

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Steve Weiss

At the Annual Meeting at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Saint Louis, Missouri, I had the very pleasant opportunity to present the National Weather Association Annual Awards. The awards luncheon on 19 October was attended by 250 members and guests and was a great venue to honor excellence. Special thanks to the awards committee of John Gallos, Larry Peabody, Deirdre Kann, Thomas Fraim, Brad Herold and Mary Cairns as Chairperson for reviewing many award nominations.

The NWA Annual Award winners for 2005 are listed herein with an explanation of the award and the award citation. Congratulations again to the award winners and thanks very much to the members who took the important initiative to submit a nomination.

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 2005 was presented to Dr. Pablo Santos, Jr., the Science and Operations Officer at the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Miami, Florida.

For his innovative and broad-scale approach to science leadership at the Miami NWS Forecast Office markedly advancing operational research and weather warning and forecasting services.

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 2005 was presented to: James M. Caruso of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Wichita, Kansas and Jonathan M. Davies, a private meteorologist in Wichita, Kansas. James Caruso accepted the award for the team.

For improving the predictability of non-mesocyclone tornadoes through the development of the Enhanced Stretching Potential parameter and stressing mesoanalysis for heightened forecaster awareness.

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 2005 was presented to Rich Apuzzo, WXIX-TV FOX 19, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Chair of the Broadcast Meteorology Committee.

For outstanding commitment to quality weather broadcasting for the public good as Chief Meteorologist on WXIX - FOX 19, Cincinnati, Ohio, Chair of the NWA Broadcast Meteorology Committee for the past five years, and as mentor to many aspiring and seasoned broadcasters.

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 2005 was presented to the three developers and initial editors of the NWA online *Electronic Journal of Operational Meteorology*: Alan E. Gerard, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Jackson, Mississippi, and a NWA Councilor; Jeffrey P. Craven, the Science and Operations Officer of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Jackson, Mississippi, and a NWA Councilor; and, Steven V. Vasiloff of the NOAA/OAR National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Oklahoma.

*For initiating, planning and developing the National Weather Association *Electronic Journal of Operational Meteorology* and nurturing it to great success over its first five years.*

NWA ANNUAL AWARDS for 2005 continued from page 1

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 2005 was presented to John S. Jensenius, Jr., of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Gray, Maine.

For outstanding leadership, initiative, and fostering teamwork among many individuals and organizations strikingly increasing lightning safety awareness and instituting a National Lightning Safety Awareness Week.

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 2005 was presented to the Members of the Technology Exploitation Branch, Headquarters U.S. Air Force Weather Agency, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, (R. Bruce Telfeyan, Daniel M. Rozema, Jennifer C. Roman, Lee A. Byerle, James E. McMullen, Stephen M. Riehart, Gordon R. Brooks, David L. Keller, Jeramie Lippman, Angela D. Oder, Jeremy J. Wesley, Evan L. Kuchera, Ingrid A. Gotchel, Scott A. Rentschler, Steven E. Harris, David J. Hladky, Patrick A. Therien, Jason A. Smith, and Jonathan M. Garner). Bruce Telfeyan, Chief of the Branch, accepted the award on behalf of the entire branch staff.

For developing state-of-the-science forecasting tools to support daily operational meteorological services for the U.S. Air Force, other U.S. Government Agencies and coalition aviation operations worldwide.

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 2005 was presented to the staff of the NOAA/National Weather Service Forecast Office in Melbourne, Florida. Dave Sharp, the Science and Operations Officer at Melbourne, accepted the award for the entire staff.

For selflessly and tirelessly providing innovative and life-saving meteorological and hydrological services to the residents of east-central Florida during a record-breaking 2004 Hurricane Season, especially with Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Jeanne.

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 2005 was awarded to Leslie Chapman-Henderson and the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH®) of Tallahassee, Florida. NWA President Steve Weiss presented the award to William X. Proenza, the Director of the NWS Southern Region, who will present the award to Leslie in Florida at a later date.

For providing multiple-media information, collaborating with partner organizations, and directly educating the public on weather safety and mitigation efforts for natural hazards.

The Local Chapter of the Year Award recognizes an active NWA chapter significantly increasing the awareness of weather and the NWA in the chapter area.

The Local Chapter Award for the year 2005 was presented to the East Mississippi (Alpha) Chapter of Mississippi State University. The award was accepted by Ashley Altieri, chapter president for 2004, and Jeffrey Craven representing the chapter's 2005 officers. Jeffrey Craven (NWA Councilor) presented the award to the current chapter president, Greg Nordstrom, at the chapter's November 3rd meeting.

For outstanding commitment to the continuing education of its members and the general public through outreach initiatives and hosting the annual Southeast Severe Storms Symposium.

The Annual Awards Luncheon also featured the announcement of the teachers who won the Sol Hirsch NWA Education Fund Grants (see page 3). Thanks to the many members who contribute to that fund which allows the NWA to provide grants to teachers to help improve the education of meteorology in grades K-12.

The awards ceremony ended with a reminder, *It is never too early to be thinking about awards, grants and scholarship nominations/applications for next year. Check the NWA Web site at www.nwas.org/award.html for the dates that nominations and applications are due. You need to apply or be nominated to win!*

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a healthy, happy and rewarding New Year!

- Sincerely, Steve Weiss (President@nwas.org)

NWA - SOL HIRSCH EDUCATION FUND GRANTS AWARDED

At the 30th NWA Annual Meeting, the Education Committee Chairperson, Sol Hirsch, announced the recipients of the 2005 Education Fund Grants named in his honor. NWA Education Committee members: Sol Hirsch, Ruth Aiken, Faith Borden, Mary Snow, Richard Snow, Jeff Tongue and Eleanor Vallier-Talbot, reviewed 99 grant applications this year from teachers in grades K-12 from across the country. The NWA Council approved the recommendations of the Education Committee that \$500 Grants be awarded to nine teachers with topnotch proposals. **Letters of Congratulations and \$500 checks were sent to:**

Marla Baldwin, Gillis Elementary School, Lake Charles, Louisiana. The goal of the proposal, "Weather, Weather Everywhere!" is to actively involve all students in hands-on science activities that will turn their curiosity about weather into knowledge. Ms. Baldwin, the 4th grade science teacher, developed the proposal and will manage its implementation throughout the school.

Gene Bush, Clay Hill Elementary School, Jacksonville, Florida. Mr. Bush will lead a severe weather awareness program called, "Storm Trackers of Florida (STF)". A wireless weather station will be purchased for students to observe, measure, and monitor current weather. Through research and browsing Web sites of operational weather centers, students will learn of and monitor potential severe weather situations. Students will also prepare safety brochures for severe weather, and present weather lessons to students in grades K-6 and their parents.

Karen DeBartolo, Saint Mark's Christian School, Middleburgh, New York. Students in this K-7 school will develop a permanent weather station. Children in grades K-3 will progressively demonstrate use of basic weather terminology and increase their weather awareness. Children in grades 4-7 will observe, record, analyze and forecast basic weather elements, and compare them with media-reported regional weather.

Erik Wood Fogel, Bronx Preparatory Charter School, Bronx, New York. Grant money will be used to start an atmospheric science curriculum and make meteorology the centerpiece in a renewal of the science program at this public school. Students will also learn how to report weather conditions through television broadcasting.

Linda Militello, School 84/ the Erie County Health Care Center for Children, Buffalo, New York. P.S. 84 will create Project Weather Station purchasing books, puppets and weather equipment. Students with disabilities will learn more by using a hands-on, multisensory approach that maximizes their involvement.

Mary Ann Nakamoto, Churchill Elementary School, Glen Ellyn, Illinois. The grant money will be used to purchase meteorological equipment, videos, books and teacher resource materials that will provide hands-on activities to enhance learning among a very diverse student population. Approximately 85 different languages are spoken in the school district and students learn better if they can make real world connections as with weather. Students will use the weather equipment to observe, analyze and compare with data from their native countries. Using weather information will help students develop their reading, writing and speaking skills.

Caprice Potter, Gateway School, Santa Cruz, California. Ms. Potter as the Life Lab Science teacher will purchase an outdoor weather station, additional weather instruments and educational books to establish more extensive atmospheric science units in grades K-8. The school emphasizes creative, student-centered instruction, collaborative learning and hands-on experience. The atmospheric science units will help the students learn by doing and discovery, and develop the capacity to problem-solve, think critically and communicate their knowledge and ideas.

Catherine Ryan, Alvin High School, Alvin, Texas. Ms. Ryan will purchase books, videos and hands-on lab models for students to learn more about weather and its effects. Using weather information will enhance the understanding of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) required science concepts in Integrated Physics and Chemistry.

Robert J. Stewart, Jr., Prince William County Juvenile Detention Center, Manassas, Virginia. Mr. Stewart will use the grant to purchase a weather station and the science and math departments of this detention center school will use the data in their curriculum. In addition, since students are locked in most of the time, they rely on staff and teachers' descriptions of the weather outside. Mere casual observation of the weather station information will offer a dynamic, real-world link between the students and the environment outside of this secure facility.

Glancing through the applications, it was interesting to note the amazing creativity of teachers across the country in wanting to use weather in the instruction of (national and state) standards of learning. A few teachers mentioned that weather broadcasters and other local forecasters were assisting them. All NWA members should consider offering help, as their time and talents permit, to local teachers and to let the NWA Council know how the association may be able to assist more. Applications for this annual grant opportunity are to be submitted by 1 August each year. Guidelines are posted on the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html. or they can be mailed to teachers on request.

- Exec. Dir.

BROADCAST COMMITTEE NEWS

The Shifting Winds of Change...

This will certainly sound cliché, but the phrase is appropriate here: *All good things must come to an end.* I am not passing judgment on my performance or on myself but for the past five years, I have thoroughly enjoyed the role of Broadcast Meteorology Committee (BMC) Chairman – more than I can tell you in this article. Many of the people I met and worked with are now close friends, which is more than I ever expected. Furthermore, the goals the BMC set and accomplished represent significant steps forward in the NWA Seal program. Starting in January (assuming all goes smoothly); we will have a new Seal Exam. It is something that we worked on for the past five plus years, but like any big step, the result was worth the wait. There will also be a major update to the “Seal Qualifications and Procedures” document and it will include clearer steps to recertifying every three years. That update will also be online early in the New Year.

I am not going to go through all of our achievements here, but it has been a great team effort and I am proud to have been part of it. I couldn't have been as successful without the help of some talented people. **Betsy Kling** (WKYC, Cleveland) is our Public Relations Chair and in addition sets up the scholarship fundraising events such as our golf outing each year. If you ever met her, you know why she is ideal for Public Relations. **Bryan Karrick** (KCCI, Des Moines) is our Recertification Chair and Program Chair. He handles recertification questions and sets up speakers for Broadcasters' Workshop at the Annual Meetings. **Dr. David Arnold** (Ball State University) is our Testing Chair. He helped develop the new Seal exam (along with **Dr. Paul Croft**, our previous Testing Chair) and he grades the exams you take when applying for the Seal. **Mike Goldberg** (WTVR, Richmond) is our Seal Chair who oversees the panels who evaluate the on-air performances of Seal candidates.

In the BMC, we volunteers have three-year terms, but a “glitch” a few years ago required my services for two more years, and I didn't mind at all. However, with my term expiring in December, the time has come to hand the torch to a new BMC Chair taking over in January. Typically, the new Chair comes from the Seal Chair position because that person knows the most about the Seal Program. Therefore, **Mike Goldberg will be the new BMC Chairman.** He is a great guy and you will get to know more about him and his leadership in coming years. Mike has chosen **Larry Rice** (KOB, Albuquerque) to be the next Seal Chair. Larry has been on a panel of on-air performance evaluators for the Seal program for more than four years and he will be an excellent Seal Chairman.

As is our policy, the past Chairperson stays around (in the shadows) for guidance, so for the next three years I will officially be the Past BMC Chairman. In fact, you

may not be aware of it, but we have a Subcommittee on Standards and Ethics within the BMC. The seven member Subcommittee is the decision-making branch of the BMC and includes the BMC Chair, the Seal Chair, the Past BMC Chair, the Past Seal Chair, the Past Recertification Chair (a new addition), a “Sealholder at Large” and a non-broadcaster – the latter two providing perspectives from outside the BMC and outside of the broadcasting field, respectively. I wanted to mention the Subcommittee because all the big decisions from the BMC come through that committee and you should know who they are. The Subcommittee will change a little when Mike Goldberg takes over in January, but I need to thank these people for all their hard work: **Dave Freeman** (KSN, Wichita) our past BMC Chairman, **Alan Sealls** (WKRG, Mobile) the past Seal Chair, Jay Prater (KAKE, Wichita) the Sealholder at Large and **Keith Stelman** (NWS, Fort Worth) our non-broadcaster.

Finally, let me thank all of you for your support and kindness through the years. The response to my newsletter articles has been overwhelming, and I may continue to submit them if space is available in the Newsletter. I will still be at every meeting (if health, family and finances permit) and hope to continue to be an active part of the NWA for many years to come – and yes, I will definitely put my two cents in at the Annual Meetings especially at the “always popular” Tape Swap. You are all wonderful and I hope you stay in touch.

Keep Your Eyes on the Sky and Enjoy the Changing Weather. Send your thoughts to me at rapuzzo@fuse.net.

- Rich Apuzzo, Broadcast Meteorology Committee Chair

E-JOURNAL UPDATE

We are proud to announce that a record number of contributions were submitted to the online **NWA Electronic Journal of Operational Meteorology** in 2005, with eight published manuscripts and more under review. There have been many requests for .pdf files to make it easier to print these articles, and we have been gradually adding this feature to existing articles. In the future, we hope to be able to post both a .html and .pdf version of all new articles.

NWA Electronic Journal articles are located on the NWA Web site at: <http://www.nwas.org/ej/index.html>.

- Jeff Craven, NWA E-J Editor

NEW EXPERIMENTAL PRODUCT

The NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center (SPC) is seeking comments on the **Experimental Day 4-8 Severe Thunderstorm Outlook** product. The outlook and forecast discussion are shown at Web site: <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/exper/day4-8/>.

Comments are being requested until 28 July 2006 and can be submitted by e-mail to: spc.feedback@noaa.gov.

CHAPTER NEWS

The Southern New England Chapter elected officers for 2005-2006. They are President Eleanor Vallier-Talbot, National Weather Service, Taunton, MA; Vice-President Frank Baker, Naval War College, Newport, RI; Secretary Carolyn Upham, MIT Lincoln Labs, Cambridge, MA; and, Treasurer: Ed Capone, NWS Northeast River Forecast Center, Taunton, MA. The chapter has a new Web site at: mywebpages.comcast.net/hydromet/nwa1.htm

The Central Iowa Chapter also held officer elections recently. The officers for 2005-2006 are President Ashley Altieri, Vice-President Rod Donovan, Secretary Janet Schenck, Treasurer Elise Johnson and Webmaster Scott Lincoln. The Central Iowa Chapter and WOI-TV in Des Moines, IA will once again be sponsoring a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of the broadcast meteorologist Pam Daale. She was best known as a television meteorologist at KMGH in Denver, and had numerous ties to Iowa. Pam was an extremely popular meteorologist who courageously overcame adversity to not only succeed in her career but to help others. Pam Daale died of cancer in April 2004. The \$1,000 scholarship is available to all full-time meteorology students having sophomore or junior status at the time of the chapter's annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference (23-25 March 2006) and a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or greater (on a 4.0-point scale). The award will be presented at the conference, and the winner will be notified in advance to attend the conference. See the Central Iowa NWA chapter Web site for full application details: www.iowa-nwa.com/pressrelease/pam_daale_scholarship_app.html

THE RECORD SETTING 2005 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

Is it over yet?

At the time this newsletter issue was being completed, the end of the 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season was nearing, but only time will tell if Mother Nature ended the hurricane season by the time you read this. Hurricane Epsilon was only the fifth hurricane to form in December in more than 150 years of records. The latest that a hurricane formed in the Caribbean was on 30 Dec. 1954.

NOAA released the following information about the record-setting Atlantic Hurricane Season. There were 26 named storms breaking the old record of 21 set in 1933. Of those named storms, five were named using the Greek alphabet after the 21 pre-designated storm names were exhausted. Other new records that were set included: The 13 hurricanes of 2005 set a new record for the number of hurricanes in a season; seven tropical storms developed prior to 1 August with the previous record being five in 1997; four major hurricanes hit the U.S. breaking the old record of three set just last year; there were three Category 5 hurricanes; Katrina broke several records as it was the costliest hurricane to hit the U.S. with damage estimates of at least \$80 billion, and unfortunately it was also the deadliest U.S. hurricane since 1928 with at least 1300 fatalities. Three of the six strongest hurricanes on

record occurred his year (Katrina, Rita and Wilma) and while over a very warm water area, Wilma became the strongest Atlantic hurricane with a pressure of 882 mb.

Scientists at NOAA expect the active hurricane cycle that began in 1995 to continue in upcoming years.

More details about the 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season, and the full NOAA press release, can be viewed at Web site: www.magazine.noaa.gov/.

NWA INVOICES/BALLOTS for 2006

Assistant Executive Director Cynthia Nelson will be mailing out the invoices for 2006 dues renewal and ballots for election of officers from her home office. Address is NWA, PO Box 342B, 3794 Cluny Point, Lakeville, NY 14480-0911. A return envelope will be enclosed. **If you don't receive your invoice by 5 December 2005, e-mail her at natweasoc1@aol.com or call 434-296-9966.**

We enlisted the help of member Adam Frederick to design/program the capability for online dues renewal by **credit card** and that should be on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org) shortly. It will be highlighted on the homepage under HOT NWA TOPICS. Soon after, the capability for new members to join online with their credit cards will occur.

Thanks to volunteer webmaster, Steve Listemaa, the NWA Web site now has photos and the biographical sketches of the candidates for election to the NWA Council. Again, see the HOT NWA TOPICS on the NWA homepage. **Please mail in ballots by 31 December 2005.**

Spotlight on Cleveland

Site of the NWA 31st Annual meeting

Cleveland, the home of Rock and Roll? Well, it was a disc jockey from Cleveland that coined the phrase "rock n' roll". The \$92 million Hall of Fame is home to a huge museum with vast collections of everything from Elvis' stage outfits to Jim Morrison's cub scout uniform, to early Les Paul guitars and 8-track recorders. *...and did Betsy mention we're having an Exclusive event there?*



**NWA 31st Annual Meeting
14-19 October 2006
Cleveland, Ohio**

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

• **The Fifth AMS Student Conference and Career Fair will be held 28-29 January 2006 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia.** It is sponsored by the AMS 21st Century Campaign. It is intended for junior and senior undergraduates and first year graduate students. Attendees must preregister by **13 January 2006**. For more information, go to www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/studentconference.html.

• **86th AMS Annual Meeting will be held 29 January – 2 February 2006 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia.** Information about the meeting may be found at www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/.

• **The National Severe Weather Workshop 2006 will be held 2-4 March 2006 at the Reed Center in Midwest City, Oklahoma.** The Central Oklahoma Chapter of the NWA and AMS sponsors it along with many other organizations. Watch the chapter Web site at www.caps.ou.edu/cocams/ for details.

• **The Fifth Southeast Severe Storms Symposium will be held 3-5 March 2006 at Mississippi State, Mississippi.** The Symposium is designed to share forecasting and technical expertise primarily related to weather phenomena in the Southeast U.S. It is sponsored by the East Mississippi Chapter of the NWA and AMS. For more complete information, see Web site: www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/symposium.htm.

• **The Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop will be held 3-4 March 2006, at the NOAA Western Regional Center campus at Sand Point in Seattle, Washington.** This annual conference, sponsored by NOAA's National Weather Service, the University of Washington, and the Puget Sound Chapter of the AMS, covers recent developments in weather forecasting and observational technologies, major weather events of the past year and topics dealing with Western U.S. meteorology. The 2006 theme is *Climate, Climate Change, and Weather of the Pacific Northwest*. Pre-registration is requested for all attendees. For the latest information, and to register online, see Web site www.atmos.washington.edu/maciver/pnw.2006/. **Please submit abstracts by 1 January 2006** for oral presentations and posters in text, Word or WordPerfect format - no PDF please. Along with abstracts, please include the title, author's name and author contact information. Poster presentations are welcome and will be displayed throughout the meeting and during a special poster session. Please send abstracts to Cliff Mass, at the e-mail address shown below. For more information contact: Brad Colman/Chris Hill, NWS Forecast Office, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 (206.526.6095 x 224/222, brad.colman@noaa.gov or chris.hill@noaa.gov), or Clifford Mass, Dept of Atmospheric Sciences, Box 351640, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195 (206.685.0190, cliff@atmos.washington.edu).

• **The 31st Annual Northeastern Storm Conference will be held from 10–12 March 2006 at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, New York.** The Lyndon State College AMS & NWA Chapter sponsors it. **Abstracts are being accepted through 14 January 2006. Registration deadline is 11 February 2006.** For more information, please go to their Web site at: apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/NESC.html.

• **The Third Texas Severe Storms Association (TESSA) Texas Storm Conference will be held 11 March 2006 at the Colleyville Center in Colleyville, Texas.** It is sponsored by TESSA and the National Weather Service. Speakers will deliver presentations about severe weather including severe weather safety, storm spotter training and in-depth discussions on tornado meteorology. Events include a tribute to veteran storm chaser David Hoadley who will give a presentation on his 50 years of storm chasing. A special dinner honoring Mr. Hoadley will take place at the conference. This conference is free and open to the public. Registration is not required, but there is only seating for 500 so arrive early. For more information see Web site: www.tessa.org/meeting.html.

• **The 2006 NOAA Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop will be held 21-24 March 2006 in Tucson, Arizona.** The NWS Climate Services Division, the University of Arizona Climate Assessment for the Southwest and the Arizona Cooperative Extension are hosts for this workshop. Details about the Workshop can be found at: cals.arizona.edu/climate/CPASW2006/index.htm.

• **The Tenth Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference will be held 23-25 March 2006 at the West Des Moines Marriott in West Des Moines, IA.** It is sponsored by the Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA. Watch their Web site: www.iowa-nwa.com for complete information.

• **28th Annual National Hurricane Conference will be held 10-14 April 2006 in Orlando, Florida.** Details on this conference may be found at www.hurricanemeeting.com/.

• **The Fourth GOES-R Users Conference is planned for 1-3 May 2006 at the Omni Interlochen Hotel in Bloomfield, Colorado.** Watch the Web site www.osd.noaa.gov/announcement/index.htm for more information as conference plans are finalized. The Web site also contains details from the Third GOES-R Users Conference.

• **The Air Weather Association Reunion 2006 will be held 10-14 May 2006 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Omaha, Nebraska.** See the Air Weather Association Web site www.airweaassn.org for more information.

• **The Tenth Annual High Plains Conference will be held 4-6 October 2006 in Dodge City, Kansas.** The High Plains Chapter NWA-AMS sponsors this conference, a perennial favorite for the High Plains region and beyond. Watch the chapter Web page www.highplains-amsnwa.org for upcoming details and a call for papers.

• **The NWA's 31st Annual Meeting will be held at the InterContinental Hotel, 9801 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, 14–19 October 2006.** Watch the NWA Web site: www.nwas.org for details. Please notify the NWA office at 434-296-9966 or natweaasoc@aol.com if you would like to help in organizing this special 31st anniversary event. Hotel Web site is at: www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ic/1/en/hd/cleha. The Annual Meeting Program Committee will be chaired by Theresa Rossi, NWA past-president (1994) and Meteorologist-in-Charge of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Pittsburgh, PA. The Broadcaster Workshop will be organized by Bryan Karrick of KCCI-TV in Des Moines, IA. The Local Arrangements Committee is chaired by NWA Councilor Betsy Kling of WKYC-TV in Cleveland.

MEMBER NEWS

Dr. Bernard N. Meisner, deputy chief of the National Weather Service Southern Region Scientific Services Division, **has been selected as a recipient of the 2005 Carnegie Mellon Alumni Merit Award**. Selected by the Carnegie Mellon Alumni Association, Meisner is one of only six individuals nationwide to receive this prestigious honor. The award recognizes him for “exceptional accomplishment in his chosen profession, to which he has brought a degree of progress and has become a distinguished leader”.

During the last three decades, Meisner has earned a reputation as an outstanding scientist, educator and innovative manager. As deputy chief of the Southern Region’s Scientific Services Division, he is responsible for professional training, technological applications and collaboration with the academic community. His duties include providing training and technical support for nearly 1,000 meteorologists and hydrologists in 10 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

He has also served on the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Oklahoma and the University of St. Thomas in Houston. He has conducted research at the Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research in Honolulu, Hawaii; the National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center in Washington, DC; and the USDA Forest Service’s Forest Fire Laboratory in Riverside, California.

Meisner is the recipient of numerous National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Weather Service awards. With particular interest in tropical meteorology, fire weather, numerical weather prediction and applied climatology, he is the author of dozens of articles in scientific and professional publications. His work includes the reference paper on El Niño for the American Meteorological Society’s Project DataStreme, a teacher enhancement program for grades K-12.

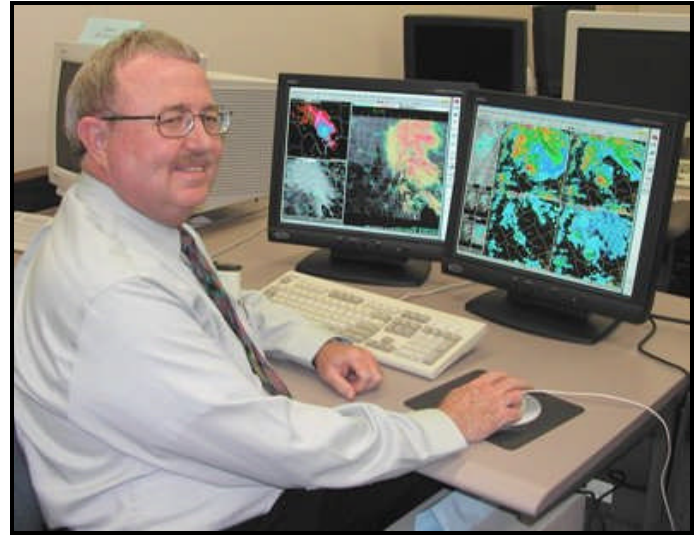
He was elected a Fellow and has been certified as a Consulting Meteorologist by the American Meteorological Society. He is also a member and past vice president of the National Weather Association and was honored as the NWA’s Member of the Year in 2000 for his significant contributions to the Association.

Noting Meisner’s expertise as an innovative leader in teletraining techniques, former NWS Southern Region Scientific Services Division Chief, Dan Smith said, “Dr. Meisner continues to perfect this medium for technical and scientific training in the National Weather Service, and the process has played a major role in directing management decisions at the highest levels of the organization. He is frequently recognized for his contributions in this area, and for the quality of his work

in enhancing the scientific basis for warnings and forecasts throughout the National Weather Service.”

Meisner earned a bachelor’s degree in physics and German from Carnegie Mellon University in 1971; and a master’s degree (1976) and a doctorate (1978) in meteorology from the University of Hawaii.

The 2005 Alumni Merit Award was presented by Carnegie Mellon President Jared L. Cohon during a homecoming weekend ceremony on the University’s campus in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 28 October.



Bernard Meisner, courtesy of NWS Southern Region Headquarters.
- NWS Southern Region Headquarters

Crystal Wicker recently moved from New Orleans to Indianapolis, Indiana, where she is now the weekend meteorologist at WRTV. She earned the NWA Seal of Approval in 2004. She continues to keep her Web site updated at: www.weatherwizkids.com.

NWA ANNUAL MEETING ABSTRACTS

The Abstracts submitted for the presentations at the 30th NWA Annual Meeting are now on the NWA Web site and can be accessed from the program page: <http://www.nwas.org/05program.html>.

*The NWA Council members
wish you and your family*

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*Happy and Safe
Holiday Season!*

NWA History

Thirty years ago on **15 December 1975**, the NWA was incorporated. The first directors in 1975 were founders: President Jerrold LaRue, President-elect Anthony Tancreto and Secretary/Treasurer Joseph Vazzo. They were joined by additional officers in 1976 including Vice President CDR Joseph Ford, Treasurer John Williams and Councilors Peter Leavitt and Gerald Owens. There were 644 registered members by August 1976 and their membership dues were \$5. The first NWA Newsletter was published in September 1976 and the first NWA Annual Meeting was held in December 1976 at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland.

In 1976, operational weather radar data was viewed in black and white and what you saw is what you got, but operational tests using Doppler radar for forecasts and warnings were under way. The first GOES satellite was launched on 16 October 1975. Gary Ellrod, Chair of the NWA Remote Sensing Committee, shared this information about satellite data access in the mid 1970's. "I remember having fax machines where we copied high quality AVHRR passes that had to be hand-gridded! We also received GOES via fax (pre-gridded) and I vaguely remember having a crude video display device (at the NWSFO Seattle) that provided GOES loops."

The NWA history in this article was obtained from information on the NWA Web site page: www.nwas.org/history.html which was compiled by charter member and past-president (1992) Steve Harned. An interesting Web site showing examples of the state of weather forecasting in the 1970's is at: www.crh.noaa.gov/unr/1972/30_years.php

Thanks to Gary Ellrod for his help with this article.

- Editor

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

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

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

Members who have not received NWA 2006 Dues invoices and ballots should contact the NWA staff at (434) 296-9966 or NatWeaAsoc1@aol.com.

15 December 2005 – NWA 30 years old today!

21 December 2005 – Winter begins at 01:35 p.m. EST

31 December 2005 – Ballots for election of officer/councilors are due back to the NWA staff.

28-29 January 2006 – Fifth AMS Student Conference and Career Fair, Atlanta, GA (pg 6)

29 January- 2 February 2006 – 86th American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (pg 6)

Please see **MEETINGS** on page 6 for additional dates

Also check Web site: www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html

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Meteorology and Related Activities for 30 Years*