

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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**by Paul Croft**

When I first joined the NWA in February of 1986, it would have been difficult to foresee that my later service in the organization would include the Presidency. Over the years I have enjoyed being an active member and had the privilege and pleasure of presenting studies at the Annual Meetings, serving as a meeting session chair, annual meeting program co-chair, a member of both the education and broadcast meteorology committees, Vice President, and President-elect. I am very honored to serve you this year as the NWA President.

My service to the NWA has enhanced my professional abilities, grown my contacts with a variety of colleagues, and given me an ever-increasing appreciation for the diversity of topics and people involved in operational meteorology – and our interconnectedness. All of these have been invaluable in my academic setting when I advise students of the many applications of atmospheric science and the wide variety of career opportunities. These also have given me an appreciation of the fact that the web of diversity in operations is critical to our individual and group success – and to the advancement of operational meteorology.

I thank those who are serving and who have served on the NWA Council and Committees. You have led the NWA to great success. I also thank the entire NWA membership for sustaining the organization to this its 29th year. Your perseverance, willingness to contribute and bring new members aboard keeps the NWA fresh, vibrant, and alert to developments in operational meteorology and related activities.

As we move through this year, I intend to work diligently on the Strategic Plan goals in all manners possible. With the new Council (see page 3) we'll review what has been accomplished, how we conduct our business, and determine what we can achieve now and in the future. All members can assist in the planning process. I challenge each one of us to consider and answer the following questions: "What is missing in what we would like the NWA to be?", "What could we do differently in the NWA?", and "What can we do individually to better serve the NWA, its membership and its outreach activities?"

These questions spring naturally from those included in our recent Membership Survey that was sent out with the annual dues invoices. If you have not yet responded to the survey, please do so as soon as possible. I look forward to reviewing all comments and passing them on to our Council and Committees for appropriate action. If you have more to say, please let me know – or let everyone know. Share your thoughts through our Web site ([www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org)) under "Hot Links – Sound Off" – or simply by e-mail to me at [president@nwas.org](mailto:president@nwas.org).

I also ask you to consider two issues that incorporate elements of the NWA Strategic Plan: (1) *The evolution of operational meteorology with regard to climatology and dynamic climate signals that occur on time scales of days to weeks, months, and years;* and (2) *The prevalence of regional/local NWP modeling (or as some say, "High-resolution Forecasting")* and how it will shape operational services and partnering amongst our many areas of expertise as it continues to expand and becomes more and more specialized. In the first issue, we ask whether we have adequately incorporated or modified multiple time and space scale climate signals with operations in order to answer questions from professionals and the general public in planning and response actions. In the second issue (local modeling applications), we ask to what extent end-users will require specialized data, training, and interpretive assistance to understand what they are using when making decisions.

These issues are important as we are often called upon to pass judgment, impart wisdom, and/or state clearly whether El Niño (or any other climate phenomenon) is responsible for the "storm-of-the-day" (or any other weather phenomenon, whether extreme or not) or we receive a question about global temperatures or a tailored point forecast. This does not imply that we have ignored the climate aspects of operational meteorology or the local modeling issues – on the contrary, it points to the need to build on our strengths in terms of operational climatology and tailored weather support services. These take on even greater significance today when cast against the background of homeland security.

In both cases (climatology and local modeling), we need to ask whether we have a way to help our "clients" gauge our confidence level in the use and application of

this information. This also suggests the need for an advocacy role by the NWA to assist in educating the public, policy-makers, and government bodies in understanding operational information and using it wisely in decision-making and future planning scenarios. We must also develop working and flexible partnerships that encourage mutual benefits that multiply results — rather than those that are simply additive, divisive, or exclusionary. We should also seek out other professional communities to learn additional methods of educating, partnering and planning for the future. I am hopeful we can address these issues through the year and also provide a forum for discussion of these at the Annual Meeting in October in Portland, Oregon.

- Yours in Service - Paul Croft

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## NWA SCHOLARSHIPS

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### **ANNOUNCING: The Arthur C. Pike Scholarship in Meteorology**

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Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of the late Dr. Arthur C. Pike, the National Weather Association Council members established a college scholarship fund in the year 2000. This is the fourth year it is being offered.

**Offering:** One scholarship per year of \$1000.

**Administration:** The NWA Education Committee will administer the scholarship selection. Applications close 15 April 2004 and the scholarship designee will be notified by mid-May.

**Eligibility:** Undergraduate and/or Graduate students. Undergraduates must be classified at least as a junior for the semester beginning in September 2004. 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 (Sep. - Dec.) semester to complete after the scholarship is awarded or document that they have been accepted into graduate school.

**Award Criteria:** The scholarship will be based on:  
a) official college transcripts (academic achievement),  
b) two letters of recommendation (at least one from a current or former meteorology professor), and  
c) a letter (not longer than one page) from the applicant describing their involvement/interest in meteorology.

**Logistics:** Scholarship money will be transferred following the financial guidelines of the college or university involved.

**Applications for the NWA Arthur C. Pike Scholarship in Meteorology to be awarded in 2004 must be submitted to the NWA office by 15 April 2004.** The office address is on the application form. The application form is available to copy from the NWA Web site at: [www.nwas.org/scholarship\\_app.html](http://www.nwas.org/scholarship_app.html) or it can be obtained from the NWA office (434) 296-9966.

### **ANNOUNCING: The David Sankey Minority Scholarship in Meteorology**

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To increase diversity and the numbers of students from underrepresented ethnic groups pursuing studies in meteorology, the National Weather Association Council established a college scholarship fund in 2002. This is the second year this scholarship is being offered. Funds are generated from golf outings and a raffle at the Annual Meetings. Prizes in support of those activities are donated by many of the NWA Corporate members.

**Offering:** One scholarship per year in the amount of \$1000.

**Administration:** The NWA Education Committee will administer the scholarship selection. The NWA office will announce the call for applications in January each year, applications will close 15 April 2004 and the scholarship designee will be notified by mid-May.

**Eligibility:** Any minority undergraduate or graduate student going into their sophomore year or higher grade and majoring in meteorology may apply. If the undergraduate student is classified as a senior they must either have one more fall (Sep. - Dec.) semester to complete after the scholarship is awarded, or they must document that they have been accepted to graduate school. Ethnic minorities are defined on the application form.

**Award Criteria:**

The scholarship will be awarded based on:

- official college transcripts (academic achievement),
- two letters of recommendation (at least one from a current or former meteorology professor), and
- a letter (not longer than one page) from the applicant describing their involvement/interest in meteorology.

**Logistics:** Scholarship money will be transferred following the financial guidelines of the college or university involved. If there aren't 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 school term.

**Applications for the NWA David Sankey Minority Scholarship in Meteorology to be awarded in 2004 must be submitted to the NWA office by 15 April 2004.**

The office address is on the application form. The application form is available to copy from the NWA Web site at: [www.nwas.org/dsscholarshipform.html](http://www.nwas.org/dsscholarshipform.html) or it can be obtained from the NWA office (434) 296-9966.

For more information on NWA scholarships, grants and awards browse to Web page:

[www.nwas.org/award.html](http://www.nwas.org/award.html)

# NWA COUNCIL for 2004

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## BROADCAST COMMITTEE NEWS

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### Forecasting Our Future

We tend to limit our career focus to going to work each day, making a forecast, creating graphics, answering emails and phone calls, etc. But like everything else in life, it is helpful to go beyond the day-to-day and think about the future once in a while. Oh, I am sure we all think about “our” future, but how often do you think about the future of meteorology and broadcasting?

I have pointed this out in past articles, but it’s worth repeating. We touch thousands of lives in each newscast, and collectively we broadcast to millions of households each day. Can you imagine or comprehend the kind of power we have? It may not seem so impressive as we struggle to take care of our families, pay the bills, negotiate contracts, improve our performance and get better ratings, but that’s why we need to step back once in a while and look at what we have and how we influence the people we touch. With that in mind, I think it is extremely important to realize that we can and should play an important role in the future of meteorology and broadcasting.

If I think about the students I have had as interns, and the success they now have in their careers, or if I look to the elementary school students who saw me when I came to their school and decided to pursue a degree in meteorology, then I realize that the little time and effort I gave to these people changed their lives. This is both amazing and humbling to me. However, I am not just offering my time to fulfill an obligation or to do someone a favor. I am thinking about my future and the future of two fields for which I have a lot of passion...meteorology and broadcasting. By showing interns the way to produce a good weathercast and use proper broadcasting techniques, I am giving them a head start to a solid career, and benefiting a future audience somewhere who will watch this forecaster and respect his or her talents. Likewise, the guidance I offer to elementary and high school students will hopefully encourage the students to work hard in school, get a solid college degree and enhance their passion for weather.

As we mentor those younger than us, we help pave the way for great scientists and broadcasters of the future. Just as I want my children to have a better life than I did and to achieve their dreams, I want future weather lovers to advance the science of meteorology to heights I can’t even envision right now. I also want to see future broadcasters enjoy forecasting skills that finally overcome some of the public’s perception that our forecasts come from a Magic 8 Ball or from a dartboard in the weather office. Okay, that may be a bit extreme, but you know what I mean.

Send your thoughts to me at [skyeeye@fuse.net](mailto:skyeeye@fuse.net).

- Rich Apuzzo, Broadcast Meteorology Committee Chair

## COMMITTEE CORNER

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### NWA Aviation Committee News

The Aviation Weather Committee strives to address issues of importance to the aviation community. In addition, a primary goal of the committee is to improve weather education for pilots, meteorologists, and other operational personnel. The committee fills an important niche in the aviation weather community by promoting informal and formal communication between the many organizations involved in providing and improving aviation weather support: government, military, commercial and private. Current committee members include pilots, weather forecasters, members of aviation agencies/associations and authors of aviation weather books and articles.

The Aviation Weather Committee has a long record of accomplishment within the NWA. With an eye toward ensuring our future success, we would like to share a few of our **2004 goals** with you. First, the committee plans to **present an aviation weather workshop on Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAF)** at the NWA Annual Meeting. This workshop may be an excellent opportunity to team with other NWA committees to provide continuing education to NWA members and attendees. Second, the committee plans to **develop an online training module on volcanic ash** similar to the existing on-line training on thunderstorms and winter weather hazards. The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology is sponsoring the *Second Volcanic Ash and Aviation Safety Symposium* in summer 2004. The volcanic ash symposium will provide an excellent opportunity to coordinate the development of the training with some of the leaders in this field. Third, the committee would like to **increase pilot education outreach efforts** at flying events such as the Experimental Aircraft Association’s regional fly-ins and AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. In addition, the committee recognizes that many NWA members are already providing outreach efforts to the aviation community either through their professional or volunteer efforts. We would like to offer ourselves as a resource while developing your pilot outreach and education presentations. Finally, we need to **continue to strengthen the committee membership** by recruiting new members from diverse organizations representing the aviation, academic, operational, and research communities. The members’ varied backgrounds have been the committee’s strength in the past.

Please visit the Aviation Committee Web page (<http://www.nwas.org/committees/avn-wea.html>) to see a complete listing of our goals and other hot topics in aviation meteorology. If you are interested in helping with any of these efforts, please contact committee co-chairs: Larry Burch ([larry.burch@noaa.gov](mailto:larry.burch@noaa.gov)) or Tim Oram ([timothy.oram@noaa.gov](mailto:timothy.oram@noaa.gov)).

## NEW NWS DIRECTOR NAMED

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**Brigadier General (USAF retired) David L. Johnson** was appointed as the new assistant administrator for Weather Services at NOAA's National Weather Service on 9 January 2004. He will be responsible for the day-to-day management of NOAA's domestic weather and hydrology operations. "Weather affects nearly \$3 trillion of the U.S. gross domestic product. Economic sectors and the public are increasingly looking to NOAA for information to improve efficiencies and manage environmental resources," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "General Johnson has the experience, knowledge and talent to not only manage the National Weather Service and support its mission, but also to move it forward into new and expanded capabilities."

Prior to joining NOAA, General Johnson served as the U.S. Air Force director of weather. He retired from the Air Force as a brigadier general, after a 30-year military career. As director of weather, he was responsible for developing doctrine, policy, requirements and operational organizations to support Air Force, Army and joint military operations worldwide. He also served as one of NOAA's military deputies. Notably, he organized, trained and equipped forces for the war in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq, and managed a steady flow of accurate and focused environmental information to battlefield commanders. He was a key advisor in the development of the National Polar-orbiting Environmental Operational Satellite System (NPOESS). "I am extremely fortunate and proud to be heading the National Weather Service as part of NOAA's team," Johnson said. "The investment of our nation and NOAA staff is already enormously significant, and I am eager to begin building on that with the dedicated talent at the National Weather Service and NOAA. All Americans have come to rely on timely, accurate, focused information and I look forward to working closely with NOAA staff as well as existing and new partners to keep pace with evolving and fast accelerating national needs."

*- From NOAA Public Affairs*

## MEMBER NEWS

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**Gary Grice**, a past president (1990) of the NWA, retired in Fort Worth, Texas as National Weather Service Southern Region Deputy Director following a distinguished career that spanned nearly four decades of federal service. He had more than six years of experience as a Climatologist, Weather Officer and Quick Response Meteorologist for the U.S. Navy and Defense Intelligence Agency, before joining the National Weather Service at the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Anchorage, Alaska in 1972. Between 1973 and 1987, he served as Lead

Forecaster for the NWS Forecast Offices in Fairbanks, Alaska; Albuquerque, N.M.; and, San Antonio, Texas. He joined the Southern Region Headquarters (SRH) team in Fort Worth as Risk Reduction Manager in 1987 and left seven years later to become the Deputy Director of the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) in Norman, Okla. He returned to SRH in 1999 to assume his current position as Deputy Regional Director. Early in his career, Gary developed a keen interest in heavy precipitation and associated flash floods. That interest led to participation in original research and numerous studies resulting in new techniques to help forecasters analyze and forecast heavy rain events and subsequent flash floods. In recognition of his outstanding achievements in this area, he received the Department of Commerce Silver Medal and the AMS Francis W. Reichelderfer Award in 1984. That same year, he served a member of a team of scientists visiting the People's Republic of China to exchange ideas on heavy rain forecasting. He returned to China, on a similar mission, seven years later.

In 1989, he received a second Silver Medal for his work in helping to develop an Operational Meteorological Research Guide. Gary was also awarded a Department of Commerce Bronze Medal in 1989, for overseeing the transfer of the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Mo. to the SPC in Norman, Okla. As Deputy Director of the SPC, he continued to make significant contributions to enhancing the skills of NWS forecasters. When the NWS launched its Modernization and Associated Restructuring (MAR) program in 1990, Grice led the Transition Program Office in the Southern Region. In recognition of his many earlier contributions and his efforts in support of the massive restructuring of the NWS, he was named an AMS Fellow in 1994.

During his tenure as Deputy Director of the NWS Southern Region, he quickly realized the critical importance of developing employee leadership skills. In order to expand the ranks of highly motivated, creative employees, he led the development of an innovative Southern Region leadership program called BLAST (Building Leaders for A Solid Tomorrow). The BLAST program has since been recognized nationally as a model for spreading progressive leadership skills throughout the National Weather Service. In recognition of his numerous scientific accomplishments, creative leadership skills and dedication to the National Weather Service mission of protecting life and property – Gary was honored again last year with the NOAA Distinguished Career Award.

"His accomplishments over a career of more than 35 years of federal service are nothing short of outstanding," said Bill Proenza, director, NWS Southern Region. "He has excelled in every position he has held with the National Weather Service – consistently enhancing the quality of service provided to the American public. Gary will be sorely missed."

*- From NWS Southern Region Public Affairs*

## MORE MEMBER NEWS

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NWA corporate member, Enterprise Electronics Corporation (EEC) is now **DRS Weather Systems, Inc.** DRS Technologies completed the purchase of Integrated Defense Technologies, Inc. (IDT) including EEC on November 4, 2003. New address information is:

### **DRS WEATHER SYSTEMS, INC.**

128 South Industrial Boulevard

Enterprise, AL 36330

Tel: 334-347-3478; Fax: 334-393-4556

Internet: <http://www.drs.com/>

POC: Gary Bruce e-mail: [gbruce@drs-ws.com](mailto:gbruce@drs-ws.com)

### **WELCOME new NWA Corporate Member! NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE EMPLOYEES ORGANIZATION**

601 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 900

Washington, DC 20004

Tel: 703-293-9651; Fax: 703-293-9653

Internet: <http://www.nwseo.org/>

The Point of Contact is Peter J. Nuhn, Director of Membership Services. E-mail [peter.nuhn@verizon.net](mailto:peter.nuhn@verizon.net)

## LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

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**Arkansas Chapter** - The first Chapter meeting for fall 2003 was held on 18 September 2003 at the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in North Little Rock. Chapter President George Wilken welcomed everyone to the meeting. The business meeting focused on future chapter meetings and officers. George Wilken stated that more help was needed from all members to develop programs and manage the chapter. Several of the members indicated that they would be willing to present programs or run for chapter officer positions in 2004. George provided the program for the evening. It was a video about "sprites" and other high level lightning phenomena. Sprites most often are red in color and appear to be most often associated with positive CG strikes, although some sprites have been seen with negative CG activity. A good reference by Dr. Walter Lyons is on the Web at: [www.fma-research.com/Papers&presentations/100YR.htm](http://www.fma-research.com/Papers&presentations/100YR.htm)

The second Chapter meeting for fall 2003 was held on 21 October 2003 at the NWS WFO in North Little Rock. Paul Iniguez, Meteorologist Intern at the NWS WFO in North Little Rock, provided the program for the evening. His presentation was developed from a senior research paper that he wrote while in college. The presentation dealt with the Twin Cities (Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN) Urban Heat Island (UHI). The paper required approximately 200 hours of research time. Previous research was done by Winkler, Skaggs, and Baker, and was done for the period 1967-1976. Paul's research looked at temperature data from 19 cooperative observing stations in Minnesota near the Twin Cities. He looked at maximum and minimum temperatures during January and July for the 3-year period, 2000-2002. Paul found that the greatest UHI signal was with minimum temperatures in both January and July. During and after the presentation, the group participated in a discussion concerning UHI. *-Newton Skiles, Corresponding Secretary*

For news of other NWA local chapters, please see Web site: [www.nwas.org/chapters.html](http://www.nwas.org/chapters.html). Chapters that have Web sites are listed there as well as a link to the Local Chapter Committee Web page. On that committee page you will find all chapters listed along with procedures to begin organizing a local NWA chapter.

## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

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• **The Central Alabama Aviation Workshop will be held on Friday, 20 February 2004.** The NWS Forecast Office in Birmingham, Maxwell Air Force Base Weather Operations, the Central Alabama NWA Chapter, and the Alabama Air National Guard are hosting an aviation workshop in Montgomery, AL on 20 February 2004 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event will be held in Building 1501, 187 Fighter Wing Aerospace Dinning Hall, on the grounds of the Alabama Air National Guard facility adjacent to Montgomery Regional Airport. The workshop will cover weather and associated concerns of general, commercial, and military aviation interest. For information, contact [Jason.B.Wright@noaa.gov](mailto:Jason.B.Wright@noaa.gov) or [Earl.Harding@maxwell.af.mil](mailto:Earl.Harding@maxwell.af.mil).

• **The First Texas Storm Conference will take place at the Arts Center in Garland, Texas on Saturday, 21 February 2004.** The conference is free and open to the public. The day-long event combines the NWS annual Dallas County Skywarn Session with the TESSA 8th National Meeting. Speakers from TESSA, NWS, National Severe Storms Laboratory and the NWS/Storm Prediction Center will be present. Topics will include severe weather safety, storm spotter training, and in-depth discussions on tornado meteorology. Conference details can be accessed on-line at [www.tessa.org](http://www.tessa.org).

• **Fourth Annual National Severe Weather Workshop will be held 4 – 6 March 2004 in Norman, Oklahoma.** Workshop sponsors include: NWS Forecast Office at Norman, OK; NWS Storm Prediction Center; NWS Central Region HQ; NOAA/NSSL; Oklahoma Emergency Managers Association; and the Central Oklahoma Chapters of the American Meteorological Society and National Weather Association. The three-day workshop, "*Partners Keeping the Public Warned and Informed*," is designed to enhance partnerships between severe weather forecasters and researchers, emergency managers, broadcast meteorologists, businesses, storm spotters and other weather enthusiasts. Free storm spotter and radar training will be offered. The workshop will be held at the National Center for Employee Development Marriott Conference Center in Norman, OK. More information is available at Web site: [www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2004](http://www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2004) or call (405) 579-0771.

• **The 29th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference will be held 12–14 March 2004 in Saratoga Springs, New York.** The conference is sponsored by the Lyndon State College AMS & NWA Chapter. More information is on the chapter Web site at [apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/](http://apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/) or contact Chapter President Corey Potvin at [Corey.Potvin@lyndonstate.edu](mailto:Corey.Potvin@lyndonstate.edu) or (802) 626-6636.

• **The 2004 Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference will be held from Thursday, 25 March – Saturday, 27 March at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa.** The conference is sponsored annually by the Central Iowa NWA Chapter. Please watch Web site: [www.iowa-nwa.com](http://www.iowa-nwa.com) for updated information.

• **Fourth Annual Symposium of the Atmospheric Sciences will be held on 2 April 2004 in the Natali Performance Center at California University of Pennsylvania.** The Three Rivers Chapter of the NWA and the California University of PA Department of Earth Sciences will host this one-day event which will include presentations on a broad range of topics in both Operational and Broadcast Meteorology. Individuals interested in presenting a paper or poster, please submit an **abstract** to Dr. Gill via e-mail at Gill@cup.edu by **18 February 2004**. For more details contact Dr. Swarn Gill or Dr. Chad Kauffman at: gill@cup.edu; Kauffman@cup.edu, or visit Web site: [sai.cup.edu/weather](http://sai.cup.edu/weather).

• **The Second Annual Great Lakes Meteorology Conference will be held on 3 April 2004 at the Indian Oak Inn Conference Center in Chesterton, IN.** The conference is sponsored by the Northwest Indiana NWA Chapter at Valparaiso University. **The deadline for presentation and poster abstracts is 12 March 2004.** Registration is due by 19 March — see: [www.valpo.edu/geomet/met/nwa/nwa.html](http://www.valpo.edu/geomet/met/nwa/nwa.html). Abstracts and registrations should be sent to The Department of Geography and Meteorology, Valparaiso University, 1300 Chapel Dr., Mueller Hall 16, Valparaiso, IN 46383-6493. For information, contact Chapter president nick.metz@valpo.edu.

• **The 26th Annual National Hurricane Conference will be held 5–9 April 2004 at the Wyndham Palace Resort & Spa, Lake Buena Vista, Florida.** For more information, call (850) 906-9224 or visit Web site: [www.HurricaneMeeting.com](http://www.HurricaneMeeting.com).

• **Eighth Annual Northern Plains Convective Workshop will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 14-16 April 2004.** One session of this workshop will focus on the Tornado Outbreak of 24 June 2003 including a presentation from researcher Tim Samaras, whose team recorded the record-breaking pressure drop with the Manchester Tornado. For more information see Web site: [sio.midco.net/8thworkshop/](http://sio.midco.net/8thworkshop/)

• **The Air Weather Association (AWA) Reunion will be held 28 April – 2 May 2004 in Cocoa Beach, Florida at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront Resort.** For more information, please see Web site: [www.airweassn.org](http://www.airweassn.org) or call (434) 296-2832. The AWA is open to all individuals who serve or have served in a USAAF or USAF weather unit.

• **Third GOES Users' Conference will be held in Boulder, Colorado, 10-13 May 2004.** GOES-R to be launched in 2012, will house an advanced imager, hyper-spectral suite (including atmospheric sounding and coastal waters capabilities), lightning mapper, solar imager and space environment monitor. The focus of the conference will be to help users prepare to acquire, digest and use GOES-R data and to assist with the advanced planning of requirements, products, communications, and distribution of data. The conference will consist of speaker presentations, poster sessions, and facilitated breakout sessions. Abstracts are invited for poster papers focusing on GOES-R potential applications, GOES-R as part of the Global Observing System, and the smooth transition to GOES-R. **The deadline for abstracts is 27 February 2004.** Information can be found on Web site: [www.osd.noaa.gov/announcement/index.htm](http://www.osd.noaa.gov/announcement/index.htm) The conference is sponsored by NOAA with the cooperation of the NWA and other organizations.

• **First World Conference on Broadcast Meteorology will be held 3 – 5 June 2004 in Barcelona, Spain.** The NWA is a co-sponsor of this conference being run by the International Association of Broadcast Meteorologists (IABM). This will be a scientific conference, with a diverse group of attendees and presenters engaged in discussing the current state of weather broadcasting in the world, examining ways to reduce the impact of natural disasters and debating pertinent issues. Conference details can be found at [www.IABM.org](http://www.IABM.org).

**The NWA's 29th Annual Meeting will be held  
16 – 21 October 2004 at the  
DoubleTree Hotel – Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon  
For more information on all meetings please see  
Web site: [www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org) or call (434) 296-9966**

## COMMENTS WELCOME ON NOAA DRAFT PARTNERSHIP POLICY to REPLACE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP POLICY of 1991

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NOAA is requesting public comment by **14 May** on a newly drafted policy governing NOAA's National Weather Service interactions and cooperation with the greater consortium of public, private and academic weather and climate institutions. "This draft policy affirms NOAA's commitment to continue working with our partners in the private sector, the media, and the academic community to provide weather and climate services to serve America," said retired Navy VADM Conrad Lautenbacher, PhD, under secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "NOAA will continue to provide services that are vital to public safety and economic well being, but we can all benefit by establishing better relationships and building better institutions to coordinate our roles, reduce misunderstandings and maximize the effectiveness of our shared weather and climate enterprise."

The new policy was prompted by the 2003 publication of The National Research Council's (NRC) "*Fair Weather: Effective Partnerships in Weather and Climate Services*." The NRC study commended the three-sector system for leading to an excellent array of products and services to benefit the nation's economy. The study recommended the National Weather Service replace its 1991 public-private partnership policy with a policy that defines processes for making decisions on products, technologies and services, rather than rigidly defining the roles of the National Weather Service and the private sector.

The NRC *Fair Weather* study is available at Web site: <http://books.nap.edu/catalog/10610.html>

The draft NOAA Partnership policy is available in electronic form at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/fairweather> or in writing through: Fair Weather Strategic Planning and Policy Office, NOAA National Weather Service, 1325 East-West Highway, Room 11404, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

The 1991 Policy Statement on the National Weather Service/Private Sector Roles is available at Web site: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/im/fedreg.htm>

- From NOAA Public Affairs

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Greetings, NWA Colleagues!

Two recent (late-2003) publications give especially good aid for perspective on alleged "global warming."

"Politicizing Science: The Alchemy of Policymaking," edited by Michael Gough and published by Hoover Inst. Press at Stanford, contains chapters of special interest to NWA members. (Please see [www.hoover.stanford.edu/publications/books/polscience.html](http://www.hoover.stanford.edu/publications/books/polscience.html))

Likewise, the most insightful Michelin lecture at CalTech by Michael Crichton, available at [www.sepp.org](http://www.sepp.org) in "The Week That Was" dated Dec. 20, 2003, describes the ways that often contemporary science engages in self-corrupting processes. The ultimate example cited involves the warming claims.

NWA colleagues will recognize in these readings that "pc" really means "political corruption" having nothing "correct" about it!

- Fred W. Decker, Ph.D.  
Emeritus Faculty, Oregon State University

## NEW REPORT ON ROAD WEATHER

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The National Academies' Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate and the Transportation Research Board (TRB) have released a report by the Committee on Weather Research for Surface Transportation that calls for the federal government to establish a national road weather research program led by the Federal Highway Administration to bring together the weather and surface-transportation research communities. Recent advances in meteorology and roadway technology could significantly improve the response to weather-related hazards that impede road travel, such as snow, rain, and flash floods, says the committee that wrote the report. The report is at: <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309091365/html/>

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**Submit newsletter items directly to:** Editor NWA Newsletter, Frank Brody at [NewsletterNWA@earthlink.net](mailto:NewsletterNWA@earthlink.net) or to the NWA office. Material received by the 5th will be considered for that month's issue. If submissions are not received, the Newsletter may be delayed.

Members receive the monthly NWA Newsletter and quarterly *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. Newsletter subscriptions are available at \$18.00 per year plus extra shipping costs outside USA. Single copies are \$1.50.

Contact the NWA Executive Director's office (listed above) with **address changes** by phone, regular mail or e-mail.

### IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

- 20 February 2004** – Central Alabama Aviation Workshop, Montgomery, Alabama
- 21 February 2004** – First Texas Storm Conference, NWS and TESSA, Garland, Texas
- 4-6 March 2004** – National Severe Weather Workshop, Norman, Oklahoma
- 12-14 March 2004** – Northeastern Storm Conference, Saratoga Springs, New York
- 25-27 March 2004** – Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference, Des Moines, Iowa
- 15 April 2004** – Scholarship applications due to NWA office (see page 2)
- 14 May 2004** – Comments due to NOAA on Draft Policy on Partnerships (see page 7)
- 16-21 October 2004** – NWA 29th Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon

Please see **MEETINGS** on pages 6-7 for additional dates.

Also check [www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html](http://www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html)  
and [www.nwas.org/award.html](http://www.nwas.org/award.html)

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