

Minutes from the February meeting of the Metro Atlanta Chapter of the American Meteorological Society/National Weather Association

12 February 2008

National Weather Service Forecast Office
Peachtree City, Ga

The meeting began shortly after 7 pm and lasted approximately 1.5 hours. There were 24 people in attendance, not counting the NWS employees who were working the evening shift.

Presidents Report, Stephanie Klipfel:

Our elections are coming up, so please nominate someone (or yourself) if you think they would make a good officer. The positions we are voting on are: President-elect (will serve as President of the Chapter in 2009-10), Secretary, and Treasurer. Our current President-elect, Trisha Palmer, will be the new President. You can nominate by sending Stephanie an email at Stephanie.klipfel@delta.com. Stephanie also handed out forms on which you could nominate someone for a position, as well as suggest nominations for the Chandler Award and Excellence Award (which can also be done through email).

The Chandler Award goes to “the individual or group who has done the most to foster and enhance the science of meteorology in the Atlanta area over the past year.” The Excellence award goes to “the organization, group, or individual who contributed most significantly to the understanding of the science of meteorology or who may have provided a service to the public during a meteorological event.”

The other aspect we will be voting on is the “Best Program Award,” which goes to the monthly meeting presentation/program/or tour that everyone votes as the one they most enjoyed. The nominees are (I feel like I am at the Oscars):

September – Gibson Ridge Radar Software (GRlevel2, 3 , Analyst) – Mike Gibson

October – CNN Weather- Dave Hennen, Peter Dykstra, and Chad Myers

November – Norfolk Southern Railroad – Jeffrey McCracken

January – CBS 46 Weather – Gene Norman

February – Southeast River Forecast Center (drought) – John Feldt and Todd Hamill

President Elect – Trisha Palmer: Trisha welcomed everyone to the NWS/SERFC and also introduced Christine McGehee from the SERFC, who gave a 10 minute presentation

on the new Georgia CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow network...see www.cocorahs.org for more details) that will be starting up this spring. Christine mentioned the need for volunteers to participate in the high density network, so everyone should sign up and mention it to anyone else interested. There is also a need for county coordinators and regional directors as well, so if you are interested, let her know!

Presentation: The presentation was the first of a two part series on the drought affecting us here in Georgia. John Feldt, the Hydrologist-in-Charge at the Southeast River Forecast Center, and Todd Hamill, also of the SERFC, gave a presentation on the meteorology and hydrology of the drought. The presentation was very informative and answered questions that many have on all aspects of the southeastern drought. John and Todd talked about the current status of the drought, as well as how it got so bad. They also went into what we can expect going forward, and even talked some about the public response and the effects so far. The entire presentation has been loaded on the web, and I encourage everyone to look at the presentation, which can be found here: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/alr/download/AMSNWA_0208.ppt . Thanks to Todd Hamill for posting this!

There were many interesting questions and discussions after the presentation that continued even after the meeting, and we look forward to many more questions and discussions at the panel discussion during the March meeting.

After the “formal meeting,” there was a tour of the NWS forecast office and the SERFC office provided to all of those interested.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Brandon Miller
Secretary, Metro Atlanta AMS/NWA Chapter.