



# American Meteorological Society Wright Memorial Chapter

MARCH 2006

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*If you have an idea for an article or the Notes section of the newsletter, please submit it to Mary Bedrick, Secretary for inclusion in the next newsletter.*

*(mary.bedrick@wpafb.af.mil)*

## Letter from the President

March 2006

Wright-Memorial Chapter AMSers –

In the confusion of getting the audiovisual equipment to operate during the meeting last week, I forgot to bring up one important piece of information: chapter officer nominations. The Chapter's Constitution states in Article 6 (Meeting and Elections), Section 5 that "One annual business meeting shall be held for the purpose of electing officers. The nominating subcommittee, which will be chosen by the executive committee, shall prepare a slate of nominees for presentation at the April meeting." So, we need to nominate a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer to lead the chapter next year. Article 5 (Officers) of the Chapter's Constitution outlines some details and requirements for officers:

- Section 2. All Elective Officers and candidates for office must hold active membership in the Chapter.
- Section 3. Elected officers shall hold office for one year unless they resign or are removed by the membership.
- Section 4. The Elective Officers shall not succeed themselves in the same office.
- Section 5. The Elective Officers shall be elected during the May business meeting by the majority of active members of the Chapter.
- Section 6. The Elective Officers and the Past President of the Chapter shall comprise the executive committee.

Based on this information, we will need the nominations submitted in time for the next meeting. Please consider running for a chapter office, or feel free to nominate someone who you feel would be a good candidate. Please email any of the current chapter officers with your nominations.

I also propose that at the next meeting, we put up a change to revise the constitution such that 1. nominations do not need to be presented at the April meeting and 2. That an officer shall be able to hold an office for no more than 2 consecutive years. These items shall be voted on by the membership at the next meeting.

Karen Kowalewsky

President, Wright Memorial Chapter AMS

## Minutes from 9 March 2006 Meeting

AMS Wright Memorial Chapter meeting of 9 March 2006

Meeting of Chapter with Dr. Karen Kowalewsky, President.

9 March at #1 China Buffet, Wilmington, Ohio

### TechFest 2006

TechFest 2006 was a huge success. Many thanks to the volunteers who made the event possible.

### West District Science Day/ Miami Valley Science and Engineering Fair

The West District Science Day/ Miami Valley Science and Engineering Fair at Central State University will be held March 18. To sign up to judge, please go to

[http://www.centralstate.edu/academics/sciencefair/judges\\_f.html](http://www.centralstate.edu/academics/sciencefair/judges_f.html).

In addition to providing judges for the science fair, chapter members voted to provide two subscriptions to Weatherwise for prizes this year.

### Ohio State Severe Weather Symposium

Next month's formal chapter meeting has been cancelled. If you would like, a group of Wright Memorial Chapter members will be carpooling to the Ohio State Severe Weather Symposium, on April 7, 2006. Please contact Paul Gehred, [paul.gehred@wpafb.af.mil](mailto:paul.gehred@wpafb.af.mil), for more information.

Ohio State's meteorology club will present the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Severe Weather Symposium on Friday April 7, 2006 from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. The symposium will be held at the Fawcett Center at the Ohio State University. There is no cost for the symposium and it is open to the public.

More information about the Ohio State Severe Weather Symposium can be obtained at: <http://geog-www.sbs.ohio-state.edu/metclub/>

### Club financials

The club membership in attendance voted to pay for two Weatherwise subscriptions for prizes in the Miami Valley Science and Engineering Fair.

### Future meetings

The April meeting has been cancelled in lieu of attending the Ohio State Severe Weather Symposium.

### Long-time Cooperative Weather Observer

Mrs. Marie Knott presented an overview of the years of weather observing she and her husband, Tom, have been providing with her own sense of humor and spirituality.

Mr. Tom Knott enlisted in the Army prior to Pearl Harbor. Desiring a job as an airplane mechanic he was assigned to weather school. When he objected, he was told he could either be a cook or a weather man. He took the assignment and spent most of World War II in Labrador, Newfoundland, and Greenland. He returned to the states once to be trained on collecting radiosonde observations. For a period he was required to provide observations fairly frequently on a 24-h basis. It was

President Karen Kowalewsky introduces the evening's speaker.



only later that he found out these observations were used in the forecasts for the Battle of the Bulge.

After Mr. Knott's discharge in 1945, Mr. and Mrs. Knott lived in Georgetown for about 7 years before moving to Hillsboro, OH in 1952. In 1959, Lloyd Seidel approached Mr. Knott about taking over his duties as a Cooperative Weather Observer in Hillsboro in Highly County Ohio. Mr. Knot provided observations until his death in 1988, when Mrs. Knott took over the duties.

The weather station has been in the Knott family for 48 years.

Mrs. Knott discussed the equipment she uses, and how it has changed over the years; how the shelter thermometers were replaced with digital readouts. The manual rain gauge is the only piece of equipment that has been used all 48 years. All of the equipment used has been provided by the National Weather Service, except for one "illegal" piece of equipment: her hairdryer. She uses her hairdryer for melting snow and

ice accumulated in the rain gauge without losing a drop.

Mrs. Marie Knott provides an entertaining talk on her family's 48 years as cooperative weather observers.



Mrs. Knott related a story from the winter of 1977-78, when the snow was very deep. She had taken over making some observations as her husband got older. The snow got so deep she couldn't make it out to the shelter so her boss came to her house and dug a passage way through the snow so they could take some of the readings. There was so much snow accumulation it was like walking down a hallway.

Observations taken by Mrs. Knott are used for flood forecasting of the Ohio River and for historical records. Precipitation that falls at the Hillsboro station directly affects the Ohio River. Runoff empties into the Scioto River which in turn empties into the Ohio River. In 1988, Mrs. Knott received numerous phone calls from New York lawyers wanting to know if it had rained yet. It turns out that an insurance company had oversold draught insurance. She has also been called to testify in legal cases where weather played a big roll.

When asked to relate some of her best local weather stories, Mrs. Knott replied, "First I would like to say that we all have short-term memory. Especially about the weather. We don't remember just how bad it was. And that is a good thing."

She showed the record from January 25, 1978. There were 13 inches of

snow on the ground. The barometer was recorded at 28.50" Hg with her husband's the annotation of "hit pin, may have been lower". The 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> was listed as "severe blizzard. 26" snow on the ground."

Mrs. Knott shared images of the Blizzard of April 4, 1987, the Flood of 1965, The "Storm of the Century" of 1997, and the Ice Storm of 2004.

Mr. and Mrs. Knott have been providing weather observations for 48 years. The Hillsboro station has been providing observations since 1836 making it the third oldest weather station in the state of Ohio. Mrs. Knott keeps about the last 20 years of observations in her home, but they are all archived at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, NC.

When asked if she ever took a vacation, or thought of stopping, Mrs. Knott replied, "Vacation?", and "I plan on seeing a job to the end." Mrs. Knott's daily weather observation, history and trivia can be heard in the mornings on WVNU, 97.5, "sometime between the lost dog reports and the obits", which is sometime between 7:20 and 7:50 am.

### Attendees

Karen Kowalewsky, President  
Allison Schauer, Treasurer  
Marie Knott, Speaker  
Mike Haap  
Rick and Donna Staub

Paul Gehred, Vice President  
Mary Bedrick, Secretary  
John, Dorothy & family Turnbull  
Eric Sondergelt  
Jeff & Linda McLaughlin

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### March

18 March 2006 – West District Science Day/ Miami Valley Science and Engineering Fair at Central State University.

### April

7 April 2006 – Ohio State University Severe Weather Symposium, Fawcett Center, Ohio State University

### May

11 May 2006 – 6 pm – Last AMS meeting of 2005-06 year (location TBA)

## Forecast Contest

### March Contest

The 2006 Vernal Equinox (That's the start of spring) occurs at 126PM eastern time on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Predict the High temperature on March 20<sup>th</sup> for the following locations:

- 1) Yellow Springs OH (Will use Wright-Patterson)
- 2) Spring TX (Will use Houston TX)
- 3) Colorado Springs, CO
- 4) Palm Springs, CA
- 5) Coral Springs, FL (Will use Miami)

As a bonus, predict the total number of severe weather reports as reported by the Severe storms forecast center in Kansas City for the entire day.

See our website for more details (<http://www.ametsoc.org/chapters/wrightmem>)

*If you have any suggestions for the chapter or this newsletter, please forward them to the Secretary, Mary Bedrick ([mary.bedrick@wpafb.af.mil](mailto:mary.bedrick@wpafb.af.mil))*

and the official form. Send your forecasts to John Turnbull via mail (799 Spinning Rd. Dayton OH 45431) or via email to [john.turnbull@wpafb.af.mil](mailto:john.turnbull@wpafb.af.mil) by **March 15, 2006**.

## February's results

February's forecast contest called for a weather forecast at Wright-Patterson AFB on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Here is the verification information.

High Temp: 50  
Max wind speed: 15 knots  
Snowfall: 0

Low Temp: 34  
Water Equivalent: 0  
Severe storm reports: 0

## Place...points for month

Kevin Keefer	100
Gehred	87
Bedrick	74
Lane	61
J.Turnbull	48
Martin	35
Kowalewsky	22
Lehneis	9

## Year to date results

	TOTAL
Mary Bedrick	324
Paul Gehred	259
Jim Lane	221
John Turnbull	196
Jeff Martin	173
Greg Marx	124
Karen Kowalewsky	118
Kevin Keefer	100
Gary DesCombes	90
Kirk Lehneis	49
Nick Scurman	40
Allison Schauer	30
Dorothy Turnbull	24

### AMS – Wright Memorial Chapter

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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.ametsoc.org/chapters/wrightmem/index.html](http://www.ametsoc.org/chapters/wrightmem/index.html)



## Picture of the Month

Photograph by Mary Bedrick. Crepuscular Rays over Beaver Creek, OH. Afternoon of 13 March 2006.