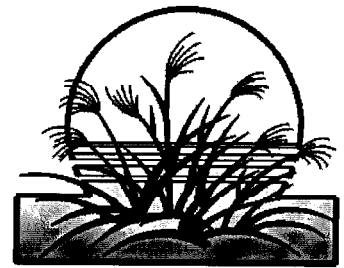
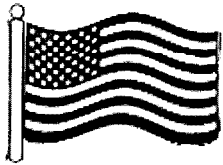




**NEWSLETTER
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY
January 2002 Vol. 23 No. 4**



The January meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7pm Thursday, January 17 in Borlaug Hall on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota. Specific directions to the meeting can be found on page 2. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.



Featured speaker: Dr. Donald Baker
"D-Day weather forecasting"

Dr. Don Baker is professor emeritus with the University of Minnesota Department of Soil, Water and Climate. Don retired in 1994 after 36 years of teaching and researching atmospheric science. Don has talked with several men who were involved with the D-Day forecasts.

The major criteria for the D-Day invasion were tides, twilight, moonlight and weather. There were three forecasting teams, two British and one American, who never met but made forecasts by means of scrambled telephone calls. Each call began with an effort to verify that the maps analyzed contained the same data! The briefing provided to Eisenhower, Montgomery et al was conducted by a dour 6'6" Scotsman whose specialty was the earth's magnetism. The forecasts amounted to compromises between the American team's optimism and the English team's "unmitigated gloom". Compared to today, forecasting was primitive, being based on analogues, isallobars, and extrapolation. In addition to invasion criteria, weather training and invasion imperatives, U.K. geography, data sources and forecasting procedures will be discussed. A critique of results will also be presented.

Chapter notes- by Ron Trenda

Weather can have a significant effect on military operations. Sophisticated forecast techniques are undoubtedly being used to support the current military operation in Afghanistan. At this month's meeting we'll learn about the weather support available for one of the most critical military operations in U.S. history; the D-Day invasion. Join us on January 17th for Dr. Baker's presentation. Our February meeting will be on Thursday, February 21. The topic will be AHPS, which stands for Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services. This is a suite of web-based forecast products that is now available for our area. The February meeting will take place at the North Central River Forecast Center, which is co-located in Chanhassen with the NWS.

We now have 43 chapter members. If you know of someone who may want to join our chapter, let a chapter officer know, and tell the potential member to check out our web site for meeting info. It is fortunate that we included a tie-breaker question in our forecast contest. Allen Johnson and Don Baker were both within one-half inch of the December snowfall total at Chanhassen. Kurt Scholz and Tom St. Martin both correctly forecast the high on January 1, which was 15 degrees. Our tie-breaker question (number of days with highs of 25 F or higher in January) will determine the 2 winners. A reminder ...if you'd like a sunrise/sunset table for 2002, you can create one at <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/>

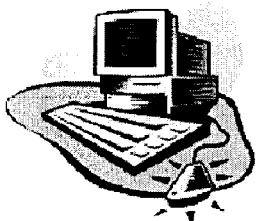
Member of the month

Francis Lomax is our featured AMS chapter member this month. His meteorological career began when he joined the United States Air Force in 1966. After going through Officer Training School at Lackland AFB Texas, he was sent to Chanute AFB, IL to attend various Air Force weather (continued)

observer courses. He then attended Penn State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology in 1968. His first assignment in the Air Force's Air Weather Service was as weather forecaster at Whiteman AFB, MO. After that he spent a year at Udorn Royal Thai AFB in Thailand where he was in charge of the Weather Support Unit for the 7/13th AF Tactical Air Control Center. After that he spent four and a half years in his most interesting assignment, an Aerial Reconnaissance Weather Officer (ARWO) in the 53rd Weather Recon Squadron (the Hurricane Hunters). He attained all of the crew positions available to ARWOs – basic flight crew member, instructor, flight examiner, and squadron standardization evaluation officer. He logged over 30 official penetrations into hurricanes and typhoons. However, the most dangerous missions were seeding fog in Germany in the winter. He was also chosen to be a flight director for special research missions conducted by the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory. He also participated in Project Storm Fury, a research project which studied the affects of modifying hurricanes. After his flying assignment, the Air Force sent him to Purdue University. After receiving his Master of Science degree in Meteorology in 1977 he was assigned as a Staff Meteorologist at Eglin AFB, FL. There he helped find meteorological limitations and affects on the latest weapons systems that were being developed by the Air Force. His final assignment was to the Air Force Global Weather Central at Offutt AFB, NE. There he was in charge of the Space and Electromagnet Systems Section. They had the task of developing and maintaining software used for space environment systems. He was also chosen to head the development of Air Weather Service's top unclassified software development project, the New Upper Air Validator (NUAV). They needed a new database to support it and he was one of the lead designers and developers of the AFGWC New Upper Air Database. He brought both on line before he retired from the Air Force in 1987. He then moved to Eden Prairie and worked for several years on Control Data's Advanced Meteorological Image and Graphics Analysis System (AMIGAS). For the past six years he has been doing software development and database designs for the legal profession.

The January meeting will be held at 7pm, on Thursday, January 17 at S415 Borlaug Hall, which is the Soil Science wing of Borlaug Hall on the St. Paul campus of the U of M. Room S415 is one floor up if you enter the west entrance of the building.

Directions: Take Interstate 94 to highway 280 north. Exit at **Larpenteur Avenue** and travel east to **Gortner Avenue**. Turn **right** and travel south on Gortner to **Buford Avenue**. Turn **right** onto Buford Avenue and travel a short distance to **Buford circle**. Turn **right** and travel north up to **Borlaug Hall**, which isn't too far from the water tower. See map on page 3 for parking options.



AMS on the WWW

Thanks again to Kurt Scholz and Doug Dokken of The University of St. Thomas for maintaining the web page for our local AMS chapter. Chapter information and links to climatological and meteorological information can be found there. We will soon be updating the list of Twin Cities Chapter members on the page. Rest assured, only your names will be listed. E-mail and home addresses will remain confidential. E-mail Kurt or Doug with your comments about the web site. The web address for the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS is:

http://byte.stthomas.edu/www/math_http/weather/tcametsoc.html

