

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by *Les Lemon*

This message will give a brief overview of the 26th Annual NWA Meeting that was held in Spokane, Washington, 13-19 October 2001. Despite the events of 9/11 and all that has happened since, including the impact on the economy, travel and the aviation industry, we still had a great turnout! Attendance was down almost 50% from last year's record assembly for the 25th Anniversary meeting. However, considering everything, this was excellent. Moreover, the conference proceeded without a hitch and the audiovisual functionality was outstanding thanks to lessons learned from past meetings, planning ahead, good equipment and experienced users: John Livingston, Ron Miller and Todd Carter. The organization is indebted to these three and their program and local arrangements committee members as well as Kevin Lavin, the NWA Executive Director, for all their meeting preparations before and during the conference.

The city of Spokane was an excellent choice, not only because it was the home of a very capable group of NWA members from the local NWS Forecast Office and TV stations, but also because it was an attractive city. Sky bridges enabled those in attendance to walk through much of the downtown area without going outside. For those who wanted to enjoy the outdoors there was a superb Riverfront Park and 77 restaurants within walking distance of the WestCoast Ridpath Hotel.

Saturday was very much a day of preparations with exhibit construction and the opening of the registration desk. We had a good exhibitor turn out, again despite the constraints of the national situation. Thanks to NWA corporate members: AccuWeather, Inc., Automated Sciences, LLC., Baron Services, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), UCAR-COMET, US Navy Fleet Numerical Meteorology & Oceanography Center, Weather Central, Inc., and WSI Corporation.

On Sunday the Broadcasters meeting began at 8 AM in the able hands of Rich Apuzzo, the Chair of the Broadcast Meteorology Committee, and John McLaughlin who developed the agenda. Rich was able to fill the spots left by two presentations that had to be withdrawn. Unless you looked at the program, no one was able to recognize

“substitute” presentations. Rather, every presentation was of top-notch quality. As usual the evening ended with the annual Tape Swap that is not only informative and helpful to younger broadcasters, but is also humorous and enjoyable for all.

Also on Sunday, the Aviation Weather Committee continued its record for doing outstanding projects. They voluntarily conducted a free “NWA AVIATION METEOROLOGY OUTREACH TRAINING SESSION” at the local community college for all people interested in aviation weather. Based on the reaction of a relatively large group of pilots, FAA and Air Force personnel, and others in attendance, this session setup by Terry Lankford, co-chair of the Aviation Committee, was a tremendous success — again showing that there is a great thirst for weather knowledge in the aviation community. Aviation Committee members earlier in the year developed the Web-based “*Thunderstorms and Flying*” course and during the Annual Meeting the NWA was honored with three separate awards from the U.S. Air Force weather and flying safety organizations and one award from the Allied Pilots Association (APA).

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>> IMPORTANT DATES <<

31 December 2001 Ballots for election of officers/councilors are due back to the NWA office. Members who did not receive dues invoices and ballots by 7 December should contact the NWA office at (434) 296-9966 or NatWeaAsoc@aol.com

13 – 17 January 2002 Interactive Symposium on AWIPS, at the AMS Annual Meeting at the Convention Center, Orlando, FL. Co-sponsored by NWA. See July Newsletter and <http://ams.confex.com/ams/annual2002/AWIPS/program.htm>

15 – 17 February 2002 1st Southeast Severe Storms Symposium at Mississippi State University hosted by the East Mississippi NWA/AMS Chapter. See page 5.

8 – 10 March 2002 27th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY, hosted by the Lyndon State College AMS/NWA Chapter. See page 5.

21 – 23 March 2002 6th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference in Des Moines, IA, hosted by the Central Iowa NWA Chapter. See page 5.

19 – 25 October 2002 27th Annual NWA Meeting, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas.

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Space does not permit a detailed rundown of the Annual Meeting sessions or the papers offered within. I personally thank all presenters again for being well prepared with good quality studies and program reviews. If you didn't get the chance to attend, please look over the agenda in the August-September Newsletter or on the NWA Web site. And, if you find topics of interest, please contact the authors for more information.

This year something a little different was tried and received quite well. We actually emphasized *Diversity* both internally in the workplace and externally to help ensure weather forecasts and warnings reached all people. Dr. Stephan Smith from Headquarters, National Weather Service gave a great keynote address examining these *Two Sides of Diversity in the Profession of Meteorology*. During the week, five other presentations on Diversity brought out great examples to follow.

Tuesday began with three special addresses. We were indeed privileged to have three prominent speakers addressing the government operational weather agencies they represented. The speakers were Ms. Vickie Nadolski, Director of the Western Region, NOAA/National Weather Service, Mr. Carl D. Thormeyer, US Navy Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center, and Colonel Robert A. Allen, Commander of the US Air Force Weather Agency. Each highlighted the responsibilities and initiatives of their respective agencies and the joint efforts between them. The Tuesday afternoon session also began with a special address by Mr. Ken Reeves, Director of Forecast Operations at AccuWeather, discussing private-sector responsibilities, capabilities and initiatives.

Other highlights during the week included a group of presentations arranged by Dr. Clifford Mass of the University of Washington on Pacific Northwest Weather. William Roeder arranged a terrific symposium on Downbursts that included operational and applied research presentations and a review of Downburst Mechanics by Dr. Roger Wakimoto of the University of California at Los Angeles. Daily weather briefings were provided by members from KREM-TV, KXLY-TV, the Spokane NWS Office and students from Jackson State University.

The Annual Awards Banquet was excellent as usual and I was privileged to present awards to outstanding individuals (see page 3). For the guest speaker we wanted to provide the attendees with something unique to the Pacific Northwest. As a result of our search, I was very pleased to introduce Dr. C. Daniel Miller, a Research Volcanologist from the US Geological Survey's Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Washington. He spoke about another form of convection, that of volcanoes. He explained the dynamics of volcanoes, locations of occurrence such as the "ring of fire" surrounding the Pacific plate, historic eruptions, and other details concerning the eruptions of specific volcanoes such as

Mount St. Helens. As you can imagine, he answered many questions to include one or two like, "would you buy a house at ____?" At the banquet I also introduced the President Elect, John B. McLaughlin, chief meteorologist at KCCI-TV in Des Moines, Iowa. John is an extremely hard working and very intelligent man. I am confident he will lead the NWA in an outstanding manner as President for 2002.

As is typical, the Tuesday evening NWA Council meeting was very long, beginning at 6 PM and concluding just after midnight. The NWA Council tended to many aspects of the operations and management of our organization and reviewed committee work. I continually marvel at the voluntary efforts of so many NWA members who are doing great work for the association, for the betterment of operational meteorology and related activities and for the public good.

Next year's Annual Meeting will be held in Fort Worth, Texas. Michael Vescio from the NWS Forecast Office in Fort Worth volunteered to be Program Chairperson. Look for the call for presentations in January. The location for the 2003 Annual Meeting should be in the eastern third of the country. Many locations are being looked at and a volunteer for Program Chair is being sought. Plan now to attend one or more of the mid-October NWA Annual Meetings. And, please offer your ideas and assistance to make these continuing education/training opportunities better each year.

To all who attended the 26th Annual Meeting, I thank you again for coming during difficult times and for helping to make it a very successful learning experience.



At the Annual Awards banquet, 17 October 2001, (left to right) President Les Lemon; guest speaker, Volcanologist Dan Miller; and President-Elect John McLaughlin.

Got a good thing going? Submit summaries of new forecasting techniques or other good news for the NWA monthly Newsletter — just send an e-mail to NewsletterNWA@aol.com

NWA AWARDS 2001

The awards were presented by President Les Lemon at the 26th Annual NWA Meeting Awards Banquet on 17 October 2001, in Spokane, Washington. Special thanks are due to the NWA Awards Committee, chaired by Andy Horvitz. He announced each winner and their accomplishments. A summary follows:

Group Operational Achievement Award:

Jere Gallup, Jack Gross, Russell Pfost, Guy Rader
NWS Forecast Office, Miami, Florida

"For providing outstanding warning services to the citizens of the upper Florida Keys when a tornado spawned by Tropical Storm Mitch tore through in November 1998."

Individual Operational Achievement Award:

Elizabeth Quotone, NWS/Office of Climate, Water & Weather Services, Warning Decision Training Branch, Norman, Oklahoma

"For developing Warning Decision Making training workshops to include a better understanding of all the elements of the decision making process resulting in improved severe weather warnings and public service."

T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award:

Robert H. Johns, NWS/NCEP/Storm Prediction Center, Norman, Oklahoma

"For distinguishing himself as a pioneer and leader in severe storm forecasting, research, and teaching throughout his career including 31 years at the NWS Storm Prediction Center."

The Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award:

Houston, Texas, Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN) team of Jim Robinson, Mike Fliefel and Robert Timmons

"For establishing the nation's premier EMWIN rebroadcast site, training users, and consistently contributing to improvements to the local and national systems that provide weather information to the Emergency Management Community." The award was accepted by Bill Read, Meteorologist in Charge of the Houston NWS Forecast Office to present to the EMWIN team at a later ceremony.

Public Education Award:

Tina Adams, Science Teacher, Hollywood Middle School, Shreveport, Louisiana

"For developing an innovative teaching program (Project Weather Watch) combining weather observing, science, mathematics and other skills that energized and consistently raised the performance levels of her students and has expanded to six middle schools." The award was accepted by Bernard Meisner of the NWS Southern Region Headquarters for presentation to Ms. Adams at a ceremony in Shreveport.

Aviation Meteorology Award:

Timothy H. Miner, Colonel, USAFR and First Officer, American Airlines, Inc., Woodbridge, Virginia and Timothy D. Oram, NASA/Spaceflight Meteorology Group, Johnson Space Center, Texas

"In recognition of their superb voluntary efforts in leading the development and implementation of the first-ever, NWA outreach, online training course, "Thunderstorms and Flying," endorsed by many agencies and served well over 2,000 students from 18 countries."

Broadcaster of the Year Award:

Jay Trobec, KELO-TV, Spencer, South Dakota

"For constantly upgrading his capabilities to serve the public through continuing education and updating station equipment. He and his team of weathercasters were credited with saving lives many times with non-stop broadcasting and the use of his station's two Doppler radars."

The Larry R. Johnson Special Award:

The NWS Radar Web Display Project Team of Susan Beckwith, Jack Bushong, Dennis Cain, Jeff Cotterman, Jay R. del Cano, Allan Darling, Roland Devoe, Mary Desjardins, John Feldt, William Gery, Thomas H. Grayson, David Kitzmiller, Janet Miller, Robin Miller, Larry Mooney, Fredrick R. Mosher, William P. Murray, Thomas Piper, David Ruth, Joe Sullivan, Fortune Vilcko, Ken Waters, Peter Weiss and David Zaff

"For designing, procuring, testing, and implementing a new operating concept within a short time period and within budget to display WSR-88D data on NWS Internet sites for all to use." The award was accepted by team leader, Tom Grayson of the NWS Southern Region Headquarters.

Local Chapter Award:

The Central Iowa NWA Chapter, Des Moines, Iowa

"For improving weather awareness and education. Over 300 attended their 5th annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference. Seminars were provided to the local community during lightning safety awareness week, weather radios were donated to local agencies and \$4,000 in grants were donated to schools to enhance science programs." The award was accepted by Chapter President Bryan Karrick and Chapter Secretary, Willard Sharp.

NWA Member of the Year Award:

Timothy H. Miner, Colonel, USAFR and First Officer, American Airlines, Inc., Woodbridge, Virginia

"For his herculean efforts in developing, orchestrating, and administering the first-ever NWA on-line training course, "Thunderstorms and Flying," setting the standards for future outreach training programs."

Congratulations again to all award winners and thanks to the people who took the time to send in a nomination. Nominations are due by 30 June each year. - Les Lemon

25TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

Special awards were presented at the 25th Anniversary celebration in October 2000 (see November 2000 Newsletter) and two more were presented at the Annual Meeting Awards Banquet, 17 October 2001. The two awards were presented by President Les Lemon. Andy Horvitz announced the awards and a summary follows.

Special 25th Anniversary Award to:

Stephen W. Harned and all members of the NWS Forecast Office, Raleigh, North Carolina

"In grateful appreciation for their time and talents in planning and organizing all the activities associated with the NWA 25th anniversary celebration."

Steve volunteered to take the lead as early as 1996 to help ensure the 25th anniversary activities were well planned. His co-workers pitched in enthusiastically and all activities/programs were extremely successful. The award was accepted at the banquet by Ruth Aiken, Gail Hartfield and Douglas Schneider.

Special 25th Anniversary Award to:

Kent Ehrhardt, Jay Prater, and Dave Freeman, Chairmen of the Broadcast Meteorology Committee

"For their dedicated leadership in markedly improving the credibility of the NWA Seal of Approval Program and for their exemplary commitment to quality weather broadcasting."

These three leaders of the NWA Broadcast Meteorology Committee during the 1990s lead the way to improve the credibility of the NWA Seal of Approval Program, the quality of NWA continuing education programs, and in turn increased the quality of weather broadcasting as a public service. Unfortunately they could not attend the banquet and the award was accepted by the new Broadcast Meteorology Committee Chairman, Richard Apuzzo.

SOL HIRSCH NWA EDUCATION FUND GRANTS AWARDED

At the 26th Annual Meeting Awards Banquet, the Education Committee Chairperson, Sol Hirsch, announced the recipients of the year 2001 Education Fund Grants named in his honor. The \$500 Grants were awarded to:

Chris Hockert, Clifton Hills Elementary School, Chattanooga, Tennessee. She is leading a "Weather Detectives" project for second grade students to stimulate and encourage them to learn more about the weather by reading books. The students are at-risk students and at least two grade levels below in reading. The program proposed will help meet curriculum standards for science, reading, technology, art and writing. Funds will be used to purchase books and other resource material for the school library to support this second grade project and for reference material for all students.

Bernice Lowery, Langston Magnet School, Hot Springs, Arkansas. She is the Science Focus Teacher and along with other K-5 teachers has planned an extensive study to emphasize weather and how weather affects the environment. Funds will be used to purchase weather equipment. Each grade level will have weather-related tasks to include a daily weather report on the school's in-house television broadcasting system. A "Family Weather Night" is also planned where each classroom will present a specific hands-on activity, demonstration or presentation designed to show parents what was learned in the study. The "Langston Weatherdogs" (related to the school's mascot bulldog) will also form a voluntary Weather Club for students with more advanced interest.

Karen A. Vitek, Nassau Spackenkill School, Poughkeepsie, New York. Her "Precipitation Puppet Players" initiative will have students with learning disabilities in grades 3-5 designing puppet shows to present to students in grades K-2. Funds will be used to purchase Weather Wuppets (puppets) and supplies. Students will first learn weather vocabulary and collect data using the school's AWS weather station. Students will be taught to understand and apply scientific concepts, principles and theories pertaining to their physical setting and living environment and to recognize the historical development of ideas in science. The activity will reach all students bringing a greater awareness of weather and how it affects everyone. It will also help them reach the New York State Learning Standards in Math, Science and Technology.

MEMBER NEWS

Mary M. Glackin, deputy assistant administrator for satellite and information services at NOAA/NESDIS, has received the **2001 Presidential Rank Award** for extraordinary contributions to NOAA's management and programs. She was among federal senior executives honored by President George W. Bush at a ceremony on 15 October. At NESDIS, Mary oversees operations of several key areas, including satellite operations, satellite data processing and distribution, systems development, and research and applications. She also oversees three national data centers and the office that is merging civilian and military environmental satellite programs. She has reorganized the NESDIS headquarters office to make it more responsive to the operating units. She has also taken steps to develop the workforce by conducting innovative training programs and ensuring that a work environment exists where all employees can thrive. In her six years of senior executive service in NOAA, Mary has sustained a record of outstanding accomplishments including managing the development and deployment of the AWIPS system. Her managerial skills saved the government millions of dollars and won the 1999 Smithsonian-ComputerWorld Award for Information Technology in the energy, environment and agriculture category.

- NOAA / NESDIS Public Affairs

NWA BROADCAST COMMITTEE

by Rich Apuzzo, Broadcast Committee Chair

So you missed the 26th NWA Annual Meeting...

I have been going to the NWA annual meetings since the early 1990s, with my first being in Salt Lake City back in 1992. I went because I needed to recertify my NWA Seal, but I was hooked immediately and have only missed one year since. I know that most of you can't get to a conference each year, especially if your weather staff has more than one NWA member that wants to go. But I strongly encourage you to get to an annual meeting every couple of years, or go to one of the increasing number of other weather conferences that the NWA endorses. Why? Because it's fun!

This year's meeting was in Spokane, Washington, and if there is one thing that I really enjoy every year, it's the cities and towns I have seen that I have never been to before, and might never have visited otherwise. Combine the variety of geography and local people with the camaraderie of seeing old friends at the annual meeting while learning the latest in weather forecasting and you have memories that will last a lifetime. The reason I am the Broadcast Committee Chairman today is because of the great people I have met and have supported me through the NWA each year. As you can imagine, the more contacts you have in this business, the more resources you can tap into, and the more stable you feel because your exposure in the broadcast industry is not limited to the market in which you work. If you're ready to move on to that next market or you lose your job for some reason, there are folks around the country who can let you know about openings and can give you advice on getting back on your feet. It's a great feeling!

I could probably count on one hand the number of times I have said "Spokane" in my 15 years on-air, but now it has a special meaning. Spokane is a city surrounded by hills, and in the distance, mountains. A short drive east takes you to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, which is situated along Lake Coeur d'Alene, a pretty north-south lake surrounded by fir-tree filled mountains. There was snow the night before I arrived and with a short drive up Mount Spokane I was making snowballs in brilliant sunshine. The city uses hydroelectric power, but this year's drought has almost shut down the Spokane River that flows through town. And if you're not from the west, the idea of being threatened by volcanoes probably does not cross your mind. But at the Wednesday night awards dinner, we had a great presentation about the big Mount Saint Helens eruption in 1980, and the threat for future eruptions in the northwest. Next year we're in Fort Worth, Texas. Come on out and have fun while learning!

Send your thoughts to me at skyeeye@fuse.net.

NWA LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

The Southern New England Chapter of the NWA held its Fall 2001 meeting on a peaceful Monday evening, September 10th, at the Blue Hill Observatory. Before the meeting, from the top of the Observatory tower near 650 ft MSL, attendees got a great view of the surroundings, including looking north into the City of Boston. The evening sky featured a dissipating cold front approaching from the west, as the outer cirrus from the northwest fringe of Hurricane Erin was visible to the southeast. The meeting was convened by Chapter President Frank Nocera. Guest speakers included Scott Kaplan, Meteorologist, Weather Services Corporation, Lexington, MA, and David Vallee, Science and Operations Officer, NWS Forecast Office, Taunton, MA.

Frank Nocera opened with an announcement that the New England Chapter of the NWA is ending its first year and it was now time to ask for volunteers for new officers for the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Chapter members Jim Lee and Doug Young have moved on to other positions in Silver Spring, MD during the past year. The next meeting is scheduled for early December.

After refreshments, Scott Kaplan presented "*Hurricane Bob: A Look Back 10 Years*" with an overview of Hurricane Bob and its effects on Southern New England. Scott outlined the history of Hurricane Bob as it formed in the Bahamas on 16 August 1991 and quickly intensified as it headed north to become a Cat 3 hurricane on Sunday, 18 August. The storm brushed the outer banks of North Carolina before making a direct hit on southeastern New England. The hurricane weakened slightly before crossing Block Island at about 2:00 pm on Monday, 19 August.

Scott then discussed the devastation that occurred due to the storm. Hurricane Bob brought winds up to 125 mph in gusts to portions of the southern New England coast and up to 8 inches of rain from northern Rhode Island into southwestern Maine. The storm made landfall along the south coast just before high tide with a surge of 4 to 7 feet. Damage totaled \$1.5 billion dollars across the region, which at that time was the costliest natural disaster in New England's history. Scott indicated that although this storm was the costliest, it was not as powerful as some storms that have hit New England in the past, such as the "Long Island Express of 1938", but it probably was the strongest to affect much of the coastline since the 1978 Blizzard..

David Vallee, presented "*The Realities of Southern New England Hurricanes*" indicating that hurricanes and tropical storms are no strangers to New England. Forty-one such storms have affected the region since 1900, 12 of which made landfall with significant impact. The presentation reviewed these 12 storms, focusing on the similarities with respect to rapid acceleration, distribution

of heavy rainfall, and the location of high winds and coastal flooding. Dave also presented in detail some of the model data that was useful in determining where the heavy rainfall was to occur from Hurricane Floyd as it progressed through the region. He also identified the classic tracks of some of the land falling storms, classic "New England" features of these storms, including the area of maximum precipitation. Discussion continued with the consideration of future activity of hurricane development in the Atlantic basin probably being enhanced by the Sea Surface Temperature anomaly of the North Atlantic and the increased salinity factor.

- Ed Capone, Secretary

LOCAL CHAPTERS SPONSOR REGIONAL MEETINGS

The First Southeast Severe Storms Symposium sponsored by the East Mississippi Chapters of the NWA and AMS, as well as the Mississippi State University Department of Geosciences, will be held at Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, 15 - 17 February 2002. This symposium will deal with the current challenges of forecasting all types of severe weather in the Southeastern United States. Registration and general symposium information is at the Web site: <http://www.msstate.edu/org/nwa>. Presentations on all aspects of severe weather in the Southeast, including forecasting, research, storm spotting, and broadcasting coverage are welcome. The deadline for abstracts is 11 January 2002. Abstracts should be submitted to: Southeast Severe Storms Symposium Committee, Department of Geosciences, PO Box 5448, Mississippi State, MS 39762. For further information contact Chapter President, Ryan Wade at 662-325-8417 or e-mail: cat5hurricane@hotmail.com; Dr. Michael Brown at 662-325-2906 or e-mail: mebrown@ra.msstate.edu; or Dr. Mark Binkley at 662-325-0939 or e-mail: binkley@deanas.msstate.edu.

27th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference sponsored by the Lyndon State College AMS/NWA Chapter will be held on the weekend of 8-10 March 2002 at the Holiday Inn in historic Saratoga Springs, New York. The deadline for abstracts is 31 December 2001. Registration deadline for the conference is 15 February 2002. Be on the lookout for more information about the conference on Web site: <http://apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams> or contact Chapter President, Jason Furtado at Fax: 802-626-9770, ATTN: LSC-AMS/NWA or by e-mail at ams@xmail.lsc.vsc.edu or jcf01220@xmail.lsc.vsc.edu

Sixth Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference sponsored by the Central Iowa NWA Chapter will commence at 5:00 PM on Thursday, 21 March 2002, and adjourn Saturday, 23 March at 10:00 PM. This year, the Embassy Suites in downtown Des Moines, Iowa will

host the event. All persons wishing to present materials of relevance should send a 200-word abstract by Friday, 18 January 2002 to: Central Iowa Chapter-NWA, P.O. Box 7512, Urbandale, IA 50322. E-mail entries will also be accepted at: candersn@iastate.edu. For further information see Web site: <http://www.iowa-nwa.com>.

Mid-Atlantic States Winter Storms Regional Conference 4-5 October 2002

The AMS Board for Operational Government Meteorologists, District of Columbia AMS Chapter, AMS Board of Private Sector Meteorology, and the NWA Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee are co-sponsoring an operations- and community-focused regional conference on Mid-Atlantic Winter Storms to be held in the Washington DC metropolitan area on 4-5 October 2002. The theme of the conference is "*Improving Mid-Atlantic Winter Storm Forecasts, Warnings and Decision Making.*"

Invited papers will be presented during the conference program in the following areas: Operational Forecasting Techniques and Procedures; Emerging Research and Operational Applications; Communicating and Using Uncertainty; Community Interaction; and Public Awareness and Education.

For further information or suggestions to enhance this conference, please contact Major Ken Carey, Air Force Studies and Analyses Agency (AFSAA/SAFM), 1570 Air Force Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1570; tel: 703-588-8628; e-mail: Kenneth.Carey@pentagon.af.mil. For further information see <http://www.dc-ams.org>

DC AMS Chapter Meeting

NWA members are invited to attend the D.C. Chapter of the AMS presentation "Transportation and Power Industry Use of Weather Information and Operations Impacts." hosted by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in McLean, VA on Wednesday, 12 December 2001 beginning at 6:00 PM. Panelists will represent Virginia Department of Transportation, Dominion Virginia Power, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and Montgomery County Advanced Traffic Management System. RSVP: By 10 December 2001, to Major Ken Carey, at e-mail Kenneth.Carey@pentagon.af.mil, or tel: 703-588-8628. DC AMS Web site: <http://www.dc-ams.org>

For a more complete list of meetings, please periodically check the NWA Web site at <http://www.nwas.org>

If you have meetings to announce, please e-mail them to the editor at: NewsletterNWA@aol.com or to the NWA office at: NatWeaAsoc@aol.com

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, short notice listings and job links.)

AMS Annual Meeting Career Fair

The AMS Career Fair, intended to facilitate the employment process for both applicants and recruiters, will be held in conjunction with the 82nd AMS Annual Meeting. 13-17 January 2002 in Orlando, FL. The Career Fair will provide employers seeking qualified personnel and individuals seeking employment an opportunity to interact. Participation in this year's Career Fair will be offered at no cost to participants. See Web site: <http://www.ametsoc.org/AMS/MEET/82annual/careerfair.html>

Midwest Weather, Inc. is looking for qualified applicants to fill the position of *Weather Services Supervisor* at our contract site in Los Alamitos AAF, CA. The qualified applicant will have two years previous experience in taking surface weather observations for the Department of Defense and have a minimum of two years management and supervisory experience in DOD weather station operations as their primary job. Send Resumes detailing previous DoD experience via USPS, fax, or e-mail to: Midwest Weather, Inc, ATTN: Eric Livingston, PO Box 1418, Saint Peters, MO 63376. Fax: (636) 928-0055. e-mail: mwi@i1.net

WeatherBank, Inc. has openings for *meteorologists* at various levels. Successful candidates will be responsible for forecasting a variety of weather parameters and issuing alert statements for industrial and commercial clientele across North America. Each applicant should have at least a B.S. in Meteorology or a related field. Pending degrees are reviewed on an individual basis. Professional forecasting experience, a strong and positive work ethic, and working knowledge of Microsoft® DOS, Windows® 98/2000/NT, and Microsoft Excel® is desirable. Most openings are full-time, salaried positions and include WeatherBank's full compliment of benefits including: life, disability, dental and health insurance packages; Cafeteria 125 and 401K plans; paid sick leave, vacations and holidays. Send your resume via fax or E-mail to the attention of: Mr. Steven Root, CCM; President & CEO, WeatherBank, Inc; 1015 Waterwood Pkwy, Suite J; Edmond, OK 73034. Fax: 405-341-0115. E-mail: sroot@weatherbank.com

Please see the October Newsletter or the NWA Web site for many other job announcements.

NWA SALUTES — NOAA RADAR HOTLINE: 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

The radar troubleshooters who keep the nation's weather radars running celebrated ten years of service on November 4, 2001, providing technical and scientific support to the worldwide network of Doppler weather radars operated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Defense Department and Department of Transportation. Part of NOAA, the NEXRAD Hotline team operates out of NOAA's Radar Operations Center in Norman, Okla. The Hotline team provides telephone and onsite assistance to thousands of National Weather Service, Federal Aviation Administration, Air Force and Navy weather forecasters and system operators worldwide.

Meteorologists and electronic technicians (from NWS, Military and contractor support) staff the NEXRAD Hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week supporting the complex mix of computers, software, radar hardware and communication systems used by weather forecasters to identify severe storm patterns and provide early warnings to communities throughout the United States and U.S. military facilities.

Hotline team members resolve nearly 1,000 problems each month for NEXRAD radar sites and local weather offices throughout the network, enabling each site to get back in operation quickly and meet their critical warning responsibilities. The hotline was originally chartered in April 1988 and began official operations November 4, 1991, in conjunction with the start of federal use of the first three NEXRAD radar systems located in Norman OK., Sterling VA., and Melbourne FL. Initial operations were 12 hours daily on weekdays with specialists available on call at all other times. Continuous operations began on July 6, 1992 - coinciding with the first formal government acceptances of NEXRAD systems.

Since 1991, the hotline team has processed and resolved more than 93,000 requests for assistance from a customer base of over 5,000 operations and maintenance personnel at 300 field sites worldwide. In annual customer surveys, the hotline consistently scores comprehensive customer approval ratings of 93 to 95 percent. The hotline team's record of solving problems on the initial call consistently exceeds the widely accepted industry excellence benchmark of 80 percent - placing them in the top percentiles of the worldwide support industry for effectiveness.

The Hotline team has been recognized with numerous awards including a Vice President's Hammer Award for Reinventing Government, the Department of Commerce Silver Medal and Customer Service Excellence Awards, and the Federal Agency Excellence Award from Government Computer News Magazine.

- NOAA Public Affairs

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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 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 by phone, regular mail or e-mail.

Pacific Recycles Last Year's Winter

If you liked last winter, you'll like this one. If not, you won't. The Pacific ocean continues to be dominated by the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, an above normal sea level pattern that is larger and stronger than any El Niño/La Niña event, according to the latest information from the U.S.-French Topex/Poseidon ocean-monitoring satellite. NASA / Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) scientists note that October 2001 data is very similar to October 2000.

In the western Pacific, the buildup of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, first noted by Topex/Poseidon oceanographers more than three years ago, has outlasted both the El Niño and La Niña of the past several years. This warmth contrasts with the Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska and West Coast, where lower than normal sea surface levels and cool ocean temperatures continue.

The Topex/Poseidon data were taken during a 10-day collection cycle ending Oct. 29, 2001. They show that the near-equatorial ocean has been very quiet during the past year, and sea levels and sea surface temperatures are near normal. Above normal sea surface heights and warmer ocean temperatures still blanket the far western tropical Pacific and much of the north mid-Pacific.

These data are in line with the U.S. winter forecast issued by the NWS. They also show a repeat of last winter's chill across the northern states and relative warmth across the South, with continuing drought in the southeastern states and possibly the western states.

Next month's launch of the Jason 1 satellite will continue the Topex/Poseidon data-gathering with a smaller satellite based on new technologies. It will further improve the understanding of ocean circulation and global climate forecasts and provide a key step towards making sea surface height measurement a permanent component of a global ocean observing system in the future.

The joint U.S.-French Topex/Poseidon mission and the Jason 1 program are managed by JPL for NASA's Earth Science Enterprise, Washington, D.C. JPL is a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, CA.

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NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION
1697 CAPRI WAY
CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 22911-3534