

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Les Lemon

My short message this month is an appeal for all members to stay with the NWA, participate in its activities, volunteer for its many leadership positions, and excite others to join. We are close to reaching the 3,000 member goal. Let's all help to achieve that goal.

My longer message starts out by reminding you that our Executive Director answers a lot of mail, but the portion that he enjoys the most is responding to students asking about careers. Kevin sends out a brochure of the meteorology career field and a letter to each student. The last paragraph in all the career letters states —

Most career fields have professional associations to support their interests. We, the National Weather Association, support and promote excellence in operational meteorology and related fields (weather forecasting, hydrology, broadcast meteorology, etc.). We also provide opportunities for members to share new knowledge, forecasting techniques and general news about the profession through monthly newsletters, journals, annual meetings, and our Web site (<http://www.nwas.org>). We have an annual awards program, scholarships, and provide grants to teachers to help improve the teaching of meteorology in grades K-12. When choosing a profession, please consider joining and supporting the objectives of the related professional associations. You will be helping yourself and advancing your profession.

NWA membership dues pay for those 150 or more letters each year. Some letters go to school addresses to be briefed to many students and kept on file. It would be great if some of those students eventually joined professional associations, but I'm willing to bet that it takes more than just a suggestion in their early years. It probably takes reinforcement of that early suggestion and here again our dues helps. Floyd Hauth and his membership committee mail out packages of complimentary newsletters and applications to colleges/universities, local chapters and weather offices periodically. Other NWA committee members and our volunteer webmasters, Stacy Bunin and Steve Listemaa, work together to provide a lot of information on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org) to entice new members.

For the past few years, nearly 80 percent of new members sent in applications that were copied/downloaded from the NWA Web site.

Your personal invitation, no doubt, also helps to inform potential members about the NWA, its objectives, and opportunities for: professional development, education and training, networking, mentoring, awards and other forms of recognition. What I like to emphasize are the opportunities within the NWA and other professional associations to share good news and both new and continuing problems. This eventually brings forth even better news for all of us to do the best work possible, advancing the science and its applications for the public good. Professional associations also give us a framework to set standards and provide certification programs to recognize personal commitments to quality services.

Along with maintaining memberships, I would also hope that there are many members who would volunteer for leadership positions to implement strategic plans and ensure the associations live up to their objectives, missions, and vision. Our immediate past-president, Rod Scofield, could also use help on his strategic planning committee looking at long-term goals.

I realize many members are already overcommitted, but please know that your monetary support and your "word-of-mouth" support to professional associations can still go a long way to advance your profession. All regular members help subsidize student memberships and cover the costs of correspondence/communications including Internet Service Providers — outlets for our public outreach education and information programs.

I could list many more reasons to join and maintain professional association memberships, but I want to save a few lines to introduce two new members. I welcome Dr. Ronald McPherson, the Executive Director of the American Meteorological Society, and his Deputy, Dr. Keith Seitter. They have also authored an essay dealing with professional association memberships (pg 3). Please read it and circulate it to others.

Hope to see many of you in Spokane!

>> IMPORTANT DATES <<

1 August 2001...*Sol Hirsch NWA Education Fund Grant applications due (Feb. Newsletter or Web site)*

13-19 Oct 2001...*NWA 26th Annual Meeting in Spokane (pg 7)*

COMMITTEE REPORT

NWA BROADCAST METEOROLOGY COMMITTEE

The Great Depression of 2001

by Rich Apuzzo, Committee Chair

You are in a small market and anxious to move up, or in a middle market on a rough morning shift and want to be a chief meteorologist even if it means heading to a smaller market, or maybe you're a college student just trying to get on the air. We have all been in one or more of these situations, but based on the testimony of experts, none of us have ever been in these situations at a time when the economy, advertising dollar, and hence the television business have been so tight. Recently I had the pleasure of sharing some thoughts with a major market news director, a talent agent for a large agency, television consultants and other broadcasters at the AMS Broadcast Meteorology Conference in Minneapolis. None had ever seen television corporations making so many cuts, and hiring so few people to fill current openings. Certainly in my 15 years on-air, I have never witnessed this "Great Depression" in broadcasting, but we are right in the middle of it now and it's hard to say when it will end. The good news is that it will end, but probably not the way we would like.

The past 5 to 10 years has seen explosive local news growth with the addition of FOX, WB and UPN newsrooms around the country. Each new station typically hired two to three, usually young, weather anchors, mainly because of lower salaries at the start-up stations. Include the retirement of older anchors and those who were simply getting out of the business, and the job market was wide open. Everyone thought they had a chance to move up quickly and get their dream job before they were 35 years old. That era has come to a crashing halt.

So here are some thoughts to help plan your next career move. When the economy gets better, the job market will improve, but likely never be the way it was for the past decade. There simply isn't going to be that kind of local news growth, if for no other reason than the fact that most of the markets that can support it have already expanded news into their independent and FOX stations. And, big corporations have learned a few lessons about rapid growth. Most television companies are getting by with fewer workers, and will be more cautious about future hiring. That's not to say you should give up, get out, or fear for your current job, it just means you need to be realistic about where you expect to be in the next five years, and maybe take a longer look at what you have now. We all want to improve our positions, make more money, or just get that first job, but it will take more patience and perseverance than ever before. A great help would be to attend the NWA Annual Meeting in Spokane this October, and learn how to enhance your career.

MEMBER NEWS

Rob Fowler, Chief Meteorologist at WCBD-TV in Charleston, South Carolina was awarded the Best Weather Anchor award from the RTNDAC (Radio-Television News Directors Association of the Carolinas) for the year 2000. The award was given out at the organization's annual banquet, this time held in Charleston, SC. Rob is a member of the Broadcast Seal Committee and has been an NWA seal holder since 1986.

NCEP NOTES

Model Changes

Here are a couple of updates to implementation items listed in the June 2001 Newsletter. The spring change package for the Eta model, originally scheduled for implementation on 26 June is now scheduled for implementation on 24 July 2001. The introduction of a 4-km national precipitation analysis into the Eta Data Assimilation System, also scheduled for 26 June was implemented on 10 July.

Collaborative Efforts

NCEP's collaborative efforts with other units within the National Weather Service, other government agencies inside and outside of NOAA, universities and international organizations allow better use of resources and enable more progress in many more areas than would be achieved in individual efforts. An earlier newsletter article summarized one of NCEP's most successful cooperative efforts — the model backup system. All NCEP Centers are involved in collaborative efforts of their own. Here are a few examples.

Forecasters from the *Climate Prediction Center*, the *U.S. Department of Agriculture*, the *National Drought Mitigation Center* and the *National Climatic Data Center* collaborate to produce a weekly assessment of national drought conditions called the **U.S. Drought Monitor**.

Continued on page 4

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6704 Wolke Court, Montgomery, Alabama 36116-2134 USA.

Tel/FAX: (334) 213-0388; e-mail: NatWeaAsoc@aol.com

Web site: www.nwas.org

Submit newsletter items directly to: Editor NWA Newsletter, Frank Brody at NewsletterNWA@aol.com; Eli Jacks at Elliott.Jacks@noaa.gov; Larry Burch at Larry.Burch@noaa.gov or to the NWA office. Material received by the 5th will be considered for that month's issue.

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

Common Interests of the NWA and the AMS

Ronald D. McPherson
Executive Director, AMS

Keith L. Seitter
Deputy Executive Director, AMS

As new members of the National Weather Association, we wish to thank the NWA's leadership for warmly welcoming us to the organization. Kevin Lavin sent each of us a very nice letter of welcome, which is very much appreciated. We also appreciate the leadership's invitation to contribute this short essay on the mutual interests of the NWA and the AMS, as we see them.

We have long recognized the valuable services the Association provides to an important component of the community of the atmospheric and related sciences. The NWA is doing an excellent job of serving the operational community in its meetings, the *Digest*, and the NWA Newsletter. It has done so for more than 25 years, and we hope and expect that it will continue in the future. We hope to be able to contribute, as NWA members, to the goals of the Association. We also hope, as part of the management of the American Meteorological Society, to look for opportunities where the NWA and the AMS can work together to advance our common interests and serve our profession.

The AMS represents a broad spectrum of interests in the atmospheric and related sciences and services. There are a number of associations that represent more specific components of that spectrum; the NWA is one, and there is also the Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA), The Oceanography Society, and a good many others. We see advantages to concentrating on specific areas, but at the same time it is important to resist any tendency to build barriers that would separate the various sectors and disciplines of our field. To that end, we advocate membership and participation in multiple organizations. Those in the operational community should be encouraged to belong to both the NWA and the AMS, those with interest in air quality should belong to both AMS and AWMA, and so on. All organizations in our community should work together, where it makes sense, to promote our professions to the general public and to decision makers in both government and industry.

Not all NWA and AMS interests overlap, of course, but we see in each organization strengths that are complementary, and working together in those areas where it makes sense will benefit both organizations and the profession as a whole. There are already some excellent examples of fruitful cooperation, with a notable one being the cosponsorship by the NWA of the AWIPS Symposium at the 82nd Annual Meeting of the AMS in January 2002.

We look forward to participating in the NWA's programs as active members, and to fostering collaboration between NWA and AMS.

NCEP NOTES ... continued from pg 2

Input is also received from many NWS Forecast Offices through focal points located in each NWS region. The **U.S. Drought Monitor** is issued each Thursday morning at 8:30 AM Eastern Time and can be seen at Web site: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/drought_assessment.html

NCEP's **Aviation Weather Center** (AWC) is involved in the production of the Collaborative Convective Forecast Product (CCFP), a 2-, 4-, and 6-hour forecast of thunderstorm coverage showing indications of growth potential and probability of occurrence. An initial forecast produced at the AWC evolves into a final product through collaboration with participating meteorologists from airlines and **NWS Center Weather Service Units**. It is issued six times daily at: www.awc-kc.noaa.gov/ccfp/

Hurricane forecast information is another area where collaboration and cooperation is necessary to make the most of available resources. NCEP's **Tropical Prediction Center, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center and Marine Prediction Center**, and all of the affected NWS Forecast Offices, meet via teleconference four times daily to discuss movement and intensity of active tropical systems. The discussion includes placement of watches and warnings. Another example is the **Hurricane Liaison Team**. This NWS/FEMA team supports the emergency management community during hurricane threats.

The NCEP's **Storm Prediction Center** (SPC) has introduced two new efforts in collaboration this summer. Twice daily, their forecasters participate in a coordination call with four southwestern desert NWS Forecast Offices to discuss the convective situation. It is expected that this opportunity will lead to increased communication, coordination, research and knowledge of southwest monsoon convection forecasting. In addition, SPC has set up a Fire Weather Chat Room involving initially SPC and forecasters at NWS Forecast Offices at Elko, NV; Medford, OR; Flagstaff, AZ; and Billings, MT. This effort will be expanded to additional Forecast Offices for next year's fire weather season. It's been designed to improve coordination between the SPC National Fire Weather forecast and the local forecasts issued by the individual NWS Forecast Offices.

NCEP's **Environmental Modeling Center** is involved in the Weather Research and Forecast (WRF) Model Project. The goal is to develop a next-generation mesoscale forecast model and assimilation system. This is a collaborative effort among scientists from **NWS, OAR, NESDIS, Naval Research Lab, NCAR, Air Force Weather Agency, NASA** and several universities. This project should lead to a more accurate model for the prediction of important mesoscale precipitation systems, while also promoting closer ties between the research and operational forecasting communities.

- Lauren Morone, NWS / NCEP

NWA STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR 2000

INCOME FOR 2000

Membership Dues	\$ 71,886.50
Donations:	
Sol Hirsch NWA Education Fund.....	2,720.00
General Fund Donations.....	5,081.50
Arthur C. Pike Estate Donation	23,091.61
Subscriptions.....	4,667.00
Publication Page Fees	8,925.00
Reprints.....	442.75
Radio-TV Certification.....	16,500.00
Publication Sales.....	1,901.50
Advertising Sales.....	825.00
Annual Meeting.....	35,108.00
Postage Reimbursement	127.13
Interest.....	10,013.26
Dividends.....	4,777.38
NWA logo items.....	885.00
Miscellaneous.....	41.02

Total Income	\$186,992.65

EXPENSES FOR 2000

Digest Printing.....	\$12,298.19
Digest Layout	4,762.96
Newsletter Printing.....	5,714.82
Reprints	884.95
NWA Seal of Approval certificates	588.80
Other Printing.....	1,785.65
Personnel Salaries.....	27,000.00
Temporary Help Fees	8,480.00
Taxes and Soc. Sec/Medicare.....	3,524.80
Payroll Management Fees	487.85
Postage and Shipping.....	18,156.61
Annual Meeting.....	49,219.48
Communications.....	772.80
Equipment and Maintenance.....	775.43
Office Supplies.....	2,058.66
Awards.....	2,054.95
Education Fund Grants.....	1,500.00
Travel	1,540.68
Refunds	836.50
Storage rent	720.00
NWA logo items.....	2,936.10
Reference and continuing education materials	697.97
Miscellaneous.....	746.37

Total Expenses.....	\$147,543.57

INCOME over EXPENSES

\$39,449.08

This is a summary of the NWA's IRS Form 990 submitted in mid-May for organizations exempt from income tax. Net fund balances at the end of 2000 were \$273,122.33. Reserve funds are growing as planned to be able to fund office space and a larger paid staff in the future as well as to support more initiatives, grants and scholarships.

- Exec. Dir.

MEETING NEWS

• **International Conference on Disaster Management** will be held **6-10 August 2001** at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. For more information call: (850) 906-9221 or visit Web site: www.DisasterMeeting.com

• **NWA 26th Annual Meeting, 13-19 October 2001 in Spokane, Washington.** Please see page 7.

• **The Fifth Annual High Plains Conference** sponsored by the High Plains AMS and NWA Local Chapters will be held **3-5 October 2001** in North Platte, Nebraska. A preliminary program, and registration, hotel and general information will be at Web site: www.crh.noaa.gov/lbf/hpams/5HPC.htm. This year's theme focuses on "The Challenges of Weather Forecasting on the High Plains". Any topic is applicable, including winter and severe weather forecasting, and both research and operational aspects of forecasting High Plains weather are welcome. Sessions will begin with an invited speaker and the remaining speakers will be given 20 minutes including questions. The tone of this conference is less formal than at national conferences, and part of the purpose for this conference is to provide a forum and/or training platform for first time presenters, and for work that has not yet had a chance to go through the academic peer review process. Titles and one-page abstracts should include each author's name and affiliation, the corresponding author's complete address, telephone/fax number, and e-mail address.

Abstracts must be submitted no later than 27 July 2001 to: Fifth High Plains Conference Committee, National Weather Service, 5250 E. Lee Bird Drive, North Platte, NE 69101; e-mail: john.stoppkotte@noaa.gov; Tel: (308) 532-0921; Fax: (308) 532-9557. In addition, this year the High Plains Chapters will hold a **Student Paper Competition** for the best student paper describing research on a topic related to Plains weather. For further information, see the Web site noted above or contact the Conference Committee.

• **Special Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting Issues in the Central United States** will be held at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO, **30 Nov. - 2 Dec. 2001** to address all topics relating to operational meteorology in the Midwest (emphasis on heavy precipitation forecasting, winter weather phenomena, and interannual variations in Midwestern climate); oral presentations are encouraged, although space will be allotted for poster exhibitions. Registration information is at Web site: solberg.snr.missouri.edu/WAFICUS/.

Abstracts are due by 31 July 2001 to: Sharon Burnham, University of Missouri-Columbia, Department of Soil and Atmospheric Sciences, 116 Gentry Hall, Columbia, MO 65211 (with abstract, please provide contact information, audiovisual requirements, and specify oral or poster presentation). Conference organizers are: Drs. Anthony R. Lupo and Patrick S. Market, Assistant Professors of Atmospheric Science at University of Missouri-Columbia.

• **Interactive Symposium on the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS), 13-18 January 2002.** As part of the 82nd AMS Annual Meeting, in Orlando, Florida, the AMS Board for Operational Government Meteorologists, AMS Committee on Interactive Information and Processing Systems, the AMS Committee on Weather Analysis and Forecasting, the National Weather Association and the National Weather Service are cosponsoring an AWIPS interactive symposium. The theme of the 2002 symposium is "Leveraging AWIPS to Maximize Our Nation's Forecast and Warning Support". The primary purposes of this symposium are three-fold: to provide a forum for the exchange of status, plans, and concepts for AWIPS in operational use; to increase communication and collaboration among operational users of AWIPS and the hydrometeorological community; and an opportunity to demonstrate AWIPS capabilities. Presentations and papers will be in the following areas: Overview of AWIPS; Visualization; Data Handling; Local Modeling; Internet/Web Opportunities and Challenges; Operational Meteorological and Hydrological Applications; Specialized Uses; Interactive Forecast Preparation System; Locally Written Applications, and Education and Training. The deadline for abstracts has passed. Registrants will receive a preprint volume at the conference. For further information contact: Major Ken Carey, Air Force Studies and Analyses Agency, tel: 703-588-8626; e-mail: kenneth.carey@pentagon.af.mil or contact the NWA office.

The NWA Council also approved cosponsoring the **AMS 18th International Conference on Interactive Information and Processing Systems (IIPS) for Meteorology, Oceanography and Hydrology** and the **16th Conference on Hydrology** to be held in Orlando, Florida, 13-18 January 2002. NWA members will be able to attend these conferences at AMS member rates.

• For those that want to plan more than a year in advance —

The NWA's 27th Annual Meeting will be held in Fort Worth, Texas at the Radisson Hotel, 19-25 October 2002.

JOB CORNER

(Ed: The NWA lists job openings free from equal opportunity employers for the benefit of members. See the Job section on the NWA Web site: www.nwas.org for more complete details on the following jobs, short notice listings and job links.)

Rapid Weather: Sales/Marketing/Meteorology. This is a great opportunity for a person who is willing to work hard and think creatively. We're looking for regional sales reps to sell our forecast, graphics and education services. We offer a large commission to get you started and then move toward a base plus commission. Applicants should have sales experience. A background in meteorology will be very helpful. Relocation is not necessary. See additional details at Web site: www.rapidwx.com under "employment". Rapid Weather, 1601 Mt. Rushmore Road #1-217, Rapid City SD 57701

Job Corner Continued

Midwest Weather, Inc. is looking for qualified applicants to fill two positions.

1) **Senior Weather Observer** at the Upper-Air Observatory in Del Rio, Texas. The qualified applicant will have a minimum of 3 years experience within the past 5 years in taking upper-air observations.

2) **Weather Observer** at Buckley ANGB in Denver, Colorado. The qualified applicant will have a minimum of 2 years experience in taking and disseminating surface weather observations at a DOD weather station. Ability to work a rotating schedule is required. Preference will be given to applicants with DOD forecasting experience. Pay is in accordance with the applicable Department of Labor Wage Determination.

Interested candidates, please send Resumes detailing previous DOD experience via USPS, fax, or e-mail to: Midwest Weather, Inc., ATTN: Eric Livingston, PO Box 1418, Saint Peters, MO 63376; e-mail: mwi@i1.net; Fax: (636) 928-0055. Voicemail: (314) 508-4756

Commanders' Weather Corporation is looking for a knowledgeable, enthusiastic **marine meteorologist**. The successful candidate should have a Bachelors degree in meteorology or atmospheric science, strong forecasting abilities, a thorough knowledge of synoptic meteorology, strong communication skills, and at least 2 years forecasting experience in the marine sector. Some shift work will be required and the candidate should be available to travel both domestically and internationally. Commanders' Weather is located in Nashua, NH and is a world leader in global marine forecasting. We have a strong sailing clientele and are involved with many renowned sailors and races worldwide. Commanders' Weather offers a competitive salary, a health plan, bonuses, and other benefits, including free skiing at some of New Hampshire's major ski areas. If you are interested in a challenging opportunity in a professional and cordial environment, send a cover letter and resume with strong references to: Commanders' Weather Corporation, 154 Broad Street, Nashua, NH 03062; fax: 603-882-6661; e-mail: commandersweather@compuserve.com

NewsChannel 11, KCBD, Lubbock TX has an opening for a Weekend Weather Anchor/Weekday Reporter. Duties include creating forecasts and associated graphics required for broadcast. We are Web-intensive, so you also will be updating and posting e-mail and Web forecasts, including our Personal Forecast, a Microcast-based product. Meteorology degree and at least one year of on-air experience preferred. Applicants should love weather. Severe weather coverage is our specialty, and this is one of the most active weather markets in the country. In-house tools include Doppler, WSI WeatherProducer, new automated Severe Weather Notification System, Weather Central's Metline Microcast, and dedicated live Storm Chase unit with weather station, laptop and wireless Internet connection. NewsChannel 11, KCBD, is an NBC affiliate and the dominant station in the market. Each of our newscasts has more than double the combined viewership of its competitors. EOE. If interested and qualified, please e-mail your cover letter and resume to weather@kcbd.com. You may also mail your letter, resume and VHS or beta tape to: Weather, 5600 Avenue A, Lubbock, TX 79404.

Scientific Research Corporation has positions for weather observers and weather forecasters.

WEATHER OBSERVERS (2-5 positions): Individuals must have three years of experience as a qualified weather observer for rawinsonde and surface observations; including a minimum of one year at an aviation weather facility. Candidates will complete necessary forms in accordance with Federal Meteorological Handbooks and instructions provided by the National Weather Service and other appropriate authority. Observer prepares balloon, radiosonde, and ground equipment for flight, and performs pre-release checks and conducts regular optical comparative flights to ensure proper calibration of equipment. Candidates will obtain data on cloud height, wind atmospheric transmissivity, pressure, and precipitation from autographic records. **This position is a full time, seasonal position with training beginning in July, and 100% deployment to Antarctica from August/September through February. JOB#: ATD-029.**

WEATHER FORECASTER: Candidates must possess formal education and experience, or education and experience comparable to a four-year course of study in relevant disciplines. Qualification requires completion of one the following: U.S. Military Weather Forecasting Course with a minimum 3 years experience as a certified aviation forecaster; Bachelor or Master of Science Degree in Meteorology; Bachelor's Degree in atmospheric science or other natural science major which included or was supplemented by at least 20 semester hours of credit in meteorology/atmospheric science. Individuals must have a minimum of 2 years experience in operational meteorology; and in programs provided by an operational weather office. **This position is a full time, seasonal position with training beginning in July, and 100% deployment to Antarctica from August/September through February. JOB#: ATD-030**

Williams Executive Search is accepting resumes for a Meteorologist for our client, a publicly-held, world-wide leader in non-regulated, independent power production headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Job Description: This individual will be responsible for providing trading and analytic functions with timely and accurate climate forecasts allowing the company traders, analysts, and company management to better anticipate and capitalize on weather-created market changes. The Meteorologist will report to the VP of Power Marketing. Experience & Educational Requirements: The qualified candidate will have at least 3 years of operational meteorology experience as well as strong forecasting expertise and a well developed understanding of U.S. weather patterns. Experience in the energy or commodities business would be helpful. This position requires a M.S. or Ph.D. of Meteorology/Atmospheric Science (statistics coursework or experience preferred). Location: Minneapolis, MN; our client would prefer not to relocate someone. Compensation: \$85k base plus bonus opportunity. Submit resumes to ralls@williams-exec.com for the attention of: Cindy Ralls, Manager, Research & Administration, Williams Executive Search, Inc., 4200 Wells Fargo Center, 90 S. 7th St., Minneapolis, MN 55402

Please refer to the last Newsletter and the NWA Web site at www.nwas.org for many other jobs announced earlier that we did not have room for in this issue.

NWA 26th ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE and PREREGISTRATION FORM

The National Weather Association's 26th Annual Meeting will be held 13-19 October 2001 at the WestCoast Ridpath Hotel, 515 West Sprague Avenue, Spokane, Washington 99201. It will include:

- **13-14 October: BROADCAST METEOROLOGY WORKSHOPS** beginning late Saturday at exhibit briefings (6-9 PM) and continuing on Sunday (8:30 AM to 5:00 PM) will include special presentations, and hands-on workshops appropriate to continuing education for weathercasters, but open to all interested. **Tape Swap Sunday evening** -- bring a vhs tape of a recent weathercast for discussion. Depending on the number of tapes submitted, a tape swap for student submissions may be held on Saturday. Broadcasters will also meet for a "no host" dinner Monday evening after the Icebreaker.
- **14 October: AVIATION METEOROLOGY OUTREACH TRAINING SESSION** (time to be determined). A forum for all interested in aviation weather will include a review of aviation weather products and services from NWS and other providers; aviation applications of weather satellite data; PIREPS and TAFs from forecaster and pilot perspectives.
- **15-19 October: ANNUAL MEETING GENERAL SESSIONS** from Monday morning through noon on Friday will include a wide variety of topics relating to OPERATIONAL meteorology, hydrology, weather broadcasting, new research applications, and related activities. A special symposium on Downbursts will also be included. The program will be a mix of formal presentations, poster sessions, training workshops, and exhibits. An **Icebreaker** will be held in the exhibit area on Monday from 5-7 PM. The **Annual Awards Banquet will be on Wednesday** with social hour 6-7 PM and banquet from 7- 9:30 PM.

The Annual Meeting Program Chairperson is John Livingston, Meteorologist-in-Charge, National Weather Service Forecast Office, Spokane, WA; (509) 244-0110x222; e-mail: John.Livingston@noaa.gov.

For information on exhibits, accommodations, registration and the overall meeting program, please contact the NWA office at Tel/FAX: (334) 213-0388 or e-mail: NatWeaAsoc@aol.com. The meeting agenda will be posted on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org) by August and printed in the August NWA Newsletter.

HOTEL INFORMATION: Please make your reservations before 13 September 2001. The Annual Meeting will be held at the WestCoast Ridpath Hotel in downtown Spokane, Washington. The NWA discount hotel rates are: \$63 for single and \$73 for double/triple/quad. Please call 1-800-325-4000 for reservations and request National Weather Association's special conference rates. Hotel check-in time is 3:00pm and check-out time is 12:00 noon.

ANNUAL MEETING PREREGISTRATION: The NWA Annual Meeting preregistration fee includes a preprint volume with program and abstracts. **For the period of days registered for, it also includes:** admission to all presentation, workshop and exhibit sessions, coffee/refreshment breaks, the Monday evening icebreaker, and the Wednesday evening Banquet.

THE PREREGISTRATION FEES payable to the NWA by 5 OCTOBER 2001 are:

- **For 13-14 October, Broadcast Meteorology Workshops:** \$40 for NWA members and speakers (student members \$20); \$60 for non-members (student non-members \$30).
- **For 14 October, Aviation Meteorology Outreach Training:** no charge.
- **For 15-19 October, Annual Meeting sessions/activities:** \$120 for NWA members, speakers and session chairpersons (student members \$80); \$150 for non-members (student non-members \$100).

Special day rates for each day during the period 15-18 October (for those that cannot attend the entire conference) are: \$40 for NWA members, speakers and session chairpersons (student members \$25); \$50 for non-members (student non-members \$35). **Half price rates on Friday, 19 October 2001.** Day rates do not include the Wednesday evening Annual Awards Banquet. **Extra Banquet tickets** are available at \$30 each.

To preregister, please copy this form and mail it with full payment of fees by 5 October 2001 to: NWA Meeting, 6704 Wolke Court, Montgomery AL 36116-2134. Make payment to "NWA" in US funds by US bank check, money order or government/institution purchase order.

NWA 2001 ANNUAL MEETING PREREGISTRATION FORM

Name (for nametag): _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Employer, School or other Affiliation: _____

Telephone and e-mail address: _____

Days (by dates) attending Annual Meeting: _____

Number of extra Banquet tickets (\$30 ea.): _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Circle all applicable: NWA member NWA local chapter member non-member Student Retired
Session Chair Presenter Program committee member Local Arrangements committee member

FOR INDIVIDUALS REGISTERING AFTER 5 OCTOBER 2001 OR AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, fees will be increased by 10 to 20 percent. They will be posted in a later newsletter and on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org).

NSSL FIRE DAMAGE

Officials from NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) announced preliminary estimated costs of \$1.8 million to replace research equipment lost in a fire on 3 July 2001.

NSSL's leased equipment storage facility, known as the "Balloon Barn," was destroyed. Items lost include a new mobile Doppler radar, called a "SMART-Radar," a mobile laboratory, a mobile mesonet instrumented vehicle, a Ford Expedition, the entire tool and shop inventory, three atmospheric sounding systems and a large inventory of balloons and radiosondes. Many of these instruments are unique and designed by NSSL scientists for specific uses. These tools have been vital to NSSL's research data collection and were scheduled to be used in a variety of research projects beginning as early as this fall.

The SMART-Radar, a mobile C-Band Doppler radar mounted on a truck, was near completion and scheduled to be used to study tornadic thunderstorms, squall lines and hurricanes. A second SMART-Radar was not in the building and was not damaged. These instruments are being created by a coalition of researchers from NSSL, University of Oklahoma, Texas A&M and Texas Tech University.

In addition, equipment for a lightning-mapping array that was scheduled to be installed in the next few weeks was destroyed. The unique system, created by engineers at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for NSSL and University of Oklahoma researchers, was expected to provide 3-D lightning data over a portion of central Oklahoma and 2-D over most of the State. Preliminary research indicates the lightning data provided by this system could improve the quality of computer-based forecast models, ultimately improving operational forecasts. The cost to replace this system is estimated at more than \$300,000.

"This fire is a major setback to our research and development efforts," said James F. Kimpel, NSSL Director. "What we learn through our field campaigns – basic knowledge of storm structure, testing of new detection and measuring devices, and development of new forecasting techniques – will be significantly impacted."

The \$1.8 million estimated replacement cost includes \$1 million for general and ballooning facilities, including the lightning-mapping array, five upper-air sounding systems and vehicles; \$54,000 for the mobile mesonet instruments; \$303,000 for equipment such as computers and electronic test equipment; \$272,000 for the SMART-Radar; and \$150,000 for supplies, tools and furniture.

More information and pictures are available at Web site: www.nssl.noaa.gov/headlines/fire.html

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NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION
6704 WOLKE COURT
MONTGOMERY AL 36116-2134