

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Building on the Past and Present as the NWA Continues into the 21st Century

Reflections on the 25th Annual Meeting and Celebration — The 25th Annual Meeting and 25th anniversary celebration are now history, but memories of the successful events continue to be vivid and will last "forever" for many of us. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the success of this meeting and celebration is attributed to many dedicated volunteers who collectively make the NWA such a successful organization! Thanks also to the many individual and corporate members and prospective members who participated by sharing their studies, initiatives, products and services through presentations, workshops, exhibits and discussions.

"*Building on the Past*" was no better depicted than comparing the depth and number of topics presented at the earliest NWA Annual Meetings and the most recent one. The first Annual Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn near the World Weather Building in Camp Springs, Maryland, 14-15 December 1976. This meeting lasted a total of one day and had only two panel discussions: (1) effects of automation on operational meteorology (afternoon of 14th) and (2) views of television/radio weather dissemination (morning of 15th). The 25th Annual Meeting lasted six days, common for many of the NWA meetings over the past ten years, with a wide variety of topics. The week was extremely busy with many presentation sessions (oral and posters), workshops, an awards luncheon and 25th anniversary celebration banquet, and "Then and Now" presentations (looking at the last 25 years of change) on satellite meteorology, severe weather forecasting, applied meteorological research, changes in private-sector meteorological services, radar, advances in forecasting, advances in climate prediction, and QPF. The sessions and workshops emphasized our technological advances via AWIPS and other data processing systems, GOES and POES satellites, high resolution and ensemble NWP models, Doppler radar, etc. NWA is proud that these new advances have led to vastly improved weather and climate predictions, including extreme events. I encourage the speakers to share their outstanding oral/poster presentations by publishing in the NWA *Digest*, Electronic Journal, or a brief summary in the Newsletter.

Several of our invited speakers made extremely important comments about the state of operational meteorology and of the NWA in particular. A few of these comments follow: (a) Louis Uccellini's keynote address emphasized the need for better data assimilation to improve weather prediction. One of the biggest challenges will be how to use and manage the huge/vast amounts of data that will be available from future satellite platforms. (b) Lance Bosart's inspirational talk highlighted that no matter how good NWP models become, they are not the "end-all" in mesoscale prediction — there still needs to be a human factor in the forecasting process to do the detailed "initial" analysis. The models are only one of the tools. Lance also emphasized that our skill in forecasting parameters such as precipitation amount and thunderstorms are improving, but very slowly. This slow rate of improvement is due to a deficiency in our understanding of mesoscale, storm-scale and cloud-scale processes and their feedback to the larger scales. Professor Bosart's other warning was that there is a big difference between what we know (at the forecast office) versus what we tell (the public) — this gap is increasing at an alarming rate; with a similar parallelism between the research and operational communities. (c) Jack Kelly, Director of the National Weather Service (NWS), reiterated that 1/7 of the US economy is weather sensitive. That relates to about one trillion dollars per year. His challenge to the attendees and entire NWA was to help build public advocacy for continued improvements in weather services through (1) VISIBILITY — articulating and capitalizing on "sound bites" that would be used by the media and possibly influence policy and congressional legislation, and (2) VISION — what does the NWA want to promote/advocate over the next 5 to 10 years?

In my banquet presentation, I lifted up two driving forces within the NWA: (1) our unique close relationship with the broadcast community where we are continually acquiring knowledge of each others' needs and exchanging information; broadcasters are a window, link, and lifeline to the public and (2) the new breed of weather forecasters graduating from universities are trained as scientists: strong in computer skills, NWP, the science of meteorology and are able to work hand in hand with the research community. The strength of the NWA is teaching them (our newest young members) HOW to take their science background and apply it to the real world of

weather forecasting. This involves more than knowledge of NWP models. Weather forecasters use these models, along with the other technical advances, as tools and through applied science, experience, re-analysis of data, and intuition the art/science of prediction is achieved.

At the NWA Council Meeting (Tuesday night/October 17), many business and operational weather support items were discussed. These included: (a) surface transportation and road weather information is an upcoming additional data acquisition challenge — how does the NWA want to be involved? (b) Severe weather watch/warning issues were discussed regarding what the NWA could do to bring weather broadcasters, other private-sector meteorologists and NWS forecasters closer together to help ensure full coordination/cooperation in order for the public to receive the most accurate, timely and consistent severe weather warning support possible. This is a continuing concern as new technologies and advances in communications and forecasting occur, but not in all agencies at once. Presentations at the Annual Meeting showed TV stations beginning to use regional mesoscale models. The NWA Annual Meeting and regional meetings by NWA local chapters help in bringing all concerned together to discuss warning support, but more could be done. An Ad Hoc committee will review this issue and also look at the support to large events, the "Stadium Issue," where potential devastating effects could arise from the occurrence of severe weather. (c) The Arthur Pike scholarship was approved and hopefully our first winner will be awarded for the fall semester of 2001.

Despite the closure of this great anniversary celebration, challenges continue for the NWA to support and promote excellence in operational meteorology and related activities for the next 25 years and beyond. As I become the chairperson of the NWA strategic planning committee for 2001, we will address these long-term issues.

Thank you notes from members discussing the great learning opportunity of the Annual Meeting brought to mind that the NWA is an organization for ALL — WE are a "rubber meets the road" organization. The only requirement for membership in the NWA was expressed best by our founding father Jerry LaRue, "a belief in the wonders of and a passion for weather."

Next year's NWA Annual Meeting will be held out West in downtown Spokane, Washington, 13-19 October 2001 at the WestCoast Ridpath Hotel. Plan now to attend and participate! - Rod Scofield

25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET CELEBRATION and AWARDS

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the National Weather Association, many festivities/programs have been planned for the next twelve months. To start the festivities, the 25th Anniversary Celebration Banquet was held during the 25th Annual Meeting at the Hilton in Gaithersburg, Maryland on 18 October 2000.

The 25th Anniversary program coordinator, Stephen Harned, a charter member and the NWA president for 1992, presided at the banquet. He summarized many historical tidbits of information about the NWA from its incorporation on 15 December 1975 to its first Newsletter in September 1996 to the Electronic Journal added to the NWA Web site in 2000. His comprehensive list of tidbits were printed in the meeting program and will be published in a future *National Weather Digest*.

Other speakers at the banquet were: Jerrold LaRue, founder, first president and first executive director; Kenneth Crawford, the 1988 NWA president; and, Rod Scofield, the current NWA president. The keynote speaker was Dr. Elbert W. (Joe) Friday, Jr., Director, Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate, National Research Council, National Academies of Science, Washington, DC who discussed modernization of weather services over the past 25 years.

Steve Harned and Rod Scofield presented the 25th Anniversary Awards to members who were voted on by the NWA Council and Awards Committee as being the best of those selected previously over the past 25 years for NWA Annual Awards. Andy Horvitz, the Awards Committee Chairperson announced the awards:

The first of the 25th Anniversary Awards was presented to: Jerrold A. LaRue. His award plaque read:

**IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION
FOR FOUNDING THIS ALL INCLUSIVE
MEMBER, OPERATIONALLY-ORIENTED
ORGANIZATION AND ESTABLISHING SOLID
OBJECTIVES**

National Weather Association
1975 - 2000

The 25th Anniversary Award for the best of the annual award winners for NWA Member of the Year was presented to: Sol Hirsch a charter member and NWA Executive Director 1981-1992. His award plaque read:

**THE TOP MEMBER OF THE YEAR
FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S FIRST 25 YEARS**

National Weather Association
1975 - 2000

**Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season
and for a Healthy, Happy and
Prosperous New Year!**

From your NWA Council members, Newsletter Editors
and Staff.

25TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS *continued*

Selected for the 25th Anniversary Award for the best of the annual award winners for the NWA Research Achievement Award was the late **Dr. T. Theodore Fujita**. Dr. Fujita received his research achievement award in 1978 for his great contributions to the advance of applied meteorology. The anniversary award plaque read:

25TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD

Presented To

**The Family of the Late Dr. T. Theodore Fujita
IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION
FOR HIS BEING THE TOP RESEARCH
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER
IN THE ORGANIZATION'S FIRST 25 YEARS**
National Weather Association
1975 - 2000

The plaque was mailed to Dr. Ted Fujita's son, Dr. Kazuya Fujita of the Department of Geological Sciences at Michigan State University for the entire Fujita family. The family was also notified that the NWA Annual Research Achievement Award was named the Dr. T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award. Dr. Kazuya Fujita sent a message thanking the NWA and its members for this honor to his father. The message was read at the awards ceremony.

Selected for the 25th Anniversary Award for the best of the annual award winners for the NWA Operational Achievement Award was: **Norman W. Junker, Philip A. Poole, Cadesman Pope, Jr., and the late James W. Clarke.**

This team of forecasters was recognized by the NWA for outstanding operational achievement in 1982 for their work at the NWS National Meteorological Center in interpreting a vast amount of data and NWP model output in producing 12, 24, 36 and 48 hour composite prognostic charts. They maintained an outstanding record of professionalism and despite a multitude of computer failures and biased runs, never missed a production deadline. The anniversary award plaque read:

**THE TOP OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD WINNERS
FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S FIRST 25 YEARS**
National Weather Association
1975 - 2000

Norman "Wes" Junker and Philip Poole accepted the Award at the banquet from Steve Harned and Rod Scofield. The award was also mailed to Cadesman Pope, Jr., in McLean, Virginia who is in ill health.

A special 25th Anniversary Award was presented to **Dr. Elbert W. "Joe" Friday, Jr.** for his outstanding contributions to the NWA as a charter member of the organization and for his long-term leadership in the modernization of weather services. The anniversary award plaque read:

25TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD

Presented To

**Dr. Elbert W. "Joe" Friday, Jr.
IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION
TO A CHARTER MEMBER CONTINUALLY
PROVIDING OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ORGANIZATION AND
LEADING AN UNPARALLELED
MODERNIZATION OF THE U.S. NATIONAL
WEATHER SERVICE**
National Weather Association
1975 - 2000

NOAA CLIMATE INTERNET SITE GETS MAKEOVER

One of NOAA's most popular climate Internet sites has been overhauled to highlight NOAA's climate products that assess and forecast the impacts of short-term climate variability, emphasizing enhanced risks of weather-related extreme events. The products can be used in mitigating human and economic losses and maximizing economic gains. Web users now can easily surf to 6 to 10-day and seasonal forecasts; seasonal drought, excessive heat, and hurricane season outlooks; and El Niño and La Niña advisories. The NWS Climate Prediction Center's web site also features expert analysis from meteorologists and climatologists, temperature and precipitation monitoring data, U.S. and world temperature and precipitation climate maps and graphs, and educational materials. The Web site is at **www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov**, and is the virtual home of the NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC), the division of the National Weather Service's National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) that produces these official U.S. seasonal climate outlooks. "In the Internet Age, finding timely climate forecasts, assessments, and data should not be a headache for anyone," said Ants Leetmaa, Director of the Climate Prediction Center. "This makeover emphasizes our goal to strengthen relationships with our customers and build relationships with new ones to manage weather and climate-related risk." Within the last year, the Climate Prediction Center has introduced the popular drought assessment, hurricane season outlook, and the excessive heat outlook.

- from NOAA press release 9/25/00

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

The Arkansas Chapter of the NWA met on 9 November 2000 at the NWS Warning & Forecast Office in North Little Rock. The meeting was convened by Corresponding Secretary Newton Skiles at 7:00 PM with 15 members and guests present. Member John Lewis read a report from Chapter President Wilken. The report talked about the upcoming election of Chapter officers, and the request for volunteers to serve on the Election Committee. Election ballots will be mailed out around mid November. The December 2000 meeting will be a Christmas party to be held at the NWS Office in North Little Rock on December 14th. Members were asked to RSVP to President Wilken if they planned to attend. The program for the evening was a presentation on Amateur Radio by Member J.C. Smith. Mr. Smith described HAM radio and all of the different activities that HAMS participate in. The HAM group in Central Arkansas is very active in the NWS SKYWARN program. A HAM net control station is set up at the NWS Office in North Little Rock when severe weather watches are issued for the county warning area. Through the SKYWARN program, the HAMS provide valuable "ground truth" on severe weather in many areas of the state. Mr. Smith also teaches HAM radio classes in the local area, and he encouraged the attendees to take these classes if they were interested in HAM radio. A question and answer session followed.

- *Newton Skiles, Corresponding Secretary*

NWA Central Gulf Coast Chapter Resurrected!

On 21 September 2000, the Central Gulf Coast Chapter of the NWA met for the first time in several years. The meeting was held in the brand new Mitchell Center Basketball Coliseum on the campus of the University of South Alabama (USA). Uniquely, the Mitchell Center contains both the USA Meteorology Department and the USA Coastal Weather Research Center. This year's officers include President Douglas Butts (NWS Mobile, AL), Vice President David Glenn (WPMI - Channel 15), Secretary-Treasurer (Dr. Keith Blackwell, USA) and Corresponding Secretary (Jeffrey Medlin, NWS Mobile, AL). Given the diversity amongst the officers, and due to strong local recruiting efforts this past Summer, it is anticipated that the Local Chapter will sport a good mix of students and practicing career professionals. Strong support of national NWA membership is encouraged! The Meeting's Guest Speaker was Major Dan Darbe (USAF Hurricane Hunter) who spoke on the job duties of Hurricane Hunters while 'in action'. Major Darbe is also a Lead Forecaster for the National Weather Service in Mobile, AL and has an end-to-end working knowledge of exactly how in-situ measurements are used by the National Hurricane Center and eventually the local NWS Offices to make critical operational decisions. The presentation by Major Darbe was both informative and

very interesting. Thank You Major Darbe! In addition to the presentation, other items of business included: 1) Local Chapter Funding Source - local chapter members voted overwhelmingly to enact local membership dues to cover operating expenses. 2) Web Page - John Purdy (NWS Mobile, AL), who is the webmaster of the Local Chapter, spoke on his development of both a logo and a homepage for local use. 3) Meeting Time - the Local Chapter has decided to meet at the rate of every other month at 630 PM CST\CDT.

NWA Central Gulf Coast Chapter November 2000 News! On the evening of 14 November, the Central Gulf Coast Chapter of the NWA met for the second time in Calendar Year 2000. The meeting was held at the Olive Garden on Airport Boulevard in Mobile, AL. Nearly 20 local members were in attendance. The meeting was called to order by President Douglas Butts at 645 PM and several items of business were discussed. The Guest Speakers were Dr. Paul Croft (Jackson State University) and Mr. Alan Gerard (Science and Operations Officer, National Weather Service, Jackson, MS). The presentation topic was on the snowstorm of 14 December 1997. The presenters described research efforts that are currently underway which aim to better describe both the thermodynamic and kinematic evolution of the event. Our local chapter extends an huge, 'thanks!' to both Dr. Croft and Mr. Gerard for their attendance and participation. The next regular meeting of the Central Gulf Coast Chapter of the NWA will be held in January 2001. The presentation topic will be, "An Examination of a Low-Topped Tornado-Producing Supercell Event in Fairhope, AL." A description of the meteorological conditions leading up to the event (synoptic plus radar), as well as live chase footage will be shown. Details are forthcoming and you don't want to miss it! - *Jeffrey M. Medlin, Corresponding Secretary*

The High Plains Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and National Weather Association sponsored the Fourth Annual High Plains Conference on October 5th and 6th, on the East Campus of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. The Conference was hosted by the University of Nebraska's Department of Geosciences and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. The theme of the conference was, "The Four Seasons of Severe Weather on the Plains." The High Plains Conference was immediately followed by the Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium. An estimated 150 people attended the High Plains Conference, which was scientific in nature, and intended for professionals and students in the atmospheric sciences. This was a great turnout, and exceeded expectations. One of the greatest benefits of this conference was the interaction amongst a broad range of participants from the government, university community, and the private sector. The following groups were represented: eight NWS Forecast

Offices, NWS Central Region Headquarters, the MBRFC, the Longmont CWSU, the NWSTC, the SPC, NSSL, NCAR, eight different universities, Air Force Weather Agency, three television stations, and three other private companies. A highlight of the conference was the list of invited speakers, which included: Dr. Charles (Chuck) Doswell III of NSSL, Dr. Morris Weisman of NCAR/UCAR, Dr. James Moore of Saint Louis University and the SPC, Dr. Josh Wurman of OU, and Don Burgess of NSSL. Each of these speakers gave one-hour presentations on various areas of expertise. Throughout the two-day event, a total of 28 talks were given. The topics were very relevant to the theme of the conference, and included such subjects as: heavy snow, freezing rain, heat waves, flash flooding, tornadoes, severe convective winds, and hail. A few presentations were given on the impact of severe weather on people and industry. The High Plains Chapter stresses that one purpose of their conferences is to serve as a training ground for first-time presenters, by providing a less formal atmosphere to gain experience in this aspect of professional development. Eight first-time presenters were giving this opportunity, including four university students, and four NWS meteorologists. A conference summary, photos, abstracts, and presentations in electronic format are posted on the Web site of the High Plains AMS/NWA Chapter at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gld/hpams/main.htm>.

The transition from the 4th Annual High Plains Conference at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln (<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gld/hpams/4thhpcnf.htm>) to the Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium (CPSWS) 2000 (<http://hprcc.unl.edu/nebraska/cpsws.html>) began the evening of Friday October 6 with a banquet. Local AMS, and NWA Chapters held meetings, following dinner and cake. The kickoff of the CPSWS featured guest speaker was Dr. Charles (Chuck) Doswell III. Chuck discussed the May 3, 1999 Oklahoma City tornado outbreak and its significance. He also showed his chase video for the day of the outbreak. Chuck emphasized the false safety of people who are led to believe that highway underpasses are secure places as a tornado shelter. We also had an interesting question and answer period following the talk, attended by 110 people. Through a team effort of the Omaha NWA and AMS local chapters, most of the planning and organizing of the symposium was done by Dr. Ken Dewey, School of Natural Resource Sciences and High Plains Climate Center at the University of Nebraska. CPSWS, like the High Plains Conference focused on 4 seasons of severe weather, and was open to the general public. Up to 2000 people (an appropriate number for the year) are estimated to have attended the Symposium Saturday, October 7, 2000. The featured speakers included: Doug Ahlberg, from the Lancaster Emergency Management Office, who spoke on the topic of storm

spotting, Jeff Morrow, of The Weather Channel discussed their all year operations for the Plains, and Cathy Zapotocny, meteorologist at the NWS Forecast Office in Valley, NE, gave a presentation on the challenge of winter weather forecasting. Before introducing Cathy Zapotocny, Steve Byrd, the Science and Operations Officer (SOO) at the Valley, NE office, explained the importance of the SOO working with the staff meteorologists to improve the science. One of the most interesting presentations was given by Dr. Mary Ann Cooper, a professor from the University of Illinois, who is a specialist on lightning and its dangers to people. She was followed by Brian Smith who spoke on the role of the Warning Coordination Meteorologist. During the late morning all were able to view the launch of a weather balloon by the Nebraska Stratospheric Amateur Radio (NSTAR) group. The balloon track was displayed by the Skywarn Amateur Radio Association. The afternoon session brought excellent presentations by the illustrious Dr. Charles Doswell III, of NSSL, who discussed storm chasing and separated the facts from fantasy using excellent video. Tim Marshall, Haag Engineering, discussed the damage that severe storms can cause and how building structure, as well as storm strength determine damage extent. The Symposium closed with some excellent tornado videos. In addition to speakers there were 22 exhibitors with booths at the symposium, including the Valley, Nebraska, National Weather Service Forecast Office (OAX). Other exhibitors included NASA, the High Plains Climate Center, and several television media groups who made live broadcasts. To view all the exhibits see Web site: www.hprcc.unl.edu/nebraska/cpsws2000exhibitors.html.

- Daniel Nietfeld, Hastings, Nebraska

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Members receive the monthly NWA Newsletter and quarterly *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. Contact the NWA office or view the Internet Web site for membership information. Newsletter subscriptions are available at \$18.00 per year plus extra shipping costs outside USA. Single copies are \$1.50. Contact the NWA office with address changes.

CARTER NAMED HYDROLOGY DIRECTOR

Gary Carter, a NWA charter member and a 30-year veteran of the NWS, has been named the new director of the Office of Hydrologic Development. Carter will bring his extensive experience as a research scientist and manager to the vital task of improving and enhancing NWS production of hydrology products to help minimize the impacts of flooding. Carter comes to this job from the NWS Eastern Region, where he served as chief of the Scientific Services Division for more than 10 years. Flooding is the number one forecasting problem in the Eastern region because of the terrain, population concentration, and potential for hurricane influences. In his work, Carter demonstrated his commitment to delivering the rapid and accurate forecasts needed for public safety. "We are entering a new generation of visually-oriented river forecasting products which will help the National Weather Service lessen the devastating impacts of floods on life and property," declared Carter. "The NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service is a major initiative in river forecasting capability, and I will work to further its implementation." A graduate of San Jose State University in California, Carter began his career with the National Weather Service as a student trainee. During his career he has frequently received recognition for his many contributions to weather forecasting. "Gary will give us an added dimension in the National Weather Service commitment to partnering with the research and academic community," said retired Brig. Gen. Jack Kelly, director of the NWS. "His ties to the scientific community will further enable us to apply hydrologic research to the development and improvement of river forecast systems. *- NOAA Press Release*

MEETING NEWS

26th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference

sponsored by the Lyndon State College chapter of the NWA and AMS will be held **9-11 March 2001** at the Holiday Inn in scenic, downtown Saratoga Springs, New York. **The deadline for submitting abstracts and poster descriptions is 31 December 2000.** They can be sent via e-mail to freedmand@mail.lsc.vsc.edu. The deadline for registering for the meeting is 16 February 2001. For further information on registration, accommodations, or presentation submissions, please contact: Dina R. Freedman, LSC-AMS/NWA President, LSC Box 7462, Lyndon State College, Lyndonville, Vermont 05851; e-mail: freedmand@mail.lsc.vsc.edu or browse to the chapter's Internet Web site: appolo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/ams.html

5th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference sponsored by The Central Iowa Chapter of the National Weather Association will commence at **5:00 PM on Thursday, 29 March 2001 and adjourn Saturday, 31 March at 10:00 PM.** The University Park Holiday Inn in West Des Moines will once again be our host. A Warning Decision Making Workshop will be one of the highlighted sessions at this year's conference. Meteorologists, hydrologists, climatologists, emergency management personnel, SKYWARN members, amateur radio operators, storm chasers and students are all encouraged to attend and make a presentation. There are opportunities for Oral and Poster presentations. All persons wishing to present materials of relevance should send a 200-word abstract to: Central Iowa Chapter-NWA, P.O. Box 7512, Urbandale, IA 50322. E-mail entries will also be accepted by the Conference Agenda Team at: Andy.Kula@noaa.gov. **The deadline for abstracts is Friday, 12 January 2001.** For more information, check out the Central Iowa NWA Web site: www.iowa-nwa.com Watch for agenda updates as speakers are announced.

2001 NWA ANNUAL MEETING -- Out Northwest!

The National Weather Association's 26th Annual Meeting will be held **13-19 October 2001**, at the WestCoast Ridpath Hotel in Spokane, Washington. Discount hotel room rates for attendees will be \$63 for single; \$73 for double/triple/quad. Call 1-800-325-4000 and request National Weather Association's special conference rates. Meeting registration rates will be similar to the 2000 rates. Plan now to attend! Call for Papers will be published by early January. Any member interested in being on the program/arrangements committee for that meeting, please contact the NWA Executive Director at (334) 213-0388 or NatWeaAsoc@aol.com. The Annual Meeting for 2002 will be held in mid-October in the mid-west and back east in 2003.

NWS Spaceflight Meteorology Group Supports Mars Simulation Operation

The NWS Spaceflight Meteorology Group (SMG) supported a unique operation at Johnson Space Center (JSC) from July 5 through July 21, 2000. SMG provided forecasts for Devon Island, Nunavut in the Canadian high arctic. The Haughton meteorite impact crater, the only crater known to lie in a polar desert environment, is located on Devon Island at about 75 deg 22' N and 89 deg 41' W. The NASA-led, Haughton-Mars Project began studying the crater and its surroundings in 1997 as a promising Mars analog site. Data gathered by scientists during these missions will be used to help determine aspects of future NASA missions to Mars.

SMG's support of the Haughton-Mars Project began in the summer of 1999 during a two week period which

marked the first time JSC Mission Control Center (MCC) personnel interacted with the scientists on Devon Island. The ExPloration Planning and Operations Center (ExPOC) in the MCC is developing and testing flight control concepts and techniques that may be used for future robotic and human missions to Mars. A significant factor on Mars will be providing information, solving problems, and answering questions when the communication response delay is on the order of 10 to 40 minutes. The ExPOC simulated these logistical and communications conditions.

JSC support for the 2000 field season was more extensive than for 1999. Flight controllers in the ExPOC at JSC supported the project about 14 hours per day during the 3-week test period. Campbell Scientific donated an automated weather station to provide SMG with observations from Devon Island. This was a helpful addition to the forecast process. The data was sent to JSC in a morning downlink package along with digital pictures of the sky conditions.

SMG members provided forecasts and a polar satellite image daily by 5pm CDT for the evening uplink package. The forecasts included predictions of clouds, winds, temperature, dew point, weather, visibility, wind chill and UV index. SMG forecasts were used in the evening planning sessions on Devon Island to help plan the following day's science activities. The feedback on the accuracy and usefulness of the forecasts was very positive, especially since the weather turned out to be bad the first week when many of the supplies were being flown in and the camp was being set up.

More information on the the Haughton Mars Project is available at Web site: www.arctic-mars.org.

The SMG Web site is at: www.srh.noaa.gov/smg.

JOB CORNER

(Ed: The NWA lists job openings free from equal opportunity employers for the benefit of members. See the Job section on the NWA Web site www.nwas.org for more complete details on the following jobs and for possible short notice listings.)

AEROMET, INC. has immediate openings for two Research Meteorologists at its Tulsa, OK headquarters. Aeromet, Inc. also has immediate openings for a Chief Meteorologist as well as meteorologists/staff forecasters at its Kwajalein Missile Range (KMR) weather station in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). More information can be found concerning these positions on Aeromet's Web site at www.aeromet.com. Send resumes, transcripts, three professional references and salary requirements to: Aeromet, Inc., P.O. Box 701767, Tulsa OK 74170-1767 or fax them to: (918) 299-8211. Information may be submitted via e-mail to: rward@aeromet.com. EOE m/f/v/d.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE is seeking applicants for meteorologists, physical scientists, and computer specialists, at grades GS-9 through GS-14 (starting salaries from \$35,310 to \$71,954), to participate in modernized operations, with development and implementation of advances in hydrometeorological forecasts and warnings. These positions are located at the National Weather Service Headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. For further information, please consult the vacancy announcements provided at the Internet Web site: www.usajobs.opm.gov/a9noaa.htm.

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, California PA 15419, is seeking applications for a tenure-track appointment beginning in the Fall semester of 2001, approximate 9-month salary range for this rank: \$42,578 - \$59,911. **METEOROLOGIST.** A candidate with a background in the geosciences is desired. A Ph.D. in a Geoscience-related discipline is preferred. Review of the applications begins 15 December 2000 and continues until the position is filled. Apply: To: Dr. Robert A. Vargo Chairperson, Meteorology Search Committee Department of Earth Sciences, 250 University Avenue, Box 55 California PA 15419; Phone: (724) 938-5969; E-mail: vargo@cup.edu

RESEARCH AND DATA SYSTEMS CORPORATION is seeking individuals for work in Earth Sciences related positions. Research and Data Systems Corporation (RDC) provides scientific and engineering support to NASA, NOAA, USDA and other federal agencies and aerospace companies. We are a small growing company with a heritage of over 20 years of top quality scientific support. We have established a solid reputation in the Earth Sciences field and are expanding our areas of expertise by adding several strong new individuals to our team. Descriptions of the many open positions can be found on our Web site: www.rdsc.com. Interested individuals should send/fax/e-mail their resumes to: Research and Data Systems Corporation, 7833 Walker Dr., Suite 550, Greenbelt, MD 20770, Attn: Angie Martz; FAX: (301) 982-3749; e-mail: amartz@rdsc.com

RELIANT ENERGY is seeking a full time Climatologist to work in Houston. You will perform climatological studies in support of long term forecasts. Assimilate all available meteorological studies into useful and understandable prediction for months into the future and share your forecasts in the form of briefings and written material to other members of a large staff. Excellent benefits package including a highly competitive salary and benefits. Interested and qualified please respond via e-mail to margie_m_moreno@reliantenergy.com, fax to 713-207-0832 or mail to Reliant Energy Wholesale Group Human Resources, P.O. Box 4567, Houston, Texas 77210-4567.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI at COLUMBIA Department of Soil and Atmospheric Sciences invites applications for a tenure-track position of Assistant Professor of Atmospheric Science. The deadline for submission is 1 February 2001. Materials should be directed to: Dr. Stephen E. Mudrick, Search Committee Chairman, Department of Soil and Atmospheric Sciences, 116 Gentry Hall, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri 65211; Phone: (573) 882 - 6591

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SATELLITE SERVICES, INC. (SSI) seeks Meteorologists, Weather Forecasters, and Weather Observers for opportunities at the Grissom Air Reserve Base in Peru, Indiana. To apply on-line visit our website at <http://www.ssi-main.com/>, or contact Randell E. Girard, Director of Human Resources by e-mail at rgirard@SSI-main.com, by phone at (906) 228-6492 ext. 30, or submit resume by fax at (906) 226-3997.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA seeks applicants for a support position to the Science center for Teaching, Outreach, and Research on Meteorology (STORM). STORM, funded by NOAA, seeks to enhance educational activities for the K-9 classroom, provide training to non-meteorologist decision makers, and increase public access to remotely sensed information. Application materials received by November 15, 2000 will be given first consideration. Position begins about February 12, 2001. Additional information will be provided upon request 319-273-3424). To apply, send cover letter, resume, and names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references to: Meteorological Decision Support Scientist Search Chair Human Resources, 104 Gilchrist, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0034; Fax: (319) 273-2927; E-mail: HRS-Applications@uni.edu; www.uni.edu/hrs/

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