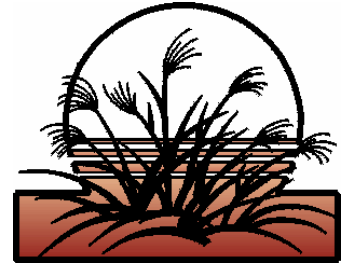
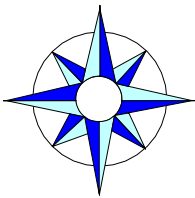




**NEWSLETTER
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY
February, 2003 Vol. 24 No. 6**



The February meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM Thursday, February 20th, on the St. Thomas Campus. The meeting will be held in room LL54 in the lower level of Owens Science Hall. Specific directions to the meeting can be found on page 3. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.



Featured Speaker: Robert G. Johnson
The Mediterranean Sea and climate change.

Changes in North Atlantic oceanic circulation are well known to be an important factor in ice age climate change. Recent analysis based on Barbados fieldwork suggests that the salty outflow from the Mediterranean at Gibraltar is a key factor in bringing about the oceanic circulation switches that can influence climate in both hemispheres. The salty outflow is particularly important in maintaining the "conveyor belt" circulation that warms the high latitudes - and especially Europe. However, too much salt apparently triggered the last ice age, and may likewise start the next one. Details can be found in the new book: "Secrets of the Ice Ages: The role of the Mediterranean Sea in climate change", which summarizes the newest ideas on the mechanics of climate.

Bob Johnson obtained a Ph.D. in physics from Iowa State University in 1952. He was employed at Honeywell Inc. for 34 years doing research and development. After retiring as staff scientist in 1990, he joined the Geology and Geophysics Department of the University of Minnesota as an Adjunct Professor. His main research interest is in the mechanics of climate change, with sidebars in historical geology. His publication list includes 12 journal papers ranging from measurement of the age of the last reversal of the Earth's magnetic field to a proposal to build a partial dam across the Strait of Gibraltar. Bob is currently working on the climate effects of Noah's flood into the Black Sea basin 8200 years ago.

Member of the Month: Lori Bovitz

This month's featured member is Lori Bovitz. She maintains that she has always been interested in weather. All through her school years she would check out books on weather over and over from the school and local libraries. In high school she competed in the Science Challenge (formerly Olympiad) in the Weather Forecasting event. As a junior she placed second in the state and as a senior placed first.

She went to the University of Wisconsin - Madison to study Meteorology and graduated with a BS degree in 1994. Her fiancée had moved to Texas to take a position in the West Gulf River Forecast Center so after they married in July of 1994 she followed him to Fort Worth.

She started as an Intern at the NWS in Fort Worth (working with such severe weather chasers as Al Moller) in September of 1994. In 1998 she was promoted to General Forecaster. While at the Forecast Office she gained an appreciation for heavy rainfall events and decided to pursue that interest further. She transferred to the West Gulf River Forecast Center in 1998 as a Hydrometeorologic Analysis and Support (HAS) Forecaster. She worked there until the fall of 2000 when she and her husband decided (after the birth of their first son earlier that year) they wanted to come back to Minnesota.

While looking for jobs back in the Twin Cities she happened across the Documentation Specialist position at Kavouras (now Meteorlogix). Since she had done some work writing user guides for forecasters and hydrologists, she thought she would take a shot at it. She got the job and has been working there since.

While working at Meteorlogix she has really enjoyed writing user manuals, quick tip cards and other documentation. Although her first love is weather, she may continue to pursue a career in Technical Writing. She hopes this may allow for more time to chase storms and enjoy the weather around her.

Comments from our Chapter President Dean Braatz



Below are the monthly meeting dates for the local Twin Cities AMS Chapter's schedule during the Winter-Spring season of 2002-2003. Be sure you mark your calendar with these dates:

February 20, 2003 – Meeting at St. Thomas University, St. Paul, Bob Johnson

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

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

May 15, 2003 - Picnic in Chanhassen, Bruce Watson

Central Illinois Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

Midwest Extreme and Hazardous Weather Regional Conference

The Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center – Champaign, Illinois
Friday - Saturday, 17 - 18 October 2003

The Midwest region of the U.S. (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and Minnesota) experiences a particularly wide range of severe weather conditions throughout the year. This conference offers an opportunity for forecasters, researchers, media, public officials, and the public to exchange critical information on these important weather phenomena. Talks are solicited on Midwest severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, flash flooding, snowstorms, ice storms, lake-effect snowstorms, lake-breeze storms, heat and cold waves.

The Conference will include talks of broad interest as well as breakout sessions on specific types of hazards. Confirmed keynote speakers include Dr. Greg Forbes, Severe Weather Expert at The Weather Channel and well-known research scientist of tornadoes and severe thunderstorms, and Dr. David Robinson, New Jersey State Climatologist whose primary research includes hemispheric and regional snow cover dynamics, as well as interactions of snow cover with other climate elements.

Information on registration and a call for papers will appear in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society and here at the conference web page. If you are an AMS member in the 9-state region, future postcard mailings will contain similar information.

The Regional Conference Committee is soliciting topics for sessions and invited speakers. Please contact Committee Chairperson Mike Tannura for additional information: conference@c-il-ams.org.

Join us at our monthly meetings and keep our chapter active. Invite friends or colleagues that may have an interest in our science. We always welcome new members. My new email address is: dtbraatz1@msn.com
Looking forward to seeing many of you at our next meeting at the Campus of St. Thomas University.

The officers for 2002-2003 are:

President – Dean Braatz

Vice President – Doug Dokken

Sec-Treasurer – Joan Haley

Newsletter – Kurt Scholz



Editor's notes: The February meeting at the University of St. Thomas will ***not*** meet in the 3M auditorium (it has been booked up for the whole year). Instead, our room is located almost directly below the 3M auditorium in room LL54. Hope to see you there. We will again be handing out parking permits so keep your eyes open for either Doug Dokken or me.

The National Weather Service has their training schedule for SKYWARN on their

webpage. There are plenty of opportunities to sign up for one of their many classes throughout the Twin Cities. These classes are open to the public and most are offered free of charge. You are not required to be a severe weather spotter. You can check out the schedule of classes at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mpx>.



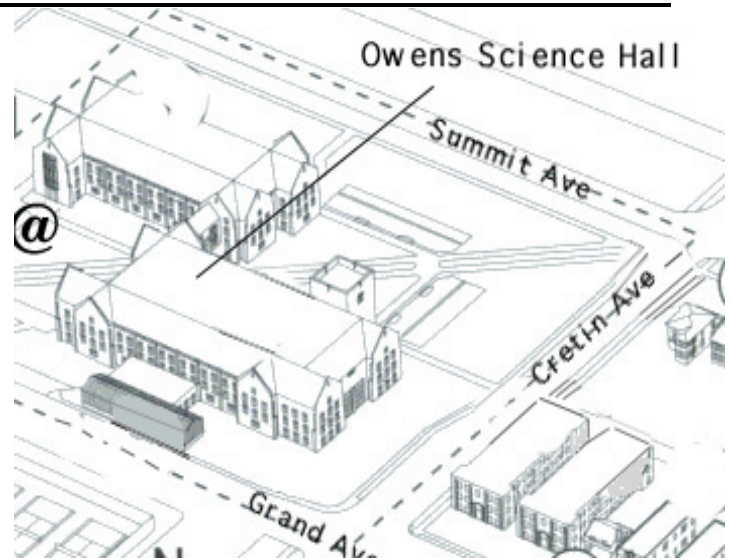
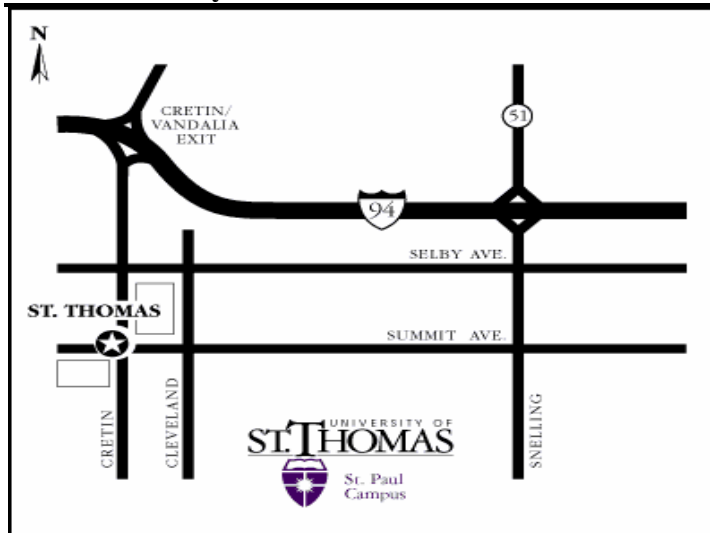
AMS on the WWW

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

http://byte.stthomas.edu/www/math_http/weather/tcametsoc.html. Please send any comments, suggestions, changes of address, misspellings, etc. to Kurt Scholz, k9scholz@stthomas.edu.

Reminder: The February meeting will be held at 7pm, on Thursday February 20th^h at St. Thomas University, St. Paul. The meeting will be held in room LL54 in the lower level of Owens Science Hall.

Directions: Take Interstate Highway 94 to the Cretin Avenue exit. Then go south on Cretin for about one mile to Summit Avenue. Owens Science Hall is located at the southwest corner of Summit and Cretin Avenues (see maps). You might find parking on the south side of Summit Avenue, or go to parking lot "N", which is south of the building. Either Kurt Scholz or Doug Dokken will be there to give you a parking pass. You can enter Owens Science Hall under the arches that connect the two science buildings or through the door at the southwest corner of the east wing. At the latter entrance, take the stairway to the lower level. Room LL54 is near the stairway.



Historical Twin Cities Weather - by Thomas St. Martin

A storm, which was, described by Minneapolis Weather Bureau observer J. H. Harmon as “nothing more than a regular thunderstorm” produced rains of cloudburst proportions over much of Twin City area during the night and early morning hours of 26-27 July 1892. Rainfalls -- which measured nearly eight inches at stations maintained by volunteer observers William Cheney and J. H. Aschenbeck -- caused extensive damage throughout the city, including ruptured sewers, flooded cellars and sand covered and/or buckled street car tracks. According to the 27 July edition of the Minneapolis Tribune, “things were knocked out generally, ... the rain fell in such quantities that the sewers were unable to carry the surplus water and were clogged and broken in many places..., as a consequence innumerable cellars and basements were flooded”. The same account noted further that “in the basement of city hail the water stood higher than it has ever been known to be before,” that “the restaurant in the basement of the Palace Opera House was inundated and the fire department was obliged to go to the rescue...” and that “...the sewer in the neighborhood of Ninth Avenue and Ninth Street So. burst and the water leaped into the air as from a geyser...”. The downpour was accompanied by intense lightning which, according to the Tribune’s account of the mailer, “cut many capers in an eccentric way...”. The most serious damage was at the Swedish Tabernacle at the intersection of Seventh Street and Eighth Avenue South where, in the words of the Tribune reporter, “a bolt of lightning aimed for the cupola

of the house of worship and set it on fire...the flames spread very rapidly and a lively blaze was in progress when the fire department arrived...”. According to other newspaper accounts, “the storm appeared to gather in the west, where there were two separate electrical centers, and it threatened for some time before it moved over the city... .One of the storms, the first one, moved over quite slowly, hanging overhead for a long space of time without a breath of air, while the other one appeared to gain on the first one... The question was whether the last one would catch the other one and make mailers serious... they were almost together when the second one passed over but did not meet, and while the last one was the most severe there was a welcome gust of wind which then blew quite freely and the first storm appeared to take a spurt and move away out of dangerous proximity...”. The same account further indicated that, at about 1930 hours, “a violent gust of wind struck the city which caused some of the largest buildings to shiver to their foundations...”. Many people feared a cyclone... “but the wind soon ceased, but three distinct electrical centers were observed, showing that many...storms were raging in the neighborhood of the city.. “.

The 26-27 July thunderstorm event was preceded by “sultry and oppressive” weather, which, according to Harmon, presented no “peculiar meteorological features...”. This view, in turn, probably contributed to a gaffe which, as the Tribune noted pointedly (caustically?), involved the local observer’s assertion (probably included in a forecast issued the day before the storm).. .to the effect that we would probably have no rain...”.

Although heavy rains and damage were reported to have occurred in a number of east central Minnesota communities (including St. Paul, Stillwater, Franklin, Glencoe and others), the extreme rainfall appears to have been limited to areas in or near the Twin Cities. As a result, overall agricultural and economic losses were relatively light. Late July 1892 did, however, feature an intense and devastating heat wave that brought record or near record high temperatures to many Midwest and Mid-Atlantic States. Sweltering heat, accompanied by many heat related deaths were reported in areas extending from Dubuque, Yankton, Chicago and St. Louis to Pittsburgh, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

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