

Summer 2008 Newsletter of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS

Hey, I'll bet you thought you could make it through the summer without a note from me, eh? Guess again.

Officer Elections

In case you haven't been following along at home, at the May meeting the officers for the 2008-09 chapter year were elected. They are:

(Still) President: Chris Bovitz

(Still) Vice President: Lisa Schmit

Secretary/Treasurer: Bryan Howell (new!)

Newsletter Editor: Karen Trammell (new!)

I am pleased that Lisa will remain the chapter DataStreme coordinator and head of the poster committee, and Karen will continue her duties as science fair coordinator. And thanks to Bryan for his desire to be an officer!

Introducing Your Officers

As some of you are already aware, I am **Chris Bovitz**, your president (safe, reliable, courteous). This is my third term as president; before that, I was the secretary/treasurer of the chapter for two years. Most days I spend working at the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC) in Chanhassen. There, my time is divided between thinking about meteorology (specifically, how it relates to snowpack accumulation and ablation), system administration, database administration, and computer programming. Before returning to Minnesota, I worked at the West Gulf River Forecast Center in Fort Worth, Texas. My interest in weather goes as far back as I can remember, but, living up on the Iron Range of northeastern Minnesota, there are few opportunities to explore that interest. It took until graduate school (where I earned a master's in atmospheric science) to finally formalize my hobby into a career. I love all kinds of weather, from severe clear conditions to severe weather and snowstorms (as long as no one got hurt), and I have acquired an ear for 1050 Hertz (you know what I mean). When I'm not working, I enjoy watching the weather (natch), rollerblading, bicycling, taekwondo, and spending time with my family (not necessarily in that order).

Lisa Schmit has been a forecaster at the National Weather Service in Chanhassen since the fall of 2005. Prior to coming to MPX, she was a forecaster at the weather forecast office in Pleasant Hill and at the Aviation Weather Center in Kansas City. Lisa was a "Cyclone" at Iowa State University until 2001, when she graduated with a B.S. in atmospheric science. Lisa is currently pursuing her Master's in Management at the University of St. Scholastica in St. Paul. In addition to weather, Lisa's hobbies include spending time with her daughter Sidney and her husband Rick. As a Minnesota native, she also enjoys cheering on the Twins, Vikings, and Wild, and playing golf and softball.

Hi! I am **Karen Trammell**, new editor of the Twin Cities AMS newsletter. At least forty hours of my week are spent as a Forecaster at the NWS office in Chanhassen, a position that I have held since February 2005. Prior to moving to Minnesota, I spent almost five years at the NWS office in Norman, Oklahoma, four years as a student intern, and another nine months as a meteorologist intern. I earned a B.S. and an M.S. in meteorology, as well as a minor in mathematics, from the University of Oklahoma during my time in Norman, which, as one might expect, officially trended my main professional focus toward severe thunderstorm forecasting. I have been interested in the weather since a very young age, 6 to be exact, as growing up in the Texas Panhandle made paying attention to the weather, especially during the spring, quite essential. It was at that age that I decided that tornadoes were "cool," and I made it a goal to study them when I was old enough. I was in an F4 tornado when I was 11, which only served to solidify this goal. I am still as weather obsessed as I was at that young age, and it shows; I even named my dog Radar, and my first-born daughter will be named Camille, after the hurricane (and if I happen to have a son at some point, he'll be named Andrew). Outside of the weather, I have many interests, the biggest of which is sports, especially football. An interesting fact, I have attended 3 of the 4 BCS college football games, cheering on my Sooners. The only one left on my list is the Orange Bowl.

Bryan Howell originally comes from the Chicagoland area and relocated to the Twin Cities after graduating from Valparaiso University in May '07. He first worked for the WeatherEye Radio Network before moving over to DTN/Meteorlogix in December of 2007, where he is responsible for creating graphics and forecasting QPF. Bryan is no stranger to the AMS as he served as a Student Volunteer at the AMS National Convention in San Antonio and started the Valparaiso University Student AMS chapter and served as its first president. When not working, Bryan can be found at the NWS manning the Ham Radio desk during severe weather or out railfanning, where he combines his passion for trains with that of photography.

Meetings

We all know attendance at meetings has been, well, let's just say, it could be better. If you have ideas for improving attendance at meetings, please send them to the officers. As much as I enjoy seeing familiar faces at the meeting, they are the same ten or so faces. (No offense.) I know it's hard to make every meeting for whatever reason. I don't make every meeting. But I'd like to think we can make a couple of meetings a year. If it takes snacks, I'll bring snacks.

And if you know of someone or something worth hearing about or visiting, please let the officers know. Again, we only have access to our little slices of the meteorological pie.

The officers will meet in August to iron out the meeting schedule for the upcoming year. If you have any ideas, please send them (quickly!) to us at officers@twincitiesams.org.

Liaisons

A discussion point brought up at the meeting in May was the chapter could be a central location where other groups of people in other areas of weather could congregate and share ideas and trends in their weather industries with others. I think that among our membership we have people in a wide variety of activities and professions relating to meteorology: government, education, research, students, Skywarn, and media.

Therefore, to stay on top of trends and spread the word about us to professionals, I'd like to establish a liaison program. Local chapter members would be liaisons between our chapter and their particular slice of the meteorological community. For example, the media liaison could keep us abreast on what changes to the media market are coming down the pike, including (but not limited to) the certified broadcast meteorologist (CBM) program. Our government liaison would keep us updated on what is happening (mainly) with the National Weather Service (and vice versa). The Skywarn liaison could help us coordinate events with the Metro Skywarn people. The Education liaison would inform us as to trends in the education committee. And so on.

So we're looking for volunteers, and these duties really wouldn't take up much of your time. All that we're asking is to keep your ears and eyes open and let us know if you hear anything good, and, conversely, spread the word of the goodness which is our chapter to your group.

Member information

This year I would like to include member birthdays in the newsletter. In order for that to happen, you need to tell me your birthday. Month and day are fine; we don't need to know the year. Tell us when you re-up, and also let us know if any of your contact or biographical information has changed. You can use the Membership Application form on the website (visit <http://twincitiesams.org> and click on "Be a Member"). Also, if anything about you regarding the chapter has changed (job, home, etc.), please tell us. Help us keep costs down by only requesting a newsletter hardcopy if you really need one.

Also, I'd like to start two new programs that everyone can take part in:

Bring A Friend: At least once during the year, bring a friend to a meeting or other Twin Cities AMS event. I think all of us know at least one person who is interested in weather and might be interested in joining our group.

Tell Two Friends: Some time during the chapter year (preferably near the beginning), tell (at least) two friends about our chapter. Post a newsletter on a break room bulletin board, e-mail the newsletter (or web site address) to someone (or everyone) in your work group, or post about us on your weather-related mailing list or weather forum.

New blood brings new ideas and keeps our chapter thriving.

And speaking of birthdays...

September marks our 60th birthday. Yes, there will be cake. Details are forthcoming.

Chris