



NEWSLETTER

*National Weather
Association*

NO. 08 – 10 OCTOBER 2008

CLEAR SKIES FOR ANNUAL MEETING AWARD WINNERS



NWA President John Scala (left) presents David Knapp with the 2008 NWA Member of the Year award.

The National Weather Association 2008 Annual Awards were presented by President John Scala at the Oct. 15, 2008, Annual Awards Banquet. The banquet was held during the NWA's 33rd Annual Meeting at the Galt House Hotel and Suites in Louisville, Ky.

This year's NWA Member of the Year is David I. Knapp, U.S. Army Research Labs in Las Cruces, N.M. Knapp was selected for dedicating over 10 years of distinguished and tireless service to the NWA while serving as President, Councilor, Commissioner of Committees and Aviation Committee Chair.

MORE ANNUAL AWARDS PAGE 4

Good Morning Louisville!

On Tuesday, Oct. 14, all nationwide weather segments for ABC's Good Morning America were broadcast from the NWA Meeting site in Louisville, Ky.

Pictured is the show's meteorologist, Sam Champion, chatting with Annual Meeting attendees.



Inside This Edition

Member of the Year 1

Good Morning
Louisville..... 1

Student Awards 2

President's Message..... 3

Annual Awards 4

Sol Hirsch Education
Grants Recipients 6

Professional Development
Opportunities 7

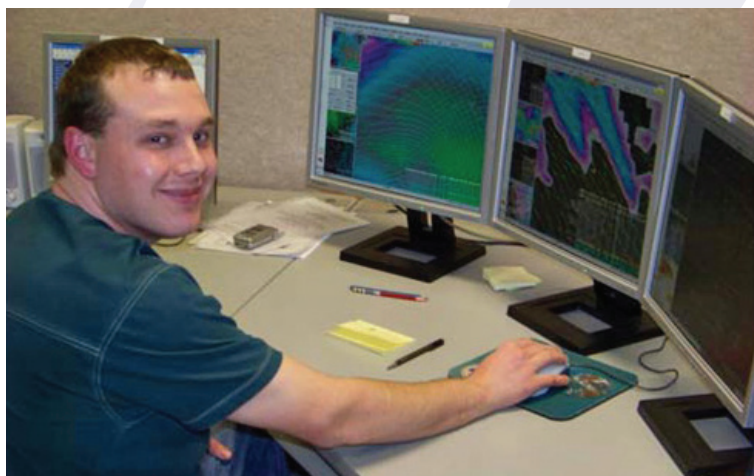
Annual Meeting
Icebreaker..... 8

Dates 2 Remember..... 8

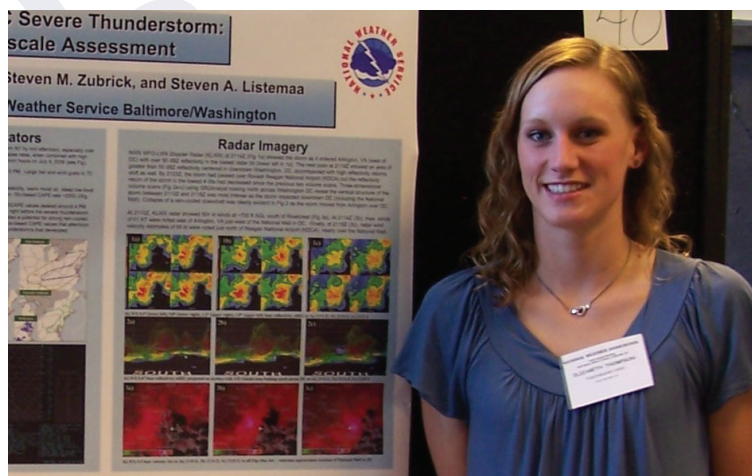
***Read about the largest
NWA Annual Meeting
ever in the President's
Message, page 3***

The Shining Future: Student Presentation Awards from the Annual Meeting

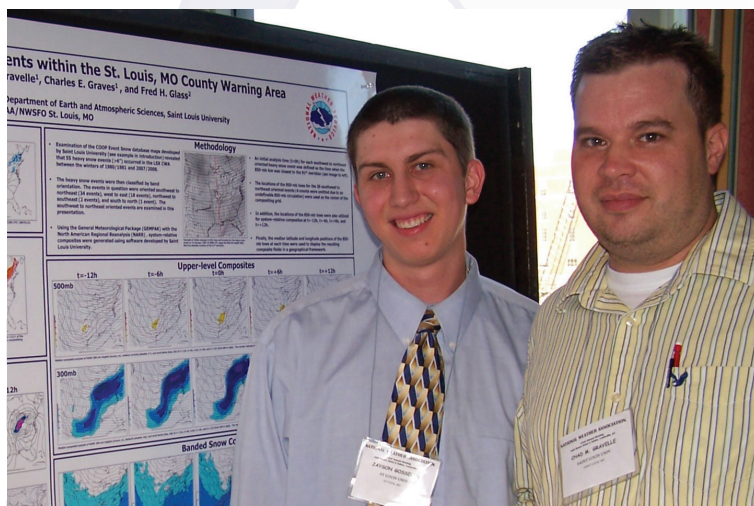
John Gagan, chair of the WAF Committee announced the winners of the best student presentations at the Annual Awards Luncheon. Congratulations to each!



Best Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation: Chauncy Schultz, University of North Dakota, for *A Reanalysis of the Fargo, North Dakota F5 Tornado (20 June 1957) Using Today's Technology*.

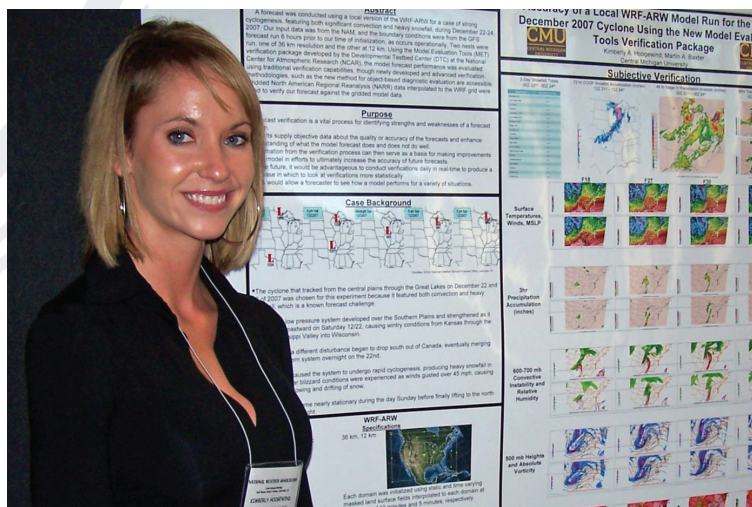
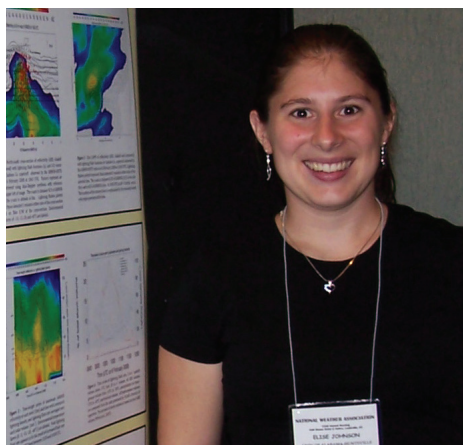


Best Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation: Elizabeth Thompson, Valparaiso University Indiana, for *Analysis of the 4 July 2006 Washington, DC Severe Thunderstorm: Overview with Synoptic and Mesoscale Assessment*. Her co-authors were Sarah Rogowski, Steven Zubrick and Steve Listemaa of the NOAA/NWS Forecast Office in Sterling, Va.

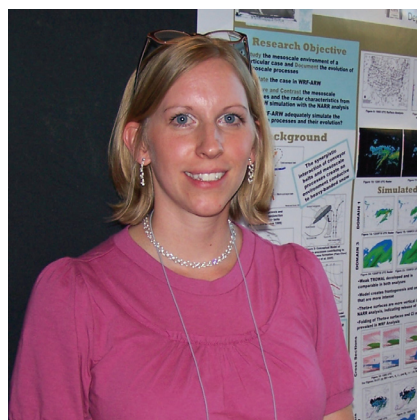


Second Place Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation: Jayson Gosselin (left), Saint Louis University, for *Compositing Analysis of Heavy Snow Events Within the St. Louis, Missouri, County Warning Area*. His co-authors were Chad Gravelle and Charles E. Graves (not pictured) of St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., and Fred Glass (also not pictured) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA)/National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office in Saint Charles, Mo.

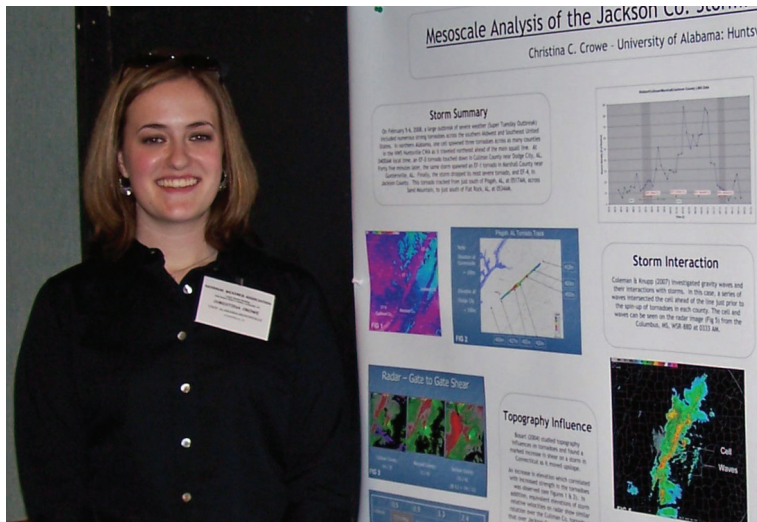
Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation: Elise Johnson, University of Alabama-Huntsville, for *Lightning Behavior and its Dependence on Storm Kinematic and Precipitation Processes for an EF-4 Tornado Producing Supercell on 6 February 2008*.



Third Place Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation: Kimberly Hoogewind, Central Michigan University, for *Accuracy of a Local WRF-ARW Model Run for the 22-24 December 2007 Cyclone Using the New Model Evaluation Tools Verification Package*. Her co-author was Martin Baxter, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Mich.



Best Graduate Student Poster Presentation: Emily Berndt, Saint Louis University, for *WRF-ARW Simulations of a Mesoscale Snowband Event in Des Moines Iowa*. Her co-author was Charles E. Graves of Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.



Third Place Graduate Student Poster Presentation: Christina Crowe, University of Alabama-Huntsville, for *Mesoscale Analysis of the Jackson County Storm: February 5-6, 2008*.



Second Place Graduate Student Poster Presentation: David Keeney, Mississippi State University, for *Relationship Between Vegetation Boundaries and Severe Local Storms in the Delta Region of Mississippi*. His co-author was Michael Brown of Mississippi State University.

Tipping the Scales: Largest NWA Annual Meeting Ever!

President's October Message

The Great Lakes storm of 1975 that wrecked the Edmund Fitzgerald, the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane, the 1934 Mount Washington wind storm, the 1974 Super Outbreak, the 1976 Big Thompson Canyon flood and the 1978 East Coast blizzard (to name only a few) stand as iconic events in U.S. weather lore and remain woven into the fabric of our nation's collective memory. An invited group of speakers brought a new perspective to these remarkable storms at the 2008 Annual Meeting held in Louisville, Ky. A record number of attendees (over 500) were given the unique opportunity to ask about the unprecedented winds experienced during the Columbus Day Windstorm of 1962 or how the residents of Louisville responded to the Great Flood of 1937. These targeted discussions were peppered throughout four days of general sessions filled with outstanding oral and poster presentations.

I was given the honor of addressing the Broadcaster Workshop on Sunday prior to my address before the general membership on Monday. I mentioned in my introductory remarks the critical role broadcast meteorologists play in the process of public education, the first step in mitigating the impacts of threatening weather. A better educated public means choosing evacuation in lieu of a hurricane party. It means building on a hillside rather than in a flood plain. It means leaving the boat in the slip or the clubs in the bag. That education also promotes accurate, timely decision making when life-threatening weather is in progress. The information our broadcasters provide on the air, in the classroom or at the grocery store saves lives.

Although somewhat unintentional, attendees of this year's annual meeting were treated to a secondary theme: assessing the societal impacts of threatening weather. We may find a morbid sense of humor in the careless decision making of the uninformed; however, closer inspection of patterns of reaction and response reveal an astounding lack of awareness. The emergency management community works extremely hard to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards through education and preparedness. This is also an area of increasing concern for the

NWA. The Council approved the formation of a Societal Impacts Committee during the annual business meeting in Louisville to better position NWA resources in this growing field.

It is of great importance to our members and to the meteorological community that we recognize in a most tangible manner the exemplary efforts of those who exhibit the very best of the National Weather Association. The Annual Awards Luncheon offers the NWA membership the opportunity to express our appreciation to these exceptional men and women. I must admit, when I learned that I would serve as president in 2008, I thought about this special opportunity to shake the hands of our award winners, but more importantly, I looked forward to offering my personal congratulations to this year's Broadcaster and Member of the Year recipients. To Dave Freeman, respect for the broadcast community is enhanced daily through your professionalism and on-air abilities. I offer my own thanks for your efforts on the evening of May 4, 2007, and in the days that followed when your steady words of instruction saved countless lives. To Dave Knapp, your years of quiet service to the NWA played a major role in elevating the organization to the level it enjoys today. I am particularly grateful for your personal insight as I navigated through the business of the NWA following my election to membership in the Council. And to the rest of this year's award winners, congratulations on a job well done. You share the gratitude of our entire membership as well as your own colleagues.

I offer a final note of thanks to all who made the 2008 Annual Meeting a record success, especially John Gordon, Bryan Karrick, Betsy Kling, Dan McCarthy and Steve Harned. I extend a special note of appreciation to our exhibitors, particularly Baron Services, WeatherBug®, Vaisala and Midland Radio for their support of the spectacular Monday evening cruise.

I encourage you to contact me with your suggestions or concerns at President@nwas.org. I look forward to seeing you in Norfolk in 2009!

John Scala
President

2008 NWA ANNUAL AWARDS



NWA President John Scala with (left to right) Dan Valle, NWS Pocatello, Idaho; Rich Okulski, NWS Memphis, Tenn.; and Jason Beaman, NWS Raleigh N.C.

The Operational Achievement Group Award

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

**Jason F. Beaman and Dan Valle –
NOAA/NWS Forecast Office; Memphis,
Tenn.**

For outstanding and life saving service during the April 2, 2006, tornado outbreak that produced F3 tornadoes which spread damage from Marmaduke, Ark., to Bradford, Tenn.

T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award

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

**Ronald L. Holle - Vaisala, Inc.
Tucson, Ariz.**



For Holle's distinguished research in identifying the characteristics and impacts of cloud-to-ground lightning resulting in improved lightning safety rules which have led to a reduction in lightning-related fatalities, injuries and property damage.

The NWA Local Chapter Award

Recognizes an active NWA chapter significantly increasing the awareness of weather and the NWA in the chapter area.

The High Plains Chapter

For heightening awareness of the National Weather Association throughout the High Plains through many diverse outreach activities conducted by chapter members.



(From left) Executive Director Steve Harned; Rick Ewald, President of the High Plains Chapter; and President Scala.



Team members (left to right) Willie Gilmore, now with National Weather Service (NWS) San Angelo, Texas; Chris Melick, now with Baron Services; and, Amy Schnetzler, a recent MS grad from the University of Missouri-Columbia accepted the Aviation Meteorology Award. Team members not pictured are Brian Pettegrew, Rachel Redburn, Chris Schultz, Chris Foltz and Melissa Chesser.

Aviation Meteorology Award

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.

Brian Pettegrew and the University of Missouri-Columbia Forecast Team

For dedication and exceptional aviation forecasting in support of the Air Race of 2005, a cross country air race disrupted by Hurricane Rita.

Operational Achievement Individual Award

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.

John Feldt – Hydrologist in Charge of the Southeast River Forecast Center

For the development and provision of unique hydrometeorological services during the historic drought of 2006 through 2008 in the southeastern United States.



Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award

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 and was the Meteorologist-in-Charge of the U.S. Weather Bureau Office in Jacksonville, Fla., in the 1940s and 50s.

Roy Sedwick - Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin, Texas

For partnering with the National Weather Service to enhance public understanding of severe weather threats, especially those associated with flooding.



Broadcaster of the Year Award

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.

David Freeman - KSNW-TV; Wichita, Kansas

For life-saving service during the 4 May 2007 Greensburg, Kan., tornado outbreak and for sustained promotion of improved private/public service partnerships enhancing forecast and warning services in Kansas.



NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION
SOL HIRSCH EDUCATION FUND GRANTS 2008 RECIPIENTS

Cliff Hudson
Williamston High School
Williamston, N.C.

Mary Jean Johnston
Punxsutawney Weather Discovery Center
Punxsutawney, Penn.

Bev McKillip
Elkhorn Valley School
Tilden, Neb.

Ronette Oller
Fort Middle School
Columbus, Ga.

Susan Parker
Buckland Elementary School
Gates, N.C.

Teresa Root
St. Mary of the Lake School
White Bear Lake, Minn.

Timothy Sheehan
Sangamon County Juvenile Center,
Community Transition Program
Springfield, Ill.

Clara Shoe
Foster Elementary School
Tampa, Fla.

Lisa Sims
Zellwood Elementary School
Zellwood, Fla.

Leslie Stafford
Manual Junior Preparatory School
Peoria, Ill.

MORE 2008 NWA ANNUAL AWARDS

Public Education Award

Presented to an individual or organization providing significant contributions to increase the public's weather awareness.

Mark W. Rose –
NOAA/NWS Forecast
Office; Birmingham,
Alabama

For the design, development, and marketing of the nationally recognized weather safety DVD, "Surviving the Storm," which is geared to elementary school children and focuses on severe weather safety.



Larry R. Johnson Special Award

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

NOAA/NWS Forecast Office; Lubbock, TX and
West Texas Mesonet at Texas Tech University

For the design and implementation of a real-time, free-access weather observation and dissemination system to improve forecasts, watches, warnings, agricultural and climatological services for the residents of West Texas.



Wesley Burgett of the West Texas Mesonet; President Scala; and Jeffrey Vitale, NWS Lubbock, Texas.

THE 2008 AWARD COMMITTEE

Chairperson Daniel McCarthy

Leann Allison	Deirdre Kann
Paul Dixon	Mike Roberts
Fred Glass	Keith M. Stellman
Bradford Herold	Bruce Telfeyan
Alan Johnson	David Valler

Professional Development Opportunities

Coastal Storms Conference: Nov. 12-13

The State University of New York announces a conference on coastal storms at Stony Brook University, N.Y., to present and discuss the most recent understandings of the physics, impact, prediction and future change of winter storms and hurricanes in the coastal regions. Confirmed keynote speakers include Drs. Louis Uccellini, Kerry Emanuel, Richard Rotunno, Paul Kocin, Chris Thorncroft and Burrell Montz. For conference details, access www.somas.stonybrook.edu/storm.

Next Generation Warning Services Workshop: Dec. 2-4, 2008

Hosted by the University of Oklahoma and NOAA's NWS this brings together technical and operations experts from the private weather enterprise, the broadcast media, emergency managers and academia to determine needs for accurate, accessible, and timely watch, warning and advisory services from the NWS. Register at <http://apps.weather.gov/partners/index.php>.

8th NOAA Satellite Direct Readout Conference: Dec. 8-12, 2008

NOAA will host this conference at the Hilton Miami Airport Hotel in Miami, Fla. Information regarding the direct readout from meteorological and environmental satellites, and changes to NOAA satellites and programs will be discussed. Learn more at directreadout.noaa.gov/miamio8/.

89th American Meteorological Society (AMS) Annual Meeting: Jan. 11-15, 2009

Scheduled for the Phoenix Civic Plaza Convention Center in Phoenix, Ariz. Visit: www.ametsoc.org/MEET/annual for details.

9th Annual National Severe Weather Workshop: March 5 – 7, 2009

Participate in the first-ever National Severe Weather Workshop survey (online for a limited amount of time) to guide planning of this Norman, Okla., workshop: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=cbcttdbgCU6ou9EieQO1_2fQ_3d_3d.

34th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference: March 6-8, 2009

Sponsored by the Lyndon State College AMS/NWA Chapter, Dr. Howard Bluestein will be the banquet speaker. Wendy Abshire is the invited speaker at the Ice Breaker. More information is located at <http://apollo-dev.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/index.php?page=nesc>.

2009 Alaska Weather Symposium: March 10 – 12, 2009

This symposium will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska. More information is available at <http://weather.arsc.edu/Events/ASW09>

2009 Texas Severe Storms Association (TESSA) National Storm Conference: March 14, 2009

This free public event features the third annual Super Storm Spotter Session which provides the highest level of training available to storm spotters anywhere in the country. The session will be presented by Ft. Worth NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Gary Woodall. Watch the TESSA Web site www.tessa.org for a complete list of presenters.

7th Annual Climate Predication Applications Science Workshop: March 24-27, 2009

Scheduled for the National Weather Center in Norman, Okla. Visit <http://climate.ok.gov/cpasw/> or call Diane Perfect (301)713-1970 ext. 132 for more information.

The 2009 Southeast Severe Storms Symposium: March 27-28, 2009

The eighth annual symposium sponsored by the East Mississippi Chapter of the NWA and AMS. Details are posted at www.msstate.edu/org/nwa/sympos.shtml

7th Annual Great Lakes Meteorology Conference: March 28, 2009

Sponsored by the Valparaiso University AMS/NWA Chapter, it will be at Strongbows Inn in Valparaiso, Ind. Keynote speaker is Dr. Tim Marshall from Haag Engineering. Abstracts due by Feb. 8. Details at www.valpo.edu/organization/nwa.

13th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference: Tentatively scheduled April 2-4, 2009

Sponsored by the Central Iowa Chapter of the NWA, details will be at www.iowa-nwa.com as conference plans progress.

13th Annual Northern Plains Weather Workshop: April , 7-8, 2009

Sponsored by the NWS and the SD School of Mines and Technology, it will be in Rapid City, S.D. Abstracts are due March 1. Details and topics are available at: www.ias.sdsmt.edu/NPWorkshop/index.htm

Inland Impacts of Tropical Cyclones Conference: June 10 – 12, 2009

Hosted by the Metro Atlanta NWA/AMS Chapter, it will be at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Ga. Oral presentations are solicited around the broad theme of the inland impacts of tropical cyclones. Submit abstracts electronically to science committee chair Rob Handel (robert.handel@noaa.gov). Abstract deadline is Feb. 6. For more about the conference, contact program chair Trisha Palmer (trisha.palmer@noaa.gov) or visit www.ametsoc.org/chapters/atlanta/iitc.htm.



Icebreaker Keeps Meeting Afloat

A thin overcast broke at sundown on Oct. 13 just as the 36th NWA Annual Meeting attendees (pictured) set sail for a delightful two-hour Ohio River cruise on the Belle of Louisville riverboat. Weather was absolutely perfect with temperatures in the mid 70s and light winds. The clearing skies yielded to an amazing rising full moon that lit up the river landscape.

Bruce Thomas of Midland Radio spearheaded the planning for this glorious event. He arranged for corporate sponsorship from Baron Services (an extremely generous contribution), Vaisala Inc., Weather Bug, and, of course, Midland Radio. The NWA covered the boat rental while the corporate donations provided guests with an extravagant buffet dinner and entertainment by the band Julius. A great addition is that the band's drummer, Angie Lese, is a lead forecaster at the Louisville NWS office and one of the members of the meeting Program Committee!

This icebreaker ranked right up with the memorable visit to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland in 2006!

Dates 2 Remember

Dec. 2 – 4: Next Generation Warning Services Workshop, Norman, Okla.

Dec. 8 – 12: 8th NOAA Satellite Direct Readout Conference, Miami, Fla.

Jan. 11 – 15: 89th AMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Ariz.

March 5 – 7: 9th Annual National Severe Weather Workshop

March 6 – 8: 34th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference

March 14: TESSA National Storm Conference

March 27 – 28: 2009 Southeast Severe Storms Symposium

March 28: 7th Annual Great Lakes Meteorology Conference

See page 7 or www.nwas.org/events.php for details on these and additional Professional Development Opportunities!

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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 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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