

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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**by Bill Read**

*bill.read@noaa.gov*

I am happy to report that through the outstanding efforts of member William Roeder, your NWA Council approved the following policy statement on lightning safety awareness education and requests the support of NWA members in implementing it.

**Lightning is an underrated weather hazard.** *It is the second leading cause of storm-related deaths in the U.S., exceeded only by floods. In an average year, lightning kills more people in the United States than tornadoes or hurricanes. Of the estimated 1,000 people who are struck by lightning each year in the U.S., only 10% are killed, but survivors may suffer life-long disabilities.*

**The majority of lightning casualties (deaths and injuries) are preventable.** *Therefore, all NWA members are encouraged to proactively educate the public on the threat of lightning and on lightning safety. Radio and Television weathercasters and teachers, with their access to large segments of the public, can be especially effective in this effort. By increasing efforts to educate the public about the dangers of lightning, NWA members could substantially decrease the number of lightning casualties.*

*Safety information is posted on the NWA Web site page: [www.nwas.org/links/lightning.html](http://www.nwas.org/links/lightning.html) to assist members in lightning safety education activities. Although it would be optimal to include lightning safety information any time thunderstorms are predicted. "Lightning Safety Awareness Week," started by NOAA's National Weather Service and its partnering organizations in the year 2000, occurs during the last full week in June each year and is a good time to stress lightning safety education. **Lightning safety education is easy, can be highly effective, costs little, and may make the greatest impact in decreasing weather-related deaths and injuries.***

In the Houston area with a large population, access to many outdoor recreational activities and a relatively high frequency of thunderstorms, there have been surprisingly few lightning deaths in the past decade. The casualties that did occur point out several challenging aspects of lightning safety. Thunderstorms associated with these deaths were not prolific lightning producers. One of the fatalities occurred from a storm that only produced one cloud-to-ground lightning strike. In two other cases, the

individuals killed were well outside the rain area of the storm. The combination of little or no prior thunder and distance from the rainstorms may have given the victims minimal clues, if any, of the impending danger. These examples clearly support the statement that, **"no place outside is safe from lightning near thunderstorms."**

**June also marks the start of Hurricane Season.**

Much public attention is given to the various seasonal forecasts on numbers of storms, number of hurricanes and chances for landfall on given stretches of coastlines. It seems like everyone is predicting a more active than normal season for 2003. While there are likely some interests whose scope is broad enough that the deviation from average for a given season may be important, not so for those of us who live on the coast. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Alicia, a category 3 hurricane that made landfall on the west end of Galveston Island and moved through the Houston area on 18 August 1983. More than 20 people lost their lives and nearly \$4,000,000,000 (adjusted to year 2000 dollars) in property damage occurred. Guess what — there were only 4 named storms during the 1983 season — the least number since the era of Hurricane Hunters. The message for coastal community dwellers is, "you need to prepare each year exactly the same — your safety and that of your family depend on it."

Speaking of **Hurricane Hunters**, this year marks the 60th anniversary of the first intentional flight into a hurricane. Colonel Joseph B. Duckworth, Commander of the AAF Instructor's School for Instrument Pilots and his navigator, 2nd Lt Ralph M. O'Hair, flew from Bryan Field about 100 miles northwest of Houston into the eye of a hurricane over Galveston Bay on 27 July 1943 in a single engine plane. According to Lt Col (Ret.) O'Hair, the flight was made on a bet with British pilots who questioned the airworthiness of the AT-6 *Texas Trainer*. The higher ups saw the promise of weather reconnaissance in Duckworth's historic flight and by the next season official missions were being conducted. The value of aerial hurricane reconnaissance continues to this day! For more on the 1943 hurricane, see Web site: [www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx/index3/projects3.htm](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx/index3/projects3.htm) and click on "The 1943 'Surprise' hurricane".

Your NWA Council will be holding a midyear meeting in Jackson, MS, 20-21 June. We will be going over a →

range of agenda items from reviewing our business practices, to improving our publications, strategic plan implementation, and setting goals for the rest of the year. I'll report back to you on the meeting in the next Newsletter. BR

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## BROADCAST COMMITTEE NEWS

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### **Centralization, a Disturbing Trend**

Before I get into this, let me state that I am pro-business and a huge fan of free enterprise. Companies are doing all they can to cut costs after the recent economic losses and even though the current economy is growing, there is still a conservative philosophy directing corporate decision-making. With that in mind, a concept has come along that is not new, but has never been attempted by and solely within a corporation — centralized news. Networks such as FOX, ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN all offer news, weather and sports to their affiliates, whether the network owns them or not. However, Sinclair Broadcasting is now offering news, weather and sports only to stations that it owns, which makes sense since they are a broadcast company but not a network.

First of all, we (as viewers) all understand that network news comes from “somewhere else,” usually New York or Washington D.C., but we know it's not local. It had also been understood that your local news, weather and sports came from a local TV station in your area, but that is changing in many markets. Sinclair is attempting to produce a newscast in a central location (near Baltimore) that appeals to viewers in many other parts of the country, but not as a network newscast. The appeal is being made as a local newscast since it is running in the local news time slot and is being promoted as local. To that end they are hiring people (mainly reporters) in markets they serve. They are also building small news facilities in these markets. The result is that the local stations don't need a full news team and all the equipment, but the local station gets to put on a newscast, which it can sell to advertisers. Sounds good, right?

Here's the problem, especially as it relates to weather. How can one broadcast facility provide live and local weather forecasts to many stations? Well, they're not. It was recently revealed to me that the weathercasts seen in the local markets will be taped. I know there is a collective *gasp* out there right now and I too am surprised. That means that temperature, satellite and radar data will be old by the time it's broadcast, and how can you possibly talk about rain, snow and thunderstorms *currently* affecting the viewing area when the weather is taped? I also learned recently through electronic bulletin boards and chat sites that severe weather coverage is poor at best. Think about it...if you're taping weathercasts for many stations how can you also cover severe weather events for those stations? “Breaking in” may become a thing of the past

since the Baltimore facility will be too busy serving its other markets. And, what if 3 or 4 cities are seeing severe weather at the same time? Sure, you can run crawls, but there is a real need for a “live” weathercaster to explain what's going on, reassure viewers who get very nervous when severe weather strikes, and to warn those who may be in the path of a storm. Since the viewers will not be told that the weathercast they're watching was recorded earlier, isn't it deceptive to portray a taped weathercast as live?

With this type of centralization there are certainly ethical concerns, a loss of current and future weather jobs, and most importantly, a potential public safety nightmare since there is no local meteorologist serving the viewer. I don't fault Sinclair for wanting to save money and provide local news, but I am worried that a disservice is being provided to its viewers, one that can cost lives and property. I'd appreciate comments from other members on this subject.

This is a good time to remind all of the **NWA Broadcast Meteorology Committee Purpose:** The NWA Broadcast Meteorology Committee is authorized (by the NWA Council) to promote the development of quality television and radio weathercasting among NWA members. *The public deserves the most accurate and timely weather forecasting and warning information in terms they can understand and take appropriate action on — for quality of life and the safety of all concerned. Television and radio weathercasters and other media representatives should be committed to helping to provide and continually improve that service.* The Committee also fosters better relations among weathercasters, the National Weather Service, and other government and private-sector meteorological concerns. Seals of Approval will be granted to NWA member weathercasters in radio or television who meet or exceed the standards of excellence set by the NWA. The Committee will continually review and update the Seal of Approval guidelines, qualifications and procedures to ensure the Seal remains credible.

**NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) invites all media representatives to participate in an online survey.** The survey will help the NWS better understand what it is doing well and where it should improve in services to media customers. NOAA/NWS believes National Weather Association media members are in a unique position to be able to provide an important evaluation of services. CFI Group USA, LLC, a third party research and consulting firm located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, is administering the survey online via a secure server. The survey is accessible through Web site: <http://www.cfigroup.net/NWSmediasurvey.html> and will take about 15 minutes to complete. All responses will be strictly confidential. Survey ends on/about 20 June 2003.

Send your thoughts to me at [skye@fuse.net](mailto:skye@fuse.net).

- Rich Apuzzo, Broadcast Committee Chair

## NWA AWARDS PROGRAM 2003

The National Weather Association began its awards program in 1977 to provide deserved recognition to those individuals involved in operational activities and to promote excellence. The Awards Program recognizes the professional as well as the volunteer. The emphasis is on the people who perform the day-to-day duties of providing meteorological information and weather support services to the public. Names of previous winners and additional award information are available on the NWA Web site ([www.nwas.org/award.html](http://www.nwas.org/award.html)).

### Award Categories are:

- **Member of the Year Award:** is presented to an NWA member in good standing who has made significant contributions to the organization over a period of time.
- **Operational Achievement Individual Award:** The award is presented to an NWA member who has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology (e.g., an accurate and timely forecast for one or more significant weather events or for long-period achievement).
- **Operational Achievement Group Award:** The award is presented to a group of two or more individuals for a significant contribution to operational meteorology. **At a minimum, a majority of the group (greater than 50%) must be NWA members.**
- **Broadcaster of the Year Award:** This award is presented to an NWA member who is a Radio or Television weathercaster, or other member of the broadcast media, whose activities have significantly contributed to the development and presentation of weather information to the public service.
- **T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award:** This award is presented to an NWA member whose research has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology.
- **Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award:** This award is presented to an individual or organization directly assisting the meteorological community in providing weather-related information to the public. *Individuals and organizations in the meteorological profession are ineligible for this award.*
- **Public Education Award:** This award is presented to an individual, group or organization providing significant contributions to increase the public's weather awareness.
- **Aviation Meteorology Award:** This award is presented to an individual, group or organization to recognize significant contributions to aviation meteorology such as impact of operational forecasts on aviation operations or advances in aviation meteorology including research in detection and forecasting of aviation hazards.

- **Local Chapter Award:** This award is presented to a Local Chapter of the NWA whose activities have significantly increased awareness of the weather and of the NWA in their local area.

- **The Larry R. Johnson Special Award:** This award is presented to an individual or a group to recognize unique events or extraordinary accomplishments, which significantly contributed to operational meteorology.

**Narrative nominations (no more than two pages) with optional endorsements should be forwarded by 1 July 2003 to:**

**NWA Awards Committee  
Andrew Horvitz, Chairperson  
1697 Capri Way  
Charlottesville VA 22911-3534**

Although there is no rigid time requirement for the awards, the awards committee prefers that the accomplishment, if not on a continuing basis, occur within 18 months prior to the nominations. Please consider the appropriate category in your nomination. Self-nominations will not be accepted. If the nomination is not selected as the winner this year, it will remain valid for two additional years and the nominator(s) may update the submission if they desire. Winners will be honored at the NWA Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon, 22 October 2003, at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida.

- Andy Horvitz, Awards Committee Chair

### **GRANTS for K-12 TEACHERS**

**The NWA Education Committee needs help from all members to spread the word to teachers in grades K-12 that \$500 grants are available annually.** The annual Sol Hirsch NWA Education Fund Grants are available to help teachers improve the education of their students in meteorology. 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. Five grants or more are possible in 2003 thanks to the many members who have contributed to this fund in honor of Sol Hirsch who retired in 1992 after being the NWA Executive Director for 11 years.

**Applications and more complete information can be obtained from the NWA Web site at:** [www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html](http://www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html), from the NWA office at tel/fax: 434-296-9966 or from the NWA Education Committee, P.O. Box 15011, Baltimore, MD 21282-5011

**Completed applications are due to the NWA Education Committee by 1 August 2003.**

## LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

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**The Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA** met on 20 May 2003. The chapter will be the lead in a weather themed parade in downtown Des Moines, IA on 1 July. We will have weather-related material and candy to hand out along the route. We discussed the attendee comments from the **Seventh Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference** in March 2003. Most comments were positive. Some of the negative comments have already been processed as suggestions for next year. Suggestions included no public nights, which is being implemented for next year; either no lunch speaker or a longer lunch period; and offering a Saturday lunch instead of Friday. We also discussed having one afternoon dedicated to breakout sessions, such as a student session and a broadcaster session. We will work with next year's agenda team on that. Finally, this meeting was the last for both Brad Temeyer and Penny Zabel. Brad is going to move to Montana and work for the National Weather Service in Glasgow. Penny has graduated from Iowa State University and is now searching for her first job. The chapter would like to thank both Brad and Penny for their years of hard work and dedication to the chapter, and wishes them the best of luck as they move into their future.

- Mitch Keegan, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

**The Three Rivers Chapter of the NWA and California University of Pennsylvania's Department of Earth Sciences** hosted the Third Annual Symposium of the Atmospheric Sciences on 4 April 2003. This event was a daylong session of invited presentations and student participation. A variety of invited speakers included Ken Reeves, manager of forecast operations at AccuWeather in State College, PA; Ken Carey, Vice President of the DC AMS Chapter; Major Peter Roohr of Wright Patterson AFB in Ohio; Josh Korotky and Russell Demaris, from the NWS Office in Pittsburgh; and keynote speaker Yvette Richardson, Assistant Professor of Meteorology at Penn State University. The program featured nine speakers, including student presenter Patrick Taylor, who outlined some preliminary research to be submitted for publication. There was a midday student poster session highlighting course research from the previous fall semester. Undergraduates Dustin Devine, Wayne Clester and Molly Clawson delivered a midday weather briefing during the lunch hour. This was followed by a broadcast demonstration from the Earth Sciences weather broadcast studio by student forecaster Dale Cornetta. The weather briefing spurred an impromptu discussion between the students and the invited speakers regarding forecast models, their accuracy, and relevance in making a weather forecast. This year's symposium was considered a dramatic success and the Fourth Annual Symposium of the Atmospheric Sciences on 2 April 2004 is already in the planning stages.

- Kevin Colaizzi, Vice President

**East Mississippi Chapter NWA** finished the school year by electing new officers for the chapter. The new officers for 2003-2004 include: Derek Beasley, President; Jennifer Rukavina, Vice President; Nathan Moore, Secretary; and, Jason Kratzwald, Treasurer

**IMPORTANT DATE!** The new officers would like to announce the dates: 16-18 January 2004 for the Third Annual Southeast Severe Storms Symposium hosted by the East Mississippi Chapter and the Department of Geosciences at Mississippi State. For further details, please contact Symposium Coordinator Kurt Muller at kwm25@msstate.edu, President Derek Beasley at dlb109@msstate.edu, or Advisor Dr. Mike Brown at mebrow@ra.msstate.edu. You can also check out the chapter Web site for upcoming symposium information (<http://www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/>). Mark your calendars for this annual event. We hope you'll join us!

- David Nussbaum, President (2002-2003)

### ◀ IN MEMORIAM ▶

**CHARLES R. MILLER III**, 60, a defense consultant with the Booz Allen Hamilton consulting organization in McLean, Virginia, who was a retired Navy Commander, Vietnam War veteran and charter member of the National Weather Association, died 30 May 2003 at his home in Burke, Virginia. He had brain cancer.

Mr. Miller, who was born in Pennsylvania, grew up in Rehoboth, Delaware, and was a 1965 meteorology graduate of The Pennsylvania State University. He later received a master's degree in oceanography and meteorology from the Naval Postgraduate School. He was commissioned an Officer in the US Navy in 1965 and spent his early career as a surface warfare officer. During the 1960s, he served in Vietnamese waters aboard a PT boat. He later held many oceanographic and meteorological assignments. His last assignment was on the Pentagon staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

After retiring from active duty in 1989, Mr. Miller became a defense consultant. He worked for Computer Sciences Corporation in Springfield, Virginia before joining Booz Allen Hamilton.

His Navy decorations included the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V" and combat action ribbon. Mr. Miller was a member of the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax, Virginia. Survivors include his wife of 31 years, Caroline Zappa Miller of Burke; three children, Christopher Miller of Alexandria, VA, Allison Krause of Cambridge, Mass., and Andrew Miller of Arlington, VA; and his twin sister.

The funeral is scheduled to be held at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, 26 June 2003 at 11 AM. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Northern Virginia, Falls Church Clinical Offices, 6565 Arlington Blvd., Suite 501, Falls Church, VA 22042.

## NOAA AWARDS \$9.4 MILLION in RESEARCH GRANTS

### Grant Continues Global Climate Change Research

NOAA has awarded \$5.8 million to the **University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)** and \$3.6 million to the **Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES)**, both based in Boulder CO. The multi-year grants continue NOAA's partnership in climate and global change research with the two organizations.

UCAR research under the grant will continue international scientific research activities such as EPIC (Eastern Pacific Investigation of Climate Processes), the CLIVAR (Climate Variability and Predictability) project, and the continued operation of the Water Cycle Office and the Arctic Research Office. In addition, programs to attract young scientists in the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Sciences (SOARS) will continue along with the Visiting Scientists Program. UCAR is a nonprofit corporation formed in 1959 by research institutions with doctoral programs in the atmospheric and related sciences. UCAR was formed to enhance the computing and observational capabilities of the universities, and to focus on scientific problems that are beyond the scale of a single university. Based in Boulder, UCAR comprises 66 member representatives and 20 Academic Affiliate institutions.

The grant to CIRES will support research in the areas of climate system variability, regional processes, planetary metabolism, advanced observing and modeling systems, and atmospheric and climate dynamics. These five research topics are part of the six interdisciplinary research themes that guide CIRES projects. Founded in 1967, CIRES is a research institute created to provide a setting for collaborative research and teaching in the wide-ranging disciplines of the environmental sciences. It is currently celebrating 35 years of partnership with the NOAA and the University of Colorado. CIRES research is centered on the study of the geosphere, biosphere and atmosphere.

- NOAA Public Affairs

**Have you read the UCAR *Quarterly* lately?** It is published by UCAR Communications in print and on the Web at <http://www.ucar.edu/communications/quarterly/> It publicizes activities of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (including the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the UCAR Office of Programs) and its collaborators. UCAR operates NCAR and UOP with support from the National Science Foundation and other sponsors.

**The Spring 2003 issue** is a good read. See articles about: the 2002-2003 winter weather season discussing the North Atlantic and Arctic Oscillations; Dr. Rick Anthes briefs on University roles in the weather and climate services partnership; and, you'll also learn that NCAR's Mesa Laboratory is the heart of the world-class Mass Storage System (MSS)—arguably the largest archive of atmospheric data on earth. The MSS now measures its data holdings in petabytes—1.2 and rising. The MSS hit the petabyte mark (one thousand trillion bytes) in November 2002 and may hit the 2nd in 2 years. -Exec. Dir

## REMOTE SENSING NEWS

### JAPANESE USING NOAA GOES-9 SATELLITE

Japanese meteorologists began using data from NOAA's GOES-9 environmental satellite in May 2003 to track typhoons and other weather systems that impact the western Pacific region. Following an agreement signed last year between NOAA and the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), forecasters there now have constant satellite data – a reality that appeared threatened when Japan's previous satellite, the Geostationary Meteorological Satellite-5, began to fail. Under the May 2002 agreement, Japan agreed to cover the cost of upgrading NOAA's Command and Data Acquisition Station in Fairbanks, Alaska, which now enables NOAA to control GOES-9 and provide data on weather systems affecting the western Pacific region. This agreement is an important step in furthering international cooperation. The agreement lays the groundwork for the two nations to negotiate a long-term mutual back-up arrangement, which would allow the United States to ask Japan for help, if one of America's GOES experiences trouble. GOES-9 was launched in 1995, but has been in an orbit-storage mode because it no longer met NOAA's full operational requirements. NOAA retrieved GOES-9 from storage on 14 April 2003 and began making it operational for the Japanese. Japan plans to replace the GMS-5 with its Multifunctional Transportation Satellite, scheduled to launch in 2004.

- NOAA Public Affairs

### Lightning Safety Awareness Week

22 June - 28 June 2003

<http://www.nwas.org/links/lightning.html>

In June 1752, lightning hit Benjamin Franklin's Kite and the attached metal key. Franklin's experiment proved that lightning is a stream of electrified air — and that he was very lucky not to have been struck. *This is one experiment you don't want to do at home or any other place.*

## NEW TORNADO RECORD?

Preliminary count says, *Yes!* During May 2003, the National Weather Service reported 560 tornadoes. This represents a record during any month since 1950 in the contiguous United States and beats the old monthly record of 399 tornadoes set in June 1992. Final verified count might not be available until early next year. - Exec. Dir.

# MEETINGS OF INTEREST

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• **The Seventh Annual Great Divide Workshop will be held in Glasgow, Montana 26-28 August 2003**, hosted by the NWS in Glasgow. The workshop will begin at 1 PM on 26 August and conclude at about 11 AM on 28 August. The Great Divide Workshop provides a forum for participants to share information and to discuss ideas involving new tools and techniques for providing weather forecasts for the Intermountain West and Western High Plains, across the U.S. and Canada. This year's workshop will be held at the Cottonwood Inn (telephone 1-800-321-8213). Cottonwood Inn offers a shuttle service to and from the airport and is located within a short distance to a few restaurants. A block of rooms has been secured for the workshop. Please mention the National Weather Service when making your room reservation. Abstracts will be taken through 1 August 2003 from presenters who have submitted presentation topics, and can be e-mailed to Thomas.Salem@noaa.gov or mailed to: NWS Weather Forecast Office, 101 Airport Road, Glasgow, MT 59230, Re: Great Divide Workshop. For further information, call (406) 228-4042.

• **The Seventh Annual High Plains Conference will be held in Hastings, Nebraska, 8-10 October 2003**. It is sponsored by the High Plains AMS/NWA Chapter. Oral presentations are currently being solicited for the conference, with an emphasis on the weather of the High Plains region. **One page abstracts may be submitted until the 15 August 2003 deadline**. The conference will be of interest to not only public and private meteorologists, but broadcast meteorologists, meteorology students, emergency managers, storm chasers, and other weather enthusiasts as well. Keynote speakers will be announced at a later date. The High Plains Chapter is proud to once again sponsor a student paper competition for both undergraduate and graduate students. Two monetary scholarships will be awarded, with the top finisher receiving \$500 and a free one-year membership to the chapter. Registration for the conference is \$50, while student registration is only \$25. Conference fees will include lunch and refreshments. The banquet dinner on Thursday evening (October 9) is an extra nominal fee. Provisions for vendors will be made available at little or no extra charge. The latest conference information, including local lodging and pre-registration, can be found at the High Plains Chapter website: <http://www.highplains-amsnwa.org>. Any questions or abstract submissions may be sent to the co-chairs: Michael.Moritz@noaa.gov and Jared.Guyer@noaa.gov or by regular mail to: 7HPC c/o National Weather Service, 6365 Osborne Drive West, Hastings, NE 68901. Phone: 402-462-2127; Fax: 402-462-2746

• **The Second Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting Issues in the Central United States (WAFICUS II) will be held at the University of Missouri-Columbia (UMC) on 5-6 December 2003** to address topics relating to operational meteorology in the Midwest. Participation from all sectors of the meteorological community (National Weather Service, media, military, private industry, academia, etc.) is anticipated. This gathering is a joint effort by UMC, the UMC chapter of the National Weather Association, and the Missouri Climate Center seeking to emphasize those areas of operational meteorology of greatest concern to forecasters. The conference will be held on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus.

**The deadline for abstracts (200 words or less) is 15 September 2003**. Registration is due by 31 October 2003 to get the reduced rate of \$50.00; the student rate is \$30.00. Registration and other details on the upcoming conference as well as scenes from WAFICUS I can be found at the conference Web site: <http://weather.missouri.edu/WAFICUS/>

Abstracts and registration materials should be sent to: Ms. Sharon Burnham, University of Missouri-Columbia, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, 373 McReynolds Hall, Columbia, MO 65211; (573) 882-6591. For further information contact Dr. Anthony Lupo (LupoA@missouri.edu).

• **The Symposium on the 50th anniversary of the Joint Numerical Weather Prediction Unit: The foundation for operational numerical weather prediction, will be held 24 – 26 May 2004 in College Park, Maryland**. The NOAA/NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), US Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA), US Navy Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center (FNMOC), the National Weather Association and the American Meteorological Society (AMS) will co-sponsor. Operational numerical weather prediction (NWP) in the US started with the Joint Numerical Weather Prediction Unit (JNWPU) on 1 July 1954, staffed by members of the US Weather Bureau, the Air Force and the Navy. The origins of NCEP, AFWA and FNMOC can all be traced to the JNWPU. It is appropriate to celebrate the pioneering developments in NWP and the remarkable improvements in forecast skill over the last 50 years.

The planned sessions include a Historical Overview; Evolution of Forecast Models; Evolution of Data Assimilation Methods; From Model Predictions to Forecasters: Then and Now; Long-range Forecasting; and, The Future of NWP. Sessions will include invited papers, poster and oral presentations, and panel discussions. This meeting will complement the Norman Phillips Symposium, held as part of the 84th AMS Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, 11–15 January 2004.

The organizing committee includes Eugenia Kalnay (co-chair), Louis Uccellini (co-chair), Ken Carey, Carl Thormeyer and Major Trey Cade. The program committee includes Ken Campana, Mike Clancy, Kris Harper, Eugenia Kalnay, Al Moyers and Anders Persson. The organizers plan to create a special volume with the papers presented at this historic meeting. A CD-ROM with preprints will be available to the registrants. **Please submit abstracts by e-mail to Eugenia Kalnay at [ekalnay@atmos.umd.edu](mailto:ekalnay@atmos.umd.edu), and Ken Carey at [kcarey@mitretek.org](mailto:kcarey@mitretek.org) by 1 November 2003**.

Preliminary program, registration, hotel, and general information will be posted on the symposium Web sites: [www.ncep.noaa.gov/JNWPU50/](http://www.ncep.noaa.gov/JNWPU50/) and [www.ametsoc.org/AMS](http://www.ametsoc.org/AMS) by 1 October 2003.

For further information or suggestions to enhance this symposium, please contact Ken Carey, Mitretek Systems, 3150 Fairview Park Drive South, Falls Church, VA 22042-4519 (tel: 703-610-1933; fax: 703-610-1767; e-mail: [kcarey@mitretek.org](mailto:kcarey@mitretek.org)) or Eugenia Kalnay at [ekalnay@atmos.umd.edu](mailto:ekalnay@atmos.umd.edu).

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For updates on meetings & special events see the NWA Web site:

[www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org)

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## NOS NEWS

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On 17 April 2003, the Coast Survey Development Laboratory (CSDL) of NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) released version 1.2 of its map-based Web portal called *nowCOAST*. The Web portal provides spatially referenced links to real-time information from meteorological, oceanographic, and river observing networks and NOAA's weather and marine forecasts and forecast model guidance for major estuaries and seaports, the Great Lakes and coastal regions. The new version features several improvements including:

- 1) Several new map backgrounds (cities, urban areas, interstate highways, major roads) were added to provide users with improved geographic context for locating sites of real-time observations and NOS and NWS forecast products.
- 2) Enhanced scale dependent rendering of observation and forecast site locations, labels, and features such as cities and roads were added to improve viewing of spatial data.
- 3) The appearance of the tool buttons on the *nowCOAST* viewer was modified to emphasize the 'Link to Data' tool button used for displaying observations or forecasts at location or area.
- 4) Complete map backgrounds for neighboring countries (Central and South America, and Caribbean Islands) were added to better represent the geography of area.
- 5) The portal is now compatible with Web browsers Mozilla 1.0.x and Apple's Safari.

*nowCOAST* was constructed using ESRI's commercial, off-the-shelf Geographic Information System (GIS) software, Arc Internet Map Server (ArcIMS) Version 4.x. Version 1.0 was released on 20 August 2002. The portal's user interface is designed to serve both GIS and non-GIS experienced users. The portal is available at Web site: <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/op/nowcoast.htm>  
To enter, click on "Web Portal."

The development of *nowCOAST* is funded by a 2-year grant from NOAA/NESDIS' Environmental Services Data and Information Management program.

- John G. W. Kelley, NOS

## MEMBER NEWS

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**Tom Sater**, broadcast meteorologist on Washington DC's WTTG-TV Fox 5, has been awarded another Emmy by the Washington/Capital Region chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Tom won the 2003 Emmy for best weathercaster for the fourth straight year, but for the first time, he was the sole winner. Tom has been at WTTG since 1998 and has earned both the NWA and AMS Seals of Approval for television weathercasting.

## 28th NWA Annual Meeting — 18 - 23 October, Jacksonville FL

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The National Weather Association's 28th Annual Meeting will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 225 Coastline Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32202, 18-23 October 2003.

Thanks to the many who sent in Abstracts for presentations that were due by 1 June. If anyone wishes to send in a late abstract, please send it to the NWA office ([natweaasoc@aol.com](mailto:natweaasoc@aol.com) or 434-296-9966) to be placed on a backup list. Preliminary agenda will be published early August.

### **The Annual Meeting will include:**

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

**20-23 October:** ANNUAL MEETING GENERAL SESSIONS will include a mix of formal presentations, poster sessions, training workshops, and exhibits on a wide variety of topics relating to OPERATIONAL meteorology, hydrology, weather broadcasting, aviation support, new research applications, and related activities.

**The Annual Meeting Program Committee Co-Chairs are:**  
**Patrick T. Welsh**, Science and Operations Officer, National Weather Service Forecast Office, 13701 FANG Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218; [pat.welsh@noaa.gov](mailto:pat.welsh@noaa.gov) and **Richard Bagby**, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Aviation Sciences, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, 600 S. Clyde Morris Boulevard, Daytona Beach, FL 32114-3900; [bagbyr@erau.edu](mailto:bagbyr@erau.edu). **Broadcaster Workshop Program Chair is Bryan C. Karrick**, KCCI-TV, 888 Ninth Street, Des Moines, IA 50309-1288; [bkarrick@hearst.com](mailto:bkarrick@hearst.com). Contact them with your suggestions and to volunteer to help with the program.

### **ANNUAL MEETING HOTEL INFORMATION:**

The Adam's Mark Hotel is at 225 Coastline Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32202. It is a full-service hotel located downtown along the St. John's Riverfront. The NWA discount room rates are \$81 for a single room and \$101 for a double room. Please call the Adam's Mark Hotel at 904-633-9095 (reservations department) between 8 AM and 5 PM Monday-Friday or call their Central Reservation Department at 1-800-444-ADAM at anytime and request the National Weather Association 28th Annual Meeting group rate. Please reserve rooms by 18 September to be able to obtain the discount rate.

A Golf Tournament is also being scheduled for Saturday, 18 October to benefit NWA Scholarship Funds. The NWA Annual Awards Luncheon will be at the Adam's Mark Hotel on Wednesday, 22 October. For information on exhibits, special accommodations, registration and the overall meeting program, please contact the NWA office at Tel/FAX: (434) 296-9966 or e-mail: [NatWeaAsoc@aol.com](mailto:NatWeaAsoc@aol.com). Current information will also be on the NWA Web site at: [www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org)

**Annual Meeting Preregistration forms and Exhibit applications are being finalized and will be on the NWA Web site by the end of June. Preregistration forms will also be in the July Newsletter.**

## JOB CORNER

The NWA posts jobs from equal opportunity employers at no cost for the benefit of NWA members. Please see the Job section on the NWA Web site ([www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org)) for more complete announcements and job links. Members who do not have Internet capability may request announcements from the NWA office at (434) 296-9966. Employers should send job announcements via e-mail to [NatWeaAsoc@aol.com](mailto:NatWeaAsoc@aol.com)

**THE FLEETWEATHER GROUP** continues to expand and is hiring full-time talented professionals for their domestic division. Applicants may be experienced or recent graduates who possess strong communication and forecasting skills. Knowledge of state-of-the-art forecast models and radar/satellite imagery is a must. Some broadcast and/or computer experience is helpful. If quality of life is an important consideration in your future career, along with the ability to further develop your individual interests and skills, then the Fleetweather Group is for you! We service thousands of weather-sensitive land-based and marine customers worldwide. Fleetweather was founded in 1969 and operates 24 hours a day from its state-of-the-art global forecast center in the safe and scenic Hudson Valley of southeast New York State. Fleetweather offers a highly competitive package of salary, life insurance, medical benefits, 401K-retirement plan, along with profit sharing and flexible scheduling. Send or fax cover letter, resume, transcript (if recent graduate), and also send an audio cassette of two sample broadcasts to the attention of: Steve Roberts, Operations Manager, The Fleetweather Group 2566 Route 52, Hopewell Junction New York 12533; Tel: 845-226-8300; Fax: 845-227-7763; e-mail: [sroberts@fleetweather.com](mailto:sroberts@fleetweather.com)

**WEATHER CENTRAL, INC.** is seeking a Trainer. Winning candidates are energetic, have good teaching skills, and will embrace our products! Install and teach high-end on-air weather graphics, data processing, and real time storm tracking systems at US TV stations. Work at each site to develop awesome weather presentations while teaching. 60%+ travel required. Provide telephone support, and prepare new systems for delivery. Must be independent, organized, a great communicator, and enjoy providing quality service to a demanding customer base. Experience in Weather Central products a plus. Spanish, both spoken and written, a plus. Meteorology degree required. This position offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefits package. Send cover letter, resume and salary requirements to: Weather Central, Inc., Attn: BH 5725 Tokay Boulevard Madison, WI 53719 Send via e-mail to [bharry@weathercentral.tv](mailto:bharry@weathercentral.tv)

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### NWA Newsletter (ISSN 0271-1044)

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Web site: [www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org)

**Submit newsletter items directly to:** Editor NWA Newsletter, Frank Brody at [NewsletterNWA@earthlink.net](mailto:NewsletterNWA@earthlink.net) or to the NWA office. Material received by the 5th will be considered for that month's issue. If submissions are not received, the Newsletter may be delayed.

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

Contact the NWA Executive Director's office (listed above) with **address changes** by phone, regular mail or e-mail.

Join the NWA to support and promote excellence in operational meteorology and related activities.  
Contact the NWA office or view the Web site for membership information.

### IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

**22-28 June** – National Lightning Safety Awareness Week  
[www.nwas.org/links/lightning.html](http://www.nwas.org/links/lightning.html)

**1 July** – NWA Annual Award nominations due (pg 3).

**1 August** – Sol Hirsch NWA Education Fund Grant nominations for K-12 teachers due (pg 3).

**18-23 October** – NWA 28th Annual Meeting (pg 7).

Please see **MEETINGS** on page 6 for additional dates.

Also check [www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html](http://www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html)  
and [www.nwas.org/awardsgrants.html](http://www.nwas.org/awardsgrants.html)

## June is National Safety Month