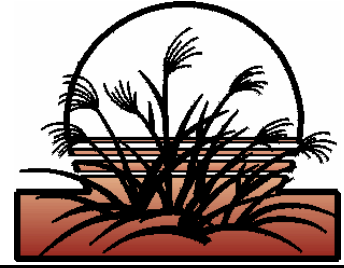




**NEWSLETTER
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY
January, 2007 Vol. 28 No. 5**



The January meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM Tuesday, January 16, 2007, St. Thomas University, St. Paul, MN. Specific directions to the meeting can be found on page 5. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.



Featured Speaker: Karen Trammell, NWS

Analysis of a heat burst in western Minnesota.

Karen grew up in the Texas Panhandle, and being surrounded by active weather of all kinds decided pretty early in life that she wanted to be meteorologist.

She attended the University of Oklahoma and received a B.S. in Meteorology in 2002 (Summa Cum Laude!) and an M.S. in Meteorology in 2004. While a student at OU, she worked as an Undergraduate Research Assistant at the National Severe Storms Laboratory, where she managed the laboratory's Level 2 WSR-88D archive database. She was a Student Meteorologist and then a Meteorologist Intern at NWSFO in Norman. In February 2005, she was hired as a forecaster at the Chanhassen WFO. Besides her regular forecasting and warning duties at the WFO, she is the office's IFPS focal point and is heavily involved in the Skywarn program.



President's Corner: Chris Bovitz

Hey, it's 2007. If this is news to you, you might want to turn on the TV a little more often. And we got our first significant snowfall of the season. Again, if this is news to you...

But I digress. Last month's tour of the WCCO weather and news studios with Paul Douglas, was, I think, enjoyed by all, including our surprise host Don Shelby. I know there were some people in the chapter who expressed their dissatisfaction with the limit on the number of people, but it seems that there are some people I see only once a year at these events. I'm not saying they shouldn't come or join the chapter, but that it would be nice to see them at the other meetings, too. Now that we have a web presence back with an easy-to-remember name, it's easy to keep up.

Anyway... in the next couple of months, we have a number of things coming up that would be great for volunteering. There are the annual science fairs, and if you would like to volunteer for judging, please contact our Science Fair Coordinator, Karen Trammell, at sciencefair@twincitiesams.org (see, if you volunteer, you get a free e-mail address!). On the 27th and 28th is the Government on Display at the Mall of America; it's always good for us to have a presence at the NWS booth, and they're always nice to let us.

Although we got a smaller-than-desired response to the Tim Samaras presentation, there is still time to get in on the group rate. We need 10 people to get that. Visit our web site for more info.

Wow, this is getting long, so I'll end it for now. Remember our next meeting on the 16th at St. Thomas University. Member Karen Trammell will talk about a recent western Minnesota heat burst. I always enjoy her thorough and insightful presentations, and I think you will, too.

If you have anything you'd like to announce to the chapter, please send it to Kurt at newsletter@twincitiesams.org by the first of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Here's a late breaking announcement: Reed Anthony Graf was born to Member Therese Graf and her husband Jeff in October. Reed is reported a very sweet and good baby, and the new mom and dad are enjoying him immensely.

Member of the Month: Lori Bovitz

This month's featured member is Lori Bovitz. She maintains that she has always been interested in weather. It all started when she was 2 years old and watched weather during the TV news. All through her school years, she would check out books on weather over and over from the school and local libraries. In high school, she competed in the Science Challenge (formerly Olympiad) in the weather forecasting event. As a junior, she placed second in the state and as a senior placed first.

She attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study meteorology and graduated with a BS degree in 1994. There she met the man she would marry, but he left for Texas. After graduating and getting married to him, she followed him there.

She started as an intern at the NWS in Fort Worth in September 1994. In 1998, she was promoted to general forecaster. While there, she gained an appreciation for heavy rainfall events and decided to pursue that interest further. She transferred to the West Gulf River Forecast Center in 1998 as a hydrometeorologic analysis and support (HAS) forecaster. She worked there until the fall of 2000 when she and her husband decided (after the birth of their first son earlier that year) that they wanted to come back to Minnesota.

Upon her return, she took a job as a technical writer at Kavouras (now Meteorlogix). While there, she really enjoyed writing user manuals and other documentation. She enjoyed it so much that she decided to move into the technical writing field, and after five years she left the weather field and became a technical writer at Kroll Ontrack in Eden Prairie. She enjoys the new challenges at her new company, but weather will always be a big part of her life, and she will continue to pursue that passion by chasing storms and enjoying the weather around her with her husband and two sons (now 7 and 4). Although, if the right opportunity came by....



A Look at Weather History: January 18, 1960

Anthony Stender

The 1959 – 1960 basketball season was the last one for the Minneapolis Lakers. It was a season of struggles, which was amplified by an owner who had mounting bills and wanted to play in a new arena. However, it almost proved to be the last season for the Lakers franchise, period.

On January 18, 1960, the Lakers played a Sunday afternoon game in Saint Louis against the Hawks and lost 135 – 119. As soon as the game was finished, the players packed their bags and headed to the airport for the two-hour flight back to Minneapolis aboard the team’s rickety DC-3. By 5:30, the team was at the airport, but their flight home was delayed due to a snowstorm that had moved into the Midwest. Their flight was also delayed due to problems with the plane’s generator. Around 8:30, the team was finally off the ground and Minnesota bound.

Ten minutes into the flight, the generator failed again. As a result, the plane lost all lights, heat, navigation, and the radio. Without the use of the radio, it would have been difficult to return to Saint Louis to land. Numerous flights were already parked above Saint Louis waiting for their turn to land in the storm. So instead, the pilot decided to fly above the storm and to follow the stars back to Minneapolis. Quite regularly, some of the players would go up front to the cabin and talk with the pilots or take a turn at flying the plane, but the mood was much more serious on this flight. The fact that one of the players, Jimmy Krebs, had recently been warned that the plane would crash by his Ouija board didn’t help matters either.

After three and a half hours into the usual two-hour flight, the storm continued. Ice had formed on the wings, the windows, and inside the cabin. More importantly, the plane was running low on fuel. One of the pilots opened the cockpit window in order to clear the windshield of ice while the other used a flashlight to watch the instruments. At this point, the pilots decided to find any airstrip or cornfield to land on. After buzzing the town of Carroll, Iowa, avoiding power lines, and finding no airfield, the pilots spotted a cornfield where they were able to make a smooth landing in three feet of snow cover.

Eventually, there was a knock on the outside of the plane, and several locals were waiting with vehicles to rescue the passengers. Everyone simply had to walk a mile through waist-deep snow to the nearest road. Once they made it to the road, the players realized that the local undertaker was a member of the rescue party, and he had driven to the scene in his hearse. For the moment, everyone was simply happy to be safe and back on the ground, no matter the transportation required to make it to the nearest hotel.

Sources: Lazenby, Roland. *The Lakers: A basketball journey*, St. Martin’s Press, 1993.
Murphy, G.K., *Fatal air transport accidents involving athletic teams from the United States*.
J. For. Sci. 1997, 42: 74-78.



Minutes of the December 12, 2006, Submitted by Lori Bovitz

The December meeting of the Twin Cities chapter of the American Meteorological Society was held on December 12, 2006. The meeting was held at WCCO studios in Minneapolis. No meeting was held so that the members in attendance could get right to the tour hosted by Paul Douglas. President Chris Bovitz and Secretary/Treasurer Lori Bovitz were in attendance along with about 20 other members.

Paul Douglas took us on a tour of the studios. The tour included the weather studio where the weather shows are produced along with the general television studios. Paul provided a demonstration of the software they use to create the weather shows and the software they use during severe weather outbreaks. He also demonstrated his MyCast products available through Digital Cyclone.

During the tour, Don Shelby, a news anchor at WCCO, joined the group to discuss the current state of global warming with the group. After the discussion, the tour wound up with a tour of the remainder of the studio along with the rooftop studio. At the rooftop studio, members were able to get a nice view of downtown Minneapolis.

Upcoming AMS Chapter Meetings and Other Events

Date & Time	Event	Location
2006-2007 Chapter Year		
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

Parking is becoming a bit tight and expensive at St. Thomas. Please try to find street parking first – although that may be fairly difficult. I can usually find a spot either on Summit avenue or on Goodrich avenue, two blocks south. We do have some parking permits, though, that we can give you (no charge to you) in case you can't find anything close by.

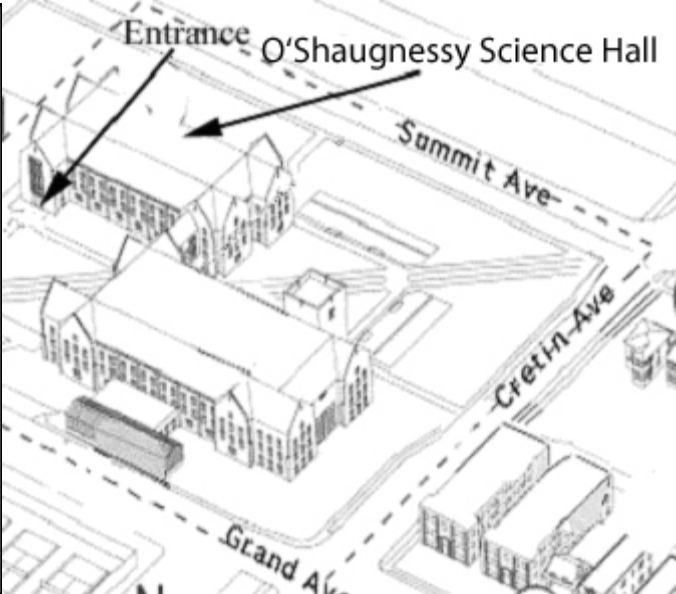
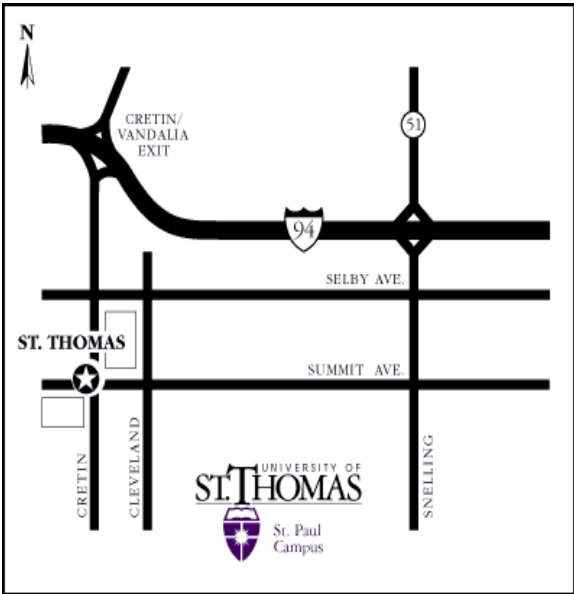


AMS on the WWW

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

The January meeting will be held at 7pm, on Tuesday, January 16 at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul. The meeting will be held in room 227 in the west wing of O'Shaughnessy Science Hall

Directions: Take Interstate Highway **94** to the **Cretin** Avenue exit. Then go south on Cretin for about one mile to **Summit** Avenue. O'Shaughnessy Science Hall is located at the southwest corner of Summit and Cretin Avenues (see maps). Please try to park either on Summit Avenue or on Goodrich Avenue (two blocks south of Summit); we have a limited number of parking permits available. Either Kurt Scholz or Doug Dokken will be there to give you a parking pass. The entrance of O'Shaughnessy Science Hall closest to our meeting is through the double doors, which are labeled as "**Entrance**" by the arrow on the map on the right below. Go inside, take a left into the stairway, then go up to the second floor. Enter the second floor and turn left. Continue all the way down the hall to **room 227**.



Please fill out this form and mail it in with your annual Chapter dues (\$20 regular, \$6 student). 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:

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Arden Hills MN 55112-3644

