

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our organization is off and running toward a successful 2002 with many exciting developments taking place.

As a past member of the broadcast meteorology committee and a NWA TV Weathercaster Seal of Approval holder since 1994, I have felt we need to make the country's TV news directors and managers more aware of the value of the NWA Seal. An increased awareness will be beneficial as our NWA broadcasters ask their bosses to send them to conferences and training workshops in order to satisfy the continuing education requirement of the NWA Seal of Approval.

I recently received word that the Radio and Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) agreed to my request to present a one-hour forum on weathercaster seals of approval and what news folks should know about them. Our NWA Broadcast Meteorology Committee is working with Broadcast Seal chairperson Alan Sealls of WKRGTV in Mobile to develop a presentation for the RTNDA conference. This will be a fantastic opportunity to spread our message and encourage media companies to support the NWA and their employees holding the Seal. The session, scheduled for 10 April 2002 in Las Vegas during the RTNDA national conference, will also include a presentation by Jim Jagers, chair of the AMS broadcast board and a NWA radio and TV Seal holder at Fox 13 WHBQ-TV in Memphis.

Speaking of the NWA Seal of Approval, a new written exam has been approved and will be used for candidates applying for the Seal after 15 April 2002. This periodic update of the exam was developed over the past two years by the Broadcast Meteorology Committee under the guidance of the Seal Testing chairperson, Dr. Paul Croft of Jackson State University. It reflects the need for the weather broadcaster to be familiar with modern remote sensing tools such as the WSR-88D and the latest GOES satellites. For the first time, actual imagery will be used on the NWA Seal written exam and questions will not all be multiple choice. The process of evaluating applicant videotapes is also being updated with improved review guidelines. Tape reviewers will be relying less on a "subjective" evaluation of a candidate's on-air performance and more on the meteorological and technological competency of the applicant.

NWA Membership Update

I am excited to hear from Alan Johnson, chair of the Membership Committee that several new committee members have been recruited and they are moving forward toward several goals. One of those is updating the NWA membership brochure to clearly define the benefits of joining the NWA and demonstrate the diverse occupational fields represented by the NWA. We will also work to get a handle on the demographics of our NWA members so we can better serve them. The NWA represents far more than just NWS, media, university and aviation concerns. New brochures and incentives will be sent out for use at local chapter sponsored conferences.

Sound Off!

Now's your chance to voice your professional opinion on significant issues. We have added a "Sound Off" section to the NWA Web site to allow members a chance to comment in greater detail than can be published in the monthly newsletter. Check it out and let us know what you think! Contribute your comments to a current discussion or "sound off" on a new topic!

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◀ IMPORTANT DATES ▶

8 – 10 March 2002 – 27th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY hosted by the Lyndon State College AMS/NWA Chapter. See page 6.

21 – 23 March 2002 – 6th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference in Des Moines, IA hosted by the Central Iowa NWA Chapter. See page 6.

15 April 2002 – Arthur C. Pike Scholarship Applications due. See January 2002 Newsletter or Web site: www.nwas.org

28 April – 4 May 2002 – Lightning Safety Awareness Week. See page 5 and Web site: www.LightningSafety.noaa.gov

1 June 2002 – Abstracts due for NWA Annual Meeting.

15 June 2002 – Nominations due for the NWA METSAT Award and Grant. See January Newsletter or www.nwas.org.

3 – 5 October 2002 – Mid-Atlantic States Winter Storms Regional Conference, Silver Spring, MD. See page 6.

9 – 11 October 2002 – 6th High Plains Conference, Dodge City, KS hosted by the High Plains AMS/NWA Chapter. See page 6.

19 – 25 October 2002 – 27th Annual NWA Meeting, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. See page 6.

NWA Strategic Planning Update

Effective planning is a critical part of any organization. The NWA Strategic Planning Committee is updating the NWA Strategic Plan, previously issued in 1996. Led by past president Rod Scofield and Executive Director Kevin Lavin, a steering group for this activity met at the October 2001 NWA Annual Meeting in Spokane, Washington. The NWA Council approved several recommendations from this steering group. Previously, only NWA past presidents served on the Strategic Planning Committee. Under the revised arrangement, interested members who are not past presidents are invited to work on the committee. The Strategic Planning Committee will draft a NWA Vision Statement, a Strategic Plan, and an Implementation Plan. The Strategic Plan will be concise "high level" goals. The Implementation Plan will include details and planning actions. This will provide flexibility for annual or semi-annual changes and updates. Currently, NWA Council members are reviewing the draft of the Vision Statement and the Strategic Plan goals. The updated plan will eventually be posted for review via the NWA Newsletter and Web site (www.nwas.org) on the strategic planning committee page. NWA Strategic Planning Committee members include: Frank Brody (chairperson), Joe Schaefer, Jim Moore, Fran Holt, Alan Gerard, Les Lemon, Rod Scofield, John McLaughlin, and George Frederick.

Cooperation is the Key

Thinking back to the founding of our local chapter here in Iowa back in late 1995, one of the reasons we started it was to bring the media, NWS, emergency management, private-sector and university meteorologists closer together and to cooperate on joint projects. Some new efforts are worth mentioning as they may provide some stimulus for other NWA chapters to adopt.

The State of Iowa Emergency Management Division (IAEMD) is installing NOAA weather radio transmitters in the state. The IAEMD and NWS were having difficulty in a few locations finding appropriate existing towers for the transmitters. Local NWA broadcast meteorologists were enlisted to help rally local townspeople to locate space on towers and offer on-air promotion to organizations like radio stations that would help out the NOAA weather radio program. As a result, transmitters are now located on two TV towers and a radio station tower will host a transmitter in March.

During the 2001 severe storm season in central Iowa, 23 severe storm warnings were verified as the result of media weather reports. Many of these reports were relayed directly to the National Weather Service through a private 800MHz radio system installed at three Des Moines TV stations, the Polk County (Des Moines) Emergency Management office and the National Weather Service.

The radio system was funded by the local NWA chapter and is paying big dividends!

I urge the other local chapters to brainstorm on cooperative efforts you can do in your region. No goal is too large or too small. The results will improve public safety, build friendships and lead to a great working relationship between all the parties involved in operational meteorology. Don't forget to document your work and let us know what is going on. Remember the annual NWA awards include "local chapter of the year."

NWA Committees and Publications

On page 3, please notice the listing of chairpersons of the standing committees of our association and the editors of our publications. If you want to get more involved in committee initiatives or in publishing work, please contact these volunteer leaders — even if you already stated your willingness to help in other correspondence.

Until next month,

- John McLaughlin (johnmc49@ecity.net)
-- with contributions from Rich Apuzzo,
Alan Johnson and Frank Brody

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to a new Corporate Member:

Global Atmospheric, Incorporated

2705 East Medina Road

Tucson, AZ 85706-7155

Tel: 800-283-4557 or 520-806-7300

Fax: 520-741-2848

Internet: www.glatmos.com or

www.LightningStorm.com

POC: Nancy Roth e-mail: nroth@glatmos.com

They are sponsoring the 17th International Lightning Detection Conference, "A Comprehensive Look at Total Lightning," 16-18 October 2002 at the Marriott University Park Hotel in Tucson, Arizona. Abstracts are due 1 April. See www.LightningStorm.com/ILDC for information.

Special Thanks to committee chairs and editors stepping down after many years of great voluntary service in support of the NWA, its objectives and its members.

Frank Brody -- Home Page Advisory Committee

John Lasley -- Corporate Affairs Committee

Floyd Hauth -- Membership Committee

John McLaughlin -- Nominating Committee

Rod Scofield -- Strategic Planning Committee

Ken Mielke -- Co-Editor of the *National Weather Digest* since 1996. His superb efforts in proofreading, mentoring authors, obtaining reviewers in many subject areas, and in obtaining more articles for the *Digest* will be sorely missed. Peter Roohr has taken over as primary editor of the *Digest* and is looking for a co-editor to assist.

NWA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Commissioner of Committees (non-voting, appointed member of the NWA Council):

David I. Knapp, 7416 N Oakland Ave, Kansas City, MO 64158; NWS/NCEP Aviation Weather Center (816) 584-7238; David.Knapp@noaa.gov

Aviation Meteorology Committee Co-chairs:

Carolyn M. Kloth, NWS/NCEP Aviation Weather Center, 7220 NW 101st Terrace Room 105, Kansas City, MO 64153-2371; (816) 584-7226; Carolyn.Kloth@noaa.gov

Terry T. Lankford, 4517 Sutter Gate Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 462-7485; t.t.lankford@att.net

Awards Committee:

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- Broadcaster Seal of Approval Committee:

Alan Sealls, WKRK-TV Meteorologist, P.O. Box 160587, Mobile, AL 36616; (251) 662-2996; SEALLS@aol.com

- Evaluation Board members for Seal of Approval: LeAnn Allison, Douglas Butts, Jr., Rob Fowler, Jose' M. Garcia, Jr., David A. Glenn, Michael Goldberg, Tim Heller, Rodney L. Hill, Justin F. Kiefer, John A. Lasley Jr., Chuck Lofton, Richard J. McCollough, Keith Monahan, Lisa F. Mozer, Lori Pinson, Lawrence Rice, Tom Sherry, Roland Steadham, Carl D. Thormeyer and John Wetherbee

- Seal Recertification Chairperson:

Chuck Lofton, WTHR-TV, 1000 N Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204; (317) 271-2664; clofton@wthr.com

- Testing Chairperson:

Dr. Paul J. Croft, Dept of Geosciences, Univ of Louisiana-Monroe, 700 University Ave, Monroe LA 71209-0550; 318-342-1878; croft@ulm.edu or croft emj@aol.com

- Public Relations Chairperson:

Bradley B. Sussman, WEWS-TV, 3001 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115; (216) 431-3768; Bswx@aol.com

Corporate Affairs Committee:

Bill Weaving, Planalytics, Inc., 1325 Morris Drive, Suite 201, Wayne, PA 19087-5521; (610) 407-2913; bweaving@planalytics.com or wsweaving@aol.com

Education Committee:

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Chet Henriksen, 204 Downing Road, Downingtown, PA 19335; (610) 269-3225; g.chet@verizon.net or metman4u@yahoo.com

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Hugh G. McRandal, Jr., 4416 Lord Loudoun Court, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-5927; NOAA/NWS/NCEP Marine Prediction Center (301) 763-8441; Hugh.McRandal@noaa.gov

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Electronic Journal of Operational Meteorology

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LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

The High Plains NWA Chapter met 24 January 2002 in Norton, KS. Twenty members and one guest attended. The visitor was Wes Moore from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). President Bruce Entwistle called the meeting to order and officer reports were read and approved. Membership is currently 46 with the bulk of the membership coming from the four high plains NWS offices at Goodland, KS, Dodge City, KS, North Platte, NE, and Hastings, NE. President Entwistle indicated that AMS Minority Scholarship applications had been sent out to over 144 schools in the Chapter area of Kansas and Nebraska. Vice-President John Stoppkotte announced that chapter webmaster Aaron Johnson posted most of the presentations from the 5th High Plains Conference last October as we continue to maintain our conference proceedings in an online format in lieu of expensive preprints/postprints. **The proceedings are on the chapter Web site at www.crh.noaa.gov/lbf/hpams/main.htm**

In other business, the chapter decided to actively pursue the AMS Chapter of the Year award. Chapter members Dan Neitfeld, Jim Johnson and Mark Mutchler attended the AMS Local Chapter breakfast at the AMS Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL. They felt that our chapter could be very competitive with its peers regarding this award. **New chapter officers** were elected for the coming year with **John Stoppkotte** of NWS North Platte, NE moving to President, **Jim Johnson** and **Tim Burke** of NWS Dodge City, KS elected Vice-President and Secretary respectively, and **Mike Moritz** of NWS Hastings, NE staying on as Treasurer. **Bruce Entwistle** of NWS Goodland, KS will remain on the executive committee as immediate Past President.

Past President Matt Gerard presented information concerning the Chapter's 6th Annual Conference. This year, the conference returns to its origin in Dodge City, KS and will be held from 9-11 October 2002. Last October's 5th High Plains Conference saw a student from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln win our \$400 first place scholarship award and we look forward to much more interest in this worthwhile project at the next conference. Dr. Mark Anderson, a professor from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln has indicated that four of his students are already interested in the student paper competition this year. The conference will be two days in length with the major session on 10 October being on High Plains Severe Storms, with guest speaker Dr. Charles A. Doswell III. Mini-sessions planned for 11 October will include a Spotter/Chaser/ Emergency Manager session and a panel discussion on aviation weather forecasting. The conference venue will be at the newly restored Sante Fe Depot and theater in Dodge City. Updated information will be posted to www.crh.noaa.gov/lbf/hpams/main.htm

- Tim Burke, Chapter Secretary

The Southern New England NWA Chapter held its first meeting of 2002 on January 26th, at the University of Massachusetts (UMASS) Lowell campus. Chapter President Frank Nocera opened the meeting with a few brief announcements which included a sincere thank you to local board members for completing meeting arrangements in his absence. Frank thanked Dr. Fred Sanders, professor emeritus of meteorology at MIT and NWA charter member, for offering to

be the featured guest speaker, and thanked Dr. Frank Colby of UMASS Lowell for arranging the meeting at the University.

The meeting was well attended with a large and diverse group of 48 in attendance, which included meteorologists from the private sector, including Harvey Leonard and Mish Michaels from the Boston TV market and WSI Corp., several NWS meteorologists from the Taunton office, the academic community and many weather enthusiasts. Some members traveled from as far away as Augusta ME and Hartford CT.

Chapter Vice President Eleanor Vallier-Talbot reported to the NWA membership, the passing of NWA chapter member **Tim Buckelew**. Tim, a senior hydrologist with the Northeast River Forecast Center, passed away suddenly on January 11, 2002. Last year, he was a recipient of a Department of Commerce Bronze Medal. Tim leaves behind a son, daughter, and 4 grandchildren. His sudden loss was a great shock, and he will be greatly missed by our NWS offices and the chapter members.

Dr. Fred Sanders was the featured guest speaker. His presentation was on explosive cyclogenesis / bombogenesis. Fred Sanders began his meteorological career as an international aviation forecaster at LaGuardia airport in NY during the late 1940s. The term bomb/bombogenesis was first used by one of Fred's colleagues at LaGuardia airport. Although, Fred was the first to present it in meteorological literature. Fred and his colleagues at LaGuardia defined a bomb (explosive cyclogenesis) as a low that would suddenly appear on a surface map. The term bomb was not widely accepted in Europe as World War II was in progress. Thus, the meteorological community replaced the term bomb with explosive cyclogenesis. Early research classified an intensifying rate for explosive cyclogenesis to be a 24-mb drop in pressure during a 24-hour period for all latitudes. Dr. Sanders' redefined the criteria to be latitude dependent, as the magnitude of the geostrophic wind is directly proportional to the pressure gradient, which is directly proportional to latitude. Dr. Sanders said if we set the standard intensifying rate at a 24-mb per 24-hours at 60 degrees latitude, then less of a pressure fall is needed to create an equal geostrophic wind at a lower latitude. Dr. Sanders defined the intensifying rate for our latitude (~40 N) to be an 18-mb drop in pressure during a 24-hour period.

During the late 1970s, Fred Sanders and one of his graduate students did a climatology of bombs during the winter seasons of 1976 through 1979 throughout the northern hemisphere. Their study indicated two favorable areas for bombogenesis; one across the western Atlantic from the mid-Atlantic region, extending northeast through the New England waters into the Canadian Maritimes. The other region is over the north Pacific from Japan extending northeast into the Gulf of Alaska. This research explicitly illustrated that bombs are a maritime phenomena, with the greatest frequency and strength occurring over oceanic regions of strong thermal gradients. In addition, the study also indicated bomb frequency peaked during the month of January.

Fred Sanders then briefed on his meteorological testimony in the Honor Brown federal case, where Fred served as an expert witness for the National Weather Service. The case involved two lobster vessels that capsized in Georges Bank during November of 1980, when an unexpected intense storm developed and resulted in 3 deaths with one survivor. One of the three men that died was Gary Brown, husband of Honor ..

Brown. Gary Brown's estate sued the NWS for failing to predict a storm of this magnitude and its marine impact.

Most maritime legal cases are determined by a judge only, thus no jury was present. This lawsuit centered on missing wind data from the Georges Bank buoy (44011). Fred Sanders' testimony focused on the large number of quality ship observations in Georges Bank during the developing stages of the storm. Fred's argument was that, even if wind data were available from buoy 44011, there would have been trouble plotting the data due to an abundance of real-time ship data in the area. Moreover, other than wind data missing from the buoy, all other meteorological data (wave heights, pressure, pressure falls, etc.) were available. Thus, there was ample buoy data for any mariner to conclude a storm was developing nearby.

The pre-storm environment featured a sharp surface thermal gradient along with an inverted surface trough off the mid-Atlantic coast, extending northeast into Georges Bank. Aloft, an amplified upper-level short wave trough was traversing through the Great Lakes. Later on November 22nd, the upper-level trough began to take on a negative tilt, with a surface low of 999 mb now south of Georges Bank, which dropped 14 mb during a 6-hour period. By 7 am 11/22, the central pressure of the low was down to 990 mb and surrounded by storm force winds (greater than 47 knots). The low continued to intensify with its pressure falling to 984 mb by 1 pm on 11/22, with seas increasing to 20 feet. At the height of the storm, the central pressure dropped to 976 mb. At this time, a ship in Georges Bank reported wind gusts to 78 knots and seas up to 60 feet. The position of the two lobster vessels was near the shallowest part of Georges Bank, where water depths are only 6 to 12 feet. Seas of 60 feet entering such shallow water will steepen dramatically, and then break with a devastating force that will wipe out anything in its way. Unfortunately, the two lobster vessels encountered this force.

During the late 70s and early 80s, there were basically two NWP models; the Limited Fine Mesh (LFM) model and the hemispheric model. Neither model predicted an intense storm, with both models only yielding a surface low of 1000 mb. Nevertheless, Fred Sanders' testimony was that the missing buoy wind data had no bearing on the failure to predict the storm. Therefore, he concluded that the lawsuit against the NWS had no merit.

The prosecution argument was that the buoy data had to be crucial since taxpayers' dollars funded the buoy. The judge sided with the prosecution and the NWS was guilty as charged. This verdict was later overturned on appeal. It was determined that the NWS had a limited budget to maintain the buoys. Thus, the final outcome was that the NWS cannot be faulted for not repairing buoy 44011.

After Dr. Sanders' presentation, the meeting proceeded into the University's Meteorology lab where refreshments were served. This was an ideal time for chapter members to socialize/network along with asking additional questions to Dr. Sanders. In addition, many chapter members utilized computers in the lab to view NWP model data to assess weather events for the upcoming week.

- Frank Nocera, Chapter President

The Central Gulf Coast NWA Chapter met on the evening of 29 January 2002 on the Campus of the University of South Alabama in the Mitchell Center. Nearly 30 members were in attendance. Annual elections were held. The following members were both nominated and elected to serve as the 2002 Officers: **President -- Mr. John Nodar** (Meteorologist at CBS\WKRK-TV5 in Mobile, AL); **Vice President -- Dr. Sytske Kimball** (Professor, University of South Alabama); **Secretary/Treasurer -- Dr. Keith Blackwell** (Professor, University of South Alabama); **Corresponding Secretary -- Mr. Jeffrey Medlin** (Science and Operations Officer at NWS Forecast Office, Mobile, AL).

Newly elected President John Nodar led a discussion on the nature, time, and location of our future meetings. It was agreed to resume meetings in March 2002 and all agreed that future meetings would be held at 7 PM on the first Thursday of every month at the USA Mitchell Center (unless otherwise specified). The next meeting is planned to be held at the NWS Office in Mobile, AL at 7 PM on Thursday, 7 March 2002 for a tour of the forecast office. We survived our first full year after chapter re-construction and are looking forward to many more!

- Jeffrey M. Medlin, Corresponding Secretary

Lightning Safety Awareness Week: 28 April – 4 May 2002

Lightning is the second* deadliest storm hazard in the U.S., killing more people than tornadoes and hurricanes combined on average, when corrected for under-reporting. Lightning inflicts life-long severe injury on many more than it kills. The vast majority of these lightning casualties could be avoided through public education. All members especially weather broadcasters can help with education efforts about lightning safety. National Lightning Safety Awareness Week will be 28 April to 4 May 2002, sponsored by the NWS. To learn more, visit Web site: www.LightningSafety.noaa.gov.

- William Roeder, Patrick AFB FL

NWA HOME PAGE NEWS

The NWA Web site -- www.nwas.org -- is exceeding performance expectations and has a quick access time. In a 24-hour test run by HPWebCheck during early February 2002, the NWA Web site was available 99.65 percent of the time, with an average response time of 17.55 seconds — not a long wait at all! Details of this test are at: <http://216.83.131.202/reports/1013187985/index>.

Thanks to our volunteer webmasters: Stacy Bunin, Steve Listemaa and Tim Oram, and all past and present members of the Home Page Advisory Committee.

- Chet Henriksen, Home Page Advisory Committee Chair

*What is the Number One deadliest storm hazard in the US? Answer on page 7.
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MEETINGS OF INTEREST

27th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference sponsored by the Lyndon State College AMS/NWA Chapter will be held on the weekend of 8-10 March 2002 at the Holiday Inn in historic Saratoga Springs, New York. Registration deadline for the conference was 15 February 2002. Be on the lookout for more information about the conference on Web site: <http://apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams> or contact Chapter President, Jason Furtado at Fax: 802-626-9770, ATTN: LSC-AMS/NWA or by e-mail: ams@xmail.lsc.vsc.edu or jcf01220@xmail.lsc.vsc.edu

Sixth Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference sponsored by the Central Iowa NWA Chapter will commence at 5:00 PM on Thursday, 21 March 2002, and adjourn Saturday, 23 March at 10:00 PM. This year, the Embassy Suites in downtown Des Moines, Iowa will host the event. Register at Web site: <http://www.iowa-nwa.com>.

Mid-Atlantic States Winter Storms Regional Conference 3-5 October 2002. The AMS Board for Operational Government Meteorologists, D-C AMS Chapter, AMS Board of Private Sector Meteorology, and the NWA Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee are co-sponsoring an operations- and community-focused regional conference on Mid-Atlantic States Winter Storms to be held in the NOAA Auditorium and Science Center, Silver Spring, Maryland, on 3-5 October 2002. The NOAA Auditorium and Science Center is adjacent to the National Weather Service Headquarters. The theme of the conference is *"Improving Mid-Atlantic Winter Storm Forecasts, Warnings and Decision Making."* Invited papers will be presented on: Operational Forecasting Techniques and Procedures; Emerging Research and Operational Applications; Communicating and Using Uncertainty; Community Interaction; and Public Awareness and Education. For more information or to provide suggestions to enhance this conference, please contact Major Ken Carey, Air Force Studies and Analyses Agency (AFSAA/SAFM), 1570 Air Force Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1570; Kenneth.Carey@pentagon.af.mil or see Web site <http://www.dc-ams.org>.

Sixth High Plains Conference will be held 9 - 11 October, 2002 in Dodge City, KS, sponsored by the High Plains Chapters of the NWA and AMS. The conference theme will be fairly broad. The major emphasis will be on severe storms in the plains with mini sessions on aviation forecasting, winter storms, and a special short session for both storm chasers and emergency managers/spotters. For updated information: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lbf/hpams/main.htm>.

Studies in Weather Analysis and Forecasting. The Science center for Teaching, Outreach, and Research on Meteorology (the STORM Project) at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) will be sponsoring a two-week course on weather analysis and forecasting. The STORM Project is funded by NOAA. This course is designed for undergraduate atmospheric science students (junior standing recommended) and will be held **June 23 - July 5 in Cedar Falls, Iowa**. Housing, meals, course materials, and 3 credit hours from UNI will be provided. Participants are only responsible for application and admission fees and their travel to Cedar Falls. Additional information and application materials can be found on the STORM Web site at <http://www.uni.edu/storm/> The application deadline is April 5.

Next NWA Annual Meeting — 19-25 October, Fort Worth TX

Call for Abstracts

The National Weather Association's 27th Annual Meeting will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, 815 Main Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, 19-25 October 2002.

The Annual Meeting will include:

19-20 October: WEATHER BROADCASTER WORKSHOPS beginning Saturday afternoon and continuing 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. A separate TAPE SWAP for mentoring students is being considered for Saturday evening.

21-25 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 Chairperson is Michael Vescio, National Weather Service Forecast Office, Fort Worth, Texas e-mail: Michael.Vescio@noaa.gov.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: The deadline for submission of abstracts is 1 June 2002. Abstracts can be sent via e-mail to the Program Chairperson at Michael.Vescio@noaa.gov. 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/2002abstracts.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 Mike Vescio or the NWA office. Presenters will be notified regarding the disposition of their abstracts by 15 August 2002.

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

NWA ANNUAL MEETING HOTEL INFORMATION: The Radisson Plaza Hotel is in downtown Fort Worth. The NWA discount rates are \$94 for a single room and \$114 for a double room. Please call Radisson Central Reservations 1-800-333-3333 or the Reservations Department of the Radisson Plaza Fort Worth at 817-870-2100 and request the National Weather Association 27th Annual Meeting group rate.

- Mike Vescio, Program Committee Chair

Building Job Insurance

It seems that each week I'm hearing about another television station reducing or shutting down its news operation. It is a scary situation for all of us who work in broadcasting, because it can happen anywhere. Would you have ever thought that St. Louis would have no local ABC news each evening? Cutbacks have happened at all levels, and while the economy has dictated much of this, for places like St. Louis and Evansville, low ratings were equally at fault.

In most cases it's not possible for one person to determine how well a newscast does in a market, but I am proud to say that we are in a business that affects everyone. Weather is the most watched part of every newscast. We would like to believe that people tune in just because of our great graphics and fantastic personalities, but there is something that many on-air weathercasters may not realize the importance of -- **community involvement**. I have been in Cincinnati for nearly 9 years, and this past year I had the largest number of requests for school talks and station tours ever. It has always been my philosophy that a significant part of my job is getting out into the community to not only educate the viewers, but to get new viewers to watch. This happens in a number of ways, which I'll discuss shortly. But first, think of your community as soil, and you are a tree whose roots need to sink in deeply before you can truly mature and grow. And, like a tree, the more you grow, the more you will be seen, and the more people who see you, the happier the station management will be.

The most common way to reach out is through school talks. Once you're asked to come out, make sure to spend some time with the students. I talk for about an hour, and with questions, end up spending 90 minutes with the kids. I also have a digital camera and always take a picture, which I put on the air that night. I offer weather center tours for scouts and other community groups learning about weather. They last for about 45 minutes and, of course, I take a picture of the tour group for use on-air.

Additionally, when you're at a grocery store or department store, don't shy away from people who recognize you. Offer a handshake, thank them for watching and even talk about the weather for a few minutes. If there are others around who don't know who you are, they'll get curious, eavesdrop on your conversation, note how nice you are, and many will tune in that night just to see you on-air. That is called "sampling", and if they like you, they will tune in again. Get involved in your community and build some "job insurance," because if you don't, no one else will do it for you. Send your thoughts to me at skyeeye@fuse.net

- Rich Apuzzo, Broadcast Meteorology Committee Chair

Implementation of Global Forecasting System

NWS / NCEP's global modeling will take on a new look this spring. Currently, NCEP's global modeling consists of an Aviation (AVN) run every six hours (4 per day) and the Medium Range Forecast (MRF) run at 00Z (once per day). The AVN begins processing observations 2 hours and 45 minutes past the initial time and produces forecasts out to 126 hours at 00Z and 12Z and out to 84 hours at 06Z and 18Z. The forecast model is a global spectral model with T170 (~75 km) horizontal resolution and 42 levels in the vertical. The MRF begins its data processing 6 hours after 00Z and produces a forecast out to 384 hours (16 days). The MRF uses the same global spectral model with T170 (~75 km) resolution in the horizontal and 42 levels to produce forecasts out to 168 hours (7 days), at which point the resolution is dropped to T62 (~210 km) and 28 vertical levels and the forecast continues out to 384 hours (16 days).

The current NCEP global modeling configuration will be replaced by the **Global Forecast System (GFS)**. The GFS will consist of four runs of the global spectral model each day (every six hours), each beginning at 2 hours and 45 minutes past its initial time (the same as the current AVN run) and producing a forecast out to 384 hours (16 days). The horizontal resolution will be T170 (~75 km) with 42 levels in the vertical out to 180 hours (7.5 days) then dropping to T62 (~210 km) with 28 levels from 7.5 days to 16 days. **The GFS represents a consolidation of the AVN and MRF runs with the result being more medium-range runs per day.** The decision to make this configuration change was based on a year of testing.

These changes will be phased in with two steps. On 5 March 2002 the forecast length of the Global AVN Model will be increased to 384 hours. The current MRF will continue to run at its normal time producing its normal complement of files. After about four weeks, on 2 April 2002, the MRF run will be discontinued. At that time, the 00Z AVN run will make two sets of files, the second one duplicating in content and name the files formerly made by the MRF. This duplicate set of files will continue to be made for six months to allow NCEP customers time to change over to using the GFS files.

One to two months following the implementation of the GFS, an increase to the global model's resolution will be implemented. The resolution for each of the four runs will increase to T254 (~55 km) in the horizontal and 64 levels in the vertical for the first 84 hours (3.5 days) of the forecast. The rest of the forecast length will have its original resolution (T170/42 levels out to 7.5 days and T62/28 levels out to 16 days). Also at this time, the global ensemble runs will have their resolution increased to T126 (~ 105 km) out to 180 hours (currently the ensemble runs have that resolution only out to 84 hours). Sometime in the August/September timeframe, the global ensemble runs will increase to 4 times per day.

The extended forecast output will be available from the NWS ftp site in gridded form. Graphics will be available on Web site: <http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/nwprod/analysis/>

- Laurie Morone, NWS/NCEP

#1 weather-related killer in the US is Flash Floods!

TRAINING CORNER

The COMET Program is pleased to announce the release of "How Different Data Types Impact the Eta Analysis and Forecast." A part of COMET's ongoing NWP training and education efforts, this brief case study is based on the results of the Zapotocny et al. case study of data impacts as published in *Weather and Forecasting* 15, 603-621. This is one in a series of short case studies demonstrating critical thinking in the use of NWP products based on an understanding of the characteristics and limitations of NWP models and forecast process. This case is available on the MetEd Web site (<http://meted.ucar.edu>) via the NWA Training Committee page (<http://www.nwas.org>) or be accessed directly at:

<http://meted.ucar.edu/nwp/pcu3/cases/index.htm>.

A specific question of data loss impact arose after the loss of ACARS data following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks. However, the general question of how much impact different types of data have on the analysis and forecast is a common one. While there is no simple, cut-and-dry answer, the framework for making an intelligent assessment is developed through discussion and questions based on results from the Zapotocny et al. case study. The COMET presentation is not a rehash of the *Weather and Forecasting* article. Rather, it elucidates primary factors and touches on a variety of issues raised in the PCU1 training on data assimilation.

Feedback on this material is welcome. Please e-mail the NWP development team at nwp12@comet.ucar.edu or send comments directly to the developers of this case, Bill Bua (Bill.Bua@noaa.gov) and Stephen Jascourt (Stephen.Jascourt@noaa.gov). It will be especially helpful to receive feedback on possible additions or modifications that would make this type of training more relevant and useful for forecasters. For NWS forecasters, this material supports the NWP Professional Development Series (PDS). For Technical Support assistance for this module, contact: support@comet.ucar.edu

- Joe Lamos, Acting Director COMET Program

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JOB CORNER

Space was not available in this issue for the job listing. Please see the Job section on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org) for complete announcements and job links. Members who do not have Internet capability may request announcements from the NWA office at (434) 296-9966.

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