



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

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Newsletter FEBRUARY

2015

A Tale of Two Winters

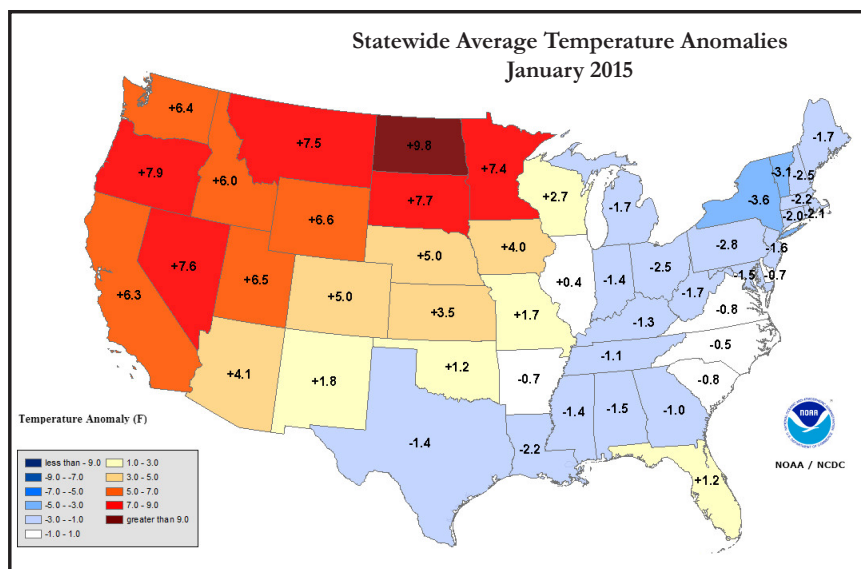
John R. Scala

NWA Past President, Counselor and Treasurer

“Moderation in all things, especially moderation” is attributed to the great 19th century poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson. I suspect the literary genius from Boston would be worth a quotable line or two if he were able to comment on the interminable snow and cold temperatures gripping his native city since mid-January. Before we go digging for excessive descriptors, let us ask the question: just how unusual is this stretch of wintry weather?

It may be difficult to remember the 2014-15 winter season left the gates riding a swell of above average temperatures throughout the lower 48. Monthly average statewide departures for December 2014 ranged from +2.3° in Arkansas to +7.8° in Wisconsin. All of New England was more than 6° above average, placing the region in the top 10 percent of the warmest winters over the previous 120 years of record. The unusual warmth was a cruel prelude to the Arctic chill that was destined to arrive in a few short weeks.

January 2015 average temperature departures across the High Plains, northern Rockies and much of the Western U.S. revealed an exceptionally warm January. The warmth prevented much needed snowfall utilized for spring irrigation and drinking water west of the Rockies, and a hedge against persistent drought.



See TALE, page 2

NWA Lifetime Membership and JOM fees Increase on April 1

After reviewing NWA financial data, the Council voted and approved price increases for NWA Lifetime Memberships and for submissions published in the NWA Journal of Operational Meteorology. Both increases will occur on April 1.

Individuals may purchase Lifetime Memberships through March 31 for the current price of \$1,250. On April 1, the price increases to \$1,500. Per Council approval, the Lifetime Membership dues will be tied to the Regular Member dues and be 25 times the cost of a Regular Membership. These memberships may be purchased on the [NWA Member Portal](#).

Publication charges for JOM submissions are being increased to ensure production costs are sufficiently covered. Production costs include fees for technical editing, formatting of the final version of the electronic article, and hosting fees. There are four submission categories: Article, Short Contributions, Images of Note, and Commentaries. Articles will increase to \$450; Short Contributions to \$260; and Images of Note and Commentaries will increase to \$185. More information on the JOM can be found on the [Call for Papers webpage](#).

Questions or comments about these changes may be directed to the NWA office.

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TALE from page 1

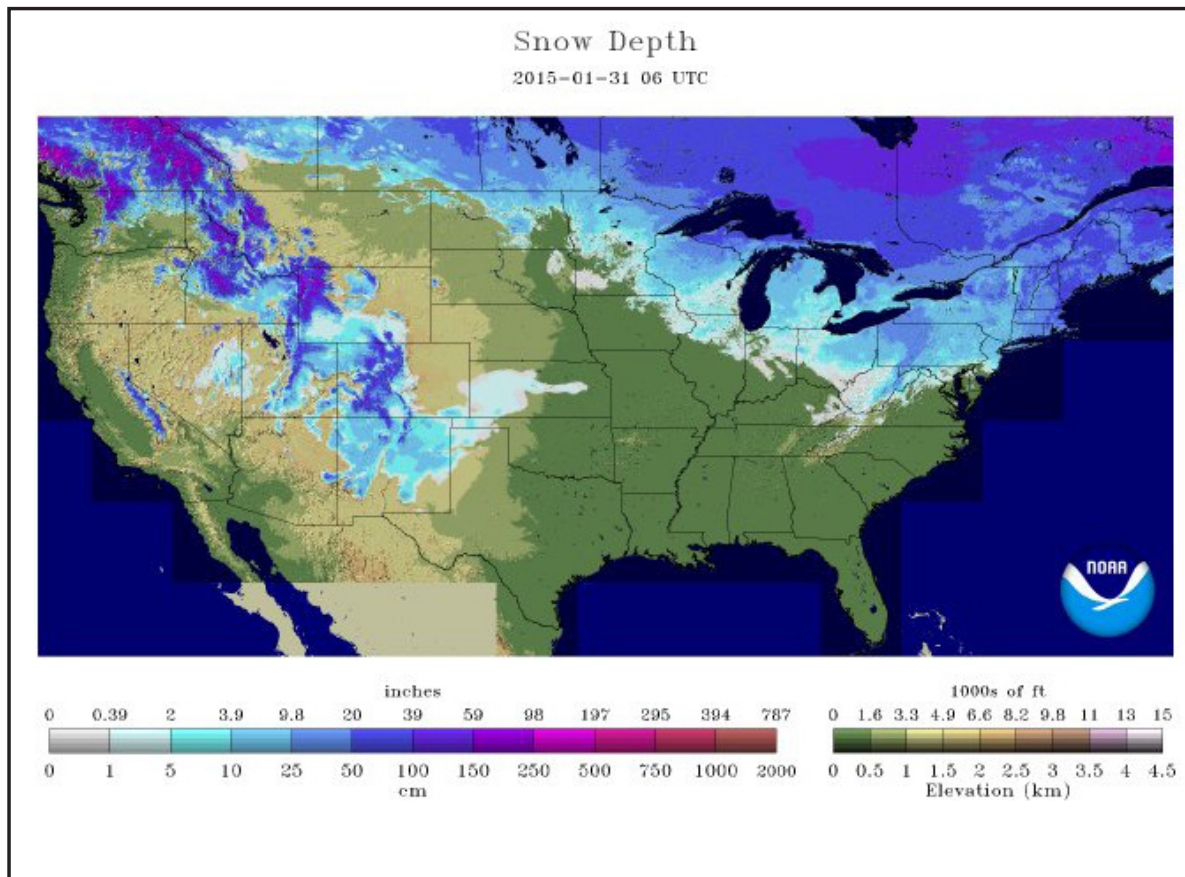
As of February 17, 2015, more than 93 percent of California was experiencing severe to exceptional drought conditions. Snow depth analysis from the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center for the last day of January 2015 emphasized the long-wave pattern of the U.S. favored snowfall across the Great Lakes and the Northeast. The tale of the tape: 29.8 percent of the lower 48 was covered by snow on the 31st of January compared to 49.4 percent one year earlier. The monthly temperature anomaly flipped sign across the eastern third of the U.S. setting the stage for a remarkable, in fact, record five week period of bone chilling cold and snowfall for many locations in the Northeast.

Boston holds the dubious distinction of being the poster child for the severe winter weather that settled into the Northeast during the third week of January. The daily temperature record for Boston Logan Airport illustrates the impact of successive cold air intrusions that began after January 18 and continued into the fourth week of February. The average monthly temperature anomaly through February 23 at Boston Logan is a record 12.3 degrees below climatology. This is jaw-dropping territory when you consider the length of record in Boston dates back to 1872 AND the average monthly temperature for December 2014 was +3.5°!

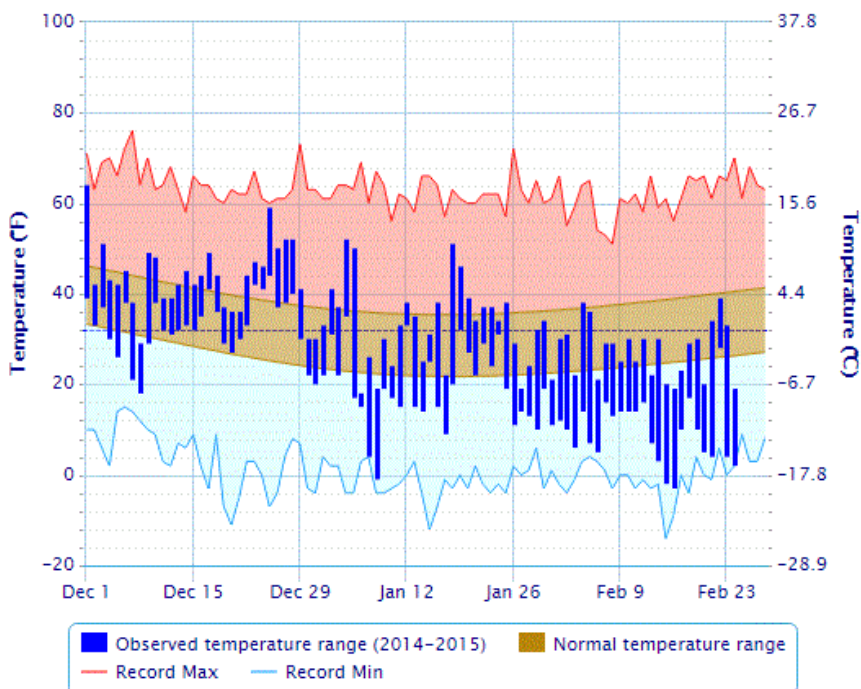
The persistent cold was acted upon by a series of nor'easters that threatened to bring the city of Boston to its knees. According to The Weather Channel, the storm total snowfall of 24.6 inches on January 26-28 and the 23.8 inches contributed by the storm of February 7-10 rank 6th and 7th, respectively, on the list of top 10 greatest Boston snowstorms. The latter also produced a record snow depth of 37 inches on February 9. And, there is more to consider: the monthly total snowfall of 62.7 inches identifies February 2015 as the snowiest month on record, burying the old record of 43.3 inches set in January 2005; the seasonal total of 99.9 inches is less than 8 inches from the record winter of 1995-96 when a total of 107.6 inches was reported. Yes, this winter broke even more records than those mentioned here, but I trust you get the point. Oh, and the national snow cover increased 79 percent in three and a half weeks.

And where do you put this much snow? I recall as a student at the University of Rochester during the winters of 1977-78 and 1978-79 watching a stream of dump trucks hauling one load after another to the Lake Ontario shore

line to deposit their load. Boston is also trucking their snow out of the city to a vacant lot in the Seaport District in addition to using industrial-strength snow-melting machines that can reduce 150 tons of



Daily Temperature Data - BOSTON LOGAN INTL AP, MA

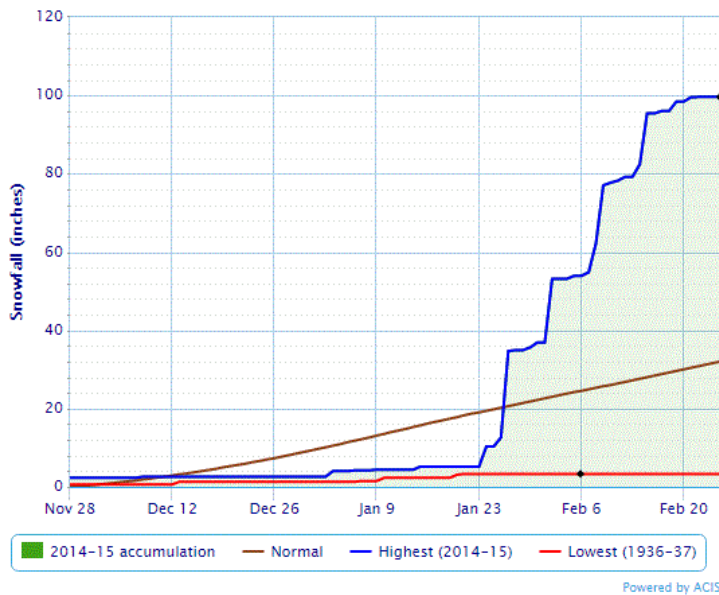


Powered by ACIS

Daily temperature observations from Boston Logan Airport for the period December 1, 2014, through February 24, 2015.
NOAA/Regional Climate Centers.

See TALE, page 2

Accumulated Snowfall - BOSTON LOGAN INTL AP, MA



Accumulated snowfall for Boston Logan Airport for Winter 2014-15 through February 24, 2015.

NOAA/Regional Climate Centers

snow to its liquid counterpart in one hour. In case you were wondering, Rochester received a total of 299.4 inches of snow during those two winters.

The brutal cold that continues to grip Boston and the Northeast is responsible for dramatic changes upstream as well. Niagara Falls resembles a frozen sculpture with the Niagara River flowing behind and beneath a wall of ice. And the Great Lakes, exhibiting very little ice cover in January experienced a remarkable surge over the last six weeks reaching a total coverage of 85.6 percent on February 23. Much attention was given to the 92.5 percent coverage noted on March 6 of last year as being the second greatest amount of Great Lakes ice since the advent of satellite observations. A moderation in temperatures is forecast in the medium-range guidance as we approach the first of March. Whether or not additional snow, ice or temperature records will be set is unknown, what is certain is the tale of these two winters cannot reach the last frigid paragraph fast enough for residents of Boston.

40th NWA Annual Meeting

Stay Connected!

Meeting hashtag: #NWA15

Meeting updates will be posted on these NWA social media sites:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nwasorg

Twitter: twitter.com/nwas

Google+:
<https://plus.google.com/115267406833207403491/posts>



The Role of My Mentor

By Elizabeth Page, NWA President

Much has been said and written about the importance of having a mentor. I have been lucky to have had people in my work life who have encouraged and guided me at various stages of my career. In fact, today I still bounce ideas off of mentors who continue to guide me through career decisions. I'd like to share with you the impact that one of my mentors had on me early in my career.



Dave Goens worked for the NWS in Western Region for many years. I met Dave about a year after I joined the NWS when I was working in the Ag and Fire Weather office in Riverside, California. Dave was the regional fire weather program manager at the time, and so we became acquainted through that connection. It was Dave who told me about and suggested that I apply for the job that was opening at COMET, which brought me to my current job site and has greatly shaped the direction of my career. We later worked together on the first COMET Fire Weather module (remember the CDs?) Dave passed away suddenly in 2003. His impact lives on in the many people he influenced and guided throughout his life.

To me, Dave exemplified important characteristics that we should all seek in a mentor. He was sincere and present in our conversations. He showed genuine interest in my ambitions and career. He also proved that a mentor doesn't have to be your supervisor or someone you see every day. Dave's experience with the NWS helped me see how I could chart a path forward, and he helped me explore a variety of options as I worked through the pros and cons of each and how those choices might affect my future direction.

This leads me to another aspect of mentoring that I have noticed and experienced first-hand. Anyone can be a mentor. It doesn't matter where you are in your career. You may be unintentionally or unknowingly mentoring people just by being in your job. People often benefit by seeing others to whom they can relate in roles to which they aspire. Shortly after I was hired as a part time university lecturer, a student stopped me in the hall and welcomed me. She said she was so glad to have me as part of the faculty. I was surprised and thanked her and later realized that my role was bigger than just teaching my class.

The NWA continues to work to provide the membership more mentoring opportunities. In addition to the informal networking and mentoring occasions provided at the annual meeting, the NWA Mentoring Subcommittee has been working on more formalized activities. The speed mentoring event at last year's annual meeting gave early career professionals and students a chance to ask questions of a wide variety of people working in the field. You will soon see more from this active sub-committee as they work to expand our membership services related to mentoring.

I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities the NWA is making available to the membership and to volunteer to become part of the mentor cadre. You have so much to share with others in the field.

Congratulations to NWA Scholarship Winners

Kurt Hansen of Fairfax, Virginia, is the recipient of the Arthur C. Pike Meteorology Scholarship. He is a junior at University of Albany, State University of New York (SUNY).

From the time he could speak, he talked about storms, drew pictures of tornadoes and told everyone everything he knew about natural disasters. His parents even made him a tornado piñata for his sixth birthday party. Then in 2003 Hurricane Isabel swept through the Washington area, and he woke up to find that a tree had crashed through their attic and stopped just a few feet from his head.

Instead of being stricken with fear or grief, Kurt was intrigued by the storm. His passion and interest in the inner workings of the atmosphere, especially hurricanes, grew immensely. It was evident from that day forth that he wanted to become a meteorologist.

He is using his programming talents to excel on projects that research patterns of intra-seasonal cyclone formation and tropical cyclone downdrafts. He aspires to follow Dr. Pike's career path and conduct research on tropical cyclones.



Kurt Hansen



Makenzie Krocak

She is a sophomore at Lyndon State College.

She is majoring in both atmospheric sciences and mathematics with a goal of attending graduate school to pursue a master's degree in atmospheric sciences, meteorology, or mathematics education. This combination of undergraduate and graduate studies will allow her to pursue opportunities in a research-related field, private industry, the NWS or to teach math in secondary education.

Her professors commended her accomplishments in conducting research and presenting the results. Lauriana was an undergraduate research assistant during Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Summer Research Program and presented her work at the AMS Annual Meeting in Phoenix and the 40th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference. One professor expects Lauriana to excel at Lyndon State College and then go on to contribute significantly to the atmospheric sciences

Makenzie Krocak of Carver, Minnesota, is the recipient of the Bob Glahn Scholarship in Statistical Meteorology. She is a senior at Iowa State University.

According to one of her professors, Makenzie is one of those rare meteorology students that only come along once every few years, even at a school with a rather large undergraduate meteorology program like Iowa State. She excels at everything and has distinguished herself by her service record at Iowa State. She served as vice-president of the AMS student chapter during her junior year and was elected president for the current academic year.

Her passion is technical meteorology research with a societal impacts-based approach.

Lauriana Gaudet of Falmouth, Maine, is the recipient of the NWA Phillips Family Undergraduate Meteorology Scholarship.



Lauriana Gaudet



**How well do you
know your NWA?**

Answers on page 8

- 1) How many Executive Directors have we had?
- 2) How much were annual dues originally (in 1976)?
- 3) Where was the first annual meeting in December 1976?
- 4) When was the first newsletter published?
- 5) The October 2011 Annual Meeting broke an attendance record. How many attended?

40th NWA Annual Meeting

It's our 40th Anniversary!

**Power of the Past;
Force of the Future**

October 17 - 22

**Cox Convention Center
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**



Photo courtesy of the Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau

Location

- Conference Hotel: The [Renaissance Oklahoma City](#)
- [Convention Center Hotel](#) A block of rooms is available for NWA members through September 18 or until full. NWA Hotel Room Daily Rates start from \$129/night.
- Conference Venue: Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City ([Learn more about OKC](#))

Additional hotel information is on the annual meeting website.

[Click to make your reservations](#)

Call for Abstracts

In addition to the traditional sessions on severe weather, weather and forecasting, etc., the Program Committee is specifically soliciting abstracts which relate to one of the following sub-themes.

- NWA's 40th Anniversary (History, Retrospective)
- Integration of New Technology (Dual-pol, GOES-R, MYRORSS, Proving Ground)
- Advances in Numerical Weather Prediction (Warn-on-Forecast, Storm-Scale Ensembles)
- Innovations in Communicating High-Impact Weather Events (Social Media, Commercial Services, Simplification)
- Case Studies of High-Impact Events

Abstracts should be sent via the online form on the NWA website at: [2015 NWA Annual Meeting Abstract Submission Form](#). If you are unable to submit your abstract via the online form, contact the NWA office at (405) 701-5167 or e-mail: exdir@nwas.org.

The Program Committee will notify presenters, via e-mail, regarding the disposition of their abstracts by the first week of June. A preliminary agenda will be posted on the NWA website by early August for presenters to review.

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.

Theme

NWA 40th Anniversary – Power of the Past; Force of the Future

Important dates

- April 23: Oral presentation abstract deadline
- April 30: Poster presentation abstract deadline

Schedule of Events

- Sunday Oct. 18: Broadcast Meteorology Workshop
- Sunday Oct. 18: Eighth Annual Student Session
- Oct. 19-22: General Sessions
- Wednesday Oct. 21: NWA Annual Awards Luncheon

Program Chairs

Program Committee

Co-Chairs:

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Meteorologist
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John Ferree

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Coordinator
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Broadcaster Workshop

Program Chair:

Mike Goldberg

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Watch the [meeting webpage](#) for updates on hotel accommodations, exhibits, and more, or contact the NWA Office at (405) 701-5167 or exdir@nwas.org.

See [page 3](#) for the meeting's social media connections.

Winter Wonderland

Thanks to members and their families who sent the amazing photos highlighted in this Newsletter. NWA Member photos are from John Scala, Christina Crowe and Rich Okulski.



What a difference a month makes! In Boston, the view from inside WBUR offices in January (above) and then February 16 - by Sharon Brody



(Above) Sidewalk path in Newton, Massachusetts, by Patty Kellogg.

(Right) Rich Okulski's front yard in Caribou, Maine.



John Scala took the picture at left of the Conestoga River in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He stated, "The Conestoga is a spring-fed tributary of the Susquehanna River and rarely exhibits any ice formation, except along the margins. Not so this winter. This picture taken about one mile from my home shows the river

nearly completely iced over." John recorded four sub-zero lows on his thermometer between February 16-24.

Welcome to the NWA!

New Members January 2015

Regular/Military/Retired

Peter Banacos
Norman Chaney
Brett Crandall
Michael Farrar
Eric Freier
Brian Hughes
William Rasch
Nicole Robertson
Carlos Robles
Benjamin Schwedler
Brittney Shipp
Andrea Smith
Damon Lane
Eric Stevens
Bohumil Svoma
Jonathan Welsh
Kirsten Zontini

Student

Michael Albano
Nicole Batzek
Timothy Cady
Raelene Campbell
Kevin Gilmore
Lynnette Grant
Amber Liggett
Carl Rippe
Kevin Rodriguez
Adam Sisco
Elizabeth Thyrahtongsay
Tania Villanueva-Ayala

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 www.nwas.org/newsletters/.





(Left) Wheaton Crest, Maryland, by Christina Crowe. Squirrels get a winter meal in Newton, Massachusetts, by Patty Kellogg. (Right) Snow sculpture from Newton, Massachusetts, by Patty Kellogg.

2015 NWA sponsored Annual Meetings, Conferences and Special Events *(click titles to view websites)*

March 21: The 13th Annual Great Lakes Meteorology Conference

Sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Chapter of the AMS and NWA, the conference will be held at Valparaiso University.

March 26-28: 19th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference

Sponsored by the Central Iowa NWA Chapter, it will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Ankeny, Iowa.

March 28-29: 13th Annual Southeast Severe Storms Symposium

The East Mississippi Chapter of the NWA/AMS conducts this symposium. Watch their website for keynote speakers details.

October 17-22: 40th NWA Annual Meeting

The Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel is the host site for the meeting. Meetings will be held next door in the Cox Convention Center. It is our 40th anniversary, so plan to attend this informative meeting and celebration. See page 5 for details.

Other Meetings, Conferences and Special Events in 2015

March 22-28: National Tsunami Preparedness Week

March 23: World Meteorological Day

March 30 - April 2: National Hurricane Conference

It will be held at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, Texas

April 8: National Tropical Weather Conference

This annual conference will be held on South Padre Island, Texas.

August 25-27: The Great Lakes Operational Meteorology Workshop *(kxghywa jbl'gcd)*

Forecasting in the Great Lakes area poses interesting and unique challenges.

This workshop will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is designed to bring forecasters of all experience levels, media partners, and academia together to address the challenges and to share knowledge, experience and techniques. The website will be available soon.

November 13-18: IAEM 63rd Annual Conference and EMEX 2015

The theme is "Expanding the Spectrum of Emergency Management" and the conference will be held in Clark County, Nevada.

The [NWA Events page](#) has more information.

Applications Now Open for NWA Scholarships and Grants

The NWA is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for scholarships and the Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants.

NWA David Sankey Minority Scholarship in Meteorology – *Closes April 15*

NWA Dr. Roderick A. Scofield Scholarship in Meteorology – *Closes until May 14*

NWA Broadcast Meteorology Scholarship – *Closes May 14*

NWA Ken Reeves Memorial AccuWeather Undergraduate Scholarship in Meteorology – *Closes May 28*

NWA Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants for teachers and educators of grades K-12 – *Closes June 1*



Joyce Scofield and other family members of the late Dr. Roderick A. Scofield generously donate funds to support the Scofield scholarship. The Sankey and Broadcast Meteorology scholarships are funded by NWA members through direct donations and the NWA Annual Meeting Golf Outing and Raffle organized by Betsy Kling. AccuWeather, Inc., a charter NWA Corporate Member sponsors the scholarship honoring the late Ken Reeves. Sol Hirsch's family, friends and many NWA members donate to the Education Fund Grants. The NWA sincerely thanks all who support and promote our scholarship and grant opportunities.

[Click for details application and grant information](#)

How well do you know your NWA?

From page 4

1) 6

2) \$5

3) *Andrews Air Force Base*

4) *September 1976*
5) 625

IMPORTANT DATES

April 1
Lifetime Membership and JOM posting fees increase (page 1)

April 15
Sankey Scholarship application deadline

40th Annual Meeting Abstract Deadlines:

April 23
Oral presentations

April 30
Poster presentations

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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 on-line and access to an on-line portal which includes the Journal of Operational Meteorology 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.