned for 1-3 May 2006 at the Omni Interlochen Hotel in Bloomfield, Colorado.** For more information, go to www.osd.noaa.gov/announcement/index.htm.

• **The Air Weather Association Reunion 2006 will be held 10-14 May 2006 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Omaha, Nebraska.** See the Air Weather Association Web site www.airweaassn.org for more information.

• **The Tenth Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop will be held 3-5 October 2006 in Billings, Montana.** NOAA's National Weather Service Offices in Billings and Glasgow are sponsoring this workshop focusing on the exchange of weather and hydrologic forecasting information unique to the Northern Rockies and High Plains. The workshop will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Billings. A call for papers and registration information will be made available during spring 2006. More information can be found on the Internet at www.weather.gov/Billings, or by contacting NOAA's National Weather Service Forecast Office in Billings, Montana, at (406) 652-0851.

• **The Tenth Annual High Plains Conference will be held 4-6 October 2005 in Dodge City, Kansas.** The High Plains Chapter NWA-AMS sponsors this conference, a perennial favorite for the High Plains region and beyond. Watch the chapter Web page www.highplains-amsnwa.org for upcoming details and a call for papers.

• **The NWA's 31st Annual Meeting will be held at the InterContinental Hotel, 9801 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, 14–19 October 2006.** Watch the NWA Web site: www.nwas.org for details. Notify the NWA office at 434-296-9966 or natweaasoc@aol.com if you would like to help in organizing this special 31st anniversary event. The hotel Web site is www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ic/1/en/hd/cleha. The Annual Meeting Program Committee will be chaired by Theresa Rossi, NWA past-president (1994) and Meteorologist-in-Charge of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Pittsburgh, PA, and the Broadcast Workshop will be organized by Bryan Karrick of KCCI-TV in Des Moines, IA. The Local Arrangements Committee is chaired by NWA Councilor Betsy Kling of WKYC-TV in Cleveland.

WEAK LA NIÑA DEVELOPING

Scientists at the NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) released the latest El Niño Southern Oscillation Diagnostic Discussion, which highlights the early stages of a weak La Niña episode developing in the tropical Pacific. It is expected to remain in place for three to six months, but the full impact of this weak event is yet unknown. The following two paragraphs were taken from the Discussion.

Over the past several months, most of the statistical and coupled model forecasts have trended towards cooler conditions in the tropical Pacific through mid-2006. The spread of the most recent statistical and coupled model forecasts (weak La Niña to ENSO-neutral) indicate some uncertainty in the outlooks. However, current conditions (stronger-than-average easterly winds over the central equatorial Pacific) and recent cooling trends in observed oceanic conditions support the continuation of La Niña conditions in the tropical Pacific during the next 3-6 months.

Based on current conditions in the tropical Pacific, the most recent sea-surface temperature predictions, and on results from historical studies on the effects of cold episodes, we expect wetter-than-normal (drier-than-normal) conditions to prevail over Indonesia (central equatorial Pacific) during the remainder of the Northern Hemisphere (NH) winter. That pattern of tropical precipitation favors a northward shift in the position of the jet stream over the eastern North Pacific during winter, which is usually accompanied by drier-than-normal conditions over southern California and Arizona. However, given the late onset of La Niña there is considerable uncertainty as to whether or not typical La Niña impacts will be experienced in the West during the remainder of the NH winter.

Wayne Higgins, NOAA's principal climate specialist at the CPC said, "One thing, however, is for certain. La Niña was not the cause of the early January rains in the West and wildfires in the South." He added, "While La Niña can produce similar patterns, there is no indication that these jet stream winds are related to the developing weak La Niña."

La Niña events recur approximately every three to five years. The last La Niña occurred in 2000-2001 and was a weak event.

NOAA will continue monitoring this event and report on any potential impacts as the event progresses. The next ENSO Diagnostic Discussion will be posted on the CPC Web site (www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/) on 9 February.

The El Niño/Southern Oscillation Diagnostic Discussion is a team effort consisting of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, Climate Diagnostics Center, National Climatic Data Center, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological

Laboratory, and the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction.

FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS

The NOAA/National Weather Service has designated the period, **20-24 March 2006 as Flood Safety Awareness Week**. Topics that will be emphasized during the week include flood safety, flood insurance, tropical cyclone inland flooding and more. For more information go to Web site: <http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/>

NWA Councilor, Hector Guerrero, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the NWS Office in San Angelo, Texas, has been very involved with the flood safety program and will be the first to remind you to,

"Turn Around Don't Drown!"

Why? Because each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other severe weather related hazard. The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. More than half of all flood related deaths result from vehicles being swept downstream. Of these, many are preventable.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NWA posts job announcements from equal opportunity employers, at no cost to the employer, for the benefit of NWA members.

*To view the job announcements go to NWA Web site page:
<http://www.nwas.org/jobs.html>*

MEMBER NEWS

David Law retired from the US Air Force after 23 years, with his last assignment being the Master Sergeant Superintendent of the 92nd Operation Support Squadron weather flight at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington. He is now a weather broadcaster on KHQ-TV and Comcast digital channel 115 in Spokane.

Membership renewals for 2006 are coming in and the number of address changes the NWA staff is recording is amazing.

Please consider sending a press release on your move to nwanewsletter@nwas.org

STUDENTS AWARDED for PRESENTATIONS at NWA MEETING

The WAF (Weather Analysis and Forecasting) Committee sponsors inaugural best student presentations at 2005 Annual Meeting...

We are happy to announce the following winners of a \$50 award for best student presentations. There are four awards covering both oral and poster presentations for both undergraduate and graduate students. These were judged by a WAF subcommittee and will be a recurring highlight at future NWA Annual Meetings. We encourage students to enter presentations for the 2006 Annual Meeting in Cleveland. Be sure to enter the contest using the on-line abstract submission form this spring. Look for rules to be posted on the Web site. Congratulations to:

Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation: Nathan Davis (University of Missouri-Columbia), *An Analysis of the Impact of Blocking on North American and Eurasian Summers*

Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation: Andrea Lammers (Indiana University Bloomington) and Sarah Ede (Western Kentucky University) *Designing Historical Weather Posters*

Best Graduate Oral Presentation: Michael Paddock (Saint Louis University), *A Conceptual Model Depicting Processes Important for the Generation of Meso-Beta Scale Snow Bands*

Best Graduate Poster Presentation: Kevin Birk (University of Missouri-Columbia) *The Interannual Variability of Midwestern Temperatures as related to the ENSO and PDO*

-Jeff Craven, NWA Councilor and co-chair WAF Committee

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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

2-4 March – National Severe Weather Workshop 2006
Norman, OK (pg 6)

3-5 March – Fifth Southeast Severe Storms Symposium
Mississippi, MS (pg 6)

10-12 March – 31st Annual Northeastern Storm Conference
Saratoga Springs, NY (pg 6)

11 March – Third TESSA Texas Storm Conference
Colleyville, TX (pg 6)

Please see **MEETINGS** on page 6 for additional dates
Also check Web site: www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html

NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION

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Meteorology and Related Activities for over 30 Years*