



October/November 2015  
No 15 - 10/11

# NWA NEWSLETTER

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## IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 31, 2015  
Deadline to vote for bylaw changes  
and our next NWA officers

March 31-April 2, 2016  
20th Annual Severe Storms &  
Doppler Radar Conference

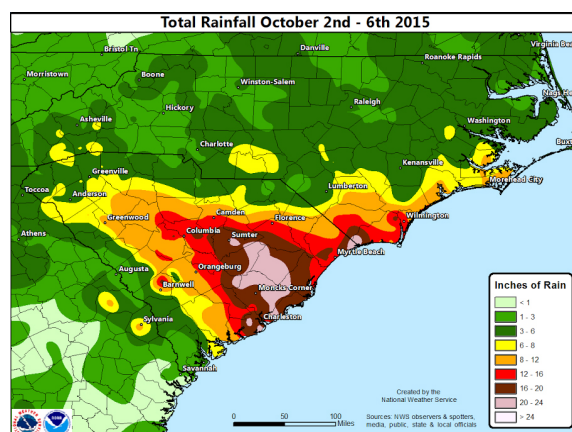
Sept. 10-15, 2016  
41st NWA Annual Meeting

*The NWA: Connecting operational  
meteorologists in pursuit of  
excellence in weather forecasting,  
communication and service.*

## Historic Flooding in South Carolina Rapid Response Team

Although the recent (October 2-6, 2015) historic rainfall over South Carolina and North Carolina has ended, several rivers were still well above flood stage in mid-October, two weeks after the event. Many dams and dikes were compromised, which exacerbated the flooding. Widespread rainfall amounts ranged from 10-20 inches, with some around 25 inches. These amounts exceeded the once in a 1,000 year rainfall event.

These rains were mostly due to an anomalous upper low pressure system that parked over the southeastern U.S. This system helped to focus a narrow, intense and nearly stationary axis of very moist tropical air westward into the region. Hurricane Joaquin was well offshore during the event, but it probably contributed upper-level moisture.



Total rainfall image from NWS Columbia.

For more details on this event, read the [Capital Weather Gang's in-depth article](#), the [Weather Prediction Center storm summary](#) with rainfall totals, [NWS Columbia's summary](#) with links to several photos, and [NWS Charleston's summary](#) that includes a four-day fast-motion radar animation.

## Proposed NWA Bylaw Change - Details of Change

The proposed change is indicated in bold italic or strikethrough.

### ARTICLE IV. ELECTIVE AND APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Reword third paragraph as follows to reflect changing the Vice President's term from one to two years:

The terms of Vice President, ~~shall be for one year.~~ The terms of Secretary, and Treasurer shall be for two years. All officers serve at the pleasure of the Council and may be removed for just cause by a two-thirds vote of the other Council members.

The complete NWA bylaws are at: <http://www.nwas.org/bylaws.php> for reference.



Contact the NWA office at [nwahelp@nwas.org](mailto:nwahelp@nwas.org) or 405-701-5167 for any questions. Members may vote electronically by logging into the NWA Member Portal, or by requesting a paper ballot using the email or phone number listed above. Electronic ballots must be cast by the end of the day December 31, 2015. Paper ballots must be postmarked by December 31, 2015, and mailed to the NWA Office. Please note the office is moving to a new location in early December 2015. The new address is 3100 Monitor Ave., Suite 123, Norman, OK 73072.

## NEW NWA MEMBERS

Please welcome these members who joined the NWA in September & October!

### Student Members:

Rebecca Bennett  
William Blumberg  
Emily Borah  
Ari Brown  
Amy Burnett  
Kat Campbell  
Brandie Cantrell  
Russ Clemins  
Christian Cosme  
Craig Croskery  
William Day  
Andrew Deemer  
Blake Elmer  
Adrienne Engel  
Sean Ernst  
James Fannon  
Scott Feldman  
Matthew Flanagan  
David Gagne  
Anne Gale  
Lani Hannah  
Juanmanuel Hernandez  
Rachael Hough  
Glen Kendrick  
Jerry Kung  
Scott LaVoise  
Damien Lodes  
Sergio Mora  
Samantha Mrozinski  
Frank Mullens  
Wes Peery  
Kyle Perez  
David Perkins  
Joseph Picca  
Mehgan Raab  
Johnathan Rogers  
Mallory Schnell  
Kristin Sherlock  
Steven Shrenkel  
Henry Slimming  
Holly Stands  
Jacie Sweitzer  
Aaron Swiggett  
Edward Tierney  
Cameron Venable  
James Watts  
Michael Wehrenberg II  
Castle Williams  
Heather Zons

### Regular Members:

Richard Bandy  
Sean Benedict  
Aubry Bhattarai  
Paige Burress  
DaNa Carlis  
Dylan Cooper  
Kristen Delack  
Spencer Denton  
Charlotte Dewey  
Ashley Dougherty  
Matthew Dux  
Kristi Eckrich  
Joel Feldmeier  
Lauren Forney  
Jill Gilardi  
Gregory Grosshans  
William Gustin  
Raymond Hawthorne  
Eric Jacobsen  
Chris Johnson  
Terran Kirksey  
Brittany Kirksey  
Stephen Konarik  
Chandra Kondragunta  
Jonathan Kurtz  
Kevin Law  
Julie Malingowski  
Thomas Moore  
Chris Outler  
Fred Remer  
Britley Ritz  
Charles Ross  
Steven Rowley  
Nicholas Russo  
Lori Schultz  
Cheryl Scott  
Patrick Skinner  
Jeffrey Snyder  
Steven Sosna  
Richard Thompson  
LaVonne Tongue  
Debra Wagner  
Victor Ward  
Greg Whitworth

### Corporate Members:

[National Storm Shelter](#)

[Association Intellovations, LLC](#)



## 40th NWA Annual Meeting closes successfully

A big thank you to everyone who came to the NWA's 40th Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City, which ended October 22. We had 676 attendees! If you missed any of the #nwas15 meeting, you can catch up with our summaries on [Storify](#).

A special thank you to all our meeting sponsors, donors and exhibitors. We appreciate all of the members who volunteered their time and effort to make the meeting a great success!



Clockwise from left: Communications Coordinator Hulda Johannsdottir, Janice Bunting, NWA Executive Director, Grant Tosterud, NWA Intern, and Hailey Wilson, Member Services Specialist.

## Thank You For Making #Nwas15 A Success

- Over 140 oral presentations
- Over 200 posters
- Record attendance

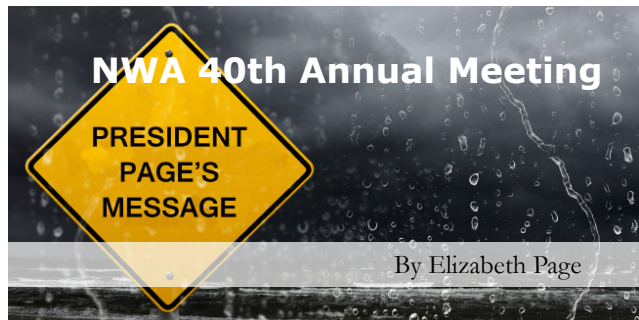
SEE YOU NEXT TIME

**2016**  
NORFOLK, VA



JOIN OR RENEW  
MEMBERSHIP AT [Nwas.org](#)





Last month, we celebrated 40 years of the National Weather Association at the Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City. With record attendance, we welcomed people who were charter members as well as those who were attending for their first time. As with every NWA meeting, I marveled at the atmosphere of camaraderie and sense of inclusion created by our members. The NWA is a unique organization.



This year, the conference planning committee, led by Patrick Marsh and John Ferree, took on the challenge of incorporating new, unique events into the program. They adapted the schedule to accommodate the large number of presentations submitted. A greater number of concurrent sessions allowed for more oral presentations and our first evening session highlighting historic events. Over the weekend in addition to the golf outing, the Climate and Teacher & Public Safety Workshops on Saturday and the Broadcast Meteorology and Student Workshops on Sunday expanded the opportunities for professional development and community outreach.

Highlights for me included opening the Broadcast Meteorology Workshop, the honor of introducing our opening keynote speaker, Dr. Louis Uccellini, and chairing the final session with President-elect Dave Freeman and closing the meeting. Many people stayed through the end of the final session, which speaks to their interest in the talks given.

The annual Awards Luncheon on Wednesday provided the opportunity to recognize a wide range of accomplishments in operational meteorology. I was especially thrilled to present the Member of the Year award to Winnie Crawford for her service to the Association. Charter member, Past President and former Executive Director Steve Harned gave the keynote speech and shared memories of his 40 years of involvement with the NWA.

We look forward to hearing your opinions and suggestions related to the annual meeting. [A web survey has been set up and is now open.](#) Please share your thoughts about the meeting so that we can continue to gear the meeting to the needs of the membership.

We hope that you will join us for the 2016 meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, on September 10-15. [The conference website is up and running](#) and includes the abstract submission form. The deadline for abstracts is March 15, 2016 ([see page 4](#)).

Also with the end of the year comes election time. Please help choose the next group of leaders of the NWA. The ballot is now ready, just log into the member portal to access the on-line ballot.

Thanks to everyone who made the Annual Meeting such a success. I hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did and that we will see you in Norfolk.

## Supporting Women in Atmospheric Sciences Luncheon

*Jennifer Hogan, Diversity Committee*

On Tuesday, October 20, during the NWA 40th Annual Meeting, roughly 65 professionals gathered together to discuss more than just the weather. This was the fourth Supporting Women in Atmospheric Sciences luncheon held at the NWA Annual Meeting, and the first under the newly formed Diversity Committee. The luncheon's history stems from the need of a forum for women to discuss topics on a more personal level, whether it was obtaining insight to professional development, work life balance, or to simply discuss interesting subjects of that day. It has become a networking forum for not only women, but for men of the NWA as well. It allows for both men and women to casually and candidly discuss issues important to women for which both genders can give valuable insight to each other. Both sides are able to acquire new perspectives through the table discussions that occur over lunch.

The luncheon now exists as a subcommittee under the Diversity Committee where members volunteer their time and efforts into decision making for the luncheon itself and creating the annual "take away" handout. The handout acts as a go-to product if the people at a table need a little guidance for topics of discussion during the luncheon. Each year a new theme is chosen and the women in the subcommittee development group enjoy creating the final product. The luncheon has been successful in attracting more and more participants each year; it has truly found a solid place at each NWA annual meeting.



*Above: Group shot of the luncheon participants. Below: Participants engaging in candid conversation during the luncheon.*



**Location:** Norfolk, Virginia

**41st NWA Annual Meeting Venue and Hotel:**

[Norfolk Waterside Marriott](#), 235 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510

**Theme: Better Science, Better Communication, Better Results**

Operational meteorologists constantly strive to improve the science behind the forecast. We also want to make sure the people we serve receive, understand and then act on the information that we provide. If we utilize the best possible science and are effective communicators, lives will be saved and impacts to the economy minimized. Join the National Weather Association in Norfolk and help the weather enterprise advance on this path of service.

**Important Dates in 2016**

- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** March 15
- **Oral and Poster Presenters Notified:** April 15
- **Preliminary Agenda Posted On-line:** July 1
- **2016 NWA Annual Meeting:** September 10-15

**Schedule of Events**

- Broadcast Meteorology Workshop: **Sunday, September 11**
- Ninth Annual Student Session including Speed Mentoring: **Sunday, September 11**
- General Sessions: **Monday-Thursday, September 12-15**
- NWA Annual Awards Luncheon: **Wednesday, September 14**

**Abstract Submission**

**Submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations by March 15, 2016**

In addition to the traditional sessions on severe weather, weather and forecasting, etc., the Program Committee is specifically soliciting abstracts which relate to one of the following sub-themes:

- Coastal Flooding, Storm Surge and Sea Level Rise
- Integration of New Technology (Dual-pol, GOES-R/JPSS, MYRORSS, Proving Ground, FACETS)
- Advances in Numerical Weather Prediction (Warn-on-Forecast, Storm-Scale Ensembles)
- Innovations in Communicating High-Impact Weather Events (Social Media, Commercial Services, Simplification)
- Case Studies of High-Impact Events
- Weather Support for the Armed Forces

Abstracts should be sent via the on-line form on the NWA website at: [2016 NWA Annual Meeting Abstract Submission Form](#). If you are unable to submit your abstract via the on-line form, please contact the NWA office at 405-701-5167 or e-mail: [nwahelp@nwas.org](mailto:nwahelp@nwas.org).

The Program Committee will notify presenters, via e-mail, regarding the disposition of their abstracts by April 15. A preliminary agenda will be posted on the NWA website by early July for presenters to review.

Students, please complete the abstract submission form section regarding student awards. If you concur, your presentations will be reviewed by the NWA Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee members. Monetary awards will be presented to the best oral presentations and posters in undergraduate and graduate student categories.



**The Annual Meeting Program Committee Co-Chairs are:**

**Ken Carey**  
ERT, Inc  
Laurel, MD 20707  
[annualmeeting2016@nwas.org](mailto:annualmeeting2016@nwas.org)

**Mike Vescio**  
NOAA National Weather Service  
Pendleton, OR 97801  
[annualmeeting2016@nwas.org](mailto:annualmeeting2016@nwas.org)

**The Broadcaster Workshop Program Chair:**

**Mike Goldberg**  
WTVR-TV  
Richmond, VA 23230  
[broadcasterworkshop2016@nwas.org](mailto:broadcasterworkshop2016@nwas.org)

**Additional Information**

For more information on exhibits, special accommodations, registration and the overall meeting program, keep checking the [2016 Annual Meeting Page](#) and its links, or contact the NWA office: 405-701-5167 or [nwahelp@nwas.org](mailto:nwahelp@nwas.org).

NWA will provide updates on this Web page, on the [NWA Facebook Page](#), [Twitter](#) and other social media. Please use the hashtag [#NWA516](#) for any tweets associated with the 2016 Annual Meeting.



*Photo courtesy of Visit Norfolk*



Andrea Melvin, Program Manager for Educational Outreach, Oklahoma Climatological Survey (OCS) has been awarded the A&GS Dean's Award for Outstanding Service. Andrea manages camps and workshops and in 2014 worked directly with 715 students, 55 teachers, and 273 adults as part of her outreach to the university and the state. Also in 2014, Andrea led the fourth annual Mesonet Weather Camp which hosted students from over 14 states across the nation and received a grant from the Oklahoma State Regents to lead a camp for high school students with attendees from 14 Oklahoma counties. Andrea consistently participates in numerous service activities and can also list in her 2014 accomplishments the presentation of three papers at the NWA Annual Meeting and three papers at the annual AMS meeting.

## Fall Announcement from COMET

Wendy Schreiber-Abshire, COMET Sr. Project Manager/Meteorologist

COMET's MetEd has new publications. Topics include new national blend of NWP, tropical cyclones and storm surge, introductory meteorological charting and satellite meteorology. We've also published several Spanish language lessons.

### General:

#### [Introduction to Meteorological Charting](#) (<45 minutes)

This lesson provides a brief overview of surface and upper-air data and how these data are plotted on meteorological charts.

#### [Geospatial Infrastructure for Coastal Communities: Informing Adaptation to Sea Level Rise](#) (~15 minutes)

This video explains how using geospatial information already available through NOAA, combined with strategic local investments in infrastructure, can provide communities with the data needed to confidently plan for future sea-level changes.

#### [Ship-based Sea and Lake Ice Observing](#) (2–3 hours)

Ships operating in areas with ice are expected to report conditions as part of standard weather reporting procedures. This lesson is aimed at those tasked with this responsibility, be they official or informal observers.

### Modeling:

#### [Introduction to the NWS National Blend of Global Models](#) (<30 minutes)

This lesson describes the background and motivation for the National Blend and includes comparisons of Blend forecasts with current guidance.

#### [HYSPLIT Applications for Emergency Decision Support, 2nd Edition](#) (3–4 hours)

This lesson helps forecasters provide decision support services during hazardous materials emergencies.

### Tropical:

#### [Use of Probabilistic Surge Guidance in Local Storm Surge Forecasting](#) (<1 hour)

This lesson introduces forecasters to the probabilistic storm surge guidance used by the National Weather Service to assess local surge threats and impacts.

#### [Tropical Cyclone Forecast Uncertainty](#) (<45 minutes)

This lesson introduces learners to the uncertainty and errors in forecasting the track, timing, and intensity of tropical cyclones.

#### [Use of Probabilistic Guidance in Local Tropical Cyclone Wind Forecasting](#) (<1 hour)

This lesson describes the role of forecasters in supporting emergency managers during tropical cyclones with a focus on the wind hazards.

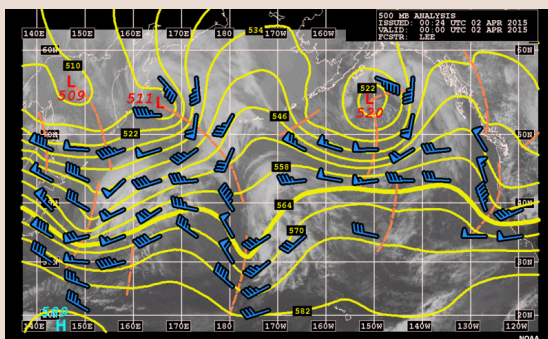
#### [Introduction to Tropical Meteorology, 2nd Edition: Chapter 6 Vertical Transport](#) (~75 minutes)

This chapter examines vertical transport of heat, moisture, momentum, trace gases, and aerosols, including the role of tropical deep convection and turbulence.

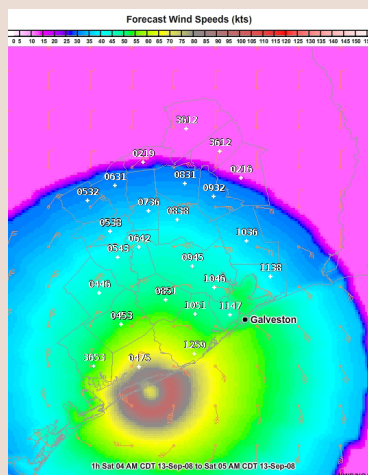
### Satellite Meteorology:

#### [Using Scatterometer Wind and Altimeter Wave Estimates in Marine Forecasting](#) (~75 minutes)

This lesson describes the basics of scatterometers and altimeters, including how they work, what they measure, and how scatterometer winds and altimeter significant wave heights are derived.



500 mb analysis overlaid on satellite imagery (from *Introduction to Meteorological Charting*)



Hurricane Ike hourly wind forecasts (from loop in *Use of Probabilistic Guidance in Local Tropical Cyclone Wind Forecasting*)

### [New Lessons on African Satellite Meteorology \(ASMET\) Topics](#)

The four new lessons in this ASMET 8 series include:

- 1) Extreme High Swell Events on the Moroccan Atlantic Coast
- 2) Using ASCAT Wind and Other Data in Marine Forecasting
- 3) Forecasting Heavy Rains and Landslides in Eastern Africa
- 4) Satellite-Derived Climatology Products for Monitoring Convection Over West and Central Africa.

### Spanish:

- [Guía de referencia para sistemas de alerta temprana de crecidas repentinas](#)
- [Introducción a la hidrografía](#)
- [Aplicaciones satelitales multiespectrales: observación del ciclo de vida de los incendios en zonas despobladas, 2a edición](#)

These materials are currently available to everyone at no cost, courtesy of our primary sponsors. They are NOAA's NWS, NESDIS and National Ocean Service programs, EUMETSAT, the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, the Meteorological Service of Canada, Bureau of Meteorology, the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation.

"The source of this material is the COMET® Website at <http://meted.ucar.edu/> of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), sponsored in part through cooperative agreement(s) with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC). ©1997-2015 University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. All Rights Reserved."

# National Weather Association 2016 Officer Candidates



**Gail Hartfield**

National Weather Service  
Raleigh, North Carolina



## President-Elect



**Nezette Rydell**

National Weather Service  
Boulder, Colorado

## Vice-President



**Bill Murray**

The Weather Factory  
Birmingham, Alabama



**Miles Muzio**

KBAK-TV  
Bakersfield, California

## Secretary



**Randy Graham**

National Weather Service  
Salt Lake City, Utah



**Pamela Szatanek**

National Weather Service  
Elko, Nevada

## Councilors



**Mike Brown**

Mississippi State University  
State of Mississippi  
Starkville, Mississippi



**Jill Hasling**

Weather Research Center  
Houston, Texas



**Susan Jasko**

California University of  
Pennsylvania  
California, Pennsylvania



**Nate Johnson**

WRAL-TV  
Raleigh, North Carolina



**Jennifer McNatt**

National Weather Service  
Fort Worth, Texas



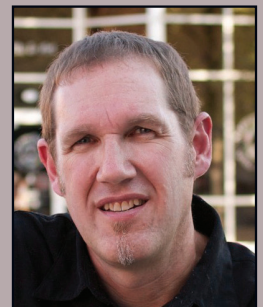
**Vytas Reid**

FOX45 News  
Baltimore, Maryland



**Josh Rubenstein**

CBS 2 and KCAL 9 News  
Los Angeles, California



**Greg Stumpf**

University of Oklahoma  
Norman, Oklahoma

Click  
the  
poster  
to view  
their  
full  
bios!



## Three Rivers NWA Chapter Quarterly News July-September 2015

California University of Pennsylvania (Cal U)

Adam Andresen, Secretary

### OFFICERS:

The Three Rivers Chapter of the NWA elected new officers at the end of the Spring semester. They are John Troutman as President, Dylan Jeffrey as Vice President, Adam Andresen as Secretary, Rachael Hough as Treasurer, Kellee Judy as Historian, and Timothy Gunkel as Social Media Coordinator.

### STORM CHASE:

Ten students, two alumni and a professor participated in the annual Storm Chase. This was a two-week organized trip through the Great Plains where students studied severe weather phenomena and put their forecasting skills to the test in real-life chasing situations. The field course took place from May 11-22. Throughout the 11-day trip students were required to present weather briefings. These briefings were broadcast live through the chapter's Twitter page via the Periscope app where other students, faculty and alumni could stay updated with the group and also provide feedback about the discussion that morning. The class experienced active chase days including one when they intercepted a large cone tornado just west of Tipton, Oklahoma. During down days, the group enjoyed hiking in the Rocky Mountain National Park and the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, touring the National Weather Center, and visiting three Cal U meteorology alumni. This class was a great opportunity for chapter members to bond with each other while gaining experience at doing work in the field.



**STORM CHASE! Colfax County North Dakota Supercell produced 3 Tornadoes and Softball sized Hail.(From Big Stock Photos)**

### INTERNSHIPS/RESEARCH:

This past summer, three students from the chapter were awarded internships at varying locations across the country, two of which were [NOAA Hollings Scholars](#).

**Damon Matson**, one of the Hollings Scholars, spent his internship at the NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge office. As an intern, he was able to see how involved the office was in education and communication by traveling to several outreach events, which were mainly focused on the hurricane season. He attended eight events in two weeks as he was becoming familiar with the city of New Orleans. The outreach events were part of an NWS test program called the Impact-Based Decision Support Pilot Project. Damon's research was to determine how effective the project was for NWS partner agencies. He created a survey with 23 questions, sent it to 70 NWS partners, and compiled results from the surveys he received during the time he was there. Along with his research, Damon also participated in river, aviation and day-to-day forecasting, launch weather balloons, fix weather observation stations, assist on social media, and even help track Tropical Storm Bill.

**John Troutman**, the other Hollings Scholar, traveled to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, Florida, where he worked in the Storm Surge Unit under the supervision of Jamie Rhome. While there, he completed a project that evaluated the prototype experimental storm surge watch/warning graphic. This prototype is the initial step in the transition toward a NWS storm surge watch/warning system and highlights the inundation levels that have a 10% chance of being exceeded. The guidance for this product is the Probabilistic Hurricane Storm Surge (P-Surge) model, which predicts the probability of various storm surge heights. Questions remain, however, if exceedance values in addition to 10% may be of equal importance to forecasters. John used P-Surge data from Hurricane Arthur in 2014 to ascertain the practicality of incorporating other exceedance data into storm surge forecasts. John was also able to tour the Miami-Dade County Emergency Operations Center, contribute to operations during Tropical Storm Bill, and network with the various professionals in each NHC branch.

John and Damon completed their research projects and presented the results at the NOAA Science and Education Symposium at NOAA Headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. At the symposium, John provided an oral presentation and Damon displayed a poster showcasing the research they completed during their internships.

**Kellee Judy** secured an internship at the North Dakota Atmospheric Resource Board in Bismarck, North Dakota. She was extremely busy forecasting seven days a week for the Board's cloud modification research project. She also helped direct planes during cloud seeding missions while she was working at a different project site for two weeks, and participated in two cloud seeding missions.

## AMS/NWA Memphis Chapter

Jim Branda, Secretary

President Tom Salem welcomed everyone to the first meeting for the 2015-2016 year on September 22. The treasurer's report was given with a reminder that scholarship donations are always accepted for next year's recipient. A thank you went out to the four members who served on this year's scholarship committee. The group was reminded that minority scholarships are available through the AMS for students and the AMS Local Affairs position is open and accepting candidates.

Two upcoming events were announced: the NWA 40th Annual Meeting to be held in Oklahoma City in October, and the Verification of the Origins of Rotation in Tornadoes

EXperiment-Southeast (VORTEX-SE) project is coming to the Midsouth region next spring.

The president introduced the evening guest speaker, Jim Branda, a General Forecaster for the Memphis NWS forecast office. Jim's presentation was titled "Midsouth Tornado Statistics from 2000 through 2014". The Memphis County Warning Area experienced 277 tornadoes, with slightly more weak and violent tornadoes compared to the national average. Overall the Midsouth saw an average of 19 tornadoes per year. He showed the tornado EF ratings versus injuries and deaths, along with monthly and time of day occurrences. It was interesting to see that 43 percent of the tornadoes occurred during dusk and night time hours, which is one reason for the increase in deadly events, and that straight-line winds with magnitudes comparable to weak tornadoes produced four deaths. Jim also showed that a small tornado alley had developed across northeast Arkansas through the southern Bootheel of Missouri and ending in extreme northwest Tennessee, and that one EF-4 did not cause any deaths.

One attendee asked if the causes of deaths were investigated, for instance, were the individuals in cars, caught outdoors, or in mobile homes. This generated more discussion on the use of social media during severe weather events.

[www.amsmemphis.org](http://www.amsmemphis.org)

Three new articles have been published in the NWA's JOM since our last newsletter.

JOM2015-13: Warm-Season Thunderstorm Development as a Function of Vertical Distribution of Relative Humidity in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas by Justin G. Gibbs and Douglas A. Butts Jr.

JOM2015-14: Examination of a Winter Storm Using a Micro Rain Radar and AMDAR Aircraft Soundings by Barrett L. Smith and Jonathan L. Blaes.

JOM 2015-15: Establishing a National Standard Method for Operational Mixing Height Determination by Matthew G. Fearon and Timothy J. Brown and Gary M. Curcio.

The JOM publishes submissions in four categories: Article, Short Contribution, Images of Note and Commentary. The JOM is a peer-reviewed, all-electronic journal with an international scope, providing authors with the benefits of economical publication costs and rapid publication following acceptance.

If you are interested in submitting a paper to the JOM, please go to the website for author information.

Presenters at the NWA Annual Meeting – please consider the JOM when publishing your studies. Thank you to the JOM authors, reviewers and editors for continuing to make JOM a success!

You can read papers by logging on to the [NWA Member Portal](#) and clicking on the JOM link under Additional Member Resources on the right.

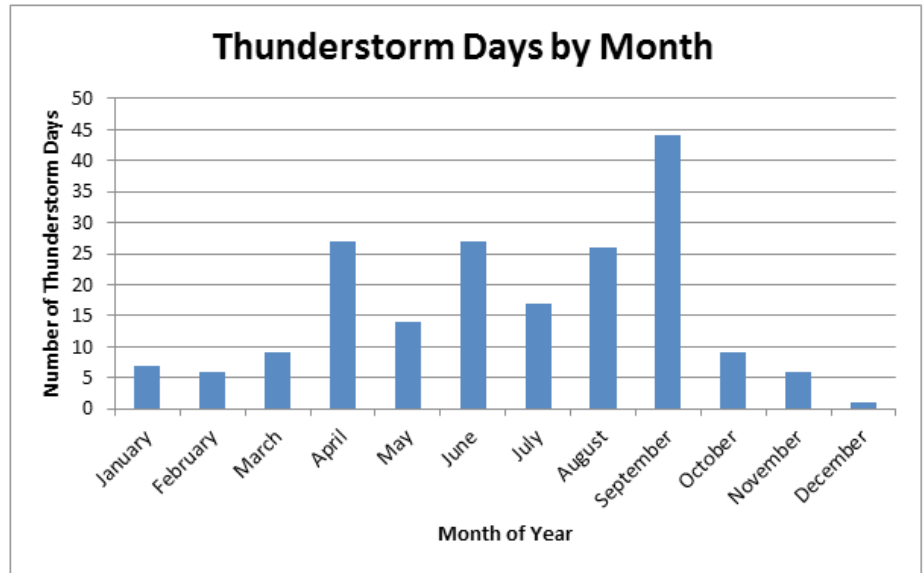


Figure 3 from JOM2015-13. Number of days each month that thunderstorms were reported by one or more of the Lower Rio Grande Valley ASOS platforms (BRO, HRL, MFE, or PIL) from April 2010 to April 2015 (NOAA 2015a).

## Announcing The New NWA Monthly Webinar Series

The NWA Professional Development (PD) Committee would like to announce a new undertaking for 2016: the NWA Webinar Series. Over the past few years, the NWA Annual Meetings have boasted higher and higher attendance numbers, but still most NWA members cannot attend these meetings due to a combination of time, cost, and availability concerns. Thus, with the assistance of the Commissioner of Committees, the PD Committee has proposed to facilitate monthly webinars on various topics. This would allow NWA members and committees to benefit from the information without the

Month	Topic	Hosting Committee(s)
December 2015	2016 Goals and the Annual Meeting	PDC/Nominating/NWA President
January 2016	Weather to Support Agricultural Activities	PDC
February 2016	Decision Support	WAF
March 2016	Communicating Forecast Information	Societal Impacts
April 2016	Award Submission Process	Awards
May 2016	Workforce Diversity	Diversity
June 2016	Communicating via Posters	Specialized Operations
July 2016	New Forecast Techniques in Remote Sensing	Remote Sensing
August 2016	Student Opportunities and Mentoring	PDC

commitment of attending the Annual Meeting by keeping them aware of and involved in NWA initiatives, science, technology, and communication-focused events and activities.

In facilitating the webinars, the PD Committee will schedule and host the webinars as well as oversee advertising and promotion, but will collaborate with other NWA committees to provide content of the webinars. The

PD Committee will also rely on the Social Media and IT Committees to help with promotion and logistics. This is the proposed monthly schedule and the responsible committee for each topic. The webinar format is intended to be flexible; that is, we do not anticipate that every webinar will consist of a 30- to 45-minute presentation followed by Q&A. That will likely be the case for many webinars, but some might be only 15 minutes and others might consist of more of a panel discussion format. The format will be decided by the hosting committee.

At least initially, the webinars will be hosted through the Go-To-Webinar platform, which will allow up to 100 attendees, and will be recorded for attendees that can't attend. Google Hangouts may also be utilized, depending on the nature and format of the monthly webinar. The current plan is hold the webinars on the first Tuesday of every month, though the time will be flexible based on the presenters' availability. As we work with the committees and finalize the details, the full schedule will be posted on the [PD Committee website](#) and the [Member Portal](#). For now, the webinars are intended for NWA members only, and instructions for accessing the webinar will be provided on the Member Portal and via email.

We hope as many NWA members as possible can join us in 2016 for the NWA Monthly Webinar Series.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & EVENTS

### NWA Sponsored Meetings, Conferences & Special Events in 2016 (Click titles for more)

#### 20th Annual Severe Storms & Doppler Radar Conference: March 31-April 2

The 20th Annual Severe Storms & Doppler Radar Conference will be held in Ankeny, Iowa, at the Courtyard by Marriott.

#### 41st NWA Annual Meeting: September 10-15

"Better Science, Better Communication, Better Results" is the theme of the 2016 Annual Meeting being held in Norfolk, Virginia. Operational meteorologists constantly strive to improve the science behind the forecast. We also want to make sure the people we serve receive, understand and then act on the information that we provide. If we utilize the best possible science and are effective communicators, lives will be saved and impacts to the economy minimized. Join the National Weather Association in Norfolk and help the weather enterprise advance on this path of service. [Please see page 4.](#)

### Other Meetings, Conferences and Special Events in 2016

#### AMS 96th Annual Meeting: January 10-14

This year's meeting theme is "Earth System Science in Service to Society" and will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The "Earth System Science" theme emphasizes that the growing knowledge of the academic and research communities about our Earth system is a strength of AMS. AMS brings together the physical, chemical and biological study of the Earth, allowing important decisions to be made by policy makers and the public.

#### 2016 Baron Weather Radar Summit: January 12

Held during the AMS Annual Meeting, this free to attend conference will discuss hydrological applications of weather radar, next-generation radar techniques and technologies and much more.

#### 18th Annual National Storm Chaser Convention: January 22-24

This year's convention will be held in Norman, Oklahoma, and feature speakers like Gary England, Dr. Greg Forbes, Dr. Howie Bluestein and Greg Carbin.

#### 2016 FLASH Annual Conference: January 27-29

To be held in Orlando, Florida, the meeting theme will be "The Next Generation of Resilience." The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) conference will focus on creating a disaster resilient generation and the next generation of codes/standards/policies, residential construction, resilient communities, and outreach/education

#### 2016 Broadcast Weather Conference: January 29-30

Join Baron, industry professionals and peers in Huntsville, Alabama, for an informative two-day event full of new innovations, feedback sessions, sneak peeks and endless networking opportunities.

#### National Weatherperson's Day: February 6

#### National Tornado Summit: March 1-2

Held in downtown Oklahoma City, the National Tornado Summit improves disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in order to save lives and property in the U.S. In addition, the summit serves as a national forum for insurance professionals and regulators as well as international, national and state experts to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve emergency management.

### Newsletter Submissions

We welcome Newsletter article submissions from members. Send articles by the 25th of each month to [nwanewsletter@nwas.org](mailto:nwanewsletter@nwas.org) for publication in the following month's edition at the earliest. Information about the Newsletter and a link to author guidelines can be found at [www.nwas.org/newsletters/](http://www.nwas.org/newsletters/).

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

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Submit newsletter items to [nwanewsletter@nwas.org](mailto:nwanewsletter@nwas.org) using the Instruction for Authors at [www.nwas.org/newsletters/newsletter\\_instructions.php](http://www.nwas.org/newsletters/newsletter_instructions.php).

Members receive the Apex award winning Newsletter online and access to an online portal which includes the Journal of Operational Meteorology as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges.

Address, phone number, email and affiliation changes can now be made online: [member.nwas.org](http://member.nwas.org).

A large graphic titled "Weather-Ready Nation is... The Future". It features a satellite in space with four numbered callouts: 1. Better Observations and Models (pointing to a ground station), 2. More Relevant Forecasts (pointing to a map), 3. New methods of dissemination (pointing to Facebook and Twitter logos), and 4. Prepared and informed public (pointing to a group of children). The background shows a map of the United States with weather patterns.

**WRN**

Weather-Ready Nation is...

*The Future*

**W**e are building a **Weather-Ready Nation** with up-graded technology, social science integration and new dissemination methods in partnership with the weather industry. Empowered by better information for better decisions, community leaders, first responders and the public will be prepared to make life-saving decisions.

4 Prepared and informed public

1 Better Observations and Models

2 More Relevant Forecasts

3 New methods of dissemination

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[www.noaa.gov/wrn](http://www.noaa.gov/wrn)