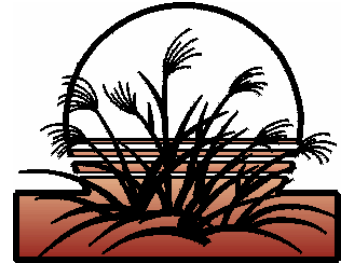




**NEWSLETTER
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY
January, 2004 Vol. 25 No. 5**



The January meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM Thursday, January 15, 2004 at Digital Cyclone Inc in Minnetonka. Specific directions to the meeting can be found on page 3. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.



Featured Host:

Paul Douglas, Chief Meteorologist at WCCO-TV, Chairman of Digital Cyclone Inc.

Tour of Digital Cyclone, Inc.

Based in Minnetonka, Minnesota, Digital Cyclone was founded in 1998 by Paul Douglas, chief meteorologist at WCCO-TV, and Craig Burfeind, a meteorologist and computer scientist who also helped Douglas launch EarthWatch Communications in 1990. EarthWatch became well known for its three-dimensional weather graphics used by hundreds of television meteorologists worldwide. Today, Douglas is Digital Cyclone's chairman of the board.

In August 2000, Digital Cyclone launched My-Cast®, a personalized weather service licensed by local TV stations, newspapers, and cable operators for their Web sites, and by businesses for use as a decision support tool. As a part of the tour, we will get a brief demonstration of the steps taken over the years in going from the web to wireless weather, personalizing the information based on location and lifestyle. We will get a first hand demonstration, with actual phones, so we can see how they handle the information on the phones.

Paul Douglas, a nationally respected meteorologist, with more than 20 years of broadcast television experience, joined the WCCO staff as chief meteorologist in 1998. Paul's many other credits include writing a book, "Prairie Skies: The Minnesota Weather Book," and teaching a broadcast meteorology class at St. Cloud State University. Paul holds a degree from Pennsylvania State University. He is married, has two sons and lives in the western suburbs of the Twin Cities.



Comments from our Chapter President Dean Braatz

The date of our January chapter meeting will be the last day of the AMS Annual Meeting. The 84th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society was scheduled from 11—15 January 2004 at the [Washington State Convention and Trade Center](#), in Seattle, Washington. The Annual Meeting this year was being organized around the broad theme of "prediction". This past century, the overarching challenge to the atmospheric and related sciences has been to predict weather and climate. These sciences, perhaps more than any others, are tested on a daily basis through the forecasting of the various elements of the earth's environment. Numerical weather prediction is widely regarded to be among the foremost scientific accomplishments of the twentieth century. Especially significant advances have been made in atmospheric and oceanic forecasting of weather and climate systems over the past 20 years.

The December monthly meeting held at the UPN 29 & Fox 9 studios was a highlight. On-air meteorologists Karl Spring, Janie Peterson and Ron Trendera provided members with a tour of the combined operation of both stations as well as behind the scenes insight of how their weather presentations are produced. Karl's game resulted in a few members walking away with door prizes. It is always interesting and informative to visit the TV stations plus experience the green board as some of us did. It is not as easy as one might think.

The next meeting for January, on the 15th, will be at Digital Cyclone Inc. in Minnetonka. If the weather permits that day, we have hopes that Paul Douglas will be able to join us at the meeting. Upcoming meetings that are scheduled for the 2003-2004 season include:

February 19 – Dale Branch, NWS ATCC

March 20 – Craig Edwards and Seth Binau, NWSFC

April 15 – Doug Dokken, St Thomas University

May 20 – Eve Iverson, Cargill

In order to get a head start on officers for next year I am sending out a feeler to determine if anyone is interested in serving the Twin Cities Chapter in this regard. Please let me know if you are willing. Strong leadership and new energy can assure that our chapter will continue to do all it can to keep our chapter strong. Thanks to those members that have attended the monthly meetings this season. It's always fun to mingle with other weather nuts. May I remind you to keep on the lookout for others who might be interested in joining our chapter. Ask peers and friends to join you when you attend the meetings. Please e-mail me or call me for any information or to pass on suggestions for meeting topics. My e-mail is: dtbraatz1@msn.com and my telephone is 952-925-9186.

The officers for 2003-2004 are:

- President – Dean Braatz
- Vice Pres – Doug Dokken
- Sec-Treasurer – Seth Binau
- Newsletter – Kurt Scholz

Report on AMS Chapter's Participation with the Science Museum of Minnesota's "Community Partnerships Serving Science" Project.... Doug Dokken, Kurt Scholz



“The Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) obtained a 3-year grant from NSF's Informal Science Education Program that will allow them to develop and test a collaborative model for strengthening a local infrastructure of informal science education groups and organizations. This model will create a network of partnerships, workshops, and events, through which participating museums and Community Based Science Organizations (CBSOs) will become more efficient and effective at reaching and serving their audiences, better communicate science and technology, and develop long-term opportunities to collaborate with each other.”

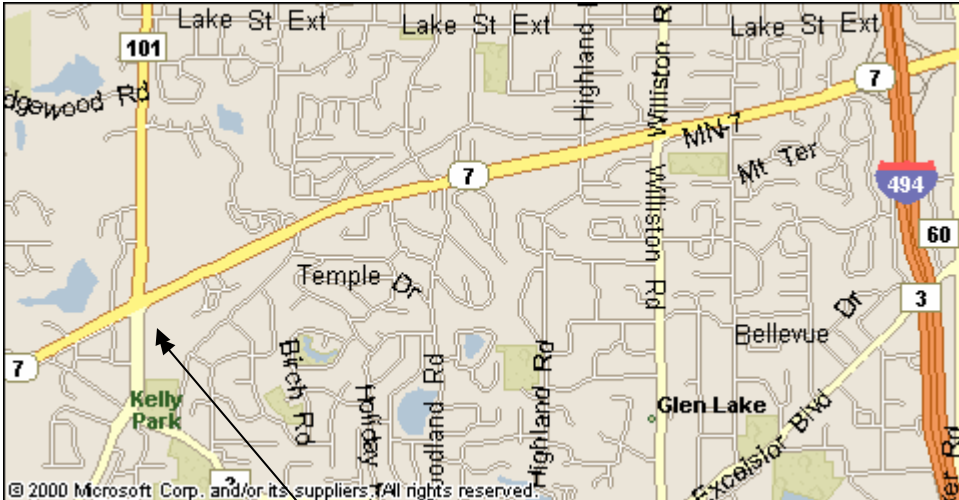
On behalf of the local AMS chapter, Doug Dokken, Paul Ohmann, and Kurt Scholz are participating in this venture by creating several educational displays. These will include computer animations of a supercell thunderstorm (with an interactive java schematic of a supercell), and a vortex chamber. The latter will give visitors a hands-on opportunity to adjust variables that produce different “tornado” configurations such as multiple vortices. These will be on display at the SMM and hopefully many other locations such as libraries, schools, and other museums. The Minnesota State Fair would be another excellent venue for these displays.

SMM hosted three 6-hour workshops to plan our displays and, in return, our chapter has been awarded a \$600 grant from NSF for our participation. We will match this with a \$200 service commitment at the SMM. A 36-hour "Science Summit", tentatively scheduled for March 26, 27 will exhibit all of the displays of other participating CBSO.

The Community Partnership Serving Science project offers substantial educational outreach opportunities for the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). We enthusiastically support the goals of the project and the possible collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota in this venture. The AMS has a long record of supporting educational endeavors both for our members and for the community at large. Many of our efforts have focused on engaging the interest of students at the high school and college level. Some of our members have been judges at various Science Fairs and the Winchell Science Competition. The workshops outlined in the proposal will allow the AMS and museum staff to develop further outreach programs, creating a wonderful opportunity to increase public awareness of weather-related issues. We see substantial benefits in working with the Science Museum in communicating our work to the public and as a recruitment opportunity for our organization. Further contact with other educational institutions to develop interest in meteorology, as well as hydrometeorology, and encourage bright students to pursue a career in this area has been a long-standing goal of the AMS. We are very much looking forward to the opportunity of working with the Science Museum of Minnesota in support of the "Community Partnerships Serving Science" project.

Reminder: The January meeting will be held at 7pm, on Thursday January.

Directions: See the map below. The address of Digital Cyclone is **5125 County Road 101, Suite 300, Minnetonka, MN 55345**



Digital Cyclone is right next to K-Mart, at the southeastern corner of Highway 7 and 101 in Minnetonka. They are located on the third floor of a 3-story office building. The entrance is on the southwestern side of the building. You can take the elevator up to the third floor. We will meet in the conference room right outside the elevator.



Editor's notes ... Kurt Scholz

Doug Dokken and I would appreciate any feedback regarding our involvement with the Minnesota Science Museum on behalf of our AMS chapter. You can e-mail Doug or me dpdokken@stthomas.edu, k9scholz@stthomas.edu.

The Chanhassen WFO/CWSU is organizing an aviation conference in the Twin Cities scheduled for March 9-10, 2004. Details will be upcoming. I have no further information at this time.



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.