



# NWA NEWSLETTER

## INSIDE

Past Presidents Take Look Back . . .	2
Weekly Update . . . . .	2
Free GIS Tutorials . . . . .	3
President Page's Message . . . . .	3
Sol Hirsch Grant Dollars at Work . . .	4
New JOM Paper . . . . .	4
Meteorological Satellite	
Applications Award Grant . . . . .	4
NWA Staff News . . . . .	5
Geo-Hyperspectral Atmospheric Sounding Data . . . . .	5
DUAL-POL Training Course . . . . .	6
NWA 40th Annual Meeting . . . . .	6
Professional Development . . . . .	7
NWA Annual Awards . . . . .	7
New Seal Holders . . . . .	8
New Members . . . . .	8

## IMPORTANT DATES

June 21 – 27  
Lightning Safety Awareness Week

July 1 (at 12:30 am CDT)  
Meteorological Satellite Applications  
Award Grant applications due

August 12 – 13  
17th Annual High Plains Chapter  
Conference

October 17 – 22  
40th NWA Annual Meeting  
(see page 6)

*The NWA: Connecting operational  
meteorologists in pursuit of  
excellence in weather forecasting,  
communication, and service.*

## The California Drought: What It Has Taught Us

**Chris Stachelski**

NWA Special Operations Committee, Climate

California is currently facing one of its worst weather disasters on record with the ongoing drought that started in late 2011. A study conducted by the University of California, Davis places the estimated economic impact in 2014 alone at \$2.2 billion in losses. Besides the economy, this drought has tested California's residents, infrastructure, ecosystems and politics.

Drought is perhaps the most sensitive of all meteorological hazards to deal with from a

slow to develop and its origin can be deceptive, masked by the time of the year it originates or even the natural climate of the area. Many in the northeastern United States may remember the drought that developed in early 2002 during the winter when trees and lawns, the classic telltale signs of dry weather, were dormant as they normally are. Away from the desert, California normally sees dry summers owing to its Mediterranean climate. Thus in much of California it is normal to see no precipitation for

two to three months in a row – if not longer. Much of the state has learned to survive a few months without regular precipitation through the use of a highly developed water management infrastructure to store and move water great distances. In this environment, drought can easily begin without the obvious signs – brown lawns or low reservoirs – which make it harder to communicate to the public that a drought has developed or is a hazard in a given area. The slow origin of drought also makes it harder to attract interest. Unlike a hurricane or line of severe thunderstorms that can easily draw

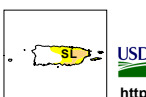
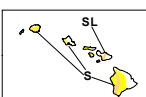
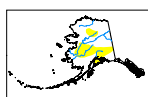
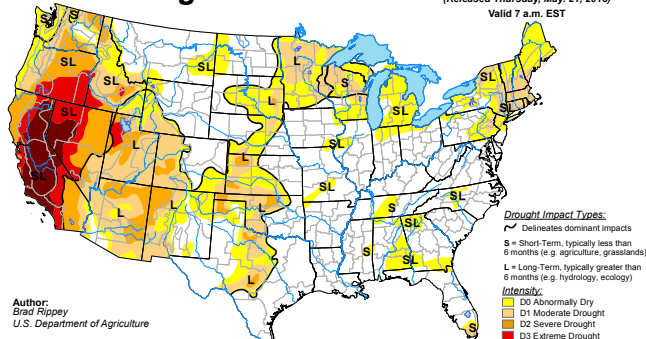
the attention of meteorologists and the public in hours, drought is discovered in retrospect once data and impacts are collected and analyzed.

As a result of the ongoing drought in California, NOAA is conducting a service assessment on its services being offered to decision makers most impacted by the drought. The results of this will be released publicly in the spring of 2015. It is expected this assessment will document key lessons learned from the ongoing drought, including the need for effective communication and coordination not only within the meteorology community but also with our close stakeholders in related disciplines. Drought is not an area that stops at the border of our profession and helping people to better prepare for and deal with it takes reaching across the aisles, creating partnerships and working toward a common goal of a weather-ready (and drought-ready) nation.

### U.S. Drought Monitor

May 19, 2015

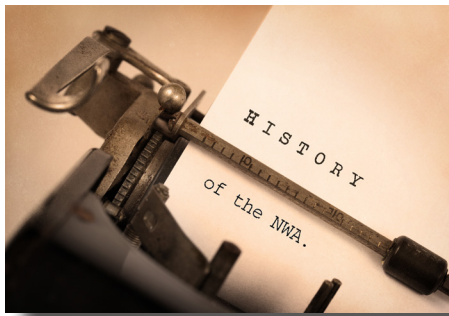
(Released Thursday, May, 21, 2015)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



USDA  
http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

political perspective. Unlike a flash flood, tornado or hurricane that are declared by a meteorologist, drought in California and many other states is officially declared by the state's governor. It is the only weather hazard that has this distinction. Due to this and the often nebulous and localized nature of drought, meteorologists and hydrologists are often cautious about using the term drought to describe one that is developing. This creates communication challenges in preparing for and taking action as a result of it. The ability to act on a drought thus hinges on the message being understood by decision makers as well as effective preparation, which is typically outside the scope of communities that meteorologists work with such as emergency management. Perhaps no other weather phenomenon has a greater need for effective decision support as a result of this unique communication challenge.

Further complicating discussing drought is the method in which it evolves. Drought is typically



## A Look Back at Our Presidential History

*The National Weather Association is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. The NWA Office reached out to past presidents and asked them for their most memorable or favorite moment from their time as NWA President. In last two editions of the NWA Newsletter, we shared memories from past presidents.*

*This month we continue our walk down memory lane.*

Our apologies – in the April Newsletter, we mislabeled Theresa Rossi's year as president. She was president in 1994 not 1997; Thomas Adang was president in 1997.

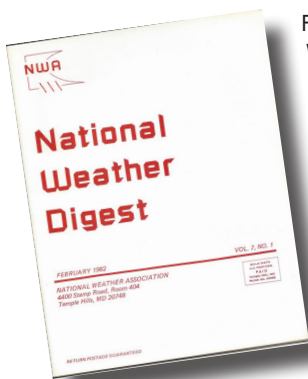
## It's All About Our Members

**Norman W. Junker**  
NWA President 1996



My main memories are of the people and other officer and council members like Rod Scofield. I also remember trying to make sure I attended every presentation at the Annual Meeting and how much help Kevin Lavin was when any issue arose. The main issue that arose while I was president was the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) trying to close the Command Center Weather Service Unit (CCWSU) and the potential closing of the CWSUs at the 21 Air Traffic Control System Command Centers but the offices were manned by NWS personnel to make flight service forecasts. The council drafted letters to the FAA and other interested parties in an effort to save the offices and to keep them manned by meteorologists.

## Reflecting on the First NWA Digest



Fran Holt, the first editor of the National Weather Digest, a past Councilor, former Remote Sensing Committee chair, and sponsor of the Meteorological Satellite Applications Award Grant, provided the following memory after reading about the first Digest in the April Newsletter.

"I remember putting that together very well with text spread out on the dining room table, a ruler and a jar of rubber cement. How far we have come from the "cut and paste" days! A neighbor of mine who worked for a printer

voluntarily set the type for the first issue. Final copy was then brought to the original NWA office in Temple Hills," Fran said.

## Musings of a Former President

**John R Scala PhD CCM**  
NWA President 2008



I look at the NWA of 2015 and marvel at the growth and maturation experienced in the six years since I served as President. Today, we employ a full-time Executive Director, a paid staff and occupy a permanent home within the confines of the National Weather Center. The reality of 2015 was merely a speculative thought in 2008. How could we achieve such a vision?

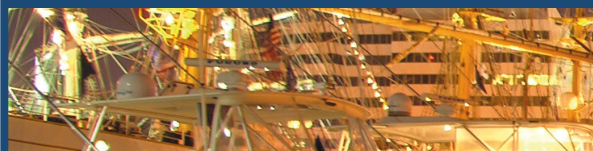
Hard work, dedication, and a focus on fiscal responsibility became our mantra as we endeavored to provide excellence in membership service. A new strategic plan was developed to capitalize on our strengths while acknowledging our weaknesses. A revitalized presence on the internet became an immediate goal followed by construction of a member portal to offer more bang for the membership buck. These initiatives were truly visions in 2008 that leveraged a passionate leadership and thoughtful energies to a unified objective: an improved NWA, one that operational meteorologists would want to join.

I recall my term as president as a time when the NWA began the process of realizing its potential, in a very big way. I remember fondly the planning of the annual meeting with my close friend and colleague, John Gordon (MIC NWS Louisville). Together, we forged a focus and a vision for a meeting grounded in the rich history of our discipline yet responsive to the challenges of present-day operational forecasting. We succeeded in bringing the most successive annual meeting to the NWA at that time. Successive fall gatherings push the envelope ever higher and I could not be more proud.

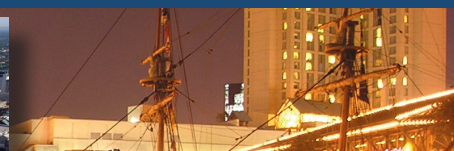
Serving as NWA President in 2008 remains a great honor for me. I am grateful for the opportunity it provided to enrich my professional and personal life. Great challenges await the leadership of 2015, just as we faced seven years ago. I am equally confident greater successes will be achieved as the next group of dedicated professionals steers the course of the National Weather Association.



[Click to see the Weekly Updates from NWA](#)



## 2016 NWA Annual Meeting



## Norfolk, Virginia

Photos courtesy of Visit Norfolk

### Take Part in Shaping the 2016 Annual Meeting

**Ken Carey and Mike Vescio**

2016 NWA Annual Meeting Program  
Committee Co-Chairs

Greetings! We're excited about leading the planning and execution of the 2016 NWA Annual Meeting set for September 10-15, 2016, in beautiful Norfolk, Virginia. Yes, it will occur a month earlier than normal, and we hope to take advantage of the many opportunities this presents to us.

One of these opportunities is to engage as many of you as possible in helping to organize a great annual meeting. Said another way, we are seeking volunteers like you to provide your ideas, time and talent to help create a professionally rewarding and personally fulfilling meeting for all NWA members and those who should become members. We want every interested person, including students, early career professionals, broadcasters, forecasters, teachers, researchers, private sector practitioners, and weather enthusiasts to have a valuable role.

Please send us ([ken.carey@ertcorp.com](mailto:ken.carey@ertcorp.com) and [michael.vescio@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.vescio@noaa.gov)) an email if you are interested in helping us in any way, if you have ideas to make this a great meeting, or if you have other suggestions.

### May President's Message: Looking Toward 2016 at the NWA

**By Elizabeth Page**

As we focus our main attention toward the 40th Anniversary and the Annual Meeting this October in Oklahoma City, we have also started planning for the 2016 Annual Meeting. After a great deal of consideration, the Council voted last year to move the timing of the annual meeting from October to September starting in 2016. The intention was to avoid some of the challenges that members who are part of the federal workforce have had in obtaining funding to attend meetings in October, which is early in the federal fiscal year. This situation has greatly affected attendance at the Annual Meeting in recent years. The Council is aware that this change may make attending the meeting more difficult for others, so I encourage anyone with comments or concerns about this decision to contact me directly at [president@nwas.org](mailto:president@nwas.org).

You may have noticed that the annual meeting rotates between western, central and eastern US locations. In 2016, we are due to be in an eastern location, and we considered several possible venues up and down the eastern part of the country. We selected Norfolk, Virginia, because of its central location and the great deals local hotels were willing to extend. Please plan to join us September 10-15, 2016, at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott for the 41st NWA Annual Meeting. The Waterside area of Norfolk is undergoing a revitalization effort that we will be able to witness firsthand. More information about the hotel [can be found on their website](#).

The 2016 Annual Meeting Program Committee chairs are beginning their efforts to plan the meeting and working with President-elect David Freeman to ensure a successful event. Past President and current Secretary Mike Vescio and Commissioner of Committees Ken Carey are the co-chairs for the 2016 Norfolk meeting. They are seeking volunteers to serve on the committee. See their article in this newsletter for more information, and look for more information from them in future newsletters as it becomes available.

The NWA Council will gather in June for our Midyear business meeting at the National Weather Center in Norman, Oklahoma, next door to NWA headquarters. We will be working on the business of the association and discussing our strategic plan and the state of the NWA among other topics, including the ballot for the 2016 Council and the location of future Annual Meetings. The Council is made up of dedicated members who are invested in the success of our organization. I look forward to sharing the results of the Midyear meeting with you, and seeing you at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

### Free GIS Tutorial for Atmospheric Sciences

**Greg Dobson**

Research Scientist | GIS Coordinator

There is now a freely available Geographic Information Systems (GIS) course geared towards weather and climate students and practitioners. This course was developed as a joint partnership between the National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center at the University of North Carolina at Asheville and the GIS Program at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

The goal is to provide those in the atmospheric science community a resource in which to learn basic GIS fundamentals within a weather and climate context. As GIS becomes more integrated into atmospheric science applications, the need for atmospheric scientists, meteorologists, climatologists, and others to learn GIS is increasing. However, even as GIS learning resources are very plentiful, very few teach GIS in the atmospheric science domain.

There are five exercises that cover the basic GIS fundamentals using weather and climate datasets as examples, and plans to have five more exercises that will cover intermediate exercises later this summer. [Check out the course here](#).



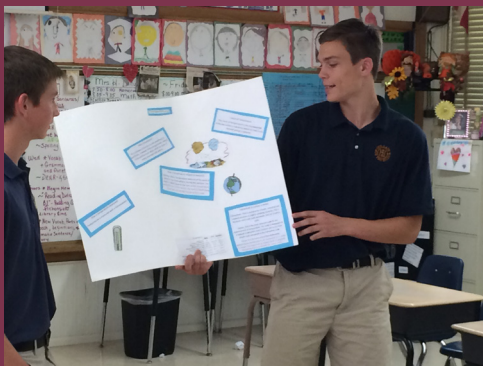
*Be a Force of Nature! Help us get the word out about staying safe this summer. Find content to share on the web, social media and elsewhere on the Weather-Ready Nation website.*

## Sol Hirsch Education Grant Dollars at Work!

The NWA loves to see the Sol Hirsch Education Grant Dollars at work! Every year, the NWA selects K-12 teachers/educators who are improving the education of their students, school and/or community in the science of meteorology as recipients of the "Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants."

To ensure a successful future in meteorology, it is imperative that teachers have the necessary resources. The NWA is dedicated to assisting those who are coming up with innovative ways to inspire our future scientists. The money used for Sol Hirsch grants is completely donated by our members. These contributions are a testament of how much the NWA believes in furthering meteorology in schools.

Four educators received grant monies to fund their projects in 2014. Mary Bauer of Kerrville, Texas, an educator at Our Lady of the Hills Regional Catholic High School is one of them. The school used it to purchase meteorological instruments to assist students in their study of the weather and to increase their enthusiasm for meteorology. The program is "Passing It Down: Meteorology, Big Kids Teaching Little Kids!"



Here is some feedback from Mary Bauer about the grant funds at work:

The Our Lady of the Hills AP Environmental Science class used our Sol Hirsch grant to purchase supplies used to measure the weather: sling psychrometers, pocket anemometers, barometers, thermometers and cloud charts. After learning about meteorology in class, the students learned to use the equipment.

Students were then grouped according to topic: pressure, wind, clouds, temperature and relative humidity. Each group planned a mini-lesson about their topic; some even came up with edible/drinkable examples to use while teaching. The students took their lessons to our feeder school - Notre Dame Catholic School - and presented their topics five times to five different groups of middle school students.

Mary Beth Bauer

Since 1993, the NWA has awarded 118 K-12 Education Grants totaling over \$63,000, thanks to the generosity of Sol Hirsch and the many NWA members who donate to this program.

Click to [donate to the Sol Hirsch NWA Education Fund](#) – together we can help educators ignite the spark of passion for meteorology in their young students, and in their communities!

The NWA thanks you for your continued support!



## New JOM Paper

A new article has been published in the NWA's Journal of Operational Meteorology (JOM) since last month's Newsletter.

**JOM 2015-8: The Utility of Total Lightning Trends in Diagnosing Single-cell Thunderstorm Severity: Examples from the Central Appalachians Region**  
by Paul W. Miller, Andrew W. Ellis, and Stephen J. Keighton.

There are four categories of papers that can be published in the JOM. To see their names and descriptions, go to the [JOM Call for Papers](#). If you are interested in submitting a paper to JOM, [Click for author information](#).

Thank you to the JOM authors, reviewers and editors for continuing to make JOM a success. You can read papers by logging on to the [NWA Member Portal](#) and clicking on the JOM link under Additional Member Resources on the right.

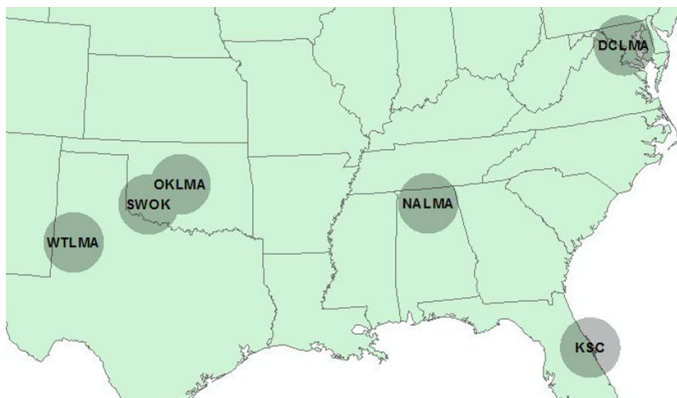


Figure 1 from JOM 2015-8. The geographical distribution of current LMA operational domains. The eastern Colorado-western Kansas study area included in Schultz et al.

## The Meteorological Satellite Applications Award Grant Now Open!

Undergraduate students are invited to write an original paper on meteorological satellite applications. The Award winner will receive a \$500 Grant, free registration at the NWA Annual Meeting to present their paper, and a stipend of \$500 to help cover travel and hotel expenses.

Applications are due on July 1 by 12:30 a.m. CDT. [Apply for the Grant](#)



## NWA STAFF NEWS: OUR NEW NORMAN STAFF MEMBER!!

The NWA Head Office is pleased to introduce our new Student Intern Grant Tosterud.

Grant is a junior majoring in meteorology with a minor in broadcast meteorology at the University of Oklahoma (OU) and is an OU University Scholar. He is the vice president of the Oklahoma Weather Lab.

Grant grew up in Fargo, North Dakota. He interned for two years with NWA Seal Holder and Chief Meteorologist Hutch Johnson at Valley News Live where he helped with severe weather coverage, creating graphics, and other projects. Grant was also a project intern for River Keepers, a non-profit advocate for sustainable and recreational use of the Red

River of the North. He was part of a team that took GPS-tagged photos of a 13-mile stretch of the river through Fargo. City planners and civil engineers use the over 2,500 pictures to monitor river changes.

Grant joined us in March and is becoming more involved with the day-to-day NWA office tasks of managing the Member Portal, sending welcome letters to members, creating graphics for our news items, assisting the Social Media Committee, and keeping us updated on significant weather events. We are happy to welcome him to the NWA dream team!



## Geo-Hyperspectral Atmospheric Sounding Data: Seeing Weather Before it Becomes the Weather!

Scott M. Jensen, Executive Vice President, Science and Technology, Tempus Global Data

Tempus Global Data in cooperation with Utah State University is building a hyperspectral atmospheric sensor called STORM™ (Sounding and Tracking Observatory for Regional Meteorology). Licensed by the NOAA Office of Space Commercialization; the first of six satellites, with a projected launch date of fourth quarter 2018, will reside in a geostationary (GEO) orbit and collect detailed data about the atmosphere, and when coupled with other valuable and available data sets, create high value, actionable intelligence that will assist numerical modelers in the observation and prediction of atmospheric events.

Low Earth Orbit (LEO) constellations are spaced to provide the global atmospheric state observations needed to initialize global numerical weather models. They provide excellent coverage for relatively slow moving features. However, for forecasts of severe weather or other quick moving atmospheric phenomena, the data sets are limited by the lack of persistence observations. To provide rapid updates on atmospheric conditions, the weather services currently rely on GEO observatories. By orbiting over a fixed Earth location, these systems currently provide the cloud motion pictures that millions of people observe and interpret during their evening broadcast meteorology reports. The imaging and multi-spectral sounding capability from GEO has evolved significantly since the first weather satellite demonstration mission in that orbit launched in December 1966.

Studies by NOAA have shown that a GEO hyperspectral imager/sounder can provide the most significant value increase, in the short term, to make generational advancements in the understanding of atmospheric events and phenomenology. In 1998, NASA selected the Geostationary Imaging Fourier Transform Spectrometer (GIFTS) that was built and tested at the Space Dynamics Laboratory at Utah State University for the New Millennium Earth Observation 3 (EO3) program over several other GEO instrument development proposals. After the EO3 GIFTS flight demonstration program was changed to an Engineering Development Unit (EDU) due to funding limitations exacerbated by the Gulf War, the EDU was completed and subjected to flight like thermal vacuum calibration and testing and successfully validated the breakthrough technologies needed to make a successful observatory. The GIFTS EDU provided valuable lessons learned to the Hyperspectral Environmental Suite (HES), which was then poised to become the next generation hyperspectral sounder

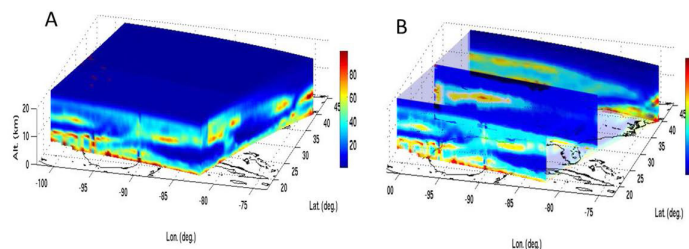
from GEO. The HES sounder was to take its place alongside the Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI) on GOES-R. Unfortunately, dwindling federal budgets once again sidelined hyperspectral sounding from GEO. This technology essentially provides a "3-D like cat scan" of the atmosphere refreshed at an interval as short as 11 seconds over a small area, 512 km by 512 km, and only 15 minutes globally, 60-degree footprint on the Earth. Figure 1 shows the anisotropic nature of water vapor in the atmosphere taken by the LEO Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI) instrument and highlights the details and benefits that can be achieved by refreshing this level of information globally every 15 minutes.

STORM™ will combine advanced technologies to observe surface thermal properties and atmospheric weather and chemistry variables in four dimensions to provide high spatial resolution (2 km by 2 km if desired, 4km by 4km nominally) temperature and moisture sounding information, with the fourth dimension (time) provided by the geosynchronous satellite platform ability to measure a location as often as desired. STORM™ will compliment and provide value added data for the polar orbiting imaging and sounding measurements taken by JPSS by providing: (1) a direct measure of moisture flux and altitude-resolved water vapor tracer winds throughout the troposphere, (2) an observation of the time varying atmospheric thermodynamics associated with fast moving and developing scenarios, (3) the transport of tropospheric pollutant gases.

The placement of the STORM™ instruments at 60-degree intervals around the globe will allow for persistent, full global visibility to atmospheric phenomena in real time. Each sensor will continuously scan the atmosphere in vertical slices, ~2km, and gathering data on atmospheric properties at the rate of 80,000 soundings per minute. In addition to constantly refreshed global scans, the sensors can also be tasked to look at specific areas of geographic interest where severe weather is developing and/or high risk conditions which require a more detailed examination.

*Dr. Jensen holds a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Utah State University. His specialty areas of focus are Cryogenics, Heat Transfer, and Thermodynamics.*

[www.tempusglobaldata.com](http://www.tempusglobaldata.com)



**Figure 1. (A) The 3D image of a block of 100 scans of vertical profiles of water vapor collected by IASI. (B) A breakout of 3 of the horizontal scans in (A) showing some of the variation in structure measured by this pass.**

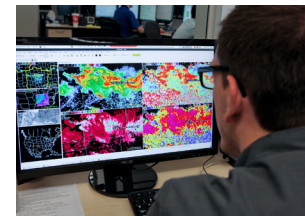
# Register for the Fall 2015 DUAL-POL Training Course; Receive Some of the Same Training as National Weather Service Forecasters

NWA members save 10 percent on registration, and earn five CEU credits toward NWA Seal recertification!

The University of Oklahoma Office of Weather Programs and Projects is offering a training course in dual-polarization radar technology, using award-winning materials co-developed by The Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies and the Warning Decision Training Branch. The 20-hour course consists of 12 hours of web-based distance learning and 8 hours of in-residence instruction using scenarios. Distance learning will begin in August, and an in-residence workshop will be held in conjunction with the NWA Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City this October.

## Fall 2015 Course Dates:

- June 19: Online registration opens
- August 17: Course access to online modules begins
- September 7: Online registration is closed
- October 12: Online modules completion deadline
- October 16-22: Two hands-on in-residence sessions (8 hours each) are planned in conjunction with the NWA Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City; exact dates to be determined soon.



Space is limited! To register, and for more information, e-mail [nrobertson@ou.edu](mailto:nrobertson@ou.edu).

## 40th NWA Annual Meeting



*SkyDance pedestrian bridge and downtown Oklahoma City.*

*It's our 40th Anniversary!*  
**Power of the Past; Force of the Future**

**October 17 - 22**

**Cox Convention Center  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

### Schedule of Events

Saturday Oct. 17 - NWA Golf Outing & Climate Workshop

Sunday Oct. 18: Broadcast Meteorology Workshop

Sunday Oct. 18: 8th Annual Student Session

Oct. 19-22: General Sessions

Wednesday Oct. 21: NWA Annual Awards Luncheon

### Location (The meeting registration will open in mid-June!)

**Conference Hotel:** The [Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel](#).

Reservations [may be made online](#), or by calling (800) 468-3571 and telling them you are attending the National Weather Association Meeting. The room block is open until 18 September 2015 or until full.

**Conference Venue:** Cox Convention Center in downtown [Oklahoma City](#).

### Abstracts

Thanks to all who submitted abstracts. *Over 360 were submitted by the final deadline!*

The Program Committee will notify presenters, via e-mail, regarding the disposition of their abstracts by the first week of June.

A preliminary agenda will be posted on the NWA website by early August for presenters to review.

### Program Chairs

#### **Program Committee Co-Chairs:**

*Dr. Patrick Marsh*  
Techniques Development Meteorologist  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Storm Prediction Center  
Norman, OK 73072  
[patrick.marsh@noaa.gov](mailto:patrick.marsh@noaa.gov)  
[nwas15@nwas.org](mailto:nwas15@nwas.org)

*John Ferree*  
Severe Weather Services Coordinator  
NOAA/NWS Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services  
Norman, OK 73072  
[john.t.ferree@noaa.gov](mailto:john.t.ferree@noaa.gov)  
[nwas15@nwas.org](mailto:nwas15@nwas.org)

#### **Broadcaster Workshop Program Chair:**

*Mike Goldberg*  
WTVR-TV  
Richmond, VA 23230  
[mgoldberg@wtvr.com](mailto:mgoldberg@wtvr.com)

Watch the [meeting webpage](#) for updates on hotel accommodations, exhibits, and more, or contact the NWA Office at (405) 701-5167 or [exdir@nwas.org](mailto:exdir@nwas.org)

## Stay Connected!

Meeting updates will be posted on these NWA social media sites:

[Annual Meeting page](#)

**NEW!!** [Annual Meeting Facebook page](#)

Twitter: [twitter.com/nwas](https://twitter.com/nwas)

Google+: <https://plus.google.com/115267406833207403491/posts>

Meeting hashtag: #Nwas15



## Newsletter Submissions

We welcome Newsletter article submissions from members. Send articles by the 25th of each month to [nwanewsletter@nwas.org](mailto:nwanewsletter@nwas.org) for publication in the following month's edition at the earliest. Information about the Newsletter and a link to author guidelines can be found at [www.nwas.org/newsletters/](http://www.nwas.org/newsletters/).



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EVENTS

### NWA Sponsored Meetings, Conferences and Special Events (click titles for more info)

#### August 12-13: 17th Annual High Plains Conference

This conference, sponsored by the High Plains Chapter of the AMS and the NWA, will be held in Goodland, Kansas. NWS Central Region Director Chris Strager will likely be keynote speaker, and NWA President-Elect Dave Freeman will be the banquet speaker.

#### October 17-22: 40th NWA Annual Meeting

The Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel is the host site for the meeting. Meetings will be held next door in the Cox Convention Center. It is our 40th anniversary, so plan to attend this informative meeting and celebration. See page 6 for details.

### Other Meetings, Conferences and Special Events

#### June 1: NOAA/NWS Summer Safety Campaign

The NWS will launch the Summer Safety Campaign over the course of the summer months covering hazards such as hurricanes, severe weather, heat, lightning, rip currents, air quality and wildfires.

#### June 7-13: Rip Current Preparedness Week

Rip currents can be killers. The United States Lifesaving Association estimates that the annual number of deaths due to rip currents on our nation's beaches exceeds 100.

#### June 15-18: 2015 National Hydrologic Warning Council Training Conference & Exposition

Held in Indianapolis, Indiana, this year a small sampling of presentations include: Hydrological Data Collection, USGS Fluvial Erosion Hazard (FEH) Mitigation Program and High Water Mark (HWM) Training Workshop, High Resolution Flash Flood Modeling and many more.

#### June 21-27: Lightning Safety Awareness Week

Summer is the peak season for one of the nation's deadliest and fastest weather phenomena – lightning. In the United States, an average of 51 people are reported killed each year by lightning, hundreds permanently injured.

#### August 25-27: Great Lakes Operational Meteorology Workshop

This workshop will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is designed to bring forecasters of all experience levels, media partners, and academia together to address the challenges and to share knowledge, experience and techniques.

#### September 1: NOAA/NWS Fall Safety Campaign

The NWS will launch the Fall Safety Campaign over the course of the fall months covering hazards such as hurricanes, wildfires, wind, drought and winter weather.

#### November 13-18: IAEM 63rd Annual Conference and EMEX 2015

The theme is "Expanding the Spectrum of Emergency Management" and the conference will be held in Clark County, Nevada.

#### January 27-29, 2016: 2016 FLASH Annual Conference

To be held in Orlando, Florida, the meeting theme will be "The Next Generation of Resilience." The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) conference will focus on creating a disaster resilient generation and the next generation of codes/standards/policies, residential construction, resilient communities, and outreach/education.

The [NWA Events page](#) has more information.

## NWA Annual Awards

We have but a few months to gather nominations for the many outstanding achievements of NWA members and others. Although many people and actions are deserving of these awards, we can only consider recognition for those that are nominated. This is where you can help!

[Take a look at the various awards and nomination examples.](#) Consider submitting a nomination for a worthy individual or group. Nominations for awards being presented at the upcoming 2015 Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City are due by July 30th.

Thank you for the consideration and I look forward to hearing from you!

NWA Awards Committee  
Chair Jeff Evans  
[awardschair@nwas.org](mailto:awardschair@nwas.org)

### NWA Annual Awards (Nomination Form)

- Operational Achievement Individual Award
- Operational Achievement Group Award
- Member of the Year Award
- The Dr. T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award
- Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award
- Public Education Award
- Broadcaster of the Year Award
- Aviation Meteorology Award
- Local Chapter Award
- The Larry R. Johnson Special Award
- J. Kevin Lavin Leadership Award
- Special Lifetime Achievement Award
- Special Achievement Award
- Special Appreciation Award
- Lifetime Membership Award



**2015 NWA SCHOLARSHIP**

# Golf Outing

**Saturday, October 17**

Earlywine Golf Club  
Oklahoma City, OK  
I-44 & S Portland

11 MINUTES  
FROM WILL ROGERS  
WORLD AIRPORT

17 MINUTES FROM  
DOWNTOWN OKC

**11:30 a.m. Lunch**  
**1:00 p.m. Tee Time**

**\$85 per player**  
Includes lunch, range, cart,  
golf & donation

Contact Betsy Kling for more information  
[betsykling@wkyc.com](mailto:betsykling@wkyc.com)



## Liz Horton and Eric Snitil: Newest Seal Holders

The National Weather Association is happy to announce two new holders of the NWA Television Seal of Approval. They are Liz Horton and Eric Snitil.

Elizabeth "Liz" Horton was Miss North Carolina 2006 and is now a meteorologist and reporter at ABC-11 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Prior to moving back to North Carolina, Liz was a weather anchor at Fox 35 News in Orlando, Florida. She started her career at WBTV in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Liz graduated from Mississippi State University in 2014, earning a Bachelor in Geosciences degree with a concentration in Meteorology. Prior to studying at MSU, Liz attended the Carolina School of Broadcasting, and obtained two degrees from The Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. Among those were a Bachelor of Music with a Vocal Performance concentration, and a Bachelor of Music Education. Elizabeth has received numerous accolades for vocal performance and musical theater on local, state and national levels. In addition to studying voice, Horton has extensive violin training and has studied several genres of dance with the High Point Ballet Company. She married Jonathan Peress in 2010 and gave birth to her first child, Lola Estelle in March of this year.

Eric Snitil has a knack for the extreme. He has been a meteorologist on WSFA in Montgomery, Alabama, for the last four years. A native of Northeast Ohio, Eric knew what he wanted to do with his life from the beginning. The eclectic mix of warm season severe weather and cold season lake effect snowstorms helped fuel his curiosity for the skies above.

Eric studied broadcast journalism at Kent State University and served as weather director for the University's student run television station. His work there earned him national recognition as "Best Student Weathercaster" in back to back years from the Broadcast Education Association. Eric then went on to earn his Certificate of Broadcast Meteorology with Advanced Standing from Mississippi State University.



He also spent a year as morning Meteorologist at KTVA in Anchorage, Alaska. Although that experience was unforgettable, his love for storm chasing brought him back to the Lower 48 and his current position in central Alabama. Between tornado outbreaks, floods and ice storms, it's the perfect place to call home. In 2015 Eric was named Best Weather Anchor in Alabama by the Alabama Broadcasters Association.

Hearty congratulations to these two newest Seal holders. Their dedication to excellence is herein recognized as they enter a company of professionals who hold the highest standards of broadcast meteorology. It is a mark of distinction and credibility that sets them apart from others.



## NEW NWA MEMBERS

*The following  
joined the NWA in April:*

### Corporate

[Las Vegas Jet Charter](#)

### Regular/Active Military

Harold Brooks

Joseph Cirasella, Jr.

Austin Conaty

Gary England

Justin Fanfarilli

Justin Godynick

Alexa Hall

Randy Hughes

Gregory Hunt

David Moran

Kristi Parrott

Heather Reeves

Shawn Riley

Paul Williams

### Students

Noah Bergren

Carly Cassady

Sean Farestvedt

Stanley Johnson

John Mayer

Eric Patton

Gregory Service

Morgan Smith

Dalton Van Stratten

Kevin Wagner

Pete Warren

### NWA Newsletter (ISSN 0271-1044)

Editor and Publisher:

Janice Bunting, NWA Executive Director

Communications Coordinator:

Hulda Johannsdottir, NWA

Technical Editor: Winnie Crawford

Design/Layout: Mollie Doll,

[Treefrog Resources](#)

Published monthly by the National Weather Association, 350 David L Boren Blvd Ste 2750, Norman, OK (USA) 73072-7125; phone (405) 701-5167; [exdir@nwas.org](mailto:exdir@nwas.org); [www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org).

Submit newsletter items to [nwanewsletter@nwas.org](mailto:nwanewsletter@nwas.org) using the Instruction for Authors at [www.nwas.org/newsletters/newsletter\\_instructions.php](http://www.nwas.org/newsletters/newsletter_instructions.php).

Members receive the Newsletter on-line and access to an on-line portal which includes the Journal of Operational Meteorology as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. Members have access to the [NWA Live Learning Center](#) and receive an emailed [Weekly Update](#) containing relevant news stories.

Address, phone number, email and affiliation changes can now be made online: [member.nwas.org](http://member.nwas.org).