

June 2007 "Newsletter" of the Twin Cities AMS

Hi. No, this isn't an official newsletter. I thought I'd keep you up to date on what's going on in the chapter during the summer break. I can't promise this will be as good as the official newsletters, but I hope you'll find it informative.

May meeting minutes

The May 2007 meeting of the Twin Cities AMS was called to order at 7:40 p.m. in the conference room of the Twin Cities WFO by president Chris Bovitz. Preceding the meeting was a picnic dinner. There were about 12 attendees.

The treasurer's report: The checkbook balance at the last meeting was \$672.89. Expenses were \$409.45. The balance is \$263.44.

Winners of the temperature contest were announced:

Snowfall: measured: 48.2 inches, guess by Robert Gwilt: 48.0 inches

Temperature: measured: -17°F, guessed by Matt Friedlein and Bevan Glynn.

Tiebreaker was the maximum temperature (66°F): Friedlein guessed 65; Glynn guessed 61.

There was no speaker, and the business discussed related to the activities and direction of the chapter during the past year and what we plan to do next year:

- The increase in membership was noticed, from about 40 to 53, which is probably the greatest number of members we've had.
- Our chapter is the only AMS one in Minnesota. It was suggested that we reach out to the weather communities in Mankato and Rochester.
- Member Lisa Schmit will likely attend the National AMS meeting next January in New Orleans. She suggested we get a poster made, and since she will go, depending on funding, she can present it. She will head up the poster committee.
- If we bring in a prominent speaker to present a talk to our chapter, we should ensure that we will get many attendees.
- For next year's science fairs, the presenters should have weather radio prizes with them, so when they find an exhibit deserving of an award from our chapter, the prize can be given there. There were also a number of certificates given for the national AMS.
- It was suggested varying the days of the meetings to attract a different part of the membership. We could take basic attendance numbers. It would probably help if the speaker schedule were set. A survey could be put into the newsletter.
- Being part of an open house, either with a public (NWS) or private company, might give us needed exposure.
- We could have a photo contest, open to AMS members only. A prize would be related to photography, such as a gift certificate to a photography store.
- After Labor Day and before the September meeting, a concerted effort will be made to reach out to the weather community and let them know of our existence and schedule. This will include past members, and we can ask them why they have not been a part of the chapter recently.
- Dinner meetings were remembered as good events; we'll try them again in the future.
- We will ask the appropriate people at the WFO and the RFC if they could put a link to our web site on theirs. When we have meetings or events coming up, we will ask them to put an announcement in their headlines.
- On our web site, a new and improved member page will be created, with member pictures and biographies.
- Member Craig Edwards noted that we are working with a different generation. The older generation were more community oriented, and the later generation is more like "what's in it for me?" To get new, younger members, we need to emphasize this facet of membership, specifically, the networking component.
- Kevin Hyuck gave his results so far of finding speakers for next year. These speakers and dates are not set in stone yet:
 - September: Twister Sisters, storm chasers
 - October: Jim Gilbert, climate and plants
 - November: Rich Naistat, the Department of Commerce inspector general report about the Rogers tornado
 - December: Visit to KSTP
 - April: St. Cloud State senior theses
- Another idea for a speaker was a multi-tiered talk: A case study of a storm from the perspective of forecaster, TV weathercaster, and someone from a private company such as an electric utility or as public works.
- Doug Dokken mentioned a letter he received from the Science Museum regarding a proposal called "Partnerships Advancing Community Engagement" in Science (PACES). It's a way for community-based service organizations (CSBO) to collaborate with each other. Dokken and Kurt Scholz will write a proposal.

Adjournment was at 9:10 p.m.

Poster committee

As was discussed at the meeting, we are going to do a poster for the next National AMS meeting. It needs to be ready by November, so that should be plenty of time to put something together for meeting in January. If you're interested in helping, e-mail Lisa Schmit at poster@twincitiesams.org. Lisa has also volunteered to bring the poster to the national meeting, which she was planning on attending anyway.

Ideas for speakers

Some of our better speakers have come from our members, either members speaking or members recommending other speakers. If you have any ideas, please send them to speakers@twincitiesams.org. If you know of someone in your organization who has some interesting ideas about weather or how to apply weather information, let us know! Don't keep the secret to yourself!

Movin' on, movin' up, movin' out

Arden Berge, meteorologist-in-charge at the Twin Cities Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU), has received a bronze medal for his contributions to a meteorological training tool used by all the CWSUs.

Former Twin Cities WFO science and operations officer Rich Naistat recently retired from the NWS, and he has had a couple media interviews. You may hear him on Minnesota Public Radio's Jet Streaming podcast at http://download.publicradio.org/podcast/minnesota/podcasts/jet_streaming (it's the May 24, 2007, show) and read an interview with him in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* at <http://www.startribune.com/blogs/airmass>.

Upcoming events

The NWS will have a booth at the 2007 Minnesota State Fair in the Education Building. If you would like to volunteer to staff a shift at the booth, let me know.