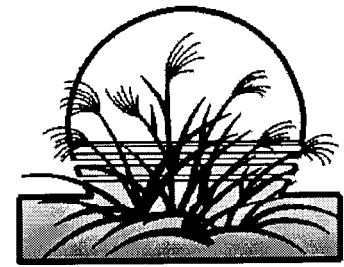


NEWSLETTER  
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER  
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

May, 2004 Vol. 25 No. 9



**Note the time of the picnic!!! Please respond quickly.**

The picnic preceding the May meeting will be at 6 PM on Thursday, May 20, at Lake Susan Park in Chanhassen. The meeting will be at 7 PM. Please contact either Seth Binau or Dean Braatz if you plan to attend the picnic. Specific directions to the meeting can be found on page 4. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.

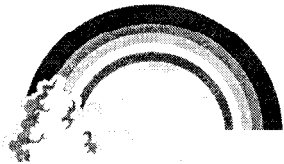


*Featured Speaker: Eve Iverson, Weather Effects on Cargill's Operations*

Eve Iverson will speak about the affects of weather on Cargill. Cargill, Incorporated is an international provider of food, agricultural and risk management products and services, with 101,000 employees in 60 countries. Crops, transportation, and energy consumption are only a few areas with significant weather impacts. Heating degree days, growing degree days, and anomalies are just three ways to equate weather to production and consumption of numerous commodities.

Eve became interested in weather when lightning struck the church steeple a block away from her home in Hanover, PA. After moving to Arvada, CO, & experiencing a Chinook wind that literally blew her over, weather took on a more personal relationship. Math and science were her strong points and a high school trip to NCAR during their hail research programs intrigued her.

After her second year of college as an architectural engineering major at Penn State, Eve headed west. Short on funds, she landed a job at Cargill, Incorporated, in 1977 as the Weather Clerk/Met Tech in their newly created Meteorology Department. Ten years later she returned to college to complete her undergraduate degree at Augsburg College, majoring in MIS and with a minor in Economics. Eve works closely with the Crop and Economic Analysis groups at Cargill, as well as interfacing with computer support groups. Data management and support of the meteorologist are a large part of her job.



*Comments from our Chapter President Dean Braatz*

The May Picnic on May 20<sup>th</sup> at Lake Susan Park in Chanhassen is planned to include the very good BBQ provided by Bakers Ribs, "The Real Texas BBQ". The cost will be \$12 per person. Families are welcome. The food will be arriving at 6 pm so plan to attend and enjoy our last meeting prior to the Summer 2004 break. Here's hoping you can make it to enjoy the good company and food. Please call or email me on how many will be in your party so I will have enough food to go around. I will need this information a few days ahead of time, so do it early, thank you. Bring your check to the picnic, made out to the Twin Cities AMS Chapter, or you can mail it to Seth Binau. Craig Edwards has assured me there will be good weather that afternoon. But if Craig is not on target, then we can move to the NWS office, which is close-by for a back up location. I hope to see you and your guests joining us there!

The outgoing officers for the 2003-2004 Season wish to thank everyone who attended our meetings this past year. Neat and timely topics plus interesting speakers made for a most productive set of meetings. Please keep the officers informed if you know of a speaker that we can contact for the next Season.

The slate of officers for the 2003-2004 Season is listed below. We will be voting on the new officers for next year at the May meeting.

President – Open  
Vice Pres – Doug Dokken  
Sec-Treasurer – Chris Bovitz  
Newsletter – Kurt Scholz

Be sure to let me know how many will be in your party to attend the picnic ASAP.  
I can be reached at [dtbraatz1@msn.com](mailto:dtbraatz1@msn.com). My telephone is: 952-925-9186

## **NATIONAL ROAD WEATHER RESEARCH PROGRAM WOULD MAKE HIGHWAYS SAFER, MORE EFFICIENT**

With countless lives and millions of dollars at stake each day, the nation's highway system could benefit significantly from a federally-funded national road weather research program that was coordinated among various public, private and academic communities that have a stake in it. That was the major finding from a two-day policy forum hosted on November 4-5, 2003 by the American Meteorological Society (AMS).

The United States, and more specifically its economy, is highly dependent on the national highway system. More than 200 million cars and trucks use the national highway system and critical parts function at or near their maximum capacity much of the time, according to government studies. And bad weather can throw a major kink into the system – reducing capacity and efficiency.

Weather also is also a key to highway safety. In the United States each year, approximately 7,000 highway deaths and 800,000 injuries are associated with poor weather driving conditions. The estimated annual economic cost from these approximate 1.2 million weather-related crashes (deaths, injuries, and property) amounts to nearly \$42 billion.

"It is clear that the societal and economic impacts of bad weather on the highway system are huge," said Richard Greenfield, Senior Policy Fellow with the AMS and organizer of the policy forum. "The forum participants recommended a federal, long-term and well-funded national program that studies, develops and coordinates how we use weather information to make our nation's highways safer and more efficient. The participants noted that such a program, along with increased coordination between the public, private and academic organizations play a role the highway system, will ultimately benefit all who travel on our roads."

The goal of the "*AMS Weather and Highways Forum*," was to provide findings and recommendations that will increase the safety, reliability, and efficiency of the nation's highway system through more effective use of weather information.

Approximately 100 representatives of the weather information providers; transportation managers and users; and policy makers knowledgeable about the

nation's highway system participated in the forum. The representatives were drawn from the public and private sectors at the national, state, and local levels.

Specifically, the report recommendation calls for the Federal Highway Administration to lead the development of a national road weather research, development, and applications program in partnership with NOAA, the National Science Foundation and other federal, state and local agencies.

"The forum has just provided a framework to get the program underway," added Greenfield. "The specific details on who does what and where will still need to be worked out. But what's most important is that Congress establish a national road weather management program that develops tools and systems that bring weather information to those that are impacted by weather on the roads and those that have to make safety and operational decisions."

The report also recommends better communication between the meteorological community and those that must use the weather information— state Departments of Transportation representatives, the driving public, emergency managers, and trucking companies.

The forum discussions also led to more specific recommendations on:

- Establishing a national road weather data collection and dissemination infrastructure that would make weather condition information accessible in vehicles and at road-side kiosks;
- Improved weather observation systems. For example, specifically focused observations and forecasts near the road surface where drivers experience fog, ice, snow, wind, rain, and more; more timely observations; improved forecasts for bridges;
- Better training and road weather education so that the driving public could more effectively use weather data, and
- Incentives for vehicle manufacturers and highway engineers to raise public and private sector demand for in-vehicle road weather information

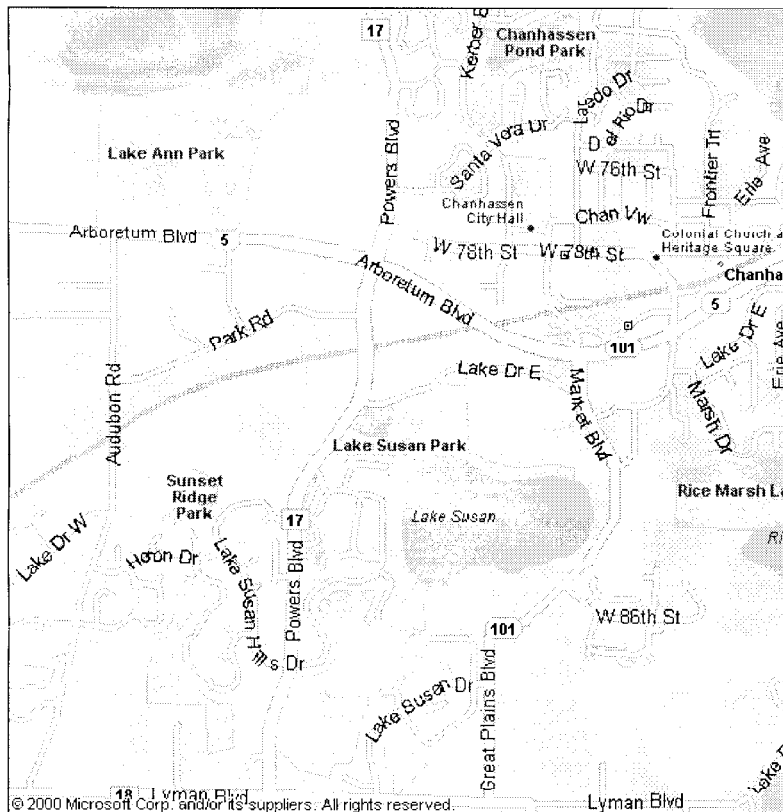
The report, now available on the AMS Website ([www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy](http://www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy)), will be distributed throughout the meteorological and transportation community, as well as federal, state and local legislatures.

The American Meteorological Society (AMS) is a scientific and professional society of more than 11,000 members from the United States and over 100 foreign countries. The Society has long promoted the link between scientific issues and policy decisions. This is the fourth forum in the AMS Atmospheric Policy Program's Policy Study Series. For more information regarding the series, please go to [www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy](http://www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy)

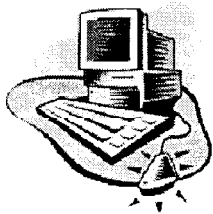
ITT Industries and Raytheon provide underwriting support to the AMS Policy Study Series. Study support was provided by the Federal Highway Administration and the National Science Foundation.

Copies of the report are available on the AMS Web site at <http://www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy> or you may obtain a hard copy from Gene Fisher at (202) 737-9006, ext. 422.

**Reminder: The picnic preceding the May meeting will begin at 6pm, on Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> Lake Susan Park, Chanhassen.**



Directions to Lake Susan Park: Take **Highway 1494** to the exit for MN **Highway 5** west in Eden Prairie. Travel west on 5 into Chanhassen. Turn **left (south)** at **Powers Boulevard**. Continue south about 2 blocks, passing underneath a bridge, then take a **left turn at Lake Drive**. Follow Lake Drive past the baseball field and take the **first right turn** after the tennis court. Follow the road into **Lake Susan Park** and meet us at the picnic tables under the pavilion. (In case of inclement weather, the barbecue and meeting will be moved to the NWS Forecast office in Chanhassen. To get there, take Powers Boulevard south to Lake Drive West. Take a right turn and follow Lake Drive West to the NWS office.)



### **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, changes of address, misspellings, etc. to Kurt Scholz, [k9scholz@stthomas.edu](mailto:k9scholz@stthomas.edu).



**Editor's notes:** Let's hope for good weather like we had last year; please come to the picnic if you can. Remember to call or email Dean beforehand. The cost is only \$12 per person.

Please return this form to Seth Binou at the picnic or mail it to him ASAP. Be sure that you call or email Dean Braatz with the number of attendee's coming to the barbecue picnic at Lake Susan in Chanhassen at our Annual Twin Cities AMS Chapter outing on May 20th.

Enclosed is a check for \_\_\_\_\_ dinner (s) @ \$12/dinner = \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check your out to the Twin Cities AMS. Bring or send this form and your check to:**

**Seth Binou  
15474 Sue Ann Ct  
Eden Prairie MN 55346**

**Dean's E-mail is: [dtbraatz1@msn.com](mailto:dtbraatz1@msn.com)  
Telephone: 952-925-9186**

Twin Cities Chapter AMS  
c/o Kurt Scholz  
3233 Snelling Ave. North  
Arden Hills MN 55112-3644

