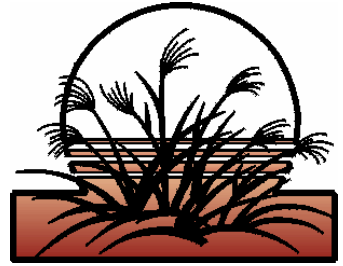




**NEWSLETTER
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY
October, 2005 Vol. 27 No. 1**



Note the date of the meeting is Tuesday, October 18

The October meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM Tuesday, October 18th, at the National Weather Service Office in Chanhassen. Specific directions can be found on page 2. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.



Another Perspective - What Worked and What Didn't at the AMS Chapter in Kansas

Featured Speaker/Facilitator: Lisa Schmit

Lisa recently joined the forecast staff of the National Weather Service in Chanhassen. Recently, she was the treasurer of the AMS chapter in Kansas City. She also serves on the board of the national AMS. Her talk will discuss what steps the Kansas City chapter had taken in order to increase membership and attendance at their meetings. The talk will really be more of interaction with those present on where our chapter ought to be going than a formal presentation.

Lisa received her bachelor's degree in atmospheric science from Iowa State University in 2001. Prior to her transferring to the NWS office in Chanhassen, Lisa had worked as a forecaster in Pleasant Hill (near Kansas City), as a convective segment forecaster at the aviation weather center in Kansas City, and as a student employee at both the Chanhassen and Des Moines NWS offices. She also interned at KARE 11 in the Twin Cities and at KCCI-TV8 in Des Moines.



Comments from our Chapter President Rich Naistat

At our last meeting, the picnic in May, we decided to table the dues increase and revisit that suggestion, and the other suggestions made by the outreach committee. This included kicking off the year with a late summer social gathering. As no one has taken the lead, these suggestions are still just simply ideas that have been put forth to improve our membership and attendance.

Much to my dismay, the only response I have received about our not having a September meeting is a couple of "when's our first meeting?" questions. Therefore, in an attempt to re-invigorate our chapter I have asked NWS Chanhassen Forecaster Lisa Schmit to speak and facilitate a discussion at our first meeting on what worked and what didn't at the Kansas City Chapter of the AMS. Lisa was very involved there, and is interested in bringing her enthusiasm to our chapter. I realize that some of you might be dismayed by the topic of our first meeting. My response is "if not now, when? If not us, who?" This is *your* chapter. You need to be involved in planning the meetings for the coming year. *You* need to answer questions like – if you want our website spruced up, are you going to do it? (For now, I have asked Kurt to maintain our website, as is.)

I have tentatively scheduled NWS Forecaster Karen Trammell to speak to us on November 15, 2005 on an analysis of the meteorological conditions associated with the F2 tornado that struck Blaine on September 21, 2005. Karen was the primary warning decision maker in deciding to issue the tornado warning well in advance of the tornado. Recall this tornado occurred after dark and in September – how rare is that? Karen is an excellent meteorologist and great speaker. Her talk is not to be missed.

Our December meeting will likely be our usual visit to a media location in the Twin Cities. Which one do we want to visit? Bring your ideas to the October 18th meeting.

The officers for the current year are

Rich Naistat, President Shelby Winiecki , Vice – President
Chris Bovitz, Secretary-Treasurer Kurt Scholz, newsletter editor



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 October meeting will be held at 7pm, at the National Weather Service Office in Chanhassen, on Tuesday, October 18th.

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.

Please fill out the attached survey and mail it back to Rich Naistat (address on the survey) or bring it to our first meeting (October 18, 2005). This is YOUR chance to help guide the chapter. Are you satisfied with the way it is? Do you want to move it forward? Are you willing to help? All of this is in the survey.

The last four pages are detachable without destroying the newsletter.

**October 2005 Survey – please mail completed survey by October 11, 2005 to
Rich Naistat
NWS
1733 Lake Drive West
Chanhassen, MN 55317-8581**

OR

**Bring to the October 18, 2005 meeting to be held at 700 PM CDT
NWS Conference Room
1733 Lake Drive West
Chanhassen, MN 55317-8581**

1. What is your relationship with the AMS (Circle all that apply)?

- a. Local Member
- b. Student Member
- c. National Member
- d. Non-member

2. In your opinion, what are the primary benefits of membership with the local AMS chapter (Circle all that apply)?

- a. Speakers/meetings
- b. Networking/career development opportunities
- c. Socialization
- d. Outreach/mentoring opportunities

Other:

3. If you are not a member of the local chapter, what are the primary reasons?

- a. Lack of Time
- b. Too expensive
- c. Not interested in speaker/meeting topics

Other:

4. If you are a member of the local chapter, and have not attended meetings regularly, why?

- a. Have not been interested in the speakers/topics
- b. Other commitments
- c. Meeting times/dates have not worked for me
- d. Meeting expense

Other:

5. How do you prefer to be notified about upcoming chapter meetings and activities?

- a. By postal mail only
- b. By email only
- c. By postal mail and email
- d. On the website

Other:

6. When do you prefer to be notified about upcoming meetings and activities?

- a. One notification at the beginning of the year, then a second notification a month prior to each event
- b. One notification at the beginning of the year, then a second notification 1-2 weeks prior to each event
- c. One notification, one month prior to each event
- d. One notification, 1-2 weeks prior to each event

Other:

7. When do you prefer the meetings to be held?

- a. Monthly, on the same day of a certain week (i.e. the third Tuesday of each month)
- b. Monthly, on alternating days
- c. Every other month
- d. Quarterly

Other:

8. What is your preferred meeting location?

- a. Same place every time
- b. Rotate around the metro area
- c. Alternate between a couple locations

Other:

9. What is your preferred meeting venue and cost?

- a. Restaurant/banquet facility, Under \$10
- b. Restaurant/banquet facility, \$10-\$20
- c. Facility (such as the NWS office), Free-\$5
- d. Facility (such as the NWS office), \$5-\$10

Other:

10. What is your view on membership costs?

- a. I'd rather pay \$10-\$12
- b. I'd rather pay more (\$15-\$20) and bring in more out of town speakers
- c. I'd rather pay less than \$10 and consider fundraising

Other:

11. What was one/some of your favorite meeting topics/speakers that you would like to see again?

Other:

12. What ideas do you have to improve our local chapter (including outreach/speaker/meeting ideas)?

Other:

13. Do you think our web page needs to be “spruced up”?

- a. yes
- b. no

If yes, are you willing to lead the project?

- a. yes
- b. no

If yes, are you willing help?

- a. yes
- b. no

Other:

14. Should are first meeting of the year be a social

- c. yes
- d. no

If yes, are you willing to organize it?

- a. yes
- b. no

Other:

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

