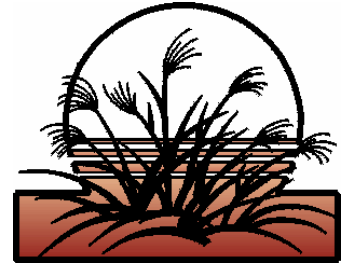
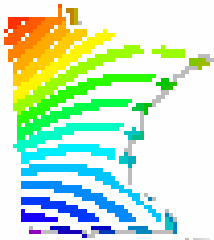




**NEWSLETTER
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY
February, 2006 Vol. 27 No. 5**



The February meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM Tues, February 21 at the Steak & Ale Restaurant on Xerxes Avenue in Bloomington. 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: Doug Barr
Topic: *Some New Ideas in Global Warming*

Doug Barr, head and founder of the Barr Engineering Co, will discuss some of his latest ideas in global warming. Having played around with a few ideas involving heat exchange based on weather conditions, he will set forth a few points that he thinks should be recognized but which have not been mentioned.

Doug received his training in meteorology during his 3 ½ years service WWII. It resulted in a BS in Meteorology from the University of Chicago and did forecasts for the Army Air Force for several years. After the war, he received a BS and MS in Civil Engineering. A few years later he started Barr Engineering Co, concentrating mostly on hydrology and hydraulic engineering.



Comments from our Chapter President:

Comments from our Chapter President Rich Naistat – time for science fair judging
First, I'd like to thank Shelby for filling in for me at last month's meeting. January, 2006 was our warmest ever. A lot of people are asking "where's the cold." My answer is that I had the "cold" for two weeks. That pun is nothing to sneeze at.

Our membership continues to grow. A staff reporter from the *Star Tribune* spoke with me at the Government Expo at Mall of American on January 28, 2006. He plans to join our chapter.

At the February meeting, I'd like Lisa to give us a report on our Meet the Meteorologist Program at the Children's Museum later this spring. If you haven't volunteered yet and will not be at the February meeting, e-mail Lisa (Lisa.Schmit@noaa.gov) with the Saturday you will help out with the exhibit.

Also, I will ask Shelby and Kevin to give us a look-ahead for meeting topics. I think we are filled up for the rest of this year, and are already thinking about meetings for next. Again, I truly appreciate all the work Shelby and Kevin have put into this.

Finally, the science fair judging season is upon us. If you are interested in judging at the Junior/Senior High Fair (Grades 7-12) on March 4, 2005 please e-mail your intent to Mary Van Duynhoven (mary.van-duynhoven@mnsu.edu) by February 6, 2006 (hopefully you received this by e-mail before that date).

If you are interested in judging at the Elementary Fair (Grades 3-6) on April 22, 2006, please let me (Rich.Naistat@noaa.gov) know by March 10, 2006, and I will provide you with more information. BOTH fairs are at Mankato State University (I like to call it by its old name).

Minutes of the Last Meeting – Chris Bovitz

The January 2006 meeting of the Twin Cities chapter of the American Meteorological Society convened at 7pm at Blegen Hall of the University of Minnesota. Vice President Shelby Winiecki called the meeting to order. Secretary/Treasurer Chris Bovitz related the gist of the previous meeting at the studios of KARE. In the Treasurer's Report, he mentioned that the chapter had nearly 40 members.

Shelby asked for volunteers to staff the Minnesota Children's Museum "Meet the Meteorologist" Saturday mornings from March 11 to April 29. Staffers would spend a couple of hours performing some simple demonstrations to grade-school-age children and answering questions.

The Science Museum of Minnesota is holding a Science Summit on March 31 and April 1. Doug Dokken and Kurt Scholz may be bringing their vortex simulator.

Science fair season is coming up, and a request for judges was made. Interested parties should contact one of the officers.

Kevin Huyck of the speaker committee mentioned that plans have become fluid for our February speaker, an ex-forecaster for the Austrian weather services. A number of suggestions were offered, and Kevin said he'd follow up on them.

Chris was asked about progress on the new Web site. He said that he found a site which costs about \$35 per year. He will work on getting things set up there before the St. Thomas server we're currently using goes away. The national AMS has web space available for chapters, but Chris felt having our own domain would be advantageous.

We then heard from our featured speaker, Kenny Blumenfeld, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. He presented an update to his senior project, an investigation of the origins of cyclones which bring heavy snow to the Twin Cities. Before he presented his results, he showed some statistics regarding annual snowfall in the Twin Cities. The standout feature of the history was the anomalously high snowfall totals for the winters of 1981-'82 through 1985-'86, book-ended by a couple of lean snow years. He didn't offer a suggestion as to this pattern.

Kenny's investigation of the storm tracks revealed 4 main regions of cyclone origins: Colorado, Alberta, Deep South (Lower Mississippi River Valley), and Wyoming. The lows which originate from Colorado are the most frequently occurring of the set, while the storms which come from the Deep South are the heaviest snow producers.

In the discussion which followed his presentation, it was offered by a member that the summer of 1980 was hot and dry for the South Plains, and a year and a half later, the 5-year period of heavy snowfall began for the Twin Cities. The Southern Plains is currently in a severe drought. Does this mean we'll have a period of heavy snowfall starting next summer? Only time will tell.



Editor's notes – Kurt Scholz

We have lost the use of the web server at the University of St. Thomas. Unfortunately the hard drive gave out as well causing us to lose all of the archived newsletters. I do believe I have backups of most of them if I look hard enough. Chris Bovitz has some good ideas for creating a new web page for our chapter. I admit I haven't had much time to work on the old one in the last few years.

Need Help - Creating a New Chapter Home Page etc. – Chris Bovitz

As some of you have already discovered, the WWW server we have been using at St. Thomas has gone away, and with it, our Web presence. But, I have established a new domain. We now own "twincitiesams.org". While there are currently no web pages there, we do have some new e-mail addresses which might help e-mailing us officers easier:

Rich Naistat - president@twincitiesams.org
Shelby Winiecki - vicepresident@twincitiesams.org
Chris Bovitz - sectreas@twincitiesams.org (or "secretary@" or "treasurer@")
Kurt Scholz - newsletter@twincitiesams.org
Kevin Huyck - speakers@twincitiesams.org

I'm working on a new set of web pages, but I could use a little help. I'm not looking for anything fancy (yet); I'm just looking for something that would have some basic information about our chapter, including membership. If you would like to help, send an email to webmaster@twincitiesams.org. That will go to me. As such, I am considering having a membership list on the page, with links to e-mail addresses. If you do NOT want me to have your e-mail address on the page, let me know that.

Another project I'm working on is to get together a Constitution and by-laws. These documents seem to have been lost in the last few years, so I have been trying to come up with a new set. For guidelines, I've been using the documents of other chapters. I don't think me working on this alone is a good idea (nor should you think so, either). I think two or three of us with an eye and mind for such things (former officers, we know you're out there) could come up with a set of rules that we can live with and accurately reflect where we are and where we want to go. Contact me if you're interested. I'd like to have this done by the May meeting so we can have them ready for the next season.

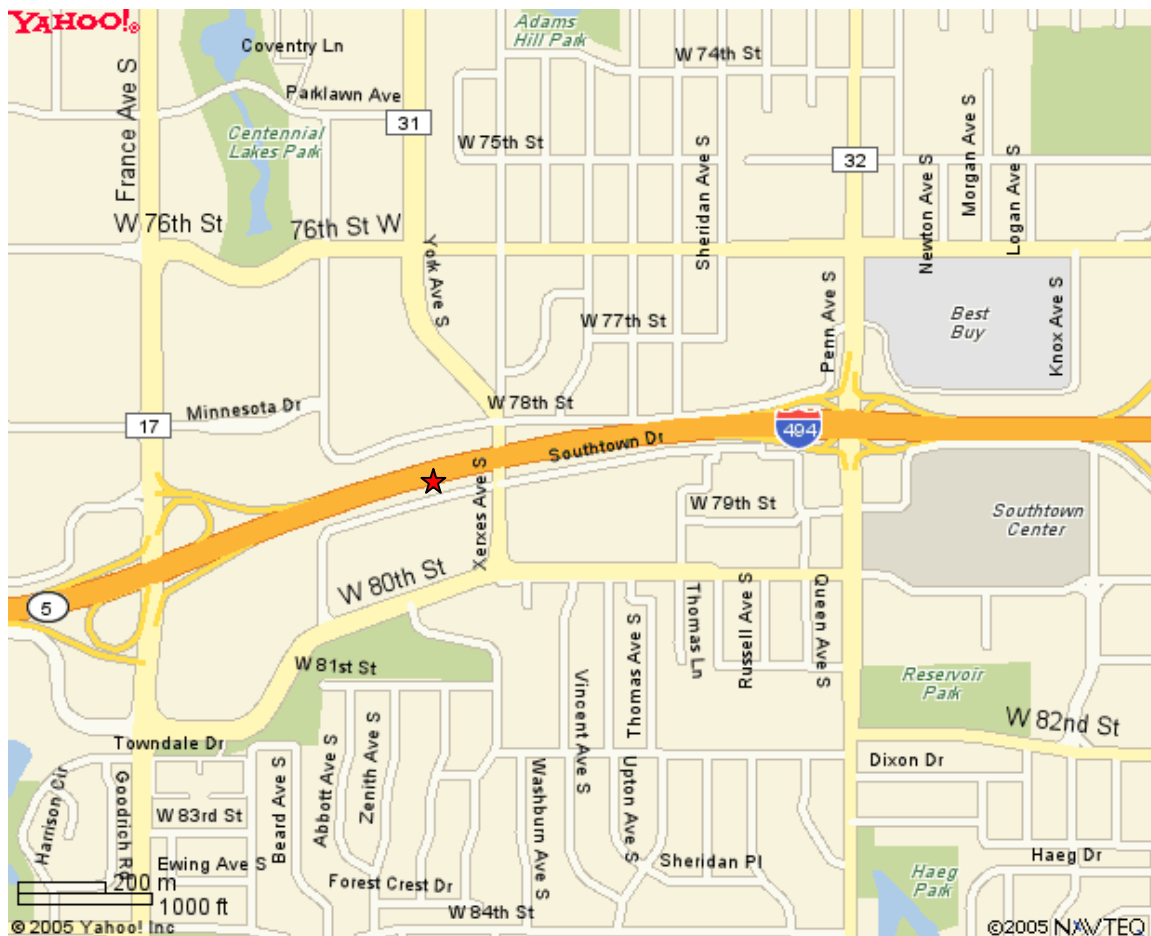
Reminder: The February meeting will be held at 7pm, on Tuesday, February 21 at the Steak & Ale on Xerxes Avenue in Bloomington.

The February meeting will be held at Steak & Ale in Bloomington. Entrées range in price from \$9 to \$25; most dishes are under \$15. Steak & Ale is right off I-494 and Xerxes Ave – see the map below. Cocktails and conversation begins at 6:15, please plan on placing your order by 6:35. Our speaker will begin at 7:30.

To get an idea of how many people will be attending the meeting, please contact Shelby @ 651.296.5259 or shelbywiniecki@hotmail.com by Monday, February 20th if you know you will be able to attend. This is just to get a general idea, so please join us for drinks, dinner, the speaker or all three regardless of whether you've called ahead!

Steak & Ale
2801 Southtown Drive
Bloomington, MN 55431

maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=2801+Southtown+Drive,+bloomington,+mn



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