



The NWA: Connecting operational meteorologists in pursuit of excellence in weather forecasting, communication, and service.

No. 13 – 2

# Newsletter FEBRUARY

2013

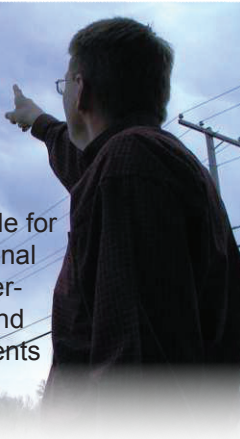
## 2012 NWA Annual Award Winners

### The Member of the Year Award

#### John Gordon

Meteorologist In Charge  
NOAA/National Weather Service  
Louisville, KY

In recognition of and gratitude for a tireless dedication to National Weather Association membership growth and retention, and enthusiastic support of students through unparalleled career guidance.



### Broadcaster of the Year Award

#### James Spann

WBMA ABC 33/40  
Hoover, AL

For his passionate dedication to serving the Central Alabama community with critical weather information for over thirty years, especially during the deadly April 27, 2011 tornado outbreak.



*Please see additional awards on page 4*

## Inaugural NWA Journal of Meteorology Article

The inaugural paper in the NWA's new journal, the Journal of Operational Meteorology, has been published. You can read the article "The Record-Breaking Vivian, South Dakota, Hailstorm of 23 July 2010" by Katie Pojorlie of NWS Rapid City, S.D., and Scott Doering and Michael Fowle of NWS Aberdeen, S.D., by logging on to the Member Portal at <http://member.nwas.org/> and clicking on the Journal of Operational Meteorology (JOM) link under Additional Member Resources on the right.

During the evening of July 23, 2010, an intense supercell storm tracked across south-central South Dakota producing damaging winds up to 74 knots, an EF-0 tornado, and extremely large hail. A hailstone that fell in Vivian, S.D., at approximately 6 p.m. CDT had a diameter of 8.00 inches, a circumference of 18.62 inches, and weighed 1.94 pounds, setting new U.S. hail records for diameter and weight. This record-breaking hailstone received significant attention from regional and national news media, and spurred the authors to investigate and document this remarkable storm in further detail. This article examines several aspects of this event, including an in-depth analysis of the synoptic and mesoscale characteristics, the near-storm environment using model-derived proximity soundings, storm evolution using multiple NWS WSR-88D radars, a comparison to previous events with giant hail [i.e., hail  $\geq 4$  inches], and the challenges associated with storm analysis and verification of this record event.



*Photographs of the record-setting Vivian, SD, hailstone.*

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# **NWA 38th Annual Meeting**

**October 12 - 17, 2013**

**Charleston, S.C.**

<http://nwas.org/meetings/nwa2013/>

## **High-Impact Weather Communications: Finding Calm in the Eye of the Storm**



*Hurricanes Sandy and Isaac in 2012 put further emphasis on a critical question facing the weather enterprise: How do we encourage people to take appropriate action when high-impact weather is threatening them and their property? This issue is certainly not new, but the proliferation of avenues which citizens receive such information (which can be conflicting at times) has brought this topic to an even higher level of importance. The main goal of the conference is the sharing of physical and social science in order to determine how the weather enterprise can encourage people to take appropriate action during high-impact weather events, while realizing there are still limitations of each discipline*

### **Schedule of Events and Meeting Overview**

The 2013 NWA Annual Meeting will include the annual Broadcaster Workshop, and the Sixth Annual Student Session, both on Sunday, October 13. The general sessions will be held October 14-17. The NWA annual awards luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 16.

### **Contact Info**

Annual Meeting Program Committee Chair:  
Frank Alsheimer

Science and Operations Officer  
National Weather Service Forecast Office  
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[annualmeeting@nwas.org](mailto:annualmeeting@nwas.org)

Broadcaster Workshop Program Chair:

Mike Goldberg  
WTVR-TV  
Richmond, VA 23230  
[mgoldberg@wtvr.com](mailto:mgoldberg@wtvr.com)

For more information on exhibits, special accommodations, registration and the overall meeting program, keep checking this web page and the links above or contact the NWA office at (919) 845-1546 or [exdir@nwas.org](mailto:exdir@nwas.org).

### **Social Media**

The NWA will provide updates on this Web page, on the NWA Facebook Page, Twitter and other social media. Please use the hashtag #NWA13 for any tweets associated with the 2013 Annual Meeting.

### **Abstract Submission**

Submit abstracts for oral presentations by 31 May 2013 and abstracts for poster presentations by 15 June 2013.

Abstracts should be sent via the online form on the NWA Web site at: [www.nwas.org/2013abstracts.html](http://www.nwas.org/2013abstracts.html). If you are unable to submit your abstract via the online form, please contact the NWA office at (919) 845-1546 or email: [exdir@nwas.org](mailto:exdir@nwas.org).

Presenters will be notified via e-mail regarding the disposition of their abstracts by 26 July 2013 from the Program Committee. A preliminary agenda will be posted on the NWA Web site by early August for presenters to review and proofread.

Students, please complete the abstract submission form section regarding student awards. If you concur, your presentations will be reviewed by the NWA Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee members. Monetary awards will be presented to the best oral presentations and posters in undergraduate and graduate student categories.

### **Extended Abstracts**

If authors wish to expand their abstracts and presentation material into a more complete paper, that will be accommodated as well. This will allow the extended abstract to be cited as with papers from other conferences that publish such manuscripts (i.e., preprints). Instructions on how to submit extended abstracts will be forthcoming this summer. Examples can be viewed from the final 2012 NWA Annual Meeting Agenda.

**Meeting Location**  
**North Charleston Convention Center**  
**5001 Coliseum Drive**  
**North Charleston, SC 29418**

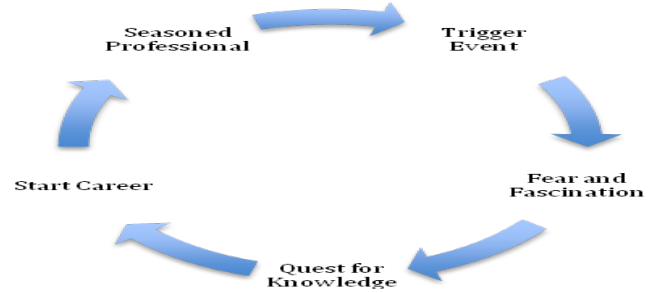
**Host Hotel (Right next door to the meeting!)**  
**Embassy Suites North Charleston**  
**5055 International Boulevard**  
**North Charleston, South Carolina, 29418**



## For the Love of Weather



Why do many kids and young adults have such a strong passion for the weather? It may have been triggered by an event that occurred in early childhood that produced a fear tempered by fascination, which was followed by a desire and quest for knowledge through high school and college. That initial trigger may manifest itself into a storm-chasing hobby, a career or even a life-long profession.



Each year there seems to be one weather event that reminds me why I became a meteorologist. It is usually a thunderstorm or tropical cyclone, but this is not always the case. For many, the February 8-9, 2013, Nor'Easter Blizzard in New England was their perfect trigger. It was with this amazement that many of

our NWA members joined forces to chat online about the forecast models and to compare and contrast this “snow hurricane” with the epic 1978 New England Blizzard, which may have been a factor in their decision to become a meteorologist many decades before. Several of these fellow NWA members are now the Meteorologist in Charge at NWS offices in different climatic areas of the country. Witnessing this collaboration reminded me of the passion that still brings us back from the daily grind of our lives. It is in this way that we come full circle, where even seasoned professionals experience a new trigger that leads them to learning about other aspects of this science we love.

Many meteorology programs around the country are witnessing a “Katrina Effect” where those who were in middle or high school in 2005 are now completing their undergraduate degrees and looking to enter the field of operational meteorology. I ponder how much the Dixie Alley outbreak of April 2011, the Joplin tornado and Superstorm Sandy will impact the number of students who will enroll to study the atmospheric sciences. Will there be an effect in the next decade, with a new wave of graduating meteorologists? If the past is any indicator, I’d say yes.

*Bruce Thomas, NWA President*

## Jonathan P. Racy (1970-2013)

Lead Forecaster, NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center, Norman, Okla.

The Storm Prediction Center (SPC), the National Weather Service (NWS), and the entire weather community mourn the loss of Jon Racy, who passed away on January 8, 2013, after a long and courageous battle with colorectal cancer. Jon was well known for being an expert severe weather meteorologist, aviation enthusiast, Sonoran Desert weather fan, and a loyal and caring friend.



*Jon Racy accepts the Dept. of Commerce Bronze Medal Award from NCEP Director Louis Uccellini for his participation in the North American Monsoon Experiment (NAME) in 2005.*

desert weather, severe storms, and flash flooding.

While at SPC, Jon won numerous awards. These included a Department of Commerce gold medal, two silver medals, three bronze medals, and a Humanitarian Award from the Governor of Oklahoma. These awards were for exceptional weather forecasts and for participation in important research projects.

SPC and the entire meteorological community have lost one of its brightest rising stars. His courage battling cancer made him a role model for everyone. Additional tribute information is online at: <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/Racy/>.

## 2012 NWA Annual Award Winners (more on page 1)



Larry R. Johnson Award (l-r) **Christina Crowe, Fred Glass, Bruce Thomas, Alan Gerard, Kris White**. Fred is the Awards Committee Chair, Bruce Thomas is President Elect; they presented the award to those accepting for the four offices.

Larry R. Johnson Special Award  
**NOAA/National Weather Service Jackson MS**  
Flowood, MS

**NOAA/National Weather Service Birmingham AL**  
Calera, AL

**NOAA/National Weather Service Huntsville AL**  
Huntsville, AL

**NOAA/National Weather Service Memphis TN**  
Memphis, TN

For advanced lifesaving warnings and enhanced services during the historic April 27, 2011 tornado outbreak, and for continued dedicated decision support to a wide range of customers.

Operational Achievement Individual Award  
**Daryl Herzmann**

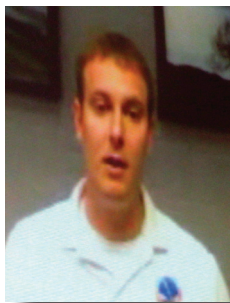
Iowa State University, Iowa  
Mesonet  
Ames, IA

For a proven record in the development and maintenance of visionary tools providing access to meteorological information, and for selfless service to the nation in support of NWS severe weather watch and warning programs.



Aviation Meteorology Award  
**Brian Schoettmer**  
NOAA/National Weather Service  
Louisville, KY

For creating the Pilot Volunteer Aviator Program which greatly enhances National Weather Service storm survey efficiency and effectiveness, and for greatly improving collaboration with the general aviation community.



J. Kevin Lavin Leadership Award  
**Dr. Patrick Market**  
University of Missouri  
Dept. of Soil, Environmental & Atmospheric Sciences  
Columbia, MO

For his leadership and never-ending promotion of the National Weather Association throughout his career as an educator, Digest Editor, Committee Chair, Councilor, Vice-President and Past-President of the NWA.

**Bill Murray** (right) accepted the award for Central Alabama NWA Local Chapter.

For taking chapter involvement in the National Weather Association to another level through innovative member engagement, community outreach, and enthusiastic hosting of the 36th Annual Meeting in Birmingham.

Lifetime Achievement Award  
**Lance Bosart**  
State University of New York at Albany  
Albany, NY

For over 40 years of contributions to meteorology through operationally-relevant research, direct interactions with forecasters, and educating a generation of researchers, professors, forecasters, and NOAA employees.

J. Kevin Lavin Leadership Award  
**William "Bill" Read**  
Director, National Hurricane Center  
(Retired)  
NOAA/National Weather Service  
Miami, FL

For outstanding leadership and service to the National Weather Association (NWA) and Weather Enterprise as National Hurricane Center Director, MIC WFO Houston, and Past President and Councilor for the NWA.

Public Education Award  
**Donna Lee**  
PLAN!T NOW, President and Founder  
Santa Barbara, CA

For exemplary services, through education and preparation, and assisting citizens worldwide to plan for natural disasters, and provide funds to help future scientists and emergency planners support these efforts.

NWA Local Chapter Award  
**Central Alabama NWA Local Chapter**  
**Tara Goggins - President**  
Calera, AL





Special Achievement Award  
**John Ferree**  
 NOAA/NWS/OCWWS/MSD/  
 FPWSB  
 Norman, OK

For his selfless efforts in helping stranded motorists get food, water, and shelter in the Norman/Oklahoma City area during the historic Christmas Eve Blizzard of 2009.



Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award  
**John Wetter**  
 Storm Chaser Minnesota Skywarn  
 Maple Grove, MN  
 For dedicated, passionate service to the public through severe storm education, establishment of the Minnesota Skywarn Workshop, improvement to HAM Radio operations and support of NWS warnings and disaster assessments.



Operational Achievement Group Award  
**Warning Decision Training Branch**  
 NOAA/NWS/Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services  
 (l-r) **Chris Spannagle, Dale Morris, Tiffany Meyer, Ed Mahoney**

National Weather Center  
 Norman, OK

For delivering an innovative and highly effective training course, ahead of schedule, for NWS forecasters and partners as a critical element of the nation's dual polarization weather radar upgrade.



Special Appreciation Award  
**Matthew Bunkers**  
 NOAA/National Weather Service  
 Rapid City, SD  
 and  
**Katie Crandall, Laurel McCoy and Mike Madden**  
 University of Missouri  
 Dept. of Soil, Environmental & Atmospheric Sciences  
 Columbia, MO

(l-r **Katie and Laurel** are pictured above)

For advancing science and the NWA by scanning and placing on the World Wide Web the entire archive of the National Weather Digest.



T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award  
**Dr. Charles Graves (right)**  
 Saint Louis University  
 St. Louis, MO  
 and  
**Dr. Chad Gravelle (left)**  
 NWS Operations Proving Ground - GOES-R Satellite Liaison  
 NOAA/NWS Training Center  
 Kansas City, MO

For revolutionizing forecaster decision aids and customer decision support services by creating the CIPS Historical Analog Warm and Cold Season Guidance for various high impact weather events.

## 2013 NWA Committee Chairs

Commissioner of Committees: (non-voting, appointed member of the NWA Council)  
Richard Okulski  
810 Main Street  
Caribou, ME 04736-4452  
207-492-0180 ext. 222  
[richard.okulski@noaa.gov](mailto:richard.okulski@noaa.gov)

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Frank Alsheimer  
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### Aviation Meteorology Committee:

Todd Lericos  
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Las Vegas, NV 89139-6628  
Tel: 702-263-9744 ext. 222  
[todd.lericos@noaa.gov](mailto:todd.lericos@noaa.gov)

### Awards Committee:

Jeffrey Evans  
1017 Academic Way  
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Tallahassee, FL 32306-4509  
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### Broadcast Meteorology Committee:

Miles Muzio  
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Tehachapi, CA 93561  
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### Broadcaster Seal of Approval Committee Chair:

Chris Dunn  
4016 N Black Canyon Hwy  
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602-650-0717 [cdunn@kpho.com](mailto:cdunn@kpho.com)

### Seal Evaluation Board members:

Shawn Cable, Justin Chambers, James Paul Dice, Stacy Donaldson, Crystal Egger, Eric Elwell, Fidel "Phil" Ferro, Jose M. Garcia Jr., Jesus A. Haro, Bob Haswell, Nate Johnson, Byron Morton, Jason Nicholas, Morgan Palmer, Dr. Scott Rochette, Josh Rubenstein, Benjamin Schott, Benjamin Smith, Tammie Souza, Keith Stellman, Chris Tomer, John Toohey-Morales, Dr. Jay Trobec, Ken Waters, Chad Watson, Jennefer Zeppelin.

### Seal Recertification Chair:

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### Testing Chairperson:

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### Public Relations Chairperson:

Betsy Kling  
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### Workshop Program Chairperson:

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[bherold@nwas.org](mailto:bherold@nwas.org)

### Membership and Marketing Committee:

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### Professional Development Committee:

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### Specialized Operational Services Committee Chair:

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### Strategic Planning Committee:

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Consultant and WGAL-TV Meteorologist  
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### Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee:

Christina Crowe  
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[Christina.crowe@noaa.gov](mailto:Christina.crowe@noaa.gov)

### Social Media Committee

Diane Cooper  
1733 Lake Drive West  
Chanhassen, MN 55317-8581  
952-361-6650, [dfcooper95@gmail.com](mailto:dfcooper95@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Submissions

We welcome Newsletter article submissions from members. Send articles to [nwnewsletter@nwas.org](mailto:nwnewsletter@nwas.org) by the 25th of the month for publication in the following month's edition at the earliest. Information about the Newsletter and a link to author guidelines can be found at <http://www.nwas.org/newsletters/>.





## New NWA Members in January 2013

### Regular/Military/Retired

Steven Fleegel  
Kari Fleegel  
Lauren Hays  
Jonathan Hunter  
John Scott Kennedy  
William E. Lewis  
Devon James Lucie  
Joshua L. McKinney  
Thomas Patrick  
Kevin Phelps  
Ashley Sears  
Jasson Sjoberg

Lindsey A. Slater  
Michael A. Smith  
Edward Hunt Townsend Jr.  
Aubrey Sara Urbanowicz  
Ryan Zawislak

### Students

Kevin Ash  
John Banghoff  
James Austin Boys  
Alexander J. Butner  
Pete Curran  
Elisabeth D'Amore

Cynthia Erhardt  
Carl Finney  
Kenzie Gibson  
Nicholas Robert Gunter  
Katherine A. Iverson  
Brian K. Kawzenuk  
Alexandra M. Keclik  
Marie Kersey  
Gregory G. Leone  
Ripley McCoy  
Tyler J. McIntosh  
Hayden Nix  
Travis R. Perry

Brian Popick  
Adam Przepiora  
Jay Shelton  
Angie Sturgill  
Janel R. Thomas  
Aaron Treadway  
Janea West  
RJ Wiersma  
Katherine Yee

### 2013 NWA sponsored Annual Meetings, Conferences and Special Events

#### March 2: 2013 National Storm Conference

Sponsored by the Texas Severe Storms Association (TESSA), it is free, open to the public and will be at the Colleyville Center in Colleyville, Texas. Registration is not required but seating is limited. <http://www.tessa.org>

#### March 8-10: The 38th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference

Sponsored by the Lyndon State College AMS/NWA local chapter, this annual conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Rutland, Vt. <https://sites.google.com/site/lyndonstateamsnwa/>

#### March 10-12: National Severe Weather Workshop & National Tornado Summit

The NWS Storm Prediction Center will join forces with the Oklahoma Insurance Department, the State of Oklahoma Emergency Management and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to collaborate on this summit and 11th National Severe Weather Workshop (NSWW). It will be in Oklahoma City. <http://www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww/>

#### April 4-6: The 17th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference

Sponsored by the Central Iowa NWA Chapter, it will be in Ankeny, Iowa. <http://www.iowa-nwa.com/>

October 12-17: The 38th NWA Annual Meeting - See page 2 for extensive details.

### Other Meetings, Conferences and Special Events in 2013

#### March 12-13, 2013: The 2013 Alaska Weather Symposium (AWS '13)

It will be held on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. <http://weather.arsc.edu/Events/AWS13/>

#### March 25-28, 2013: The National Hurricane Conference

It will be at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in New Orleans, La. <http://www.hurricanemeeting.com/>

#### April 8-12, 2013: NOAA Satellite Conference for Direct Readout, GOES/POES, and GOES-R/JPSS Users

This conference was moved to College Park, Md., (originally planned for Florida). <http://satelliteconferences.noaa.gov/>

#### April 17-24, 2013: The National Tropical Weather Conference

For Broadcast Meteorologists, this will be on Padre Island, Texas. <http://www.hurricanecenterlive.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/NationalTropicalWxConference>

#### May 26-30, 2013: The 2013 Joint Scientific Congress of the CMOS, CGU and CWRA

It will be in Saskatoon, SK, Canada. Presentations are encouraged for all areas of interest of CMOS (Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society), CGU (Canadian Geophysical Union), and CWRA (Canadian Water Resources Association). Visit the Congress Web site for contacts and other info.

#### September 16-20: The 19th AMS Satellite Meteorology, Oceanography and Climatology Conference and the 2013 EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference

This international conference will be held in Vienna, Austria. [www.conferences.eumetsat.int](http://www.conferences.eumetsat.int)

## Long Time NWA Broadcaster Seal Holder

### Doug Brown Passes Away

Doug Brown, long time morning weathercaster on KTRK-TV in Houston passed away unexpectedly in January. Doug was a morning icon for several decades on Houston television. He was a gentle man who was beloved by millions of viewers in southeast Texas. Doug joined the NWA in 1982 and earned the ninth NWA Broadcaster's Seal of Approval ever granted that year.

Here is a link to KTRK's memories of Doug:

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8957655>

*(Editor's note - While I served as the NWS Meteorologist-In-Charge of the Houston office 1983-1987, I worked closely with Doug during times of severe weather. I found him to be one of the finest people I have ever met in our profession. Steve Harned)*

## New NWS Director

Congratulations to Dr. Louis Uccellini, an NWA charter and current member, on his appointment to Director of the NWS. Not only is Dr. Uccellini a charter member, he has served as a Councilor and authored the very first National Weather Digest paper in 1976 titled "Operational Diagnostic Applications of Isentropic Analysis".

You can read more about Dr. Uccellini in the official NOAA press release at [http://www.noaa.gov/stories/2013/20130207\\_nws\\_newaa.html](http://www.noaa.gov/stories/2013/20130207_nws_newaa.html).

## IMPORTANT DATES

March 2: 2013 National Storm Conference, Colleyville, Texas

March 8-10: 38th Northeastern Storm Conference, Rutland, Vt.

March 10-12: Severe Weather Workshop & Tornado Summit, Oklahoma City, Okla.

April 4-6: 17th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conf., Ankeny, Iowa

Oct. 12-17: 38th NWA Annual Meeting, Charleston, S.C.

NWA Newsletter (ISSN 0271-1044)

*Technical Editor:* Winnie Crawford

*Editor and Publisher:* Steve Harned, Executive Director

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Submit newsletter items to [nwanewsletter@nwas.org](mailto:nwanewsletter@nwas.org) using the Instruction for Authors at [http://www.nwas.org/newsletters/newsletter\\_instructions.php](http://www.nwas.org/newsletters/newsletter_instructions.php).

Members receive the Newsletter and *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges.

Address, phone number, email and affiliation changes can now be made online: [member.nwas.org](http://member.nwas.org).

Address Service Requested

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