



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

No. 12 – 1

Newsletter JANUARY 2012

New Year, New Logo for the NWA

As the National Weather Association continues to move forward, the NWA's logo is moving forward as well. After an extensive design and selection process, the fourth generation of the organization's logo becomes effective this month.



Effective 2012



1995 - 2011



1982 - 1994



1976 - 1981

In 2011, the NWA Membership and Marketing Committee requested and gained approval from the Council to update and streamline the logo utilizing new technology. With strict directions to update not recreate, *Nesnadny + Schwartz*, a design consultant firm in Cleveland, provided a fresh visual treatment of the traditional and distinctive logo.

The new logo features the same graphical elements of the current version, which was designed in 1994 by Joe Kelley and Phyllis Morris of Surface Systems, Inc., a NWA corporate member at the time. The rectangular shape of the new logo is a nod to previous generations of the logo.

The National Weather Association logo represents some of the most common meteorological conditions throughout the world, from sunny and dry to cloudy and rainy. The element of severity, centrally shown as a bolt of lightning, symbolizes the continued need to give greater attention to high impact weather and how it affects our planet. The name of the professional organization is clearly visible below the weather symbols to show the organization's strength and prominence within the global meteorological community.

The fourth generation of the NWA logo is more than just an updated look for the NWA; it is a change in graphic design format. The older logos have all been pixel-based raster graphics, which makes reproduction and resizing difficult. This new logo is vectored file, which means easily resized, high quality reproductions. This logo is also a return to a simpler color selection, which will reduce printing costs.

2012 NWA Election Results

The polls have closed and all votes counted. Here are the winners of the 2012 NWA election for Officers and Councilors:

President-Elect for 2013

Bruce G. Thomas
Midland Radio Corporation
Kansas City Missouri

Vice President

Wendy Schreiber-Abshire
UCAR/COMET
Boulder, Colorado

Secretary

Diane Cooper
NWS - Chanhassen, Minnesota

2012-2014 Councilors

Faith Borden
NWS – Las Vegas, Nevada

Ken Carey
Noblis – Falls Church, Virginia

John Ferree
NWS – Norman, Oklahoma

Paul Schlatter
NWS Headquarters
Silver Spring, Maryland

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Three Rivers NWA Chapter Quarterly News October - December 2011

California University of Pennsylvania (Cal U)

By Karly Bitsura, Secretary



Educational Outreach Committee chair, Donald Jellison (center in red shirt), chapter member James Nieder (left of globe) and local elementary school students after a presentation.

The Three Rivers Chapter of the NWA had an active semester, participating in many social, academic and educational outreach events.

Social:

In October, the chapter went white water rafting with the local chapter of the Mathematical Association of America in Ohio State Park. Facilitating relationships with other chapters in different fields is beneficial to our members. Chapter members also attended Fright Nights at the popular amusement park Kennywood in Pittsburgh, Pa.

During November, chapter members were involved with Toys for Tots through the Cal U student government. Chapter members donated new toys for underprivileged children and also donated \$250. One chapter member, Donald Jellison, went shopping with the student government to purchase the amount of toys that the money our chapter donated would cover.

The chapter's annual winter social was on Dec. 9. Chapter members enjoyed food and games while getting the chance to talk with the alumni members who attended. It was a good way to wind down after a stressful semester.

Educational Outreach:

The chapter's Educational Outreach Committee (EOC), headed by Jellison, went to Claysville Elementary School for an all-day event in October that included presentations about the four seasons. In November, the EOC visited Trinity West Elementary School and gave a presentation about the four seasons to kindergarteners. They were asked to return during the spring semester. They also visited Laurel Highlands Middle School and gave presentations about tornado safety.

Members of the StormFest Committee met in November to help the StormFest Coordinator, Karly Bitsura, reorganize leftover supplies into bins and put them in storage. An overview of the important aspects of StormFest was provided for the freshman, and roles were established in preparation for the event on Feb. 24-25. In December, the StormFest committee finalized the event activities and started to obtain volunteers.

Academic:

In October, member Eric Beamesderfer gave a presentation on his Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) that he conducted over the summer at the National Weather Center in Norman, Okla. He also gave this presentation, titled "Comparison of Estimated and Observed Storm Motions to Environmental Parameters", at the 92nd American Meteorological Society (AMS) Annual Meeting in January.

In November, member Tim Lahmers and President Dustin Snare gave presentations about their summer research programs. Tim described his work for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hollings Scholarship in Boulder Colo., over the summer, which focused on assembling datasets for the Hydrometeorological Testbed to understand flash flood events. During his REU at Colorado State University, Dustin used Matlab and Interactive Data Language (IDL) to explore and quality-control archived satellite data to extend the record for climate modelers. He produced a version of the data that is now on the web for climatologists to use. Dustin presented the results from his REU and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Undergraduate Workshop. Lahmers and Snare also presented their research results at the AMS Annual Meeting in January.

Secretary Karly Bitsura gave a presentation about her summer internship at the Pittsburgh National Weather Services (NWS) office. She learned the duties of a meteorology intern and also had a research project. She used the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center's Winter Weather Desk forecasts for northwest flow events and compared them

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Welcome to your National Weather Association 2012

I am extremely proud of this organization and the strides it has made to meet the ever-changing needs of those we serve. This is not your mother and father's NWA, although it certainly has the DNA they provided for a healthy start.



As I contemplate writing my inaugural newsletter article, I'm reminded that I seldom learn anything new when I speak. I am a listener by choice. I have been listening to the membership, to the governing body and to those who are curious about us for several years. This practice has shown me that the challenges the meteorological community needs to address are those tied to improving the quality of life for those impacted by weather. To help facilitate that, my goal for the organization in my tenure as NWA President is two-fold: holistic problem solving and increased services for the membership.

Holistic problem solving means learning from all of us including researchers, teachers, developers, operational forecasters, broadcasters, emergency managers, builders, local officials, as well as those in the general public, to address our challenges. No one domain can or should think they can attack these challenges in isolation. This has never been more apparent to me than with the disastrous death tolls in Alabama and Joplin, Mo., this past year, despite impressive warning lead times. Clearly, multi-disciplinary partnerships are needed, and that is something this organization can help promote.

Increasing services for the membership is one concrete step that can help expand our collective definition of the problems and, therefore, our ability to resolve them. This is especially difficult in times of greatly diminishing travel funds. To that end, I hope we can offer more on-line opportunities, both live and recorded, for our membership. Anticipating this trend, we beta-tested one session as a webinar to a few attendees during the 36th Annual Meeting last October. Those who participated in the test thought this was a successful way to deliver information to members. We've also begun to offer webinars on a variety of topics to the membership throughout the year. How we can do similar things that benefit all aspects of the membership in the future is something for our smart, creative minds to consider.

I look forward to meeting these challenges with you in the year to come.

Liz Quotone, President

37th NWA Annual Meeting Call for Abstracts

The 37th NWA Annual Meeting will be held at the beautiful Frank Lloyd Wright designed Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, Wisc., from Oct. 6-11, 2012. We invite you to submit an abstract for a presentation you would like to give at this well-known meteorological conference.

The NWA does not require a completed paper. Many of the abstracts submitted are on "works in progress" where authors are looking for comments on furthering their work and wanting to excite others to use the findings to improve weather support elsewhere.

The annual meeting's theme is "*Synthesizing Weather Information for Society: From Observations to Action across our Communities*."

Pursuant to the theme, in addition to the traditional sessions on severe weather, weather and forecasting, etc., the Program Committee is specifically soliciting abstracts which relate to one of the following disciplines:

- Emerging technologies, including applications for the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) II
- Numerical weather prediction
- Remote sensing, including current and future environmental satellites (GOES, POES, NPP) and dual-polarization radar
- Societal impacts, including multi-agency collaborations

Please refer to the main NWA Web page (www.nwas.org) for the link to submit an abstract. Further meeting information including hotel information will become available on the Web site and in future editions of the Newsletter.

NEWSLETTER BACKLOG! WHERE ARE THEY?

After the NWA annual meeting last October, the Professional Development committee put out a call for articles on the conference presentations. The response was overwhelming resulting in a large backlog of almost 50 science articles. With all the other information that has to go in each newsletter, only one or two science articles can be published each month. This means that less than half of the backlogged articles will be in the Newsletter by the time the 37th NWA Annual Meeting is held. The editors are working on a solution to this issue, and will contact all the authors when a decision is made. In the meantime, consider submitting science articles, new or backlogged, to our new Images of Note (ION) in the Electronic Journal of Operational Meteorology (EJOM), a bargain at \$50. In ION, the article will be easier for researchers to find and reference than in the Newsletter.

The Newsletter editors appreciate those of you who submit your articles for publication. It shows that you consider the Newsletter a trusted NWA publication and worthy of your information. We, in turn, consider your work to be important and will do our best to help you share it with the NWA membership.



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Hurricanes: Science and Society Webinar Series

Hurricanes: Science and Society (www.hurricanescience.org) is hosting a five-part webinar series this spring. It will provide participants with an opportunity to interact with some of the country's top hurricane scientists and introduce a range of topics from the basics of hurricane science, advances in forecasting hurricanes, and preparing for an approaching hurricane. Each of the five one-hour webinars will have leading members of the hurricane research and forecasting fields discussing their research and answering questions from the attendees. Target audiences include instructors of high school and undergraduate level courses and informal science educators. However, citizens of all ages are welcome to tune in.

Resources

www.hurricanescience.org

Click for a list of topics, speakers
and to register!

For further information, contact
Holly Morin at hmorin@gso.uri.edu.

The Hurricanes: Science and Society Webinar Series Topics

- Basic Hurricane Science - Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. ET
- Hurricane Observation and Forecasting - Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. ET
- Hurricane Hazards and Impacts - Tuesday, April 24 at 7 p.m. ET
- Hurricane History, Climate Change and Hurricanes - Tuesday, May 1 at 7 p.m. ET
- Hurricane Preparedness - Tuesday, May 22 at 7 p.m. ET

The 2012 Hurricanes: Science and Society Webinar Series is presented by the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography in partnership with the AMS, the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) and the National Hurricane Center (NHC).

Certificates of completion will be available for those who wish to use this seminar series for continuing education credits.

Kenneth Carey, Noblis, Inc.
Professional Development Committee
NWA Councilor

COMET Update

The COMET Program has published several new modules and resources. If you are forecasting in regions prone to volcanic ash emissions, or for areas and hazards outside the U.S., say in the Tropics, Africa, the Pacific or in regions that have developing hydrometeorological services, then this quarters' publications may be of interest to you. Since the last COMET update to you, we published the following:

- ASMET: Satellite Precipitation Products for Hydrological Management in Southern Africa (http://www.meted.ucar.edu/asmets/so_africa/)
- Flash Flood Early Warning System Reference Guide (http://www.meted.ucar.edu/communities/hazwarnsys/haz_fflood.php)
- Introduction to Tropical Meteorology, 2nd Edition, Chapter 3: Global Circulation. The full textbook has a new look: http://www.meted.ucar.edu/tropical/textbook_2nd_edition/
- Tsunami Strike! Pacific Edition (<http://www.meted.ucar.edu/tsunami/strike/>)
- Volcanic Ash: Observation Tools and Dispersion Models (http://www.meted.ucar.edu/volcanic_ash/tools/)

These materials are freely available to everyone courtesy of our sponsors: NOAA's NWS and National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) programs, European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command and the Meteorological Service of Canada.

Greg Byrd, UCAR/COMET
Professional Development Committee

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE GUIDELINES

Visit www.nwas.org/newsletters/newsletter_instructions.php for the new author guidelines for submitting articles to the NWA Newsletter. Please read prior to writing and submitting articles. Contact the technical editor at nwanewsletter@nwas.org if you have questions. Due to the large volume of articles we are now receiving, there is a priority order in which the articles will be reviewed and published. Time critical articles such as the President's message and chapter updates will be edited first, followed by news items such as those about new instruments or field projects. Research and case study articles will be considered after these.

Newsletter of the High Plains NWA Chapter

Twenty-one members of the NWA High Plains Chapter met for lunch, a meeting and a presentation on Jan. 11 in Norton, Kan. This was the largest attendance at one of our meetings in several years. After introductions, a business meeting was held, followed by a very interesting presentation from Scott Mentzer, the MIC at the Goodland (GLD), Kan., WFO about the Local Winter Storm Scale (LWSS). The talk explored how useful it would be if winter storms were given a ranking, such as are hurricanes and tornadoes. Climatology of numerous strong winter storms were compiled, and then applied to the Regional Snowfall Impact Scale (ReSIS). This information could be used as part of the Call to Action portions of winter storm products, such as "...a winter storm similar to this in the past has closed I-70 for 6 to 8 hour." Mentzer's presentation generated many questions and comments, and was well received by the Chapter.

A \$400 donation was mailed to the Wichita NWA Chapter to help them with expenses incurred at the 2011 15th Annual High Plains (HP) Conference, and would have been the amount the chapter contributed if there had been any student presentations at the conference. Mike Umscheid from the Dodge City (DDC), Kan., Weather Forecast Office (WFO) gave us a brief update on the tax exempt applications to the IRS. Not much has occurred since our last meeting in December, but Mike set March 2 as the deadline to get everything needed to send to the IRS. The chapter voted and approved to spend \$400 for the IRS filing fee. The Hastings (GID), Neb., WFO members gave an update on the upcoming HP conference in Hastings, planned for Aug. 8-10. They are working hard to attract more student presenters. Dr. Jay Antele, an area historian, has committed to be the keynote speaker at the banquet. The group discussed having an MIC/SOO conference prior to or during the HP conference, but funds may be limited.

New officer nominations are: President Chris Foltz/GID; Vice President Bill Taylor/North Platte (LBF), Neb.; Treasurer Scott Bryant/GLD; and Secretary Tim Burke/DDC. The Jim Johnson Scholarship committee will consist of a member from each WFO: Shawn Jacobs/LBF (chair), Chris Foltz/GLD, Scott Bryant/GID and Matt Gerard/DDC. Letters soliciting student presentations will go out by Jan. 31, with papers due back to each WFO by April 1.

There was a suggestion by President Chris Foltz to have an HP picnic during the summer, including families, possibly in June. This will be discussed at a later meeting. The next meeting is March 14 in Norton.

THREE from page 2

to observations in Pittsburgh to determine if there was a bias in their forecast. She will complete this project next semester. Webmaster David Fischer also gave a presentation about his summer internship at the Sterling Field Support Center in Sterling, Va. He spent his summer testing new instrumentation such as thermometers, rain gauges and radiosondes.

Seventeen chapter members were selected to attend the NWA 36th Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Ala. Students were required to submit a resume with a cover letter for a rigorous selection process by the meteorology professors. They were required to keep a journal of the presentations and also write a one page paper about their experience. Vice President Lindsay Rice presented a poster about her REU research titled "*A Precipitation Climatology for The Green River Watershed in Kentucky During 1979-2010.*" Chapter members also got a chance to survey the damage from the April 27, 2011, Tuscaloosa tornado. Snare attended a career fair at Peter's Township High School where he talked to eleventh graders about jobs for Earth Science majors.

Bitsura, Rice and Elizabeth Smith were selected by the AMS to serve as student assistants at the AMS Annual Meeting. Eric Beamesderfer, Lahmers and Snare also attended the conference using funds from their summer REU programs. In November, professors selected another 12 students to attend who were funded by the chapter.

The chapter funded a visit by Don Burgess of the National Severe Storms Laboratory, who gave a presentation about the history of radar and the advancements of dual-polarization radar. Jason Briner from the University of Buffalo was invited to our chapter in collaboration with the Cal U Geology Club. He presented his current research with two of his graduate students titled "*The largest ice sheet in Greenland's response to Holocene climate change.*"

To keep up with our chapter, visit us online: <http://sai.calu.edu/weather/web-content/>.

MORE CHAPTER NEWS

New NWA Members from December 2011

Regular/Military/Retired

Steven Ackerman
Dan Baumgardt
Jerilyn Billings
Krista Chang
Tom Coomes II
Daniel DePodwin
Gregory Dutra
Eric Elliott

Stephen Gregg
Zitian Guo
David Halpern
Franziska Houtas
John Lavin
Brian Mejia
Greg Murdoch
Chris Spannagle
Jason Sydejko

Adam Wallace
Geoffrey Weller
Gerald Williams
Nathaniel Winstead
Bryan Wood

Students
Scott Baker
Adam Balbi

Richard Diegan
Kara Kerschner
Sara Lavas
Julie Malmberg
Ryan Meiszberg
Liv Nugent
Matthew Palmer

NWA sponsored Annual Meetings, Conferences and Special Events

Feb. 27 – March 1: 2nd National Flood Workshop

Organized by Weather Research Center, it will be in Houston Texas. For more: www.nationalfloodworkshop.net, call (713)539-3076 or email wrc@wxresearch.org.

March 1 – 3: 12th National Severe Weather Workshop

Focused on hazardous weather information-sharing and discussions on the effective transmission of messages about meteorological risk. www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww/.

March 2 – 3: 10th Annual Southeast Storms Symposium

Sponsored by the East Mississippi Chapter of the NWA/AMS, it will be on the Mississippi State University Campus in the Bost Extension Center in Starkville, Miss. www.nwa.org.msstate.edu/symposium.shtml.

March 2 – 4: 37th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference

Sponsored by the Lyndon State College AMS/NWA Local Chapter at the Holiday Inn Rutland/Killington in Rutland, Vt. <https://sites.google.com/site/lyndonstateamsnwa/north-eastern-storm-conference>.

March 29 – 31: 16th Annual Severe Storms & Doppler Radar Conference

Sponsored by the NWA Central Iowa Chapter at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Ankeny, Iowa. www.iowa-nwa.com/conference/.

March 31: The 10th Annual Great Lakes Meteorology Conference

Sponsored by the Northwest Indiana AMS/NWA local Chapter at the Strongbow Inn in Valparaiso, Ind. Registration and more: www.valpo.edu/student/nwa/conference.

Oct. 6 – 11: 37th National Weather Association Annual Meeting

Sessions will occur in the Frank Lloyd Wright designed Monona Terrace Convention Center in downtown Madison, Wisc. Specifics will be announced later in February. www.nwas.org/meetings.

Other Meetings, Conferences and Special Events

March 2 – 3: The Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop 2012

This annual gathering for those interested in Northwest weather and climate. will be held at the NOAA Sand Point facility in Seattle. Abstracts are due Feb. 15. Registration and more at <http://www.atmos.washington.edu/pnww/>.

March 10: Central Indiana Severe Weather Symposium

Aimed toward spotters and weather enthusiasts, it will include The Weather Channel's Mike Bettles, nationally-known tornado damage expert Tim Marshall, Fox 59's Brian Wilkes and meteorologists from NWS Indianapolis and NWS Northern Indiana. Breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks provided. www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php.

March 14 – 16: 20th Annual U.S.-Canadian Great Lakes Operational Meteorology Workshop

Topics will include winter storms, severe convection, flooding and flash flooding, marine forecasting, lake effect snow forecasting, international collaboration, aviation forecasting and climatology. In Chicago, Ill. <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lot/?n=glomw>.

July 15-20: Short-course: Studies in Air Quality for Science Educators

Sponsored by the Science Center for Teaching, Outreach and Research on Meteorology (the STORM Project) at the University of Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls), a one-week course designed specifically for middle school and high school science teachers. Participants will receive a stipend. Most expenses, including travel, covered by the STORM Project. Out-of-state teachers encouraged to apply. Register before Feb. 17 at <http://www.uni.edu/storm/saqse/>.

Students & Teachers!

2012 NWA Scholarships and Grants Applications Period is Open!

This year, the NWA is offering six scholarship opportunities and one grant for university students.

Four scholarships will be available this spring and two in the summer. Additionally, there will be seven education grants for K-12 Teachers.

Information for scholarships and grants are online:

www.nwas.org/committees/ed_comm/application/

www.nwas.org/grants/index.php

NWA Scholarships and Grants

Application Closing Date

Broadcast Meteorology Scholarship	March 15
David Sankey Minority Scholarship	April 15
AccuWeather Undergraduate Scholarship	May 15
Dr. Roderick A. Scofield Scholarship	May 15
Meteorological Satellite Application Award Grant	June 15
2012 Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grant for K-12 Teachers	June 1
Arthur C. Pike Scholarship	Oct. 25
Phillips Family Undergraduate Scholarship	Oct. 25

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 27 – March 1: 2nd National Flood Workshop, Houston, Texas.

March 1 – 3: 12th National Severe Weather Workshop, Central Oklahoma (TBA)

March 2 – 3: 10th Southeast Storms Symposium, Mississippi State, Miss.

March 2 – 4: 37th Northeastern Storm Conference, Rutland, Vt.

March 14 – 16: 20th U.S.-Canadian Great Lakes Workshop, Chicago, Ill.

March 29 – 31, 2012: 16th Severe Storms & Doppler Radar Conference, Ankeny, Iowa.

March 31: 10th Great Lakes Meteorology Conference

NWA Newsletter (ISSN 0271-1044)

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Submit newsletter items directly to the NWA office or to 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. Printed Newsletter subscriptions are available for \$25 per year plus extra shipping costs outside U.S. Single copies are \$3. Address, phone number, email and affiliation changes can now be made online: member.nwas.org.

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