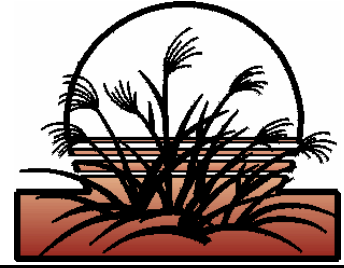




**NEWSLETTER  
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER  
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
February, 2008 Vol. 29 No. 6**



**Dinner will be around 6:00 pm at Casper's Cherokee Sirloin Room, 4625 Nicols Rd, Eagan, MN. The meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM February 12, 2008. 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: Mark Davidson, Spokesman for the Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

*Topic: Support by the Corps of Engineers in the I-35 bridge collapse.*

***President's Corner: Chris Bovitz***

Well, it looks like we have an old-fashioned winter on our hands.

We're deep into science fair season. If you have a day where you can help out, please consider doing so. Remember when you were in middle school, and you liked the weather so much, but there really wasn't anyone there to encourage you or to help you along? Why not be that person to these kids and show them that there are others out there who love what they love. If you're interested in donating a few hours of your time to judge at a science fair, contact Karen at [sciencefair@twincitiesams.org](mailto:sciencefair@twincitiesams.org). I have the weather radios we're going to give as awards. Be sure you get one from me if you are going.



[www.windows.ucar.edu/.../ucar\\_snowflake2\\_sm.jpg](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/.../ucar_snowflake2_sm.jpg)

Thanks again to Lisa for doing a great job on the poster for the national AMS meeting. If you'd like to see it, visit our web site and follow the links. If you'd like to borrow the poster for some event that the AMS should be represented at, please contact me. We have a big (4 ft x 8 ft) poster that was presented at the AMS annual meeting and a smaller one (approx 2 ft x 4 ft) that is a proof copy used at the Government on Display in January. Both are fine for display.

And, as always, if you know of people who might like to join our group, tell them! If you have ideas for speakers, pass them on to me. I am always thinking of next year's schedule, so if there is someone you know, a speaker whose availability is limited, let me know now so I can fit them in.

And finally, to extend a metaphor from the last meeting, this chapter is our boat. The officers are at the helm. It's the members who pull on the oars. I realize we're all busy. But even those of us with kids and jobs and a full slate of things to do can usually find a couple of hours here and there to help out. Many hands make light work.

Details about the February Meeting:

We will be having our February meeting at Casper's Cherokee Sirloin Room in Eagan (web site: [cherokeesirloinroom.com](http://cherokeesirloinroom.com)). This will be a typical dinner meeting: Arrive by 6pm for dinner, 7pm for the meeting. Since we're a group, we will order from their banquet menu, which you can see by going to our web site, clicking on "Links" and finding the obvious entry (at the top of the page). We will be using items from **Category B**. So, when you call (952 469-6425) or e-mail ([president@twincitiesams.org](mailto:president@twincitiesams.org)) me, I need the following bits of information from you: 1) Your name, 2) If you will be coming to the dinner or meeting or both, 2) How many (including you) are coming, and 4) if you are coming to dinner, which entree of **Category B** will you (and your party) be having (you each can have something different).



### *Movin' On, Movin' Up, Movin' Out*

If you've heard some news about a member, send it to Kurt ([newsletter@twincitiesams.org](mailto:newsletter@twincitiesams.org)).

If you have big changes in your personal or professional life you would like to announce to the chapter, please send a summary to [newsletter@twincitiesams.org](mailto:newsletter@twincitiesams.org).

### **Member Sign-up and the Member Page**

This year, we have a new and improved [member application page](#) to support our new [member page](#) mentioned above. You can fill out the page on-line and send the information to the secretary/treasurer, or you can print it out and send it in, too. Either way, we need your dues, dependent on how you want your newsletter delivered.

As mentioned in the Corner, we're going to have a list on the web of our members. You can see it at <http://twincitiesams.org/members.html>. This will be a list that the public will see, so if there's something you don't want to be seen, denote that when you fill out the membership form. I know that web spiders are out there and can pull e-mail addresses out of web pages. To fix that, I will make e-mail addresses images, making them harder to see by these web-page-searching programs. And if you don't want any information of yours listed, let us know.



### *Minutes of the January, 2008 Meeting*

The January 2008 meeting of the Twin Cities AMS was called to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Twin Cities WFO by president Chris Bovitz. Introductions were made among the dozen or so members and potential members present. Bovitz read an account written by member Karen Trammell of the December meeting at KSTP-TV. In the treasurer's report, Bovitz said our balance was about \$883 after expenses of \$44 and incomes (dues) of \$222 since the November meeting, when the balance was \$705.

Lisa Schmit displayed a printed proof of the poster from the poster committee which she will be presenting at the national AMS meeting. It was received well by the membership in attendance, but the cost of the poster was greater than expected. It was suggested and agreed by the members there that we display the poster at the upcoming Government Expo at the Mall of America and possibly at the Metro Skywarn workshop in April. Bovitz will look into the cost of a booth or a sponsorship, similar in cost to what we did last year.

We will need another newsletter editor next year, as the current editor, Kurt Sholz, will need to devote time to being chair of the math department at the University of St. Thomas. No one expressed interest at the meeting.

Bovitz mentioned the upcoming science fairs at which we typically judge. He mentioned that if anyone wanted to volunteer to contact Karen Trammell. Our new traditional award is a weather radio; judges should contact Bovitz to acquire one.

The speaker for the night was Bill Sites, hydrotech at the North Central River Forecast Center. His presentation was about his career aboard a NOAA Corps ships. He spent 23 years in the Corps on 10 assignments, starting in 1982, with breaks. NOAA Corps is the seventh uniformed service of the U.S., and they have a hierarchical structure similar to the Navy. The people who work in the Corps are naval officers who work with all components of NOAA and other related government and private entities in research efforts. Sites spoke of many adventures and missions he was on, from working in the Caribbean installing tide gauges to counting dolphins and whales in the eastern Pacific. He also spoke of life aboard a ship, about the shifts, the meals, and the camaraderie which comes about for spending so much time aboard a ship. He quizzed the crowd about nautical terms and showed some examples of night-time navigation.

### *Upcoming AMS Chapter Meetings and Other Events*

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>2007-2008 Chapter Year</b>		
February 12 7:00 p.m.	February meeting Speaker: Mark Davidson, St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Topic: Support by the Corps of Engineers in the I-35 bridge collapse	<a href="#">Caspers' Cherokee Steak Room</a> Eagan
Friday, February 15	Twin Cities Regional Science and Engineering Fair	Field House, University of Minnesota
Saturday, February 16	South Central/Southwest Minnesota Regional Science and Engineering Fair Junior/Senior High level	Minnesota State University, Mankato <a href="#">info</a>
Tuesday, March 18 7:00 p.m.	March meeting Speaker: Julie Westerlund, Education Coordinator, <a href="#">Minnehaha Creek Watershed District</a> Topic: Implications of climate change on stormwater management	<a href="#">Minnehaha Creek Watershed District</a> Deephaven, MN <a href="#">(map)</a>
Saturday, April 5	Twin Cities Skywarn workshop	<a href="#">St. Thomas University</a> St. Paul, MN
Thursday, April 17 7:00 pm	April meeting Speakers: Seniors at St. Cloud State University Topics: Their senior theses	<a href="#">St. Cloud State University</a> St. Cloud, MN
Saturday, May 3	South Central/Southwest Minnesota Regional Science and Engineering Fair Elementary level	Minnesota State University, Mankato <a href="#">info</a>
Tuesday, May 20 6:00pm	May meeting Picnic, recap of the year, elections, and planning for next year	<a href="#">Twin Cities WFO</a> Chanhassen, MN <a href="#">(map)</a>



## *A Look at Weather History: February 3, 1959*

Anthony Stender

Two significant airplane accidents occurred on February 3, 1959, and the weather played a role in each of them. The first accident involved an Electra plane on its way from Chicago to New York City. The weather conditions at La Guardia Airport were poor, and the flight crew had little experience operating this new type of aircraft. The flight crew decided to attempt a landing anyway. As a result, the aircraft landed in the East River, and 65 of the 73 people on board died. At the time of the accident, this plane crash grabbed most of the headlines. Today, however, most people only remember the second plane crash, in which four people died en route to Fargo.

In early 1959, Buddy Holly was touring across the upper Midwest with his new backup band and several other performers. The group of performers had been traveling by bus, but the bus was poorly heated, so Buddy Holly decided to charter a small plane to take him and his backup band from Mason City, Iowa to Fargo. In the end, Buddy's backup band didn't go with him on the flight. One member of the band was in the hospital for frostbite, another member lost a coin flip to Ritchie Valens, and the third, Waylon Jennings, offered his seat to the ill Big Bopper.

As early as 5:30 pm, the pilot for the flight began to check the weather conditions in advance of the flight. Light snow was reported in parts of the flight path during the evening, and a cold frontal passage was expected at Fargo sometime after midnight. At Mason City, the ceiling was lowering slowly, the winds remained reasonably strong out of the southwest, and snow began to fall before midnight. At 11:55 pm, the pilot made one last visit to the airport weather office before heading to his aircraft. Only a few minutes earlier, at 11:35, the U.S. Weather Bureau had put out two flash advisories, indicating poor flying weather across the region for at least the next five hours. However, this information was probably not passed onto the young pilot. The pilot also lacked experience with the new instrumentation in the plane he was flying that night.

As the pilot was taxiing the plane, he asked for one last weather update, and he was informed that little had changed, except the local ceiling had dropped down to 3,000 feet. The plane took off shortly before 1 am and crashed less than ten minutes later, leading to the death of all four passengers.

### *AMS on the WWW*

Please check <http://www.twincitiesams.org> for lots of interesting information, changes and updates.

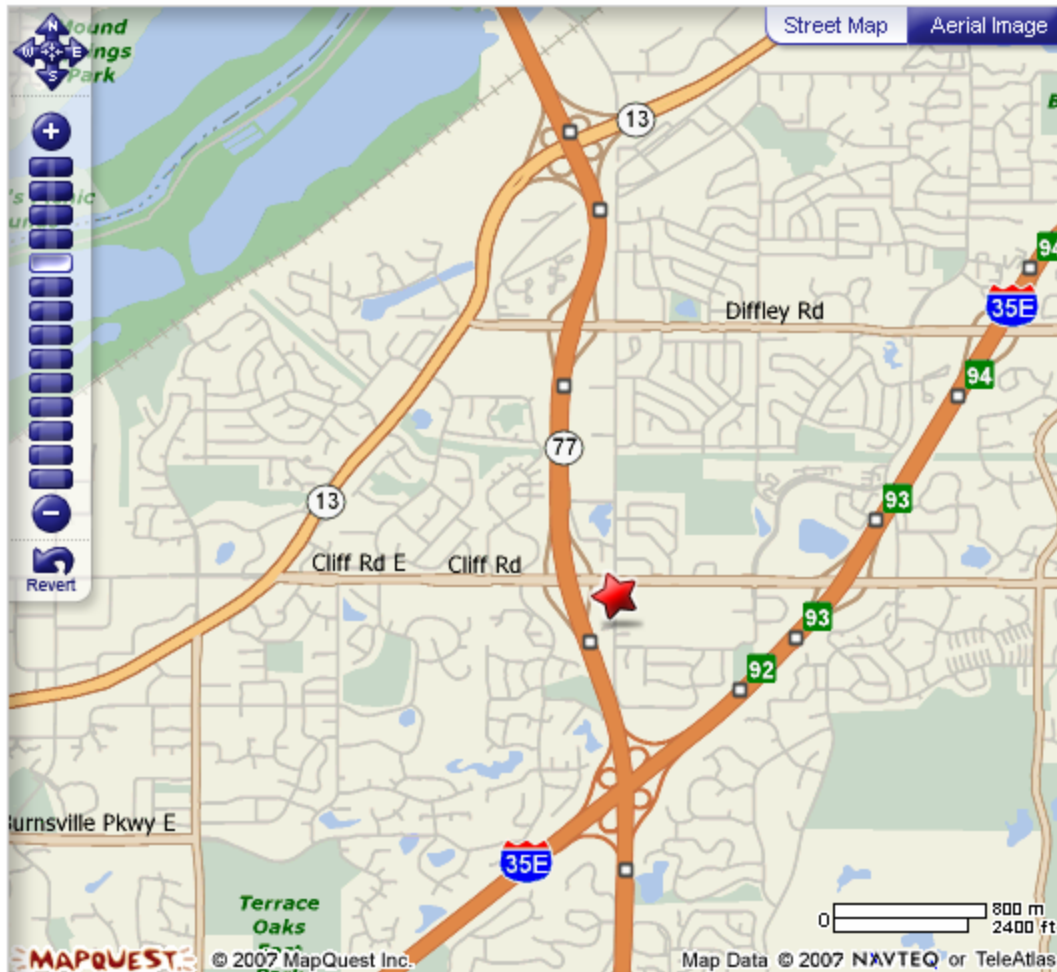
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Meteorological Society**

Celebrating our 60th year!



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The February meeting will be held at 7pm, on February 12th, 2008, [Caspers' Cherokee Sirloin Room](#) 4625 Nicols Road, Eagan. Dinner to precede at 6pm.



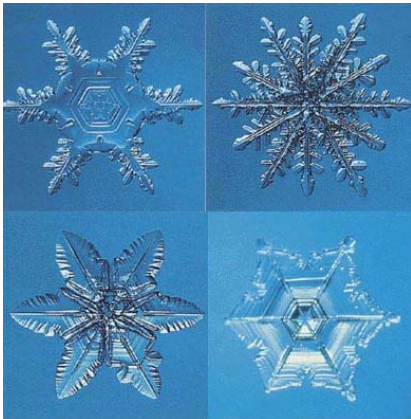
### Directions

**From the East:** I-35E south. Exit Cliff Road/CR 32 (Exit 93). Turn left on Nicols Road.

**From the West:** MN-5 eastbound, merge with I-494 east. South on MN-77 /Cedar exit 2C. Exit at Cliff Rd/CR32. Turn right on Nicols.

**From the North:** MN-280 to I-94 west To I-35W southbound to I-494 east. South on MN-77/Cedar exit 2C. Exit at Cliff Rd/CR32. Turn right on Nicols.

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



[http://www.calstatela.edu/faculty/acolvil/  
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