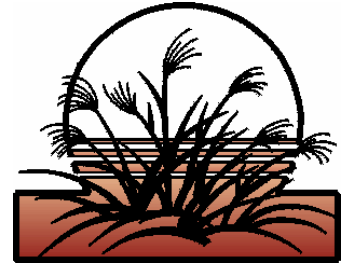




**NEWSLETTER
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY
January, 2006 Vol. 27 No. 4**



The January meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM Tues, January 17th, at Blegen Hall on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota. Maps to the meeting can be found on page 3. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Featured Speaker: Kenny Blumenfeld

"Geographical Origins and Frequencies of Cyclones Associated with Heavy Snowfall in the Twin Cities"

Meteorologists--especially those who make forecasts--know that most heavy snowstorms (4" or more in 24 hours) in the Upper Midwest are associated with mid-latitude cyclones, (commonly referred to as "low pressure systems"). The geographic origins and the tracks of these cyclones influence the nature of the snowstorms with which they are associated. Here, he discusses how cyclones associated with heavy snowfall in the Twin Cities tend to favor four geographic regions of origin: the Southwest, the Gulf Coast, Wyoming/Montana, and the Prairie Provinces of Canada. In general, each origin region can be thought to be associated with a unique type of heavy snowstorm; the drier, colder storms originate to our west and northwest, while the wet, sloppy (and occasionally convective) ones tend to come from our south or southwest. These origin regions also are associated with significant differences in basic statistical measures of snowfall magnitude. Seasonal snowfall, after all, is largely a function of the frequency and magnitude of heavy snowstorms, so where these snowstorms originate plays an important role in determining our snow removal expenditures, our winter recreation opportunities, and our spring hydrologic function

Kenny is a graduate student in the department of Geography at the U of MN. He lives in St. Paul (moving to Minneapolis in Feb.) with his wife and son. He says that he has had a lifelong interest in extreme and hazardous weather, and indeed that has been the focus of his graduate study. His M.A. thesis dealt with the frequency, probability and spatial variability of "extreme" rainfall over the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. His proposed doctoral research topic (in draft) asks if severe weather frequencies and probabilities change abruptly over major urban areas.



Comments from our Chapter President: Rich Naistat

We had a wonderful tour at KARE-11 last month. Thanks so much to our hosts Belinda Jensen and Don Moldenhauer. Judging from the number of questions you asked, there was great interest in our visit with one of our media partners.

With all the warm weather, we have had of late, our January meeting topic of severe weather climatology will be quite topical. Our "planning committee" had real insight inviting Kenny Blumenfeld to speak to us about severe weather in a mid January talk!

Later in the month, the National Weather Service will be staffing a booth at the Mall of America (January 28 and 29, 2006). We hope to have a supply of AMS brochures to hand out. I know last year we gave out quite a few. Please stop by the booth; and, feel free to help hand out AMS brochures.

Minutes of the December Meeting – Chris Bovitz

The December 2005 meeting of the Twin Cities American Meteorological Society was held at the studios of KARE-11 TV in Golden Valley on December 13. A brief business meeting began at about 7:00 p.m.

Kevin Huyck, the head of our Speaker Committee, reported on their success at finding speakers for the chapter. He reminded us of the Kenny Blumenfeld, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota who will speak about the origins of winter cyclones and how they affect our snowfall. In February, a former forecaster from Austria will be speaking, and this will be our dinner meeting (the committee is still looking for a suitable restaurant). March is still open, but Kevin is working with the organizers of the 2006 Severe Weather and Doppler Radar Conference to find a speaker who would come to the Twin Cities. In April, we will visit St. Cloud State University for our annual meet-up with their National Weather Association chapter. Plans for our May meeting, typically our last meeting of the year, is also still in the works, but that might also be a dinner meeting as well; Jonathan Cohen is working on some leads there.

Rich Naistat mentioned the Magic School Bus exhibit regarding weather coming up at the Minnesota Children's Museum from March 11 through September 24. The MCM mentioned that they'd like to have a meteorologist there for their "Meet the Meteorologist" each Saturday. When asked for volunteers, about half of the attending members indicated interest, and that was even before we asked any of the local television weathercasters.

Chris Bovitz related the substance of the last meeting, and gave a brief treasurer's report. Since the last meeting, we had increased our paid membership by 18 members to about 32. Last year we finished up with 40 members.

The rest of the evening was a tour of the KARE studios by meteorologists Belinda Jensen and Don Moldenhauer. They started by taking us into their Weather Center and related to us the changes in the last five years to what and how they do their weathercasts. The biggest change, they said, was their use of the Internet. They used to depend on a weather services company for their data and analyses; now, much of that they can get themselves off the Internet. Belinda and Don also showed how, during late-night severe weather events, they can "take control" of the studio and broadcast what they need to. They also mentioned their participation in Weather Plus, an NBC 24-hour weather channel, which is available on local digital cable systems; during severe weather events in prime time, they can continue their weather broadcast on the Weather Plus channel while allowing regular programming to continue on broadcast channel 11.

Discussion then moved into their broadcast studio and to their Internet presence on kare11.com. A study showed that about as many people visit their web site during a day as do watch a newscast. Their web page is weather-dependent, so if severe weather is affecting a part of their broadcast area, that will appear on their pages. Other items of interest, in addition to current weather and forecasts, on their web site are columns by the meteorologists, severe weather pictures sent in by viewers, and other weather-related information such as astronomical information and school closings. They were concerned about finding their niche in the on-line community, and entwined with that was extending the KARE-11 brand to the web and bringing the KARE personalities to the web in a way that would be engaging to a visitor to their web site.

The main discussion ended up about 8:30 p.m., and the meteorologists mingled with the members for a short while after that.

The next meeting will be on January 17, 2006, at Blegen Hall on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota.

Editor's notes



On March 11, 2006, a special exhibit, *Magic School Bus Kicks Up A Storm* is opening at the Minnesota Children's Museum. This interactive environment allows families and school children the opportunity to learn about many different weather related topics through hands-on exhibits. Chris Madsen, manager of the gallery and public programs contacted us about volunteering the expertise of our chapter members to participate in their upcoming *Meet the Meteorologist* for a few hours, every Saturday (March 11 through April 29). A number of our members have already come forward to volunteer one day during that time. Lisa Schmit will

help coordinate these efforts. Chris Madsen further noted, "It would also be helpful to our staff and volunteers to meet a

meteorologist for some ‘professional development’ around the weather concepts presented in the exhibit so we are able to answer visitor’s questions and bring more information to their learning experience”. You should contact Lisa, Lisa.Schmit@noaa.gov, if you are interested in participating in any way.

The latest membership list from Chris Bovitz shows that we have 38 members. Please do all you can to help recruit more members. I note that quite a few of the “old-time” members are no longer on our list. I’m again including a membership application. Please send in your dues if you haven’t already done so.

Once again, the AMS will have a Local Chapter Booth at the Annual Meeting in Atlanta. The booth will be part of the AMS Resource Center in Hall A. If you are attending the annual meeting and are interested in volunteering some time at the booth, the high traffic times will be as follows:

Monday	2:30-4:00P.M.
Tuesday	9:45-11:00A.M.
Wednesday	2:30-4:00 P.M.
Thursday	9:45-11:00 A.M.

This would be a great opportunity for you to promote your chapter to annual meeting attendees.

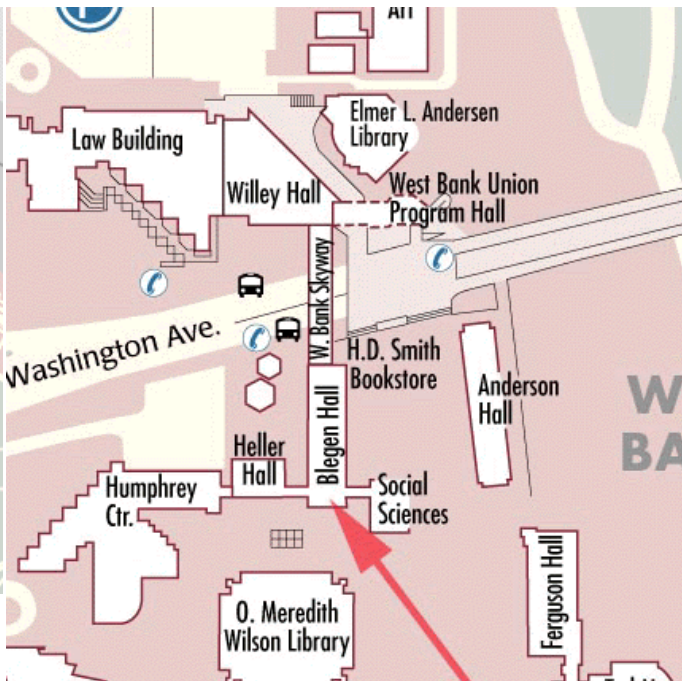
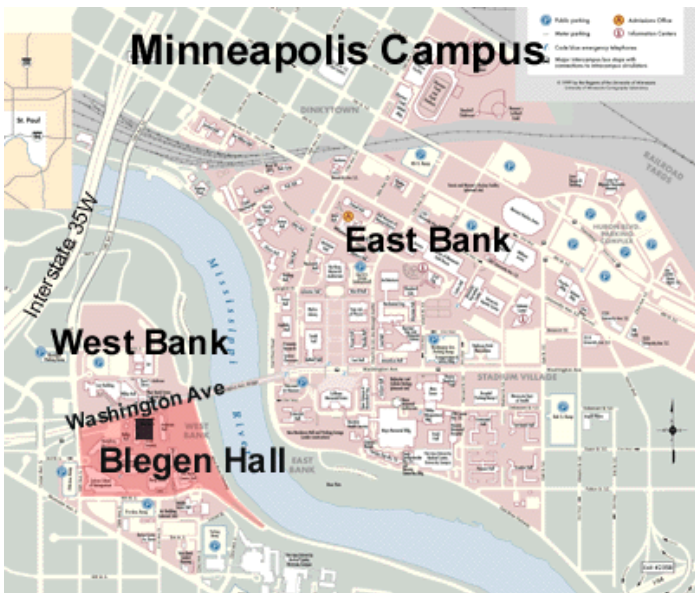


AMS on the WWW

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 January meeting will be held at 7pm, on Tuesday, January 17th, 2006, in Rm. 445, Blegen Hall on the West Bank of the U of M.



- Public parking
- Admissions Office
- Meter parking
- Information Centers
- Code blue emergency telephones
- Major intercampus bus stops with connections to intracampus circulators

Blegen Hall, room 445.
269 19th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55455

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**
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Lakeville, MN 55044

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3233 Snelling Ave. North
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