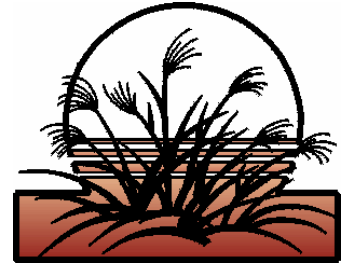




**NEWSLETTER  
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER  
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
October 2002 Vol. 24 No. 2**



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**The October meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7pm Thursday, October 17 at SESCO in Bandana Square (in the old Children's Museum building). Specific directions to the meeting can be found on page 3. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.**

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***Featured speakers: Lee Alnes, Dennis Moon***

***"Demonstration of WxPortal, a Web-based Weather Analysis Tool"***

WxPortal (pronounced "Weather Portal") is a new web-based weather workstation service ([www.wxportal.com](http://www.wxportal.com)) developed by SESCO. It is like an AWIPS for the public but is delivered over the web. Lee Alnes, Vice President of Marketing and Sales, will provide us with a brief introduction to WxPortal and Dennis Moon, Chief Scientist, will give us a detailed demonstration of this new program. Weather Portal™ delivers a new level of expertise called "ensemble decision-making" to weather sensitive businesses such as Electric Utilities, Agriculture, Commodities Trading and Transportation industries. Some of WxPortal's capabilities can be obtained as a free service over the Internet.

Dennis Moon joined SESCO in 1990 after receiving his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Minnesota. Prior to that he served as Senior Scientist at R-Scan, a meteorological modeling and services company. While serving as Assistant Professor of Physics at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Dr. Moon conducted research into the effects of variable earth conductivity on the effect of lightning-generated electromagnetic signals in support of a National Lightning Detection Network.

***Comments from our Chapter President-Dean Braatz***

I urged you to suggest topics last month to be scheduled during the next season of meetings. Our plan is to attract speakers and topics that appeal and will generate interest. Most months are now scheduled:

**October 17, 2002** - Meeting at SESCO, St. Paul, MN, Lee Alnes

**November 21, 2002** - Meeting at NWA, MSP, Tom Fahey

**December 12, 2002** - Meeting at KARE 11, Don Molenhaus

**January 16, 2003** - Meeting at the "U", St. Paul, Mark Seely

**February 20, 2003** - XCEL, if not available then Doug Dokken at St. Thomas

**March 20, 2003** - Meeting at the NWS, Chanhassen, Craig Edwards

**April 17, 2003** - Meeting at SCSU, St. Cloud, Greg Nstrom

**May 15, 2003** - Picnic in Chanhassen, Waiting on feedback for a speaker

Mark your calendars with these dates. The officers welcome your input on speakers and ideas for meeting presentations. Thanks for the suggestions this fall.

A reminder that the 83<sup>rd</sup> AMS Annual Meeting will be held in Long Beach, CA from February 9-13, 2002. Pre-registration is due by December 16, 2002. Make your plans now.

If you have not become a member for 2002-2003 please do so. Our September meeting was well attended so try to attend the future meetings to keep our local chapter going strong. Do the chapter a favor and ask peers and friends to join also. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Please e-mail me or call me

for any information or to pass on suggestions for meeting topics. My e-mail is: [dtbraatz@msn.com](mailto:dtbraatz@msn.com) and my telephone is 952-925-9186.

The officers for 2002-2003 are:

President – Dean Braatz  
Vice Pres. – Doug Dokken  
Sec-Treasurer – Joan Haley  
Newsletter – Kurt Scholz



### *Weather Service News – by Craig Edwards*

#### **COOP (Cooperative Observer Program) Network to receive upgraded technology. (<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mpx/coop.html>)**

Last month NOAA officials met with partners in the private sector to plan the modernization of the nation's volunteer network of more than 11,000 weather observers. Established in 1890, the coop network was set up to take meteorological observations and establish and record climate conditions in the United States, primarily for agricultural purposes. Today, most coop stations depend upon outdated technology. Volunteers are provided a set of weather instruments and observing instructions by the National Weather Service, which maintains and manages the network.

An improved coop network supports President Bush's Climate Change Research Initiative and will provide very high spatial resolution. When integrated with NOAA's newly emerging Climate Reference Network, these two networks will provide the nation with the highest quality information possible regarding climate trends nationally, regionally and locally.

#### **Hazardous Weather Updates**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, all the NWS field offices commenced issuing daily Hazardous Weather Outlooks to aid local emergency management officials and the general public on impending significant weather developments. This product is prepared by the local Chanhassen Forecast Office for posting to the website by 7:00AM daily. It is dynamic, in that it is updated as forecasters recognize key elements that raise or lower the threat of hazardous weather. Recently Director Kelly rolled out this product at the National Conference for emergency managers, where it was widely acclaimed as an integral planning tool for community preparedness. As the hazard unfolds forecast and statements will define the specific threat for the affected area.

#### *Editor's notes*



This month's meeting at SESCO should be of great interest to all of our members. You can try out WxPortal over the web by subscribing, free of charge, to their basic service. You will need Internet Explorer, version 5.5 or later.

Our next meeting will take place at the NWA Flight Services Building on the airport grounds. Detailed directions will appear next month. Our meeting will include a tour of the NWA de-icing facility.

If you haven't already done so, please submit your annual dues to secretary-treasurer Joan Haley at the October meeting or you can also mail them to Joan at her address on the last page. Be sure to fill out the member registration form and submit your forecast contest entries by **October 31**. Thanks to Ron Trenda for again contributing the questions. Winners will receive an \$18 gift certificate.

As Dean mentioned, the 83<sup>rd</sup> AMS Annual Meeting is coming up in February. On Tuesday, 11 February, 12:00 - 1:30PM an "Interactive" town hall discussion is being organized by the AMS Local Chapter Affairs Committee, together with the 120 AMS regular and student local chapters across the nation. The theme will be "Local Chapters - Your Connection to Success!". A brief description: "This gathering will focus on the outstanding activities that Local Chapters are undertaking, the tremendous benefits of being a part of Local Chapter events, and the positive impact of Local Chapter participation on career growth and personal understanding of environmental issues. Local chapter members will highlight ways they are providing a service to the meteorological and hydrological profession, fostering education and outreach, and assisting community leaders in making important decisions that affect all of us. Distinguished members of our profession, to include leaders in the AMS, public and private sector, will provide testimonials about how being a local chapter can and has positively affected them and our profession".

***Reminder: The October meeting will be held at 7pm, on Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup> at SESCO Corp. on Energy Park Drive in Bandana. There is free parking in the adjacent lot on the east side of the building. See the map below.***

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**Directions:**

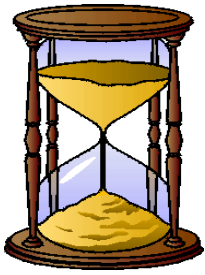
SESCO is located just off Energy Park Drive, approximately equidistant from I94 and Hwy. 36. Take either Snelling or Lexington Ave. and exit at Energy Park Drive. SESCO is located in Bandana Square, just north of Energy Park Drive in the Summit Envirosolutions building. Park on the east side of the building and go to the east entrance. Someone at the front desk is will be on hand to give directions. If not, proceed to the stairway just past the front desk and go to the second floor. SESCO is located at the top of the stairway.



***AMS on the WWW***

The address for the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS is:

[http://byte.stthomas.edu/www/math\\_http/weather/tcametsoc.html](http://byte.stthomas.edu/www/math_http/weather/tcametsoc.html) .Please send any comments, suggestions, etc. to Kurt Scholz, [k9scholz@stthomas.edu](mailto:k9scholz@stthomas.edu).



### *Historical Twin Cities Weather – by Thomas St. Martin*

One of the worst rainstorms in Twin Cities weather history occurred on 12 September 1903. In St. Paul, weather bureau observers measured 5.18 inches of precipitation during the twenty-four hour period ending at 20:00 hours CST, the greatest daily amount recorded at the St. Paul station since the cloudburst of 26-27 July 1892. The rain began at about 05:20 hours on 12 September and, according to a St. Paul Dispatch account, “St. Paul was visited by a veritable flood...for about ten hours, almost without exception, rain came down in torrents while the rain extended over a large area, St. Paul caught by far the biggest bulk of water...” Many city streets were flooded, sewers were gutted, pavements were washed out, many basements were filled with water and streetcar service was disrupted in many parts of the city. Newspaper accounts stated that “holes six feet deep were washed in the hill on Western Avenue” and that the Battle Creek Bridge on Hastings Avenue was “badly damaged”. A St. Paul Dispatch story also reported that “winds blew at a great rate during the night, unroofing a new house...in St. Anthony Park...” Total damage in St. Paul was estimated at about \$25,000.

The storm, which deluged the St. Paul area, was part of a larger system, which brought heavy rains, cold and/or heavy snow to other parts of the Upper Midwest. Snow plows were reported “working in North Dakota”, telegraphic communications were disrupted as a result of washed out poles, and numerous washouts, twenty washouts on the line between St. Paul and Sibley, disrupted rail traffic in and out of the Twin Cities.

The 12 September storm was followed by unseasonably cold weather. St. Paul maxima ranged from 55 F to 49 F from 13 through 17 September and a near freezing minimum of 37 F was recorded on the morning of 17 September 1903. Although the last half of September was dry, wetness returned in early October. Approximately five inches of rain were recorded at the St. Paul station from 3-6 October 1903 but, unlike the September storm, the October rainfall was followed by generally warm weather (with temperatures near 70 F recorded at the end of October).

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**Please fill out this form and mail it in with your annual Chapter dues, whether or not you are entering the forecast contest. This information is used for Chapter purposes only, and only your name will be listed on the Chapter web site.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ If you prefer to be notified via e-mail when the newsletter is posted on our website, rather than having us mail you a paper copy of the newsletter, check here \_\_\_\_\_.

Suggestion for an AMS meeting topic \_\_\_\_\_

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**Forecast contest entry:** TOTAL DECEMBER 2002 SNOWFALL (INCHES AND TENTHS) AT THE CHANHASSEN NWS OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_

LOW TEMPERATURE (F) ON JANUARY 1, 2003 \_\_\_\_\_

Tiebreaker question: NUMBER OF DAYS WITH A HIGH OF 22 DEGREES (F) OR HIGHER DURING JANUARY, 2003 \_\_\_\_\_

All temperature readings will be from MSP. Your contest entry and your 2002-2003 dues must be received by October 31, 2002 for you to be eligible to win.

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Dues are \$12 per year for regular membership, \$6 per year for student membership.

Make checks payable to Twin Cities AMS, and mail to:

Joan Haley  
6820 Redwing Lane  
Chanhassen, MN 55317

**AMS**  
Twin Cities Chapter