**WeatherReady Fest 2016**

Bill Murray

Norfolk, Virginia, is one of the most vulnerable communities in the United States, given its low-lying location along the coast. The NWA wanted to take the opportunity afforded by its Annual Meeting in Norfolk to communicate weather preparedness via a public outreach event for the community.

WeatherReady Fest 2016 was held at the Nautilus Naval Museum on the waterfront in Norfolk on September 10. The weather was perfect, albeit a bit hot. But with most of the exhibits indoors spread among the permanent exhibits of the museum, everyone was cool and comfortable for the event. Over 3,500 people showed up to learn about tropical weather, floods, severe weather, preparedness, forecasting, and all sorts of other weather information. Kids and adults alike were excited to get every space on their WeatherReady Passport stamped by exhibitors, which included the following organizations (exhibitors with asterisks hosted Passport Stamp Stations):

- Allison House *
- Amber’s Balloons
- Baron *
- CoCoRaHS *
- COMET *
- FACETS
- FedEx *
- FLASH *
- Fleet Weather Norfolk
- How The Weather Works
- HurricaneTrack.org
- JPL - Tony Rice *
- KidWind.org
- Midland *
- NASA *
- Norfolk ARES
- Norfolk Department of Utilities
- Norfolk EMA *
- Norfolk Medical Reserve Corps *
- NWA
- NWS Wakefield *
- Old Coast Guard Station *
- Penn State
- Recycling Perks
- Red Cross
- Tornado in a Bottle Signup
- USAA *
- Verizon
- Virginia Sea Grant/ODU *
- Virginia Air and Space Center
- VA Dept of Environmental Qual *
- Virginia Floodplain Managers *
- Virginian Pilot
- Watch vs Warning *
- WAVY-TV
- WeatherBrains *
- WeatherCall *
- WeatherReady Nation *
- WxIntegrations *

Click for a great video from the festival. See more about the event and photos on page 2.

**Invitation to Meteorologists’ Survey**

The Department of Emergency Management at North Dakota State University is conducting an online survey of meteorologists and their perceptions about hurricane forecast uncertainty as well as relationships with the public in times of a hurricane threat. This survey is part of National Science Foundation Grant #1520338 (Hazard SEES: Bridging Information, Uncertainty, and Decision-Making in Hurricanes using an Interdisciplinary Perspective).

This online survey is the first of its kind, and is designed to ask meteorologists about their perceptions on hurricane forecasting, social media use, and numerical model reliance. If your job sometimes requires you to tell the public or clients about the forecast or impacts for hurricanes, please click here to take our survey.

Thank you.
FedEx and USAA Insurance were the main event sponsors with several other organizations helping to underwrite the hugely successful event. A total of 32 volunteers from the NWA made sure that all the attendees had a great time. Members Nick Walker and Cheryl Nelson got everyone pumped up with a stage show and prizes. There was a great speaker list including Dr. Marshall Shepherd from The Weather Channel and former National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read.

The event was a great kickoff for the Annual Meeting and generated lots of positive publicity for the NWA. WeatherReady Fest Chair and NWA Vice President Bill Murray did cuts all morning on The Weather Channel live from Nauticus and there was lots of pre- and post-event publicity in the Hampton Roads media. The event was such a huge success that it has already been awarded the Big Idea Award from the Hampton Roads Alliance for Environmental Education.

Thanks to all the NWA members who participated as volunteers, sponsors and exhibitors, and who helped with planning the event.

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Sooner Alumni

The University of Oklahoma is looking for you! We are proud of our broadcast alums and want to know where you are.

Please send an update of where you are and what you are doing to cmaxon@ou.edu.
This is a message I have been waiting eagerly to write for a number of months—about a game-changing development in the NWA that will benefit students and teachers for generations to come! At the Annual Meeting in Norfolk, we proudly announced the formation of the National Weather Association Foundation, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization with the mission of supporting college and university students in meteorology and related fields; assisting K-12 educators in developing and offering weather-related educational programs; and supporting other organizations engaged in offering education on weather related topics.

The NWA, of course, has a long history of providing scholarships and grants to deserving students and teachers. But efforts to raise funds have been held back by the fact that contributions to the NWA are not tax-deductible. So last year, at the 2015 mid-year meeting, the Council decided to investigate what would be required to form a separate tax exempt organization that would be in a better position to perform this vital service.

After a great deal of research and with the advice of legal counsel, the Council was ready to move forward. At this year’s mid-year meeting, formal actions were taken to call into being a separate organization that would take over these functions.

The Council invited a sterling group of individuals to serve as charter members of the Board of Directors of the National Weather Association Foundation. In addition, the by-laws adopted by the NWA Foundation Board of Directors mandate that the Immediate Past-President of the NWA serves on the Board, which is Dr. Elizabeth Page this year.

The Board members are:
• Jill Hasling, President
• Betsy Kling, Vice President
• Elizabeth Page, Secretary
• Jeff Craven, Treasurer
• Pat Market, Board Member

The new Board of Directors convened in Norfolk at the Annual Meeting to constitute the Foundation, and the grand announcement was made at the Annual Awards Banquet.

The NWA Council voted to support the Foundation by transferring, over time and in coordination with donors, all scholarship and grant monies now held. The Council also voted to donate staff time to the Foundation to provide logistical support.

It is hoped that the two organizations will always work closely together to support deserving students and teachers in our field.
41st NWA Annual Awards

Congratulations to all of the 2016 awards winners. The majority of awards were presented at the 41st Annual Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, by NWA President Dave Freeman.

NWA Special Award: Barrett Smith

NWA Special Achievement Award: Brad Herold presented by NWS WFO MIC Dan McCarthy.

Member of the Year Award: Ken Carey presented by Bruce Thomas

NWA Operational Achievement Group Award: National Weather Service Weather Forecast Offices Springfield and St. Louis, Missouri. Fred Glass of the St. Louis office accepting.

Broadcaster of the Year Award: Ryan Vaughan

NWA Public Education Award: Maria Torres

T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award: Greg Carbin
41st NWA Annual Awards continued

The Larry R. Johnson Special Award: Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies

Operational Achievement Individual Award: Lance Wood

NWA Student Award Winners: (front row) Alexandra Caruthers, Amanda Reynolds, (middle row) Minh Phan, Brian Mastro, John Banghoff (back row) Michael Scanlan, Alex Elmore

NWA Local Chapter Award: North Florida Chapter of the National Weather Association

Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award: David Drobny and William Minkoff

Aviation Meteorology Award: National Weather Service Center Weather Service Unit New York, Kirt Squires accepting.
Recent NWA Scholarship Winners
Submitted by: Jeffrey Tongue, Chair, NWA Education Committee

The following is a summary of the scholarships that the NWA awarded for the 2016-2017 academic year. We currently have three additional scholarships that are open until November 10. See the new NWA website for details on NWA Scholarships.

2016 Broadcast Meteorology Scholarship

Matthew Standridge, a senior at Valparaiso University, is the winner of the 2016-2017 NWA Broadcast Meteorology Scholarship. Matt has interned at KOTV in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and at KFSM in Fort Smith, Arkansas, during the last two summers. Growing up, Matt moved nine times, but attributes the intense lake-effect snow bands in the Tug Hill Plateau of upstate New York for his life’s passion to become a broadcast meteorologist.

Both the Education and Broadcast Committees review the applications for this scholarship. They noted Matt’s exceptional application—a student who has shown a strong work ethic, character, and is exceptionally knowledgeable of the technical side of meteorology." They also noted, based on his demo tape, that Matt is “an impressive communicator—great balance of energy and control.”

The runner up for this year’s Broadcast Meteorology Scholarship was Nathandrew DeYoung from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Nathandrew was awarded an honorary NWA membership.

2016 Dr. Roderick A. Scofield Meteorology Scholarship

Katie Wilson, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Oklahoma (OU), is the winner of the 2016-2017 NWA Dr. Roderick A. Scofield Meteorology Scholarship. This scholarship is made possible by the generous donation of the family of the late Dr. Roderick A. Scofield (1942–2006), a charter member of the NWA and its president for the year 2000.

Katie is originally from England and completed her undergraduate meteorology degree at the University of Reading, including a year on exchange at OU. Katie moved back to Oklahoma in 2012 to pursue her master’s degree, and has been working on her Ph.D. since 2014. Katie has focused on understanding potential impacts of rapidly-updating phased array radar data on NWS forecasters’ warning decision processes. She wants to expand collaborations between meteorologists and scientists and has used a novel application of eye-tracking methods as part of her research.

Dr. Robert D. Palmer, Executive Director, Advanced Radar Research Center at OU indicated that Katie “...is an integral part of both our large academic department and NOAA’s National Severe Storms Laboratory.”

Runners-up were Vanessa Przybylo from Plymouth State University in New Hampshire, and Jamin Rader from the University of Washington. Vanessa and Jamin were awarded honorary NWA memberships.

2016 The Ken Reeves Memorial AccuWeather Undergraduate Scholarship

Sebastian Harkema, a senior majoring in geography (GIS) and meteorology with a minor in mathematics Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, is the winner of the 2016–2017 NWA Ken Reeves Memorial AccuWeather Undergraduate Scholarship. Sebastian has been on the Dean’s list every semester and is very active with Student Chapter of the AMS on campus. This past summer he participated in the Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the National Weather Center. His ultimate goal is to work within the National Weather Service.

Dr. Marty Baxter said the Sebastian has proven himself to be resilient. Sebastian recently lost his father and grandfather within three months. They both encouraged him to follow his passion and the Ken Reeves Memorial AccuWeather Undergraduate Scholarship will do just that.

Runners-up were Amber Liggett, Millersville University in Pennsylvania; Jamin Rader, University of Washington; Joseph Curtis, Mississippi State University; and Tevin Wooten, Florida State University.
COMET made several new publications available on MetEd over the last quarter. This update includes continuing education training in four main topic areas: climate, forecasting, satellite meteorology, and datums. We also created a new course based on COMET’s Tropical Textbook.

**Climate**
- Climate and Water Resources Management, Part 2: General Principles in Integrating Climate Change
- Interpreting Climate Outlooks: An Australian Example
- Communicating Climate Change Scenarios with Decision Makers: Lecture by Dr. Holly Hartmann, Research Hydrologist
- Sea Level Change: Basics
- Sea Level Change: Datums and Terminology

**Forecasting**
- Predicting Convective Cessation for Aviation Forecasters
- Forecasting Clear Air Turbulence for Aviation
- Forecasters’ Overview of the Mediterranean and Europe

**Satellite Meteorology**
- SatFC-G: IR Bands, Excluding Water Vapor
- SatFC-G: Near-IR Bands
- SatFC-G: Impact of Satellite Observations on NWP
- SatFC-G: Visible and Near-IR Bands

**Datums**
- NOAA's VDatum: Transforming Heights between Vertical Datums
- The Importance of Accurate Coastal Elevation and Shoreline Data

**Tropical**
- Introduction to Tropical Meteorology
- Spanish Version: Introducción a la meteorología tropical

**French Lessons**
- Utilisation des vents d'ASCAT et d'autres données pour les prévisions maritimes
- Utilisation des estimations de vent par diffusiomètre et de hauteur de vague par altimètre dans les prévisions maritimes
- Communiquer l’incertitude de la prévision
- Prévision des conditions météorologiques à partir de l’imagerie de vapeur d’eau
- Phénomènes extrêmes de forte houle sur les côtes atlantiques marocaines
- Ondes de montagne et vents de subsidience

Currenty, these materials are freely available to everyone, courtesy of our primary sponsors: 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 Journal of Operational Meteorology recently added an article and a short contribution.

**JOM 2016-13 (Article):** A Skill Assessment of Techniques for Real-Time Diagnosis and Short-Term Prediction of Tornado Intensity Using the WSR-88D, by Justin G. Gibbs.


The graphic is Figure 1 from JOM 2016-13: Radar tornado intensity estimation guidance currently in use by the NWS Weather Decision Training Division. The lower left quarter of the graphic contains rotational velocity and tornadic debris signature (TDS) height guidance for tornado intensity estimation. The top of the graphic contains the process for identifying a TDS. Below that, additional tornado intensity estimation tips, conditional environmental probabilities, and the process for calculating rotational velocity (Vrot) are included.

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.

Thank you to the JOM authors, reviewers and editors for continuing to make JOM a success!
Chapter News

High Plains AMS/NWA Chapter News

William Taylor, President ~ Wesley Hovorka, Secretary

2016 Jim Johnson Scholarship

This year’s recipient of the High Plains Chapter of the AMS and NWA Jim Johnson Scholarship is Riley Weller from Palmer, Nebraska. Riley graduated from Palmer High School in May, 2016, and will attend the University of Kansas in the fall. He plans to double major in astrophysics and computer science. Riley’s ambition and dedication to hard work were evident in his essay and made him an excellent choice for the scholarship.

The scholarship was established to honor Jim Johnson, one of the people who helped start the chapter in 1996. His weather career spanned several decades, first with the U.S. Air Force and then with the NWS. Jim retired as a NWS Lead Forecaster from the Dodge City, Kansas, office in September of 2006.

The 18th Annual High Plains Conference, North Platte, Nebraska

The 18th Annual High Plains Conference was held August 10 to 11 in North Platte, Nebraska. The event consisted of 20 presentations and four keynote presenters: Chris Strager, NWS Central Region Director; Aaron Johnson, Science Operations Officer of NWS Dodge City, Kansas; Martha Shulski, Nebraska State Climatologist and Director of the Nebraska State Climate Office in Lincoln); and Nancy Gaarder, weather journalist for the Omaha World Herald in Omaha. There was also a banquet August 10 with featured speaker Josh Wurman from the Center for Severe Weather Research in Boulder, Colorado. Wurman also brought one of the Doppler on Wheels to the conference during the afternoon of August 10 for attendees to see. In addition to the presentations, a Ruby Stuffle 70 Year Service Award was given to Gerry Osborn from Ainsworth, Nebraska. Gerry, and occasionally his wife, took weather observations for the NWS for the last 70 years, never missing a day of reporting. The winner of the student presentation competition was Alex Lukinbeal from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Alex is also a pathways student and has spent the last two summers working at the NWS Pueblo, Colorado, office. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in meteorology, he plans to continue his education and pursue a master’s degree. Looking towards the future, the 19th Annual High Plains Conference will be held in Dodge City, Kansas, next year.

Chapter Minutes

The High Plains Chapter of the AMS and NWA held an in-person meeting at noon on Thursday, August 11, after the 18th Annual High Plains Conference. The treasurer informed us that he will work the conference expenses and get the balance to everyone shortly. Rick Ewald from the NWS office in Hastings, Nebraska, mentioned that he made a certificate for Riley Weller, this year’s Jim Johnson Scholarship winner, and invited Riley to the Hastings office to present the award. William Taylor then mentioned that there was a brief video of the conference and 70-year COOP award on the KNOP TV news the night before. Next, it was announced that President William Taylor and Vice President Jeremy Wesely will be stepping down at the end of the year. Anyone who is interested in becoming the chapter’s president or vice president should inform William or Jeremy. Before the meeting adjourned, the group agreed that we should have one more meeting before the end of the year. Possible dates for the next meeting will be determined in the near future.

Gerry Osborn receives a Ruby Stuffle 70 Year Service Award

18th High Plains Conference group photo in front of Doppler on Wheels.

Riley Weller accepting the Jim Johnson Scholarship award at the NWS Hastings office.
OFFICERS:
The Three Rivers Chapter of the NWA elected new officers at the end of the Spring 2015 semester: Rachael Hough as President, Amy Burnett as Vice President, Steven Shrenkel as Secretary, Kaitlyn Moffett as Treasurer, Timothy Gunkel as Historian, and Nathan Martin as House of Representatives.

INTERNSHIPS:
Our chapter prides itself on the work ethic and academic achievements of our members. One of our student members completed an internship with the American Red Cross. Another member was selected for the NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Class of 2016 Scholarship Program.

Chapter member Adam Andresen participated as an intern for the Red Cross where he was a Home Fire Campaign Coordinator in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from the beginning of June to mid-August. During his time there, he established partnerships in the Pittsburgh area, managed smoke alarm inventory, hosted events, recruited, canvased neighborhoods, and held rallies. While canvasing, he went through targeted neighborhoods and left fire safety information along with ways to contact the organization. At rallies he would go door to door throughout different blocks and offer smoke alarms while also giving a fire safety education talk. This was a great opportunity for Adam to expand upon his service skills, management skills, professionalism, and decision making prowess.

Chapter member Aaron Haegele was a recipient of the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship for the class of 2016. While his internship does not begin until the upcoming summer, he attended the class of 2016 orientation week at NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. During his time there, he explored the many diverse career prospects in NOAA. He also was able to hear former Hollings Scholars share their experiences and thrilling internships they had. Representatives from sub-agencies of NOAA also spoke about the many potential internships that are available. These agencies included the National Ocean Service, National Weather Service, NOAA Corps, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Atmospheric Research, and National Environment Satellite, Data and Information Service. He will choose his internship at any NOAA facility this fall semester where he will eventually start his research in the summer. Aaron will then present his research at NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring along with the other Hollings Scholars.

FUNDRAISING:
Our chapter’s budget for the year has been cut from previous years. Fundraising will be crucial this year with our committee working extremely hard. Our members have been brainstorming on fundraising ideas to benefit the club. Our ideas include a hot chocolate/coffee bar, hoagie sales, Yankee candle sales, an alumni golf tournament, and much more. One of the ideas that was actually developed in prior years is a meteorology club t-shirt. We are selling them to members within the club and to anyone else who would like to buy them. We are also currently brainstorming other ideas to add to our list.

COLLOQUIA SERIES:
Dr. Michael E. Mann from Penn State University came to California University of Pennsylvania on September 23 to give a talk about climate change and general climatology to the public. He did a book signing with his latest book “The Madhouse Effect” on the campus. The event was held at 4:30 p.m. and everyone was welcome to the presentation.

CONFERENCES:
Eight student members of the chapter were selected to attend this year’s 41st NWA Annual Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, from September 10–15. Students were required to submit an application along with a cover letter and resume to be eligible for selection. They were also required to dress professionally at a club meeting in order to be considered. There were a large number of applicants for this conference.

http://sai.calu.edu/weather

WEATHER NEWS FLASH

A monthly look at interesting news factoids and stories from around the globe. Click titles for details!

17 of the most breathtaking entries from the Weather Photographer of the Year competition
Reykjavik turns off street lights to turn up the Northern Lights
The Colorado towns that turned up the stars
The Puerto Rico blackout from Space
On September 11, I had the great pleasure of attending my first NWA Student Workshop. This was truly a special day, not only because it was my first NWA meeting, but I served on the Student Workshop Planning Committee as well. Therefore, I experienced firsthand our committee’s ideas and plans come to fruition. If you’re not familiar with the Student Workshop, it is a unique one-day power-packed learning experience that provides an outstanding networking opportunity for both students and professionals.

Sticking with this year’s annual meeting theme of “Better Science, Better Communication, Better Results,” the scheduled activities afforded students the chance to absorb knowledge, and interact with over 40 professionals in the field. Interactive activities included speed mentoring (session and dinner), WAF workshop, and the broadcast video critique. These were my favorite parts as they allowed for one-on-one student and professional collaboration yielding a glimpse into the life of the meteorological work field. Other sessions showcased all sectors of meteorology, which was invaluable to students for two reasons. First, learning about the individual journey of many professionals in the various sectors of meteorology offered a new perspective of each discipline as they shared their stories about their career paths. Attending the workshop over multiple years would provide a thorough understanding of the different meteorological sectors. The second benefit to students is that these sessions are eye-openers to the unique opportunities in the field that yield a better understanding of meteorological career options.

The workshop’s success stemmed from adequate methodical planning and also the active passionate participation of both professionals and students. Every professional volunteered to be there and I feel that made the difference between a forced networking environment and a friendly, relaxed environment. It yielded a sense of community, making it easier to ask questions of mentors during speed mentoring and throughout the day. While observing the room, it appeared that the students in attendance wanted to be there. They came with the attitude to learn, absorb, and process information, were motivated during the Q&A sessions, and maximized on the opportunities available to them during the workshop. It is important to continue targeting eager students and mentors for continued workshop success in the coming years.

Upon reflecting, I only have two suggestions. The first is to promote more student-to-student interaction by strategically placing students with peers from other schools, as opposed to them sitting with their friends during workshops and lunch. This will encourage connecting students from around the country, thus strengthening networking opportunities. Secondly, include a master sheet of the mentors’ names, job title, and contact information in the program book. This list would allow students to contact mentors they didn’t have time to meet as well as follow up with those they did.

Overall, the Student Workshop was such a refreshing and remarkable event that motivated me during this journey of attaining a bachelor's degree in meteorology. It left no room for boredom and successfully showcased the vast opportunities available in our field for students. I can’t wait for next year!

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**Diversity University**

The month of October honors several ethnic heritages as well as awareness for health and other societal issues, more so than any other month of the year.

National Hispanic Heritage Month started September 15 and ended October 15. One might ask why the heritage month starts in the middle of a month rather than at the start. In this case, Latin American countries in Central and South America gained their independence on or close to September 15. It is during this time that the many contributions of Latino Americans are highlighted. First proclaimed by Lyndon Johnson in 1968, what started as just one week has expanded to a full month with celebratory and educational events. October is also Filipino American History Month. The 2010 Census revealed that Filipinos are the fastest growing racial group in the country, with one in five Asian Americans being Filipino. Well-known musicians identify themselves as Filipino-American such as Arnel Pineda, the lead singer for Journey, and Bruno Mars.

In terms of societal impacts, October is National Bullying Prevention Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. “Make America Kind Again” is a slogan that has been gaining popularity recently, which certainly applies in these two awareness campaigns. At some point in our lives, even as adults, most of us have had to deal with bullies. Standing up for those who have been bullied is a first step towards ending the abuse. Becoming a positive role model by mentoring teens and young adults to treat others with respect will go even further. Domestic violence is bullying taken to the extreme. On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically or emotionally abused by an intimate partner in the United States, equating to more than 10 million women and men a year. Bullying and domestic violence thrive when we are silent; but if we take a stand and work together, we can eliminate both.

Finally, October is also known for Breast Cancer and Down Syndrome Awareness Months. Breast cancer awareness activities are held in many communities during October. From walks to saving pink lids on yogurt containers, each activity helps bring awareness to preventing, detecting and treating this disease. Down syndrome is the most common chromosomal condition with 1 in 691 babies (roughly 6,000 births a year) born with this condition. There are approximately 400,000 people living with Down syndrome in the United States. Their life expectancy has increased from about 25 years in 1983 to 60 years today. People with Down syndrome attend school, work, participate in decisions that affect them, have meaningful relationships, vote, and contribute to society in many ways.

Several other causes are also honored in October. Click here for a comprehensive list on Wikipedia.
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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.

NWA Sponsored Meetings, Conferences & Special Events in 2017
(Click titles for more information)

March 10-12: 42nd Northeastern Storm Conference
Saratoga Springs, New York; sponsored by Lyndon State AMS and the NWA

September 16-21: NWA 42nd Annual Meeting
In Los Angeles/Garden Grove, California

Other Meetings, Conferences & Special Events

January 22-26: AMS 97th Annual Meeting
In Seattle, Washington

Newsletter Submissions

We welcome articles from members. Send to: nwanewsletter@nwas.org by the 15th of the month for publication in the following month’s edition at the earliest.

Newsletter info and a link to author guidelines can be found at: nwas.org/newsletter/instructions-for-authors/.