

Ross Kimes
AMS Report
February

FEBRUARY AMS REPORT FOR OUSCAMS

We started February by helping the OU School of Meteorology host our annual Groundhog's Day Party. The party, which included both students and faculty, was a huge success. The party was hosted by a restaurant called Coach's. The price of admission was \$2 for normal admission or \$5 if you were over 21 and planning to drink. That admission gets you any meal off of the menu and unlimited drinks. We had over 250 people show up.

We had February's meeting on the 17th at 6:30 P.M. The Emergency Management Director, David Grizzle, from Norman, OK came to speak to us. The main theme of his talk was community outreach. He emphasized that nothing he did during a severe weather event mattered unless the public was able to process what he said and react accordingly.

He explained how emergency management in the state of Oklahoma has become more complex recently than it had been in the past. The main reason for this was due to the work of the Emergency Management Association. As this group became more formal, standards were made for people to become an emergency manager and what the emergency manager's job is to be once he gets the position.

To get his weather information, he relies mainly on the National Weather Service. Recently, he has also started working with volunteers on a ham radio network. He says that his job would not be possible without the hard work of the volunteers who help him.

When he started in 2003, the budget for emergency management was between \$1000 and \$1500. The budget has been expanded so much since he came in that he has been able to buy a mobile EM truck as well as a bomb robot, both of which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

He finished by telling us about upcoming opportunities for us to volunteer and some outreach programs that they are going to be participating in. The meeting concluded at about 7:40.

Ross Kimes