



NEWSLETTER

**National Weather
Association**

NO. 09 – 11 NOVEMBER 2009

Announcing New Dues Structure for 2010

Get publications electronically: get a discount

For over two years, the National Weather Association *Newsletters* and *Digests* have been produced in an all color, high quality format. Did you know that 90 percent of the production costs are associated with printing and mailing the publications? There is also a two to three week delay in receiving them due to printing and mailing 3,000 documents.

The NWA Council authorized a new dues structure giving members the choice to receive the publications electronically or in hardcopy. Members choosing the electronic option will receive a slight reduction to their dues from 2009 levels. Those continuing to receive hard copies will see a dues increase to cover costs of printing and postage.

Please consider helping us "Go Green" by minimizing paper usage — your choice can help the environment while saving you some money!

2010 dues renewal statements are in the mail with a renewal form you can submit with payment to the NWA office in Raleigh or renew and vote online at the new

member-only portal: <http://member.nwas.org>! To set up your account for the portal, you will **need to use the email address on file for you at the NWA Headquarters** (Email assist@nwas.org or call 919-845-1546 if you need help).

This is just the first step in enhanced member services that will be implemented in phases in the coming years.

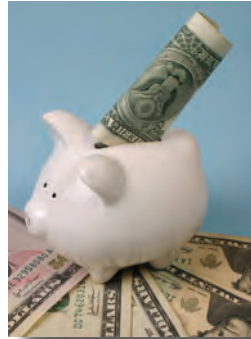
Steve Harned
Executive Director

Basic 2010 Annual dues:

- \$38 Regular Member
- \$18 Student/Retired/Military/
Spouse/1st year after graduation

To receive hard copies of the *Newsletter* and *Digest*:

- Basic dues plus (for printing/postage):
- US delivery: \$12
- Canada delivery: \$17
- Overseas locations: \$20



Inside This Edition

Dues, Publications and a New
Members-Only Portal 1

NWA Member of the Year 1

Annual Meeting Student Presentation
Award Winners 2

President's Message 3

NWA Annual Awards 4

NWA Education Grants Awarded . . . 6

Social Networking and the NWA. . . . 6

Professional Development
Opportunities 7

New EJOM Paper Published 8

Dates **2** Remember 8

Dr. John Scala: NWA Member of the Year

Our congratulations to Dr. John R. Scala, Consultant and WGAL-TV Meteorologist, Lancaster, Penn., who received the NWA Member of the Year Award. This award is presented to a NWA member who has made significant contributions to the organization over a period of time. Dr. Scala was selected for his vision, leadership and enthusiasm while leading the 2009 strategic planning effort with the NWA leadership, which developed a strategic road map for the NWA and will result in dynamically improved membership services for many years to come.

Additional award winners are listed on page 4.



**2010 Broadcaster
Renewal Fee: \$75**

(The amount was inadvertently
omitted on the dues renewal form.)

Annual Meeting Student Presentation Award Winners

First off, I would like to extend a BIG 'thank you' to all of our judges: Kevin Scharfenberg, Alan Gerard, Scott Rochette, Christina Crowe, Elise Schultz and Tony Lupo. I greatly appreciate everyone's effort. The quality of posters and presentations once again made for difficult judging decisions.

The results have been tallied — below and on page 3 are the winners of the 2009 NWA Annual Meeting Student Presentations.

The breakdown for both the undergraduate and graduate poster awards is as follows:

1st Prize: \$125 and 2010 NWA Dues

2nd Prize: \$75 and 2010 NWA Dues

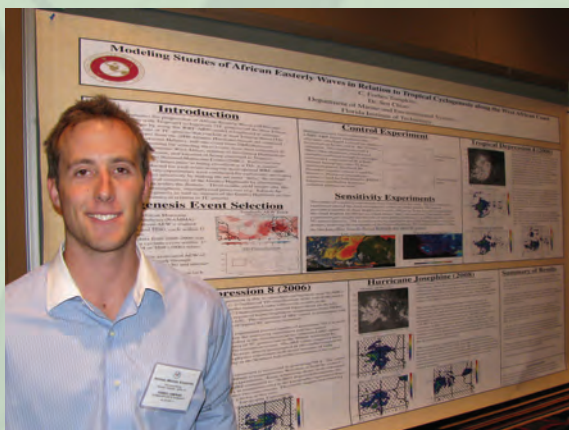
3rd Prize: 2010 NWA Dues

One prize is awarded to those competing for oral presentations:

1st Prize: \$75 and 2010 NWA Dues

John Gagan
WAF Committee Chair

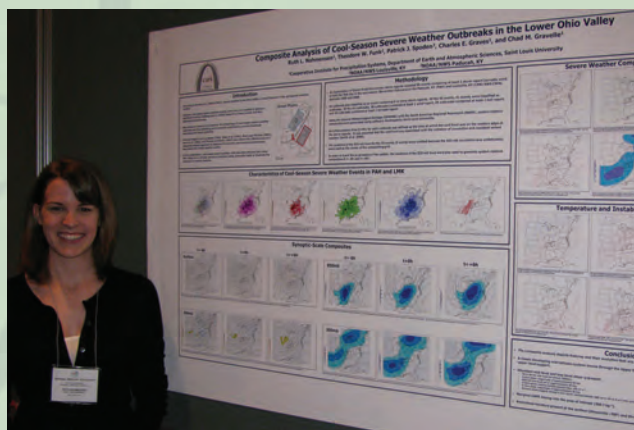
Graduate Division Student Presentation Awards



Best Graduate Student Poster Presentation

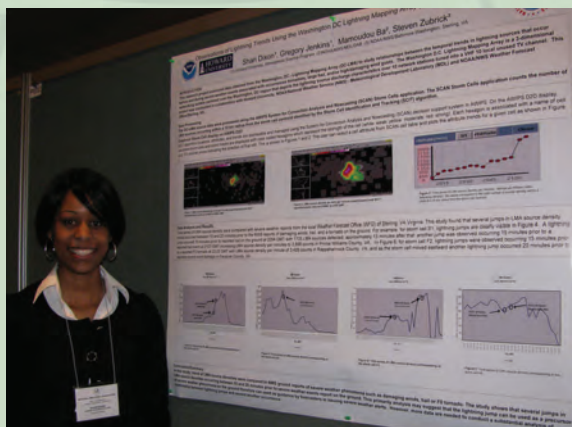
C. Forbes Tompkins, Florida Institute of Technology, for *Modeling Studies of Mesoscale Convective Systems and Tropical Cyclogenesis along the Coast of West Africa*.

His co-author was Dr. Sen Chiao of the Florida Institute of Technology.



Second Place Graduate Student Poster Presentation

Ruth L. Nahmens, Saint Louis University, for *Composite Analysis of Cool-Season Severe Weather Outbreaks in the Lower Ohio Valley*. Her co-authors were Chad Gravelle and Dr. Charles Graves of Saint Louis University, Theodore Funk of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Louisville, Ky., and Patrick Spoden of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Paducah, Ky.



Third Place Graduate Student Poster Presentation

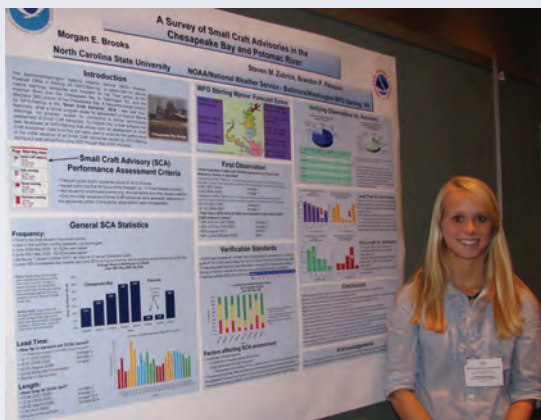
Shari Dixon, Howard University, for *Observations of Lightning Trends Using the Washington D.C. Lightning Mapping Array (DC-LMA) and Severe Weather*. Her co-authors were Gregory Jenkins of Howard University, Mamoudou Ba of NOAA/NWS/ Meteorological Development Laboratory (MDL) and Steven Zubrick of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Sterling, Va.



Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation

Chad Gravelle, Saint Louis University, for *Verification of the Cooperative Institute for Precipitation Systems Analog Guidance Probabilistic Products*. His co-authors were Dr. Charles Graves of Saint Louis University, John Gagan of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Springfield, Mo., Fred Glass of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in St. Louis, Mo., and Michael Evans of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Binghamton, N.Y.

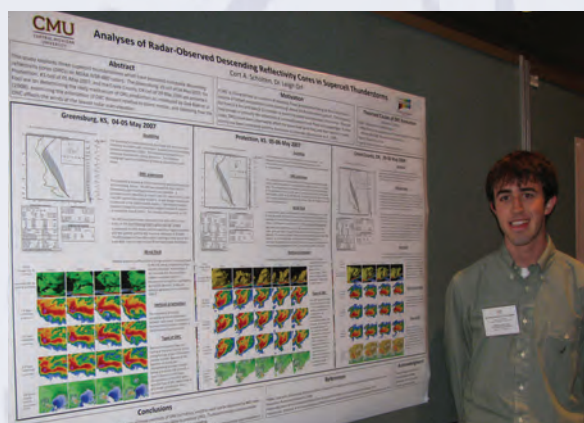
Undergraduate Division Student Presentation Awards



Best Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation

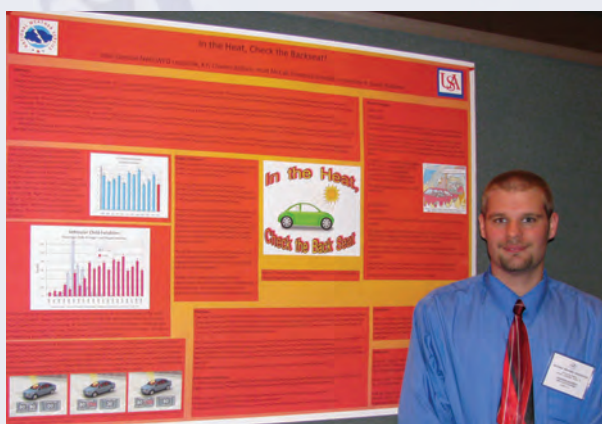
Morgan Brooks, North Carolina State University, for *Methodology and Assessment of Marine Small Craft Advisories issued by the Baltimore/Washington National Weather Service Office*.

Her co-authors were Brandon Peloquin and Steven Zubrick of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Sterling, Va.



Second Place Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation

Cort Scholten, Central Michigan University, for *Analyses of Radar-Observed Descending Reflectivity Cores in Supercell Thunderstorms*. His co-author was Dr. Leigh Orf of Central Michigan University.



Third Place Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation

Charles Aldrich, University of South Alabama, for *In the Heat, Check the Backseat!* His co-author was John Gordon of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Louisville, Ky.

(There were no undergraduate oral presentations this year.)

President's Message: A Glance Back

As I sit down to write this month's address, I can't help but reflect on the 34th Annual Meeting that took place in Norfolk, Va., in October. For me the meeting was a bit dichotomous. As NWA President, there is a lot of building momentum leading up to the annual meeting and a tremendous sense of relief and accomplishment once it is over. On the other hand, these meetings have been a tremendous opportunity for me to learn about the great things others are doing in the profession. I have many wonderful takeaways from this year's conference that I will implement in my office in 2010. It's also the one chance in a year I get to network with the many friends and colleagues I have established over the years through attending the NWA annual meetings. So despite the relief I felt on Thursday afternoon, it was also difficult for me to see the conference come to an end.

This year's meeting was outstanding. The program for the general sessions was very diverse and all sectors of our profession were represented in the agenda. Over 100 students attended the student session on Sunday, and the broadcaster workshop was also very successful. Our first ever evening session was well attended on Wednesday, and our keynote presenters from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/National Weather Service (NWS) and the military were very impressive. The bowling outing on Tuesday night was extremely popular and fun — it was the main topic of conversation for many the next day! I would like to thank the numerous people who worked for a year or more to make this meeting a success. The NWA executive staff, program committee and council all worked hard to ensure the best possible conference.

If you have yet to attend an annual meeting, I highly encourage you to give one a try. You don't have to take my word for it — talk to a colleague who has attended one and I know you will receive positive feedback. The program committee for the 35th Annual Meeting in Tucson, Ariz., is already very hard at work planning next year's conference. The host facility and location are fabulous, so please plan on attending!

Mike Vescio
President

2009 NWA ANNUAL AWARDS

The National Weather Association's 2009 Annual Awards were presented by President Mike Vescio at the 2009 Annual Awards Luncheon. The luncheon was held Oct. 21 during the NWA's 34th Annual Meeting at the Sheridan Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Va. Award Committee members for 2009 are Chairperson Daniel McCarthy, Fred Glass, Teresa Heisler, Brad Herold, Alan Johnson, James Noel, Mike Roberts, Jennifer Rukavina, Doug Schneider and Keith Stellman.

The J. Kevin Lavin Leadership Award recognized those who exemplified the highest qualities of effective and honorable leadership which significantly strengthened an organization.

**Dr. Joseph Schaefer –
Director, NOAA/NWS Storm
Prediction Center; Norman,
Oklahoma**

For providing leadership and guidance as Director of the NWS Storm Prediction Center as it expanded its forecast products out to eight days and introducing and expanding Fire Weather Outlooks out to six days. Also for serving the National Weather Association as President, Councilor, member of the Strategic Planning Committee, and presenting the latest research in severe weather forecasting and climatology.



Special Award for Outstanding Service to the NWA

**Cynthia A. Nelson – NWA Assistant Executive
Director; Lakeville, New York**



*Cynthia Nelson with NWA
Executive Director Steve Harned*

For outstanding service from 2004 -2009 while serving as the first Assistant Executive Director of the National Weather Association. Most noteworthy accomplishment among many was the management of the Broadcaster Seal Program which resulted in raising its stature to a very high level.

Meteorological Satellite Applications Award Grant is presented to an undergraduate student for authoring the best original paper on meteorological satellite applications. The winner receives a \$500 grant.

Corey Ann Walton – University of Miami; Coral Gables, Florida

Ms. Walton's winning paper was entitled "An Analysis of Tropical Cyclone Intensity Estimates of the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit (AMSU), 2005- 2008.



The 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.

**Karl Silverman
– NOAA/NWS
Spaceflight
Meteorology
Group; Houston,
Texas**

For outstanding meteorological support to NASA and leadership within the Spaceflight Meteorology Group for the landing of the Space Shuttle Discovery, STS-116, in December 2007.



*NWA President Mike Vescio (left) with
Karl Silverman*

The Operational Achievement Group Award

is presented to a group of two or more individuals for a significant contribution to operational meteorology.

**Daniel Koch, Tabitha
A. Clarke and John
Lewis III - NOAA/
NWS Forecast Office;
North Little Rock,
Arkansas**

For fostering partnerships with Emergency Managers during the Super Tuesday Tornado Event by creating geospatial data sets depicting 3D representation of the 123 mile path across Arkansas for rescue and recovery operations.



Tabitha Clarke and Mike Vescio

The Public Education Award is presented to an individual or organization providing significant contributions to increase the public's weather awareness.

The Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training (COMET) Program; Boulder, Colorado

For innovative and outstanding efforts over the past two decades to train and educate NWS Meteorologists, Broadcast Meteorologists, Emergency Managers and professionals in Academia, and in enhancing weather literacy and awareness of the general public.



(From left) For the COMET program: Elizabeth Page, Tim Spangler, Mike Vescio and Wendy Abshire

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.

Bryan C. Karrick - KCCI-TV; Des Moines, Iowa



For long term efforts in organizing extraordinary professional development activities and providing exemplary television weather broadcasts, demonstrating teamwork and collaboration with colleagues in the public, educational and private sectors of the NWA community.

The NWA Local Chapter Award recognizes an active NWA local chapter that significantly increases the awareness of weather and the NWA in the chapter area.

Lyndon State College Student Chapter, Lyndonville, Vermont



Rachel Ducharme, Mike Vescio and Tony McGee

For outstanding initiatives, such as successful execution of a nationally recognized conference, development of exemplary mentorship and community outreach and significantly raising awareness of the impacts to weather and the NWA.

T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award

is presented to a NWA member whose research has made significant contribution to operational meteorology.

Richard H. Grumm - NOAA/ NWS Forecast Office; State College, Pennsylvania

For long-term accomplishments in the development on innovative analysis, display techniques, and forecast applications of information from ensemble prediction for operational weather forecasting.



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 U.S. Weather Bureau Office in Jacksonville, Florida in the 1940s and 50s.

Sparkle Anderson, Centerpoint Energy, Inc. and Jackie Miller, City of Houston; Houston, Texas



Sparkle Anderson

For being key players from their respective organizations in putting together the 2009 Houston/Galveston Hurricane Workshop, providing key information to the citizens of Southeast Texas in preparation for the 2009 Hurricane Season.

Please see page 1 and 7 for more awards

NWA EDUCATION GRANTS AWARDED

The Peter Woodbury School in Bedford, N.H., was one the winners of the **2009 NWA Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants**. Education Committee Co-Chair Eleanor Vallier-Talbot, presented the check to the school on Oct. 3 during a ribbon-cutting in the renovated Community School Yard.

The winning project — submitted by Mike Brown and the entire education team — will bring several weather stations to the school's newly renovated Community School Yard. The educators took advantage of changes in the Bedford curriculum to incorporate new opportunities for hands-on education. This will bring interactive learning opportunities to the entire school, along with taking advantage of their new outdoor learning space. The weather stations will be a part of their 'Outdoor Classroom'.

The Peter Woodbury School was one of 10 schools and educational organizations selected from New Hampshire to Alaska and Hawaii to receive this year's grants. Named after long time Executive Director and Education Committee Chair Emeritus Sol Hirsch, these grants have been awarded annually since 1993 to schools and educational institutions to help improve pre-college weather education around the country. Including this year's "class" of educators, there have been 88 recipients from 31 states and one U.S. territory since the first Education Grant was awarded to a school in Lake Charles, La. The Peter Woodbury School is only the second New England school to receive this grant — the first awarded in Hartland, Vt., in 1997.



Ribbon cutting with principal Ken Williams. One of the four weather stations that will be placed around the school will be put in the School Yard, where students will learn about the microclimate around the school and compare their reports with other stations across southern New Hampshire.

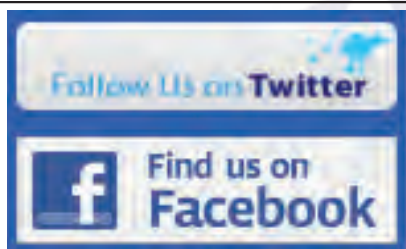


Teacher Mike Brown receives the Sol Hirsch Education Grant check, congratulatory letter and certificate of achievement from NWA Education Committee Co-Chair Eleanor Vallier-Talbot during the dedication ceremony for the school's newly renovated Community School Yard.

The other 2009 grant winners are:

- **Brendan Casey**, Joan MacQueen Middle School, Alpine, Calif.
- **Debra Gochros**, Kawaikini NCPCS, Lihue, Hawaii
- **Margarita Gonzalez**, John E. Ford Pre K-8 School, Jacksonville, Fla.
- **Kelly Green**, Hamilton Accelerated Elementary School, Hamilton, Mo.
- **Danielle Hutchins**, Life Adventure Center of the Bluegrass, Versailles, Ky.
- **Steven M. Jacobs**, Dundee Middle School, Dundee, Mich.
- **Michael Lampert**, West Salem High School, Salem, Ore.
- **Austen Onek**, Pink Palace Museum, Memphis, Tenn.
- **Jessie Soder**, Gustavus School, Gustavus, Alaska

Thanks to everyone who donates to the grant education fund. Your donations above and beyond your dues help support weather education in grades K-12! It is easy to donate to this fund when you renew your dues.



Social Networking & The NWA

There is now a way to get NWA updates through Twitter and Facebook.

Connecting with the NWA on these sites is as easy as visiting the NWA Web site at www.nwas.org. Links to our Twitter and Facebook pages are located on the left side below the menu.

The NWA also has a presence on LinkedIn. While in your LinkedIn account, search for the group National Weather Association.

February 5 is National Weatherperson's Day

Take time on Feb. 5 to thank a weatherperson for their public service!

The date commemorates the birth of John Jeffries, a Boston physician and one of America's first weathermen.

He was born on Feb. 5, 1745 (or 1744 according to some references) and kept weather records from 1774 to 1816.

Professional Development Opportunities in 2010

Jan. 17–21: 90th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society

Scheduled for Atlanta, Ga., this year's theme is "Weather, Climate, and Society: New Demands on Science and Services". Details at: www.ametsoc.org/MEET/annual/.

Feb. 7: 2010 Minnesota Storm Chasing Convention

Sponsored by the Saint Cloud State University (SCSU) Storm Chase Club, this will be at the Atwood Memorial Center at SCSU, Saint Cloud, Minn. Details at: <http://studentorg.stcloudstate.edu/stormchase/MNSCC10.htm>.

Feb. 17–19: 2010 Lubbock Severe Weather Conference

This conference — at the Overton Hotel and Conference Center in Lubbock, Texas — will emphasize advancements in observation and analysis of severe hazardous weather. Abstracts due Dec. 4. Details at: <http://lubsvrconf.org/>.

March 4–6: 2010 National Severe Weather Workshop

Sponsored by the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and NWA along with many other units in Norman, this 10th annual workshop will be held in Norman, Okla. Details will be at: www.norman.noaa.gov/nsww/.

March 5–7: 35th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference

Sponsored by the Lyndon State College AMS and NWA Chapter, it will be at the Saratoga Hotel, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Details at: <http://apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/index.php?page=nesc>.

March 9–10: The 2010 Alaska Weather Symposium (AWS '10)

This Symposium — at the University of Alaska - Fairbanks — provides a forum for the exchange of operational and research information related to weather in the Alaska environment. Participation from academic, research, government, military and private sectors is encouraged. Abstracts due Jan. 19. Details at <http://weather.arsc.edu/Events/AWS10/>.

March 25–27: 14th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference

Sponsored by the Central Iowa NWA Chapter, this conference will be at the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Details at: www.iowa-nwa.com/conference/.

March 29–April 2: 32nd Annual National Hurricane Conference

This will be at the Orlando Hilton, Orlando, Fla. Details at: www.hurricanemeeting.com.

April 19–20: 21st International Lightning Detection Conference

April 21–22: 3rd International Lightning Meteorological Conference

Both will be held at the Buena Vista Palace in Orlando, Fla. Details at: www.vaisala.com/newsandmedia/events/ildcilmc.html.

Oct. 2–7: 35th Annual Meeting of the National Weather Association

This will be at the Marriott University Park Hotel in Tucson, Ariz. Abstracts due June 1; call for Abstracts will be at www.nwas.org in early 2010.

Oct. 26–28: The National Flood Workshop

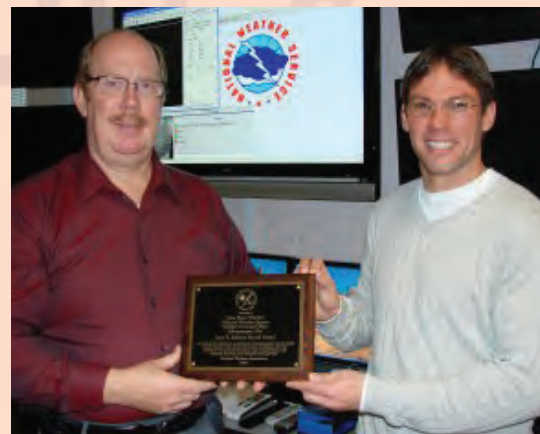
Sponsored by many agencies including the NWA, it will be in Houston, Texas. Abstracts due April 28. For details, e-mail the Weather Research Center in Houston (wrc@wxresearch.org).

More 2009 NWA Annual Awards

Larry R. Johnson Special Award

recognizes unique events or extraordinary accomplishments by an individual or group contributing to operational meteorology.

John Brent Wachter - NOAA/NWS Forecast Office; Albuquerque, New Mexico



Shawn Bennett (left), Meteorologist-in-Charge, with John Brent Wachter

For exemplary service as an Incident Meteorologist on wildfires in New Mexico, the United States and Australia; and for leadership to advance national and international fire weather training and program development.

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.

Sally Pavlow Johnson - NOAA/NWS Forecast Office; Topeka, Kansas



For the development of the Meteorologist Intern Terminal Aviation Forecast Writing Program designed to help Meteorologist Interns to become fluent in writing TAFs promoting positive forecast habits and improved aviation forecast skills.

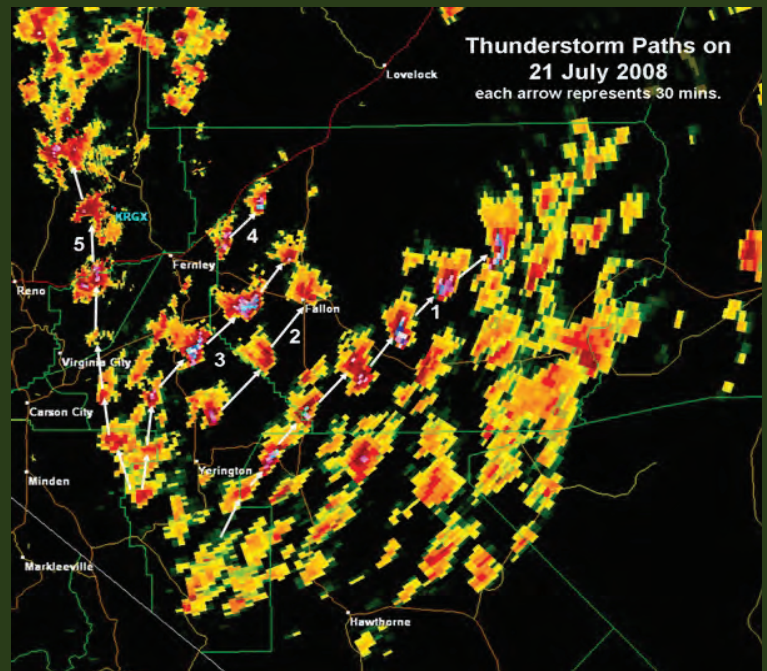
New EJOM Paper Published

A new paper has been published in the Electronic Journal of Operational Meteorology (EJOM). It is titled "A Rare Supercell Outbreak in Western Nevada: 21 July 2008." The author is Christopher Smallcomb from the National Weather Service Office in Reno, Nev.

See this and other papers on the NWA EJOM site located at: <http://www.nwas.org/ej/>

Pablo Santos
Assistant EJOM Editor

The figure at right is from paper: Composite radar map of the five main severe thunderstorm tracks. Numbers refer to individual cells mentioned in the text. The time between each white arrow is 30 minutes.



Dates 2 Remember

Dec. 31: 2010 Dues Renewal; Officer and Council voting deadline

Jan. 17 – 21, 2010: 90th AMS Annual Meeting. Atlanta, Ga.

Feb. 17 – 19, 2010: 2010 Lubbock Severe Weather Conference, Lubbock, Texas

March 4 – 6, 2010: 2010 National Severe Weather Workshop, Norman, Okla.

March 5 – 7, 2010: 35th Northeast Storm Conference, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

March 9 – 10, 2010: 2010 Alaska Weather Symposium (AWS '10), Fairbanks, Alaska.

See page 7 or www.nwas.org/events.php for further details!

NWA Newsletter (ISSN 0271-1044)

Contributing Editor: Janice Bunting

Editor and Publisher: Steve Harned, Executive Director

Published monthly by the National Weather Association, 228 West Millbrook Road, Raleigh, N.C. (USA) 27609-4304; phone ~ (919) 845-1546; fax ~ (919) 845-2956; exdir@nwas.org; www.nwas.org.

Submit newsletter items directly to the NWA office or to nwanewsletter@nwas.org. Material received by the 25th will be considered for the next month's issue.

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 send address, phone number, email and affiliation changes to assist@nwas.org.**

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

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