

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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### *Building on the Past and Present as the NWA Continues into the 21st Century*

Wow — time flies! Over the United States, autumn of 2000 finally arrived, the first snowfalls have been observed in many northern and mountainous locations and the 25th NWA Annual Meeting and 25th Anniversary Banquet have been celebrated. Thanks to the nearly 400 attendees, presenters, invited speakers, workshop leaders, session chairs, exhibitors, sponsors and volunteer program and arrangements committee members who together made the Annual Meeting and Anniversary celebration great successes. Special thanks to the overall program coordinator, Steve Harned, the program chairperson, Gail Hartfield, and our executive director, Kevin Lavin, for spearheading and completing this awesome responsibility.

In this newsletter, I will address a couple of past issues that involved the NWA, one of which will possibly re-surface in the near future. Three years after the birth of the NWA (in 1978) major issues confronted the National Weather Service (NWS). Government weather services in the U. S. had been deteriorating over the previous ten + years with shrinking budgets and a number of offices having to close. Blame for this was placed on higher-level decisions of the Administration and the congressional legislative process. The problem was that there was a lack of interest, knowledge and objectives concerning needs and requirements of the NWS. The March 1978 NWA Newsletter published a position paper on this situation along with goals to save our nation's deteriorating weather services. Goals for the next ten years included a 50 % improvement in forecasts of the timing, location and severity of local storms; 80 % decrease in the time it takes to get severe weather warnings to the public; a national radio and TV weather communications network on all standard receivers; and, a doubling of the improvement rate in daily forecasting with increased use of technology. This position paper concluded by urging the Administration and Congress to provide the people of this nation with the weather services they deserve.

The NWA members at that time made an all-out effort to get maximum distribution of the issues and goals to members of the House and Senate, Government Departments and Agencies. We now know that most of these goals were achieved (some slower than hoped for).

Congressional actions and leadership in modernization initiatives within NOAA, NWS, NESDIS and other agencies helped significantly especially over the last ten years. Funds were provided that drastically enhanced research and technology transition: automated sensors, improved Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) and Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellites (POES), a national network of WSR-88Ds, high resolution and more physical Numerical Weather Prediction models, more capable computers and improved communications systems such as the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS).

One remaining issue that will probably be with us into the future is whether Congress will prohibit the National Weather Service from furnishing products that could otherwise be provided by commercial enterprise. A recent example of this problem surfaced in an article published in the *Washington Post* of 18 July 2000. The NWS Forecast Office for New York City issued a weather forecast for the New York Met's home opener that stated: "scattered showers are expected over Shea Stadium with heavier rainfall expected to hold off until after the game; this forecast will be updated later this morning." This forecast on April 3rd seemed innocent enough but it angered some commercial weather forecasting companies.

Jim Moore, last year's NWA president, wrote an excellent November 1999 Newsletter message on forecast products that should be provided by the NWS versus the private sector. The bottom line was that a more open dialog needs to be developed between the NWS and the private sector to promote a better understanding of what each group should concentrate on. These two groups should form a working partnership as opposed to engaging in adversarial relationships. Hopefully, an open dialog will result in mutual respect and understanding that will help avoid the need for government regulation.

Dr. Walt Lyons, one of our NWA charter members and successful entrepreneurs in the private sector, addressed attendees at the Awards luncheon during the 25th Annual Meeting. He presented a chronology of remarkable growth in the private sector over the last 25 years and concluded that there is plenty of work to go around. He also commented on what he believed the NWS can do best and take the primary lead in and what the private sector should concentrate on — stressing how all need each other and all need to work together.

- Rod Scofield

## MEMBER NEWS

**Steven E. Koch** has accepted a position as Chief of the Forecast Research Division (FRD) at the NOAA Forecast Systems Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado effective July 3, 2000. Dr. Koch was formerly an Associate Professor at North Carolina State University. He rejoins the federal government after having served for 13 years at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center from 1980 - 1993. He was awarded the 1998 NWA Research Achievement Award "for defining, designing, and implementing outstanding applied research projects, teaming with several NOAA/NWS offices leading to noteworthy improvements in weather warnings and forecasts and in sharing results with the operational meteorology community." In assuming the job as Chief of FRD, Dr. Koch plans to build upon these past efforts in furthering the use of new technologies and scientific advancements in the operational community.

**John G. W. Kelley**, a research meteorologist with NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS), Coast Survey Development Laboratory, received a *Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers* during ceremonies at the White House on April 12th. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the U. S. government on young professionals at the outset of their research careers. Dr. Kelley received the award for his work in developing real-time forecast systems that advanced NOAA's capabilities to provide physical information on the present and short-term future state of the Great Lakes, the coastal ocean, and estuaries in the United States. John received his B.A. in Geography/Atmospheric Sciences from The University of Rhode Island in 1981. He earned from The Pennsylvania State University a M.S. in Meteorology in 1986 and a M.P.A. in 1989. He received his Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences from The Ohio State University in 1995. While at OSU he was involved with the development and implementation of the *Great Lakes Forecasting System*. John was an UCAR Visiting Postdoctoral Scientist from 1995-1997 in the Ocean Modeling Branch of the NWS' National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). While at NCEP he developed and implemented a SST data assimilation system for NOAA's real-time *Coastal Ocean Forecast System* for the NW Atlantic Ocean. Presently, at NOS he is involved with the *Coastal Marine Demonstration Project* for Chesapeake Bay and adjacent coastal ocean.

**Troy Kimmel** has joined KEYE Channel 42 (CBS) News in Austin, Texas as their Chief Meteorologist. He will continue his current duties as Chief Meteorologist for KVET/KASE/KFMK Radio stations in Austin as well as Lecturer in Studies in Weather and Climate in the Department of Geography at the University of Texas. Troy earned the NWA TV Weathercaster Seal of Approval in 1983 and holds the AMS TV and Radio Seals of Approval. He graduated from Texas A&M University

in 1983 with a BS in Geography with additional course work in Meteorology. He received the NWA Broadcaster of the Year Award in 1988 while he was at KVUE 24 in Austin. The AMS honored him with the Award for Outstanding Service by a Broadcast Meteorologist in 1998. Active in the Austin community, Troy serves as a Civilian Volunteer Instructor (Weather Safety and Severe Weather Recognition) at the Austin Police Department Training Academy. He also volunteers for AIDS Services of Austin as emcee for several of their fundraising events. Troy was appointed by the Austin Mayor to serve on the Austin Bergstrom International Airport Advisory Board.

### ◀ IN MEMORIAM ▶

**WALTER F. ZELTMANN (1923–2000)**. Walter Zeltmann, President of International Weather Corporation and a NWA charter member, died on February 6, 2000. By vocation, Walter was a consultant meteorologist. By avocation, he was a voracious reader who subscribed to some forty magazines and read an average of two books a week. Walter was born in Schenectady, New York on July 7, 1923 and moved to Brooklyn at about one year of age. He enlisted in the US Army in February 1942 and was trained as a meteorologist. He served in that career field in the Army Air Corps and later the Air Force through 1953. He also trained as a Counter-Intelligence Special Agent in 1948. Walter served overseas in Europe during World War II and in Korea during the Korean War. He received the Air Medal for flying fifty combat missions as a weather observer in Korea. Since his service discharge, he has been a consultant meteorologist in New York City and a recognized expert in the field of forensic meteorology. He has counseled insurance companies and law firms in over 10,000 cases. He appeared as an expert witness in meteorology in local, state and federal courts throughout the nation and in foreign courts as well. He holds US Patents on two inventions and has written five published books and numerous articles. - *Marilyn Baker*

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Members receive the monthly NWA Newsletter and quarterly *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. Contact the NWA office or view the Internet Web site for membership information. Newsletter subscriptions are available at \$18.00 per year plus extra shipping costs outside USA. Single copies are \$1.50. Contact the NWA office with address changes.

## **MILESTONE IN NWS HISTORY**

The ten-year NOAA/NWS modernization program reached a great milestone on 22 August 2000. John J. Kelly, Jr., Director of the NWS, sent a memo to all NWS personnel stating: "Today (22 August 2000) marks a milestone in weather service history. With the commissioning of the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) at the Alaska River Forecast Center in Anchorage, **all of our NWS forecast offices are fully modernized and all of our new equipment is operational.** Since January 2000, we commissioned 139 AWIPS units nationally — a herculean effort to bring improved warnings and forecasts to the American public. The men and women who first dreamed of a modernized National Weather Service knew there would be challenges to overcome. They also knew how important this program would be to America. Reaching this point is a testimony to the dedication, vision and perseverance of countless people, many who devoted significant parts of their careers to build something they believed in for the good of all. Completing the modernization has been my number one priority since becoming your director. Many said we would never complete this program but they were wrong. I am proud to lead the best weather service in the world. Our technology has advanced while the dedication of our workforce has remained constant. The men and women of the National Weather Service are what make this organization great. Congratulations to all!"

***Congratulations and thanks to all who had a part in the modernization effort – helping to provide the people of this nation with the weather services they deserve! - from the NWA Council on behalf of the past and present NWA membership.*** (Ref: President's Message)

## **NWA ANNUAL AWARDS 2000**

The NWA Annual Awards for the year 2000 were presented by President Rod Scofield at the 17 October, Awards Luncheon during the NWA's 25th Annual Meeting at the Hilton in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Andy Horvitz, the NWA Awards Committee Chairperson, announced each winner and their accomplishments. A summary follows:

### **Operational Achievement Individual Award: Steven Piltz, NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Distinction: For numerous, diverse and innovative contributions, improving operational weather support to the citizens of northeast Oklahoma and northwest Arkansas and for originating the StormReady Program to accredit hazardous weather preparedness in all communities. The StormReady program publicly recognizes communities that have achieved a notable level of preparedness. It is being implemented as a national program of the NWS.

### **Operational Achievement Group Award: Kenneth D. LaPenta & Jonathan L. Blaes, NOAA/NWS Forecast Office, Albany, New York.**

Distinction: With outstanding teamwork, applying knowledge gained from personal research and with extensive use of Doppler radar data, they issued early Special Weather Statements and Warnings resulting in no lives lost from the tornadoes that hit New York's Montgomery and Saratoga Counties on 31 May 1998. [Jonathan Blaes is now at the NWS Forecast Office in Raleigh, North Carolina.]

### **Member of the Year Award: Bernard N. Meisner, NOAA/NWS Southern Region Headquarters, Scientific Services Division, Fort Worth, Texas.**

Distinction: For long-term, significant contributions to the organization, objectives, and goals of the National Weather Association, and in creatively linking the NWA goals to those of the National Weather Service modernization program. [Dr. Meisner showed more of his many talents at the Annual Meeting voluntarily diagnosing and fixing audiovisual technical problems.]

### **The T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award: James T. Moore, Professor, Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, Missouri.**

Distinction: For exceptional efforts in conducting operationally-oriented, meteorological research over a long term and for taking every opportunity to enthusiastically convey new and established knowledge to students and the operational community — advancing weather forecasting as an applied science. [Dr. Moore is the immediate past president of the NWA (1999) and the first recipient of this named award in honor of the late Dr. Ted Fujita.]

### **The Aviation Meteorology Award: Carolyn M. Kloth, Meteorologist, NOAA/NWS/NCEP Aviation Weather Center, Kansas City, Missouri.**

Distinction: For significant contributions in improving aviation weather support services and pilot training as a meteorologist with the National Weather Service Aviation Weather Center and as an enthusiastic leader in many local and national professional associations. [Carolyn is a long-term member of the NWA Aviation Meteorology Committee and currently a co-chair of that committee.]

### **The Broadcaster of the Year Award: Greg A. Padgett, WPBF-TV 25, West Palm Beach, Florida.**

Distinction: For outstanding weather broadcasting, continually improving the quality of weather support to the public, and for investigating tornado preparedness in schools. He found disasters waiting to happen and recommended corrective actions and more practice drills (at least two tornado drills per school year) to local, state and national leaders. [In one school he found the NOAA weather radio still in its original store packaging. In many schools he found students being sent to unsafe shelter areas.]

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## **NWA ANNUAL AWARDS 2000** *continued*

### **The Larry R. Johnson Special Award: Norman W. "Wes" Junker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, Camp Springs, Maryland.**

Distinction: For long term, significant contributions to operational meteorology especially in the field of Quantitative Precipitation Forecasting and for continually sharing his vast knowledge of precipitation forecasting and numerical model performance with operational forecasters through his many writings, conference presentations and "hands on" workshops.

### **The Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award: Bowling Green / Warren County Office of Emergency Management, Bowling Green, Kentucky.**

Distinction: For initiating and securing local approval and funding for community siren and voice warning systems, for educating county residents on severe weather awareness in innovative ways, raising the standard for weather hazard awareness and response education throughout the State of Kentucky. [Accepting the award were the Director, Ronnie Pearson; Deputy Director, Mae Burch; and Sue Greathouse, Warren County Deputy Judge Executive.]

### **The Public Education Award (two winners selected):**

#### **WPBF-TV 25, West Palm Beach, Florida**

Distinction: For markedly improving hurricane and tornado safety awareness through television specials allowing viewers to call in questions to experts, providing seminars in community schools and expositions in shopping malls, and in recommending and supporting more severe weather drills in schools. [Accepting the award were: Weathercasters Mike Lyons, Greg Padgett and Kevin Skarupa, and News Director, Margaret Cronan]

#### **The Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, a partnership of volunteers from private industry and local, state and federal governments.**

Distinction: For outstanding voluntary efforts among members of the many agencies and associations within The Committee in teaching the residents of Michigan severe weather awareness and response through continued education, practice drills and wide distribution of factual/procedural information. The committee formed in 1991 consists of the NWS Forecast Offices covering Michigan, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Insurance Information Association of Michigan, American Red Cross, Michigan Emergency Management Association, Michigan Department of State Police, Michigan Association of Insurance Agents, WDIV-TV, Michigan Association of Broadcasters and Michigan Earth Sciences Teachers Association. [Accepting the award on behalf of the entire committee were: Darin Figurskey, NWS Forecast Office, White Lake, and Mark Walton, NWS Forecast Office, Grand Rapids.]

## **SOL HIRSCH NWA EDUCATION FUND GRANTS AWARDED**

At the 25th NWA Annual Meeting, the Education Committee Chairperson, Sol Hirsch, announced the recipients of the year 2000 Education Fund Grants named in his honor. Three grants of \$500 each were awarded to:

**Susan J. Flores and Lynn Sillitoe, New Dominion Alternative School, Manassas, Virginia.** This alternative school is designed to help "at risk" students who for many reasons are not succeeding in the regular school environment. The grant money will provide the means to develop a weather program, which will personally touch each of the students in a way that maximizes their involvement. The funds will be used to purchase meteorological equipment for inside and outside the school building. Students will be involved in observing and collecting the data and making announcements on the public address system. They will be able to compare data on the Internet with a local TV station. The teachers also hope to assist students in designing and performing a variety of studies using the scientific method.

**Marilyn M. Johnson, Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District, Pendleton, Oregon.** Ms. Johnson represents the Umatilla-Morrow Natural Resource Consortium, a group of educators, Natural Resource Agency professionals and private citizens who support Natural Resource education in the region's eleven school districts. The eleven districts cover some 6,300 square miles and serve 15,500 students in grades K-12. The districts partner with the Education Service District to achieve efficient and economic delivery of services to meet educational needs. The NWA grant will help purchase basic weather observing equipment for the Natural Resource Lending Library for teachers to check out. The equipment will also be used for "hands-on" experiences for students during the annual Watershed Field Day sponsored by the Consortium.

**Catherine Sachse, Hudson Valley Circle of Learning, Rock Tavern, New York.** The Hudson Valley Circle of Learning is a small elementary school in upstate New York. The NWA grant will be used to purchase basic weather observing equipment and resource books to help students develop science, math and writing skills through the study of weather. Students will observe, record data, predict and reach their own conclusions using weather instruments. Students will also develop a booklet to be used within the community containing information to increase weather awareness and to provide weather safety information. Being a small school with limited resources, the NWA grant will enable the teachers to build a background of weather knowledge and go on to share it with the students' families and the community.

## **UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI – COLUMBIA STUDENT WINS NWA METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE APPLICATIONS AWARD**

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Sarah M. Thompson, an undergraduate student in the Atmospheric Science Program, Department of Soil & Atmospheric Sciences, at the University of Missouri – Columbia, was selected as the winner of the NWA Meteorological Satellite Applications Award for the year 2000. She presented her paper entitled, “Satellite and Upper-Air Analyses of the 13-14 March 1999 Snow Event over Missouri,” in a poster session at the 25th NWA Annual Meeting. At the Awards Luncheon, during the Annual Meeting, she accepted an award plaque and check for \$500 from President Rod Scofield and the sponsor of the award, Frances C. Parmenter-Holt.

## **MEETING NEWS**

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**WEATHER INFORMATION FOR SURFACE  
TRANSPORTATION (WIST) FORUM, 4-6 December  
2000**, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Rockville, Maryland. The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) and the U.S. Department of Transportation-Federal Highway Administration (USDOT-FWHA) are co-sponsoring a second Weather Information for Surface Transportation (WIST) Forum entitled "Preparing For The Future: Improved Weather Information For Decision-Makers." In this venue, surface transportation consists of four discrete but meteorologically connected modes: roadways, rails, waterways and pipelines. The event is scheduled for December 4-6, 2000, at the DoubleTree Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville MD 20852; (301) 468-1100.

A great deal of progress has been made during the last 2 years in developing a national surface transportation decision support capability. In December 1998, the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology initiated a major effort to examine the weather information needs of the surface transportation community. In June 1999, the Federal Coordinator formed an interagency Joint Action Group for Weather Information for Surface Transportation (JAG/WIST). In December 1999, OFCM and US DOT-FHWA co-sponsored the first WIST Symposium, focusing on the wide-range of needs and requirements associated with the Nation's surface transportation activities. The attendees overwhelmingly supported a proposal to establish a nationwide baseline on weather needs and requirements for surface transportation. On behalf of the Federal meteorological community, OFCM spearheaded two data collection efforts to establish the weather needs and requirements baseline. The first effort was in the form of a questionnaire. A follow-on survey sought additional details on time and distance scales, weather elements and thresholds, and the relationship of the elements to operational decisions and actions. This second WIST forum will focus on four major areas: a review of weather information needs and requirements as gathered from the questionnaires and surveys; an update on government and commercial capabilities and services; new and/or enhanced weather support initiatives; and decision support tools and technology. The forum provides the mechanism for identifying significant aspects of the weather community's effort to provide high quality weather products and services focused on surface transportation. The overall

objectives of the forum are to: update progress and activities made over the 12 months since the first WIST symposium; identify initiatives and programs that are currently underway or being planned; illuminate gaps where additional focus is required; and identify next steps and actions toward improving weather information for decision-makers. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Blaine Tsugawa (Blaine.Tsugawa@noaa.gov) or Lt Col Mark Welshinger (Mark.Welshinger@noaa.gov) at (301) 427-2002. Additional meeting information is at Internet Web site: [www.dc.net/stc/WIST\\_Symposium/main.htm](http://www.dc.net/stc/WIST_Symposium/main.htm).

**26th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference** sponsored by the Lyndon State College chapter of the NWA and AMS will be held **9-11 March 2001** at the Holiday Inn in scenic, downtown Saratoga Springs, New York. The deadline for submitting abstracts and poster descriptions is 31 December 2000. They can be sent via e-mail to [freedmand@mail.lsc.vsc.edu](mailto:freedmand@mail.lsc.vsc.edu). The deadline for registering for the meeting is 16 February 2001. For further information on registration, accommodations, or presentation submissions, please contact: Dina R. Freedman, LSC-AMS/NWA President, LSC Box 7462, Lyndon State College, Lyndonville VT 05851; e-mail: [freedmand@mail.lsc.vsc.edu](mailto:freedmand@mail.lsc.vsc.edu) or browse to Internet Web site: [appolo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/ams.html](http://appolo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams/ams.html)

**2001 NWA ANNUAL MEETING -- Out Northwest!** The National Weather Association's 26th Annual Meeting will be held **13-19 October 2001**, at the WestCoast Ridpath Hotel in Spokane, Washington. Discount hotel room rates for attendees will be \$63 for single; \$73 for double/triple/quad. Call 1-800-325-4000 and request National Weather Association's special conference rates. Meeting registration rates will be similar to the 2000 rates. Plan now to attend! Call for Papers will be published by early January. Any member interested in being on the program/arrangements committee for that meeting, please contact the NWA Executive Director at (334) 213-0388 or [NatWeaAsoc@aol.com](mailto:NatWeaAsoc@aol.com). The Annual Meeting for 2002 will be held in mid-October in the mid-west and back east in 2003.

## **LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS**

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**The First Coast Joint Chapter of the AMS/NWA – a new local chapter being organized in Jacksonville, Florida.** The Chapter held its 20 July 2000 meeting at the National Weather Service Office in Jacksonville, Florida. The featured speaker was Mr. Edward Rich, who has an impressive meteorological career spanning more than 40 years. Mr. Rich was a pioneer in the development and design of weather satellites, including the Vanguard Weather satellite. Besides educating the attending group on the history and development of the programs, he enlightened them with numerous stories of early successes and failures. The meeting progressed with old business. Items included: the creation of a chapter Web site, collection of annual dues, and a unanimous vote on the “official” title of the chapter. The “official” title shall be: The First Coast Joint Chapter of the AMS/NWA. New business included planning for the September meeting, which will include an election of officers and a tour of weather facilities at Mayport Naval Air Station. Pat Welsh thanked those who had participated in the Jacksonville Area Sea Breeze Experiment (JASBEX). The data was used to “ground truth” the modeling study reported in the NWA's *National Weather Digest*, Vol 23 No 3. The paper was co-authored by Dr. Welsh. - Susan Shaw Keegan, Corresponding Secretary

**The Arkansas Chapter of the NWA.** The September, 2000 meeting was held at the National Weather Service Warning & Forecast Office in North Little Rock. The meeting was convened by Chapter President George Wilken at 7:00 PM with 23 members present. President Wilken led a discussion on future plans for the Chapter and how to finance those plans. At the end of the discussion, the group unanimously voted for a Chapter dues increase for 2001. Member Jerry Roberson suggested that the Chapter newsletter be e-mailed to those members with e-mail addresses to help lower postage costs. Several in the group were in favor of this and provided the Corresponding Secretary with their e-mail addresses. Member Ed Buckner suggested that the Chapter advertise its meetings on television. Mr. Buckner, who is chief meteorologist with KTHV-TV, said that he would promote the Chapter's meetings and activities on his weathercasts. He also suggested that we promote the Chapter when anyone in the group goes out to do presentations. President Wilken then led a discussion on programs for the Fall and Winter Chapter meetings. Drawings were held for door prizes. The program for the evening was a video presentation describing the AMS, its programs, and its Headquarters in Boston MA. The meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

The October, 2000 meeting was held at the National Weather Service Warning & Forecast Office in North Little Rock. The meeting was convened by Chapter President George Wilken at 7:05 PM with 12 members and guests present. President Wilken presided over a short business meeting before the program was presented. The program for the evening was a presentation on the drought conditions that have affected Arkansas for about the past year and a half. Member John Lewis, a Senior NWS Forecaster, described the overall weather conditions that produced the drought. Member Jerry Roberson, an agricultural aerial applicator and farmer, described how the drought had affected agricultural operations. Member Lawrence Holm, a forester with the Arkansas Forestry Commission, talked about how the drought had affected the forests in the state. Drawings were held for door prizes. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

- *Newton Skiles, Corresponding Secretary*

**The First Meeting of The Southern New England Chapter of the NWA.** Our first meeting on September 26 at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Taunton, Massachusetts was a great success with three very interesting and informative presentations. Dr. Fred Sanders, Professor Emeritus of Meteorology, MIT was our featured speaker. Chapter President Frank Nocera opened the meeting with a review of chapter goals and organizational items:

**Chapter Goal** - For the chapter to serve as a forum to aid in the sharing and dissemination of information regarding operational hydrometeorology, between private and public sector Meteorologists, Hydrologists, the academic community and weather enthusiasts.

#### **Initial Chapter Demographics**

10 - Government meteorologists and hydrologists

18 - Private sector: combination of meteorologists, members from the academic community, software developers and weather enthusiasts.

#### **Chapter Board Positions**

**PRESIDENT:** Frank Nocera: NWS Forecaster - Marine & Service Backup Program Leader

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Doug Young: NWS Senior Forecaster - Fire Weather Program Leader

**SECRETARY:** David Vallee: NWS Service Hydrologist - Hurricane Program Leader

**TREASURER:** Jim Lee: NWS Science & Operations Officer.

The NWA local chapter committee recommends board positions be filled by the members forming the local chapter for the first year in order to get the chapter going in the right direction (provided the majority of the chapter votes yes on the above individuals). After the first year, these board positions will be open to all chapter members. **OTHER ITEMS:**

- Soliciting additional members for the chapter at the Southern New England Weather Conference at the Pollard Middle School in Needham Massachusetts, Friday evening October 20 and Saturday October 21.

- Teaming up with local weather organizations such as: Blue Hill Weather Club, local AMS chapters which include Greater Boston and UMASS at Lowell.

- Developing and maintaining a Web site for the local chapter.

- Next meeting will be held in late November, possibly at a restaurant in the Worcester to Framingham area. This location should be more convenient for most members and far enough away from the Greater Boston traffic.

- I encourage each of you to consider giving a presentation on your profession and/or company at one of our future meetings. This would be a great opportunity to enhance communication between private and public sector. Please reply to me ASAP if you are interested.

#### **Presentations:**

**1) A Review of the Severe Weather Outbreak of 10 August 2000** by Joe Dellicarpini, NWS Journeymen Forecaster, Taunton MA.

This presentation focused on the WSR-88D perspective of the 10 August 2000 supercell. This storm was a rare nocturnal supercell that formed over eastern New York State during the late evening of 9 August and tracked east across southern New England prior to dawn on 10 August. The storm developed in a moderately unstable airmass ahead of a cold front, with added support from a strong upper-level jet, and intensified rapidly over Hartford County, Connecticut, where it encountered an environment featuring greater instability and increased low-level shear. At the storm's peak, it exhibited a classic bounded weak echo region signature, with maximum reflectivities over 65 dBZ and cell-based VILs over 70 kg m<sup>-2</sup>. Velocity data showed the presence of a deep and persistent mesocyclone as the storm passed over northern Rhode Island. Mesocyclone depth reached a maximum of nearly 15,000 feet. Reflectivity and velocity products from the WSR-88D were shown to describe the storm's evolution and the role the radar played in the warning decision process. Most of the damage associated with this supercell was confined to a narrow corridor from northeast Connecticut into northern Rhode Island and southeast Mass. There were many reports of golfball-size hail, and scattered occurrences of downed trees, tree limbs, and wires.

**2) Overview of the F1 Tornado in Ellington, CT and the F0 Tornado in North Foster, RI on 16 August 2000** by Doug Young, NWS Senior Forecaster, Taunton MA.

This presentation focused on the unusual tornadic activity that occurred on Wednesday, 16 August 2000, when an F1 tornado struck Ellington, CT and an F0 tornado briefly touched down in North Foster, RI. The F1 tornado was unusual because it originated from such a benign shower (according to WFO Taunton radar reflectivity) with no apparent rotation. In part, this was due to the height of the beam, which likely overshot the

low-level rotation signature that occurred along a cold front. The F0 "tree-top" tornado in N. Foster, RI. was spawned from the same thunderstorm that struck Ellington, but interestingly, this thunderstorm did not produce any severe weather across the remainder of Connecticut, after the F1 had dissipated. The F0 did display strong signs of rotation in the mid to upper levels of the storm, and the high elevation in this particular location was theorized to be the reason for the brief damage. The two tornadic events associated with this storm remind us that: (1) Storms with evidence of rotation or a history of tornadic damage should be monitored closely for the possibility of further tornadic activity, (2) Low-level rotation and low-top convection will be missed by the radar at great distances from the radar location, (3) The SRM product may not properly calculate rotation if the storm motion and speed are not indicative of the storm, and (4) These types of events are probably more common than we think. If the funnel did not touch down briefly in a resident's back yard, we would never have known it occurred.

**3) Frontal Analysis Theory** by Dr. Fred Sanders, Professor Emeritus - Meteorology, MIT, and charter member of the NWA.

Dr. Sanders' presentation focused on analyzing fronts using potential temperature. He presented many examples of how low-level baroclinic zones were depicted very well by surface potential temperature gradients. Potential temperature contour intervals of 4 degrees Celsius are recommended by Dr. Sanders in order to eliminate multiple baroclinic zones, as his research indicates one distinct band signifies a strong front. Moreover, Dr. Sanders physically demonstrated through quasi-geostrophic theory that the strongest upward vertical motion occurs on the warm side of the baroclinic zone. Overall a very impressive, educational and enjoyable talk. - Frank Nocera

## **JOB CORNER**

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*(Ed: The NWA lists job openings free from equal opportunity employers for the benefit of members. See the Job section on the NWA Web site [www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org) for more complete details on the following jobs and for possible short notice listings.)*

**AEROMET, INC.** has immediate openings for two Research Meteorologists at its Tulsa, OK headquarters. Aeromet, Inc. also has immediate openings for a Chief Meteorologist as well as meteorologists/staff forecasters at its Kwajalein Missile Range (KMR) weather station in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). More information can be found concerning these positions on Aeromet's Web site at [www.aeromet.com](http://www.aeromet.com). Send resumes, transcripts, three professional references and salary requirements to: Aeromet, Inc., P.O. Box 701767, Tulsa OK 74170-1767 or fax them to: (918) 299-8211. Information may be submitted via e-mail to: [rward@aeromet.com](mailto:rward@aeromet.com). EOE m/f/v/d.

**THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE** is seeking applicants for meteorologists, physical scientists, and computer specialists, at grades GS-9 through GS-14 (starting salaries from \$35,310 to \$71,954), to participate in modernized operations, with development and implementation of advances in hydrometeorological forecasts and warnings. These positions are located at the National Weather Service Headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. For further information, please consult the vacancy announcements provided at the Internet Web site: [www.usajobs.opm.gov/a9noaa.htm](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/a9noaa.htm).

### **TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY/ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE**

The Department of Geosciences at Texas Tech University invites applications for a tenure-track position with expertise in severe storm and/or hurricane meteorology. The Department will fill the position at the Assistant Professor level beginning fall 2001 (Position #2002-TLF-016). Applications will be reviewed beginning 1 November 2000, and the search will continue until the position is filled. Applicants should send a complete resume, statements of teaching and research interest and at least three letters of reference to Dr. Richard E. Peterson, Search Committee Chairperson, Department of Geosciences, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1053, fax: 906-742-0100, [richard.peterson@ttu.edu](mailto:richard.peterson@ttu.edu). Further information about the Department and Texas Tech is available on Web site: [www.gesc.ttu.edu](http://www.gesc.ttu.edu). Texas Tech University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

### **CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,**

California PA 15419, is seeking applications for a tenure-track appointment beginning in the Fall semester of 2001, approximate 9-month salary range for this rank: \$42,578 - \$59,911. METEOROLOGIST. A candidate with a background in the geosciences is desired. A Ph.D. in a Geoscience-related discipline is preferred. Review of the applications begins 15 December 2000 and continues until the position is filled. Apply: To: Dr. Robert A. Vargo Chairperson, Meteorology Search Committee Department of Earth Sciences, 250 University Avenue, Box 55 California PA 15419; Phone: (724) 938-5969; E-mail: [vargo@cup.edu](mailto:vargo@cup.edu)

### **RESEARCH AND DATA SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

is seeking individuals for work in Earth Sciences related positions. Research and Data Systems Corporation (RDC) provides scientific and engineering support to NASA, NOAA, USDA and other federal agencies and aerospace companies. We are a small growing company with a heritage of over 20 years of top quality scientific support. We have established a solid reputation in the Earth Sciences field and are expanding our areas of expertise by adding several strong new individuals to our team. Descriptions of the many open positions can be found on our Web site: [www.rdsc.com](http://www.rdsc.com). Interested individuals should send/fax/e-mail their resumes to: Research and Data Systems Corporation, 7833 Walker Dr., Suite 550, Greenbelt, MD 20770, Attn: Angie Martz; FAX: (301) 982-3749; e-mail: [amartz@rdsc.com](mailto:amartz@rdsc.com)

**RELIANT ENERGY** is seeking a full time Climatologist to work in Houston. You will perform climatological studies in support of long term forecasts. Assimilate all available meteorological studies into useful and understandable prediction for months into the future and share your forecasts in the form of briefings and written material to other members of a large staff. Excellent benefits package including a highly competitive salary and benefits. Interested and qualified please respond via e-mail to [margie\\_m\\_moreno@reliantenergy.com](mailto:margie_m_moreno@reliantenergy.com), fax to 713-207-0832 or mail to Reliant Energy Wholesale Group Human Resources, P.O. Box 4567, Houston, Texas 77210-4567.

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI at COLUMBIA**

Department of Soil and Atmospheric Sciences invites applications for a tenure-track position of Assistant Professor of Atmospheric Science. The deadline for submission is 1 February 2001. Materials should be directed to: Dr. Stephen E. Mudrick, Search Committee Chairman, Department of Soil and Atmospheric Sciences, 116 Gentry Hall, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri 65211; Phone: (573) 882 - 6591

**ACS GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS GROUP** is looking for a physical or computer scientist to join our team at the Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA) at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska. ACS personnel work on-site with AFWA modelers to refine numerical and data assimilation techniques, develop operational software, and evaluate model output. Interested candidates should forward a resume to the attention of: Steve Ladley, Sr. Technical Recruiter, 8900 Indian Creek Pkwy Ste 410, Overland Park, KS 66210-1513 Fax: (913) 327-1009; Phone: (888) 976-3456 E-mail: steve.ladley@acs-geg.com

**MERIDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY, INC.** Position: full-time operational forecast meteorologist. How to apply: contact Kathy Osborne at 701-787-6044 for company application. Forward application, resume and cover letter to: MERIDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY, INC., HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT., P.O. BOX 14178, GRAND FORKS, ND 58208-4178

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY, JACKSON, MS** Two positions available: Full-Time (11 month term) Post-Doctoral Research Associate (PDRA2000-V01). Full-Time (11 month term) Meteorology Visualization Software/Specialist (MVSS2000-V02). To apply, send (by mail only) (1) current resume listing publications, technical reports, professional presentations; (2) official transcripts and proof of citizenship, (3) names/contact information for three references (including major thesis/dissertation advisor), (4) statement of interest/experience, (5) relevant portfolio materials. Include REFERENCE # to expedite processing. Complete applications with all materials must be received for full consideration. Send materials to: ATTN: Dr. Paul J. Croft, Meteorology Program Coordinator, Dept. Physics, Atmos. Sci., & Gen. Sci., Jackson State University (Just Hall of Science) PO BOX 17660 (1435 JR Lynch St), Jackson, MS 39217-0460

**SATELLITE SERVICES, INC. (SSI)** seeks Meteorologists, Weather Forecasters, and Weather Observers for opportunities at the Grissom Air Reserve Base in Peru, Indiana. To apply on-line visit our website at <http://www.ssi-main.com/>, or contact Randell E. Girard, Director of Human Resources by e-mail at [rgirard@SSI-main.com](mailto:rgirard@SSI-main.com), by phone at (906) 228-6492 ext. 30, or submit resume by fax at (906) 226-3997.

**NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION**  
6704 WOLKE COURT  
MONTGOMERY AL 36116-2134

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA** seeks applicants for a support position to the Science center for Teaching, Outreach, and Research on Meteorology (STORM). STORM, funded by NOAA, seeks to enhance educational activities for the K-9 classroom, provide training to non-meteorologist decision makers, and increase public access to remotely sensed information. Application materials received by November 15, 2000 will be given first consideration. Position begins about February 12, 2001. Additional information will be provided upon request 319-273-3424). To apply, send cover letter, resume, and names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references to: Meteorological Decision Support Scientist Search Chair Human Resources, 104 Gilchrist, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0034; Fax: (319) 273-2927; E-mail: [HRS-Applications@uni.edu](mailto:HRS-Applications@uni.edu); [www.uni.edu/hrs/](http://www.uni.edu/hrs/)

**THE FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY** seeks to fill a full-time faculty position in aviation meteorology. The position will remain open until filled, but is available immediately. To apply, please send paper copies of an application letter, curriculum vitae, and the name, postal and email address of three references to: Associate Professor Richard C. Lanier School of Aeronautics, Florida Institute of Technology, 150 West University Boulevard, Melbourne FL 32901. For further information, call (321) 674-8120; or e-mail [rlanier@fit.edu](mailto:rlanier@fit.edu).

**WEATHERDATA, INCORPORATED** is interested in hiring Forecast Assistants. This is an entry-level position utilizing your graphic skills while sharpening your forecasting skills. Send cover letter and resume to: WeatherData, Inc., Attn: Sharol Youngers, Manager of Business Administration, 245 N. Waco, Ste. 310, Wichita, KS 67202.

**ACCU WEATHER, INC.** offers many career opportunities with the world's leading and most diversified commercial weather service. You will have exciting opportunities to handle all types of weather forecasting for major business, media and government organizations. Send a detailed resume to: David H. Dombek, Director of Forecaster Hiring, AccuWeather, Inc., 385 Science Park Road, State College PA 16803; FAX: (814) 231-0621; e-mail: [resume@accuwx.com](mailto:resume@accuwx.com).

**See NWA Web site ([www.nwas.org](http://www.nwas.org)) for more complete job listings.**