

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

---

*by Steve Weiss*

We recently concluded the 30th Annual Meeting held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis, and by all accounts it was a great success. Broadcaster Workshop program chair Bryan Karrick, and General Session Program co-chairs Jim Moore and Chuck Graves expertly organized a week of learning and information sharing that was extremely beneficial to all who attended. The meeting was highlighted by keynote addresses by Dennis McCarthy, head of the National Weather Service Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services, and Gen. D. L. Johnson, Director of the NWS. There were also a number of invited talks, and a discussion forum that focused to enhance partnerships between the public, academic, and private sectors in order to advance operational meteorology. Attendance at the meeting was among the highest in NWA history with more than 450 registered participants.

The Annual Meeting also provided an opportunity for various committees to meet and for the NWA Council to conduct business of the association. In particular, we are approaching an important crossroads for the NWA, as the Strategic Planning Committee and the Council are currently developing a series of in-depth and ambitious operating goals and implementation tasks that will ensure the continued organizational and financial well-being of the association in the years to come. This includes a number of initiatives related to growth and diversity of membership, leadership in technical training and promotion of new forecasting techniques, fostering partnerships between the public, private, and academic sectors, and developing in-house leaders, succession planning, and financial stability. Among the most critical areas of need include strengthening the organizational infrastructure so that the NWA has the necessary resources to meet and improve the quality of services provided to our members.

Accordingly, over the last several years the Council has been discussing a number of issues related to organizational staffing and associated financial requirements. At the present time, our paid staff consists primarily of a full-time Executive Director and a part-time Assistant Executive Director with some part-time administrative help. They are responsible for a myriad of day-to-day business activities of the association, including

taking care of correspondence, coordinating with Council and Committee members, financial accounting, Annual Meeting planning, management of the Broadcast Seal program, Website maintenance and publishing of the Newsletter and the *National Weather Digest*. Given our limited paid and voluntary staff and growing membership, it should not be surprising that we have had challenges at times maintaining our current suite of services, much less the ability to implement new products and services. It is typical for scientific organizations to have one to two full-time employees for every 1000 members, and with 3000 members it is increasingly evident that we need to incrementally increase the size of the NWA paid staff. Thus, the Council has decided to make the Assistant Executive Director a full-time position and pursue the hiring of a part-time publisher/technical editor, initially to handle the publication of the *National Weather Digest*, thus allowing the Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director to more fully focus on organizational leadership and the day-to-day business of the association.

**In order to support the growth in paid staff, it will be necessary to implement a membership dues increase for 2006.** Although we have all experienced an overall increase in cost of living expenses over the last decade, the NWA has not raised membership dues since 1995. Through considerable deliberation, considering impacts of inflation and financial requirements needed to better support services to members, annual dues for regular members will be raised from \$28 to \$42, and corporate dues will increase from \$75 to \$125. Membership dues for full-time students and retirees will remain at one-half the regular individual rate, and we will continue to offer prorated partial year membership rates for individuals who join the NWA later in the calendar year. Members will see the new dues rates in the invoices for 2006 membership renewals being mailed out to all in late November. For new members, the new dues rates will be effective on 1 December 2005. I fully understand that this decision to increase dues may not be viewed favorably by some, but please know that we have not reached this decision hastily. Since the 2006 individual dues rate costs less than a single tank of gasoline for most vehicles, and dues have been constant for more than 10 years, we hope you will agree that the Council decision is reasonable. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or any of your Council members.

- Steve Weiss ([president@nwas.org](mailto:president@nwas.org))

# BROADCAST COMMITTEE NEWS

---

## Surviving the Outflow Boundary...

In my last article, I detailed some of the challenges facing broadcast meteorologists nationwide. Little did I know that a powerful Hurricane named Katrina would take aim on a large city and find yet another way to eliminate jobs in an already tight broadcast marketplace. Some weather people who worked there have found new jobs in other cities, and there are early signs that a few newscasts will be cut altogether in New Orleans – eliminating even more jobs.

Remember that the “Outflow Boundary” in my article title refers to the field of broadcasting, which is always turbulent and changing. It is an industry that, much like our climate, goes through cycles of growth and decline, and broadcast news is in decline locally and nationally. **Now you must work even harder to get a job and work just as hard to keep it.** The fact that some people have already found new jobs ties in nicely with the first point I wish to make – **networking is vital!** The more people you know in this business, the stronger your safety net is if you lose your job. Those who have found new jobs in the wake of Katrina have done so primarily by knowing other people in the industry. **The best way to meet other weather people is at weather conferences such as the NWA Annual Meeting, AMS meetings and many others too numerous to list here.** Exchange business cards and then make sure to stay in touch. You will be amazed at how many people you meet at a conference become your close friends as well as important contacts.

Networking is great when you need a new job, but the best way to ensure a more stable career is to be aggressive in your current job. **Be a leader in your market.** You don’t have to be the chief meteorologist to be a leader. You can lead by example. Be at work on time, work hard and be professional. Smile and be friendly in public. Get involved with local charities and civic groups. Don’t just work in the community, be an active part of it. The deeper your roots are in the community, the longer, stronger and more solid your growth there will be. This may seem obvious, yet every year I see people lose their jobs by being lazy. There is nothing you can do when your company reduces or shuts down the news operation – that’s where networking comes in. However, until that happens, work as hard as you can to be the best in town.

Additionally, **you must be diversified.** Contracts can limit your involvement in other businesses, but with creativity, you can find ways to expand your income by using your talents elsewhere. Whether through weather consulting, voice work, speaking fees, e-commerce, etc., there are always ways to make more money. The reason you want to do this is to prevent being left out in the cold if the worst happens to your TV career. You would be surprised by the number of meteorologists who have been

forced out of the business for one reason or another and are now doing something with no relation to weather.

Finally, **college students have more competition than ever for fewer jobs.** The popularity of The Weather Channel, weather Web sites and movies such as “Twister” have led to large numbers of young people pursuing careers in meteorology. Furthermore, schools are now equipped with high tech weather equipment and TV studios, which means that students can get plenty of experience well before getting their first job. Conservatively, there are at least 200 talented broadcast meteorologists graduating around the country every year, but I can assure you that there are fewer than 100 jobs available for them.

Whether a student or a seasoned veteran, you must always be on the top of your game, working your hardest, networking and getting involved in your community if you want to survive in the outflow boundary that we call broadcast meteorology.

Send your thoughts to me at [rapuzzo@fuse.net](mailto:rapuzzo@fuse.net)

- Rich Apuzzo, Broadcast Meteorology Committee Chair

## JOB READINESS TIPS

---

In the ten months prior to July 2005, my TV station conducted a search and hired a weekend meteorologist.

There was a time when weekends in medium markets required few credentials and little training but that is long gone. Unfortunately many of the 70+ applicants were not qualified or prepared for the dynamics of weather or for the technology we use.

**Based on my experiences in this recent hiring episode and in many before, here are tips that may help those seeking jobs and others trying to move up in the profession.**

- If you fall short of the minimum qualifications for a job listing don't be surprised to not be considered.
- If you are far beneath the posted qualifications you must be a rising superstar to make it worth your time to apply and you will need to be very convincing to be considered for the job.
- Never, ever send an unsigned letter in an application. It shows that you overlook details.
- Never send a letter or e-mail with misspellings, especially when it is the name of the recipient that is misspelled. That's bad.
- On your resume, and in person, be 100% honest about your credentials and what equipment you are proficient with. Just because you touched a computer a few times doesn't make you an expert.
- Be prepared in your interview to do an air check of the local weather of that day.
- Don't dominate conversation in the interview. Listen closely to what is being said so that you can give an intelligent response or follow-up question.

- Don't ask questions simply to appear interested. Ask questions for which you really want answers.
- Asking no questions sends the message that you are not interested.
- If you are easily distracted in the interview process it is a sign that you may have a hard time focusing on a daily basis.
- Just as in weather forecasting don't be afraid to say "I don't know." Regardless of your degrees, certificates, or Seals you actually have to know what you are doing and be able to demonstrate that to the employer and your viewers.
- Never stop studying and learning meteorology and related subjects. Viewers and news managers expect you to be the all-knowing expert.
- If you see something you don't understand, research it and/or contact an expert. (*Other NWA members can help.*)
- Understand and embrace the technology behind how weather data is acquired, processed and transmitted, and how you display it. You cannot avoid it.
- Don't rely solely on a computer to do your job, and don't rely solely on a numerical model to forecast weather. When you do that your value diminishes.
- Don't just play a meteorologist on TV, be one.

Most days in most markets, it doesn't take much to wave your hands in front of a map and look credible, but when storms approach and people literally hang on every word you say, you're true colors show. **Don't take for granted the need to be knowledgeable in what you do to make a living.** I get calls from average viewers who access the same data and models we use and ask me intelligent questions on what they see. Your knowledge and ability to communicate can make or break your career, and it can save lives, property, hassle, and money for the tens of thousands who rely on you.

These thoughts are my own; not my employer's.

- Alan Sealls, WKRG-TV Chief Meteorologist (Sealls@aol.com)

## JOB CORNER

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

### **WANTED!**

*News items, information about a unique or historical weather event, tips on forecasting or forecasting trends, member news, local chapter news, and other information to share.*

**E-mail your information to:**  
[nwanewsletter@nwas.org](mailto:nwanewsletter@nwas.org)  
 or fax to 434-296-9966

## IMAGES OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The NWA Remote Sensing Committee has assembled a collection of Web links to satellite and radar imagery of Hurricane Katrina, as well as aerial photos of the catastrophic damage in Louisiana and Mississippi.

**GOES satellite image loops of storm landfall** on the NWA Remote Sensing Committee Web pages:

(2-day IR/ 27-29 Aug)

[http://www.nwas.org/committees/rs/Katrina\\_IR2.avi](http://www.nwas.org/committees/rs/Katrina_IR2.avi)

(8-hour visible/ 28 Aug)

[http://www.nwas.org/committees/rs/Katrina\\_vis.avi](http://www.nwas.org/committees/rs/Katrina_vis.avi)

**GOES multi-day movie with DMSP night visible and daytime pseudo-color as background (Naval Research Laboratory – Monterey) (15 MB file)**

[http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/archdat/katrina/2005\\_Katrina.mov](http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/archdat/katrina/2005_Katrina.mov)

**NWS long-period radar animations for landfalls in Florida and Louisiana (Brian McNoldy, CSU-Ft. Collins):**

<http://einstein.atmos.colostate.edu/~mcnoldy/tropics/katrina/>

**Composite microwave and GOES imagery (Naval Research Lab-Monterey):**

[http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/archdat/tropical\\_cyclones/tc05/ATL/12L.KATRINA/amsre/89h/](http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/archdat/tropical_cyclones/tc05/ATL/12L.KATRINA/amsre/89h/)

[http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/archdat/tropical\\_cyclones/tc05/ATL/12L.KATRINA/tmi/tmi\\_85h/](http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/archdat/tropical_cyclones/tc05/ATL/12L.KATRINA/tmi/tmi_85h/)

**Miscellaneous satellite images from NASA (Quikscat, TRMM, MISR, GOES, etc.):**

[http://www.nasa.gov/vision/earth/lookingatearth/h2005\\_katrina.html](http://www.nasa.gov/vision/earth/lookingatearth/h2005_katrina.html)

**Collection of images from ENVISAT (European Space Agency)**

[http://earth.esa.int/ew/cyclones/Katrina\\_Hurricane-aug05/](http://earth.esa.int/ew/cyclones/Katrina_Hurricane-aug05/)

**Aerial photos in the eye from a NOAA hurricane hunter aircraft:**

<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2005/s2496.htm>

**Satellite altimetry observations in the Gulf of Mexico (NOAA-AOML):**

[http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/altimetry/katrina\\_v2.pdf](http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/altimetry/katrina_v2.pdf)

**Storm and post-storm imagery from numerous satellites (LSU Earth Scan Laboratory)**

<http://www.esl.lsu.edu/quicklinks/hurricanes/2005/KATRINA/>

**Aerial photos of storm damage (from NOAA):**

<http://ngs.woc.noaa.gov/katrina/KATRINA0000.HTM>

<http://earth.google.com/katrina.html>

**RADARSAT images showing flooded areas (MDA Geospatial Services):**

[http://www.rsi.ca/news/press/2005/current\\_event\\_katrina\\_sep05.asp](http://www.rsi.ca/news/press/2005/current_event_katrina_sep05.asp)

- Gary Ellrod, Remote Sensing Committee Chair

## LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

---

The **Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA** met on 13 September to discuss a number of topics. Several members will be attending the NWA Annual Meeting and the Chapter voted to fund the travel of the officers. Transportation costs for other members will be free if they carpool with the officers.

A discussion about creating a donation fund included ideas such as sending a donation for Katrina relief, or funding an education program to teach Iowans about local disasters, or even focusing on educating Katrina evacuees on Iowa weather. It was decided to think of more ideas and continue the discussion at a later date.

Treasurer Elise Johnson went to Norman, Oklahoma, for ten weeks to participate in the *Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program*. She got to work with NSSL, NWS, SPC, professors and many more. There were 12 others in the program with Elise. She was lucky enough to have worked with lightning data. At the end of the program, she gave a presentation on her findings and research. Look for her in the NOAA Report!

In other news, we have a new Web site design at: [www.iowa-nwa.com](http://www.iowa-nwa.com). Work is beginning on the **10th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference** which will be held **23-25 March 2006 at the West Des Moines Marriot Hotel**.  
- Janet Schenck, Secretary

The **North Texas Chapter of the AMS and NWA** met on 13 September. President Bill Bunting started by recognizing the officers from last year. They were President Greg Story, Vice President Krista Villarreal, Secretary Dan Dixon, Treasurer Skip Ely, and Webmaster Bernard Meisner. He then introduced the new officers for this year who are Vice President Greg Story, Secretary Janice Bunting, Treasurer Stanley Christmas, and Bernard Meisner will continue to be the Webmaster.

Tim Marshall was the invited speaker and the title of his presentation was "Hurricane Katrina Chase, Target: Slidell." Tim wanted to experience and film this historic event to see how buildings withstood the hurricane. This would also enable him to have more credibility when testifying whether damage was wind or water related.

His mission was to get in the eye of a category three hurricane, take shelter in a safe building and to get out quickly and safely. He took shelter in a well constructed, poured concrete parking garage, with two stairwells that were constructed of at least three cement walls, after the hotel he made reservations at called to tell him they were closing and evacuating.

He took extra gas in several large containers, a GPS (Global Positioning System) locator, a NOAA Weather Radio, a computer to access radar and satellite images, food, drinks, raingear, and flashlights. He did have

enough gas but found out quickly that he really only had enough food for one day.

He and another chaser took shelter in the parking garage and watched the event unfold from a stairwell with an opening that faced west. At 0800 LST streets began to flood. At 0900 LST, in the eye wall, he experienced white out conditions for 20-30 minutes, pulsing rain and wind, water rising to two feet in the streets, and falling trees which he said sounded just like a hard clap of hands when they fell. He was in the calm of the eye about 30 minutes then experienced winds around 100 mph in the southwest part of the eye wall. It took about three hours for the water to subside enough for him to venture out.

Tim had identified ten escape routes from the area before the storm and found that all were blocked after the storm. On his way out of town, he encountered quite a bit of flooding and big problems with downed trees and power lines. Other large obstacles blocked roads including a house boat, and bridges were out along his path. It was touch-and-go traveling from Slidell to Baton Rouge at speeds of 20-30 mph the entire way. He told us of four hurricane chasers who had vehicles damaged or destroyed by flooding or had their windows blown out. He showed a picture of one chaser's floating car.

During the storm survey Tim performed, the maximum still-water-line he found was 31 feet 7 inches. When wave crests are considered, it is possible water reached 40 feet above the original beach level. The highest storm surge was found in Hancock County Mississippi. Ten NWS employees in Slidell, LA lost their homes or their homes were damaged enough to be uninhabitable.

Later that week Tim surveyed damage from Slidell eastward through Mississippi. He showed pictures from the survey that were unbelievable. In Waveland, Mississippi, buildings four blocks inland were demolished by the storm surge. He showed homes that had only the slab left, but the historical marker for Hurricane Camille looked untouched. The support beams of the lower two floors were all that was left of a three story home, while the third story showed little if any damage. A steel framed church had similar damage. The bottom floors were demolished but the steeple survived well. This showed that even in the extreme winds of the storm, the storm surge was the greatest problem. All the way from Waveland to Pascagoula, homes along the beach were gone and barges were deposited inland one to two blocks.

He discussed the problems people will have if they did not have flood insurance. Many buildings had water marks five feet or higher on them, but would have had little damage if the water had not flooded them. People with only standard home insurance, which does not cover flood damage, won't recoup all of their losses.

Tim ended his presentation by saying, "Don't chase hurricanes!"  
- Janice Bunting, Secretary

## LETTER TO THE NWA

---

October 18, 2005

Dear Friends of the Red Cross,

*Because of your generosity, the many victims of Hurricane Katrina will have the chance to recover and move forward.*

Please thank all members of the National Weather Association for the generous gift of \$10,000.00 on September 27, 2005, in support of the American Red Cross relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina. Your gift makes it possible for the Red Cross to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina recover from this massive storm.

Hurricane Katrina has ripped apart many lives and left tens of thousands homeless. At its peak, it was one of the fiercest hurricanes in recorded history and measured about 460 miles wide – the distance from New Orleans to Atlanta. Even after its passing, dangers remain. Flooded roads, downed power lines, and debris are all major hazards. Unsafe or unsanitary conditions for desperate evacuees also pose a rising threat. The recovery efforts will challenge even the most patient, and the Red Cross is working to bring communities back together as quickly as possible.

The American Red Cross is actively assisting the victims of Hurricane Katrina, as well the victims of Hurricanes Dennis and Emily, all of which made U.S. landfall earlier this year. For Hurricane Katrina, the American Red Cross launched the largest mobilization of resources for a single natural disaster, involving thousands of trained disaster relief workers, tons of supplies and shoulders to lean on. Well before Hurricane Katrina made landfall the American Red Cross was hard at work, opening and stocking shelters, sending Emergency Response Vehicles to storm-vulnerable areas, and preparing relief supplies for immediate distribution. The Red Cross will continue to respond to the emerging needs of the people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Our highest priority will always be to those facing challenges from natural or man-made disasters. You helped make their lives a little easier. Thank you for your support of the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross.

Kind regards,

Napoleon Hendrix III  
Manager, Donor Relations  
American Red Cross

## MEMBER NEWS

---

**Armando Garza** has been appointed meteorologist-in-charge (MIC) of the NOAA National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in Shreveport, Louisiana. He replaces Milton Harrison who retired in July.

Armando began his NWS career as an intern at the Weather Forecast Office in Albuquerque, NM, in 1972. He has worked at many offices over the years including San Juan, Puerto Rico; Honolulu, Hawai'i; and at the NWS Southern Region Headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas. He served as MIC of the NWS Office in Corpus Christi, Texas, prior to moving to Shreveport.

Armando received many awards throughout his career, including a U.S. Dept. of Commerce Bronze Medal recognizing the work of the San Diego office during the 1997-98 El Niño and a NOAA Administrator's Award in 2001 for his work in developing a dual language video entitled: "Flood Warning Systems - Saving Lives and Property." He was the MIC of the NWS office at the FAA Training Academy in Oklahoma City that won the NWA Aviation Meteorology Award for 2003.

He has authored numerous professional papers presented at conferences throughout the U.S., and in Australia, Argentina and Mexico. A native of Brownsville, Texas, he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in meteorology from Texas A&M University.

## 2005 SKYWARN RECOGNITION

---

The 2005 SKYWARN Recognition Day Special Event **will be held 0000-2400 UTC 3 December 2005**. This event was developed in 1999 by the NOAA/NWS and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the NWS. During the event, SKYWARN operators at participating NWS offices will contact other radio operators around the world.

As noted in his message for the fall issue of the *NWS Aware Report*, ([www.weather.gov/os/Aware/pdfs/aware-fall05.pdf](http://www.weather.gov/os/Aware/pdfs/aware-fall05.pdf)) Dennis McCarthy noted how important Amateur Radio was to establishing communications in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. SKYWARN Recognition Day allows amateur radio operators to test communication methods that can be used in emergency situations. The special event helps all those involved determine the best way to setup equipment to ensure optimum communications during disasters.

Several television and radio stations also bring in amateur radio operators during severe weather events to monitor and share critical weather information. This results in a better flow of information between the NWS, local emergency operation centers, broadcasters, and the public.

Since this event runs for 24 hours, many of the stations enlist a number of volunteers to help. You don't have to be a licensed operator to participate. To learn more about this event, and to see what stations are participating, go to Web site: **[hamradio.noaa.gov/](http://hamradio.noaa.gov/)**. Check the site often between now and the event as more participating stations are listed.

- Editor

## EDITORIAL

---

### What's In Your Disaster Kit?

As the events during and after Katrina unfolded, my husband and I had a discussion about our disaster kit. We do have one. Have I looked into it lately to see what food is past due for tossing? No! Do we have all of our needed medicines in the kit? No! Is a three-day supply of essentials enough? Then our discussion turned to whether or not we should have a generator.

We live in Fort Worth, Texas. We won't be impacted by a direct hit of a hurricane, but considering how far inland destructive winds and heavy rains spread in Katrina's path, there is potential for significant flooding and some power outages in our area even with the remnants of a catastrophic hurricane.

There are other potential disasters, natural and man made, that have a higher probability of affecting us. We live within three miles of a major Interstate and a much used railroad track. Chemical spills could cause an immediate evacuation or shelter-in-place. We have had a major chemical fire only miles from us. Tornadoes and severe thunderstorms can have a significant impact. A severe thunderstorm with 100 mph winds tore through the Fort Worth area in June 2004 resulting in the largest number of people without power in North Texas ever, and many lived without power for a week. Yes, those affected didn't have to travel far to find an open restaurant or an air conditioned hotel room, but the businesses, doctor offices, pharmacies, etc., that they relied on were impacted and made routine tasks a little more complicated. Ice storms are another potential problem. As seen recently, wild fires are a big threat for some and these leave little time to gather needed supplies before evacuating. Then there is always the chance of a man-made disaster. Have you evaluated all of the potential risks near your home, office or school? How portable is your disaster kit and would it be easy to grab and run if you were instructed to evacuate immediately? If you were required to stay at work for an extended time, do you have the supplies you need there?

In 2003, I learned that it is not always the strength of the storm, but the size of the area affected. My In-laws live in extreme southeast Virginia. Hurricane Isabelle moved into their area as a category one hurricane. They were without power for just under a week. With a large number of customers affected, reestablishing utilities just takes time. They had generators that ran a few essentials such as a refrigerator and some fans for cooling. A gas stove came in handy when electric appliances couldn't be operated. The water supply wasn't greatly impacted so that was a plus.

In early October, people affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, out of the media's eye, are still living without electricity, proper shelter and limited supplies. Could you survive weeks or even months without easy access to basic supplies?

#### **Here are some tips for preparing for a disaster.**

Before there is a risk of a disaster, think about what types of disasters could impact you. Think of what you would need to do to get to safety and what essential supplies would be needed for a minimum of three to five days.

Put together a disaster kit for your home and work location. The FEMA publication *Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness* (IS-22) is a great resource. There is a link to this publication on the NWA Web site at [www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org) or go directly to [www.fema.gov/areyouready/](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/). There are thorough

checklists and a lot of good advice. The "Basic Preparedness" section is a good place to start.

There are many foods that are now packaged in light weight easy to open containers. Some are already cooked so they could be eaten as is. Dollar type stores can be great resources for supplying a kit without spending a lot of money. I found that battery operated small fluorescent lights work really well and light up a whole room. Put cash in your kit. Add a list of phone numbers of relatives, banks, doctors, insurance companies and credit card companies. Keep several days worth of prescription drugs in your kit along with shoes and clothing. Plastic sheeting can be used to cover wet ground, make a temporary tent or to cover valuables.

Make a plan for handling disasters that separate you from your family. Make sure children know where the supplies are, what they should do and who they should contact – even in the event of communication outages. If you have pets, plan for them also.

Refer to Allen Strum's article in the December 2004 NWA Newsletter to learn how he coped in *The Center of Widespread Devastation*. (Newsletters are archived on the NWA Web site.)

Educate others about the need for a disaster kit! The more people that are prepared, the better off we all will be.

As we have seen, help cannot always reach a disaster site quickly. You may have to be self-sufficient for days or weeks. Please be prepared!

- Editor

## A CHAT WITH AN EVACUEE

---

I had the opportunity to visit with a woman who evacuated Houston prior to Hurricane Rita's arrival. Here is what I learned.

The woman and other family members left the central part of Houston early Thursday. It took them 14 hours to get to Conroe, TX, which is about 40 miles from the center of Houston. That is slightly less than three miles per hour. They were fortunate to find a hotel room in Conroe so they stopped to get some rest.

At 1 a.m. on Friday 23 September, they left for the Dallas area. They arrived around 7 a.m. that morning and were able to travel about 60 mph most of the way. Many people drove that route at much lower speeds.

Gas availability was a big problem along their route. They stopped to refuel once. Police directed traffic around three separate gas stations. They were told to travel down the road and make a U turn to get in line. They drove three miles to get in line and found those ahead of them had been in that line for six hours. They had taken a couple of extra full gas cans with them, so they chose to get back on the highway and not refuel. They did eventually run out of gas. The State had deployed some trucks to the evacuation routes that could provide gas to stranded motorists. They were able to get enough gas from one of those trucks to complete their trip to the Dallas area.

During the first leg of their trip, high temperatures were around 100F. Cars would overheat so air conditioners had to be turned off to reduce overheating. The exhaust fumes were sickening, the woods along the side of the road substituted as bathrooms and people were sick and fainting along the side of the road.

I asked her if they would have evacuated if they had not seen what happened in Katrina, and she said, "No".

- Editor

## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

• **The Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society will be held 29 January – 2 February 2006 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.** See Web site: [www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/](http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/) for details. Just prior to the Annual Meeting, the **Fifth Annual AMS Student Conference and Career Fair will be held from 28 - 29 January.** See Web site: [www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/studentconference.html](http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/studentconference.html).

• **The National Severe Weather Workshop 2006 will be held 2 – 4 March 2006 in Norman, Oklahoma.** The Central Oklahoma Chapter of the NWA and AMS sponsors it. Watch the chapter Web site at [www.caps.ou.edu/cocams/](http://www.caps.ou.edu/cocams/) for upcoming details.

• **The Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop will be held Friday and Saturday, 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 AMS Chapter, will cover 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 meeting's theme is *Climate, Climate Change, and Weather of the Pacific Northwest*, and the program committee is encouraging abstracts in these areas. Registration will be \$30 for regular attendees (\$15 for students) and will include lunches, afternoon and morning refreshments, and a pre-print volume. We will also have a Friday evening banquet (for an additional charge) and special presentation, with details to be announced at a later date. Pre-registration is requested for all attendees. You can register online via Web site at: [www.atmos.washington.edu/~cliff/PNW2006.html](http://www.atmos.washington.edu/~cliff/PNW2006.html). Please submit abstracts for oral presentations and posters in text, Word or WordPerfect format - no PDF please. **ABSTRACTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 1 JANUARY 2006.** 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 e-mail abstracts to Cliff Mass at: [cliff@atmos.washington.edu](mailto:cliff@atmos.washington.edu). For more information contact: Brad Colman/Chris Hill, NWS Forecast Office, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 (206.526.6095 exts. 224/222, [brad.colman@noaa.gov](mailto:brad.colman@noaa.gov) or [chris.hill@noaa.gov](mailto: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](mailto:cliff@atmos.washington.edu)).

• **The Fifth Annual 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. **Abstracts should be sent by e-mail to [Jeffrey.Craven@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Craven@noaa.gov) by 15 December 2005.** Please include the title, author's name and author contact information. For more complete information, see Web site: [www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/symposium.htm](http://www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/symposium.htm).

• **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 and in-depth discussions on tornado meteorology. The second TESSA Super Storm Spotter Session

will provide the highest level of training available to storm spotters anywhere in the country. The session will be presented by Fort Worth NWS Forecast Office Warning Coordination Meteorologist Gary Woodall. 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 after 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](http://www.tessa.org/meeting.html).

• **The 31st Annual Northeastern Storm Conference will be held from 10 – 12 March 2006 in Saratoga Springs, New York.** The Lyndon State College AMS & NWA Chapter sponsors it. For more information, please go to the chapter's Web site: [apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/index.html](http://apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/index.html).

• **The Tenth Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference will be held 23 – 25 March 2006 at the West Des Moines Marriott Hotel.** It is sponsored by the Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA. Watch their Web site [www.iowa-nwa.com](http://www.iowa-nwa.com) for upcoming information.

• **The Fourth GOES-R Users Conference is planned for 1 – 3 May 2006 at the Omni Interlochen Hotel in Broomfield, Colorado.** Watch the Web site [www.osd.noaa.gov/announcement/index.htm](http://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 28th Annual National Hurricane Conference will be held 10 – 14 April 2006 at The Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida.** For more information, see Web site: [www.HurricaneMeeting.com](http://www.HurricaneMeeting.com) or call 850-906-9224.

• **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](http://www.airweaassn.org) for more information.

• **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](http://www.nwas.org) for details. Notify the NWA office at 434-296-9966 or [natweaasoc@aol.com](mailto:natweaasoc@aol.com) if you would like to help in organizing this special 31st anniversary event. Web site for the meeting hotel is: [www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ic/1/en/hd/cleha](http://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, and the Broadcast 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.

### 30TH ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

The Program and abstracts of presentations given at the recent 30th NWA Annual Meeting are on the NWA Web site at [www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org). Copies of the preprint of the program and abstracts are available at \$5.00 each. Send your request and check to NWA office, 1697 Capri Way, Charlottesville, VA 22911-3534

## WEATHER TID BITS

**On 1 - 2 October 2005, 3 to 12 inches of rain fell in portions of Northeast Kansas resulting in record river levels and extensive flooding.** People awoke to water soaking their beds and many water rescues were performed. The heaviest rain fell in Jackson and Jefferson counties north of Topeka. Several measured rainfall amounts of 10-12 inches were reported in these counties. The flooding rains extended east into Northwest Missouri. New daily record rainfall amounts were set from Topeka to Kansas City. For more information, go to Web site: [www.crh.noaa.gov/top/events/oct2005/oct2005.php](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/top/events/oct2005/oct2005.php).

**In 1915, Category 4 hurricanes made landfall near Galveston Texas on 16 August and near New Orleans on 29 September.** In 1918 a Category 3 hurricane struck southwest Louisiana near the Texas border. A map of Category 3 and higher landfalling hurricanes from 1899-1996 can be found at: [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/img/climate/severeweather/2hur9996.gif](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/img/climate/severeweather/2hur9996.gif). See numerous maps of hurricane landfall locations at The NOAA/NESDIS/National Climatic Data Center Web site: [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/severeweather/hurricanes.html#earlier](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/severeweather/hurricanes.html#earlier).

**The NOAA Winter Outlook Update** at Web site: [www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/) calls for warmer-than-average temperatures for much of the central and western United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. The Midwest, the Mississippi Valley, the Southern Californian coast and the East Coast have equal chances of above, near, or below normal temperatures. The precipitation outlook calls for wetter-than-average conditions across most of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, northeastern Texas, Hawai'i and northwestern Alaska. The remainder of the country has equal chances of above, near or below normal precipitation. "With the absence of El Niño and La Niña this year's winter outlook presents a challenge to seasonal forecasters," said Jim Laver, director of the NOAA Climate Prediction Center. "Shorter term climate fluctuations that are best predicted week-by-week are expected to play the dominate role on the weather patterns this winter," he added.

**The 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season continues to break records.** Tropical Depression 26 formed in the Southwestern Caribbean Sea on 26 October. It strengthened to 35 kt winds on the 27th to be named Tropical Storm Beta – the **23rd tropical storm** of the record-breaking 2005 season. On the 28th, Beta strengthened into the **13th hurricane** of the 2005 Atlantic Hurricane season.

### **NWA Newsletter (ISSN 0271-1044)**

Editor: Janice Bunting

Publisher: Kevin Lavin, Executive Director

Published monthly by the National Weather Association

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

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

Web site: [www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org)

**Submit newsletter items directly to:** Editor NWA Newsletter, at [nwanewsletter@nwas.org](mailto: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 \$2.00.

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

### **IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS**

**21 December** – Winter begins

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

Also check Web site: [www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html](http://www.nwas.org/meetings/meetings.html)

*Our sincerest sympathies go to the victims and their families of the September and October natural disasters, as well as those still dealing with the impacts of Hurricane Katrina.*

## **NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION**

1697 CAPRI WAY

CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 22911-3534

*Supporting and Promoting Excellence in Operational Meteorology and Related Activities for 30 Years*