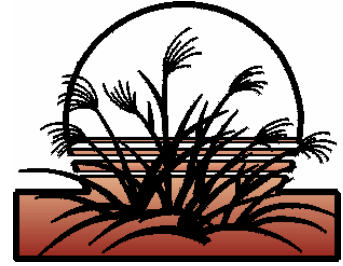




**NEWSLETTER
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY
May, 2005 Vol. 26 No. 9**



If you are going to the picnic please respond early!!

The May annual picnic of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 6 PM Tuesday, May 17th, followed by the meeting at 7PM at Lake Susan Park, Chanhassen. 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: Kevin Theissen

From Greenhouse to Icehouse to ...: the Geological Record of Climate and an Uncertain Climate Future.

Kevin Theissen is a paleoclimatologist who studies the physical and chemical properties of freshwater and marine sediments for evidence of climatic and environmental change. His talk will be about the current warming trend in the context of past climate change, discuss potential "climate surprises" and talk a bit about projections for future change.

Kevin received a bachelor's degree in geology from Carleton College in 1996. He went on to complete a Ph.D. in geological and environmental sciences at Stanford University in 2003. His dissertation research was a geochemical study of past climate change in the Central Andes of South America and East Antarctica. Kevin teaches an introductory course on climate change as well as oceanography, field geology, and geochemistry courses at the University of St. Thomas. He is currently working with students and collaborators to explore lake sediment records from northwestern Minnesota and southern Patagonia.



Comments from our Chapter President Rich Naistat

Last month, I was the featured speaker at our meeting. My topic was "AWOC in Action and Cutting Edge Warning Techniques." Judging from the quality and quantity of questions I received, I believe the topic was of interest to those present. Also, last month we had a very nice report from the Chair of our outreach committee, along with some recommendations (described elsewhere in the newsletter). At our May picnic, we will be voting on some of the recommendations – such as a dues increase to enable us to

bring in "outside" speakers who charge for their time.

Our annual picnic will be held at Lake Susan on May 17th at 6:00 PM, followed by our meeting at 7:00 PM. Our featured speaker will be Kevin Theissen, a paleoclimatologist in the Geology department at the University of St. Thomas. The meeting will also include the election of officers for the 2005-06 season. Please send in your nominations to twincitiesams@yahoo.com by **May 12th**. One of the officers will make up a ballot form, along with other questions, based on the outreach committee suggestions. For example, those present at the picnic will vote on whether to raise dues permanently, on a trial basis for one year, or not at all. If you cannot be at the picnic, and you have "views" on where we are (as a chapter) and/or where we ought to go as a chapter, please send those to twincitiesams@yahoo.com. Your views will be duly considered at the picnic. Dean and Donna Braatz have graciously agreed to take care of the logistics of the picnic, including placing and delivering orders, making salads, and bringing soft drinks. **By May 10th**, please send an e-mail to twincitiesams@yahoo.com reserving your meal. The cost is \$10.00

and includes (from Baker's Ribs) pork ribs, chicken, baked beans, and cole slaw. As far as I am concerned, members may bring guests, but be sure to plan on **bringing** check or cash for **\$10.00** for each attendee **to the picnic** to reimburse our secretary-treasurer.

If you have suggestions for next year's meetings, please e-mail them to twincitiesams@yahoo.com by August 15, 2005. The elected slate of officers will consider those suggestions at a late summer meeting of the AMS.

Finally, I want to let you know that I was a Special Awards judge for grades 3-6 at the Regional Science Fair at Mankato on Saturday, April 23rd. On behalf of our chapter, I awarded one of the presenters a year's subscription to *Weatherwise*. Her topic was *How Does Topography Affect Wind Direction and Velocity in Mankato?* For other high-quality projects I simply gave out written awards. I'm amazed at the level some of these elementary school children are achieving in the sphere of science.

Thanks for putting up with my ramblings. See you at the picnic!



Editor's notes - Kurt Scholz

Let's hope for good weather at our annual picnic at Lake Susan. Please come and join us for our final meeting of the season. Bring a friend or spouse. Our speaker, Kevin Theissen, has graciously accepted a last-minute invitation to speak on a topic that should be of great interest. He is an excellent speaker.

Report from the Membership/Outreach Committee (Chris Bovitz, Anthony Stender, Shelby Winiiecki) - Chris Bovitz

The membership/outreach committee met in early April to decide on a path for the chapter. We began by creating a mission statement for the chapter. We decided on "**To be *the* weather resource in the Twin Cities**"

How do we become that? Well, it won't happen overnight. More likely we are looking at a 2- to 4-year plan. In that time, we would like to work on outreach, education, mentorship, building and maintaining connections, and networking. We began by thinking of the children: We would like to offer our chapter as a classroom resource for speakers. For high-school students, interested chapter members could be mentors to them, offering them thoughts about college, such as the classes they'd need to take and what school is best for the aspect of the atmospheric sciences they are interested in.

We also need to re-energize our current membership. We know that many people don't attend meetings. We'd like to find out why and ultimately increase attendance at the monthly meetings. Following are the ideas we came up with to help improve membership and increase awareness of the chapter:

- The first meeting of the year would be a Social Night. It would be a low-key, informal affair. Chapter members would be encouraged to bring a friend. The meeting could even be held during an afternoon, we might play a quick game of softball before previewing the year's planned events.
- We feel our Web site could use an update. For an identity, we should get our own domain name, such as "tcams.org". A more vibrant home page would be necessary, with not only links to the newsletters (on which Kurt does an awesome job) and other sites of interest, but we could allow places for pictures and copies of meetings' presentations. To help with the resource part of our mission, we would have another page with a list of members who would feel comfortable sharing their expertise with others. Other links would be, of course, to the national AMS for membership and chapter information, and possibly a feedback section

- We talked extensively about types and topics of meetings. We would like to either bring in or help sponsor one lecturer a year, someone who would draw not only many members, but other people as well. We were thinking along the lines of an author talk at Bound to be Read, or teaming up with Minnesota Public Radio's "Talking Volumes", the Kuehnast Lecture Series, the Hamline Lecture Series, or the physics societies. Other topic areas included spotter training, weather derivatives, policy (through the Humphrey Institute of Policy Studies), and the climatology (with the Minnesota Climate Working Group).
- We came up with ideas for a "Weather and..." series. This would be a way to bring in people who aren't necessarily interested in weather. The idea behind the series is that weather affects many aspects of life. Some of the topics we thought of in this series were wine, fishing (the old solunar tables or perhaps someone from Rapala), waterfowl (Ducks Unlimited), yachting (Minnetonka Yachting Club), cold-weather testing, farming (dairy, meat, or grain), disease (Minnesota Department of Health), the Air National Guard, and the insurance industry.
- Beyond that, we thought of other groups which we could contact for speakers and topics related to meteorology: FEMA, Defense Mapping Service, Xcel Energy (alternative fuel topics), Minnesota Department of Tourism. The North Texas Council of Governments transposed the May 3, 1999, Oklahoma City tornado onto the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. While we would probably not need to bring those people here, we would like to find someone who did a study showing the affect a major storm would have through the Twin Cities metropolitan area. We could look into joint events with the Minnesota Astronomical Society.

To enable many of these things, we feel that we need to raise our dues. Twelve dollars is quite a steal, and it allows us to do what we need to do now. But if we want to grow, we feel that next year, dues could be raised to \$18 per year, \$9 for students, which is \$1.50 per month (75¢ for students). Whatever we do, we don't think that wholesale changes for next year would be wise. But we will present our ideas to the chapter officers, and they can use their wisdom to decide what is prudent and will likely work with the chapter and its membership.

This is what we've come up with after one meeting, three people, pizza, and beer. We'll meet more, but we could always use more people to help out and share their ideas. If you are interested, send an e-mail to twincitiesams@yahoo.com.

We feel that this is a very worthy project, and we would appreciate all help and any ideas!

Will you help make us *the* weather resource in the Twin Cities?

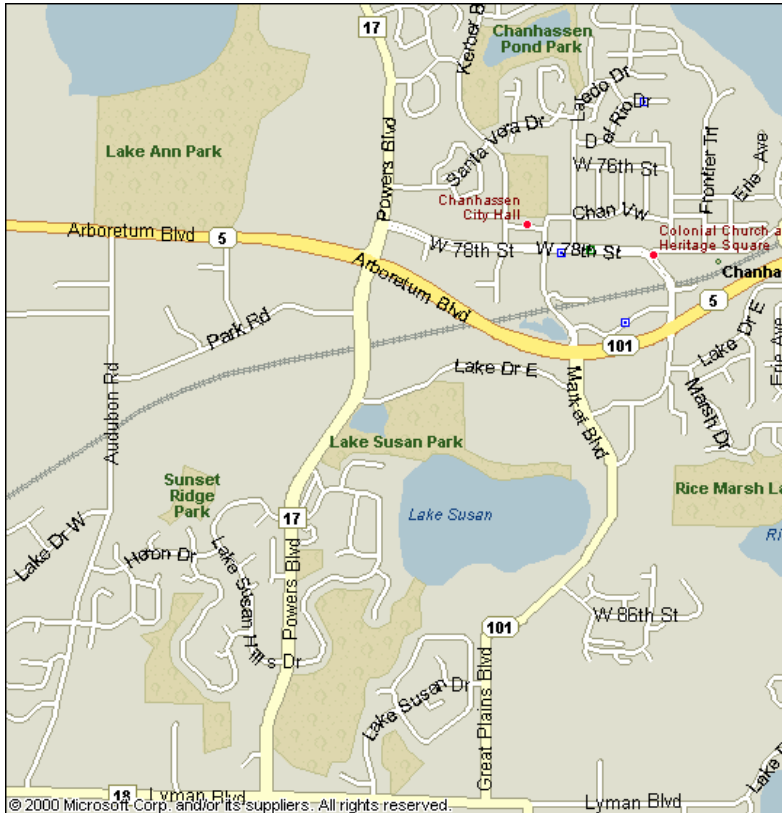


AMS on the WWW

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 annual picnic will begin at 6:00 pm and the meeting will be held at 7pm, on Tuesday May 17th 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.)

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

