

NWA NEWSLETTER

No. 03-11

November 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bill Read

bill.read@noaa.gov

I Just returned from our annual meeting in Jacksonville. It was great seeing old friends, making new ones and learning about the new and exciting work being done in operational meteorology through the NWA. I was stationed in JAX while in the Navy in 1972-73 and had not been there since the mid 70s. Lots had changed and I found it to be even better than I remember from living there. The following are some observations I made about the meeting and our organization.

One of our Strategic Plan goals is to "Make Annual Meetings the premier forum for operational meteorology." The 28th Annual Meeting of our Association was held in Jacksonville, Florida October 18th through the 23rd. Judging from the feedback I have received and my own impression it was a huge success. Attendance reached 375, second in number only to our 25th anniversary meeting in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The breakdown by major groups showed 110 weather broadcasters, 94 faculty & students, 91 NWS/NESDIS and other NOAA personnel, 16 DOD members, and 64 from the private sector including private consultants and members of 12 corporations exhibiting products and services.

The week started with our Second Annual golf outing, organized by our own "Goddess of the Green," Betsy Kling. All had fun, good prizes were awarded and money was raised for scholarships. Other than donating 11 golf balls to the sawgrass and palmetto swamp, my game was not noteworthy....

The quality of Sunday's Broadcaster Workshops was exceptional. Organized by Bryan Karrick, it featured a wide range of interesting topics including severe weather event coverage and workshops, vendor products and services, and presentations on collaborative efforts between local NWS offices and the media. Several broadcasters and vendors told me that of all the meetings they attend, ***the Jacksonville meeting presented the most relevant material and was their choice of professional meetings to attend this year.***

The general sessions ran from Monday through Thursday. Thanks to Dick Bagby and Pat Welsh, Program co-chairs, and Executive Director Kevin Lavin for putting together an ambitious and successfully executed program.

Some of the comments I received included: *operationally relevant; ideas I can take home and put in effect at my office; I enjoyed the opportunity to interact with people working on similar problems.* Many of the presentations represented work that would make an excellent NWA Digest or E-journal article. I encourage all presenters to consider submitting your work for the benefit of all members.

In addition to the very specific work on which many of you reported, we had a number of keynote addresses on plans and issues facing many of us. Special "thanks" are due to John E. Jones, Bill Proenza, Ken Crawford, Ray Ban, Joel Myers, Chris Landsea, Lieutenant Commander Angie Walker and Staff Sergeant David Mack for taking time from their busy schedules to meet/share with us.

The Annual Awards luncheon was a lot of fun. Betsy Kling ran the second annual fundraising raffle that combined with the golf outing raised over \$3,000 for scholarships. See Betsy's article later in this Newsletter. Many thanks for the great prizes donated by corporate members. Andy Horvitz and the Awards Committee did a great job selecting quality winners. **It was my pleasure to present Andy with our 2003 Member of the Year Award.** Please see a listing of the annual awards and teacher grants given this year on pages 3 through 5.

Your Committee Chairs and Council members met Tuesday night, followed by a Council meeting Wednesday night, to conduct the business of our organization. Here are some highlights from those meetings:

1. David Knapp, our Commissioner of Committees, will be reporting on the activities of the committees in this and future Newsletters. This year we plan to refocus the committee activities. Committee chairs were tasked with addressing goals in the Strategic Plan that relate to their specific committee. We also developed a better process to plan succession by grooming future committee chairs. When followed, this will ensure "new blood" will have some experience when taking leadership.
2. Progress continues on efforts to improve publications. A Publications Committee was established. It will be chaired by Carolyn Kloth and consists of members who serve on various publications. The Digest, Newsletter, Web site and E-journal should all benefit over the coming year based on this year's discussion and planning.
3. The search for an Assistant Executive Director is underway with a goal of hiring a candidate in early 2004.

4. The Nominations Committee presented a draft slate of candidates for officer and councilor positions for 2004. The ballot will be included in your renewal notice to be mailed out this month with dues renewal invoices and a membership survey.

5. A plan for conducting Council business for 2004 was discussed. Paul Croft has developed a detailed timeline that should help the Council run even more effectively next year.

Speaking of plans...the 2004 Annual meeting has been set for Portland, Oregon from 16 through 21 October at the DoubleTree Hotel - Lloyd Center. Steve Todd and Mike Vescio, NWS MICs at Portland and Pendleton, have already volunteered to put together a Program Committee. Then in 2005, our meeting is scheduled to return to the central section of the US.

Throughout the meetings there was considerable thoughtful discussion on many of the activities we conduct and issues facing our Association. My thanks to all who contribute to working on the committees and serving on the NWA Council.

Last but not least, a special thanks to Kevin and Carol Lavin. There is not enough space to list all the things they do, big and small, to make our Annual Meeting the successful event that it is.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Bill

COMMITTEE CORNER

During the NWA Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, each NWA committee chair had an opportunity to report to the NWA Council on their committee's activities during the past year and their goals for 2004. Each of our committees continues to play key roles in the success of the NWA. You'll see this space used in each monthly Newsletter to highlight some of these accomplishments and plans for the future. We'll also focus this column on any 'hot' issues being addressed by one or more of the committees. If you want to get involved and make a difference in the NWA, check out the committee Web pages at www.nwas.org/committees/committees.html and see if any appeal to you. Feel free to contact the appropriate committee chair and find out how you can contribute.

The NWA Council approved the following NWA members as new committee chairs:

Scott Reynolds – Professional Development Committee (previously called the Training Committee)

Chris Buonanno – Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee

Carolyn Kloth – the new Publications Committee
Richard Apuzzo (Broadcast Meteorology Committee) and
Hugh McRandal (Specialized Operational Services Committee) were asked to stay on as committee chairs.

- *Dave Knapp, Commissioner of Committees*

NWA SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE – A HUGE SUCCESS

Hundreds of raffle tickets + 26 golfers = More than \$3,000 for scholarships! I am no mathematician, but I think that is a pretty nice equation. Thanks to all who participated with their golf ball chasing and number tracking abilities. A very big thanks also goes to our NWA corporate members who donated prizes and golf sponsorships. We certainly beat last year's total of more than \$1,200, of which \$1,000 funded the new David Sankey Minority Scholarship in Meteorology, given to Rebecca Chan of Plymouth State University. We aren't only helping the bright students who are the future of meteorology, but the future of the NWA. Planning is already underway for next year's meeting in Portland, Oregon!

- *Betsy Kling*

NOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Applications for the fourth year of the NOAA Educational Partnership Program (EPP) with Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) are being accepted through 26 January 2004. The program is open to graduate and undergraduate students in NOAA-related fields, such as meteorology, oceanography, atmospheric sciences, math and computer sciences. The program's goal is to encourage students and faculty at minority serving institutions to pursue applied research and education in atmospheric, oceanic and environmental sciences and remote sensing programs.

Five Graduate Sciences Program applicants will be selected. They must hold a bachelor's or master's degree, a minimum 3.0 average and be U.S. citizens. Successful applicants are hired into entry-level positions at NOAA and trained in a predetermined course of study. NOAA will provide funding for the student's academic study; this includes books, tuition, housing allowance and research support.

Ten students will be selected for the Undergraduate Scholarship Program, which includes a 10-week summer internship. Applicants must attend a MSI and major in a NOAA-related field.

To read the complete requirements and obtain the application forms, see Web site: <http://epp.noaa.gov>

- *NOAA Public Affairs*

The NWA listing of Colleges/Universities offering Degree Programs in Meteorology is at Web site:

www.nwas.org/links/universities.html

NWA ANNUAL AWARDS for 2003

NWA President Bill Read presented the annual awards for 2003 at the 28th Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon on 22 October 2003 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida. Special thanks are due to the NWA Awards Committee, chaired by Andy Horvitz. He announced each winner and their accomplishments.

THE NWA OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT INDIVIDUAL AWARD is presented to a NWA member who has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology for an accurate/timely forecast for one or more significant weather events or for sustained superior performance.

The NWA Operational Achievement Individual Award for 2003 was presented to: Willis Bryan Owings of WCBI-TV in Columbus, Mississippi.

For sustained exemplary performance in forecasting and mentoring for over 50 years as a military meteorologist and broadcast meteorologist, serving his country abroad and at home, and serving his WCBI-TV viewing community around Columbus, Mississippi for the past 24 year.

THE NWA OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT GROUP AWARD is presented to a group of two or more individuals for a significant contribution to operational meteorology. At a minimum, a majority of the group must be NWA members.

The NWA Operational Achievement Group Award for 2003 was presented to: Tim Oram, Tim Garner and Richard Lafosse of the NOAA/NWS Spaceflight Meteorology Group, Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.

As part of the NWS/NASA Spaceflight Meteorology Group, they provided extraordinary consultant support to NASA and performed outstanding intra- and interagency collaboration following the tragic break-up of the Space Shuttle Columbia

THE NWA AVIATION METEOROLOGY AWARD is presented to an individual or group to recognize significant contributions to aviation meteorology, such as impact of operational forecasts on aviation operations, and advances in aviation meteorology including research in detection and forecasting of aviation hazards.

The NWA Aviation Meteorology Award for 2003 was presented to: The National Weather Service Staff of the FAA Training Academy, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

For sustained superior performance in teaching and certifying FAA pilot weather briefers, the establishment of a new and more comprehensive national evaluation program, and providing feedback to forecasters to improve aviation weather products, all in support of flight safety

Marco Bohorquez of the NWS staff at the FAA Training Academy received the award on behalf of all present and past NWS staff personnel assigned to the Academy.

THE T. THEODORE FUJITA RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is presented to a NWA member whose research has made significant contributions to operational meteorology.

The T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award for 2003 was awarded to: Ron W. Przybylinski, the Science and Operations Officer at the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Saint Charles, Missouri.

For outstanding applied research in radar analysis of severe storms and in forecasting of heavy rainfall and winter storms, and for incorporating research results including the development of conceptual storm models into improving forecasting and warning operations

Dr. Jim Moore of Saint Louis University accepted the award on behalf of Ron Przybylinski and will present it to Ron in Saint Louis.

THE WALTER J. BENNETT PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD is presented to an individual or organization directly assisting the meteorological community in providing weather-related information to the public. Walter J. Bennett served the public in extraordinary ways for over 50 years; he was also the Meteorologist-in-Charge of the US Weather Bureau Office in Jacksonville, Florida in the 1940s and 50s.

The Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award for 2003 was presented to Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc. of Hondo, Texas.

For securing funding and the cooperative efforts of many resulting in major improvements in the NOAA Weather Radio coverage over a 17-county area of South Texas and for significantly increasing the public's knowledge and use of NOAA Weather Radio

Mr. William Moffett of Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc., accepted the award from NWA President Bill Read.

Award criteria, nomination procedures, submission deadlines and lists of winners are posted on Web site: www.nwas.org/award.html

THE LARRY R. JOHNSON SPECIAL AWARD recognizes unique events or extraordinary accomplishments by an individual or group contributing to operational meteorology.

The Larry R. Johnson Special Award for 2003 was presented to the NEXRAD Archive Recovery Project Team comprised of personnel from the NWS/Warning Decision Training Branch, NWS/Radar Operations Center and Team RS Information Systems.

For exceptional efforts of a diverse team of meteorologists and engineers in recovering and converting more than a decade of archived weather radar data for use in modern workstations for weather event simulations, training and research.

John Ferree of the NOAA/NWS Warning Decision Training Branch and Ed Berkowitz of the NOAA/NWS Radar Operations Center, both of Norman, Oklahoma, and Mitchell Weiss of RS Information Systems of Laurel, Maryland, accepted the award.

THE NWA PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD is presented to an individual or organization providing significant contributions to increase the public's weather awareness.

The NWA Public Education Award for 2003 is presented to Brian Olson of WBOC-TV in Salisbury, Maryland.

As a broadcast meteorologist, he developed an on-air educational segment, "The Weather Detective", enlightening the public on the many facets of science and folklore related to weather.

THE NWA BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR AWARD is presented to a NWA member Radio or Television weathercaster, or other member of the media, whose activities have significantly contributed to the development and presentation of weather information to the public service.

The NWA Broadcaster of the Year Award for 2003 was presented to John Toohey-Morales of NBC/Telemundo, Miami, Florida.

For sustained superior performance as an English and Spanish-speaking broadcast meteorologist on television and radio supporting listeners in Florida and throughout the Caribbean. He is well known for educating Hispanic audiences from the wonders to the dangers of weather.

THE NWA LOCAL CHAPTER AWARD is presented to a Local Chapter of the NWA whose activities have significantly increased awareness of the weather and of the NWA in their local area.

The NWA Local Chapter Award for 2003 was presented to The High Plains NWA & AMS Chapter.

For extraordinary efforts in increasing the knowledge of operational meteorology among many in the High Plains of Nebraska and Kansas through seminars, annual conferences, and mentoring students through science fairs and many other outreach activities.

Tim Burke of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Dodge City, Kansas and Secretary of the Chapter accepted the award from President Bill Read.

THE NWA MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD is presented to a NWA member who has made significant contributions to the organization over a period of time.

The NWA Member of the Year Award for 2003 was presented to Andrew H. Horvitz of the NOAA/NWS Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services, Silver Spring, Maryland.

For outstanding contributions to all NWA objectives and exemplary leadership of the NWA Awards Committee for fifteen years impressively promoting excellence in operational meteorology and related activities

NWA SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS are presented at opportune times and for significant achievements related to operational meteorology.

A NWA Special Achievement Award for 2003 was presented to the developers of the Florida Automated Weather Network.

For Development of the Florida Automated Weather Network of 32 sites and the significant contributions it has made to the advance of meteorology and service to the citizens of Florida

The award was accepted by Lawrence S. Treadway, FAWN Project Coordinator, University of Florida - IFAS; John L. Jackson, Jr., Multi-County Extension Agent; and, Louis A. King, FAWN Website and Database Administrator.

Thanks to all members who nominated candidates. Congratulations to all nominees for accomplishing outstanding work and promoting excellence!
- Bill Read

**It is never too early to begin writing a nomination letter for the NWA Annual Awards.
Your outstanding candidate can't win if not nominated.
Nominations are due to the NWA office by 1 July every year.**

SOL HIRSCH NWA EDUCATION FUND GRANTS for 2003 AWARDED

At the 28th NWA Annual Meeting, the Education Committee Chairperson, Sol Hirsch, announced the recipients of the year 2003 Education Fund Grants named in his honor. The NWA Education Committee received a record 96 grant applications this year. The NWA Council approved the recommendation of the Education Committee that the \$500 Grants be awarded to:

Cherie Edwards, Meadowlark Elementary School, Chinook, Montana. Ms. Edwards will purchase weather equipment for an outdoor learning center where fourth grade children will observe, measure and document weather elements and the impact of weather on the plants, animals and the economy of the rural agricultural area in which they live.

Deborah J. Hargrove, LaVerna Evans Elementary School, O'Fallon, Illinois. Ms. Hargrove will purchase a digital camera, software and reference materials to assist her fourth grade students in observing and measuring the weather, and matching pictures with the documented weather conditions. A photograph and corresponding weather data will be placed on the Internet once a week and shared with similar data from students at the Mary Peacock School in California. The weekly pictures will be collected in a movie to show the weather events and seasonal changes the students observed during the year.

Kathy K. Lineberger, Marvin Ward Elementary School, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Ms. Lineberger will purchase weather equipment, maps and reference material to assist third and fourth grade students in researching ice storms in the Piedmont region of North Carolina where the impact has been significant in recent years. Many of her students are immigrants from Mexico and other Central American countries, and ice storms are not easily understood. A goal is to develop a booklet explaining ice storms and other winter weather that can be available to all Latino families in the area.

Denise Scioli, Alternative Learning Center (Austin Independent School District), Austin, Texas. Ms. Scioli is a high school special education teacher dealing with discipline problem students. She will purchase materials to have students build map displays to track severe weather events especially hurricanes. This hands-on work will help students learn teamwork, building and measuring skills, map reading and the study of weather events and their impact. The large displays will be placed in the main hallways to have an impact on all grades (6-12) within the learning center.

John Schaefers, Ingomar Middle School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ingomar Middle School students have been involved with observing and measuring weather data for many years. Mr. Schaefer will purchase UV measuring equipment and reference materials to assist students in the study of ultraviolet rays and relating temperature, humidity, air pressure and sky conditions. Students will share data on the Internet with other students around the world and provide data to EPA and NASA. Students will also relate UV indices with health effects, and increase their learning of the sun's energy. The school will involve as many students and classes as possible in the project.

Award letters and checks were mailed out to the five grant winners by the NWA Executive Director on behalf of the entire NWA membership. Applications for this annual opportunity are to be submitted by 1 August each year. Guidelines are posted at Web site: www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html - Exec. Dir.

NOS NEWS

The Coast Survey Development Laboratory (CSDL) of NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) released version 1.4 of its NOAA Web mapping portal called nowCOAST in early October 2003. The portal is now available at the new URL: <http://nowcoast.noaa.gov>.

NowCOAST provides spatially-referenced links to real-time information from meteorological, oceanographic, and river observing networks. It also provides links to NOAA's model forecast guidance and the NWS weather and marine forecasts for major estuaries and seaports, the Great Lakes, and coastal regions. NowCOAST now links to real-time meteorological, oceanographic, and/or water quality observations from the following land and marine mesonets:

- NJ Coastal Monitoring Network (3 stations)
- SEAKEYS-CREWS (2 stations)
- TCOON (30 stations)
- WAVCIS (6 stations)
- LUMCON (5 stations)
- NEOCO (3 stations)
- ICON (2 stations)
- CORE (8 stations)
- Bodega Marine Lab (1 station)
- Martha's Vineyard Coastal Observatory (2 stations)
- Maryland's Dept. of Natural Resources (7 stations)
- Washington State Ferries (6 ferry routes)
- NOAA/GLERL's Real-Time Meteorological Observation Network (6 stns)
- Maryland's DOT automated weather stations

This new version also includes links to an additional 1000 USGS Survey real-time monitoring stations and the ability to select those USGS stations which report meteorological and water quality variables in addition to gage height and stream flow. - John Kelley, NOS

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

Central Iowa Chapter - The 27 October 2003 meeting of the Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA kicked off in the conference room of the NWS office in Johnston, Iowa, with 14 members in attendance.

The featured speaker was Elwynn Taylor, Iowa State University (ISU) professor of Agronomy. Dr. Taylor talked about El Niño, La Niña and associated precipitation and temperature changes and looking at the past to see what the future holds in store. Dr. Taylor believes there will be another dust bowl in the plains states sometime between 2024 and 2026.

Bryan Karrick presented a short overview of the NWA Annual Meeting he attended in Jacksonville, Florida. Bryan was the Broadcaster Workshop session chair.

The following officers were elected by all 14 members in attendance. Mitch Keegan, President; Willard Sharp, Vice President and Secretary; Penny Zabel, Treasurer; and, Scott Lincoln, Webmaster. Congratulations to all the new officers and a big THANK YOU to the outgoing officers for their service.

An amendment was passed to reflect the following: Officer Nominations will be completed in August. Elections will be held in September. Officer terms will be from 1 October to 30 September. This was passed in order to comply more with the ISU school calendar since a large number of members are now ISU students. This will allow them to participate more actively from the beginning and encourage them to become officers.

Mitch Keegan presented Bryan Karrick with a gift of appreciation from the chapter, expressing thanks to Bryan for his years of dedication and service to the chapter as President. Bryan received an engraved clock that says, "Bryan C. Karrick - Thank you for your years of service to the Iowa NWA." Pictures of the clock will be posted on the chapter Web site.

At this point, Bryan Karrick adjourned the meeting, for the last time. The new officers had their picture taken, which will also be posted on the Web site.

The next meeting is scheduled for 17 November 2003 at 7 p.m. in 2050 Agronomy on the ISU campus. Alan Czarnetski will be the featured speaker, describing the UNI Storm Project. This meeting will be a joint effort between the Central Iowa NWA and the ISU AMS chapter. The chapter also welcomed 3 new members from ISU: Steve Guimond, senior; Kari Kozak, junior; and, Rebecca Engels, sophomore.

- Mitch Keegan, Central Iowa Chapter President

North Texas Chapter of the AMS and NWA now has a Web site. The URL is: chapters.ametsoc.org/northtexas/ (It can be linked from the NWA Web site – Local Chapter section.) - Greg Story, North Texas Chapter President

WILDLAND FIRE COLLABORATORY ESTABLISHED AT NCAR

This past summer a Wildland Fire R & D Collaboratory was established under the auspices of the Research Applications Program, at the National Center for Atmospheric Research at Boulder, CO.

The Collaboratory is an on-line forum which will promote the exchange of scientific ideas, expose the latest research and applications, and also provide a source of information for those in planning and decision making for all aspects of wildland fire. The Collaboratory is expected to foster a higher level of interaction within a group of interested parties. The main areas of scientific interest will be directly related to the influence of weather and climate on fire, models of fire physics/dynamics, smoke dispersion and air quality impacts, fuels assessment and societal impacts of fire.

This site is an effort to centralize coordination and information from private, state, federal, university and other organizations that must deal with wildland fire. The Internet allows this forum to become international in scope, effectively drawing on fire information from all parts of the globe. In this way, users can maximize the benefits of numerous R & D projects to solve problems associated with wildland fire. The Collaboratory will also promote the acceleration of technology transfer from the research community to the operational community.

The Collaboratory consists of several parts, including: An Idea Bank, where the free exchange of ideas regarding wildfire can take place; A Press Room, where recent press releases, Congressional & Administration news, and publications about fire are listed; A listing of Member Projects; and a list of conferences and meetings related to wildland fire.

Membership is at no cost; only a willingness to cooperate is required. Visitors can view most areas of the Web site, but only members can post information. Individual as well as organizational membership is encouraged. Web site is at:

www.rap.ucar.edu/projects/wfc/intro/index.html

- Bob Robinson, Specialized Operational Services Committee

NWA Broadcaster's Seal Info:

www.nwas.org/seal.html

includes Seal procedures and list of current Seal holders

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

• **The Second Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting Issues in the Central United States (WAFICUS II) will be held at the University of Missouri-Columbia (UMC) on 5-6 December 2003.** It will address topics relating to operational meteorology in the Midwest. This gathering is a joint effort by UMC, the UMC chapter of the National Weather Association, and the Missouri Climate Center seeking to emphasize those areas of operational meteorology of greatest concern to forecasters. The conference will be held at the University of Missouri-Columbia in the School of Natural Resources' Conservation Auditorium. Registration and other details as well as scenes from WAFICUS I can be found at: <http://weather.missouri.edu/WAFICUS/>. Registration forms and payment should be sent to: Ms. Sharon Burnham, University of Missouri-Columbia, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, 373 McReynolds Hall, Columbia, MO 65211; (573) 882-6591. For further information, contact Dr. Anthony Lupo at e-mail: LupoA@missouri.edu.

• **The Third Annual Southeast Severe Storms Symposium will be held 16-18 January 2004,** hosted by the East Mississippi NWA & AMS Chapter and the Department of Geosciences at Mississippi State. This Symposium is designed to share forecasting and technical expertise related to all weather phenomena in the Southeast U.S. The papers should be written with a very strong operational content bias. Although a wide variety of hazardous weather topics are welcome, our focus will be the 30th anniversary of the 3-4 April 1974 Super-outbreak, the 2003 tropical weather season, and the May 2003 week long series of tornado outbreaks. **Submission of extended abstracts (3 pages or less including figures) ends 1 December 2003.** Acceptance notification (via e-mail) will be no later than 10 December 2003. Presentation slots are 20 minutes long. Presentations should be delivered using Microsoft PowerPoint or Corel Presentation software. Papers will be reviewed by the members of the committee, and accepted or rejected with status notification by e-mail. Submissions will be accepted at: mebrown@ra.msstate.edu. Please go to Web site: <http://www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/symposium.htm> for detailed information about the symposium and instructions for composition of extended abstracts.

• **The 29th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference will be held 12-14 March 2004 in Saratoga Springs, New York.** The conference is sponsored by the Lyndon State College AMS & NWA Chapter. **Abstracts are due by 15 January 2004.** More information is on the chapter Web site at: <http://apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/> or e-mail Chapter President Corey Potvin at Corey.Potvin@lyndonstate.edu.

• **The 2004 Severe Storms and Doppler Radar conference will be held from Thursday, 25 March - Saturday, 27 March at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa.** The conference is sponsored annually by the Central Iowa NWA Chapter. Please watch Web site: <http://www.iowa-nwa.com/> for updated information.

• **The First World Conference on Broadcast Meteorology will be held 3 - 5 June 2004** in Barcelona, Spain. The **National Weather Association is a co-sponsor** of this conference being run by the International Association of Broadcast Meteorologists (IABM). This will be a scientific conference,

with a diverse group of attendees and presenters engaged in discussing the current state of weather broadcasting in the world, examining ways to reduce the impact of natural disasters and debating the controversial issue of climate change. Morning sessions during the three-day event will feature presentations from leading broadcasters and meteorologists. Keynote speakers have been invited for the afternoon sessions. Barcelona was selected by the IABM to host the conference because of substantial financial support for the conference and a tremendous infrastructure to support the event. Some 200 scholarships have been made available to reduce the cost of traveling to Barcelona to around \$500 including air travel and hotel accommodations. Conference details and funding applications through the IABM can be found at <http://www.IABM.org>. Scholarships will be awarded in the fall, based on geographical diversity and willingness to broadcast via satellite from Barcelona back to home stations (uplink provided). NWA broadcasters wishing to submit a presentation should contact IABM Secretary Gerald Fleming at chairman@iabm.org While the conference is geared toward the broadcast weather field, all NWA members are welcome to attend this historic meeting.

• **Symposium on the 50th Anniversary of Operational Numerical Weather Prediction, 14-17 June 2004, College Park, Maryland.** The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA), Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center (FNMOC), National Weather Association and American Meteorological Society (AMS) will cosponsor this historical symposium to be held at the Inn and Conference Center at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland (just north of Washington DC). The organizing committee includes Eugenia Kalnay (cochairperson), Louis Uccellini (cochairperson), Ken Carey, Carl Thormeyer, and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Falvey. The program committee includes Ken Campana, Mike Clancy, Kris Harper, Eugenia Kalnay, Al Moyers, and Anders Persson. Please submit **abstracts** electronically to Eugenia Kalnay, ekalnay@atmos.umd.edu, and Ken Carey, kcarey@mitretek.org, **by 15 January 2004.** Extended manuscripts will be due by 6 March 2004. Preliminary program, registration, hotel, and general information will be posted on the symposium Web site: <http://wwwt.ncep.noaa.gov/JNWPU50/> For more information or to provide suggestions to enhance this symposium, please contact Ken Carey (tel: 703-610-1933; fax: 703-610-1767; kcarey@mitretek.org) or Eugenia Kalnay at e-mail: ekalnay@atmos.umd.edu.

• **The 8th Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop will be held 8-10 September 2004 in Billings, Montana.** The National Weather Service Office in Billings is sponsoring this workshop focused on the exchange of weather and hydrologic forecasting information unique to the Northern Rockies and High Plains. The workshop will take place at the Sheraton Hotel in Billings. A call for papers and registration information will be available during early 2004. More information can be found on Web site: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/billings> or contact the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Billings, Montana at (406) 652-0851.

<p>The NWA's 29th Annual Meeting will be held 16 - 21 October 2004 at the DoubleTree Hotel - Lloyd Center in Portland, Oregon</p>

“Listening to You and Working Together to Save Lives”

“Listening to You and Working Together to Save Lives” was the title of the keynote address NWS Deputy Director John E. Jones, Jr., gave to NWA 2003 Annual Meeting attendees in Jacksonville, Florida. Jones outlined how NWS is conducting research through a contractor, using the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), a standard survey tool many U.S. businesses and more than 70 Federal agencies have used to measure customer satisfaction with programs and services. In 2003, the NWS surveyed media, emergency managers, aviation, and marine segments. ACSI Index scores are based on three questions: overall satisfaction with products and services; products and services compared to expectations; and, products and services compared to an ideal. Preliminary results show that all of the NWS scores are above the Federal Government aggregate and the ACSI overall average. Jones also discussed the recommendations of the National Research Council’s report on weather and climate partnerships, the new NOAA and NWS strategic plans, and he offered some highlights of issues NWS is addressing in the coming years, including science and technology infusion, and developing an Air Quality Index.

His briefing slides are on the Web at:

<ftp://ftp.nws.noaa.gov/com/nwa2003final.pdf>

JOB CORNER

*The NWA posts jobs from equal opportunity employers at no cost for the benefit of NWA members. **Please see the Job section on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org) for complete announcements and job links.** Members who do not have Internet capability may request announcements from the NWA office at (434) 296-9966. Employers should send job announcements via e-mail to NatWeaAsoc@aol.com.*

NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION

1697 CAPRI WAY
CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 22911-3534

NWA Newsletter (ISSN 0271-1044)

Editor: Frank Brody

Editorial Assistant: Jenny Scott

Publisher: Kevin Lavin, Executive Director

Published monthly by the National Weather Association

1697 Capri Way, Charlottesville, VA (USA) 22911-3534

Tel/FAX: (434) 296-9966; e-mail: NatWeaAsoc@aol.com

Web site: www.nwas.org

Submit newsletter items directly to: Editor NWA Newsletter, Frank Brody at NewsletterNWA@earthlink.net or to the NWA office. Material received by the 5th will be considered for that month’s issue. If submissions are not received, the Newsletter may be delayed.

Members receive the monthly NWA Newsletter and quarterly *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. Newsletter subscriptions are available at \$18.00 per year plus extra shipping costs outside USA. Single copies are \$1.50.

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

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

5-6 December 2003 – Second Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting Issues in the Central United States @ University of Missouri-Columbia

6 December 2003 – Fifth Annual SKYWARN Appreciation Day (<http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>)

17 December 2003 – Centennial of Wright Brothers first powered flight, Kill Devil Hills, NC

31 December 2003 - Ballots for election of officers/councilors are due back to the NWA office. Members who do not receive dues invoices and ballots by 5 December should contact the NWA office at (434) 296-9966 or NatWeaAsoc@aol.com

11-15 January 2004 – American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington

16-18 January 2004 – Southeast Severe Storm Symposium @ Mississippi State University

Please see **MEETINGS** on page 7 for additional dates

Also check www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html