

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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**by Alan Gerard**

This month more or less marks the middle of the year between Annual Meetings of the National Weather Association. As such, the Council will be holding its Midyear Meeting on 18 - 19 May in Raleigh, North Carolina, the home of the new central office of our organization. The Midyear Meeting is the first opportunity for new Council members to meet the rest of the Council and for the new Council as a whole to really begin work on those tasks we wish to accomplish during this year. In this message, I will provide background information on the Midyear Meeting, and how your Council goes about the business of helping to steer and guide the NWA.

Midyear Council meetings are a relatively new part of the NWA organizational structure. For many years, the only formal face-to-face meetings of the Council were at the Annual Meetings. Occasionally, a sufficient number of Council members would attend another conference, such as the annual severe weather conference in Des Moines, to have a quorum for a short meeting to tackle a few critical items. It is only in the last few years that the NWA has grown beyond the capacity for the Council to perform its functions with a one evening get together at the Annual Meeting, combined with occasional e-mails and conference calls during the year. This growth has necessitated the formal addition of an annual Midyear meeting for the Council to meet its obligations to the membership.

The Midyear Meeting has actually become the time when the most intense business of the NWA is accomplished. As I mentioned above, the hectic nature of the Annual Meeting does not allow time for an extended Council meeting. At the Annual Meeting, the Council has two evening meetings during the week. On Tuesday night, the Council meets with chairpersons of all the standing committees to receive committee reports and discuss topics relating to the individual committees. This meeting itself is in fact a recent addition; in the past, the committee reports were done as part of a one night all encompassing Council meeting held during the week of the Annual Meeting. On Wednesday night, the Council holds a business meeting, during which the major agenda items are to examine the financial status of the organization and approve the next year's budget, as well as to discuss and approve the slate of candidates for the election of the following year's officers and Councilors.

In total, the Council meets for about eight hours during the Annual Meeting, and much of this time is devoted to a pre-determined agenda.

Conversely, the Midyear Meeting is totally devoted to Council business and discussion, enabling the Council to delve more deeply into subjects and to have extended discussions about topics critical to the future of the NWA. The Council meets for about twelve to fifteen hours over a two-day period, and can spend as much time as needed examining a number of items. In recent years, at Midyear Meetings the Council has discussed items such as the future of NWA publications, NWA marketing and membership, and long-term financial planning. Many of these subjects will be discussed again this year at Raleigh, along with some new topics including the role of electronic communication in the NWA as well as the potential NWA advocacy role in several key issues facing the operational meteorological community. An article on the NWA Advocacy Program will appear in the June Newsletter.

On another note, we have a number of important deadlines fast approaching. First is the deadline for submitting abstracts for the NWA 32nd Annual Meeting, which is 1 June. Please note that a new session on "New Radar and Satellite Applications to Improve Operational Weather Support" has been added to the agenda. More information about this session is located in the 32nd Annual Meeting section of our Web page at [www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org). The Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to share knowledge with and learn from your colleagues.

I also encourage you to spread the word about the call for papers for the NWA Meteorological Satellite Applications Award for undergraduates. Papers are being accepted through 15 June, and along with a \$500 grant, the winner will receive support to attend the Annual Meeting. See more on page 6.

Last, but definitely not least, is the NWA Annual Awards. Please review the award and honor your colleagues by nominating them by 1 July. See page 3 for details.

Hopefully, this article has given you some insight into the role your Council plays in leading the NWA, and has encouraged you to participate in NWA activities such as the Annual Meeting and awards. We as a Council are always looking for input from the membership as we do this work.

As always, if you have any suggestions or comments, please send me an e-mail at [president@nwas.org](mailto:president@nwas.org).

**- Alan Gerard, President**

## Member News

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Baron Services is proud to announce that its founder and CEO, **Robert O. Baron**, was selected as a Private Sector Advisor on the U.S. Delegation to the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) Fifteenth Congress. The event was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 7-25 May 2007. Some 600 heads of national meteorological and hydrological services, ministers, senior officials and representatives of meteorological organizations took part in the Fifteenth Congress, which is held every four years to establish WMO's future direction.

Private sector advisors bring a non-government perspective on various aspects of meteorology and weather forecasting to the WMO. "Being appointed as an advisor to the world meteorological body is an honor, both for myself and for the company," Baron said. "Our commitment to innovating dominating weather solutions for the broadcast industry has proven to be the foundation of our international endeavors.

*– Baron Services and the  
World Meteorological Organization*

**Dennis H. McCarthy**, director of the NWS Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services, and a charter member and former councilor of the NWA, will retire on 31 May 2007 after a little more than 36 years of distinguished federal service, including more than 33 years with the NWS.

Dennis started his NWS career in Portland, ME in January 1974 as an intern. He was promoted to a forecast position in Portland, and in 1977 moved to Indianapolis where he was a lead forecaster. His next move was to St. Louis where he held the positions of lead forecaster and deputy meteorologist in charge. In July 1990, Dennis became the meteorologist in charge of the Norman, OK office where he played a lead role implementing modernized forecast and warning operations. His next move was in 2000 to Kansas City where he served as the director of the NWS Central Region until January 2005 when he was selected for his current position.

Dennis served as a NWA councilor from 1984-1985 and again in 1995-1996. During the early days of the NWA, Dennis was a regional editor and feature editor for the NWA Digest.

A number of unit and individual awards related to forecast and warning operations have been presented to Dennis, including the Department of Commerce Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals; the NWS Modernization Award; the National Weather Association Member of the Year Award in 1981; an American Meteorological Society (AMS) Special Award; and the AMS Editor's Award.

A tornado that tore through Dennis' St. Louis neighborhood in 1967 strengthened his interest in weather. He earned a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from the University of Missouri at St. Louis the next year and later earned a masters degree in meteorology at the University of Wisconsin. He began his weather forecasting career and learned basic meteorology in the U.S. Air Force weather program at St. Louis University.

A native of St. Louis, Dennis and his wife Maggie plan to move back to St. Louis in the near future where all of their four children currently reside.

Dennis stated in his article for the NOAA/NWS publication *AWARE*, "For my part, I am looking forward to participating from the other side in the years to come. I hope to contribute to NWS work using my 4-inch rain gage, my snow board, WeatherCoder software and my amateur radio. This is my chance to get out there a bit after working so many events from the inside. So when you hear KC5EVH on your ham radio network later this year, it will be my best effort to contribute a timely and accurate NWS report."

## In Memoriam

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**Melissa Greer Polsky**, age 27, passed away Friday, April 20 at Carolina's Medical Center after a courageous and spirited battle with cancer. Melissa was a loving wife, mother, daughter and sister. She was an inspiration to everyone she met and will forever rest in the hearts and souls of everyone she touched with her grace and dignity.

Melissa graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of South Carolina in 2001. In 2003, she earned a Master's degree in Geosciences with an emphasis in Meteorology from Mississippi State University (MSU), graduating with top honors. Associate Professor Mike Brown of the Department of Geosciences at (MSU) wrote this about Melissa, "It is a very sad time at MSU as she was one of our finest graduates."

While attending MSU, Melissa worked as the Morning Meteorologist for WCBI-TV in Columbus, MS. Upon graduation, she accepted the Weekend Meteorologist position with WTVC-TV in Chattanooga, TN. She joined WBTV in Charlotte, NC in January 2004, and anchored weekend weather coverage. An NWA member since 2006, Melissa was a NWA Seal of Approval candidate.

Melissa is survived by her husband Roger Polsky and son Connor Polsky, her loving parents Rev. and Mrs. Terry (Martha) Greer of Honea Path, SC, a brother and a sister as well as many other relatives. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.chandlerjacksonfh.com](http://www.chandlerjacksonfh.com). Memorials may be made to the Melissa and Conner Polsky Fund, c/o Wachovia, Tega Cay Financial Center, 2890 HWY 160 W, Fort Mill, SC 29708.

### We Need Your Help!

The end of the school year is nearing for those in grades K-12.

Please inform K-12 teachers in your area that \$500 grants are available from the NWA.

Applications for the  
**Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants**  
are due by **1 August 2007**.

Applications are located at  
**[www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html](http://www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html)**.

## Last Call for Nominations for the 2007 NWA ANNUAL AWARDS

The National Weather Association (NWA) began its annual awards program in 1977 to provide deserved recognition to those individuals involved in operational activities. The NWA Annual Awards Program recognizes the professional as well as the volunteer. The emphasis is on the people who perform the day-to-day tasks of providing meteorological information and weather support services to the public.

Please review the award categories carefully and use the category most appropriate for the nomination being submitted.

### Award Categories are:

**Operational Achievement Individual Award:** This award is presented to a NWA member who has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology. This could be for an accurate and timely forecast for one or more significant weather events or for long-period achievement in operational weather support or related activities.

**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.

**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.

**T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award:** This award is presented to a NWA member whose research has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology.

**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 quality and timely 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.

**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.

**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.

**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 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.

**Other Special Achievement Awards** are detailed on the NWA Web site at: [www.nwas.org/award.html](http://www.nwas.org/award.html). Names of previous annual award winners and additional award information are also available on that Web site.

### Submitting Nominations:

**Please use the award cover sheet that can be copied from the NWA Web site at: [www.nwas.org/award.html](http://www.nwas.org/award.html) or sent via Fax from the NWA office (call: 919-845-1546), attach a narrative nomination (up to two pages in length) with no more than three supporting letters of endorsement. Nominations should be mailed by 1 July 2007 to:**

NWA Awards Committee  
Daniel McCarthy, Chairperson  
228 West Millbrook Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609-4304

Although there is no rigid time requirement for the awards, it is preferred that the accomplishment, if not on a continuing basis, occur within 18 months prior to the nominations. Self nominations will not be accepted. If the nomination is not selected as the winner, it will remain a valid nomination for two additional years unless the nominee(s) are no longer in positions applicable to the award. The nomination may be updated by the submitter in each of those additional two years. Presentation of the annual awards for 2007 will be made at the NWA Annual Meeting, Awards Luncheon, 17 October 2007, at the Circus Circus Reno in Reno, Nevada.

## Lightning Goes the Distance

We all know lightning can strike several miles away from a thunderstorm core, but did you know that sensors detected a cloud lightning flash that extended 150 miles?

The LDAR II (Lightning Detection and Ranging) system in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, area detected the 150 mile cloud lightning flash on 13 October 2001. It initiated just northwest of Waco, TX, and traveled north to near Denton, TX before traveling southeast to Dallas. It produced two cloud-to-ground lightning strikes that were separated by about 50 miles. Here is an excerpt that briefly explains this event from a paper titled *The Importance of Total Lightning In The Future of Weather Nowcasting*, written by Nicholas W. S. Demetriades, Martin J. Murphy and Ronald L. Holle of Vaisala, Inc., Tucson, Arizona. "CG lightning produced within stratiform rain regions that are attached to active thunderstorms are an important cause of lightning related injuries and fatalities (Holle et al., 1993). These stratiform regions usually contain longer cloud lightning flashes that help produce isolated CG lightning discharges. A single, long cloud flash can produce isolated CG flashes that are sometimes separated by over 70 km (43.5 miles)."

To read the entire paper, and to see a graphic of the Texas event, go to the following Web site. [ams.confex.com/ams/84Annual/techprogram/paper\\_71535.htm](http://ams.confex.com/ams/84Annual/techprogram/paper_71535.htm)

**Promote Lightning Safety!  
See page 8 to learn more.**

## The Use of GOES Rapid Scan during Severe Weather Events

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High resolution satellite imagery allows one to monitor the evolution of many features, such as frontal boundaries, stationary boundaries, sea breezes, outflow boundaries, areas of enhanced differential heating, areas of mid level dry air intrusion and areas of strong vertical updrafts. In short, such imagery provides information that enables forecasters to complete the picture of the evolving near storm environment, which might not be possible using just surface observations and radar data. There may be times when such features evolve so rapidly that the typical four-image-per-hour frequency is inadequate.

GOES Rapid Scan doubles the frequency of images for particular sectors of high interest such as those associated with severe weather outbreaks and land-falling hurricanes. The rapid scan imagery frequency is on the order of 7 minutes compared to 15 minutes for a regular CONUS scan. National centers can also request super rapid scan imagery, which is on the order of one image per minute and is typically employed for hurricanes. In addition, the high frequency of images allows the user to track development of active convection along various surface boundaries by using the 1 km visible channel. The boundaries that become areas of focus for convection initiation can be identified by looking for areas of cumulus growth along those boundaries. Furthermore, using the water vapor channel, one can follow vorticity maximums, or shortwaves, which may enhance lift within an area and initiate convection especially near surface boundaries (which would be identified using the visible channel) where a capping inversion exists.

GOES Rapid Scan is automatically requested whenever the Storm Prediction Center issues a Moderate Risk of severe weather for Day One, or whenever the National Hurricane Center issues a Hurricane Warning. Furthermore, NWS field forecasters can request a GOES Rapid Scan using regionally established procedures to address local severe weather concerns. This request is coordinated through NCEP's (National Centers for Environmental Prediction) Senior Duty Meteorologist who submits the request to the satellite operations center. NWS forecasters not familiar with the procedure to request GOES Rapid Scan should consult their Science and Operations Officer or their regional headquarters.

Once GOES is put into Rapid Scan mode, images can also be obtained through the various private weather vendors as well on the Internet. Please consult your weather data provider for additional details.

Some examples of GOES Rapid Scan can be found at <http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/goes/misc/>, while real-time GOES Rapid Scan data can be found at [www1.cira.colostate.edu/RAMM/Rmsdsol/RSOMAIN.HTML](http://www1.cira.colostate.edu/RAMM/Rmsdsol/RSOMAIN.HTML)

- NWA Remote Sensing Committee

## New Training Options at MetEd

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In late January, at the request of our sponsors, COMET (Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training) implemented a required registration system to access on-line MetEd (Meteorology Training and Education) training modules. All materials remain freely available, however; users must now register and log in so that we may better determine who is using our materials. To learn more about the simple, one-time registration process please visit [www.meted.ucar.edu/mandatory\\_reg.htm](http://www.meted.ucar.edu/mandatory_reg.htm).

In late February, a Spanish language version of the MetEd Web site was released. MetEd en español provides Spanish language menus for navigation and Spanish versions of all MetEd announcements and product descriptions. MetEd en español can be accessed from any MetEd page by clicking the Español button to switch to the corresponding page in Spanish. Additionally, MetEd and MetEd en español now include a new Spanish Resource page, accessed from the RESOURCES menu. This new page includes links to relevant materials in Spanish, such as bilingual and monolingual dictionaries and glossaries (including specialized topics, such as meteorology and hydrology) and much more. To access MetEd en español directly, visit [www.meted.ucar.edu/index\\_es.htm](http://www.meted.ucar.edu/index_es.htm).

Two new MetEd distance learning courses have been added. *Basic Hydrologic Sciences Distance Learning Course*: ([www.meted.ucar.edu/dl\\_courses/hydrobasic/](http://www.meted.ucar.edu/dl_courses/hydrobasic/)) is aimed at those who do not have formal training in hydrology. This course is designed to address the needs of non-hydrologists who work with hydrologic data, particularly in flood forecasting. The *Marine Wind and Wave Distance Learning Course* is composed of previously available individual modules. The goal of this complete course is to provide solid foundation knowledge of wind and wave processes with the aim of improving wind and wave forecasting skill and service to customers in the marine environment.

Several new modules have been added to the Web site. They are, *The PBL in Complex Terrain: Part 1 and Part 2*; *Deformation Zone Analysis*; *The SPoRT Center - Infusing NASA Technology Into NWS WFO*; *An Introduction to Ensemble Streamflow Prediction*; *Snowmelt Processes*; *Microwave Remote Sensing: Microwave Resources*; and the previously announced *Watersheds: Connecting Weather to the Environment*. The latter course provides broadcast meteorologists with instructional materials to help them and their viewers understand watersheds as our environmental home and the relationship between the weather and the health and protection of the environment.

As always, these materials are free and available at <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/> to everyone, courtesy of our sponsors. - Wendy Schreiber-Abshire, COMET Meteorologist

## Local Chapter News

The latest meeting of the **Four Rivers NWA Chapter** was held on Thursday 15 March, at Jeremiah's in downtown Paducah, KY with 19 people in attendance. We were honored to have Dr. Charles Doswell III as our guest speaker. Dr. Doswell gave a very interesting presentation on tornadogenesis, in which he presented information on the conditions necessary for tornadic development, and he challenged the audience to give thought as to what role tornadoes serve in the atmosphere, a question to which he himself is still seeking an answer. After Dr. Doswell concluded his presentation, he was presented with an assortment of books and videos, which chronicled several of the recent tornado events that have occurred in our area. Following our meeting on Thursday evening, Dr. Doswell was one of the presenters at the "Infamous Tornadoes" seminar at John A. Logan College on Friday 16 March, where he gave some preliminary findings from his and other colleagues' research on the Tri-State Tornado, as well as a presentation on storm chasing. **- Pat Spoden, President**

The **High Plains Chapter of the NWA** held a meeting on 18 April in Phillipsburg, Kansas, at the Frisky Brisket golf course club. John Stopkotte, science and operations officer (SOO) from NWS North Platte, Nebraska, briefed the group on an unusual "Anticyclonic Tornado near Rushville, Nebraska, on 20 June 2006." This was a left-moving storm, which normally would not have developed into a tornado, but moved into an environment favorable for anticyclonic rotation. John stressed that this does not fit any of our conceptual models, and takes a different approach (looking upside down) to recognize these potentially dangerous storms. A link to a formal article on this event is located on the chapter Web page [www.highplains-amsnwa.org/](http://www.highplains-amsnwa.org/).

The 11<sup>th</sup> High Plains conference will be held 16-17 August 2007 at Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska. There may be a meeting on the Wednesday afternoon prior (15 August), designed for NWS personnel to exchange ideas. Three hotels have been reserved, with 50 rooms blocked off for conference attendees. Keynote speakers thus far include Jon Davies from Wichita, and Ron Przybylinski/SOO from the St. Louis NWS office. Presenters are encouraged to submit a paper. Our conference is known for its friendliness, especially toward first time presenters. More information will soon be on our Chapter Web page: [www.highplains-amsnwa.org](http://www.highplains-amsnwa.org/). (Also see page 6)

High Plains Chapter member Jon Finch from Dodge City was invited to be the guest speaker at the Kansas City AMS meeting on 15 May. Jon gave a presentation on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the deadly (F5) Ruskin Heights Tornado, 20 May 1957. **- Tim Burke, Secretary**

The **Three Rivers Chapter** of the NWA Educational Outreach Program of has been visiting high schools to educate the students about the field of meteorology. Mr. Nick Mahalko's Earth Science class (Charleroi High School) traveled to the University campus to experience hands-on forecasting techniques. Twenty-two students were given the opportunity to compile a weather forecast, use the Broadcast Studio and explore careers in meteorology.

Highlighting the Spring Colloquium Series of the Three Rivers Chapter, winter weather expert Paul Kocin visited California University on 30 March 2007. Mr. Kocin's presentation related his personal winter weather research to the southwestern Pennsylvania region. The most unique event, in his opinion, was the 1950 storm where warm air traveled from the north and cold air filtered up from the south. He also discussed NESIS (Northeast Snowfall Impact Scale) which relates population density/snowfall accumulation to the intensity of a winter storm. The scale is currently used by NOAA as a way to classify winter weather outbreaks. After the lecture, Mr. Kocin took part in a book signing of his winter weather encyclopedia (co-authored by Dr. Louis Uccellini) entitled, *Northeast Snowstorms - Volume 1 - Overview* and *Volume 2 - The Cases*. Mr. Kocin, who had not traveled to the Pittsburgh region since 1967, was given the opportunity to experience the modernization of the Steel City from Mt. Washington and various other vantage points.

Partnered with the Carnegie Science Center of Pittsburgh and numerous other scientists, the chapter volunteered their time at Astronomy Weekend on 31 March -1 April. Fifteen chapter members designed and explained several interactive experiments regarding the difference between frost and dew, high pressure and low pressure, and frontal boundaries

**- Michael J. Allen Secretary**

### Tornado Rated as the First EF-5

An upper level low situated over the central Rockies in early May caused days of severe weather throughout the central U.S.

On the evening of 4 May an incredibly intense thunderstorm spawned the first tornado to be rated on the Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale as an EF-5. The tornado hit Greensburg, Kansas, decimating the town. This is also the first tornado to be given a classification of "5" since the Moore, Oklahoma, tornado on 3 May 1999.

Dan McCarthy, Storm Prediction Center Warning and Coordination Meteorologist, said that preliminary data shows that 169 tornadoes occurred from 4-6 May. These numbers could change when final storm data reports are compiled. The Greensburg tornado was one of 46 tornadoes reported across five states on 4 May. The next day (5 May) 112 tornadoes were reported, with many of those occurring very near or at locations that were hit on 4 May. One of those tornadoes near Stafford, Kansas, left a 2-mile wide damage path and stripped the trees. Fortunately, fewer tornadoes, 11, were reported on Sunday 6 May, but some of those again hit near areas still trying to perform search and rescue and clean-up operations from earlier storms.

Flooding also became a significant problem. During the three-day period, rainfall measurements over six inches were common in the Central Plains.

More about the Kansas tornadoes can be found at the NOAA/NWS Dodge City and Wichita, KS Web sites at [www.crh.noaa.gov/ddc](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ddc) and [www.crh.noaa.gov/ict](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ict) respectively. Many other Central Plains NOAA/NWS offices have storm information on their Web pages. Go to [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) to access those sites.

## Professional Development Opportunities

• **The Changing Climate Issue: Reporting Ahead of The Curve, a Day Long Seminar for Print, Radio and TV Journalists and Editors, will be held 9 June 2007 at Ecotrust, Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center in Portland, Oregon.** The University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication, the Climate Leadership Initiative at the University of Oregon and the Society for Environmental Journalists invite you to a one day seminar for journalists on one of the most pressing and debated issues of our time: climate change. This conference provides an opportunity to hear presentations and panel debates by national and regional scientists, economists and policy experts, as well as journalists who are reporting the issue and dealing with issues of fairness. Key members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change including Dr. Stephen Schneider of Stanford University will be at the conference, as well as Richard Harris, science reporter for National Public Radio. The conference will generate climate change story ideas for journalists covering many beats. The cost of the seminar is \$50 and includes lunch. To register, contact Seth Walker at (503) 725-9073 or seth@uoregon.edu. More information, including the agenda, is located at <http://climlead.uoregon.edu/programs/mediaconf.html>.

• **The AMS 22nd Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting and 18th Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction, will be held 25–29 June 2007 in Park City, Utah.** See the AMS Web site [www.ametsoc.org](http://www.ametsoc.org) for further information.

• **The Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop will be held 8-11 July 2007 at The Millennium Harvest House Hotel in Boulder, Colorado.** It is sponsored by the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop is designed to bring members of the hazards research and applications communities together for face-to-face networking and discussion about current issues and trends that affect how society deals with hazards and disasters. It will provide a dynamic, provocative, and challenging forum for the diverse opinions and perspectives of the hazards multidisciplinary community. Abstracts are being accepted until 1 June and registration must be completed by 8 June. For more details on this conference, go to <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/workshop/current.html>, or contact Diane Smith at (303) 492-6818.

• **The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual High Plains Conference will be held 16-17 August 2007 at the Wilson Center on the campus of Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska.** The conference is sponsored by the High Plains Chapter of the NWA/AMS. The theme centers on weather that affects the U.S. Central and High plains. Abstracts, Word documents one page or less, are due 20 July and may be sent to [rick.ewald@noaa.gov](mailto:rick.ewald@noaa.gov). Authors will be notified of acceptance of abstracts via e-mail by 27 July. University students are encouraged to submit abstracts for the conference, and a cash award will be presented for the top presentation in both the graduate and undergraduate divisions. Preliminary program, registration, hotel and general information will be posted on the High Plains Chapter Web site [www.highplains-amsnwa.org](http://www.highplains-amsnwa.org). You may also contact one of the committee members listed below, at 402-462-2127. Committee members are Rick Ewald, Aaron Johnson, Mike Moritz and Jeremy Wesely

• **The 16th U.S.-Canadian Great Lakes Operational Meteorology (GLOM) Workshop hosted by NOAA-NWS Milwaukee/Sullivan and NOAA-NWS Green Bay will be held 5-7 September 2007 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.** Please submit abstracts to [w-grb.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:w-grb.webmaster@noaa.gov) by 15 July. More workshop information can be obtained at [www.crh.noaa.gov/grb/?n=GLOM](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/grb/?n=GLOM), or by contacting Gene Brusky at [gene.brusky@noaa.gov](mailto:gene.brusky@noaa.gov) or (920) 494-5845 ext. 766, or Ken Rizzo at [Kenneth.rizzo@noaa.gov](mailto:Kenneth.rizzo@noaa.gov).

• **The 32nd NWA Annual Meeting will be held 13-18 October 2007 at Circus Circus Reno in Reno, Nevada.** Abstracts are due by 1 June 2007. See the NWA Web site at [www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org) and page 7 of this Newsletter for further information.

See more professional development opportunities at [www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html](http://www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html).

## LAST CALL FOR PAPERS – THE NWA METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE APPLICATIONS AWARD

The Meteorological Satellite Applications Award was established by the National Weather Association (NWA) in 1999 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, development of a technique or algorithm or a survey of applications. **The recipient of the award will receive a Grant of \$500, and free registration and travel support will be provided for the award winner 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 must be a U.S. citizen or hold permanent resident status.

**Submission of Papers:** Student papers should not exceed ten (10) pages including figures, 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 2007 to:**

National Weather Association  
Attn: MetSat Applications Award  
3794 Cluny Point  
PO Box 342B  
Lakeville, NY 14480-0911

A formal announcement of the recipient of the award will be made in October 2007 at the Annual Meeting (and earlier to the individual).

# 32nd NWA ANNUAL MEETING

## PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

### *Call for Abstracts*

The National Weather Association's 32nd Annual Meeting will be held at **CIRCUS CIRCUS RENO**, in the heart of downtown Reno, Nevada, from 13-18 OCTOBER 2007.

**THEME: Building the Bridge from Best Forecast to Best Response.**

The Annual Meeting Program Committee Chair is **Randy Graham**, the Science and Operations Officer at the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, 2242 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116; (801) 524-5141; [annualmeeting@nwas.org](mailto:annualmeeting@nwas.org).

The Broadcaster Workshop Program Chair is **Bryan Karrick**, NWA Councilor and KCCI-TV meteorologist, 888 Ninth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309; [bkarrick@hearst.com](mailto:bkarrick@hearst.com). Contact them with your suggestions and to volunteer to help with the program.

### Professional Development Opportunities will include:

**13 October, Saturday:** On-site registration will begin, training may be offered by corporate members, exhibits will set up, and the sixth annual golf outing in support of scholarships will occur, weather permitting.

**14 October, Sunday:** WEATHER BROADCASTER WORKSHOPS 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.

**15 - 18 October, Monday - Thursday:** ANNUAL MEETING GENERAL SESSIONS will include a mix of formal presentations, poster sessions, training workshops, exhibits and panel discussions on a wide variety of topics relating to OPERATIONAL meteorology, hydrology, weather broadcasting, new research applications, user concerns and the main theme. A session is also being considered on societal impacts regarding changes in day-to-day weather and water resources due to climate change. A joint session on "New Radar and Satellite Applications to Improve Operational Weather Support ([nwas.org/meetings/nwa07mtg.html](http://nwas.org/meetings/nwa07mtg.html)) will be hosted by several NWA committees.

**Student presentations** will be reviewed by the NWA Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee members and monetary awards will be presented to the best in undergraduate and graduate student categories.

The NWA **Annual Awards Luncheon** will be at Circus Circus Reno on Wednesday, 17 October 2007.

**Abstract Submissions:** The deadline for submission of abstracts is **1 June 2007**. Abstracts should be sent via the online form on the NWA Web site at: [www.nwas.org/2007abstracts.html](http://www.nwas.org/2007abstracts.html). Please 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 button at the bottom of the form. Abstracts will be published in the Meeting Agenda as submitted, so please make sure that they have been carefully reviewed and edited before they are sent in.

If you are unable to submit your abstract via the online form, please contact the NWA office at Tel/Fax: (919) 845-1546 or e-mail: [exdir@nwas.org](mailto:exdir@nwas.org).

Presenters will be notified regarding the disposition of their abstracts by 15 August 2007. Prior to the meeting, an FTP site will be established for authors to upload their audio/visual presentations. This will facilitate a smooth transition from one speaker to the next during the Annual Meeting presentation sessions.

### Annual Meeting Hotel Information:

Circus Circus Reno is at 500 North Sierra Street, Reno, Nevada 89503. It is a full-service resort hotel, convention center and casino. Complimentary airport shuttles to/from the Reno/Tahoe International Airport are available for all Circus Circus Reno guests. More hotel information can be viewed at Web site: [www.circusreno.com](http://www.circusreno.com).

**NWA discount room rates are for North Tower Standard rooms:**

Friday and Saturday -- \$89.00 per day plus tax for a single or double room,

Sunday through Thursday -- \$55.00 per day plus tax for a single or double room.

If more than two persons occupy a room, an additional \$10.00 per person, per night, plus tax will be added to the room rate. Guestrooms must be occupied and registered to at least one adult who is 21 years of age or older.

**To reserve a room** for the Annual Meeting, please call the Circus Circus Reno Room Reservation Department at **1-800-648-5010** and request the **NWA 2007** group rate. Reservation clerks will inform you of the deposit due date at time of call. A credit card used for deposit purposes will be charged for one night immediately after the transaction has been made. Advance deposits will be refunded if reservations are canceled 24 hours prior to expected arrival.

**Please reserve your hotel room NO LATER THAN 12 September 2007 to be able to obtain the NWA discount rates.**

**Additional Plans:** Thanks to Betsy Kling, the Sixth Annual Golf Outing is being scheduled for Saturday, 13 October to benefit the NWA Scholarship Fund.

The preliminary agenda is expected to be published in August in the Newsletter and on the NWA Web site ([www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org)). Registration information and forms will be available on the Web site and the Newsletter by June.

For more information on exhibits, special accommodations, registration and the overall meeting program, please see the Web site ([www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org)) updates or contact the NWA office at Tel/Fax: (919) 845-1546 or e-mail: [exdir@nwas.org](mailto:exdir@nwas.org). **See you in Reno!**

## Lightning Safety Awareness Week

The National Weather Association Council approved this policy statement on lightning safety education and requests the support of NWA members in its implementation.

*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 Web site [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, will occur **24-30 June 2007** 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.

June is National Safety Month  
<http://www.nsc.org/nsm/>

### NWA Newsletter (ISSN 0271-1044)

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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 23rd will be considered for the following month's issue.

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

- 1 June** – Annual Meeting abstracts due (page 7)
- 9 June – The Climate Issue Conference, Portland, OR (page 6)
- 15 June** – **NWA Meteorological Satellite Applications Award** applications are due. (page 6)
- 24-30 June** – **Lightning Safety Week**
- 1 July** – **2007 NWA Annual Award nominations** due to the NWA Office (page 3)
- 8-11 July – Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Boulder, CO (page 6)
- 1 August** – **Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants** applications due to the NWA Office (page 2)
- 16-17 August – 11th Annual High Plains Conference Hastings, NE (page 6)
- 5-7 September – 16th U.S.-Canadian Great Lakes Operational Meteorology Workshop, Milwaukee, WI (page 6)
- 13-18 October** – 32nd NWA Annual Meeting, Reno, NV (p. 7)  
Please see Professional Development Opportunities on page 6 for additional dates  
Also check the Web site: [www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html](http://www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html)

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