

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Paul Croft

It has been and continues to be a very busy year for the NWA as we move forward in our planning for the Annual Meeting. We have been working to improve the way we do business to both simplify and streamline – to be active and responsive – to all of our members and to other communities. To help us in this regard I am pleased to announce the appointment and hire of Cynthia Ann Nelson as the first Assistant Executive Director. As the NWA has grown and matured, so have the needs of the association increased to meet the demands of our 3,000 plus members. Cynthia is a welcome addition to the NWA staff and began training in early May.

Thanks very much to Bill Read and his ad hoc search committee that included Steve Harned, Joe Schaefer and Bob Johns. They received 19 applications for the assistant executive director position and recommended Cynthia Ann Nelson to the NWA Council for approval. Cynthia earned a B.A. in Geography at Indiana University in 1971 and a M.S. in Education at the State University of NY in Geneseo in 1972. Joining the US Navy in May 1974, Ms. Nelson rose from Aerographer's Mate 3rd class to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, as an Oceanography Officer, during her 20 years of service. Her tours of duty included two stints at the Navy's Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center in Monterey; completing her M.S. in Meteorology and Oceanography at the Naval Postgraduate School in 1982; teaching meteorology and oceanography as an Associate Professor at the US Naval Academy; commanding the seagoing Oceanographic Unit One which conducted hydrographic surveys in the North and South Atlantic Ocean and Northeastern Pacific Ocean; completing her third Masters degree at the Naval War College in National Security Policy and Decision Making in 1988; and serving as the US Navy and Marine Corps Assistant Federal Coordinator at the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM). After retirement from the Navy in May 1994, Cynthia joined NOAA/NWS at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction as the Quality Assessment Project Leader, the NCEP International and Interagency Point of Contact, and the Supervisor of the Senior Duty

Meteorologists. In February 1999, Cynthia transferred to the OFCM as a Senior Staff Meteorologist to lead the interagency coordination efforts of the Committee for Environmental Services, Operations, and Research Needs, the Committee for Cooperative Research, and to assist with the coordination of the hurricane program and natural disaster reduction research, and operational processing centers cooperation efforts. She led the successful efforts to update the Wind Chill Temperature Indices of both the US and Canada, which was implemented for the 2001-2002 winter season in both countries. She also was the developer and conference coordinator for the successful OFCM Forum on Risk Management and Assessments for Natural Hazards held in February 2001. In April 2002, Cynthia left Federal Service and moved to Lakeville, NY to be close to her parents. Her husband (Craig) and she are volunteers with the Lakeville Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary. In addition, Cynthia is a member of the Recreation Committee for the Township of Livonia, NY. She has kept current on professional matters by attending annual AMS and NWA meetings. She now has found the time to explore other opportunities and take on other commitments working from her home office in Lakeville, NY. We are pleased that she applied for the Assistant Executive Director position.

We have also been very busy in developing the themes and program plans for the annual meeting. Through much discussion, a tentative plan has been made for sessions on remote sensing, climate analysis and prediction, fire weather, aviation weather and hands-on workshops. I have also shared our call for abstracts with the American Association of State Climatologists and other groups to ensure a wide distribution to those involved with operational concerns. I ask that you share our call for abstracts with those you are in contact with as well. The deadline for abstracts is June 1st, but if you miss it, still send abstracts in or contact the program committee chairs. Your abstract or the one you asked someone else to submit, may cover a subject that we definitely want to include. If you also have ideas for a presentation session or workshop, please contact our program committee chairs quickly so that arrangements can be considered. See page 7 for more Annual Meeting information.

- Yours in Service – Paul Croft

HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS

The year is going by fast — it is already time to start thinking about tropical storms and hurricanes affecting the US mainland. The Eastern Pacific Hurricane Season officially starts on 15 May and the Atlantic Basin season begins 1 June.

As of this writing, the 2004 Atlantic Basin Hurricane Outlooks have been issued. The general consensus is that this year will be above average in terms of the number of named tropical cyclones, hurricane days, and the probability that the United States will be struck by a hurricane.

For more detailed information about the seasonal forecasts for the Atlantic Basin, hurricane preparedness information, and links to tropical weather Web pages, refer to the NWA's Tropical Weather Web page at: <http://www.nwas.org/links/tropical.html>

Local Red Cross offices are also a good place for pamphlets on hurricane and other severe weather hazards and how to plan ahead to save lives and property.

HURRICANE NAMING TRIVIA

1. What novel contained an early example of naming a storm using a woman's name?
2. What year were men's names added to the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico lists?
3. An international committee, of what organization, currently maintains and updates Atlantic tropical storm name lists?
4. What are the first four names that will be used to name tropical storms or hurricanes this year?

See the answers on page 7.

Information taken from the NWS Tropical Prediction Center Web page about Storm Names
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnames.shtml>

3rd Annual NWA Golf Outing

Saturday, October 16, 2004
Heron Lakes Great Blue Golf Course
Portland, Oregon

\$85

Includes greens fees, cart, driving range,
lunch, prizes and camaraderie

All proceeds benefit NWA scholarships.

Please contact Betsy Kling to reserve your spot: betsykling@wkyc.com

BROADCAST COMMITTEE NEWS

More Ingredients for a Great Weathercast...

In the March–April edition of the newsletter, I detailed some basic building blocks for a solid and consistent weathercast. In this second installment of the series, I will take you through the first step in preparing your daily presentation. Whether you do mornings, the midday show, evenings or weekends, the process is the same, or should be.

My dad was a painter for over 20 years and the one thing I will always remember him telling me about a paint job was that the preparation was the hardest part, took the longest time, and had its share of frustrations. The on-air part of our day is pretty easy, but everything leading up to the broadcast takes the most work: analyzing the data, making the forecast, creating the graphics and putting on make-up. Before anything else happens, you have to know what's going on currently and what the future holds. I work evenings at WXIX-TV in Cincinnati, so my schedule may be different than yours, but you can adjust these guidelines to fit your day.

The first thing I do in the morning is head into my home office, hop on the laptop computer and check the latest satellite imagery; infrared, water vapor and visible. I have created links to specific satellite sectors and saved them in my favorites (bookmarks). The best site I have found, especially for custom satellite sectors, is: www.ghcc.msfc.nasa.gov/GOES/. You can loop the images and save the link so you can go to the same loop every day. Good satellite analysis can take a little time, so I do it in the morning and again after lunch. By looking at satellite imagery twice a day at home, I have a good handle on the cloud picture before heading to work. You can apply the same rules to radar imagery, except that if precipitation is in your area, you will want to monitor it more often for changes in coverage and intensity. I believe that you should be able to walk into your TV station and know the current weather and the general forecast before getting to the weather office. If you can't do that, then you're not doing proper show preparation. However, we have more analysis to do before getting to the forecast.

It is essential to know what weather features are affecting your area, but you can't really understand the subtleties of weather without a good surface analysis. I can plot imaginary highs, lows, fronts and even isobars by just looking at a surface plot, but that comes only after years of hand analysis. It may take extra time, but printing out a surface map and drawing the weather features on it can open up your eyes as to the state of the weather outside your window. A great site for a black-and-white surface plot is: vortex.plymouth.edu/sfcwx.html. This is the first step in show preparation. In next month's column, I will discuss model analysis.

Send comments to me at: skyeeye@fuse.net.

- Rich Apuzzo, Broadcast Meteorology Committee Chair

REVISED ULTRAVIOLET INDEX LAUNCHES on 26 May 2004

On Wednesday, 26 May 2004, the NWS, at the request of the Environmental Protection Agency, will implement changes to the Ultraviolet Index product (UVI). The exposure categories are being changed to make them consistent with those established by the World Health Organization. The science behind the UVI and the forecast values are not changing. More information on the UVI is available at Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/sunwise>.

The old categories were:

UVI	Exposure Level
0 to 2	Minimal
3 to 4	Low
5 to 6	Moderate
7 to 9	High
10 and greater	Very High

The revised categories effective 26 May 2004 are:

UVI	Exposure Level
less than 2	Low
3 to 5	Moderate
6 to 7	High
8 to 10	Very High
11 and greater	Extreme

- EPA & NWS Press releases

NWA ANNUAL AWARDS 2004

The National Weather Association (NWA) began its award program in 1977 to provide deserved recognition to those individuals involved in operational activities. The Awards Program recognizes the professional as well as the volunteer. The emphasis is on the people who perform the day-to-day jobs of providing meteorological information and weather support services to the public. Names of previous winners and additional award information are available on the Web site: www.nwas.org/award.html. Please review the award categories carefully and use the category most appropriate for the nomination being submitted. Self nominations will not be accepted.

Award Categories are:

Member of the Year Award: This award is presented to a NWA member who has made significant contributions to the organization over a period of time.

Operational Achievement Individual Award: This award is presented to a 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: This 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.

T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award: This award is presented to a 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 or organization providing significant contributions to increase the public's weather awareness.

Broadcaster of the Year Award: This award is presented to a NWA member 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. Radio and Television weathercaster candidates must be current NWA Seal of Approval holders and have had the NWA Seal of Approval for at least one year prior to being nominated for this award.

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.

Aviation Meteorology Award: This award is presented to an individual or group to recognize significant contributions to aviation meteorology, such as impact of operational forecasts on aviation operations, and advances in aviation meteorology including research in detection and forecasting of aviation hazards.

Narrative nominations (no more than two pages) with additional endorsements should be forwarded by 1 July 2004, to:

NWA Awards Committee
Mary M. Cairns, Chairperson
1697 Capri Way
Charlottesville, VA 22911-3534

Although there is no rigid time requirement for the awards, the Committee prefers that the accomplishment, if not on a continuing basis, occur within 18 months prior to the nominations. Additionally, if the nomination is not selected as the winner, it will remain a valid nomination for two additional years unless the nominee's position is no longer applicable to the award. The nomination may be updated by the submitter in each of those additional two years. Winners for 2004 will be honored at the NWA Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon, 20 October 2004, at the DoubleTree Hotel - Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon.

CALL FOR PAPERS - THE NWA METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE APPLICATIONS AWARD

The Meteorological Satellite Applications Award has been established by the National Weather Association (NWA) to stimulate interest and foster the study and use of satellite remote sensing data in weather analysis and forecasting. **Undergraduate students are invited to write an original paper on meteorological satellite applications.** Themes of the papers may include original research, case studies, or a survey of applications. **The recipient of the award will receive a stipend of \$500 and be invited to present their paper at the NWA Annual Meeting.** The student must be enrolled as an undergraduate at the time the paper is written and be in good academic standing at the college or university attending. The student also must be a U.S. citizen or hold permanent resident status.

Submission of Papers: Student papers should not exceed ten (10) pages including photographs and appendices. Candidate authors should submit:

- an original and three copies of their paper
- a letter of application with the paper title, university affiliation, and contact information including mailing address, phone, fax, and e-mail address if available
- a letter from their Department Head or other faculty member that confirms the student author was an undergraduate when the paper was written and that the student is in good academic standing at the college or university. Additionally this letter should highlight the original research or contributions the student has made to this paper.

Submissions should be sent by 15 June 2004 to:

National Weather Association
Attn: MetSat Applications Award
1697 Capri Way
Charlottesville, VA 22911-3534

Investigation of Observed Microburst Characteristics and Forecasting Methods

The NWS Forecast Office in Jackson, MS is hosting on their Web site, the COMET supported, Preliminary Investigation of Observed Microburst Characteristics and Forecasting Methods at: www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/research/ulm_microburst/ by Paul J. Croft (Associate Professor ULM), Alan E. Gerard (MIC Jackson, MS NWS), Patrick C. Pyle (ULM Student Research Assistant) and Scott F. Blair (ULM Student Research Assistant). There is an exhaustive literature review, and the students came up with a nice graphic of the conceptual model of wet microbursts (assuming relatively weak shear in the warm season) integrating many studies on the topic. In addition, there is a comprehensive list of web links related to wet microbursts.
– Jeff Craven, NWA Councilor & SOO/JAN

NWA SOL HIRSCH EDUCATION FUND GRANTS FOR K-12 TEACHERS

The NWA Education Committee needs help from all members, to inform teachers in grades K-12 that \$500 grants are available annually from the NWA. These grants are designed to help teachers improve their meteorology education programs. 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 each year, thanks to the many members who have contributed to this fund. The grants honor Sol Hirsch, who retired in 1992 after being the NWA Executive Director for 11 years.

Completed applications are due by 1 August each year to:

NWA Education Committee
P.O. Box 15011
Baltimore, MD 21282-5011

Winners will be announced at the NWA Annual Meeting, 20 October 2004, in Portland, Oregon. Specific information regarding application guidelines are available at <http://www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html> or can be obtained by contacting the NWA office at NatWeaAsoc@aol.com or **Tel/Fax: (434) 296-9966**.

U.S. ARMY METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVERS

A brief account of the history of U. S. Army Meteorological Observers over the last century, including specific developments during the post-WWII period, along with personal experiences of members can be found at Web site: <http://www.ionet.net/~paroales/93E2H.HTM>.

After the Army Air Corps officially split off to become the U. S. Air Force following WWII, the Army re-organized its meteorological support around R & D and field artillery. This resulted in the Army training of personnel in the Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) of 11-E-36, 905.1, and 93E, from about 1950 through the mid 1980s.

In an effort to present information surrounding the training, duties, and lives of the men and women of these now defunct MOS, Paul Roales has put together Web pages containing the history, equipment, memorabilia, and first-hand accounts of former Army Meteorological Observers. Many of these served in meteorological support functions at “Met Teams” in the U.S. and its territories, while others served overseas in Korea and Vietnam.

Any former member of this military group is invited to share his or her Army Meteorological Observer experience and have it posted on this Web site. Link to the URL above and e-mail the Webmaster, Paul Roales.

– Bob Robinson

MEMBER NEWS

Norman (Wes) Junker, past president of the NWA (1996), retired from the National Weather Service (NWS) on 20 March 2004, after more than 30 years of service working rotating operational shifts. Wes began his government career at NESDIS in 1974 then transferred to what is now the NWS/Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC) in 1979. He has been involved in quantitative precipitation forecasting (QPF) since 1983. Wes has given numerous seminars for the NWS, COMET, local NWS forecast offices, and national NWA and AMS meetings. He has lectured in the United Kingdom, Canada, Taiwan and China, the latter as part of the Protocol Agreement with the Peoples Republic of China.

Wes has authored many articles on topics related to weather analysis and forecasting in NWA and AMS journals. His research interests include the performance of the NCEP numerical models; forecasting extreme rainfall events, heavy snowfall and heavy rainfall associated with mesoscale convective complexes.

He has been an active participant in the NWA and AMS and has won awards from both organizations. He received the NWA Larry Johnson and T. Theodore Fujita Awards for his long-term contributions to operational meteorology and for his applied research into heavy precipitation forecasting. He also is a Fellow of the AMS and won two awards from the society. He has been a member of several national committees including the U.S. Weather Research Working Group on QPF and has served as Chair of the AMS Committee on Weather and Forecasting. In addition to being a past president of the NWA, he also served as vice-president and a councilor. He received the NOAA Administrator's Award in 1999.

A retirement party and roast was held in Wes's honor on Friday, 19 March 2004, at Jasper's Restaurant in Crofton, Maryland, and was attended by over 80 friends and co-workers. Wes plans to stay involved in meteorology by keeping active in the NWA and AMS and by doing some consulting work. He is also going to fish, paint, jog, travel and visit with friends. *Best wishes to Wes and his wife, Cyndie!* - Bruce Sullivan, HPC Forecaster

Joshua Fitzpatrick a broadcast meteorology major at Mississippi State University and a summer intern at WOWK-TV with studios in Huntington and Charleston, West Virginia, **won a \$500 scholarship with his photography talents.** Joshua has been interested in meteorology since the fourth grade and is an avid photographer. Many of his photos are used during weather broadcasts on WOWK-TV.

He entered a photo contest the *Columbus Dispatch* was sponsoring, entitled, *Ohio's best weather photo for 2003* and won top prize. He submitted a photo of a thunderstorm to the south of his location just as the sun was setting – a perfect setup for great colors.

COMMITTEE CORNER

The **Broadcast Meteorology Committee** is one of the most visible and, in my opinion, most exciting committees within the National Weather Association. The committee has matured dramatically in the past 15 years and today we are setting the standard for Seal procedures in the broadcast industry.

The Broadcast Committee consists of 5 chairpersons and a Standards and Ethics Subcommittee. The chairpersons are: Broadcast Committee Chair, Seal Chair, Testing Chair, Recertification Chair, Program Committee Chair, and Public Relations Chair.

As the Broadcast Committee Chairman, I oversee the activities of the committee and have the most direct contact with the public outside of the Public Relations Chair. I write the committee report, which you see each month in this newsletter, and I guide the Broadcast Committee in its growth and influence within the NWA.

The Seal Chair is Mike Goldberg, who is the chief meteorologist at WTVR-TV in Richmond, Virginia, and works with NWA Seal applicants to assist them in moving through the seal process. He oversees the four evaluation panels that review tapes from seal applicants who have passed the written exam and are moving through the next step of the Seal process. The results from the panels are analyzed and the outcomes (pass or fail) are sent to the Executive Director to formally forward to the candidates.

Our new Testing Chair is Dr. David Arnold from Ball State University in northeast Indiana. Side note—the previous testing chair was Dr. Paul Croft, current NWA President. Dr. Arnold will soon be administering the newest NWA Seal exam, expertly developed by Dr. Croft and reviewed by the Broadcast Committee. Dr. Arnold will also grade the tests and send the results to our Executive Director to formally forward to the candidates.

The Recertification Chair is Bryan Karrick who is the morning meteorologist at Des Moines powerhouse KCCI-TV. Bryan's job is to help Seal holders move smoothly through the process of recertifying their NWA Seal every three years. This includes answering questions about the recertifying process and the continuing education requirements.

Bryan is also our Program Committee Chairman, which means he is organizing the speakers and topics for the Broadcast Session of the NWA Annual Meeting in October. If you have topics you want to see discussed, or know of some excellent speakers that we can contact, send an e-mail to Bryan at bkarrick@hearst.com.

Our Public Relations Chair is the talented and energetic Betsy Kling who is the weekend meteorologist at WKYC-TV in Cleveland. Betsy's job is to get the word out about the NWA, especially to broadcasters and the media in general. Betsy has already put together two very successful fundraising golf tournaments at the last two NWA Annual Meetings. The money raised goes to NWA

Scholarships. With Betsy's help, we will continue to increase NWA membership among broadcast meteorologists while raising overall awareness of the National Weather Association around the nation and the world.

Finally, the Subcommittee on Standards and Ethics objectively reviews NWA Seal Appeals, clarifies and revises the Seal procedures, and always ensures that the mission of the Broadcast Committee is clear and reflects current media and societal trends. The Subcommittee consists of the current and past Broadcast Committee Chairpersons, the current and past Seal Chairpersons, a Seal holder at Large (an experienced NWA member outside the Broadcast Committee) and a non-broadcaster who is a NWA member and has some knowledge or experience with broadcasters. The design of the subcommittee was well thought out and is a very balanced and talented committee.

Consider volunteering your time to serve the Broadcast Committee in the future. If you want to be part of the committee, send an e-mail to any member of the committee or to Executive Director Kevin Lavin. Our e-mails are available at the NWA Web Site: www.nwas.org.

- Enjoy the changing weather! Rich Apuzzo

THIRD WARMEST MARCH

Virtually all parts of the contiguous United States experienced warmer-than-average temperatures in March 2004, according to scientists at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center. The West, Southeast, and parts of the Northeast were unusually dry, while precipitation was above average across the middle of the nation

Preliminary data indicate the average temperature for the contiguous United States in March was 47.7 degrees F, which was 5.2 degrees F above the 1895-2003 mean, making it the third warmest March on record. Florida was the only state with a near-normal March temperature. The mean temperature in 17 western and central states was much above average, including New Mexico, which had its warmest March on record. An additional 30 states were warmer-than-average. The Southwest region as a whole had its warmest March on record. Conversely, Alaska was cooler than average with a statewide temperature 1.8 degrees F below the 1971-2000 mean.

Precipitation for the contiguous United States was below average, with much of the West, Southeast and Northeast drier than normal. However, wetter-than-average conditions occurred in 12 states along a broad path from Texas to Minnesota. The Southeast region (consisting of states from Alabama to Virginia) had its driest March on record. The January-March 2004 period was generally drier than average for much of the East Coast in marked contrast to 2003, which had record or near-record precipitation for many states.

Based on preliminary data, the average GLOBAL surface temperature for combined land and ocean surfaces during March 2004 was 1.3 degrees F above the 1880-2003 long-term mean. This was the second warmest March since 1880 (the beginning of reliable instrumental records), and it was slightly cooler than March 2002.

- NOAA Public Affairs

NOS NEWS

Coast Survey Development Laboratory (CSDL), of the NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) in Silver Spring, MD, released version 1.5 of its Web mapping portal 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 guidance for major estuaries and seaports, the Great Lakes, and coastal regions. The portal is available at Web site: nowcoast.noaa.gov.

- John Kelley, NOS

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- **Symposium on the 50th Anniversary of the Joint Numerical Weather Prediction Unit: The Foundation for Operational Numerical Weather Prediction will be held 14-17 June 2004 in College Park, Maryland.** The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA), Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center (FNMOC), National Weather Association and American Meteorological Society invite your participation in a "Symposium on the 50th Anniversary of Operational Numerical Weather Prediction." Program, registration, hotel, and general information are posted on the symposium Web site: www.ncep.noaa.gov/JNWPU50/. Students -- note group rates (for 10 or more) are available.
- **The 2nd International Conference on Volcanic Ash and Aviation Safety will be held 21-24 June 2004 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia.** Conference is sponsored by the Office of The Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (OFCM). For more information, see Web site: www.ofcm.gov/
- **The Eighth Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop will be held 8-10 September 2004 in Billings, Montana.** The National Weather Service Office in Billings is sponsoring this workshop. The focus will be on the exchange of weather and hydrologic forecasting information unique to the Northern Rockies and High Plains. The workshop will take place at the Sheraton Hotel in Billings. **Please submit abstracts or topics by 15 June** to: Byz.Great.Divide.Workshop@noaa.gov. Registration information will be available during early summer 2004. More information can be found on Web site: www.wrh.noaa.gov/Billings/GreatDivide.shtml, or contact the NWS Forecast Office in Billings, Montana at (406) 652-0851.

Check the NWA Web site **www.nwas.org**
For more meetings and job announcements.

NWA 29th ANNUAL MEETING

Call for Abstracts

The National Weather Association's 29th Annual Meeting will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel - Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon, from 16-21 October 2004.

The Annual Meeting will include:

16 October: Training will be offered by corporate members, exhibits will set up, and the third annual golf outing will occur.

17 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.

18 - 21 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, new research applications, and related activities. Special Sessions on Fire Weather, operational climatology and local/regional NWP are being planned.

The Annual Meeting Program Committee Co-Chairs are: **Michael Vescio**, Meteorologist In Charge, National Weather Service Forecast Office, 2001 NW 56 Drive, Pendleton, OR 97801; michael.vescio@noaa.gov, and **Steve Todd**, Meteorologist In Charge, National Weather Service Forecast Office, 5241 NE 122nd Ave, Portland, OR 97230; steve.todd@noaa.gov. The Broadcaster Workshop Program Chair is **Bryan C. Karrick**, KCCI-TV, 888 Ninth Street, Des Moines, IA 50309-1288; bkarrick@hearst.com. Contact them with your suggestions and to volunteer to help with the program.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: The deadline for submission of abstracts is **1 June 2004**. Abstracts may be sent via an Internet online form on the NWA Web site at: <http://www.nwas.org/2004abstracts.html>. Simply fill out the form in its entirety (you may cut-and-paste your abstract from your word processing program into the form), and click on the Submit Query button at the bottom of the form. Abstracts can also be sent via e-mail to michael.vescio@noaa.gov. Please write NWA Abstract in the subject box. The abstract may be included within the body of the e-mail or as a WordPerfect or Microsoft Word attachment. Please include the following information in the e-mail message: full abstract title, author(s) name(s) and affiliation(s)/address(es) designate which author(s) will be giving the presentation and whether poster or oral presentation is preferred, audio/visual requirements including software (e.g., PowerPoint, Corel, Internet access) and equipment (e.g., laptop, PC, overhead

projector), and list the primary contact with their phone number and e-mail address.

If you are unable to submit your abstract via e-mail or the online form, please contact the NWA office at Tel/Fax: (434) 296-9966.

Presenters will be notified regarding the disposition of their abstracts by 15 August 2004. Prior to the meeting an FTP site will be established for authors to download their presentations so that it can be run on NWA computers. This will facilitate a smooth transition from one speaker to the next during the Annual Meeting sessions.

ANNUAL MEETING HOTEL INFORMATION:

The DoubleTree Hotel Portland - Lloyd Center is at 1000 N.E. Multnomah, Portland, Oregon 97232. It is a full-service hotel in the "Center of the City". The NWA discount room rates are \$91 for a single or double room; each additional person will be \$15.

To reserve a room, please call the DoubleTree Hotel Portland - Lloyd Center at 503-281-6111 (reservations department) or their toll-free number 1-800-996-0510 and request the group rate for National Weather Association. **Please reserve rooms by 15 September 2004 to be able to obtain the discount rate.**

Thanks to Betsy Kling, the **Third Annual NWA Golf Outing** is scheduled for Saturday, 16 October to benefit the NWA Scholarship Fund. The outing will be on the beautiful Heron Lakes - Great Blue Course starting with tee times at 11:00 AM. The golf course is only 7.5 miles from the hotel. See Web site: www.heronlakesgolf.com for more information. Course fees, carts, lunches and the scholarship fund donation brings the cost to \$85 per person and with the usual great NWA corporate member support you can count on terrific prizes.

The preliminary agenda is expected to be published in early August in the Newsletter and on the NWA Web site. Registration information and forms will be available by mid June. For more 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.

ANSWERS TO THE HURRICANE TRIVIA QUESTIONS (from page 2)

1. *Storm* by George R. Stewart published by Random House in 1941.
2. 1979
3. WMO – World Meteorological Organization
4. Alex, Bonnie, Charley, and Danielle

Submit news items, conference announcements, short technical articles, and local chapter news to the NWA Newsletter via e-mail to: nwanewsletter@nwas.org

LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK 20-26 JUNE 2004

A Reminder -- The National Weather Association Council approved this policy statement on lightning safety education in May 2003 and again 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 Lightning Web site page: 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.

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

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

1 June 2004 – NWA Annual Meeting Abstracts Due (pg. 7)

14-17 June 2004 – Symposium on the 50th Anniversary of the Joint Numerical Weather Prediction Unit, College Park, Maryland (pg. 6 and www.ncep.noaa.gov/JNWPU50/)

15 June 2004 – NWA Meteorological Satellite Applications Award submissions due (pg. 4)

20-26 June 2004 – Lightning Safety Awareness Week

1 July 2004 – Annual NWA Awards nominations due (pg. 3)

1 August 2004 – NWA Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grant Applications due (pg. 4)

16-21 October 2004 – NWA 29th Annual Meeting (pg. 7)

June is National Safety Month

National Safety Council has excellent information on their Web site at: www.nsc.org/nsm/index.cfm

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