

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Knapp

As I write this month's message, it has been a few weeks since our 2006 Annual Meeting ended in Cleveland. It was wonderful to see almost 400 in attendance during the week's very productive and thoroughly enjoyable activities. A huge "THANK YOU!" goes to Program Chair, Theresa Rossi; Local Arrangements Chair, Betsy Kling; members of the Program and Local Arrangements Committees; Executive Director Kevin Lavin and Assistant Executive Director Cynthia Nelson for their enthusiastic and tireless efforts to insure this annual meeting was smoothly run and a great success. Thanks also to all the corporate members who sponsored events and exhibited new products and services. Special thanks to all the presenters for accomplishing great work and for sharing their results with all attendees.

Things seemed to start off on the wrong foot, as a number of us early arriving attendees landed in Cleveland much later than scheduled and without our baggage. Then, when we woke up the next morning to play in the annual golf outing, we were greeted with dark skies and snow showers. Thankfully, the golf course was located far enough inland from Lake Erie to see temperatures a bit warmer and skies much clearer to allow golfers to play relatively comfortably. The best news from the golf outing, and the subsequent raffle during the Awards Luncheon, was that \$4000 was raised for the NWA scholarship fund. Thanks to Betsy Kling and all participants for your generous contributions.

Annual Meeting week included specialized workshops aimed at targeted audiences, along with sessions devoted to specific topics that were of interest to all in attendance. Keynote speakers, exhibits and session topics during the week reinforced to me the relevance of our efforts as an organization. It also showed our professional expertise in all aspects of operational meteorology. I had the opportunity to review some of the surveys, which attendees submitted before they left. I think one in particular tells the story about the week's activities: "I wasn't really sold on the NWA until I attended this conference. I (non-member) will be joining as soon as I make it back home, and you'll be seeing a level of high involvement from me. I'm sold!" What more can I say?

Well, we'll certainly try to top the 2006 Annual Meeting successes next year when we meet in Reno, Nevada from 13-18 October 2007!

Leadership Changes: During the Annual Meeting, I was privileged to have 15 minutes on the agenda to present the first annual President's "State of the Association" message to the membership. I will present some of the topics I covered in my final President's Message in next month's Newsletter. But, I did want to mention here that part of my presentation addressed an upcoming change in NWA leadership. I announced that after 14 years as NWA Executive Director, Kevin Lavin asked to retire and will take on the role of Executive Director Emeritus in January. I was very pleased to see that a round of applause for Kevin evolved into an extended standing ovation for Kevin and his wife Carol for their years of outstanding and amazing support to the NWA. We wouldn't be where we are today as a successful organization without their dedication and tireless efforts over the years. Once again, we extend our gratitude to Kevin and Carol.

I was pleased to announce the appointment of past NWA President (1992), current NWA *Digest* Technical Editor & Publisher, and retired MIC of the Raleigh NOAA/National Weather Service Forecast Office, Steve Harned, as the new Executive Director effective 1 January 2007. The NWA Council approved this appointment unanimously. Steve has spent the past few months shadowing Kevin, learning the responsibilities of Executive Director and setting up an office in Raleigh, North Carolina. He and Kevin along with Assistant Executive Director, Cynthia Nelson, will work closely together during 2007 to insure a smooth transition.

Annual Dues and Election Ballots: By the time you read this newsletter, you should have received your annual dues statement and election ballot in the mail. I encourage you to send in your annual dues for 2007 soon after you receive your dues statement, and please take a little time to review the qualifications of all the volunteer candidates running for NWA leadership positions and vote. You can mail in your invoice and ballot with a check or money order or use the online renewal form and ballot and pay by credit card (www.nwas.org).

Best wishes to all for a very Happy Holiday Season!

- Dave Knapp, president@nwas.org

2006 NWA ANNUAL AWARDS

The National Weather Association 2006 Annual Awards were presented by President David I. Knapp at the 18 October 2006, Annual Awards Banquet. The banquet was held during the NWA's 31st Annual Meeting at the InterContinental Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio. Award Committee members for 2006 were Chairperson Daniel McCarthy, LeAnn Allison, Brad Herold, Deirdre Kann, Larry Peabody, R. Bruce Telfeyan and David Valler. Daniel McCarthy announced the winners and their accomplishments and President Dave Knapp presented the plaques.

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 NWA Chapter of the Year for 2006 is:

Central Iowa NWA Chapter, Des Moines, Iowa

Distinction: For excellence in raising weather awareness in the citizens of central Iowa for over ten years, organizing the annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conferences and developing the Pam Daale Memorial Scholarship in Meteorology



Ashley Altieri (l) and Elise Johnson of the Central Iowa Chapter received the Award from President Dave Knapp

T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award is presented to a NWA member whose research has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology. The 2006 Fujita Award goes to:

Gary P. Ellrod, retired research meteorologist with NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS)

Distinction: For pioneering work to leverage environmental satellites to significantly enhance operational aviation forecast support, including research, development and implementation of techniques to detect turbulence, aircraft icing, fog and volcanic ash avoidance



President Dave Knapp (r) presenting Gary Ellrod with the T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award

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 2006 goes to:

Hector Guerrero, NOAA/NWS San Angelo, Texas; Kandis Boyd, NOAA/NWS Headquarters, Silver Spring, Maryland; Dennis Cain, Ron Trumbla and Ben Weiger of NOAA/NWS Southern Region Headquarters, Fort Worth, Texas.

Distinction: For the "Turn Around Don't Drown" campaign heightening public awareness and renewed interest in preventing flood related fatalities in partnership with the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes.



President Dave Knapp (r) presenting the Public Education Award to Bernard Meisner of NOAA/NWS Southern Region who accepted the award on behalf of all the winners

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 Operational Achievement Individual Award for 2006 goes to:

Robert Ricks, NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, Slidell, Louisiana

Distinction: For issuing an unprecedented, but extremely informative weather warning statement in advance of the landfall of Hurricane Katrina indicating the catastrophic damage expected for southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi no doubt saving countless lives

Operational Achievement Group Award is presented to a group of two or more individuals for a significant contribution to operational meteorology. For 2006, the award goes to the personnel of six units:

NOAA/NWS Offices in Birmingham, Mobile & Huntsville, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; Slidell, Louisiana; and the NOAA/NWS Southern Region Headquarters Operations Center, Fort Worth, Texas

Distinction: For providing outstanding weather support services to the Central Gulf Coast Region before, during, and after the devastating Hurricane Katrina of August 2005

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 2006 Broadcaster of the Year is:

Kevin Janison, Las Vegas, Nevada

Distinction: For over 20 years of outstanding weather broadcasting, building up the KLAS Weather Department including a Neighborhood Weather Network of 112 stations, leading many community charitable events and for his great commitment to education delivering numerous school presentations

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 for 2006 is:

Steve Listemaa, NWA Webmaster, NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, Sterling, Virginia

Distinction: For untiring dedication in voluntarily maintaining the NWA Web site since 1999 and for continually upgrading the site capabilities including moving all pages to a new host server in 2006 with no downtime



President David Knapp (r) presenting Robert Ricks with the 2006 Operational Achievement Individual Award



President Dave Knapp (third from right) presented the Operational Achievement Group Award to unit reps (l-r) Daniel Byrd, John Gagan, Mark Fox, Brian Carcione, Robert Ricks, Jeff Medlin, David Reed and Darone Jones



President Dave Knapp (r) presenting Kevin Janison with the Broadcaster of the Year Award for 2006



Steve Listemaa receiving the 2006 NWA Member of the Year Award from President Dave Knapp

The Larry R. Johnson Special Award recognizes unique events or extraordinary accomplishments by an individual or group contributing to operational meteorology. The winning group members for 2006 are:

Francis J. Merceret, Mark M. Wheeler, Winifred C. Lambert, Jonathan L. Case, David A. Short and William H. Bauman III, of the Applied Meteorology Unit, Kennedy Space Center, Florida

Distinction: For exceptional skill completing 80 research, development and technology transition projects markedly improving the safety and success of the Space Shuttle and unmanned rocket missions launched by NASA, DOD and private industry

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 winning team for 2006 is:

Newton Skiles, retired Senior Forecaster; Christopher Buonanno, Science and Operations Officer; and Paul Iñiguez, NOAA/NWS Office, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Distinction: For improving aviation forecasts and services for the Arkansas Aviation Community by strengthening partnerships, providing weather safety education and developing local applied research

Special Achievement Award is presented to honor individuals or groups for significant contributions to operational meteorology or related activities. A special achievement award is presented to:

Robert O. Baron, President and Founder of Baron Services, Inc.

Distinction: For leading Baron Services for over 15 years in the development of innovative radar and media solutions, successfully alerting operational meteorologists and the public to threats from severe weather events and saving lives

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 winner for 2006 is:

Wade D. (Danny) Hampton, NOAA Weather Radio Maintenance Contractor, Raleigh, North Carolina

Distinction: For providing his tireless dedication improving NOAA Weather Radio coverage in Central North Carolina and overcoming significant personal and natural obstacles ensuring broadcasts to the public continued following a major winter storm [Danny is an extraordinary electronic technician and he is blind. A special award ceremony was conducted in Raleigh.]



President Dave Knapp (r) presenting the Larry R. Johnson Special Award to (l-r) Winnie Lambert, Jonathan Case and Bill Bauman



Christopher Buonanno accepting the Aviation Meteorology Award from President Dave Knapp (r) for the whole team



President Dave Knapp (r) presenting a Special Achievement Award to Robert Baron



Incoming Executive Director Steve Harned (l) presenting the Public Service Award to Danny Hampton

Special Lifetime Achievement Awards are presented to individuals and groups to recognize outstanding contributions to operational meteorology or related activities over an extended period of time.

During the 31st NWA Annual Meeting, special posthumous tributes were made to past-presidents Dr. James T. Moore and Dr. Roderick A. Scofield who died in 2006 – much too early.

A Special Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to:

Dr. Roderick A. Scofield (Posthumously)

Distinction: For outstanding achievements in research, operational meteorology, and teaching of weather satellite applications for precipitation and flood forecasting leaving a positive impact and enduring legacy on the profession he loved. For his dedication and distinguished service to the National Weather Association as a charter member, councilor and President for the year 2000.



President Dave Knapp (r) presenting the Rod Scofield Special Lifetime Achievement Award to Mrs. Joyce Scofield and son Brett.

A Special Lifetime Achievement Award was announced at the Annual Awards Luncheon, but presented earlier to Mrs. Kathryn Moore at a Memorial Service for her husband at Saint Louis University on 22 September 2006.

A Special Lifetime Achievement Award to:

Dr. James T. Moore (Posthumously)

Distinction: For outstanding research in isentropic analysis, synoptic and mesoscale weather systems, heavy precipitation and cyclogenesis. For enthusiastically sharing his research results, great knowledge and tremendous wit for over 25 years with operational forecasters and students with a theme of *Working Together to Advance Weather Forecasting as an Applied Science*. For his dedication and distinguished service to the National Weather Association as a charter member, member of many committees, councilor, vice-president and President for 1999.

The Annual Awards Luncheon also featured the announcement of the teachers who won the Sol Hirsch NWA Education Fund Grants (see page 6). 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 annual 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 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

The NWA Weather Analysis and Forecasting (WAF) Committee sponsored a best student presentation competition at the 2006 Annual Meeting. WAF Committee members are happy to announce the winners who each received a congratulatory letter from NWA President Dave Knapp, a \$50 cash award and free membership in the NWA for 2007.

Congratulations to these winners:

Best Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation: **Christina Crowe, University of Missouri-Columbia**, for *On the Co-existence of Thundersnow and Heavy Snowfall*. Her co-authors were Patrick Market, Brian Pettegrew, and Chris Melick, of the University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO

Best Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation: **Audra C. Hennecke, The Pennsylvania State University**, for *Enhancements to Area Specific Flash Flood Warnings*. Her co-authors were Stephen Rogowski, Richard Hitchens and Sarah E. Allen of NOAA/NWS Office, Sterling, VA.

Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation: **Benjamin V. Root, The Pennsylvania State University**, for *A Fingerprinting Technique for Major Weather Events*. His co-authors were Paul G. Knight, Penn State University, Richard H. Grumm, NOAA/NWS Office State College, PA, Jeremy Ross, ZedX Inc., and Steven Greybush, Penn State University.

Best Graduate Poster Presentation: **Emily Eisenacher, Saint Louis University**, for *An Investigation of the Radar Characteristics and the Environment of a Mesoscale Snowband that formed on 15 March 2004*. Her co-authors were Charles E. Graves and the late James T. Moore, Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO.

Students are encouraged to enter presentations for the 2007 NWA Annual Meeting in Reno. Be sure to enter the contest using the online abstract submission form this upcoming spring and look for rules to be posted on the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org).

- Jeff Craven, NWA Councilor and co-chair WAF Committee

NWA - SOL HIRSCH EDUCATION FUND GRANTS AWARDED

At the 31st NWA Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon, the Education Committee Chairperson, Sol Hirsch, announced the recipients of the 2006 Education Fund Grants named in his honor. NWA Education Committee members: Sol Hirsch, Ruth Aiken, Faith Borden, Paul Croft, Tony Lupo, Mary Snow, Richard Snow, Jeff Tongue and Eleanor Vallier-Talbot reviewed 130 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 the top ten applicants. **Letters of Congratulations and \$500 checks were sent to:**

Karen Ashton, Dr. John Long Middle School, Wesley Chapel, Florida. Ms. Ashton teaches social science to 7th and 8th graders and will use the funds for resource material to integrate the study of weather, weather safety and weather support history in her classes. She will also team with another science teacher who will use the resources to improve the study of atmospheric sciences.

Vickie Blankenship, East McDowell Junior High School, Marion, North Carolina. Her “Weather World” program will use grant funds to markedly increase the school’s media center. Books and videos on meteorology will be purchased to support the school curriculum. Students will also be assigned projects that will require the new resources to be used. Completed projects such as position papers on weather and climate topics will also be available in the media center and the local public library.

Regina Brinker, Christensen Middle School, Livermore, California. Ms. Brinker will use the funds to purchase more weather measuring instruments for sixth grade earth science students to learn more about weather, climate, biomes, the environment and heat transfer through hands-on activities. Students will also share and compare data with the sixth grade class in San Luis Obispo, California.

Robert L. Dospoy, Harmony Elementary School, Westover, Pennsylvania. The Harmony Area School District is proposing, “Weather Is Scientific Energy (WISE)”, to help improve education in science (specifically meteorology) and mathematics. Mr. Dospoy, will use the grant funds to purchase a wireless weather station to provide real-time relevant data to be incorporated into science and math lesson plans in grades 4-12. Cross-curricula lesson planning and hands-on activities will also be accomplished to enhance learning.

Sherry Goldman, Floranada Elementary School, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Devastating hurricanes and tropical storms in the past few years led Ms. Goldman to increase the knowledge of her 2nd-grade students so they would not feel continuously like “hurricane victims”. She wants them to have ownership in their own survival and safety through greater knowledge of weather systems and by

taking a more responsible role in hurricane preparedness. Ms. Goldman will use the grant funds to purchase more weather equipment, media resources and items for preparedness kits. She is also improving learning with more integration of science and social studies curricula.

Joyce Hembree, Mark Twain Elementary School, Tulsa, Oklahoma. The goal of her “Wild and Wonderful Oklahoma Weather” project is to engage her kindergarten students in the study of weather and increase their understanding of weather effects on people and plants. Funds will be used to purchase weather equipment, an Oklahoma Redbud tree, books and kites. Weather equipment will also be available for use in other classes.

Kathleen Jerome, STAR Academy, Lillington, North Carolina. Ms. Jerome will use grant funds for weather equipment and media resources to lead more hands-on learning activities for at-risk students in grades 6-12. Her “WeatherWatch Program” will capitalize on an already strong interest the students are showing in weather phenomena and weather forecasting. Students will learn more about weather and its effects on the environment, practice forecasting, design investigations and also have the opportunity for independent study projects related to micro-climate comparison.

Kathy K. Lineberger, Marvin Ward Elementary School, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The Science Club is planning a school-wide celebration of Earth Day 2007 called “The Winds of Ward.” This has led to a year-long study of wind with many outdoor activities, guest speakers and reading fiction and nonfiction to increase science literacy. Ms. Lineberger will use the grant funds to purchase anemometers, wind meters, a weathervane and books and videos in support of the project.

Ros Won, Marymount School of New York, New York City. Ms. Won’s proposal for, “The Weather/Le Temps: A Collaborative Weather Observation Project” will require a weather station and computer software purchased with grant funds. Students at Marymount schools in New York and Paris will collect data, learn how to present the data in various formats on Web logs and compare the data between schools. In addition, students will learn more about the global nature of weather and climate and learn basic weather terms in two languages.

Way Yuhl, Flagstaff Children’s Museum, Flagstaff, Arizona. The Museum was established in 1998 and serves approximately 40,000 children in Coconino County including Navajo and Hopi Reservations. Grant funds will buy weather equipment for a mobile weather station. It will be transported to each school in the County for a designated length of time for students to learn how to measure weather elements and to take and record observations as part of their overall science instruction.

Guidelines for these annual grants are posted on the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html.

TPW PRODUCTS AID PRECIPITATION FORECASTING

Preface: This is the first in a regular series of training and education articles on remote sensing topics. The NWA Remote Sensing Committee presents these articles to enhance NWA members' awareness and use of current and emerging remote sensing information to improve weather, ocean, climate, and other operational environmental analysis and prediction systems and services. We greatly appreciate your feedback.

Total Precipitable Water (TPW) is the vertically integrated water vapor above a particular spot on the Earth. TPW products from polar-orbiting satellite microwave sensors reveal low- and mid-level “rivers of moisture”, used by forecasters to predict the potential for heavy precipitation over coastal areas. These rivers of air, often called TPW plumes, flow above the surface of the earth and carry moisture huge distances across the oceans. In conjunction with numerical model guidance, forecasters have accurately issued heavy rain advisories based on TPW products. National Weather Service (NWS) forecasters have access to TPW in their operational systems from the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program SSM/I as well as from the GOES sounder. In the NWS Advanced Weather

Interactive Processing System Operational Build 7.2 (2007), microwave composites will become available that will also include Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit TPW.

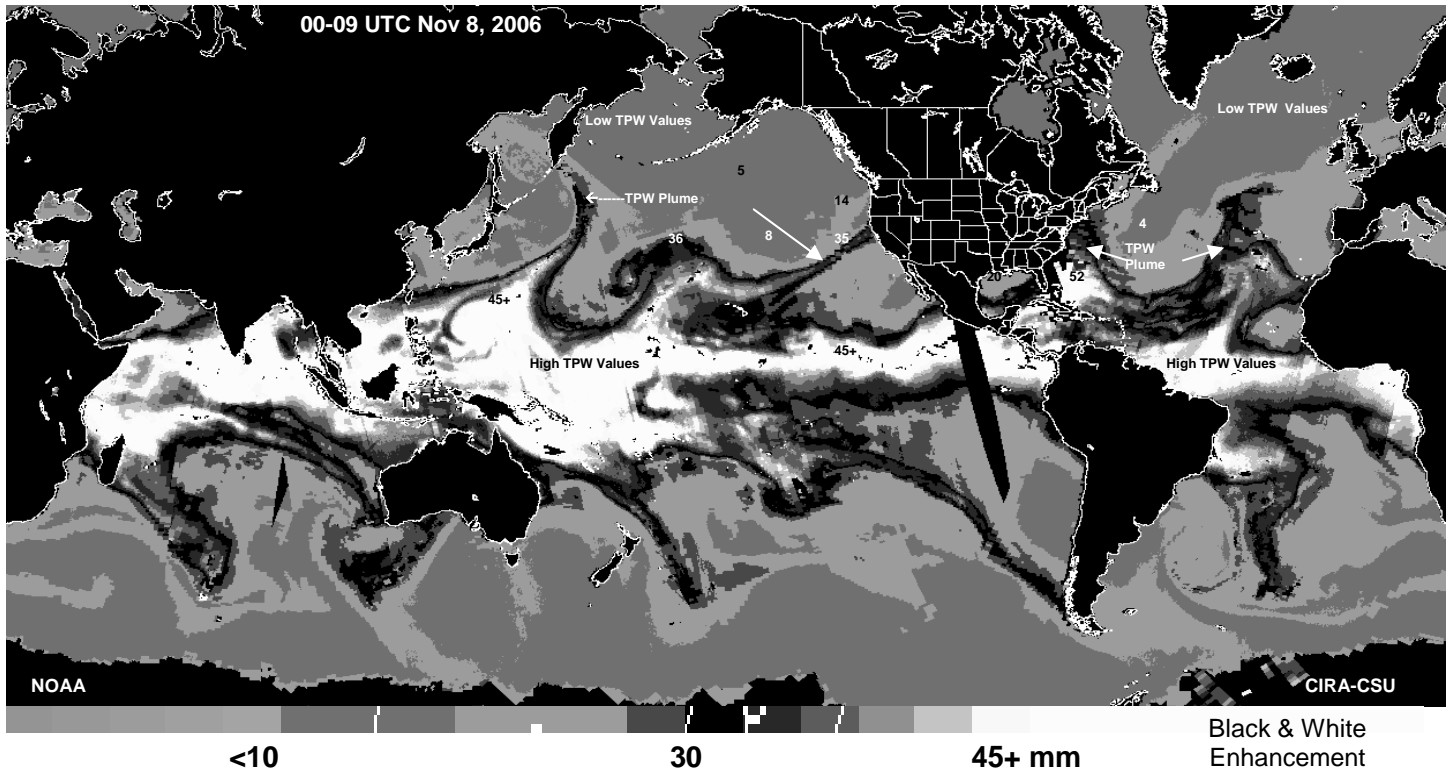
Microwave TPW is only available over the ocean areas but has a number of advantages. First, unlike the GOES water vapor channel or GOES sounder TPW, it is not contaminated by most clouds, giving a virtually unobscured view of low- and mid-level moisture conditions. GOES sounder TPW is refreshed more frequently over both land and ocean but is sometimes contaminated by clouds. TPW from land-based Global Positioning System (GPS) instruments is a very accurate supplement to satellite products, but its availability over the CONUS has recently been reduced.

For a more detailed tutorial with examples, color graphics and additional useful links to TPW products, view Web site: www.nwas.org/committees/rs/train.html.

The committee extends their gratitude to Sheldon Kusselson of NOAA/NESDIS for his assistance with this article.

- Thomas Lee, NWA Remote Sensing Committee

Experimental NESDIS-CIRA Blended SSM/I - AMSU TPW Composite Product of F-13, 14 and N-15, 16, 17, 18



Volunteers Needed For NWA Publications

Do you have a passion for designing publications, scientific editing, or writing? If so, opportunities exist to be part of the exciting changes going on now with NWA Publications.

**Volunteers are currently being solicited
For positions on the
NWA Publications Committee
and for Associate Editors of the
National Weather Digest.**

If you would like more information or wish to volunteer, please contact Publications Committee Chair Rodger Brown at Rodger.Brown@noaa.gov or NWA President-elect Alan Gerard at Alan.E.Gerard@noaa.gov.

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Submit newsletter items directly to: Editor NWA Newsletter, at nwanewsletter@nwas.org 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 *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

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

31 December 2006 – Ballots for election of officer/councilors are due back to the NWA staff.

14-18 January 2007 – 87th American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX

1-3 March 2007 – Seventh National Severe Weather Workshop
Norman, OK

9-11 March 2007 – 32nd Northeastern Storm Conference
Springfield, MA

Please check the Web site: www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html
for meeting details and more events

The NWA

Council members and staff

*Wish you and your family a
Happy and Safe
Holiday Season!*

NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION

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