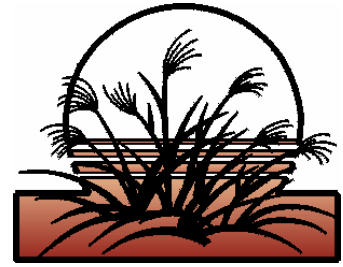




**NEWSLETTER
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY
October, 2006 Vol. 28 No. 2**



The October meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM Tuesday, October 17th, 2006, at 7 PM at Meteorlogix, Burnsville, MN. Specific directions to the meeting can be found on page 5. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.



Tour of DTN Meteorlogix
Featured Hosts: Jim Block and Jim Foerster

DTN/Meteorlogix. **Jim Block** of DTN Meteorlogix grew up in the small southern Wisconsin town of Watertown. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a BS in Meteorology in 1977, and stayed on and earned his Master's degree in Meteorology in 1979.

Jim landed a job with the Great Lakes Weather Service Company out of Green Bay, WI, doing radio and utility forecasting. In 1981, he moved to the Twin Cities to help Jeff Johnson start the meteorology department at Republic Airlines. After a few months, the PATCO strike forced Republic to shut down the forecast department and Jim moved it to Meteorlogix, Inc., which was looking for ways to diversify beyond selling radar monitors. Besides forecasting, by using the programming expertise he had gained in graduate school, Jim set about automating as much of the data collection at Meteorlogix as he could, and in the process, created Meteorlogix's weather data collection system and database. Jim eventually oversaw all meteorological software development at Meteorlogix, and was named a Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) in 1989. After DTN acquired Meteorlogix in 1998, Jim was also placed in charge of all of Meteorlogix Meteorological Operations including the acquisition of Weather Services Corporation of Boston. Jim is now Vice President of Systems Development. Jim lives in S. Minneapolis with his wife Rene, and has 2 children, Alex and Greta.

Jim Foerster began his weather career in the Air Force. He currently manages the Meteorological Training Division. Much of his work revolves around creating course work and presentations for the staff and customers of DTN/Meteorlogix. Jim has been training customers involved in weather-sensitive industries for over 20 years, with clients ranging from small golf courses and roofing companies to major airlines and the military. A native of Connecticut, Jim received his bachelor's degree in meteorology from the University of Wisconsin in 1983. He joined Meteorlogix, Inc. after college, and has been with the company for 23 years.

Jim was awarded the prestigious Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) certificate by his peers at the National Weather Service in 1993, and is one of three CCMs at Meteorlogix. The Certified Consulting Meteorologist is a professional meteorologist who has an in-depth understanding of the atmosphere and its behavior. Services and products provided by CCMs are founded upon their abilities to apply this specialized knowledge to a broad range of related activities, issues, and inquiries. The essential attribute of the CCM is a specialized knowledge of the field, combined with broad experience, an integrated concept of service, and a clear and unwavering adherence to the rules of professional conduct and service.

Jim has written and delivered several professional papers related to business weather solutions and other related topics, and is a frequent speaker as a representative of the company at conferences and symposia. He is also involved in his local American Meteorological Society chapter and is a mentor for several high-school science students. In his

spare time, Jim is a professional soccer coach and coaches a high-school girls team in his hometown of Bloomington, Minn.

Meteorlogix was created in 2000 by combining three commercial weather organizations: Weather Services Corporation (WSC), Kavouras, and DTN Weather.



President's Corner: Chris Bovitz

We had a great dinner meeting last month with a very energetic dinner conversation. The presentation from Patrick Hammer was really good, and I learned quite a bit about how difficult it can be to forecast West Coast weather. About 15 people came to the meeting, which included three new members who joined our chapter! I hope this keeps up as we continue to spread the word.

I've heard that in the past there have been some people who've fallen away from the chapter. If you are one of those people, would you mind dropping a line to info@twincitiesams.org and telling us why? If it's because of something that happened (or didn't happen) a while ago, perhaps you could consider trying us again. I can't answer for things that happened before I was involved, but perhaps we could address some of your concerns.

The Department of Homeland Security has recently announced that it is providing \$5 million to ensure that [weather \(a.k.a. "all-hazard"\) radios](#) are in every public school. I think this is one of the most useful things for everyday people to come out of the DHS, and I also feel this is a bandwagon we can jump upon. Consider offering your services to set up a school's radio. It might take 10 minutes to do, but it's a great public service for us. I've already sent a message to my son's school principal.

We don't have to get it all up and running this year, but one of the things I'd like to do while I have the gavel is to get the chapter involved with [DataStreme Atmosphere](#). Again, I think this would be a great way for us to become more involved in the community, to spread our meteorological knowledge, and to fulfill our mission of being the weather resource in the Twin Cities. There will be more about this later. Remember, many hands make light work.

And speaking of many hands, if you haven't sent in your dues or information yet, please do so. We have an [easy-to-fill-out membership form](#) on the [web site](#) (click on "Apply for Membership").

Psst! We're a great place for weather people to get together! Pass it on!

Oh, one last thing (I promise): Is anyone going (or willing to go) to the [87th annual meeting](#), January 14 to 18, 2007? We probably should have some representation there.

Member of the month - Anthony Stender

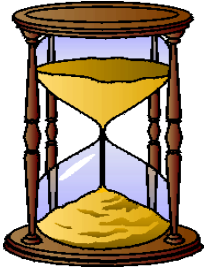
Anthony is a native Minnesotan, growing up on a dairy farm outside of Young America and spending a lot of time outside, no matter what the weather. As a result, he developed a keen eye for changes in the weather. He was fascinated by the weather from an early age, and he still enjoys being outside in bad or extreme weather.

He, initially, thought of a major in meteorology and then engineering when he enrolled at the University of Michigan. After one year, he transferred to University of Wisconsin-River Falls where he completed a math degree and biology minor in 1994. He then went on to the South Dakota School of Mines from 1994-96 completing a Masters in meteorology. He worked with Dr. Harold D. Orville, and his Masters thesis involved running computer simulations of a stratocumulus-topped marine boundary layer. As part of his work, he spent a month working at NCAR with Chin-Hoh Moeng. During his time at SDSM, he also interned with the NWS in Rapid City, worked for KOTA-TV as a weekend and fill-in TV meteorologist, and he was very involved with the drama club.

He has spent most of the last ten years working in retail, while continuing to take occasional classes at Hamline University. During the 2000-2001 school year, he attended the University of Oklahoma, where he worked as a teaching assistant in the meteorology department, with Dr. Howie Bluestein serving as his advisor.

Currently, he is still working in retail, but he is also in the process of finishing his chemistry degree and a certificate in forensic science at Hamline University. He hopes to complete both next school year and finally move into a job that has nothing to do with retail.

With the little free time that he has, he likes to help on the family farm, sleep, take photos of clouds, read up on American history, and watch anything good on TV (which isn't much).



A Look at Weather History: Hurricanes and The Old North Church.

Anthony Stender

One of the drawbacks to researching history is that it is quite easy to stumble across distracting tangents. That is how I came upon the topic for this month's interesting look into weather history.

The Old North Church in Boston is most famous for its role in the American Revolution in April of 1775. Expecting the British armies to approach Boston at any time, Paul Revere and a small group of men devised a warning plan to light lanterns in the bell tower of the Old North Church. "One if by land, two if by sea". Upon seeing the signal in the bell tower, Paul Revere and his compatriots would ride into the neighboring areas to wake the local militias and warn them of the approaching British troops. Unfortunately for Paul Revere, when the signal appeared, he didn't get very far with the message before being caught by the British, and his horse was confiscated. However, one of his companions on the ride managed to escape from the British and warn the militia at Concord.

The Old North Church had been standing for eight-one years when the Boston area was hit by the first recorded snow hurricane between October 9-11, 1804. It was only one of two known hurricanes that year, and it left a path of destruction from New York to southern Canada. On the night of October 9, the storm moved in, temperatures began to drop, and a mixture of rain and snow fell on the Boston area. Overnight, strong winds swept throughout the area, knocking down numerous trees and buildings. Reportedly, people stayed up all night for fear that their houses might topple over during the night. The worst damage occurred in Boston harbor, where ships were either dragged out to sea or smashed against the wharves where they were anchored. Heavy snow then began to fall after the winds died down on October 10th, with accumulations up to three feet being measured in some locations. It seems surprising that only nine people died as a result of this hurricane, but one of the other victims of the hurricane was The Old North Church. At some point during the storm, it lost its steeple, just as several other less-famous churches did.

The steeple on The Old North Church was replaced within a few years, and it almost remained in place for the 150th anniversary of the Hurricane of 1804. But then, Hurricane Carol, a category two storm, struck New England on August 31st, claiming at least 60 lives and \$460 million in damages (in 1954 dollars). It also toppled the steeple off The Old North Church for the second time in the church's history. Somehow, someone even managed to take a grainy yet famous photo of the steeple falling off the church this time.

Unlike the hurricane season of 1804, more hurricanes continued to pound the East Coast and New England in the days that followed Carol. Hurricane Dolly, a weaker hurricane, just missed the coast in early September. Twelve days after Carol hit Boston, Hurricane Edna followed almost the exact same path as Carol and brought another \$40 million in damages to the area. Hurricane Hazel, the worst storm of the 1954 season, wreaked havoc from Haiti to Canada, making its landfall with the United States along the Carolinas as a Category Four storm before moving farther north through New York and into Canada. It caused a total of \$250 million in storm damages. Carol, Edna, and Hazel each caused tremendous damage, and their names have since been retired.

Of course, the steeple on The Old North Church was replaced after Hurricane Carol, and it was rebuilt in a fashion that resembles the original steeple. Yet, one can't help but wonder if or when disaster may strike that famous steeple for a third time.

Sources: <http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=293> (Website for: Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities.)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storm_of_October_1804, /Hurricane Carol, /1954 Atlantic hurricane season

Movin' On, Movin' Up, Movin' Out

- Late this summer, our vice president, Shelby McQuay (nee Winiecki) got married. Congratulations to her and her husband! Please forgive her if she is not at the October meeting; she will be on her honeymoon.

- After more than 15 years as the meteorologist in charge (MIC) at the [Twin Cities WFO](#) and 34 years in government service, Craig Edwards will be entering the most challenging phase of his life: retirement. His last day will be October 28, 2006. Craig started his career in Milwaukee in 1972, and then moved to Indianapolis in 1976. He rose through the ranks there to become a lead forecaster in 1978 and to deputy MIC three years later. In 1991, he moved to the Twin Cities to become the meteorologist in charge.

If you have any big changes in your life - professional or personal - which you'd like to share it with the rest of the chapter, please send it to newsletter@twincitiesams.org.

Upcoming AMS Chapter Meetings and Other Events

Date & Time	Event	Location
2006-2007 Chapter Year		
October 17, 2006 7:00pm	October meeting Speakers: Jim Foerster and Jim Block Tour of Meteorlogix	Meteorlogix Burnsville, MN (map)
October 25- 27, 2006	First Northern Plains Winter Weather Conference	St. Cloud State University St. Cloud, MN
November 21, 2006 7:00pm	November meeting Presentation by a storm chaser	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.

St. Cloud State University is hosting the [First Northern Plains Winter Storm Conference - October 25-26 \(Wed., Thurs.\), 2006](#) with highlighting the aspects of **Winter Weather in the Northern Plains and Canadian Prairies** and a special session on the Minnesota Halloween blizzard of October 31-November 2, 1991 (remember it?). The conference begins at 3:00 pm.

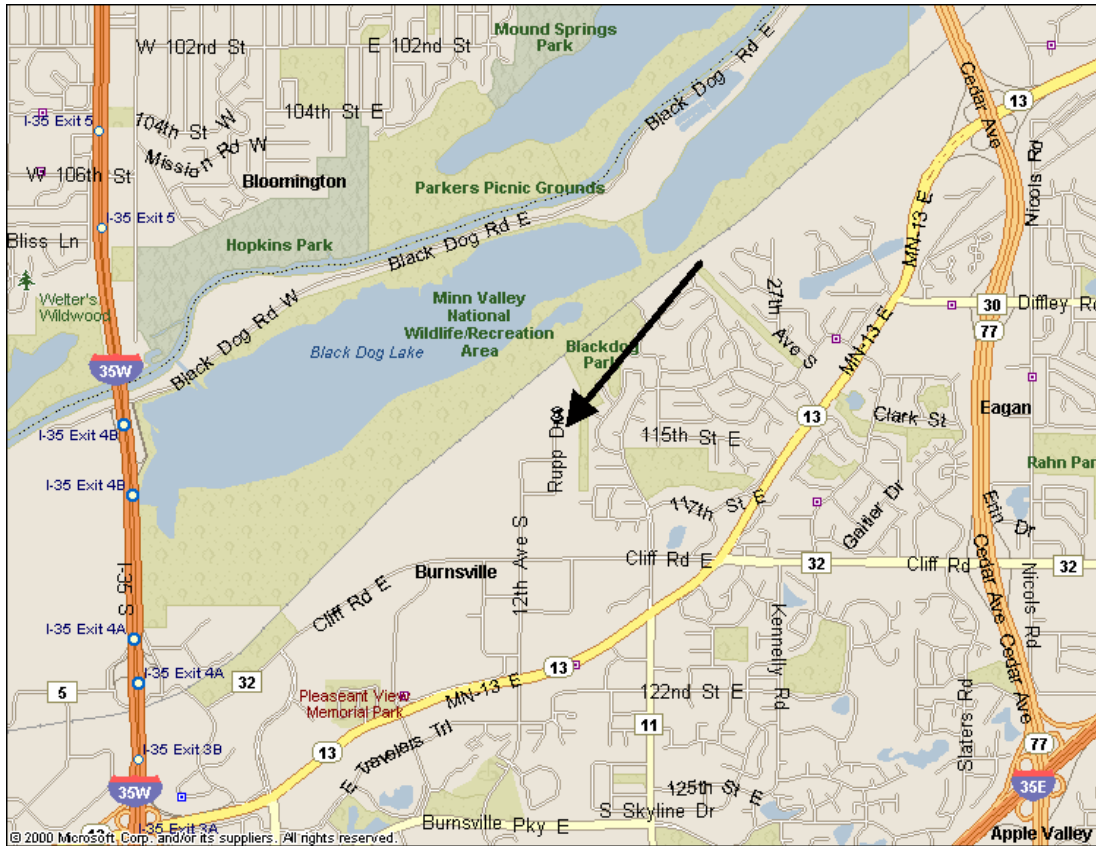


AMS on the WWW

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: The October meeting will be held at 7pm, on Tuesday October 17th, 2006 at Meteorlogix, 11400Rupp Dr., Burnsville, MN.

Directions



From Interstate 35W, take Highway 13 north (it actually goes northeast) to 12th Avenue. Turn left (north) on 12th Avenue and continue past Cliff Road to 116th Avenue. Turn right (east) on 116th Avenue and continue to Rupp Drive. Turn left (north) on Rupp Drive and continue to Meteorlogix, which will be on your left.

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

