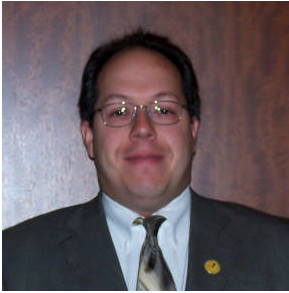


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Gerard



I am excited to kickoff my year as President of the National Weather Association with the opportunity to address everyone through this first president's message of 2007. This is always a time of hope and optimism for the upcoming year, and I would like to share with you my view

of how I see the NWA moving forward as a strong organization this year.

There is no question that 2007 will be a year of transition and change for our organization.

We welcome a new Executive Director to the NWA, Steve Harned, who becomes only the fifth Executive Director in the 32-year history of the NWA. Steve brings impeccable credentials to this position, including having served as president of the NWA in 1992, and nearly two decades of managerial experience in the National Weather Service as meteorologist-in-charge of the offices in Houston and Raleigh. In addition to all of this experience, I feel the greatest strength that Steve brings to our association is his passion for the NWA and operational meteorology.

I have every confidence that Steve is just the leader that the NWA needs as we move forward into a time in which I see unprecedented opportunities for growth and development for our organization. Under the outstanding leadership of 2006 President Dave Knapp and the exceptional NWA staff and volunteers, **a number of key accomplishments were made over the last year.** These include bringing our flagship publication, the *National Weather Digest*, back up to date, transitioning to a new Web server, which will allow improved IT services to our membership, and a fully successful Annual Meeting in Cleveland. My goal in 2007 will be to build on all of these accomplishments, including a planned update to the look of *National Weather Digest*, a new and improved Web site, and an Annual Meeting in Reno that should be our best and most successful ever.

As we look to this future, it is important that we remember those who brought us to this point. Long time Executive Director Kevin Lavin moves into an emeritus status this year, and while Kevin will continue to help us out, particularly during this transition year in which he will assist and train Steve Harned in his duties, this will be the first time in 15 years that Kevin will not be at the helm of the NWA. There is no doubt that we would not be where we are today without Kevin's tireless efforts, and I am sure that all of the membership joins me in offering our deepest thanks to Kevin for all of his contributions to the organization. We wish Kevin and his wife Carol all the best as they move into what will be (hopefully) a less stressful role in which they will still continue to help promote and build the NWA.

Of course, we also wish to thank Kevin's predecessors Sol Hirsch, Jerry Larue, and Randy Racer, who built the NWA from a small group of operationally focused meteorologists and technicians to an organization of nearly 3000 members of broadcasters, operational forecasters, academics, researchers and weather enthusiasts. In addition, I would certainly be remiss if I did not recognize the work of the association's first Assistant Executive Director Cynthia Nelson, who keeps the membership and broadcaster programs of the NWA flowing so smoothly.

I hope to use this space to share with you each month the important role that we play in the weather enterprise and the accomplishments of the members who are the heart of our organization's work. Each of you, through your volunteer service to the NWA, are what keeps us going year in and year out. **One way to get this year off to a good start is to start planning now for the 32nd Annual Meeting.** See the Call for Papers on page 3 and consider offering your support to Annual Meeting Program Committee.

If you would like to share any thoughts, suggestions, or concerns with me, please e-mail me at president@nwas.org.

- Alan Gerard, President

ANNOUNCING: The Arthur C. Pike Scholarship in Meteorology

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 seventh year it is being offered.

Offering: One scholarship per year of \$1000.

Administration: The NWA Education Committee will administer the scholarship selection. Applications will close **15 April 2007** 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 2007. 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 2007 must be submitted to the NWA office by 15 April 2007. The office address is on the application form. The application form is available to copy from Web site: www.nwas.org/scholarship_app.html or it can be obtained from the NWA office by calling (919) 845-1546.

ANNOUNCING: The David Sankey Minority Scholarship in Meteorology

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 that began in 2003. This is the fifth year this scholarship is being offered. Funds are generated from golf outings and a raffle at the NWA 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. Applications will close **15 April 2007** 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 2007 must be submitted to the NWA office by 15 April 2007. 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 or it can be obtained from the NWA office by calling (919) 845-1546.

NWA - SOL HIRSCH EDUCATION FUND GRANTS for K-12 teachers

The NWA Education Committee needs help from all members, to inform teachers in grades K-12 that \$500 grants are available annually from the NWA. These grants are designed to help teachers improve their meteorology education programs. The teachers selected will be able to use the funds to take an accredited course in atmospheric sciences, attend a relevant workshop or conference, or purchase scientific materials or equipment for the classroom. Seven grants or more are possible this year, thanks to the many members who have contributed to this fund. The grants honor Sol Hirsch, who retired in 1992 after being the NWA Executive Director for 11 years.

Completed applications are due by 1 August 2007 to:

NWA Education Committee
P.O. Box 15011
Baltimore, MD 21282-5011

Application guidelines are available at Web site: www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html, or can be obtained via mail or fax by contacting the NWA office at exdir@nwas.org or Tel/Fax: (919) 845-1546.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 32nd NWA ANNUAL MEETING

Call for Abstracts

The National Weather Association's 32nd Annual Meeting will be held at **CIRCUS CIRCUS RENO**, in the heart of downtown Reno, Nevada, from 13-18 OCTOBER 2007.

The Annual Meeting Program Committee Chair is: **Randy Graham**, the Science and Operations Officer at the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, 2242 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116; (801) 524-5141; annualmeeting@nwas.org.

The Broadcaster Workshop Program Chair is **Bryan Karrick**, NWA Councilor and KCCI-TV meteorologist, 888 Ninth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309; bkarrick@hearst.com. Contact them with your suggestions and to volunteer to help with the program.

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL INCLUDE:

13 October, Saturday: On-site registration will begin, training may be offered by corporate members, exhibits will set up, and the sixth annual golf outing in support of scholarships will occur, weather permitting.

14 October, Sunday: WEATHER BROADCASTER WORKSHOPS will include special presentations, exhibits and hands-on workshops appropriate to continuing education for weathercasters, but **open to all interested**. The annual TAPE SWAP will be on Sunday evening.

15 - 18 October, Monday - Thursday: ANNUAL MEETING GENERAL SESSIONS will include a mix of formal presentations, poster sessions, training workshops, exhibits and panel discussions on a wide variety of topics relating to OPERATIONAL meteorology, hydrology, weather broadcasting, new research applications, user concerns and related subjects.

Student presentations will be reviewed by the NWA Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee members and monetary awards will be presented to the best in undergraduate and graduate student categories.

The NWA Annual Awards Luncheon will be at Circus Circus Reno on Wednesday, 17 October 2007.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: The deadline for submission of abstracts is **1 June 2007**. Abstracts should be sent via the online form on the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org/2007abstracts.html. Simply fill out the form in its entirety (you may cut-and-paste your abstract from your word processing program into the form), and click on the Submit Query button at the bottom of the form. Abstracts will be published in the Meeting Agenda

as submitted, so please make sure that they have been carefully reviewed and edited before they are sent in.

If you are unable to submit your abstract via the online form, please contact the NWA office at Tel/Fax: (919) 845-1546 or e-mail: exdir@nwas.org.

Presenters will be notified regarding the disposition of their abstracts by 15 August 2007. Prior to the meeting, an FTP site will be established for authors to upload their presentations so that they can be run on NWA computers. This will facilitate a smooth transition from one speaker to the next during the Annual Meeting presentation sessions.

ANNUAL MEETING HOTEL INFORMATION:

Circus Circus Reno is at 500 North Sierra Street, Reno, Nevada 89503. It is a full-service resort hotel, convention center and casino. Complimentary airport shuttles to/from the Reno/Tahoe International Airport are available for all Circus Circus-Reno guests. More hotel information can be viewed at Web site: www.circusreno.com.

NWA discount room rates are for North Tower Standard rooms:

Friday and Saturday -- \$89.00 per day plus tax for a single or double room,

Sunday through Thursday -- \$55.00 per day plus tax for a single or double room.

If more than two persons occupy a room, an additional \$10.00 per person, per night, plus tax will be added to the room rate. Guestrooms must be occupied and registered to at least one adult who is 21 years of age or older.

To reserve a room for the Annual Meeting, please call the Circus Circus-Reno Room Reservation Department at **1-800-648-5010** and request the **NWA 2007** group rate. Reservation clerks will inform you of the deposit due date at time of call. A credit card used for deposit purposes will be charged for one night immediately after the transaction has been made. Advance deposits will be refunded if reservations are canceled 24 hours prior to expected arrival.

Please reserve your hotel room NO LATER THAN 12 September 2007 to be able to obtain the NWA discount rates.

ADDITIONAL PLANS: Thanks to Betsy Kling, the Sixth Annual Golf Outing is being scheduled for Saturday, 13 October to benefit the NWA Scholarship Fund.

The preliminary agenda is expected to be published in early August in the Newsletter and on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org). Registration information and forms will be available on the Web site and Newsletter by June.

For more information on exhibits, special accommodations, registration and the overall meeting program, please see the Web site (www.nwas.org) updates or contact the NWA office at Tel/Fax: (919) 845-1546 or e-mail: exdir@nwas.org. *See you in Reno!*

NWA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Commissioner of Committees:

(appointed, non-voting member of the NWA Council)

Elizabeth Quoetone

NOAA/NWS/WDTB, 120 David L. Boren Blvd Ste 2640, Norman, OK 73072-7268; (405) 325-2986; Liz.Quoetone@noaa.gov

Annual Meeting Program Committee:

Randy Graham

NOAA/NWS Forecast Office SOO, 2242 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84116-2929; (801) 524-5141; annualmeeting@nwas.org

Aviation Meteorology Committee:

Timothy D. Oram - Interim

NOAA/NWS/SMG, Johnson Space Center, NASA/JSC WS8, 2101 NASA Parkway, Houston, TX 77058; (281) 483-3257; Timothy.Oram@noaa.gov

Awards Committee:

Daniel W. McCarthy

NOAA Storm Prediction Center, National Weather Center, 120 David L. Boren Blvd Ste 2300, Norman, OK 73072-7317; (405) 325-2080; Daniel.Mccarthy@noaa.gov

Broadcast Meteorology Committee:

Mike Goldberg

WTVR-TV CBS 6 Chief Meteorologist, 3301 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230; (804) 254-3655; mgoldberg@wtvr.com

- Broadcaster Seal of Approval Committee Chair:

Larry Rice

KOB-TV News Chief Meteorologist, 4 Broadcast Plaza, Albuquerque, NM 87104; (505) 764-2474; lrice@kobtv.com

- Evaluation Board members for Seal of Approval:

LeAnn Allison, Mark Bogner, Chris Dunn, Carol Erickson, Felipe Ferro, José Garcia, Rob Haswell, Laura Huckabee, Nate Johnson, Steve Kersh, Betsy Kling, Kirk Lombardy, Miles Muzio, Brian Olson, Lori Pinson, Erik Pytlak, Kathy Sabine, Don Schwenneker, Tammie Souza, Jim Spencer, Roland Steadham, John Toohey-Morales, Jay Trobec, Nick Walker and John Wetherbee

- Seal Recertification Chair:

Jim Moore

WPTZ-TV, 5 Television Drive, Plattsburgh, NY 12901-7252; (518) 561-5555x557; jtmoore@hearst.com

- Testing Chair:

Dr. David L. Arnold

Department of Geography, Frostburg State University, Gunter Hall, 101 Braddock Road, Frostburg, MD 21532-2303; (301) 687-4053; dlarold@frostburg.edu

- Public Relations Chair:

Betsy Kling

WKYC-TV, 1333 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114-1159; (216) 344-3407; betsykling@wkyc.com

- Broadcaster Workshop Program Chair:

Bryan C. Karrick

KCCI-TV, 888 Ninth Street, Des Moines, IA 50309-1288; (515) 247-8888; bkarrick@hearst.com

Education Committee:

Sol Hirsch

P.O. Box 15011, Baltimore, MD 21282-5011; (410) 486-5258; FAX: (410) 486-9446; shirsch9@cs.com

Information Technology Committee:

Timothy D. Oram

NOAA/NWS/SMG, Johnson Space Center, NASA/JSC WS8, 2101 NASA Parkway, Houston, TX 77058; (281) 483-3257; Timothy.Oram@noaa.gov

- Home Page Curator: **Steve Listemaa**, webmaster@nwas.org

Local Chapter Committee:

Ruth Aiken

NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, 1020 Home Farm Road, Wendell, NC 27591-7645; (919) 515-8200; Ruth.Aiken@noaa.gov

Membership and Marketing Committee:

Betsy Kling

WKYC-TV, 1333 Lakeside Ave, Cleveland, OH 44114-1159; (216) 344-3407; betsykling@wkyc.com

Nominating Committee:

Dr. John R. Scala

Consultant and WGAL-TV Meteorologist; 2150 Meadow Ridge Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601-5761; scalawx@comcast.net

Professional Development Committee:

John Ferree

NOAA/NWS/OCWWS, 120 David L. Boren Blvd Ste 2312, Norman, OK 73072-7268; (405) 325-2209; John.T.Ferree@noaa.gov

Publications Committee:

Rodger A. Brown

NOAA/NSSL, 120 David L. Boren Blvd, Norman, OK 73072-7319; (405) 325-6316; Rodger.Brown@noaa.gov

Remote Sensing Committee:

Kenneth F. Carey

Mitretek Systems, Inc., Center for Science and Technology, 3150 Fairview Park Drive South, MS F530, Falls Church, VA 22042-4519; (703) 610-1933; Kenneth.Carey@mitretek.org

Specialized Operational Services Committee Co-Chairs:

Hugh G. McRandal, Jr.

NOAA/NWS/NCEP Ocean Prediction Center, NOAA Science Center/NP41, 5200 Auth Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746-4325; Hugh.McRandal@noaa.gov

Richard Dixon

Department of Geography, Texas State University, 601 University Dr., San Marcos, TX 78666-4616; (512) 245-7436; rd11@txstate.edu

Strategic Planning Committee:

Dave Knapp

U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Attn: AMSRD-ARL-CI-EM, White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002-5501; (505) 678-4574; dknapp@arl.army.mil

Weather Analysis & Forecasting Committee Chair:

John Gagan

NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, 5808 West Highway EE, Springfield, MO 65802-8430; (417) 863-8028; John.Gagan@noaa.gov

To learn about each of these committees, the topics and issues they monitor, and their current projects, please go to the NWA Committee pages on the NWA Web site www.nwas.org.

NWA COUNCIL FOR 2007

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

Alan E. Gerard
NOAA/NWS Forecast Office MIC
234 Weather Service Drive
Jackson, MS 39232-9314
(601) 936-2189
President@nwas.org

PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Dr. John R. Scala
Consultant and WGAL-TV Meteorologist
2150 Meadow Ridge Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601-5761
scalawx@comcast.net

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Lans P. Rothfusz
NOAA/NWS Forecast Office MIC
4 Falcon Drive
Peachtree City, GA 30269-1929
(770) 486-1133x222
Lans.Rothfusz@noaa.gov

SECRETARY (2006-2007):

Elizabeth Mulvihill Page
UCAR-COMET
(336) 545-2914
Elizabeth.Page@noaa.gov

TREASURER (2007-2008):

Steven M. Zubrick
NOAA/NWS Forecast Office SOO
44087 Weather Service Road
Sterling, VA 20166-2001
(703) 260-0107x224
Steven.Zubrick@noaa.gov

COUNCILORS for 2005 through 2007:

Dr. Gregory P. Byrd
UCAR-COMET
P.O. Box 3000
Boulder, CO 80307-3000
(303) 497-8357
byrd@comet.ucar.edu

Hector R. Guerrero
NOAA/NWS Forecast Office WCM
7654 Knickerbocker Road
San Angelo, TX 76904-7892
(325) 944-9445
Hector.Guerrero@noaa.gov

Kristine Kahanek
KTVT-CBS 11 Chief Meteorologist
P.O. Box 2495
Fort Worth, TX 76113-2495
(817) 586-7450
kristinek@ktvt.com

Bryan C. Karrick
KCCI-TV
888 Ninth Street
Des Moines, IA 50309-1288
(515) 247-8888
bkarrick@hearst.com

COUNCILORS for 2006 through 2008:

Ruth Aiken
NOAA/NWS Forecast Office Meteorologist
1020 Home Farm Road
Wendell, NC 27591-7645
(919) 515-8200
Ruth.Aiken@noaa.gov

Ralph R. Ferraro
ESSIC/CICS University of Maryland
NOAA/NESDIS
2207 Comp & Space Science Bldg #224
College Park, MD 20742-2465
(301) 405-0893
Ralph.R.Ferraro@noaa.gov

Dr. Patrick S. Market
University of Missouri at Columbia
Dept of Soil, Environmental & Atmospheric Sciences
331 ABNR Building
Columbia, MO 65211-7250
(573) 882-1496
MarketP@missouri.edu

Sandra D. Thomson
WANE-TV Chief Meteorologist
2915 West State Boulevard
Fort Wayne, IN 46808-1803
(260) 424-1515x1229
sandy.thomson@wane.com

COUNCILORS for 2007 through 2009:

Janice Bunting
NWA Newsletter Editor
(817) 874-6405
nwanews@sbcglobal.net

Richard J. Okulski
NOAA/NWS Forecast Office WCM
2203 Cordes Road
Germantown, TN 38139-5218
(901) 544-0411
richard.okulski@noaa.gov

Dr. Scott M. Rochette
Department of Earth Sciences
321 Lennon Hall
SUNY Brockport
Brockport, NY 14420-2936
(585) 395-2603
rochette@esc.brockport.edu

Bruce G. Thomas
Midland Radio Inc.
Chief Meteorologist
5900 Parretta Drive
Kansas City, MO 64120-2134
(816)-241-8500 x215
bthomas@midlandradio.com

Immediate Past President:

David I. Knapp
U. S. Army Research Laboratory
ATTN: AMSRD-ARL-CI-EM
White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002-5501
(505) 678-4574
dknapp@arl.army.mil

Commissioner of Committees (non-voting member):

Elizabeth Quotone
NOAA/NWS/WDTB
120 David L. Boren Blvd Ste 2640
Norman, OK 73072-7268
(405) 325-2986
Liz.Quotone@noaa.gov

Executive Director (non-voting member):

Stephen W. Harned
National Weather Association
228 West Millbrook Road
Raleigh, NC 27609-4304
Tel/Fax: (919) 845-1546
exdir@nwas.org

Assistant Executive Director (non-voting member):

Cynthia A. Nelson
P.O. Box 342B
3794 Cluny Point
Lakeville, NY 14480-0911
Tel: (585) 582-5745; Fax: (585) 374-1330
natweaasoc1@aol.com

IN MEMORIAM

Gregory A. Tipton (1968-2007), lead forecaster at the NWS WFO (Weather Forecast Office) Wilmington, Ohio, and a NWA member since 1994, died of a heart attack on Saturday January 6, 2007 at his home in Wilmington, Ohio. Greg was born February 27, 1968 in Honolulu, Hawaii to Charles and the late Donna Tipton. Greg grew up in Tipp City, Ohio, and graduated from Bethel High School in 1986. Greg is survived by his college sweetheart and wife Jean, their two sons Galen and Nathan, his father Charles of Centre Hall, Pennsylvania, and his brother Timothy of Tipp City. Memorial contributions may be made to any Wright Patterson Credit Union for the Tipton Scholarship Fund, or mailed to the Credit Union at Wright-Patt Credit Union, Inc., P.O. Box 286, Fairborn, OH 45324-6219. Expressions of sympathy may be submitted at www.trostelchapman.com.

Greg and his family loved to travel, camp, and more recently participating in run/walk races together. Family, outdoors, and running were all so important in Greg's life. He tried to balance his time between the job he loved and his family and friends. Greg, a member at Wilmington Friends Meeting and formerly West Charleston Church of the Brethren, was also a part of various church youth activities, including camps and Habitat For Humanity. He valued the time he could spend at church, but also was a man of quiet prayer and faith. Greg touched so many lives in his short time here and his smile, gentleness and infectious laughter will be missed by all.

Ken Haydu, Meteorologist in Charge at WFO Wilmington, Ohio, provided the following.

Greg was only 38 years old. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1990. He actually joined the NWS before graduation and worked for the Meteorological Development Lab as a student trainee between 1989 and 1991. In March of 1991, Greg became a meteorologist intern at the Dayton Weather Service Office. During this time, he rapidly became involved in community outreach programs and led the office in giving presentations. This, combined with his high energy level and strong interest in severe weather, landed him a promotion as a journey forecaster at WFO Minneapolis in June of 1994. While at Minneapolis, he became the office radar focal point. During his tenure, he received several awards and a bronze medal for his accomplishments in working severe weather events.

In May of 1998, he became a lead forecaster at WFO Wilmington Ohio. Greg was an outstanding employee with a positive attitude and someone who cared greatly about his customers and the people he worked with. He constantly sought ways to get more involved with customers to understand their needs. As a lead forecaster, he enjoyed mentoring, coaching, and recognizing co-workers for a job well done. Greg will be sorely missed and the void that he leaves will remain for a long time.

Among the many things that Greg will be remembered for the most are his commitment towards serving customers and his passion for meteorology.

Global Positioning System Meteorology: Ready to Move into Operations

Decision-makers are increasingly reliant on public and private forecasts for daily planning, hurricane evacuations, fuel distribution, agriculture pricing policy, positioning fire weather assets and positioning road chemicals for winter storms. They can benefit from better forecasts resulting from the availability of measurements of atmospheric water vapor from ground-based Global Positioning System Meteorology (GPS-Met) Integrated Precipitable Water (IPW) retrievals. These GPS-Met-IPW data are being used in weather prediction models to help produce more accurate analyses and forecasts of the atmospheric moisture pattern over the U.S. as well as in a wide range of other forecast applications. The GPS-Met-IPW network provides unattended, continuous, independent, frequent, and accurate observations of IPW at very low cost. More importantly, forecaster improved situational awareness will lead to better short-term regional warnings and forecast services, as well as likely resulting in more lives saved and reduced property damage. Current budget planning by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration calls for the National Weather Service to begin funding the transition of this valuable network from experimental to operational status in Fiscal Year 2009. Additional information can be found at <http://www.nwas.org/committees/rs/train.html>.

- NWA Remote Sensing Committee

Volcano Eruptions, Fog Forecasting, Lightning and Storm Surges

New articles and forecasting tools and techniques on the topics listed above have been added to the Electronic Journal of Operational Meteorology Web page.

To view these topics, please go to the
2006 and 2007 Articles links at
nwas.org/ej/index.html

Training Opportunities On-line

Do you want to expand your meteorological training, get ideas for news stories, or explore emergency management topics related to atmospheric science?

Then visit the **MetEd** (Meteorology Education and Training) Web site operated by the COMET Program.

www.meted.ucar.edu

Professional Development Opportunities

• **The 2007 Annual National Severe Weather Workshop will be held 1-3 March 2007 in Norman, Oklahoma.** The event is sponsored by the National Weather Service, the Central Oklahoma AMS/NWA Chapter, and the Oklahoma Emergency Managers Association. Severe weather experts from across the nation will present the latest techniques for severe weather preparedness and response. Speakers will include broadcast meteorologists, emergency managers, forecasters and researchers from NWS offices, the NOAA Weather Partners in Norman, including the Storm Prediction Center, NWS Norman Forecast Office, National Severe Storms Laboratory, Radar Operations Center, NWS Warning Decision Training Branch, and the University of Oklahoma. Come experience "The Scenario" where forecasters, media and emergency managers swap places to experience a severe weather episode. The workshop will be held at the National Center for Employee Development Marriott Conference Center in Norman, OK. Sponsor and vendor opportunities are available for businesses to promote their products or services during the event. For more information, call 405-325-2040 or visit the Web site: www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2007/.

• **The Annual Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop will be held 2-3 March 2007 at the NOAA Western Regional Center, Building 9 Auditorium at Sand Point in Seattle, Washington.** This is sponsored by NOAA's National Weather Service, the University of Washington, and the Puget Sound AMS Chapter. It will cover recent developments in weather forecasting and observational technologies, major weather events of the past year, and topics dealing with Western U.S. meteorology. Registration is \$30 for regular attendees and \$15 for students. A Friday evening banquet, for an additional \$30 charge, will be held at the Telarus Conference Center near University Village in Seattle. The banquet will include a special presentation on the damage done to Mt. Rainier National Park by the November floods. Pre-registration is requested for all attendees at: www.atmos.washington.edu/maciver/pnw.2007/. For more information contact: Brad Colman or Kirby Cook, NWS Forecast Office, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 (206.526.6095x224/222, brad.colman@noaa.gov or kirby.cook@noaa.gov), or Clifford Mass, Dept of Atmospheric Sciences, Box 351640, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195 (206.685.0190, cliff@atmos.washington.edu).

• **The 32nd Annual Northeastern Storm Conference will be held 9-11 March 2007 at the Springfield Marriott in Springfield, Massachusetts.** It is sponsored by the Lyndon State College Student Chapter of the AMS and NWA. Dr. Charles Doswell and Dr. Richard Clark will be speakers at the conference. For more information, please go to the following Web site: apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/index.html, or contact Ryan J. Low, the Chapter President, at e-mail Ryan.Low@lyndonstate.edu or fax (802) 626-9770.

• **The 2007 National Storm Conference sponsored by the Texas Severe Storms Association (TESSA) will be held on 10 March 2007 at the Colleyville Center in Colleyville, Texas.** The North Texas Chapter of the AMS and NWA is a co-sponsor. Information about this conference is available on the TESSA Web site at www.tessa.org.

• **The 11th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference will be held 22-24 March 2007 at the West Des**

Moines Sheraton in West Des Moines, Iowa. It is sponsored by the Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA. Invited speakers will include Tim Samaras with cutting-edge lightning photography taken by a 10,000 frame per second camera, Erik Rasmussen, Al Moller, Jon Davies, Dan McCarthy on the latest severe weather research, Anthony Cavallucci on the Tennessee tornadoes of 2006, and Pat Market on severe winter storms. A broadcaster tape swap is also planned. To learn more about this conference, visit the chapter's Web site at: www.iowa-nwa.com.

• **The Sixth Annual Southeast Severe Storms Symposium will be held 23-24 March 2007 at the Wise Center on the campus of Mississippi State University.** The Symposium is sponsored by the East Mississippi Chapter of the NWA and AMS. The deadline to pre-register for the Symposium is 16 March. For more information, please go to www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/index.shtml.

• **The Fifth Annual Great Lakes Meteorology Conference will take place on 31 March 2007 at The Legacy Banquet Hall in Valparaiso, Indiana.** The Conference is sponsored by the Northwest Indiana NWA Chapter. Monitor Web site www.valpo.edu/organization/nwa/index.html for information.

• **The AMS 22nd Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting and 18th Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction, will be held 25-29 June 2007 in Park City, Utah.** Abstracts are due by 26 February 2007 and the pre-registration deadline is 14 May 2007. See the AMS Web site www.ametsoc.org for further information.

• **The 32nd NWA Annual Meeting will be held at Circus-Circus Reno in Reno, Nevada, 13-18 October 2007.** Abstracts will be due by 1 June 2007. See the NWA Web site at www.nwas.org for further information. Members interested in volunteering for the Program Committee, please e-mail: natweaasoc@aol.com.

2006 NWA Golf Outing Results

We started with snow, but ended with sunshine and raised more than \$1,000 for the NWA scholarships.

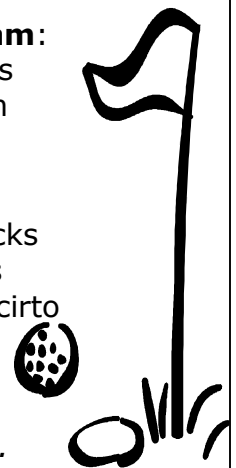
First Place Team:

Jason Nicholas
Jim Buchanan
Jason Kelley

Proximity Winners:

Longest Drive: Tim Hendricks
Longest Putt: Mike Francis
Closest-to-the-Pin: Mark Scirto

We will be teeing it up again in Reno, Nevada at the 32nd Annual Meeting.



CHANGES ON THE HORIZON – ***NATIONAL WEATHER DIGEST***

The **NWA Publications Committee** would like to announce the forthcoming changes to the *National Weather Digest* and changes related to the production of the *Digest*. First, we extend our sincere gratitude to Peter Roohr and Pat Market who have successfully completed their terms as editors of the *Digest*. Gary Ellrod and Mike Vescio are now serving as the editors with Gary being the Chief Editor.

With the new year comes on-time publishing made possible by an increase in NWA staff. The first 2007 issue will be delivered during the summer of 2007. A new look is planned for the *Digest* in the near future, with a color cover and better quality paper. Another improvement which will be seen will be a shorter time interval between manuscript submission and its appearance in print.

The *Digest* “Instructions for Authors” are located on the NWA Web site at the following address. www.nwas.org/digest/instructions.html Authors should submit manuscripts to:

Chief Editor Gary Ellrod
P. O. Box 240
Granby, CT 06035-0240

- Rodger Brown, Publications Committee Chair

New Local Chapter

We welcome the newest NWA Local Chapter, the
Four Rivers Chapter of the NWA!

Please visit their Web site, and other
Local Chapter Web sites at:

nwas.org/chapters.html

NWA Newsletter (ISSN 0271-1044)

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Web site: www.nwas.org

Submit newsletter items directly to: Editor NWA Newsletter, at nwanewsletter@nwas.org or to the NWA office. Material received by the 23rd will be considered for the following month's issue.

Members receive the monthly NWA Newsletter and *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

- 23 February** – Submit articles for the March NWA Newsletter to nwanewsletter@nwas.org by this date
- 1-3 March** – 2007 National Severe Weather Workshop
Norman, OK (page 7)
- 2-3 March** – Annual Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop
Seattle, WA (page 7)
- 9-11 March** – 32nd Annual Northeastern Storm Conference
Springfield, MA (page 7)
- 10 March** – The 2007 National Storm Conference (TESSA)
Colleyville, TX (page 7)
- 19-23 March** – National Flood Safety Awareness Week
www.weather.gov/floodsafety/
- 22-24 March** – 11th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference, West Des Moines, IA (page 7)
- 23-24 March** – Sixth Southeast Severe Storms Symposium
Mississippi State University (page 7)
- 31 March** – Fifth Annual Great Lakes Meteorology Conference
Valparaiso, IN (page 7)

Please see **MEETINGS** on page 7 for additional dates
Also, check the NWA Web site: www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html

NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION
228 W MILLBROOK RD
RALEIGH NC 27609-4304

*Supporting and Promoting Excellence in Operational
Meteorology and Related Activities since 1975*