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 ≥ 4 inches], and the challenges associated with storm analysis and verification of this record event.
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.

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

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 #NWAS13 for any tweets associated with the 2013 Annual Meeting.
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

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 was raised in Little Hocking, Ohio, where summertime storms, floods and winter snows forged his passion for meteorology. He pursued a meteorology career by attending Penn State University and graduating in May 1993. Immediately after graduation, Jon was hired as a meteorologist intern at the NWS office in Ft. Wayne, Ind. In January 1996, Jon transferred to the NWS office in La Crosse, Wis., where he was promoted to journeyman forecaster.

Jon’s hopes to focus his talents on severe weather forecasting were fulfilled in January 1998 when he arrived at SPC in Norman, Okla. as an assistant mesoscale forecaster. Jon was promoted into an SPC outlook/mesoscale forecaster position in 1999, and was selected as only the 33rd lead forecaster in SELS/SPC history in July 2011. His shift leadership and forecasting talents were appreciated by his team members as well as the countless people who relied on his products. Jon was also a noted researcher. He authored or co-authored seven publications on topics close to his heart: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, 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 IT 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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

(1-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.
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November 2013 Newsletter

2013 NWA Committee Chairs

NWA Newsletter Submissions

We welcome Newsletter article submissions from members. Send articles to nwanewsletter@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/.

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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.

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

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

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

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

www.nwas.org
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.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20130207_nws_newaa.html.

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Submit newsletter items to nwanewsletter@nwas.org using the Instruction for Authors at 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.