

NEWSLETTER

**National Weather
Association**

NO. 08 – 2 FEBRUARY 2008

Bill Read, 2003 NWA President, Selected to be New National Hurricane Center Director

Long time NWA member and 2003 President, Bill Read has been named by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as the next Director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami. He served as the center's acting deputy director from August 2007 to January of this year.

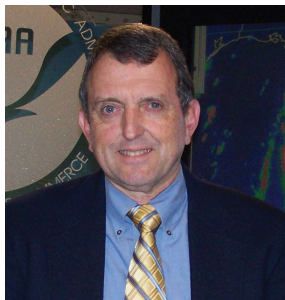


Photo Courtesy of NOAA

Tropical storms and hurricanes have frequently played a major role in his professional life. Bill and his team were at the forefront in July 2003 as Hurricane Claudette made landfall on the Texas coast. He also was part of the Hurricane Liaison Team at the National Hurricane Center in Miami when Hurricane Isabel came ashore on the Outer Banks of North Carolina and raced northeast in September 2003.

Read was appointed to direct the Houston/Galveston Weather Forecast Office of NOAA's National Weather Service in 1992 and led it through the challenges of the NWS modernization and restructuring program in the mid 1990s.

Prior to joining the National Weather Service, Read served in the U.S. Navy,

where his duties included an assignment as an on-board meteorologist with the Hurricane Hunters. He began his career in 1977 with the National Weather Service Test and Evaluation Division in Sterling, Va., developed his forecasting skills in Fort Worth and San Antonio, Texas; and, served as severe thunderstorm and flash flood program leader at the National Weather Service headquarters in Silver Spring, Md.

"Bill brings a wealth of experience in meteorology and management to this position. He has a clear understanding of the needs of staff, the emergency management community and the public in fulfilling our mission of saving lives and property," said Jack Hayes, director of the NWS. "Bill has a proven track record of pulling people together – from the forecaster to the emergency manager – as severe weather threatens."



33rd NWA Annual Meeting Heads to Louisville, Kentucky

"Utilizing Our Past to Improve Our Future"



Louisville, Kentucky

Oct. 11 - 16: Annual Meeting

June 1: Deadline for abstract submission

Aug. 15: Presenters will be notified of abstract disposition

Sept. 10: Deadline for NWA discount rate at the Gale House Hotel

Please see page 6 for more details on the annual meeting!

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President's Message

It was early in the afternoon of May 3, 1999. I was monitoring conditions across the southern Plains in my capacity as the meteorology training coordinator at The Weather Channel. Forecasters recognized the potential for severe weather in this region of



the country but remained wary of the short-term guidance which was weakly supportive of tornadic supercells. In retrospect, the strength of the mid-tropospheric winds and

magnitude of the surface-based instability were poorly represented in the operational model forecasts essentially reducing the derived tornado threat. A complicated arrangement of multiple dry lines and differential heating resulting from persistent cloudiness further enhanced the complexity of the pre-storm environment. Convective initiation occurred earlier than anticipated and supported several long-lived tornadic supercells with tragic consequences in central Oklahoma and southern Kansas. Nearly 10,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed in Oklahoma's Oklahoma and Cleveland counties, accompanied by 46 fatalities and injuries to more than 600.

The May 3, 1999, tornado outbreak left behind staggering statistics and a date that is etched forever in the consciousness of its victims. It remains an equally poignant moment for those of us who were involved in forecasting the event, the dissemination of watches and warnings, the post-event assessments as well as the first responders, emergency managers and the medical staff who worked to save lives and comfort the injured. The NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Norman, Okla., was awarded the Gold Medal by the U.S. Department of Commerce for its heroic efforts, issuing 116 county warnings in 10 hours accompanied by an average tornado warning lead time of 18 minutes.

Dates like May 3, 1999, endure through time because of the nearly visceral acknowledgement they elicit.

Meteorologists, in particular, seem to take this Pavlovian response to the extreme through their ability to associate past weather with any function, fortune or mishap. Yet, it is this handful of truly historic events like March 18, 1925, June 8, 1953, April 11, 1965, April 3, 1974, and August 29, 2005 which provoke the greatest reaction. Will February 5, 2008, be the newest member of a list we wish would remain empty?

The initial statistics compiled by the Storm Prediction Center indicate the February 5 severe weather outbreak now ranks in the top 15 deadliest tornadic events of all time (possibly as high as 11th) with at least 59 fatalities. More than 130 reports of tornadoes were received from nine states, some of these exhibiting extremely long tracks. A damage survey team from the NOAA/NWS Nashville Forecast Office identified one extreme supercell as being responsible for a 140-mile long damage path, and causing the greatest number of fatalities by a single storm in their County Warning Area in 75 years. A B737 aircraft sitting on the tarmac at Memphis International Airport was moved one foot by a tornadic supercell that traversed the city. The severe storms were accompanied by large hail, including four reports of hail the size of softballs – 4.25 inches in diameter!

We will learn much more about this incredible event when the national assessment team publishes their report. The National Weather Association can be exceptionally proud of its NWS members who exhibited the greatest level of professionalism in issuing timely watches, public information statements and life-saving warnings as this tragic event unfolded. Many members, including John Gordon (MIC-Louisville) and Past-President Alan Gerard (MIC-Jackson, Miss.) will continue to be involved in post-event surveys and assessments. Kudos to our broadcast meteorologists who delivered critical information to their local viewing audience with calming assurance. I congratulate each one of you for a job well done. No doubt the death toll would have been even greater without your outstanding efforts.

Fifty-nine people lost their lives on February 5 despite the heroic actions of the NWS, broadcasters, first responders and medical personnel. How could this happen with the technological advances and training available to us in 2008? Several illuminating studies conducted on morbidity and mortality in the wake of the May 3, 1999, outbreak indicated that once a tornado warning was issued, individual response played a key role in survival. Some pursued the correct action by taking refuge in the lowest interior room of a home or building while placing the greatest number of walls between themselves and the exterior. Others chose to drive away from the tornado or seek shelter beneath an overpass. Damage surveys of the Moore, OK F5 indicate this tornado was in general non-survivable above ground.

One outcome of the national assessment report will be an evaluation of the warning dissemination. It is a reasonable to assume that devastating tornadoes will occur in the future that are non-survivable above ground. It is also reasonable to assume that these will be well forecast with warnings relayed. Survivability then becomes an issue of communicating that warning, and educating the public to respond in a timely and correct manner, regardless of whether the setting is rural or urban.

Our society is characterized by a growing population increasingly at risk for severe, if not catastrophic weather. The challenge to protect life and property will only increase, thus it behooves us to understand better the societal response to threatening weather. Our chosen theme for the 2008

NWA Annual Meeting of "Utilizing Our Past to Improve Our Future" is well positioned to address several of the topics I alluded to here. I hope you will consider joining us in Louisville in October for what promises to be a stimulating gathering.

I encourage you to contact me with your suggestions, ideas, ramblings, and of course, concerns at President@nwas.org. I look forward to hearing from you!



John Scala
President

ANNOUNCING: THE DR. RODERICK A. SCOFIELD SCHOLARSHIP IN METEOROLOGY

Thanks to a generous donation from Mrs. Joyce Scofield and other family members of the late Dr. Roderick A. Scofield (1942-2006), this NWA scholarship opportunity is being offered to aspiring meteorologists for the second year.

Offering: One scholarship per year of \$1000. The NWA *may* ask the winner of the Scofield Scholarship to present research work at a local or annual NWA meeting; the NWA *may* provide additional funding for required travel and accommodations for such a presentation.

Administration: The scholarship selection is administered by the NWA Education Committee. The NWA office announces the call for applications in February each year.

Applications for 2008 must be postmarked by May 15, 2008 and sent to the NWA Office. The scholarship designee will be notified in late-June.

Eligibility: Undergraduate and/or graduate students. Undergraduates must be classified at least as a junior for the semester beginning in September 2008. This will allow second semester sophomores to apply for the scholarship. If the student is classified as a senior they must either have one more fall (September - December) semester to complete after the scholarship is awarded or document that they have been accepted into graduate school.

Award Criteria: The scholarship will be awarded based on:

- academic achievement/merit (transcripts)
- two letters of recommendation (at least one from a current or former meteorology professor), and
- a one page statement explaining why the applicant is applying for the Dr. Roderick A. Scofield Scholarship

Logistics: Scholarship money will be transferred following the financial guidelines of the college or university involved. If there are no financial guidelines from the school, NWA will make the \$1,000 check payable to both the student and the education institution at the beginning of the September - December 2008 semester or quarter.

The office address is on the application form and is available to copy from the NWA Web site at www.nwas.org/committees/ed_comm/application/index.php. It can be obtained from the NWA office by calling (919) 845-1546.

Applications for this year's Scofield scholarship must be submitted to the NWA Office, postmarked by May 15, 2008.

About Dr. Roderick Arthur Scofield

Dr. Roderick Scofield was born in Louisville, Ky., in 1942. A charter member of the NWA, Rod rose to be elected its president for the year 2000. In November 2005, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died at his home in Pomfret, Md., on Feb. 25, 2006.

His teaching and influence will continue for years to come as aspiring meteorologists read his many research reports. His passion for observing, analyzing, learning and sharing knowledge of the atmosphere with all concerned will long be remembered by his many colleagues. His superb efforts in providing teachers with continuing education and inspiring college students will continue through this scholarship offering.

A necrology was published in the March 2006 NWA Newsletter and repeated on the NWA Web site with more information on this Scholarship.

NWA Member News: Two Awards and a Book

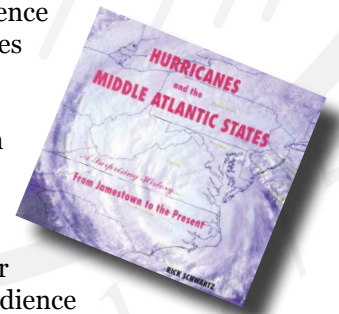
Ruth Aiken, NWA Councilor and Executive Assistant in the NWA Headquarters in Raleigh, N.C., was presented the American Meteorological Society (AMS) *Charles E. Anderson Award* "for promoting diversity through outreach, training and leadership, and through encouraging interest in meteorology for over three decades."

Ruth received the award at the AMS Annual Meeting Awards Banquet in New Orleans, La., in January. In August 2007, Ruth retired from the National Weather Service after 33 years of service and joined the staff of the NWA.

Bill Proenza, Director of the National Weather Service Southern Region, was awarded the fourth annual Kip Robinson Award by the National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO).

This award recognizes individuals for their support of the organization's legislative goals and was presented at the 2007 National NWSEO Convention in Portland, Ore. Bill was also recognized by NWSEO as the Manager of the Year in 1998.

Rick Schwartz has authored the new book, *Hurricanes and the Middle Atlantic States*. This is the first book-length reference that examines the region's hurricane history from Jamestown to the present. It is written for a general audience and contains an extensive collection of storm profiles and stories. More information is available at www.midatlantichurricanes.com.



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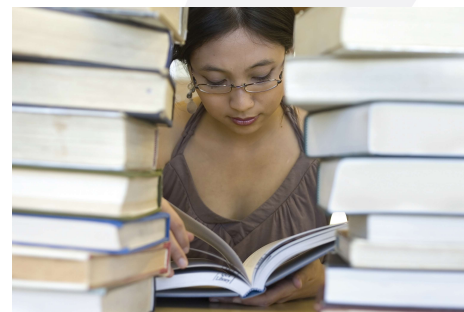
The AccuWeather Undergraduate Scholarship in Meteorology

Thanks to the generosity of AccuWeather, Inc., this scholarship opportunity is available through the NWA. The AccuWeather scholarship offering began in 2004; this is the fifth year it has been offered.

Offering: One scholarship per year of \$1000. The NWA may ask the winner of the AccuWeather Scholarship to present research work at a local or annual NWA meeting; the NWA may provide additional funding for required travel and accommodations for such a presentation.

Administration: The scholarship selection is administered by the NWA Education Committee. The NWA office announces the call for applications in February each year. **Applications for 2008 must be postmarked by May 15, 2008 and sent to the NWA Office.** The scholarship designee will be notified in late-June.

Eligibility: Undergraduate students going into their sophomore year or higher for the fall semester/quarter beginning in September 2008 and majoring in operational meteorology (forecasting, broadcasting or consulting) may apply. If the undergraduate student is classified as a senior, they must have one more fall (September – December) semester to complete after the scholarship is awarded.



Award Criteria: The scholarship will be awarded based on:

- academic achievement/merit (transcripts)
- two letters of recommendation (at least one from a current or former meteorology professor), and
- a one page statement explaining why the applicant is applying for the AccuWeather Scholarship

Logistics: Scholarship money will be transferred following the financial guidelines of the college or university involved. If there are no any financial guidelines from the school, NWA will make the \$1,000 check payable to both the student and the education institution at the beginning of the September - December 2008 semester or quarter

Applications for the NWA AccuWeather Undergraduate Scholarship in Meteorology to be awarded in 2008 must be mailed to the NWA office with a postmark no later than May 15, 2008.

The office address is on the application form and is available to copy from the NWA Web site at www.nwas.org/committees/ed_comm/application/index.php or it can be obtained from the NWA office by calling (919) 845-1546.

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For further information on committees, please browse to the committee Web pages at www.nwas.org/committees/ or e-mail the NWA office at exdir@nwas.org

33rd NWA Annual Meeting: Start Your Planning Now!

The National Weather Association's 33rd Annual Meeting will be held at the
Galt House Hotel & Suites, on the waterfront in downtown Louisville, Ky.

October 11-16, 2008

*Utilizing Our Past
to Improve Our Future*

Abstracts

The deadline for submission of abstracts is June 1, 2008. Abstracts should be sent via the online form on the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org/2008abstracts.html. Please fill out the form in its entirety (you may cut-and-paste your abstract from your word processing program into the form), and click on the Submit button at the bottom of the form. Abstracts will be published in the Meeting Agenda as submitted, so carefully review and edit before submitting. If you are unable to submit your abstract via the online form, please contact the NWA office at Tel/Fax: (919) 845-1546 or e-mail to exdir@nwas.org.

Presenters will be notified regarding the disposition of their abstracts by August 15, 2008. Prior to the meeting, an FTP site will be established for authors to upload their audio/visual presentations. This will facilitate a smooth transition from one speaker to the next during the Annual Meeting presentation sessions.

The Schedule

Saturday, Oct. 11:

- On-site registration begins
- Training may be offered by corporate members
- Exhibits will set up
- Seventh Annual Golf Outing to benefit the NWA Scholarship Fund

Sunday, Oct. 12:

- **WEATHER BROADCASTER WORKSHOPS** including special presentations, exhibits and hands-on workshops appropriate to continuing education for weathercasters (**open to all interested parties**)
- The annual **TAPE SWAP** (in the evening)

Monday – Thursday, October 13 - 16:

ANNUAL MEETING GENERAL SESSIONS

- Including a mix of formal presentations, poster sessions, training workshops, exhibits and panel discussions on a wide variety of topics relating to **OPERATIONAL** meteorology, hydrology, weather broadcasting, new research applications, user concerns and the main theme.
- **Student presentations** will be reviewed by the NWA Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee members; monetary awards will be presented to the best in undergraduate and graduate student categories

Wednesday, Oct. 15:

The NWA Annual Awards Luncheon

Please monitor our Web site, www.nwas.org, for information on exhibits, special accommodations, registration and the overall meeting program. A preliminary agenda is expected to be online in August as well as published in the Newsletter. Registration information should be available in June. Feel free to contact the NWA Office for details.

Hotel

The Galt House, located at 140 N. Fourth St., Louisville, Ky., 40202, is a full-service hotel and convention center. Located in the heart of a revitalized downtown Louisville, many attractions and restaurants are within easy walking distance. Hotel information available at: www.galthouse.com.

The hotel offers two room options: "Deluxe Rooms" in the West Tower (\$97 per night*) and "Suites" in the East Tower (\$130 per night*). The towers are connected by a wide, indoor walkway.

For both types of lodging, up to four people may be accommodated for an additional charge of \$10 per night per person.



For phone reservations, call **(800) 843-4258** and request the National Weather Association 2008 group rate. A credit card number will be requested but no charges will be made at the time of the reservation.

For online reservations, visit www.galthouse.com, go to "Reservations" and follow the directions for making group reservations. The ID Number to use for this meeting is **829545**.

*** To obtain the NWA discount rate, reserve your hotel room NO LATER THAN Sept. 10, 2008.**

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2008 Professional Development Opportunities

National Severe Weather Workshop: March 6-8

The 2008 Workshop will be at the National Center for Employee Development in Norman, Okla., and the theme is "From Readiness to Recovery." It will include presentations and "The Scenario," a workshop where participants step out of their normal role and take part in a simulated emergency. Details are available at www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2008, or send an email to Greg Carbin at gregory.carbin@noaa.gov or Linda Crank at Linda.crank@noaa.gov for more.

National Storm Conference: March 8

A collaboration between Texas Severe Storms Association (TESSA) and the NOAA/National Weather Service in Fort Worth, Texas, this year's conference will be at the Colleyville Center in Colleyville, Texas. Also sponsoring is the North Texas Chapter of the American Meteorological Society/ NWA. Presentation topics include severe weather safety, storm spotter training and in-depth discussions on supercell and tornado meteorology. The third annual Super Storm Spotter Session – presented by Fort Worth NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Gary Woodall – will provide the highest level of training available to storm spotters anywhere in the country. Details available at www.tessa.org.

Northeastern Storm Conference: March 14 - 16

The 33rd Annual Northeastern Storm Conference will be in Springfield, Mass. It is sponsored by the Lyndon State College Student Chapter of the AMS and NWA. Dr. Christopher Landsea will be the Sunday morning keynote speaker, Dr. Greg Holland the banquet speaker and Dr. Lance Bosart the Ice Breaker speaker. Find more information at apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/.

12th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference: March 27 - 29

The 12th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference will be at the West Des Moines Sheraton in West Des Moines, Iowa. It is sponsored by the Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA. The keynote speaker is Paul Markowski of the Vortex 2 project. For more, visit www.iowa-nwa.com/conference/.

Fifth Annual Southeastern Coastal and Atmospheric Processes Symposium: March 28-29

This conference is sponsored by the University of South Alabama and will be held on the campus of the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Ala. Learn more at www.southalabama.edu/meteorologyclub/secaps/.

2008 National Hurricane Conference: March 31 – April 4

Scheduled for The Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Fla., this is the nation's forum for education and professional training in hurricane preparedness. More information is available at www.hurricanemeeting.com, mail@hurricanemeeting.com or (850) 906-9224.

Southeast Severe Storms Symposium: April 4-5

The Seventh Annual Southeast Severe Storms Symposium will be held at Mississippi State University. It is sponsored by the East Mississippi Chapter of the NWA/AMS. Watch the Web site for the 2008 Broadcast Workshop Agenda and the 2008 Symposium Agenda. Go to www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/symposium.shtml or call (662) 325-3915 for more information.

Sixth Annual Great Lakes Meteorology Conference: April 5

The conference will be held in Valparaiso, Ind., at the Old Town Banquet Hall, sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Chapter of the AMS/NWA. Dr. Louis Uccellini, director of the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction, will be the keynote speaker. Go to www.valpo.edu/organization/nwa/ for more.

AMS Short Course on Dual-Polarization Weather Radar: Fundamentals and Applications: June 25, 2008

This AMS short course will precede the 36th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology to be held in Denver, Colo. Learn more at www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/200836broadcast.html.

36th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology: June 26-29

The 36th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology, sponsored by the AMS and organized by the AMS Board of Broadcast Meteorology, will be held in Denver, Colo. More information is at www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/200836broadcast.html.

NWA Annual Meeting: October 11 - 16

The 33rd NWA Annual Meeting will be at the Galt House Hotel and Suites (www.galthouse.com) on the waterfront in Louisville, Ky. See page 7 of this newsletter and log on to www.nwas.org for more information.

News from the Nation's NWA Chapters

Three Rivers (Pennsylvania)

Brian Persons of Naval Seas Systems Command gave a presentation entitled "Environmental Science and Naval Warfare – Understanding the Operational Environment" to the Three Rivers Chapter in November. His talk was particularly useful for students wishing to apply their skills in meteorology and environmental science toward a military career.

The chapter's educational outreach committee has been busy; Caitlin Lawrence visited her alma mater of Carmichaels, Pa., where she provided an atmospheric sciences-related presentation to approximately 125 pupils from grades 1, 7, 8 and 9. Science teachers from other schools in the California Area [Pa.] have been contacted regarding future visits. A much larger project is in the works for Penn Trafford School District (along with the other public schools within the Pittsburgh Public School System) in which Lori Lerhman will be assisting outreach coordinator Adam Cinderich.

Reece Todd
Secretary

University of Missouri-Columbia

The November meeting of the University of Missouri-Columbia (Mizzou) Chapter of the AMS/NWA included a discussion on available club scholarships and conferences. The chapter has three \$750 scholarships for juniors/seniors this year, which will be delegated based on club involvement, academics and other criteria. They've also implementing a new sophomore scholarship for \$500 based for club involvement.

Graduate student George Limpert spoke to the chapter about presenting research at the Des Moines severe weather conference in March. The AMS conference in New Orleans and the *National Storm Chase Conference* in Denver were also discussed.

*Mizzou Does
Scholarships!*

Madison Burnett
Secretary

Dates 2 Remember

March 6 – 8: National Severe Weather Workshop, Norman, Okla.

March 8: National Storm Conference, Colleyville, Texas

March 9: Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 14 – 16: 33rd Northeastern Storm Conference, Springfield, Mass.

March 27 – 29: 12th Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference, West Des Moines, Iowa

April 15: Sankey and Pike Scholarship applications due

October 11 – 16: 33rd NWA Annual Meeting Louisville, Ky.

For more information on these and other Professional Development Opportunities see page 7 or visit www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html.

NWA Newsletter (ISSN 0271-1044)

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Submit newsletter items directly to the NWA office or to nwanewsletter@nwas.org. Material received by the 25th will be considered for the next month's issue.

Members receive the Newsletter and *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. Newsletter subscriptions are available for \$18 per year plus extra shipping costs outside U.S. Single copies are \$1.50. Please contact the NWA office with address changes.

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Supporting and promoting excellence in operational meteorology and related activities since 1975.