

July 2007 "Newsletter" of the Twin Cities AMS

Recently the officers had their annual planning meeting, and below are the results of much of what we discussed. If there's anything you'd like to include, please send it to me. Regular newsletters (no quotation marks) will resume in September.

Meeting schedule

Below is the tentative schedule of meetings. Unlike last year, we will try to vary the nights of the meeting between Tuesday and Thursday on the third week of the month. Months marked with an asterisk (*) will have their meetings on the second week of the month.

- September - Twister Sisters (WFO)
- October* - NOHRSC gamma snow survey (Flying Cloud Airport)
- November* - Former WFO forecaster's take on the Rogers Tornado report (WFO)
- December* - visit to KSTP
- January - Life aboard a NOAA Corps ship (WFO)
- February - open
- March - Jim Gilbert: Climate and plants (Arboretum)
- April - St. Cloud State senior thesis presentations (SCSU)
- May - Picnic/recap/planning (WFO)

We have a few feelers out there to fill in the missing month. Unless something comes up that we don't know about now, we won't have a big-name speaker. Keep your eyes and ears open and let us know if you know of something or someone coming to town.

Newsletters

Due to increasing costs in sending out the printed newsletters, and the capability of electronic delivery, it was decided by the officers to give a \$2 discount on regular membership dues for e-mail only delivery of the newsletter (\$1 discount for students). That means regular memberships are \$18, and student memberships are \$5, but again, only for e-mail only delivery of the newsletter. With postal rates rising, we feel this is something we need to do, especially in a time when lower-cost alternative means exist.

Speaking of newsletters, we're trying to get more of the newsletters of the near- and distant past on our web site. If you have electronic copies of them (or know who does), please let the webmaster know (webmaster@twincitiesams.org). It's okay if they're not PDFs.

Dues

For easier payment, we will look into setting up a PayPal account. It won't be seamless with the membership form, but it'll bring us further into the 21st century. Don't worry, if you still want to (or need to) pay in cash or with a check, you can still do that, too.

Except as mentioned above, dues will remain at \$20 for regular members and \$6 for student members.

Member page

This year, we are going to spiff up our member page. In other news, we have a member page, which currently lists just the names of our members. I'd like to have that include other information such as city and state in which they live, occupation, contact information, and a small picture of no more than 200 pixels on a side. (Please, keep it clean; the pictures will be screened.) As before, if you don't want any (or all) of your information on the page, that's fine; just let us know.

Upcoming outreach opportunities

- NWS booth at the State Fair (August 23 to September 3)
- Northern Plains Winter Storm Workshop (October)
- Minnesota Skywarn Workshop (early spring)

If you know of more, let us know. If you'd like to work at any of these, let me or one of the officers know.

Poster committee

Lisa Schmit will be the head of the poster committee. This poster will be presented at the national AMS meeting in January. We need volunteers for this to not only help put it together, but for ideas and pictures. So, if you'd like to help in any way, by composing it or by sending in pictures for it, let Lisa know by sending an e-mail to her at poster@twincitiesams.org.

The DataStreme Project

We're fortunate that Lisa Schmit is also a mentor for the DataStreme Project. This project helps to educate high school teachers about weather and meteorology, and it doesn't take as much time as you think it does. With much weather information on-line, all you need to do is be a human resource for the teacher (who would be your student). If you'd like to get involved locally, e-mail Lisa at datastreme@twincitiesams.org. For more information on the project, visit <http://ametsoc.org/dstreme>.

Photo contest

This year we will have a photo contest! Since we are a meteorological organization in Minnesota, the theme will be "Minnesota Weather". Pictures can range from a tornadic supercell in the Red River Valley to strong waves on Lake Superior to snow drifts. We know that it's nearly impossible to verify the location where the picture was taken, or even that you took the picture, so we're going to use the honor system here. This contest is open only to Twin Cities AMS members, and there is a two-picture limit per entrant.

First prize will be \$25 Best Buy gift certificate plus your dues back (we're not kicking you out; you just get free membership this year). Two runners up will get free membership. All three top-placing pictures will have their pictures featured on our home page all year (with their permission, of course). The photographer will retain rights to their pictures. More information will be coming later.

Sign-off

That's all for now! Stay cool!