

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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*by Dave Knapp*

What do you get when you put 20 people with a variety of operational meteorological backgrounds, experiences, and interests, with different personalities and perspectives, in a room for two days to discuss the current status and future of the NWA? Well, you get a fine group of professionals, most of them elected by you, who are dedicated to the best interests of the NWA. **For two very productive days, June 8-9, the NWA Council met in Dallas for a midyear meeting.** As I reminded the Council at the start of the meeting, the published position description for NWA Council members (see Web site: [www.nwas.org/nwa\\_pd.pdf](http://www.nwas.org/nwa_pd.pdf)) reads, "Members of the Council are the Directors of the Association," responsible for "general oversight for the association." With that as our guide, we jumped right in to address many topics that are important to the leadership and general membership this year. Discussion was often spirited, occasionally intense, and overall very fruitful. While space prohibits going into detail on Council discussions, **here is a list of major topics we covered:**

- Current NWA committee activities and status
- Scholarships and status of 2006 submissions
- Award nominations for 2006
- Annual Meeting plans for Cleveland this October
- Potential sites for the 2007 Annual Meeting
- Advocacy issues addressed/being addressed by the Council
- Review, closure, and/or progress on past and current action items
- NWA financial status and budget review
- Leadership transitions and potential changes in duties
- Strategic, Operating and Annual Plans
- Potential new outreach activities for the NWA
- New directions regarding membership growth and marketing the NWA
- The continuing and growing need for volunteers to support Council and Committee activities

As I look back on the two meeting days, I am pleased to let you know that your NWA Council is passionate about making the NWA a premier organization for you, our members. With representation from all sectors of

operational meteorology, I can assure you that your individual professional areas of interest and expertise were and continue to be well represented on the Council. I believe the Council departed Dallas with a renewed vigor to make the right things happen to keep the momentum and progress going in the coming months. All agreed that past NWA leadership has brought the organization to a point where we are on the verge of potentially significant growth in membership and influence in the operational meteorology community. The Council is leading the way down this exciting path in the coming months, and I look forward to reporting on some specific initiatives and changes for the future at the Annual Meeting in Cleveland, all designed to keep the NWA relevant and prominent now and in the future.

On the topic of NWA advocacy, prior to the midyear Council meeting, we worked with the Remote Sensing Committee to put the finishing touches on a letter of support advocating the inclusion of a Microwave Sensor on an upcoming GOES platform. You have had an opportunity to participate in this process, and the Remote Sensing Committee has appreciated your feedback in recent months (see "Updated Letter of Support for a GOES Microwave Sensor" at [Web site www.nwas.org/committees/rs/rs.html](http://www.nwas.org/committees/rs/rs.html)). Thanks to the efforts of the committee and with NWA Council approval, I was pleased to sign the letter and send it to many key leaders and scientists with a stake in the future of GOES instrumentation payloads. The letter was also sent to a number of leaders in international scientific organizations around the world. Initial feedback and support from the community on our advocacy letter has been very positive.

I've just received the initial draft agenda for the upcoming Annual Meeting in Cleveland. **Theresa Rossi and her Annual Meeting Program Committee are putting together an excellent agenda.** You'll see it published on the NWA Web site and in the August Newsletter, but I can tell you that the tentative list of session topics address the wide breadth of expertise and interests of the NWA. **If you are not a scheduled presenter at the Annual Meeting, I encourage you to make plans to attend** for your professional development and to associate face-to-face with your counterparts in all sectors of the weather and climate enterprise. We promise the week will be most rewarding and exciting for all who attend.

- Dave Knapp ([president@nwas.org](mailto:president@nwas.org))

## GOES-N in ORBIT as GOES-13

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NOAA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES)-N was successfully launched into orbit from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on 24 May 2006 aboard Boeing's new Delta-IV rocket. It achieved geostationary orbit and was designated GOES-13. The first visible sounder images were received on 22 June. Following a six-month "check-out" period, GOES-13 will be parked at 105° W in storage as an on-orbit spare until needed to replace either of the two operational GOES.

GOES-13, and its two follow-on satellites, will allow NOAA to improve services while transitioning to the next generation satellite, GOES-R. A more stable pointing platform on GOES-13 will allow NOAA to deliver improved data to weather forecasters from the visible/infrared imager and sounder. The satellite also carries an expanded suite of instruments for monitoring the solar environment. A dedicated transponder on GOES-13 will support the Emergency Manager's Weather Information Network (EMWIN) service. GOES-13 also marks the transition from analog WEFAX data transmission in previous GOES to digital Low Rate image Information Transmission (LRIT). LRIT will provide for the distribution of more NWS products at a higher data rate to the NOAA user community.

- Craig Nelson - for the NWA Remote Sensing Committee

## WASHINGTON STATE AGRICULTURAL WEATHER NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS

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Changes in funding for the Washington State University's (WSU) Public Agricultural Weather System (PAWS), now known as AgWeatherNet (AWN), are bringing about expansion and improvements in the weather station network for Washington State.

PAWS was developed over 20 years ago to provide weather information useful in irrigation scheduling and frost protection. Over the years, this network grew to about 60 stations, mainly in the central Washington irrigated fruit growing areas. The Center for Precision Agricultural Systems (CPAS), established at WSU's facility in Prosser, Washington, has worked for the past five years to expand and reorganize PAWS into a modernized system called AgWeatherNet.

Last year, funding was approved to increase the number of stations by an additional 60 and expand the coverage to other crop production areas, including those in western Washington. This year the Washington State Legislature approved an annual funding initiative to support a permanent maintenance and operations staff for AgWeatherNet, including a faculty position to implement ag/climate technology transfer to the agricultural community through AgWeatherNet.

In addition, CPAS has developed and will install modernized data collection and radio equipment for both the new and old weather stations in the network. It is also planning to transfer the servers that manage AgWeatherNet to WSU's main campus at Pullman.

The AgWeatherNet data will soon be accessible through the Web site: [www.agweathernet.wsu.edu](http://www.agweathernet.wsu.edu), but until then the site redirects people to the PAWS Web site at: [paws.prosser.wsu.edu](http://paws.prosser.wsu.edu). Registration is required to use the site, though it is open to the public.

Also see the May 2006 *Good Fruit Grower* magazine for further information.

- Bob Robinson, *Specialized Operational Services Committee*

## NAM WRF MODEL TRAINING

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On 20 June 2006, the NOAA/NWS/National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) replaced the NCEP Eta model with the NCEP North American Mesoscale (NAM) Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) Model. The NCEP Eta model has been the workhorse short-range forecast model used for forecast guidance over the United States for more than a decade. It is being replaced by the NCEP Nonhydrostatic Mesoscale Model (NMM), and its analysis is being replaced by the Gridpoint Statistical Interpolation (GSI). The NMM and GSI are running in the WRF infrastructure.

To help train users of the new model, the COMET Program has published two versions of the Webcast, "The NCEP North American Mesoscale (NAM) Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) Model." The condensed version focuses on the most practical information about the new model and analysis changes and has a 40-minute run time. The full version provides more in-depth explanations of model changes and runs 75 minutes. Each of the Webcasts highlights the major forecast impacts resulting from these changes and includes the following content:

- An introduction to the WRF concept
- Basic discussion of how GSI improves the analysis, including conceptual explanation of anisotropic background error covariances, which the GSI will first use in the Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis (RTMA) and later in the NAM-WRF
- Information on differences between the vertical coordinate systems in Eta and NMM and how they affect the forecast
- Discussion of nonhydrostatic effects, including a case example
- Presentation of new output variables, including precipitation type and simulated radar reflectivity

The NOAA/NWS/NCEP NAM WRF Model (Full Version) is available at Web site: [www.meted.ucar.edu/nwp/NAMWRF/index.htm](http://www.meted.ucar.edu/nwp/NAMWRF/index.htm).

The NOAA/NWS/NCEP NAM WRF Model (Short Version) is available at Web site: [www.meted.ucar.edu/nwp/NAMWRF\\_short/index.htm](http://www.meted.ucar.edu/nwp/NAMWRF_short/index.htm).

COMET also has a Web forum for discussing current NCEP WRF model runs located at Web site: [www.meted.ucar.edu:8080/metedbb/forums/list.page](http://www.meted.ucar.edu:8080/metedbb/forums/list.page). The WRF runs are discussed on the NAM/mesoscale forum, and postings about any interesting, curious, or problematic aspects of the model forecasts as well as questions are highly encouraged.

- Liz Page, *COMET and NWA Secretary*

## NWA SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

**The 2006 NWA Arthur C. Pike Scholarship in Meteorology is awarded to Joel Dreessen of Fenton, Missouri.** This \$1,000 scholarship will assist Joel as he enters his senior year at **Valparaiso University**.

Mr. Dreessen developed a curiosity about the weather at an early age as he grew up in the Midwest. He very much realizes the importance of learning about and understanding meteorological phenomena, both for the sake of knowledge and for practical applications in the world today. Joel has been active in promoting meteorological field work during his past three years at Valparaiso University; he is the treasurer of the Chi Epsilon Pi Meteorology Honor Society and a member of the university's Storm Intercept Team (VUSIT). He mentors younger meteorology students in the classroom and has been an asset to the community through his involvement with the local NWA chapter and St. Louis' SKYWARN program, where "storm warnings have been issued based on [Joel's] reports." When Hurricane Katrina struck this past August, Joel participated in not one but two separate relief trips to the Gulf Coast. Throughout his college career, Joel has excelled in challenging courses and earned the respect of teachers and peers alike for his inquisitive nature and real-world solutions to problems. His professors indicate that he has the potential for completing graduate studies in the future while serving others with his teaching and weather forecasting talents.

The NWA Education Committee received 15 applications for the 2006 Arthur C. Pike Scholarship from outstanding students at 11 colleges/universities. Best Wishes to all students that applied! Congratulations again to Joel Dreessen!

**The 2006 NWA David Sankey Minority Scholarship in Meteorology is awarded to Cho Hin (Richard) Lam of Wilmington, Delaware.** This \$1,000 scholarship will assist Richard as he enters his junior year later this summer at **The Pennsylvania State University**.

Mr. Lam possesses a unique perspective in the world of meteorology. His hometown, Hong Kong, is greatly affected by multiple tropical systems each year, which first sparked his interest in weather. The especially active 1999 typhoon season propelled Richard to attend Penn State University and study the science behind his "passion for hurricanes and tropical meteorology." At Penn State, Richard has pushed himself both academically and in extracurricular activities. His professors indicate that, as a sophomore, Richard was enrolled in junior-level classes, as well as acting as a teaching assistant — a role normally reserved for graduate students. Richard is also involved in organizations such as the Campus Weather Service, the weather section of the school newspaper, *The Daily Collegian*, and the National Collegiate Weather Forecasting Contest, a competition aimed at improving

students' weather forecasting prowess. In his spare time, Richard has also been working with professors to research themes with relevance to tropical meteorology, extrapolating on topics such as "Characterization of Extratropical Transition Using Cluster Analysis," and collecting and analyzing field data from the Chesapeake Bay. It is clear to Richard's professors that he has a true dedication to the field of meteorology and will be successful in whichever graduate degree he chooses to pursue in the coming years.

The NWA Education Committee received seven applications for the fourth year of this annual scholarship opportunity. Applications came from outstanding students at seven colleges/universities. Best Wishes to all individuals that applied! Congratulations again to Richard Lam!

**The 2006 NWA AccuWeather Undergraduate Scholarship in Meteorology is awarded to Nicholas A. Engerer of Silver Lake, Ohio.** Thanks to the generosity of AccuWeather, Inc., this \$1,000 scholarship will assist Nicholas with his tuition at **Ohio University** in Athens.

Mr. Engerer, a rising junior at Ohio University, displays an unswerving dedication to his goal of bringing excellence to the field of operational meteorology. He has prepared to undertake demanding courses to fulfill the meteorology major, such as upper-level math and dynamics. Although the coursework is important to Nicholas, he recognizes that extracurricular involvement in weather-related activities is key. Nicholas is the vice-president of the university's meteorology club, a student member of the AMS and NWA, and recently accepted a position as weather coordinator at WOUB, a local community news station. In his third year, Nicholas will work as a PACE (Program to Aid Career Exploration) meteorologist in the Scalia Lab for Atmospheric Analysis to create weather forecasts and generate mesoscale models for southern Ohio under the supervision of Professor Ronald Isaac, as well as undertaking a senior-level research course focusing on severe storms. The following summer, he plans to serve an internship with NOAA and hopes to be accepted into The Pennsylvania State University's graduate degree program. Nicholas' professors offer unstinting praise for his outstanding work in the classroom and noble, ethical deportment which has earned him the respect of peers and teachers alike.

The NWA Education Committee received 18 applications for the NWA AccuWeather Scholarship from outstanding students at 12 colleges/universities. Best Wishes to all students that applied! Congratulations again to Nicholas Engerer!

Applications for the annual NWA Scholarships are advertised in the Newsletter and on the NWA Web site: [www.nwas.org/award.html](http://www.nwas.org/award.html). That site also has a list of past winners.

## LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

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**The High Plains Chapter** of the AMS and NWA met for lunch on May 18, 2006 at the Town and Country Kitchen in Norton, Kansas. There were 13 members in attendance, with one new member present. The lunch was followed by a business meeting. After the business meeting, President Dave Floyd (Goodland) gave a presentation, outlining new means of receiving radar data in the field, such as when chasing storms.

The meeting flowed smoothly, with the main topic of conversation being the upcoming Tenth Annual High Plains Conference in Dodge City, scheduled for October 4-6, 2006. A good conference is being lined up, with a reasonable price of \$60. All events will occur at one hotel/convention center. This year's theme is "Severe Weather in the High Plains" – all types. Two keynote speakers are firmed up, Dr. Paul M. Markowski from Penn State University and Dr. David M. Schultz of CIMMS/University of Oklahoma. Other keynote speakers are being solicited. Meeting planners will once again sponsor a student presentation contest, with a sizable cash award for each of two categories, graduates and undergraduates. The conference will run from Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday and Friday morning, leaving Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon open for travel time. There will be a banquet Thursday evening, a video swap session late Thursday, and a challenging forecast contest the Dodge City staff is putting together. The NWS Office in Dodge City is also putting a workshop together for NWS personnel, to be held either before or during the conference. This workshop will center on AWIPS, IFPS and operational issues. A very novel conference t-shirt has been designed, which should be a hit with storm chasers. All conference information will be updated via the chapter Web site [www.highplains-amsnwa.org/](http://www.highplains-amsnwa.org/). Registration information should be posted by the end of June.

The next meeting was tentatively set for late July or early August in Hays.

- *Tim Burke, Secretary*

**The Three Rivers Chapter** of the NWA has had an active spring season of activities. On April 24, 2006, **Betsy Kling**, weekend Meteorologist from WKYC-TV, in Cleveland, Ohio, and NWA Councilor, was the featured speaker of the Chapter meeting. Betsy spoke to roughly forty-five meteorology students in regards to career options for aspiring broadcast meteorologists as well as a full background on her own experiences in the business. In addition to her "lecture," Betsy also provided an on-site demonstration in the California University Meteorology studio. Prior to the demonstration, Betsy provided professional feedback and critiques to the student forecasters who were willing to share their skills on-camera. Betsy is one of the organizers for the NWA

Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, this October. She stressed the need for student support and attendance at the conference, to which the Three Rivers chapter plans to bring roughly twenty students. Members of the Three Rivers chapter agreed that Betsy was one of the most enthusiastic and exciting guests welcomed to a meeting!

In mid-May, ten students left for the Great Plains as part of a two-week storm intercept experience. To help the team, the chapter partially funded a feed of near-real-time radar data via an XM Satellite connection. The additional technology was to increase the possibility for storm interception. While the initial pattern was not favorable for deep convection, students did "chase" some storms in Wisconsin and South Dakota.

The Three Rivers Chapter hosted its annual Year-End Banquet at the Meadowlands Holiday Inn in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania on May 4, 2006. At this meeting, awards were given for Best Student Forecast Discussion and CUTV Weather Anchor, among others. More notably was the announcement of the Chapter's first-ever meteorology scholarship recipient. Chris Gilson was the first annual recipient for his high academic standing and procurement of a summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates program with the Center for Analysis and Prediction of Storms. Also at this meeting, the new officers for the 2006-2007 academic year were announced. An entire new slate of officers was elected with an ambitious agenda. The new officers are President Jonathan Jennings, Vice President Joel Hoffman, Treasurer Matthew Owens, Secretary Michael Allen and Historian Kyle Olmstead.

New Historian Kyle Olmstead is continuing to make improvements to the chapter Web page and alumni directory ([www.cup.edu/weather](http://www.cup.edu/weather)). Any alumnus of the program is encouraged to contact Kyle to update their contact information and/or to be placed on an e-mail distribution list ([olm0079@cup.edu](mailto:olm0079@cup.edu)).

Plans continue for attendance at the NWA Annual Meeting, as well as an inter-disciplinary colloquia series this fall funded by the Three Rivers Chapter. The chapter is also supporting a community outreach event in October. Chapter members are participating in "Light The Night Walk," which is The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's nationwide evening Walk to build awareness of blood cancers and raise funds for cures. Walkers carry illuminated balloons, white for survivors and red for supporters to celebrate and honor lives touched by cancer.

The Three Rivers Chapter meets bi-weekly during the academic year on Thursdays at 11 a.m. on the campus of California University of Pennsylvania in the Eberly Science & Technology Center.

- *Chad Kauffman, Assistant Professor,  
California University of Pennsylvania*

Continued on next page

The **North Texas Chapter** held its final meeting of the 2005-2006 year on May 16. New officers were elected for the 2006-2007 year and they are President Greg Story, Vice President Bernard Meisner, Secretary Clint Perkins and Treasurer Stanley Christmas.

The first topic of discussion was the tornadoes that occurred in Collin and Grayson counties on the night of May 9th. Ted Best, who was the Collin County net amateur radio controller, talked about his experiences that night. Sam Barricklow who was spotting gave his eye witness account of the tornadoes. There was a good stream of information flowing between the NWS, HAM radio operators, spotters, county officials, media broadcasters and residents that night. Several members recognized the great dedication and effort by all those involved that night. More information on this event can be found at Web site: [www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/collintor06.htm](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/collintor06.htm).

Alan Moller was the guest speaker and his topic was "Photography and Storm Photography." Alan shared part of his wonderful photograph collection with the members. Through his photos, members learned of Fort Worth history and its beautiful scenery, and saw gorgeous wild flower images, old homes on the open prairie of the Plains and amazing storm photos. Alan discussed the equipment he uses especially the filters that can be used to achieve specific results. Attendees also learned that Alan had once raced a GTO in stock car races when he was younger.

- Janice Bunting, Secretary

**Billy Joe Cook (1926-2006)** passed away on Saturday June 10, 2006, in North Richland Hills, Texas. He was born on January 27, 1926, in Britton, Texas. He served in the Navy during World War II and attended Texas A&M. Billy was a meteorologist for the National Weather Service for 36 years beginning his career at the U.S. Weather Bureau in Oklahoma City on December 16, 1946. He transferred to the Kansas City office in 1956. In 1960, he moved to the Fort Worth Forecast Office, and except for a 14-month stint at the old Regional Warning Coordination Center in Fort Worth during the mid 70s, he remained at the Fort Worth Forecast Office as a senior forecaster until his retirement on December 30, 1981. Billy was also a NWA Councilor from 1981-1982.

Billy was the author of "A Snow Index Using 200 Millibar Warm Advection" a useful technique for forecasting snow amounts. He was awarded a NOAA Unit Citation for his work in winter weather in 1978.

Alan Moller shared these memories of Billy.

*Billy Cook was the best pure weather forecaster I have worked with during my National Weather Service career. Billy came up with a remarkably novel idea, involving the forecasting of snow amounts by tracking the strength of warm advection at 200 mb! His forecast routine worked very well with North Texas snow events, which were greater in number during the mid and late 1970s, than we have experienced since then. Many of us old-time forecasters still use the Cook snow amount forecast routine. Mr. Cook usually was at or near the top of the forecaster verification list virtually every year in those days. I learned quite a bit about operational weather forecasting from him.*

*He also had a keen sense of humor, which he used often, usually on the younger interns (like me). Billy would look at my relatively long hair and beard and remark "We surely are in for a cold winter!" Billy caught onto my main interest (severe thunderstorm/supercell structure), and would walk to the 10th floor south window, glance at the clouds outside, peering at me from the corner of his eyes, then pronounce "My goodness, that's a flanking line!" Before long, all of the veteran forecasters and the MIC were doing the same, whenever I peered out the windows. Billy Cook will be missed by all who knew him.*

Billy was preceded in death by his wife Betty. He is survived by his daughter, Cheryl Ross and husband, Dick, of Itasca; Texas, sons, Donald Cook and wife, Shirley, and Gary Cook and wife, Brenda, all of Fort Worth; grandchildren, Troy Ross of Dallas, Jennifer Taylor of Arlington, Stacy Freund and husband, Michael, of Lewisville and Joseph Cook and wife, Sarah, of Arlington, Cody, Drew and Austin Cook, all of Fort Worth; great-grandchildren, Preston and Madeline Taylor; and several nieces and nephews. Memorials may be sent to the Kidney Foundation.

## Broadcasters

At this year's NWA Annual Meeting in Cleveland, you can send a 'look-live' back to your station for **FREE!**

Thanks to the *Cleveland Convention and Visitors Bureau*, any broadcaster will have the chance to tape a report from INSIDE the

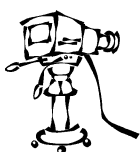
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## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

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• **The Tenth Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop will be held 3-5 October 2006 at the Sheraton Hotel in Billings, Montana.** NOAA's National Weather Service Offices in Billings and Glasgow are sponsoring this workshop that will focus on the exchange of weather and hydrologic forecasting information unique to the Northern Rockies and High Plains. More information can be obtained on Web site: [www.weather.gov/Billings](http://www.weather.gov/Billings), or by contacting the NWS Forecast Office in Billings at (406) 652-0851, or by e-mail: [Wr.Great.Divide.Workshop@noaa.gov](mailto:Wr.Great.Divide.Workshop@noaa.gov).

• **The Tenth Annual High Plains Conference will be held 4-6 October 2006 in Dodge City, Kansas.** The High Plains Chapter of the AMS-NWA sponsors it. The theme, High Plains Severe Storms, will focus on events ranging from severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, to drought, dust storms, flash flooding, and winter weather. Topics from both the research and the operational communities are welcome. Each session will open with an invited speaker. Remaining speakers will each receive 20 minutes for their presentations and any questions. This conference is intended to be less formal than national conferences, so those who are presenting for the first time, and those whose work has not yet gone through the academic peer review process, are welcome to participate. The Chapter is proud to sponsor a student competition. Students are encouraged to submit papers for presentation on all topics in meteorology. This year competition entries will be separated into undergraduate and graduate divisions. Scholarship amounts have yet to receive a final determination, but tentatively first place winners in each division will be awarded \$500. Students should contact the Conference Committee for information. **The deadline for submission of titles and one page abstracts is 8 September 2006.** Please include the author's name and affiliation, corresponding author address, telephone/fax number, and e-mail address. **Send submissions to:** Tenth High Plains Conference Committee, National Weather Service, 104 Airport Road, Dodge City, KS 67801 (tel: 620-225-6514; fax: 620-227-2288; e-mail: [Matt.Gerard@noaa.gov](mailto:Matt.Gerard@noaa.gov)). For more information contact the Conference Committee or visit Web site: [www.highplains-amsnwa.org](http://www.highplains-amsnwa.org).

• **The NWA's 31st Annual Meeting will be held at the InterContinental Hotel, 9801 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, 14-19 October 2006.** Go to page 7 of this Newsletter, or the NWA Web site: [www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org) for details.

• **The First Northern Plains Winter Storm Conference will be held Wednesday 25 October to Friday 27 October 2006 (noon-noon) at the Best Western Americanna Inn & Conference Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota.** The conference is sponsored by the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at St. Cloud State University (SCSU), the SCSU student chapter of the National Weather Association, and the Twin Cities chapter of the American Meteorological Society. The conference topics will focus on aspects of winter weather in the Northern Plains and Canadian Prairies, including synoptic features, mesoscale structures, wind effects, cold-season microphysics, radar, and the role of the media in severe winter weather. A case study workshop and an evening banquet with a keynote address are planned, as well as a public lecture on the 1991 Halloween Blizzard. **The organizers are requesting**

**abstracts from both the operational and research communities.** This conference is informal and first-time participants and students are especially encouraged to present a talk or poster at the conference. If you are interested in either speaking or presenting a poster at the conference, please download the abstract submission form at our conference Web site [web.stcloudstate.edu/raweisman/wintconf.html](http://web.stcloudstate.edu/raweisman/wintconf.html) and mail the form and a copy of your abstract to Saint Cloud State University Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Attn: NPWSC, WSB 41, 720 Fourth Avenue South, Saint Cloud, MN 56301-4498. **All abstracts must be received by Friday 22 September 2006.** For more information, including hotel information, visit the Web site. Please reserve a room directly with your hotel of choice. The conference hotel has reserved a block of single and double rooms at the rate of \$60 per night. **Please reserve your hotel room NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM EST 25 September 2006 to obtain the conference rate.** Registration for the conference must be received by 18 October 2006. If you have any questions or concerns regarding registration please e-mail Rod Kubesh at [rjkubesh@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:rjkubesh@stcloudstate.edu) or Bob Weisman at [raweisman@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:raweisman@stcloudstate.edu), or call (320) 308-3260.

• **The Seventh New England Weather Conference will be held on 28 October 2006 at the facilities of the Dexter and Southfield Schools, and the Clay Center Observatory, in Brookline, Massachusetts.** It is sponsored by the Southern New England Chapter of the NWA and several cosponsors. All those from people with a casual interest in weather to seasoned professionals are welcome to attend. Watch the Chapter Web site [www.snewweatherconf.org/index.shtml](http://www.snewweatherconf.org/index.shtml) for more specific information.

## WARM MAY STATISTICS

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The contiguous United States experienced its fifth warmest May and fourth warmest spring since records began in 1895, while overall precipitation remained below average, according to scientists at the NOAA National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina. Also, the June 2005 - May 2006 period was the warmest on record for the contiguous U.S. The continuation of below-normal precipitation combined with much warmer than average temperatures led to persistent, or in some cases worsening, drought conditions in many parts of the nation. Meanwhile, portions of New England experienced flooding in May, as a series of storms set many local rainfall records. The global surface temperature was fifth warmest on record for May.

The average temperature for the contiguous United States for May (based on preliminary data) was 63.7 degrees F (17.6 degrees C), or 2.7 degrees F (1.5 degrees C) above the 20th century (1901-2000) average. The March-May period was the fourth warmest spring for the contiguous U.S., and four states (Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas) experienced their warmest spring on record. No state had below average spring temperatures, and only California was near average.

The full report and detailed graphics are at Web site: [www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2006/s2646.htm](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2006/s2646.htm)

- NOAA News

## HOUSTON DELUGE in mid-June

An upper-level low over southeast Texas triggered a significant heavy rain event during the early morning hours of Monday 19 June, from extreme southwest Louisiana through southeast Texas. Significant flooding occurred in the Houston area inundating homes, businesses and many roads. The NOAA/NWS Weather Forecast Office in Houston/Galveston reported that the Texas counties hardest hit were southeastern Harris, Chambers and southern Liberty. Most of the rain that fell on Harris County occurred between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. Just a few of the preliminary rainfall amounts for 19 June included Houston Intercontinental with 4.43 inches, which was a record for the day, Houston Hobby 9.29 inches and League City 4.23 inches. The Cooperative Observer in Liberty reported 11.70 inches for the 24 hours ending around 12 UTC Monday. About 10.5 inches was reported at the Houston Sims Bayou at Telephone Road river gage.

An experimental interactive Web site that can be used to view rainfall total images for the event is located at: [www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip\\_analysis\\_new.php](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis_new.php).

Select the "Archive: Daily" option and 19 June.

– NOAA News

## ANNUAL AWARDS DUE 15 JULY

The deadline for submitting NWA Annual Award nominations has been extended to **15 July 2006** at the request of members. If you haven't yet nominated an individual or a group for one of these awards, please review all of the award options at the NWA Web site: [nwas.org/award.html](http://nwas.org/award.html), and in the March, April or May editions of the Newsletter. Mail the nomination package to NWA Awards Committee, Daniel McCarthy, Chairperson, 1697 Capri Way, Charlottesville, VA 22911-3534.

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**Submit newsletter items directly to:** Editor NWA Newsletter, at [nwanewsletter@nwas.org](mailto:nwanewsletter@nwas.org) 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 *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.

### IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

**15 July** – NWA Annual Award nominations due

**1 August** – NWA Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grant applications due ([www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html](http://www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html))

**3-5 October** – Tenth Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop  
Billings, MT (pg 6)

**4-6 October** – Tenth Annual High Plains Conference  
Dodge City, KS (pg 6)

**14 October** – NWA Fifth Annual Golf Outing, Cleveland, OH

**14-19 October** – 31st Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH

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

Also check Web site: [www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html](http://www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html)

## NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION

1697 CAPRI WAY

CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 22911-3534

*Supporting and Promoting Excellence in Operational  
Meteorology and Related Activities since 1975*

# NWA 31st ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE and PREREGISTRATION FORM

The National Weather Association's 31st Annual Meeting will be held from 14 – 19 October 2006 at the InterContinental Hotel, 9801 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

- **14 October:** Fifth Annual Golf Outing to benefit the NWA Scholarship Fund starts with lunch on Saturday afternoon at a Golf Course in Cleveland. On site registration begins at the NWA Information/Registration desk at the meeting hotel.
- **15 October:** BROADCAST METEOROLOGY WORKSHOP will include special presentations and workshops appropriate to continuing education for weathercasters, but open to all interested. EXHIBITS OPEN in the room adjacent to the meeting presentation room. Tape Swap Sunday evening -- bring a vhs tape of one recent weathercast for discussion.
- **16-19 October:** ANNUAL MEETING GENERAL SESSIONS from Monday morning through Thursday afternoon will include a wide variety of topics relating to OPERATIONAL meteorology, climatology, hydrology, weather broadcasting, new research applications, and related activities. **A reception will be held in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum on Monday evening, 16 October. The Annual Awards Luncheon will be on Wednesday, 18 October.**

The Annual Meeting Program Committee Chairperson is: **Theresa Rossi**, NWA past-president (1994) and NOAA/NWS Weather Forecast Office MIC, 192 Shafer Road, Moon Township, PA 15108; Theresa.Rossi@noaa.gov. The Broadcast Meteorology Workshop Program Chair is **Bryan C. Karrick**, NWA Councilor and KCCI-TV meteorologist, 888 Ninth Street, Des Moines, IA 50309-1288; bkarrick@hearst.com. For information on exhibits, accommodations, registration and the overall meeting program, please contact the NWA office at Tel/FAX: (434) 296-9966 or e-mail: NatWeaAsoc@aol.com. **The Annual Meeting Agenda will be on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org) in August.**

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** The InterContinental Hotel at 9801 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106, is a full-service hotel. Information can be viewed at Web site: [www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ic/1/en/hd/cleha](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ic/1/en/hd/cleha). NWA discount room rates are \$99 plus tax for a single, double, triple or quad room. The discount rate will be honored three days before Group arrival through three days after Group departure. To reserve a room, please call the InterContinental Hotel at 216-707-4000 or 1-877-707-8999 and request the Group rate for the National Weather Association Annual Meeting. Please reserve your hotel room NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM EST 13 September 2006 to be able to obtain the NWA discount rate.

**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 and coffee/refreshment breaks. Full registration for the period 16-19 October includes the Awards Luncheon on Wednesday and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum reception on Monday evening.

## THE PREREGISTRATION FEES payable to the NWA by 6 OCTOBER 2006 are:

- **For 15 October, Broadcast Meteorology Workshop:** \$70 for NWA members and presenters (student and retired members \$40); \$95 for non-members (student and retired non-members \$65). This includes exhibits and Tape Swap.
- **For 16-19 October, Annual Meeting sessions/activities:** \$170 for NWA members and presenters (student and retired members \$100); \$215 for non-members (student and retired non-members \$130). This fee includes the Awards Luncheon on Wednesday and the reception at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Monday evening.

**Special one-day rates for each day during the period 16-19 October (for those that cannot attend the entire conference) are:** \$60 for NWA members and presenters (student and retired members \$40); \$80 for non-members (student and retired non-members \$60). Day rates do not include the Awards Luncheon or the reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Extra tickets for the Awards Luncheon and the Reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame are available.

**To preregister, please copy this form and mail it with full payment of fees by 6 October 2006 to:** NWA Meeting, 1697 Capri Way, Charlottesville VA 22911-3534 USA. Make payment to "NWA" in US funds by a US bank check, money order or government/institution purchase order. Preregistration by credit card is available on the NWA Web site at: [www.nwas.org/meetings/nwa06mtg.html](http://www.nwas.org/meetings/nwa06mtg.html)

Name (for nametag): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State (for nametag) /Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer, School or other Affiliation (for nametag): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone and e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date at meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date from meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Preregistration fees: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Golf Outing fee (\$90): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Number of extra Awards Luncheon tickets (\$30 each): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of extra Rock & Roll Hall of Fame reception tickets (\$15 each) \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle all applicable phrases listed here:** NWA member      NWA local chapter member      non-member      Student

Retired      Session Chair      Presenter      Program committee member      Local Arrangements committee member

I will bring a tape to the Tape Swap      I'll attend the Tape Swap but not bring a tape      I'll attend the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame reception