



**NEWSLETTER  
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER  
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
November, 2005 Vol. 27 No. 2**



**The November meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM Tuesday, November 15th, at the National Weather Service Office in Chanhassen. Specific directions to the meeting can be found on page 3. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.**

*Featured Speaker: Karen Trammell  
21 September 2005: Why the Twin Cities?*



An unusually intense late season severe weather event affected parts of central Minnesota and west central Wisconsin during the late afternoon and evening hours of 21 September 2005. Hail, up to baseballs size, damaging thunderstorm wind, and tornado reports resulted from several supercell thunderstorms. The most widespread damage, associated with a large high precipitation supercell, occurred across the northern and eastern sides of the Twin Cities. Three tornadoes raked across parts of Anoka and northern Hennepin counties, including an F2, but the tornadic damage was, in large part, overshadowed by the widespread extreme wind damage associated with the rear flank downdraft.

The study of this event will focus on three topics: the synoptic and mesoscale features that initiated the event, the radar and storm scale environmental features associated with the Twin Cities storm, and the unfavorable environmental features that inhibited tornado formation earlier in the event despite favorable radar signatures.

Karen Trammell, a new forecaster at the NWS Twin Cities, grew up in the Texas panhandle and decided on becoming a meteorologist at a very early age. She attended the University of Oklahoma, where she graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.S. in Meteorology in 2002 and an M.S. in Meteorology in 2004. While a student at OU, she worked as an undergraduate research assistant at the National Severe Storms Laboratory, where she managed the laboratory's Level 2 WSR-88D archive database, and also worked as a student meteorologist at NWS Norman. Following the completion of her M.S. research and thesis, she was hired in February 2005 as a forecaster at the Chanhassen WFO. Besides her regular forecasting and warning duties at the WFO, she is the office's IFPS focal point and is heavily involved in the Skywarn program.

*Comments from our Chapter President Rich Naistat*



Our last meeting was quite fruitful, in my opinion. Forecaster Lisa Schmit provided an overview of what worked and what did not at the local AMS chapter in Kansas City. We had a nice turn-out to discuss various and sundry recommendations. A modest increase in dues was approved. This step was taken so that we could fund one or two outstanding speakers per year. This dovetails with the survey responses I received, in which the primary motivation for attending meetings was to listen to interesting, relevant speakers.

Another idea that surfaced was holding the meetings at varying locations on different nights. I am certainly open to this; although I can't promise I will be available for all the meetings at all the locations, but that is okay.

Thanks to Kevin Huyck for agreeing to facilitate a speaker's committee. If you have ideas for speakers, please e-mail Kevin at [kb9wob@gmail.com](mailto:kb9wob@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing what progress his group has made in terms of lining up additional speakers for this year.

Thanks for Secretary-Treasurer Chris Bovitz for arranging our December media adventure. More details later.

I received word that our chapter did not receive any AMS chapter awards for last season. I think the big strike against us was that we had no representative at the Annual AMS Meeting. Hopefully that will be rectified for this year; local chapter member Lisa Schmit plans on attending, and has volunteered to *lead* the effort to create a poster. Share your ideas and time with Lisa ([Lisa.Schmit@noaa.gov](mailto:Lisa.Schmit@noaa.gov)).

### *A request from the Secretary/Treasurer*

In the interest of spreading the word about our chapter and enhancing our membership, please post a copy of this newsletter where it would be seen by other people interested in joining us. If you get the newsletter via e-mail, please feel free to forward it to others.

Sometimes the best advertising is word-of-mouth. I think we have the potential to be a great chapter if we just get the word out.

And if you hear of any ideas for great meteorologically oriented speakers, such as someone in the field who will be at your company or school, or someone you hear about on the radio, please let us know. Send an e-mail to [twincitiesams@yahoo.com](mailto:twincitiesams@yahoo.com) with your suggestion.

### *Editor's notes - Kurt Scholz*



Please send in your annual dues using the form at the end of the newsletter. As Rich noted above, the annual dues are \$20 for regular membership and \$6 for student membership. This small increase will allow us to bring in one or two prominent speakers. We are again running a snow/temperature forecast contest, with a \$20 prize gift certificate. Be sure to mail or bring in your predictions. This year's contest questions were submitted by Chris Bovitz:

- 1) Total snowfall through May 1
- 2) Coldest low temperature for the winter (Dec 21 through Mar 19)
- 3) Tiebreaker: highest maximum temperature for the winter (Dec 21 through Mar 19).

The 2004-2005 **Chapter of the Year Award** winner was awarded to the **North Florida Local Chapter** "for their outstanding educational and community outreach activities, such as the extraordinary effort put forth in developing a homegrown K-12 outreach program in the Tallahassee area, including the work undertaken to develop a K-12 chapter in the Tallahassee area, for exceptional service to their members by providing significant scientific talks and social events and for participating in local, and regional science fairs, all of which reflect positively on our Society."

**2004-2005 AMS Student Chapter of the Year** was awarded to the **Lyndon State College Chapter** "for their incredibly hard work in bringing about the 30th Northeastern Storm Conference, for sponsoring a variety of other scientific talks which connect students with outstanding nationally-known speakers, for sponsoring innovative social events which have done much to create a significant meteorological learning community at the college and for the positive impact on the local community by providing a variety of educational events, all of which reflect positively on our Society."



### *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).

*Reminder: The November meeting will be held at 7pm, on Tuesday, November 15th<sup>h</sup>, 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 of 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.

**Please fill out this form and mail it in with your annual Chapter dues, whether or not you are entering the forecast contest. This information is used for Chapter purposes only, and only your name will be listed on the Chapter web site.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ If you prefer to be notified via e-mail when the newsletter is posted on our website, rather than having us mail you a paper copy of the newsletter, check here \_\_\_\_\_.

Suggestion for an AMS meeting topic \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$20 per year for regular membership, \$6 per year for student membership.

Make checks payable to **Twin Cities AMS**, and mail to: **Chris Bovitz**  
20716 Hurley Avenue  
Lakeville, MN 55044

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**Forecast contest entry: Total snowfall** (inches and tenths) **for the season**, through May 1, at  
The Chanhassen NWS office \_\_\_\_\_

**Coldest low temperature** for the winter (Dec 21 through Mar 19) \_\_\_\_\_

Tiebreaker question: **Highest maximum temperature** for the winter (Dec 21  
through Mar 19). \_\_\_\_\_

All temperature readings will be from MSP. Your contest entry and your 2005-2006 dues must be received  
by November 30, 2005 for you to be eligible to win.

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

