



NEWSLETTER

National Weather Association

NO. 07 – 11 NOVEMBER 2007

Bringing It Home from the Annual Meeting

The National Weather Association 2007 Annual Awards were presented by President Alan E. Gerard at the October 17, 2007, Annual Awards Banquet. The banquet was held during the NWA's 32nd Annual Meeting at the Circus-Circus Hotel and Convention Center in Reno, Nevada. This edition of the NWA Newsletter is dedicated to our outstanding award winners! Congratulations!!



Above: Kristie Kubovic of WLEX-TV, Lexington, KY, assists John Jensenius, NOAA/NWS Gray/Portland, Maine, as he demonstrates a point during his talk regarding lightning safety.

Below: Lenticular clouds seen over Reno during the Annual Meeting. Photo courtesy by Janice Bunting.

President's Message

I want to spend a few moments this month giving everyone a wrap-up of the recent Annual Meeting in Reno. As expected, the meeting was a well attended success, with nearly 400 participants for the week. This makes this Annual Meeting the most attended meeting ever for the NWA in the western United States. Program chair Randy Graham and his team did an outstanding job putting together a program that was stimulating and informative, and hopefully all that attended found it to be a worthwhile, educational week.

One thing that I would like to emphasize about the Annual Meeting is that it is not only educational: it's also fun! From the Saturday golf

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Complete Annual Meeting information is online at www.nwas.org/meetings/nwa2007/index.php

Happy Holidays from the NWA Council and Staff



In Memoriam

Dr. Thomas D. Potter (1929 ~ 2007), a man of science, letters, modesty, and generosity, passed away on Oct. 16, 2007.

His distinguished career in meteorology spanned more than 50 years, most of it in service to his country. Dr. Potter began his meteorology career serving in the US Air Force's Air Weather Service from 1951-1974, retiring as a Colonel and Vice Commander of the Air Weather Service. He then became an Associate Professor, Department of Meteorology, Saint Louis University (74-75). He rejoined federal service in 1975 as Director, NOAA National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, NC and then became the Deputy and Director of the NOAA, Environmental Data and Information Services (77-81). He was Director, WMO World Climate Programme (82-87) and Director WMO World Weather Watch (88-89) in Geneva before moving to Salt Lake City. He was the Regional Director of the National Weather Service Western Region for 10 years before retiring in 1998. Prior to his death, Dr. Potter was a professor Emeritus of Meteorology at the University of Utah. He also served as the Weather Coordinator for the Salt Lake Organizing Committee and the 2002 Olympics.

"Tom was the nicest and most approachable 'big man' I ever knew," said Jim Steenburgh, chairman of the University of Utah meteorology department.

He is survived by wife Billie, his children Mike, Ann, Tom Jr., Mark (Gwen), Andy (Robyn) and Matt, 12 grandchildren and four siblings.



"Tom was the nicest and most approachable 'big man' I ever knew."

- Jim Steenburgh
University of Utah

President from front

outing, to the Monday evening ice breaker, to the Awards Luncheon and its raffle drawing, the NWA Annual Meeting provides many opportunities to share great times with fellow members of the meteorological community. I want to thank Membership and Marketing Committee Chair Betsy Kling for all her work on the golf outing and raffle, which not only provide entertainment opportunities, but also raised important money for our scholarship programs.

For me, the highlight of the week was the annual Awards Luncheon where we recognized the great contributions of those individuals who contributed so much to science and their communities this year. You can read all about these outstanding individuals and their accomplishments elsewhere in this Newsletter. Much to the surprise of our outgoing Executive Director, Kevin Lavin, we also announced the establishment of the new NWA J. Kevin Lavin Leadership Award, and our first recipients, Kevin and his wife Carol. This award will be given on a non-routine basis to individuals who show exceptional leadership within the NWA and/or elsewhere in the operational meteorological community. Kevin and Carol's daughter Karen was a surprise attendee and was there to enjoy this moment with her parents.

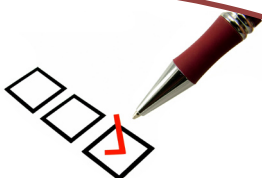
I am sure that all who were in attendance that afternoon will long remember the appreciation that the audience showed Kevin and Carol for their many years of dedicated and selfless service to our organization. On behalf of the organization, I would like to thank them one more time for that service, and say how much we look forward to them being a continuing cherished part of the NWA even while "retired." Congratulations, again, Kevin and Carol!

Alan Gerard, President

Clarification

The authors of the October Newsletter article on Dual-Polarimetric Radar, submitted by the Remote Sensing Committee, were regrettably not acknowledged in the article. The authors are Elise Johnson, Walt Petersen, PhD and Christopher Schultz of the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

December 31:
Ballots for the NWA Officer and
Councilor elections due



The J. Kevin Lavin Leadership Award



NWA President Gerard presents the award to J. Kevin Lavin, NWA Executive Director Emeritus, and Carol Lavin.

This new award recognizes those who exemplify the highest qualities of effective and honorable leadership which significantly strengthened an organization. Its first recipient was Kevin Lavin who demonstrated the highest level of leadership while serving as Executive Director 1993-2006. He firmly established the NWA as a premier professional organization.

THE NWA 32ND ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 13 - 18, 2007
RENO, NEVADA

AWARDS PRESENTED BY
NWA PRESIDENT ALAN GERARD

Best Graduate Student Poster

Chad Gravelle (right) of St. Louis University discussing his poster "A Climatology and Statistical Classification of Midwestern Snow Bands: A Process-Oriented Approach."



Aviation Meteorology Award

The 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.

Robert Baron, President and Founder of Baron Services, Inc., received this award for developing a reliable, real-time radar and other critical weather information delivery system enabling pilots to receive information in their cockpits thus increasing flight safety.



The Operational Achievement Group Award



David Nadler and Mike Coyne - NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, Huntsville, AL

This achievement award (above) is presented to a group of two or more individuals for a significant contribution to operational meteorology.

The Huntsville forecast office was selected for its outstanding collaborative work with NASA and UA-Huntsville, which brought unique operational data sets and training into the National Weather Service greatly enhancing the delivery of warning and forecast services.

The Operational Achievement Individual Award



Michael E. Umscheid - NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, Dodge City, KS

This achievement award (left) 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.

Michael Umscheid received the award for the exceptional warning service provided during the May 4, 2007, Kansas tornado outbreak. A Tornado Warning was issued with 26 minute lead time and an Emergency Statement convinced Greensburg citizens to take cover before a 1.7 mile wide tornado demolished their town.

BUILDING THE BRIDGE FROM THE

Broadcaster of the Year Award

Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award



Greg Morgan for KOSA-TV CBS-7 of Midland, Texas, receives the award from President Gerard.

This 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.

Greg Morgan and the KOSA-TV team were selected for providing heroic life saving actions which resulted in eight lives saved during the flash flood of August 14, 2005, in Midland, Texas.



Chuck Lofton (WTHR-TV) of Indianapolis, IN

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.

Chuck Lofton was selected as a recipient in honor of his 22 years of outstanding weather support services to the greater Indianapolis area, serving on the NWA Broadcast Committee, and leading to WTHR-TV being named Indiana's Outstanding Weather Operation for 2007 by the Associated Press International.

Larry R. Johnson Special Award



Felix Navajar, Science and Operations Officer, accepting for the NOAA/ NWS Forecast Office, Lake Charles, LA

Brandon Hoving of Central Michigan University displaying his award winning poster, "Accuracy of a WRF Simulation of the 12 June 2001 Mesoscale Convective System." His poster was the Meeting's best undergraduate student poster presentation.



BEST FORECAST TO BEST RESPONSE

Special Achievement Award



Lynn Maximuk, National Weather Service Central Region Director, accepts on behalf of the NOAA/NWS Incident Meteorologists (IMETS).

The Special Achievement award honors individuals or groups for significant contributions to operational meteorology or related activities. This year it was presented to NOAA/ National Weather Service IMETS for exemplary performance in battling over 65,000 wildfires across the Southeastern and Western United States in the spring and summer of 2007 and for providing outstanding weather support for wildfire suppression and firefighter safety across the country.

T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award



Dr. Rodger A. Brown, NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory

The T. Theodore Fujita award is presented to a NWA member whose research has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology.

It was awarded to Rodger Brown for applied research and improved scan technologies with the WSR-88D radar resulting in improved detection of tornado and downburst producing storms assisting operational meteorologists in increasing warning lead times.

The Larry R. Johnson Special award recognizes unique events or extraordinary accomplishments by an individual or group contributing to operational meteorology.

The NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, Lake Charles, LA, received this award for developing critical, life saving partnerships with elected officials and emergency responders of southwest Louisiana and southeast Texas before, during and after Hurricane Rita while enduring tremendous personal risk and sacrifice.

2007 Award Committee

- Daniel McCarthy (chair)
Leann Allison
Paul Dixon
Fred Glass
Bradford Herold
Alan Johnson
Deirdre Kann
Mike Roberts
Keith M. Stellman
Bruce Telfeyan
David Valler



Ryan Kelly of Kean University presenting his talk, "Integrating NJWXNET, WRF and GIS to Study NJ Mesoscale Weather Phenomena." Ryan's presentation was recognized as the best undergraduate student oral presentation.

NWA Member of the Year Award

Dr. Peter B. Roohr (Dr. Roohr was unable to attend the annual meeting and received his award in Washington, D.C.)

The Member of the Year Award is presented to a NWA member who has made significant contributions to the organization over a period of time. Dr. Peter Roohr of Herndon, VA, and a recent U. S. Air Force retiree is this year's recipient. Pete served admirably as National Weather Digest editor for almost two decades, and was instrumental in maintaining the high quality of the publication. His long and noteworthy service to the NWA extended beyond his duties as Digest editor in that he was quite involved in committee work, local chapter activities, and annual meetings.

Jordan Joel Gerth of the University of Wisconsin at Madison is the winner of the 2007 Meteorological Satellite Applications Award Grant. The award, established in 1999 and sponsored by charter member Frances Holt, strives to stimulate interest and foster the study and use of satellite remote sensing data in weather analysis and forecasting.



Public Education Award



Roberta Chance - Gage, OK, Public Schools

This award is presented to an individual or organization providing significant contributions to increase the public's weather awareness. Roberta Chance received this award for her outstanding commitment in teaching a diverse student body in weather and climate issues throughout the curriculum.

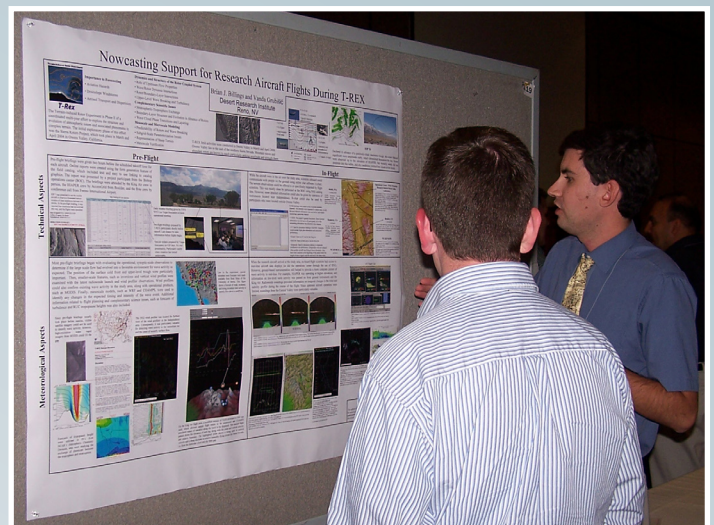
Special Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr. C. Donald Ahrens, Modesto College, CA

This achievement award recognizes outstanding contributions to operational meteorology or related activities over an extended period of time by a group or individual.

Donald Ahrens was selected for the excellent production of several editions of textbooks for introductory college courses in meteorology promoting a better understanding of basic and applied meteorology for thousands of students for over 25 years.



Bryan Billings (right) of the Desert Research Institute in Reno, NV, is this year's winner of the best graduate student oral presentation. The title of the talk was "Determining the Onset of Strong Westerlies during Persistent Mountain Wave Activity."

Professional Development Opportunities

- **American Meteorological Society (AMS) Annual Meeting: January 20-24, 2008**

The 88th AMS Annual Meeting will be at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA. The NWA will co-sponsor conferences within the Annual Meeting including *the First Industrial Meteorology* and *Certified Consulting Meteorologist Colloquium*. Visit www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/ for more.

- **Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) Users' Conference: January 23 - 24, 2008**

The Fifth GOES Users' Conference is scheduled as part of the 88th Annual AMS Meeting in New Orleans, LA. It is co-organized by the NOAA and the AMS, with support from the National Weather Association. Objectives are to: seek ways/define methodologies to ensure user readiness; continue to improve communication between NOAA and the GOES user communities; inform users on the status of the GOES-R constellation, instruments and operations; and promote understanding for the various applications of data and products from the GOES-R series. It will include speaker presentations, poster sessions and an opportunity for user feedback.

- **National Severe Weather Workshop: March 6-8, 2008**

The 2008 Workshop will be held in Norman, OK, and the theme is "From Readiness to Recovery." It will include presentations and "The Scenario," which is a workshop where participants step out of their normal role and take part in a simulated emergency. Watch the Web site www.norman.noaa.gov/nsw2008 for more information, or send an email to Greg Carbin at gregory.carbin@noaa.gov or Linda Crank at Linda.crank@noaa.gov.

- **National Storm Conference: March 8, 2008**

This conference, a collaboration between Texas Severe Storms Association (TESSA) and the NOAA/National Weather Service in Fort Worth, Texas, will be at the Colleyville Center in Colleyville, Texas. Also sponsoring is the North Texas Chapter of the AMS/ NWA. Presentation topics include severe weather safety, storm spotter training and in-depth discussions on supercell and tornado meteorology. The third annual Super Storm Spotter Session – presented by Fort Worth NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Gary Woodall – will provide the highest level of training available to storm spotters anywhere in the country. Details available at www.tessa.org.

- **Northeastern Storm Conference: March 14 - 16, 2008**

The 33rd Annual Northeastern Storm Conference will be in Springfield, MA. It is sponsored by the Lyndon State College Student Chapter of the AMS and NWA. Go online for details: <http://apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/index.html>.

- **12th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference: March 27 - 29, 2008**

The 12th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference will be at the West Des Moines Sheraton in West Des Moines, IA. Sponsored by the Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA. Details on-line at www.iowa-nwa.com.

- **Southeast Severe Storms Symposium: April 4-5, 2008**

The Seventh Annual Southeast Severe Storms Symposium will be held at Mississippi State University. It is sponsored by the East Mississippi Chapter of the NWA/AMS. The call for papers has been announced and abstracts will be accepted through March 1, 2008. Go to www.msstate.edu/org/nwa or call (662)-325-3915 for more information.

- **Sixth Annual Great Lakes Meteorology Conference: April 5, 2008**

This conference will be the Old Town Banquet Hall in Valparaiso, IN. It is sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Chapter of the AMS/NWA. Dr. Louis Uccellini, director of the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction is the keynote speaker. Registration starts in January; visit www.valpo.edu/organization/nwa/index.html to learn more.

- **NWA Annual Meeting: October 11 - 16, 2008**

The 33rd NWA Annual Meeting will be at the Galt House Hotel and Suites (www.galthouse.com) on the waterfront in Louisville, KY. Details will be posted at www.nwas.org as plans develop



NWA Local Chapter Award: Three Rivers Chapter

Awarded for excellence in a wide variety of chapter initiatives, hosting many local meetings with distinguished speakers, attending and presenting papers at regional and national weather conferences and reaching out to younger students raising weather awareness in the community.

Dates **2** Remember

- Dec. 31:** Ballots for the NWA Officer and Councilor elections due
 - Jan. 20-24:** 88th American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
 - Jan. 23-24:** Fifth GOES Users' Conference, New Orleans, LA
 - March 6-8:** National Severe Weather Workshop, Norman, OK
 - March 8:** National Storm Conference (TESSA), Colleyville, TX
 - March 14-16:** Northeastern Storm Conference, Springfield, MA
 - March 27-29:** 12th Annual Severe Storms & Doppler Radar Conference, West Des Moines, IA
- More on page 7 and at: www.nwas.org/events.php.

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Members receive the Newsletter and *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. Newsletter subscriptions are available for \$18 per year plus extra shipping costs outside U.S. Single copies are \$1.50. Please contact the NWA office with address changes.

Supporting and promoting excellence in operational meteorology and related activities since 1975.

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