

# NEWSLETTER

**National Weather  
Association**

NO. 08 – 1 JANUARY 2008

## ***President's Message***

I was entertaining a few questions from a colleague recently who had been nominated to run for Councilor of the National Weather Association. He was interesting in learning more about the potential time commitment and specific responsibilities associated with the position. I explained that Councilors review the actions and recommendations of the elected officers including approval of the annual financial report. Councilors serve as your elected representatives with the obligation of providing routine oversight and direction of the NWA. You may be surprised to learn that the Executive Committee and elected officers of the NWA, with the exception of the Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, and a small support staff, consist of volunteers who pursue full-time careers outside of the NWA. I offered their



collective effort and the present vigor of the NWA as a response to my colleague's inquiries rather than an attempt to cajole him into accommodating the nomination request. I was confident that the current level of excitement permeating the NWA would be more than adequate persuasion. I would like to begin my first *President's Message* by sharing a portion of that conversation with you.

The NWA is sound financially, thanks to years of careful oversight by Kevin Lavin, now Executive Director Emeritus, and a group of dedicated staff and volunteers whose passionate enthusiasm for the ideals of the NWA persists unchanged from year to year. They share a common, dynamic vision of the future that brought forth great advances in 2007. Strategic initiatives spearheaded by Executive Director Steve Harned and 2007 President Alan Gerard included the transition to a new Web page design and upgrading of our two printed publications, the *Newsletter* and the *National Weather Digest*. The bang for your membership buck increased by an order of magnitude in the last 12 months! Yes, these are exciting times at the National Weather Association, and I can think of no other organization that I would want to commit my time and energy to than the NWA. You, the membership, are the beneficiaries of a group of talented meteorologists who share your zeal and excitement for the atmosphere. It is my task to uphold the responsible stewardship held by my

## **Brrr... That's Cold!**

A major ice storm struck the Central U.S. during the weekend of Dec. 9, 2007. NWA member Greg Carbin of Norman, OK, snapped this picture of thick ice accumulation he removed from the top of a fire hydrant.



***NWA heads to Louisville's River front Oct. 12 - 16 for its 33rd Annual Meeting ... Details on the back cover.***

## ***Inside This Edition***

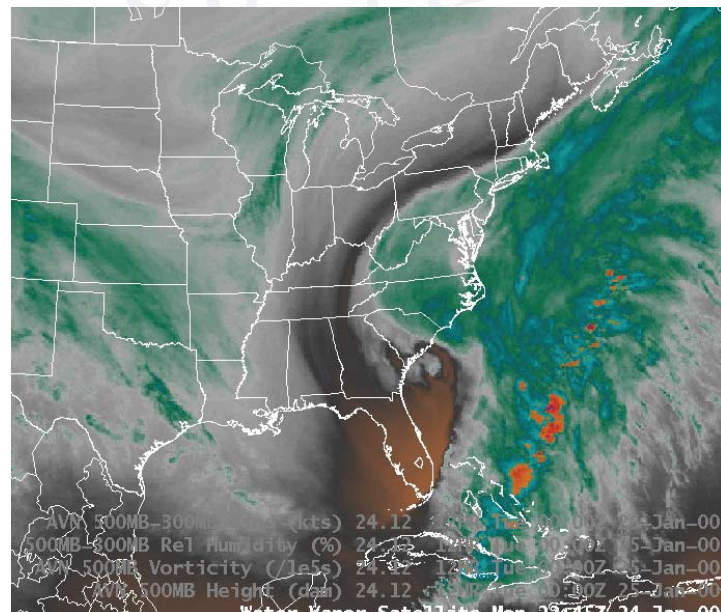
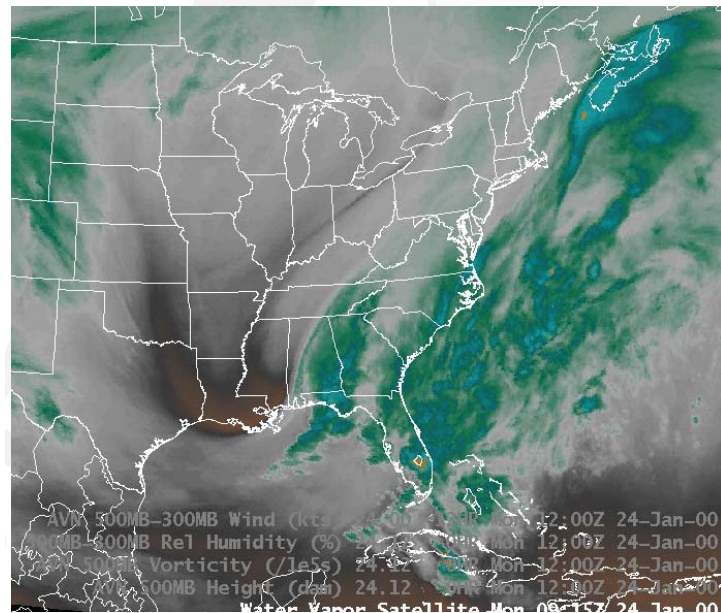
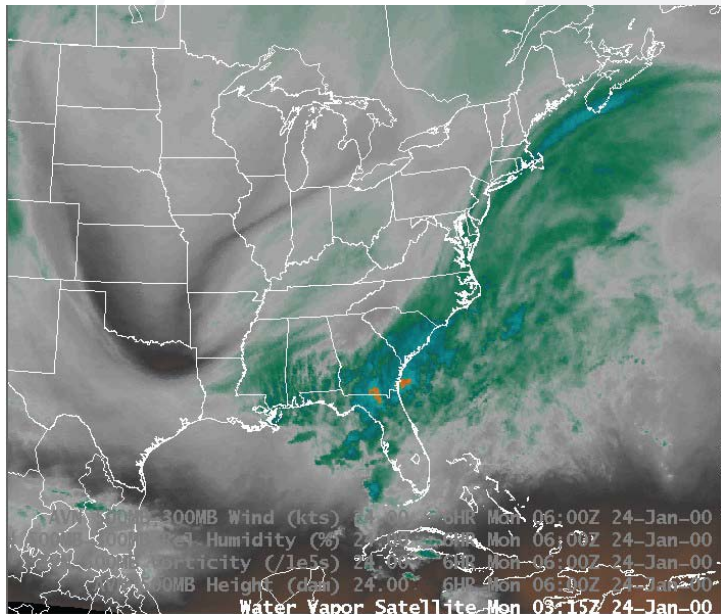
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# FORECASTING WINTER CYCLOGENESIS

*Some remote sensing capabilities related to forecasting winter cyclogenesis*



The predictability of winter-season cyclogenesis has long been one of the most challenging aspects of winter weather. Certainly, the typical key forecast parameters are foundational to the event onset, precipitation types and durations, and the post-event conditions (e.g., freezing, melting, re-freezing, avalanche). We often look to the jet stream pattern, both at analysis time and forecast by various models. In the CONUS, it's possible to have two very active jet streams in various stages of their lifecycle interacting with each other. Typically, amplified flow will bring cold/dry or warm/moist large scale air flows into these systems.

One of the most useful satellite image loops during the winter season is the so-called "water vapor" imagery. This imagery, available from the NOAA Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) and other GOES-like satellites globally, offers the meteorologist a view of the water vapor depth as seen from outer space. Typically, in areas with thunderstorms and opaque cirrus shields, the height of the water vapor being sensed is very high in the atmosphere. In the remaining areas, the imagery shows the variation in water vapor in a layer centered around 400 mb. In the days and hours before a major cyclogenesis event is forecast, the water vapor imagery can be used to provide some key clues related to the existence, evolution or formation of shortwaves, their origins, and their likely paths toward a synoptic or even meso-scale cyclogenesis event.

In the series of GOES water vapor images at the left, the top figure shows a jet streak/short wave trough which will lead to a major cyclogenesis event and snowstorm for the east coastal areas of the mid-Atlantic. The middle figure, showing more amplification of the longwave trough, now also depicts a key satellite signature of cyclogenesis. This key signature is known as a "baroclinic leaf" and can be seen in the blue/green cold cloud tops over Alabama, western Georgia, and western Florida. Finally, in the bottom image, the full-scale cyclogenesis has occurred and becomes evident by the large area of subsidence shown in the peach color over and near Florida. Note the deformation zone located from coastal Maine to

**Top left: GOES-8 Imager 8km Water Vapor valid at 3:15 UTC, 24 January 2000. Shown in the darker colors in northeast Texas is the northern stream shortwave which will produce underforecasted or unforecast cyclogenesis. You may recall this event became nicknamed the "no surprise" snowstorm. The middle of the layer being sensed by the GOES imager in areas where opaque cirrus exists is about 400 mb.**

**Middle left: GOES-8 Imager 8km Water Vapor valid at 9:15 UTC, 24 January 2000. Shown in the dark and peach colored area centered on Louisiana is the much more pronounced signature of the northern and southern stream shortwaves, and the related initial cyclogenesis and baroclinic leaf signature.**

**Bottom left: GOES-8 Imager 8km Water Vapor valid at 23:45 UTC, 24 January 2000. Cyclogenesis and further intensification are shown with the classic synoptic scale features of a low pressure system. Note the cyclone center, close to the coast of South Carolina indicated by convection developing near the center of the circulation. The warm/moist and cold/dry air flows (conveyor belts) are now evident. This image also shows the deformation zone along the northern extent of the cirrus shield from Ohio to Maine.**



central Ohio. Also shown are areas of convection near the center of the cyclone and in the cirrus shield ahead of the cold front.

In closing, you might wonder, is that the state-of-the-art? Good question. The answer can now be found on the National Weather Service Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) and other data systems which process and display the GOES Sounder data. By making images of the GOES sounder data, water vapor images at 300 mb (6.5  $\mu$ m), 500 mb (7  $\mu$ m), and 700 mb (7.4  $\mu$ m) can be displayed to show jet streaks/shortwave troughs at three additional different layers in the atmosphere. In the case shown, a northern jet stream shortwave (shown) combines with a southern-jet stream shortwave (not shown) earlier in time to produce a very large scale rapid cyclogenesis event. GOES sounder images are shown to the right.

**Brian Motta**  
*Remote Sensing Committee*

## ***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 members for 2002 developed a college scholarship fund to begin in 2003.

**Offering:** One annual scholarship for \$1000. The winner may be asked to present research work at a local or annual NWA meeting and will be provided additional funding for travel and accommodations.

**Administration:** The scholarship selection is administered by the NWA Education Committee. Applications for 2008 must be postmarked by April 15, 2008, and be sent to the NWA Office. The scholarship designee will be notified in late-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 (September through December) semester to complete after the scholarship is awarded, or they must document that they have been accepted into graduate school.

**Award Criteria:** The scholarship will be awarded based on:  
a) academic achievement/merit (transcripts)  
b) two letters of recommendation (at least one from a current or former meteorology professor), and  
c) a one page statement explaining why the applicant is applying for the David Sankey Scholarship

**Logistics:** Scholarship money will be transferred following the financial guidelines of the college or university involved. If any financial guidelines aren't available, NWA will make the check payable to both the student and the education institution at the beginning of the September - December semester or quarter.

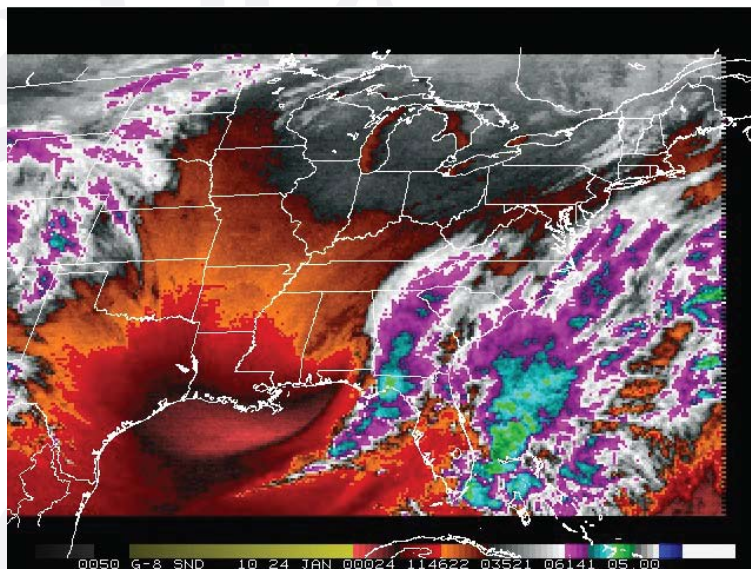
The application form is available online at [www.nwas.org/dsscholarshipform.html](http://www.nwas.org/dsscholarshipform.html) or contact the NWA office: (919) 845-1546 for a copy.

## **WANT MORE CYCLOGENESIS?**

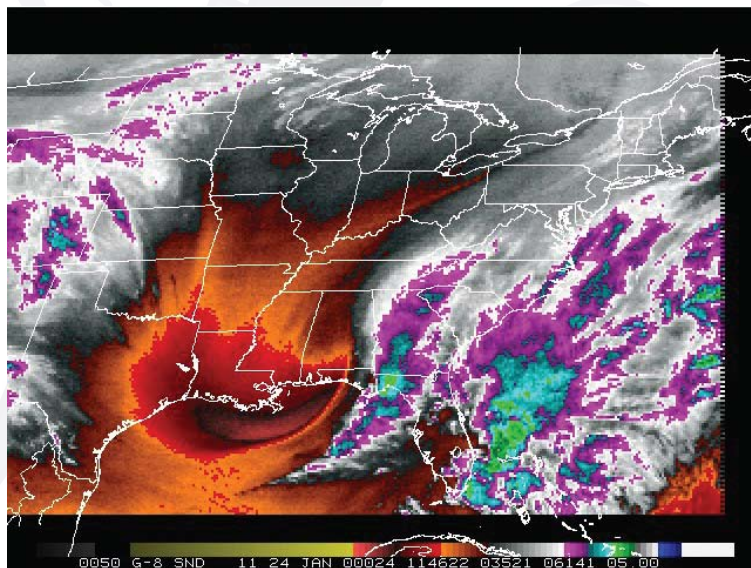
Animations, examples and more at the Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT):

<http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/modelinit/title.asp>

<http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/cyclo.html>



**GOES-8 Sounder 10km Water Vapor valid at 11:46 UTC, 24 January 2000. This water vapor channel senses moisture in the layer from 500 mb to 900 mb with the greatest contribution coming from about 700 mb. Notice the differences and similarities with the imager water vapor in the areas without cirrus and where thin or middle clouds are present.**



**GOES-8 Sounder 10km Water Vapor valid at 11:46 UTC, 24 January 2000. This water vapor channel senses moisture in the layer from 300 mb to 700 mb with the greatest contribution coming from about 500 mb. The structures of the opaque cirrus regions versus the areas where "vapor" can be seen show the higher-level view of the shortwave and the surrounding airflows. A third, higher layer water vapor channel, is also available.**

## NWA - Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants for K-12 Teachers: Applications Now Being Accepted!

The NWA Education Committee needs help from all members in informing 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. Ten 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.

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

Applications due August 1, 2008

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

### 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 eighth year it is being offered.

**Offering:** One scholarship per year of \$1000. The NWA may ask the winner of the Pike Scholarship to present research work at a local or annual NWA meeting; the NWA may provide additional funding for required travel and accommodations for such a presentation.

**Administration:** The scholarship selection is administered by the NWA Education Committee. The NWA office announces the call for applications in January each year. Applications for 2008 must be postmarked by April 15, 2008 and sent to the NWA Office. The scholarship designee will be notified in late-May.

**Eligibility:** Undergraduate and/or Graduate students. Undergraduates must be classified at least as a junior for the semester beginning in September 2008. 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 (September - December) semester to complete after the scholarship is awarded or document that they have been accepted into graduate school.

**Award Criteria:** The award will be based on:

- academic achievement/merit (transcripts)
- two letters of recommendation (at least one from a current or former meteorology professor), and
- a one page statement explaining why the applicant is applying for the Arthur C. Pike Scholarship

**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 semester or quarter.

The application is available at [www.nwas.org/scholarship\\_app.html](http://www.nwas.org/scholarship_app.html) or by calling the NWA office: (919) 845-1546.



## Sol Hirsch 2007 Education Fund Grants Recipients

### Congratulations to these 10 Winners:

**Chris Campbell**, Simsboro  
School, Simsboro, La.

**Terri Cloyde**, Madill Elementary  
School, Madill, Okla.

**Scott MP Hawbaker**, Depew  
Middle School, Depew, N.Y.

**Linda R. Hogan**, Lake Ridge  
Middle School, Gary, Ind.

**Deb Hurst**, Mills Elementary  
School, Austin, Texas

**Dana K. Kelly**, Highlands Grove  
Elementary, Lakeland, Fla.

**Veronica Krautheim**, Multimedia  
& Visual Arts School, Crawford  
Educational Complex, San Diego,  
Calif.

**Betsy Moore**, Goodridge  
Elementary School, Hebron, Ky.

**J. Christine Paulsell**, Jefferson  
East Curriculum Center,  
Covington, La.

**Cindy Wilson-Hyde**, Gulliver  
Academy, Coral Gables, Fla.

Seventy-five applications were received from great teachers all across the country. Education committee members — Sol Hirsch, Ruth Aiken, Faith Borden, Paul Croft, Tom Ervin, Tony Lupo, Richard Snow, Jeffrey Tongue and Eleanor Vallier-Talbot — had a very tough time determining the winners, but ten made it to the top, were approved by President Alan Gerard and were sent congratulatory letters and \$500 checks.

Special thanks to all teachers who applied and best wishes in all your initiatives — improving education in the atmospheric and related sciences.

Congratulations again to these award winners.



# NWA COUNCIL FOR 2008

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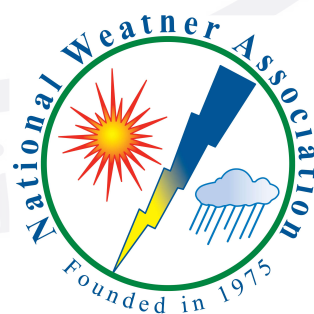
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## 2008 Professional Development Opportunities

### National Severe Weather Workshop: March 6-8

The 2008 Workshop will be at the National Center for Employee Development in Norman, Okla., and the theme is "From Readiness to Recovery." It will include presentations and "The Scenario," a workshop where participants step out of their normal role and take part in a simulated emergency. Details at [www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2008](http://www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww2008), or send an email to Greg Carbin at [gregory.carbin@noaa.gov](mailto:gregory.carbin@noaa.gov) or Linda Crank at [Linda.crank@noaa.gov](mailto:Linda.crank@noaa.gov) for more.

### National Storm Conference: March 8

A collaboration between Texas Severe Storms Association (TESSA) and the NOAA/National Weather Service in Fort Worth, Texas, this year's conference will be at the Colleyville Center in Colleyville, Texas. Also sponsoring is the North Texas Chapter of the AMS/ NWA. Presentation topics include severe weather safety, storm spotter training and in-depth discussions on supercell and tornado meteorology. The third annual Super Storm Spotter Session – presented by Fort Worth NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Gary Woodall – will provide the highest level of training available to storm spotters anywhere in the country. Details available at [www.tessa.org](http://www.tessa.org).

### Northeastern Storm Conference: March 14 - 16

The 33rd Annual Northeastern Storm Conference will be in Springfield, Mass. It is sponsored by the Lyndon State College Student Chapter of the AMS and NWA. Dr. Christopher Landsea will be the Sunday morning keynote speaker, Dr. Greg Holland the banquet speaker and Dr. Lance Bosart the Ice Breaker speaker. Find more information at [apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/index.html](http://apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/index.html).

### 12th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference: March 27 - 29

The 12th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference will be at the West Des Moines Sheraton in West Des Moines, Iowa. It is sponsored by the Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA. The keynote speaker is Paul Markowski of the Vortex 2 project. For more, visit [www.iowa-nwa.com/conference/](http://www.iowa-nwa.com/conference/).

### 2008 National Hurricane Conference: March 31 – April 4

Scheduled for The Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Fla., this is the nation's forum for education and professional training in hurricane preparedness. Register by **February 15 to receive a \$50 discount**. More information available at [www.hurricanemeeting.com](http://www.hurricanemeeting.com), [mail@hurricanemeeting.com](mailto:mail@hurricanemeeting.com) or 850-906-9224.

### Southeast Severe Storms Symposium: April 4-5

The Seventh Annual Southeast Severe Storms Symposium will be held at Mississippi State University. It is sponsored by the East Mississippi Chapter of the NWA/AMS. **Abstracts will be accepted through March 1, 2008**. Watch the Web site for the 2008 Broadcast Workshop Agenda and the 2008 Symposium Agenda. Go to [www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/symposium.shtml](http://www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/symposium.shtml) or call (662)-325-3915 for more information.

### Sixth Annual Great Lakes Meteorology Conference: April 5

The conference will be held in Valparaiso, Ind., at the Old Town Banquet Hall, sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Chapter of the AMS/NWA. Dr. Louis Uccellini, director of the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction will be the keynote speaker. Go to [www.valpo.edu/organization/nwa/](http://www.valpo.edu/organization/nwa/) for more.

### NWA Annual Meeting: October 11 - 16

The 33rd NWA Annual Meeting will be at the Galt House Hotel and Suites ([www.galthouse.com](http://www.galthouse.com)) on the waterfront in Louisville, Ky. See the back page of this newsletter for more and log on to [www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org).

## President's Message from front

predecessors while continuing to address the mission of the NWA: supporting and promoting excellence in operational meteorology and related activities.

You can tap into this rising tide of activity by accessing the NWA home page ([www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org)) regularly or by reading the monthly *Newsletter*. It is my intention to utilize both of these resources to advance communication between the President, Executive Director, the Council and our membership. Typically, the

President contributes a vision for the upcoming year in the January *Newsletter*.

I want to utilize this occasion to comment on four areas that I will emphasize in the months ahead. First, the NWA acts on behalf of

the membership to issue position statements or respond to requests for advocacy which are in the best interest of its membership and consistent with the ideals of its mission. Steve Harned, NWA Executive Director distributed a letter earlier this month to key individuals in NOAA, the NWS and the National Academy of Sciences in support of the Extended Ocean Wind Vector Mission (XOWVM) as a suitable replacement for QuikSCAT. The NWA is also pursuing a partnership with FLASH (Federal Alliance for Safe Homes), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting safety and disaster mitigation. These opportunities provide an avenue for the NWA to lend its support to programs in a particularly visible manner that seek to advance operational meteorology with the ultimate goal of protecting life and property.

Second, the NWA with the expert assistance of the IT Committee will continue to pursue web-based improvements leading to improved on-line capabilities. The new Web page design presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting in Reno evoked a very positive response. We intend to move further with that model, providing more on-line membership information and an on-line process for those applying for grants and scholarships. Eventually there will be on-line

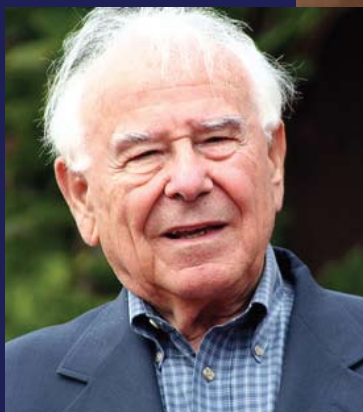




## *In Memoriam of Milo J. Radulovich*

Milo J. Radulovich (1926-2007), a long time member of the National Weather Association and a veteran of WWII who was employed by the NOAA/National Weather Service (NWS) for 38 years before retiring from the Lansing, MI office in 1994, passed away on November 19, 2007. Over the last few decades, Milo was better known for his work at the NWS Sacramento, CA. That was until the book "To Strike at a King" by Michael Ranville, and the movie "Good Night and Good Luck" brought Milo's 1953 fight against McCarthyism back into the spotlight.

Milo was featured on Edward R. Murrow's television show "See it Now" in 1953 after Murrow learned that Milo was forced to resign as an officer in the Air Force Reserves because his father, who was against Communism, subscribed



to newspaper from a Communist country and his sister participated in picket against segregation. The "See it Now" show was the beginning of the end for McCarthyism.

Milo, who had been a meteorologist in the Air Force and was at the time a reservist, was studying physics at the University of Michigan with the goal of becoming a meteorologist with the U.S. Government. Even though he was reinstated to his rank in the Air Force, the stress of the situation resulted in his leaving Michigan prior to completing his degree. He was hired by a private meteorologist firm prior to being employed by the NWS.

Milo was a consultant for the movie "Good night and Good Luck" and also became a much-requested speaker during the latter years of his life. Milo lived in Lodi, California, at the time of his death and was a NWA member in good standing. The Internet is filled with many interesting and enlightening articles on Milo and his life.

access to all NWA publications. I will work closely with the NWA IT Committee, the Finance Committee and the Council to determine the direction of future IT services while maintaining vigilance regarding cost and manpower.

Third, I am committed to expanding the visibility of the NWA within the academic community, particularly the student population. There is a persistent misunderstanding among that next generation of meteorologists that the AMS is the only professional organization available to them. We will address this important concern at our annual meeting in Louisville, KY (please see back cover). John Gordon, Meteorologist-In-Charge of the Louisville NWS Office and Chair of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting Program Committee intends to canvas all colleges and universities within driving distance of Louisville in an effort to encourage students (and faculty) to attend the annual meeting in the Derby City. The Program Committee is planning a group of talks dedicated specifically to students to raise awareness of the NWA's commitment to excellence in operational meteorology. Be assured that your attendance and participation at the annual meeting will provide a level of experience unmatched in your secondary education.

Finally, let me share with you my thoughts regarding the focus of the annual meeting. John Gordon and his committee are deeply committed to providing the membership with a memorable experience in Louisville. A week of presentations is being planned under the general theme of "Utilizing Our Past to Improve Our Future." Of particular interest will be a selection of

invited talks on specific historical weather events (e.g., 1925 Tri-State Tornado, 1974 Super Outbreak, 1975 Edmund Fitzgerald Storm, Hurricanes Camille and Katrina, 1993 Superstorm, etc.) I am confident this session will be the highlight of the annual meeting. "Utilizing Our Past to Improve Our Future" will also go beyond these memorable events to consider where our future efforts as an operational community should be focused to protect the life and property of a growing population that is increasingly at risk.

I want to take this opportunity to thank immediate Past President Alan Gerard for his wisdom and coaching; Kevin Lavin for his leadership (without peer, I might add), Executive Director Steve Harned and Assistant Executive Director Cynthia Nelson for their unwavering support and dedication; and members of the Executive Committee and Council, past and present, for your enthusiastic commitment. I inherit an organization already in great shape. I pledge to you, the membership of the NWA, that I will turn over the keys of this well oiled machine to my successor in even better condition. Oh, by the way, that aforementioned colleague of mine accepted the nomination to run for Councilor because he "wanted to be a part of what was happening at the NWA." As we set our course on this, the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of our existence, I encourage you to contact me with your suggestions, ideas, ramblings, and of course concerns at [President@nwas.org](mailto:President@nwas.org). I look forward to hearing from you!

**John Scala**  
President



## ***Meet Me in Louisville! 33rd NWA Annual Meeting*** ***October 12 – 16, 2008***

The National Weather Association's 33rd Annual Meeting will be held at **GALT HOUSE HOTEL & SUITES** in the heart of downtown Louisville, Ky., from **OCTOBER 12 – 16, 2008**.

**The Annual Meeting Program Committee Chair is John Gordon**, the Meteorologist-In-Charge of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, 6201 Theiler Lane, Louisville, Ky. 40229, (502)-969-8842; [annualmeeting2008@nwas.org](mailto:annualmeeting2008@nwas.org).

**The Broadcaster Workshop Program Chair is Bryan Karrick**, NWA Councilor and KCCI-TV meteorologist, 888 Ninth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309; [bkarrick@hearsst.com](mailto:bkarrick@hearsst.com).

Contact John or Bryan with suggestions and to volunteer for helping with the program. See the February *Newsletter* for complete meeting details and log onto the NWA Web site ([www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org)) in early February.

### **The Scoop**

#### **Abstract Submission by June 1:**

**The deadline submitting abstracts is 1 June.** Details for submissions will be available in early February.

#### **Hotel Overview:**

The Galt House Hotel and Suites overlooks the Ohio River in downtown Louisville. It offers a variety of services and within easy walking distance of numerous restaurants and local attractions. ([www.galthouse.com](http://www.galthouse.com))

#### **Saturday Golf Outing:**

Thanks to Betsy Kling, the 7th Annual Golf Outing to benefit the NWA Scholarship Fund will be Oct. 11.

## **Dates 2 Remember**

**March 6 – 8:** National Severe Weather Workshop, Norman, Okla.

**March 8:** National Storm Conference, Colleyville, Texas

**March 14 – 16:** 33<sup>rd</sup> Northeastern Storm Conference, Springfield, Mass.

**March 27 – 29:** 12<sup>th</sup> Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference, West Des Moines, Iowa

**April 4 – 5:** 7<sup>th</sup> Southeast Severe Storms Symposium, Mississippi State University, Miss.

**April 5:** 6<sup>th</sup> Great Lakes Meteorology Conference, Valparaiso, Ind.

For more information on these and other Professional Development Opportunities see page 6 or visit [www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html](http://www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html).

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Submit newsletter items directly to the NWA office or to [nwanewsletter@nwas.org](mailto:nwanewsletter@nwas.org). Material received by the 25th will be considered for the next month's issue.

Members receive the Newsletter and *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. Newsletter subscriptions are available for \$18 per year plus extra shipping costs outside U.S. Single copies are \$1.50. Please contact the NWA office with address changes.

**National Weather Association**  
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Supporting and promoting excellence in operational meteorology and related activities since 1975.