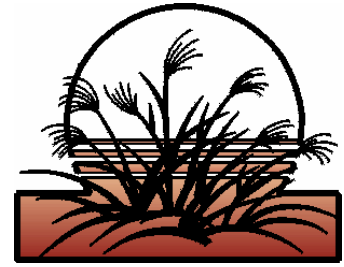


**NEWSLETTER
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY
March, 2004 Vol. 25 No. 7**



The March meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM Thursday, March 18, at NWSFC. Specific directions to the meeting can be found on page 3. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.



Featured Speakers: Craig Edwards and Seth Binau

Craig and Seth will give us a description of the new forecast techniques for delivering detailed seven day weather forecast through the creation of graphical products and a digital database. A demonstration will be given of integrating model data and the collaboration required to deliver a regional mosaic.

Craig Edwards, Meteorologist in Charge of the Chanhassen Office since 1995, has generously hosted numerous of our chapter meetings. He has served as the chapter president and given a number of talks at our meetings. Seth Binau is a forecaster with the NWS in Chanhassen. He is a 1999 graduate in meteorology from Iowa State University. Seth began his career in the NWS as a meteorologist intern in Aberdeen, SD. He moved to the Twin Cities in the Fall of 2001.

Comments from our Chapter President Dean Braatz

David Johnson Sworn In As National Weather Service Director



Brigadier General (USAF retired) David L. Johnson has been appointed as the new assistant administrator for the National Weather Service, where he will be responsible for the day-to-day management of NOAA's domestic weather and hydrology operations. Prior to joining NOAA, Johnson served as the U.S. Air Force director of weather. He retired from the Air Force as a brigadier general, after a 30-year military career. As director of weather, he was one of ten directors at the Headquarters Air Force, Air and Space Operations, and was responsible for developing doctrine, policy, requirements, and operational organizations to support Air Force and Army operations worldwide. He also served as one of NOAA's military deputies. Notably, he organized, trained and equipped forces for the war in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq, and managed a steady flow of accurate and focused environmental information to battlefield commanders. He was a key advisor in the development of the National Polar-orbiting Environmental Operational Satellite System (NPOESS).

National Research Program Needed to Improve Safety and Efficiency of Roadways During Severe Weather

Recent advances in meteorology and roadway technology could significantly improve the response to weather-related hazards that impede road travel, such as snow, rain, and flash floods, says a new report

from the National Academies' National Research Council. In particular, the federal government should establish a national road weather research program led by the Federal Highway Administration to bring together the weather and surface-transportation research communities to tackle these issues in a coordinated way, said the committee that wrote the report. Copies of *Where the Weather Meets the Road: A Research Agenda for Improving Road Weather Services* will be available later this year from the National Academies Press; tel. 202-334-3313 or 1-800-624-6242. You can also find it online at <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309091365/html/>

The February meeting at St Thomas University was presented by Dale Branch, recently retired from the NWS ATTC operation in Farmington, MN. Dale's talk was a summary of 33 years of forecasting experience with emphasis on the contrasting weather before 1976 and after 1976. Also, he presented a few changes in weather patterns over the past several years, which point at another major shift in weather patterns in 2002. The changes in tropospheric weather were compared with changes in the stratosphere during the same time period. We wish Dale all the best in the new direction his life is now taking in retirement.

This month's meeting is back west at the NWS office in Chanhassen on the 18th. With Spring at our heels it's always interesting to hear what Craig and Seth have in their new bag of tricks for potential severe weather and warnings this year. Hope to see you there.

Upcoming meetings that are scheduled for the 2003-2004 season include:

April 15– Doug Dokken, St Thomas University

May 20– Eve Iverson, Cargill

For the past two months, I sent out a feeler to determine if anyone is interested in serving the Twin Cities Chapter as president. The position of Sec-Treasurer has a candidate, but the position of president is still available. The president has to be a national member to qualify as chapter president. Please let me know if you are willing and able to step up and become a candidate for the president position next term. Strong leadership and new energy can assure that our chapter will continue to do all it can to keep our chapter active. Our officers thank those attending the monthly meetings this season. It's always fun to mingle with other weather nuts and to learn of the many weather impacts around us in the Twin Cities. 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

Editor's notes – Kurt Scholz



I noticed that the date for this meeting, Thursday March 18, had been incorrectly given in each of the six last newsletters. I hope no one was misled.

Doug Dokken and I are continuing to work on our vortex simulator (Ward Chamber), which we will exhibit at the Minnesota Science Museum during the "Science Summit", March 26,

27 (Friday, Saturday) from 10 am to 4 pm. A number of local organizations are participating in the event, thanks to an NSF grant obtained by the Science Museum. Our exhibit, on behalf of the TC AMS chapter, will also be on display at the Science Museum during the summer for the "Tornado" exhibit, some time in July. You can get information at the Museum's web site at <http://www.smm.org/cbso>.

Doug Dokken's talk at the April meeting promises to be both interesting and timely as we approach Spring and the potential for severe storms. He will present some interesting computer simulations of several recent tornados, including the Granite Falls tornado on July 25, 2000. Using the program ARPS (Advanced Regional Prediction System), it is possible to simulate such storms using real weather sounding data and present the outcome graphically using Vis5d.



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 March meeting will be held at 7pm, on Thursday March 18, 2004 at the NWS, Chanhassen.

Directions

Take Highway **494** to the exit for Minnesota **Highway 5** west in Eden Prairie. Travel west on highway 5 into Chanhassen. Turn **left** (south) at **Audubon Road**. Follow Audubon Road to **Lake Drive**, then turn **right** and follow Lake Drive to the NWS entrance, which will be on your left. The Nexrad radar tower will be visible as you approach the area. An alternative, if traffic is heavy and you want to avoid the Audubon turn off highway 5, is to turn **left** at the light onto **Powers Boulevard**, and head south. You would then take the **first right** off of Powers Boulevard, onto **Park Road**, and follow it to Audubon Road, then turn **left** and head south to Lake Drive.