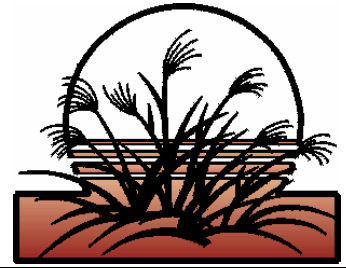




**NEWSLETTER
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY
November, 2006 Vol. 28 No. 3**



The November meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM Tuesday, November 21, 2006, at the NWS, Chanhassen Specific directions to the meeting can be found on page 5. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.



John Wetter, Storm Chasing Stories

John Wetter, an avid storm chaser for the past ten years, is the coordinator of Skywarn operations at the National Weather Service in Chanhassen. He attended St. Cloud State University, where he majored in meteorology and served a president of the SCSU chapter of the National Weather Association. As a certified Skywarn instructor for the state of Minnesota, he teaches classes for both Stearns County as well as Metro Skywarn. He is an amateur (ham) radio operator (his call sign is KØWDJI)..

He worked for the Buffalo School District as a computer support technician from 1996 until August of 2006. He now works as the technology support lead for Hopkins Public Schools. In the past, he has written a syndicated computer support column for Internet Broadcasting Systems' websites around the county. He is one of the two storm chasers for KSTP-TV (SkyMax 5 Storm Trackers) in the Twin Cities.

John and his wife Jamie currently live in Maple Grove with their two cats, Wesley and Bailey.



President's Corner: Chris Bovitz

The meeting last month at Meteorlogix was interesting. I remember a visit there a few years ago with the AMS, and things had advanced quite a bit there. The presentation by the Jims was good, and I was pleased to see the great turnout.

It was just made public that Tim Samaras will be at the Pantages Theater (downtown Minneapolis) on [April 12 at 7:30 p.m.](#) We can either make this our April meeting (get together at 7), or have a separate meeting at our usual date. And if we're going to go to the talk en masse, we can try to get a group discount. Shelby will talk about this at the next meeting

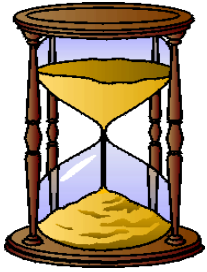
And we have a science fair coordinator! Karen Trammell has volunteered. Thanks, Karen!

Again, as I mentioned in the previous newsletter, we need to spread the word about our group. We had at least one person from Meteorlogix sign up primarily due to our visit last month. This word of mouth is priceless. Let's continue to get out the word that we're here.

Member of the month

Doug Dokken is our featured chapter member this month. He was born in St. Paul, MN, and his family moved to Moorhead, MN when he was a year old. He grew up in Moorhead, and graduated from Moorhead State University (BA MATH, BS Physics) and received his Ph. D. from the University of Minnesota. Doug has been at the University of St. Thomas since 1985. He is a professor in the mathematics department, and is primarily a mathematician (topology dynamics, ergodic theory). His fascination with weather started late in

the sweltering afternoon of June 20, 1957, when a classic isolated supercell dropped a sequence of tornadoes on eastern ND and western MN. One the tornadoes demolished parts of North Fargo and was rated F5. This storm was studied in detail by Ted Fujita in his landmark paper "A Detailed Analysis of the Fargo Tornadoes of June 20, 1957". Doug loves teaching math, and during the last ten years has become interested in studying severe thunderstorms. His department has purchased a very fast computer to run simulations using ARPS (Advanced Regional Prediction System). He has led a number of student research projects in modeling severe storms. Kurt Scholz is Doug's collaborator on a number of these projects. Doug is an avid rock climber and boulderer. He was Vice President of our chapter for three years (2001-2004).



A Look at Weather History: Armistice Day, 1940

Anthony Stender

Much has been written over the years about the Midwest's most famous blizzard – the Armistice Day Blizzard of 1940. Unfortunately, many of today's youth don't know what Armistice Day is or even when it is, probably because it's now known as Veteran's Day. Not many World War I vets are still living, yet it's hard to imagine that the original Armistice Day is already 88 years in the past. In Minnesota, the original Armistice Day was simply a mild fall day, with a high in the mid-50s and a low that morning of 32° F in the Twin Cities.

America was at a very interesting time in the fall of 1940. The country still hadn't completely recovered from the stock market crash of 1929. Much of central Europe had fallen into the hands of Nazi Germany. And the Midwest was experiencing another mild but slightly damp fall.

On October 27, the Twin Cities experienced a near record high temperature of 70° F. High temperatures for the following week remained in the 50s, although it hit 62° on November 3. From November 5 on, highs remained around 40 degrees, and the Twin Cities saw at least a trace of precipitation on ten of the fifteen days leading up to November 11. In stark contrast, after the 16 inches of snow fell in the Twin Cities, daily highs dipped into the teens before another 40° temperature was reached on November 16. Most of the snow cover from the storm had also disappeared by the 22nd.

The storm itself effected states from Kansas to Michigan, with the greatest snowfall being 27 inches at Collegetown, MN. Winds with the storm reached 80 miles per hour, and once the storm had passed, it left twenty feet deep drifts in places. We've all seen numerous photos of the massive snow drifts, as tall as telephone polls. What's more amazing are the men dressed in black hats and overcoats, daring to stand on top of the drifts, just to peer down into the paths carved out by hours of shoveling in an attempt to open up roads and railways to traffic again.

Throughout the Midwest, trains and automobiles were stranded by the storm. At least 150 people died from the storm. Ships on Lake Michigan ran aground or sank, leading to a loss of 66 lives. Of the 49 who died in Minnesota, many were out duck hunting when the storm came on. Another two fatalities were the result of a collision between two trains in Watkins.

Other snow storms in Minnesota's history may have brought more snow than the Armistice Day blizzard or may be more impressive statistically. But perhaps what sets this blizzard apart from so many others is the fact that it happened at the close of the Great Depression, and the photos left behind are images of the curious and resilient spirit of Americans from that era.

Minutes of the October 17, 2006, Submitted by Lori Bovitz

The October meeting of the Twin Cities chapter of the American Meteorological Society was held on October 17, 2006. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Chris Bovitz. Secretary/Treasurer Lori Bovitz as also in attendance. About 25 members and potential members were also present.

The secretary and treasurer reports were read and approved.

Old business focused on numerous items:

- Jonathan Cohen attended the Kuenast Lecture on October 4th. He reported that the topic was forecasting for the cherry crop in Michigan. It covered models and climate trends.
- Doug Dokken attended the 3M K-8 Science Teachers Workshop at 3M on October 6th. He reported about 400 teachers attended on the first day and the second day 3M employees attended with their families. He demonstrated a variety of things including different sizes of hail using play dough, WATADS with the St. Peter and Oklahoma City tornadoes, and had a tornado display made out of crepe paper.
- We are still looking for a Science Fair Coordinator. This person does not need to attend the fairs, just take in the requests and ask for volunteers. They also need to communicate the results of the fairs to the National AMS. No volunteers stepped forward during the meeting.
- Reminders on ways to get the word out about meetings were provided. This included posting the newsletter in public places and posting on related e-mail lists and blogs. We need more visibility and we want the public to know you don't need to be a professional meteorologist to attend and enjoy our meetings and be a part of our chapter.
- John Wetter presented his findings on what our chapter needs to do to become a non-profit. There is quite a bit of paperwork involved in becoming a 501(c)3. John has all the paperwork, and he will work with someone he knows to help streamline. The setup for the nonprofit can be lengthy, but it was thought once the set up was complete, there would only be one form to fill out per year to keep the nonprofit status. Lori Bovitz mentioned she is a part of another group that is a nonprofit group, and she would find out what they did to set that up. Jim Block indicated there may be other options for nonprofit besides 501(c)3 that may be easier to get, less complicated, and easier to maintain. John Wetter will look into these other options.

New business focused on a couple items:

- The Department of Homeland Security is supplying free weather radios to all schools. This would be a good opportunity for the chapter to gain some visibility by offering to set up and program the radios for the schools. Forecasters at the WFO are already working on outreach for this program and it was recommended any members interested in helping to coordinate with the forecasters at the WFO.
- Jim Block will be representing the chapter at the National AMS annual meeting in January. He is also running for one of the councilor positions with the National AMS.
- Another outreach opportunity for the local chapter is through the DataStreme Atmosphere program. Lisa Schmit, a forecaster at the WFO, is already a mentor. She was not able to attend the meeting, so the topic was tabled until the next meeting in November.

Upcoming Events:

- Oct 25-27: Northern Plains Winter Storm Conference, St Cloud State University. Rich Naistat will be chairing a session and presenting, and Chris Bovitz will be presenting.
- Nov 21: Monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m. Minneapolis WFO. Presenter: John Wetter. Topic: storm chasing.

Other Items:

- Best wishes were sent to Craig Edwards, meteorologist-in-charge at the Twin Cities WFO, who will be retiring from government service at the end of the month.

After the meeting was complete Jim Block and Jim Foerster gave a presentation about DTN/Meteorlogix and tour of their meteorological operations. Jim Block described the different markets in which Meteorlogix provides forecasts and the different applications used to provide those forecasts. He also described advances Meteorlogix has made in forecasting using geospatial tools such as GIS. Jim Foerster described the tools and methods used to create the actual forecasts and gave a tour of the operations department.

Upcoming AMS Chapter Meetings and Other Events

Date & Time	Event	Location
2006-2007 Chapter Year		
November 21, 2006 7:00pm	November meeting Presentation by John Wetter	Twin Cities WFO Chanhassen, MN (map)
December 12, 2006 7:00pm	December meeting Television studio tour	WCCO-TV Studio Minneapolis, MN (map)
January 16, 2007 7:00pm	January meeting - Topic: Analysis of a heat burst in western Minnesota Speaker: Karen Trammell, NWS meteorologist	St. Thomas University St. Paul, MN
February 20, 2007 7:00pm	February meeting	University of Minnesota St. Paul
March 20, 2007 7:00pm	March meeting - Speaker from the Des Moines Severe Weather Conference (tbd)	St. Thomas University St. Paul, MN
April 12, 2007	Tim Samaras and 3 others will be speaking Laura.Murphy@orpheum.com	Pantages Theatre, Minneapolis
April 17, 2007 7:00pm	April meeting	to be determined
May 15, 2007 7:00pm	May meeting - Picnic, recap of the year, elections, and planning for next year	Twin Cities WFO Chanhassen, MN (map)

Editor's notes - Kurt Scholz



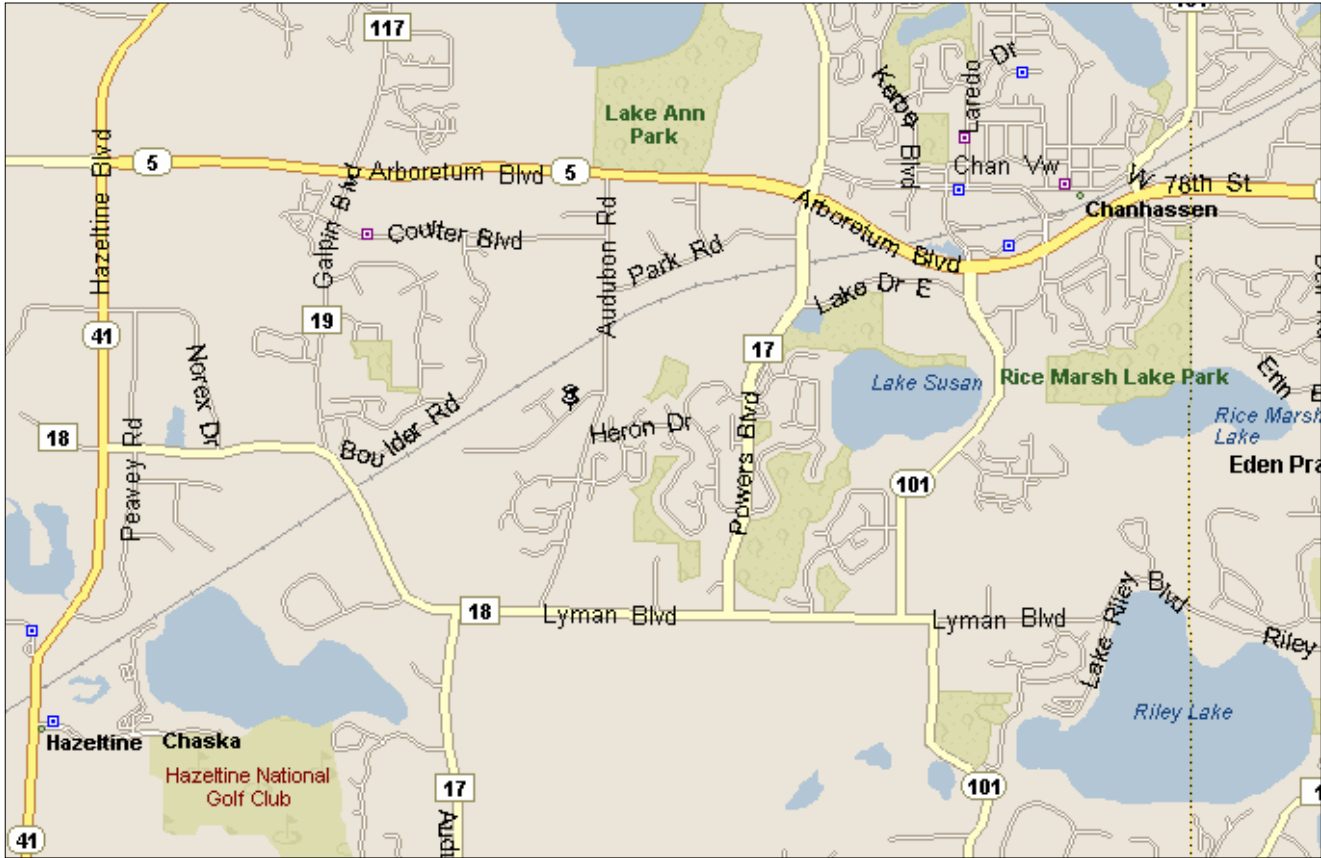
If you haven't already done so, please submit your annual dues to our secretary-treasurer Lori Bovitz at the next meeting or mail your annual dues to her at the address on page 6. Dues remain at \$20 for regular members and \$6 for student members. Be sure to fill out the member registration form on page 6 and submit your forecast contest entries by December 15. Winners will receive a \$20 gift certificate.



AMS on the WWW

Please check <http://www.twincitiesams.org> for lots of interesting information, changes and updates. Thanks to Chris and Lori Bovitz for their hard work.

Reminder: Reminder: The November meeting will be held at 7pm, on Tuesday November 21st, 2006 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:

Lori Bovitz
20716 Hurley Avenue
Lakeville, MN 55044

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 20) _____

Tiebreaker question: Highest **maximum temperature** for the winter (Dec 21 through Mar 20).

All temperature readings will be from MSP, Your contest entry and your 2006-2007 dues must be received by December 15, 2006 for you to be eligible to win.

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

