



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

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2013

New Article in EJOM

Submitted by Michael Brennan, EJOM Editor
National Hurricane Center

A new paper has been published in the NWA Electronic Journal of Operational Meteorology: 2012-EJ11, “South Florida Flash Flooding Events” by Ariel Cohen of NWS/NCEP/SPC Norman, Okla., and Pablo Santos of National Weather Service (NWS) Miami, Fla. During the period from 2200 UTC October 30 through 0800 UTC October 31, 2011, supercell thunderstorm activity produced excessive rainfall over parts of the Miami area, particularly affecting locations along the northwest and north coast of Biscayne Bay toward south Miami Beach. This event was partly responsible for setting a monthly record rainfall total at Miami Beach. What was unique about the thunderstorm activity was its long duration and nearly stationary motion. It also exhibited high precipitation efficiency, with rainfall rates in excess of four inches per hour. This paper identifies ways in which this relatively rare event may have been anticipated based upon available upper air data, identification of heavy rainfall ingredients involved, consideration of supercell motion, and the use of very high resolution atmospheric models. This paper ultimately seeks to aid in the short-term anticipation of potential flash floods in association with non-tropical, deep-moist convection in south Florida.

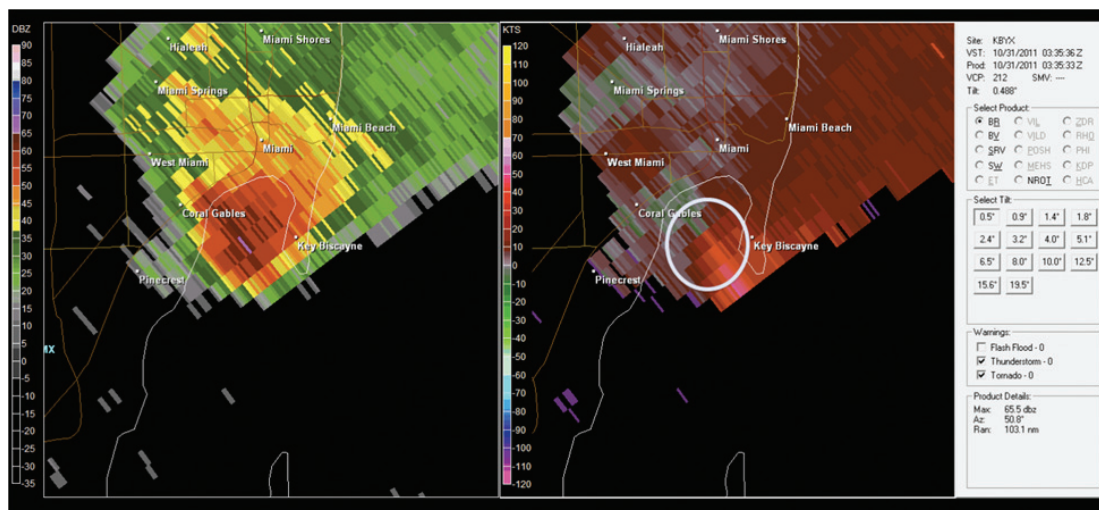


Figure 11 in the paper, an animation of 0.5-degree reflectivity (left) and storm-relative velocity (right) data from the Key West, Fla., WSR-88D, located about 200 km southwest of Miami. The animation, which is activated by clicking on the image in the article, runs from 0000 UTC to 0700 UTC October 31, 2011. The beam is approximately 3,962 m (13,000 ft.) above ground level at the storm's location. The ellipses in the right panel highlight the approximate location of any identifiable mesocyclone in the animation.

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The Founder of Broadcast Meteorology in America Retires

What does the price of crude oil have to do with the advancement of broadcast meteorology in America? Maybe more than you know. When I was a very young student in 1979 beginning my college journey at Mississippi State University (MSU) in Starkville, Miss., the world was in its second major oil crisis of the decade. Political influences from OPEC and contentions between Iran and Iraq were creating continuously rising prices for crude oil. As a freshman, petroleum geology seemed like a good place to start my college career, so I enrolled in the school of Geology and Geography (now called Geosciences) and received my list of required classes. Physical Geography was my first freshman class in my newly declared major and it was taught by a second year assistant professor named Dr. Charles Wax. He was a native Mississippian with a political science degree and served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War era. After the war, he went back to school to study geomorphology and climatology at Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Wax was one of those energetic young lecturers that could truly reach out into the classroom and keep your attention for the full 50 minutes. Through his use of clean, though not always politically correct, humor he would start most of his classes with joke and a smile. His passion for teaching weather and climate was contagious and I would be one of his first weather students. I jokingly refer to the many students to follow as "Disciples of Wax".

The price of crude oil in America climbed steadily through the 1970s and into the early 1980s. Conservation of energy and the development of smaller cars were starting to reduce the use of fossil fuels and a perceived "oil glut" was developing by 1982. Prices started to decline rapidly and domestic drilling for oil was cut in half. An economic recession hit hard across the oil patch states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas. By 1986, many oil companies were filing for bankruptcy protection. The common joke was "What do you call a geologist working in Houston? Waiter, check please!" This caused the number of

geology majors to greatly decline at many American universities in the mid-1980s.

Dr. Wax, now an associate professor and State Climatologist for Mississippi, needed to find a new course of study that would lead to jobs for graduating students. This led him to develop an idea he had pondered often: the need for television and radio weather broadcasters to learn the skill of accurate observing and forecasting. He knew that it was unrealistic for many of them to leave their positions in the highly competitive broadcasting industry to go back to school, so he developed a program of distance learning using video cassette tapes and remotely proctored exams to bring the classroom to the student. MSU then sought the help of the NWA in developing the early curriculum and the NWA broadcast seal was later developed to recognize these graduates.

Many of these broadcasters already had degrees in journalism or other related sciences, but needed a better understanding of meteorology. In 1986, the year the Broadcast Meteorology Program (BMP) began at MSU, there were 30 students from around the country that signed up to earn a Certificate of Meteorology. This new way of teaching has continued to grow, expanding from VHS tapes to DVD's, and then to the Internet. Now with more than 1,500 broadcast meteorology graduates and over 500 currently enrolled worldwide, this idea that Dr. Wax explored truly has changed the entire broadcasting industry. Over 60 percent of all broadcast meteorologist in America have taken classes through MSU and many of them are current NWA seal holders.

Dr. Charles Wax retired from MSU on December 10, 2012, after 34 years of teaching. It is with true professional and personal gratitude that I was asked to speak at his retirement party, and meet the hundreds of other former students, friends and family that came to celebrate a career well spent in education and greatly advancing the field of broadcast meteorology in America.

Bruce Thomas
NWA President



Dr. Charles Wax recently retired after a life-long career in meteorology.

National Severe Weather Workshop and National Tornado Summit

March 10-12, 2013

Submitted by Kevin Lavin
NWA Executive
Director Emeritus

More details are at
www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww/



The NWS Storm Prediction Center will join forces with the Oklahoma Insurance Department, the State of Oklahoma Emergency Management, and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to collaborate on the National Tornado Summit and 11th National Severe Weather Workshop to be held at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City. It will consist of a series of breakout sessions focused on hazardous weather information sharing and discussions on the effective transmission of messages about meteorological risk. NOAA and its partners in the local Central Oklahoma Chapter of the AMS/NWA and the Oklahoma Emergency Management Association are continuing to work together to develop the agenda. The registration deadline is Sunday, February 26.

NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Best Student Presentations at the Annual Meeting

In 2005, the NWA Weather Analysis and Forecasting (WAF) Committee initiated this addition to the NWA Awards Program. At each Annual Meeting, undergraduate and graduate students make known their wishes to be in competition for these awards when they submit their abstracts. Members of the WAF Committee review each presentation and recommend their choices of the best to the NWA President for approval. The President awards the students with a congratulatory letter, a cash stipend and a complimentary NWA membership for the following year.

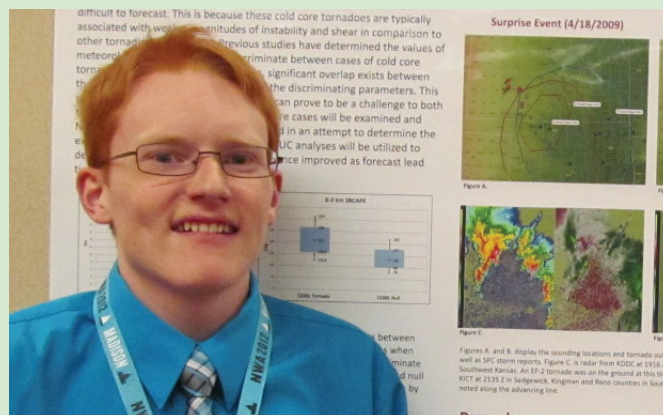
Sam Ng, chair of the NWA WAF Committee announced the winners of the best student presentations for the 2012 NWA Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisc.

Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation

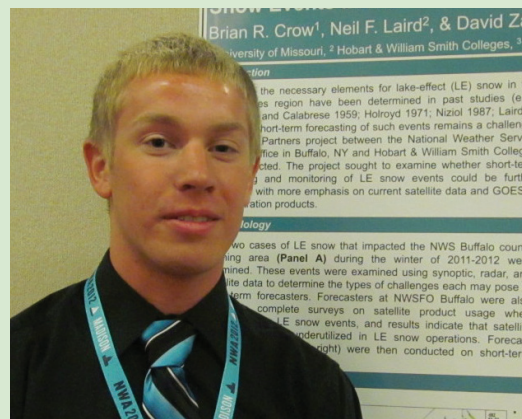


Jordan Gerth, CIMSS/SSEC/ University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. Subject: Linear Optimization as a Solution to Improve the Sky Cover Guess, Forecast

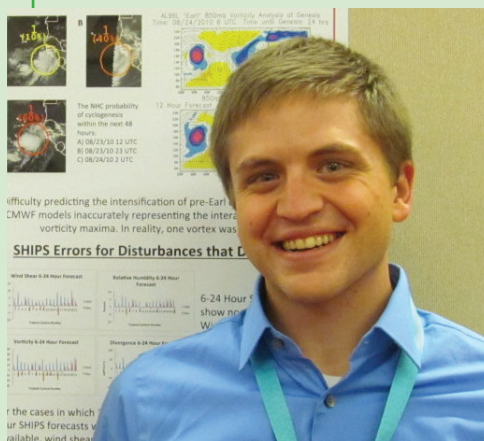
Best Undergraduate Student Poster Presentations



1st Place: William A. LaForce, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI. Subject: Comparison of Two Forecasts for Tornadoes Associated with Cold-Core 500-mb Lows: Surprise and Bust - with Dr. Martin A. Baxter



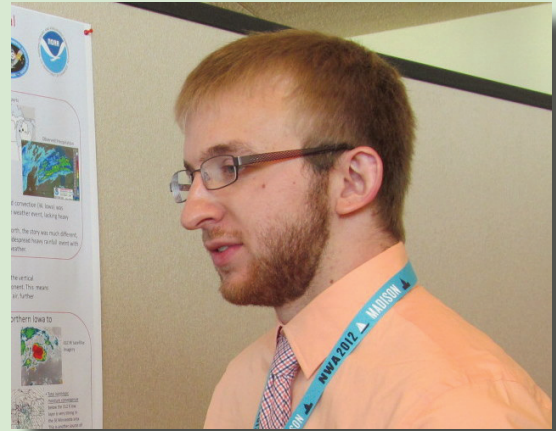
2nd Place: Brian Crow, University of Missouri at Columbia, Columbia, MO. Subject: Forecast Assessment of Two Challenging Lake-Effect Snow Events in the Eastern Great Lakes Region - with Neil Laird and David Zaff



3rd Place: Jonathan Labriola, RSMAS University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL. Subject: Prediction of Tropical Cyclogenesis using Operational, Statistical, and Dynamical Models - with Sharanya J. Majumdar

Best Graduate Student Poster Presentations

1st Place: William Line (right), CIMSS/SSEC/University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. Subject: Future Improvements to Very-short-range Forecasts of the Pre-convective Environment Using Operational Geostationary Satellite Observations - with Ralph Petersen, Robert Aune and Richard Dworak



2nd Place: Agnes Lim (left), CIMSS/SSEC/University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. Subject: Assimilation of AIRS Radiances using GSI/WRF for Short Term Regional Forecasts - with Jim Jung, Allen Huang and Steve Ackerman



Best Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation



Dawn P. Wedig, University of North Carolina - Asheville, Asheville, NC. Subject: An Evaluation of Convective Warning Utilization by the General Public - with Christopher M. Godfrey, P. Wolf, M. K. Goldsberry and J. A. Caudill



3rd Place: Jason Apke, University of Nebraska - Lincoln, Lincoln, NE. Subject: Evaluation of the GOES-R Proving Ground Convective Initiation Nowcasting Products in the Plains - with Mark R. Anderson, Dan Nietfeld, Casey Griffin and Adam Taylor

POSTER AWARDS

NWA Releases Promotional Video

A new NWA video features members enthusiastically describing how their NWA membership and attendance at the annual meeting provides great benefits and opportunities. The video is posted on the NWA YouTube feed (<http://youtu.be/iRvgqdlbsOqE>) and on our website www.nwas.org.

The video highlights interviews at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Madison, Wis., focusing on the key mission and attribute of the NWA: Connecting operational meteorologists in pursuit of excellence in weather forecasting, communication and service.

The short 3-minute video was a result of efforts by the Membership and Marketing committee (M&M), which is composed of 15 enthusiastic and dedicated members who come from the broadcast, private, public, and student sectors. The M&M Committee and NWA President Bruce Thomas connected with Chief Meteorologist Paul Emmick from WSBT in South Bend, Ind., to create the video. Moonstruck Media Production, LLC, filmed for three days at the annual meeting, interviewing many attendees that included some of the top professionals in meteorology and broadcasting. Interviews focus on the benefits of NWA membership, plus the excitement and energy of attending an annual meeting. The video highlights the Student Session, Broadcast Meteorology Workshop, Awards Banquet, and many other activities.

This video will enhance recruitment and retention efforts. *Please use this video to promote the NWA to potential new members.*

If you have any ideas or suggestions for recruitment or retention feel free to e-mail our committee at marketing@nwas.org

John Gordon, M&M Committee Chair

High Plains AMS/NWA Chapter News

Bill Taylor, President
Journeyman Forecaster
NWS North Platte, Neb.

Tim Burke, Secretary
Lead Forecaster
NWS Dodge City, Kan.

The [High Plains AMS/NWA Chapter](#) met via a teleconference for a business meeting and a webinar on Wednesday, December 5, at 1:30 p.m. CST. There were 33 members dialed in. President Bill Taylor called the meeting to order and turned the floor over to Treasurer Scott Bryant, of the Hastings, Neb., NWS office for the chapter financial report. Next discussed was the Jim Johnson Scholarship Program, explained by Scott Bryant. The chapter awards a \$500 scholarship to a worthy high school student in the forecast areas of the chapter's NWS offices who is intending to pursue a degree in a physical science. One member from each office volunteered to serve on the Jim Johnson Scholarship committee: Scott Bryant, Scott Mentzer of Goodland, Kan., Shawn Jacobs of North Platte, Neb., and Matt Gerard of Dodge City, Kan. Announcements to area students need to be sent out in January, the selection is made during April, and the scholarship will be presented to the winner by May 1.

The webinar was presented by Greg Carbin, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the NWS Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla. The title of his webinar was "Meteorological Memories of 2012." Greg reviewed his top 10 weather events in the U.S. during 2012 in no particular rank order. These events included the record warmth last winter in January-March; the very busy tornado season so early in the year, also in January-March; the biggest tornado outbreak of the year during April; the hotter than normal period of late June to early July; and the mild hurricane season except for Hurricane Sandy, which made landfall in the mid-Atlantic states during late October. Several High Plains members commented how much they enjoyed the presentation and commended Greg on a job well done.

New NWA Members in December 2012

Regular/Military/Retired

Danley Brown
Adam Erdmann
Kyle Fitch
Stacey Garvilla
Donald Jones
Eric Nau
Harvey G. O'Connor
Edward Scott

Students

Devin Boyer
Ryan Breton
Jeremy Buckles
Alexandra Catena
Ryan Cherry
Anna Cope
Michael Doyle
Chad Eichelberger
Matthew Flournoy
Sean Gauslin
Jennifer Gonzalez
Mariguel Gonzalez
Tami Gray
Ashley Guba
Alyson Hoegg
Carl Jones
Joshua Karahalas
Stephen Lentz
Matt Livingston
Thomas Lutz
Robert Mayo
Amber McGinnis
Philip Nickel
John Nicola
Isaac Pato
Travis Patterson
Emerson Samoy
Jake Simon
George Sokolowsky
Trevor Sonnier
Colin Tully
Karilly Villanueva
Jesse Westbrook
Gregory Woloszyn

2013 NWA sponsored Annual Meetings, Conferences and Special Events

March 2: 2013 National Storm Conference

Sponsored by the Texas Severe Storms Association (TESSA), it will be at the Colleyville Center in Colleyville, TX. The conference is free and open to the public. Registration is not required, but seating is limited. <http://www.tessa.org>

March 8-10: The 38th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference

Sponsored by the Lyndon State College AMS/NWA local chapter, it will be at the Holiday Inn in Rutland, VT. <https://sites.google.com/site/lyndonstateamsnwa/>

March 10-12: 11th National Severe Weather Workshop & National Tornado Summit

Coordinated by the NWS Storm Prediction Center, the Oklahoma Insurance Department, the State of Oklahoma Emergency Management and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, it will be in Oklahoma City, OK. See page 3 and <http://www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww/>

April 4-6: The 17th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference

Sponsored by the Central Iowa NWA Chapter, it will be in Ankeny, Iowa at the Courtyard by Marriott. <http://www.iowa-nwa.com/>

October 12-17: The 38th NWA Annual Meeting

It will be in Charleston, SC at the North Charleston South Carolina Convention Center with the meeting hotel being the adjacent Embassy Suites. Details and the call for abstracts are forthcoming.

Other Meetings, Conferences and Special Events in 2013

March 12-13: The 2013 Alaska Weather Symposium (AWS '13)

This symposium will be held in the Elvey Building on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. <http://weather.arsc.edu/Events/AWS13/>

March 25-28: The National Hurricane Conference

This Annual Conference will be at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in New Orleans, LA. <http://www.hurricanemeeting.com/>

April 8-12: NOAA Satellite Conference for Direct Readout, GOES/POES, and GOES-R/JPSS Users

This conference will be held in Miami, FL. <http://satelliteconferences.noaa.gov/Miami2013>

April 17-24: The National Tropical Weather Conference

Geared toward Broadcast Meteorologists, it will be at the Isla Grand Resort on Padre Island, TX. The conference theme is "Tropical Systems: Preparing for the Storm." Attendees will have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of tropical systems with educational sessions on tropical forecasting, using social media, flying with the hurricane hunters and more. Additionally, the conference will include all former directors of the National Hurricane Center. See details at <http://www.hurricanecenterlive.com> and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalTropicalWxConference>

May 26-30: The 2013 Joint Scientific Congress of the CMOS, CGU, and CWRA

It will be at TCU Place in Saskatoon, SK, Canada. Presentations are encouraged for all areas of interest of CMOS (Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society), CGU (Canadian Geophysical Union), and CWRA (Canadian Water Resources Association). The theme is Bridging Environmental Science, Policy and Resource Management. Please visit the Congress Web site for contacts and further information.

September 16-20: The 19th AMS Satellite Meteorology, Oceanography and Climatology Conference and the 2013 EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference

This international conference will be held in Vienna, Austria. Session topics include current and future satellites, instruments and their applications, climate, calibration and characterization, and data access for easy utilization. The overarching theme will be water vapor, clouds, and precipitation, and the use of current and planned Earth observation systems to improve our understanding and adequately monitor trends and variability in the global hydrological system. Due date for abstracts is Feb. 18. www.conferences.eumetsat.int

Pam Daale Scholarship

The Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA is again offering the Pam Daale Scholarship for 2013 in the amount of \$1,500. The scholarship is dedicated to Pam Daale, who was a popular broadcast meteorologist in Iowa and Colorado before her death from cancer.

It is available to all full-time meteorology students having sophomore or junior status at the time of the chapter's annual [Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference](#) and a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or greater (on a 4.0-point scale). The award will be presented at the conference, and the winner must attend the conference to receive the scholarship.

For more information and to apply, go to:

<http://www.iowa-nwa.com/conference/scholarship.php>.

Grant Awarded to Kyle Mattingly

Congratulations to the 2012 NWA Meteorological Satellite Applications Award Grant winner, Kyle Mattingly from Western Kentucky University.

His paper is titled "Characteristics Of Large, Long-Lived Convective Systems Over Subtropical South America Derived From Geostationary Satellite Imagery".



IMPORTANT DATES

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March 8-10: 38th Northeastern Storm Conference, Rutland, Vt.

March 10-12: Severe Weather Workshop & Tornado Summit, Oklahoma City, Okla.

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Members receive the Newsletter and *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges.

Address, phone number, email and affiliation changes can now be made online: member.nwas.org.

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