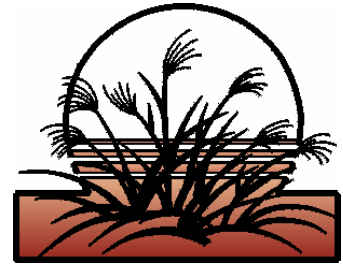




**NEWSLETTER  
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER  
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL  
SOCIETY**

**February, 2005 Vol. 26 No. 6**



**The February meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at the University of St. Thomas. The meeting will be held in room 227 in O'Shaughnessy Science Hall. 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: Todd Krause, "Skywarn severe weather training for spotters"*

Todd Krause, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service, will show us some of the intermediate to advanced material included in the Skywarn severe weather spotter class. Some of the topics Todd will discuss are Rear Flank Downdrafts and the transition of storms to HP Supercells.

Todd graduated from Bethel College in 1980 with a B.A. in Math/Physics, and then obtained an M.S. from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. He began his career as an intern with the National Weather Service in Huron, SD in 1985, then transferred to Wichita, KS in 1988, and then was promoted to forecaster at Minneapolis-St Paul in 1989. He became Warning Coordination Meteorologist in 1994. Todd enjoys travel, photography, golf and playing the trombone.

**Additional Presentation: Mike Looney**, NWS Central Region Acting Deputy Director, will discuss the **Warning Polygon Verification Project** (see Rich's note below). In the past, the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued severe weather warnings only for entire counties. Through advancements in technology and science, the NWS now has the capability to issue more specific warnings for precise locations. Using the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing Systems (AWIPS) Warning Generator (WarnGen) software, NWS warning forecasters can create a polygon encompassing the highest threat area based on the attributes of the severe storm. A text product is then generated including portions of all counties within the polygon.

**Comments from our Chapter President Rich Naistat**

Our January activity was held at the Eden Prairie High School on January 21<sup>st</sup>. It consisted of:



- 1) using a Weather Event Simulator to issue warnings hosted by Seth Binau and Rich Naistat,
- 2) interactive exhibit utilizing a vortex chamber hosted by Kurt Scholz and Doug Dokken,
- 3) an exhibit hosted by Dan Luna of the North Central River Forecast Center, and
- 4) an exhibit hosted by Chris Bovitz of the NOHRSC.

Despite heavy snowfall, the event was well-attended. Hundreds viewed our exhibits. A number of visitors appeared interested in attending our next AMS local meeting.

On January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> the NWS had a large exhibit at the Mall of America. We gave away over 5000 pens with NOAA logos. A tip of the hat to local AMS members Doug Dokken, Dean Braatz, and Ron

Trenda for stopping by. We gave out quite a few flyers describing our local AMS chapter. I'm expecting a fairly good-sized contingent of prospective members at our February meeting. There seems to be many weather hobbyists in the Twin Cities who would love to be involved in a monthly weather group.

NWS WFO Service Hydrologist Steve Buan gave a presentation to a large number of Minnesota science teachers on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Steve also handed out AMS flyers. Let's hope all this outreach bears fruit.

Speaking of outreach, the Jr./Sr. Regional Science Fair is March 5, 2005 and the Elementary Regional Science Fair is April 23, 2005. Both fairs take place at Minnesota State University in Mankato. Exact location (rooms) to be determined. Both fairs run roughly from 8:15 AM until 3:00 PM. Doug Dokken has volunteered to be a judge at the March 5<sup>th</sup> fair; I plan to volunteer to be a judge at the science fair on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you are interested in either fair, please let me know; I will relay your interest to the appropriate party.

Finally, I have late breaking news regarding our February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting at the University of St. Thomas. In addition to Todd Krause's spotter talk (no doubt described by Kurt elsewhere in this newsletter), National Weather Service Central Region Acting Deputy Director Mike Looney will be giving us a presentation on the polygon warning initiative. At certain test sites, severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings will be issued in lieu of, or in addition to, county boundaries. If you are in the media, don't miss this talk! This is really great – a double-header (Mike and Todd) before the opening of the baseball season!

### **Scheduled Meetings:**

**March 22, 2005 at 7 PM at the 3M auditorium at the University of St. Thomas:** This session will be held in conjunction with the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Plains Convective Workshop, which is being hosted by the WFO. Our featured speaker will be Mr. Jon Davies, noted researcher and author on near-storm environments.

**April 19, 2005 at 7 PM at the WFO:** Rich Naistat will present an overview of the Advanced Warning Operations Course that he will facilitate at the WFO during 2004-2005. The goals of this course are to provide the background that every meteorologist in the National Weather Service needs to have in order to make sound severe thunderstorm (and tornado) warning decisions.

**May 17, 2005 – annual picnic at Lake Susan**  
**Suggestions for a speaker are needed from you!**

The officers for 2004-2005 are:    President – Rich Naistat    Sec-Treasurer –Chris Bovitz  
   Vice Pres – Doug Dokken    Newsletter Ed – Kurt Scholz



### ***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 - Kurt Scholz*

First of all, here are the winners of the snowfall/temperature forecast contest!

**December Snowfall: SHELBY WINIECKI.** She guessed 1.4 inches; the actual was 2.0 inches.

**January 1 Low Temperature: JIM BLOCK** was finally declared the winner. His guess, 13 degrees, was right on target, but Lori Bovitz had exactly the same guess. The tiebreaker, the number of days in January with a high of 22 degrees or more, determined the winner: Jim Block's guess, 20 days, again was right on! Lori had guessed 13 days.

Both the snowfall and the low temperature winners will receive an **\$18 gift certificate** as well as the fame and glory this announcement provides.

**The Eden Prairie Family Science Fest** was a big success. As Rich noted above, the event was very well



attended despite the heavy snowfall that day. Those of us who participated: Seth Binau, Chris Bovitz, Doug Dokken, Dan Luna, and myself, had a



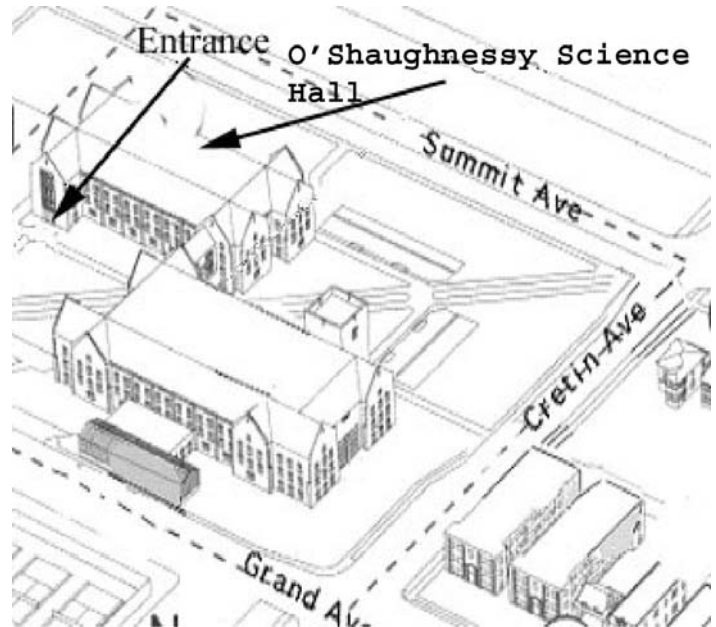
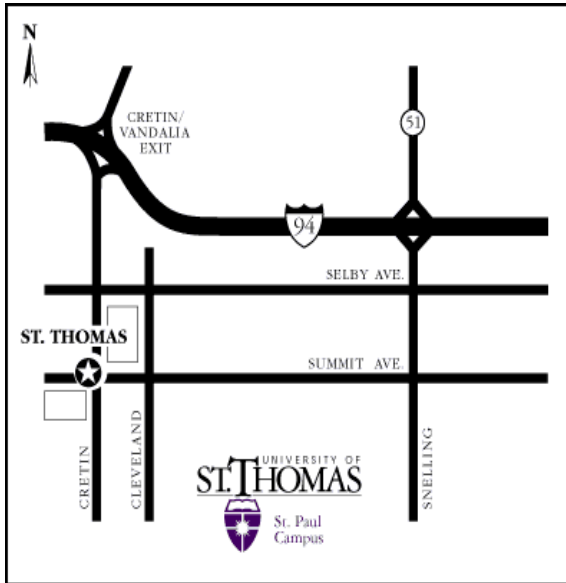
great time. There was also quite a bit of interest in our organization. We have a list of people who would like more information about our activities.



To see these pictures in living color, please go to the **AMS on the WWW** address.

***Reminder: The February meeting will be held at 7pm, on Tuesday February 22, 2005 at the University of St. Thomas. The meeting will be held in room 227 in O'Shaughnessy Science Hall (the west wing of the science complex).***

**Directions:** Take Interstate Highway 94 to the Cretin Avenue exit. Then go south on Cretin for about one mile to Summit Avenue. O’Shaughnessy Science Hall is located at the southwest corner of Summit and Cretin Avenues (see maps). You can park on the south side of Summit Avenue or in parking lot “N”, which is south of the building. If space is available, park on Summit. Otherwise, either Doug Dokken or Kurt Scholz will be there to give you a parking pass. The entrance of O’Shaughnessy Science Hall closest to our meeting is through the double doors, which are marked with the arrow indicating “Entrance” on the map on the right below. Go inside, take a left into the stairway, then go up to the second floor. Enter the second floor and turn left. Continue all the way down the hall, turn right and proceed to room 227.



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