AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Local Chapters Recognized at 2015 AMS Annual Meeting

Approximately 110 individuals representing 24 student chapters and 8 regular chapters attended the Local Chapter Officers' Breakfast on 6 January 2015 at the AMS Annual Meeting in Phoenix. Outgoing AMS President Bill Gail presented awards to the Chapter of the Year and Student Chapter of the Year. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all participants!



Blue Ridge
Chapter of the Year, 2013-2014

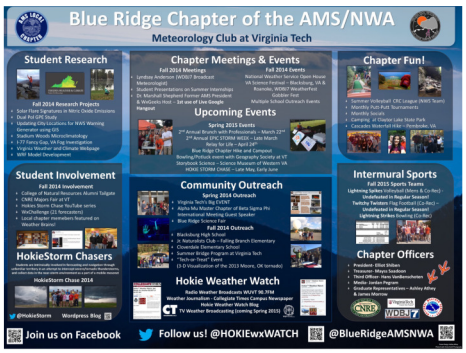


Southwest Pennsylvania
Student Chapter of the Year, 2013-2014

Chapter Honor Roll

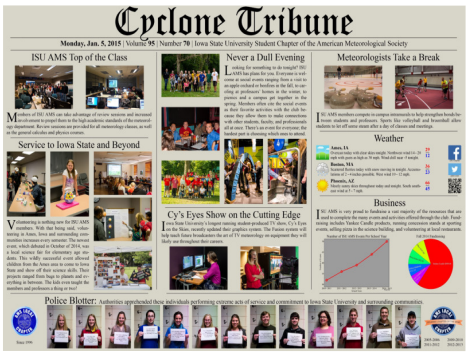
Iowa State University; Lyndon State College; North Florida; Northwest Indiana; University of Alabama - Huntsville; University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez; West Central Florida

Chapter Poster Winners



Regular Chapter
1st place - Blue Ridge
2nd place - West Central Florida
3rd place – Fort Collins Atmospheric Scientists

Student Chapter
1st place - Iowa State University
2nd place - Concord-Carlisle
3rd place - Lyndon State College



Chapter Happenings

Huntsville



The Huntsville chapter of the AMS had its last 2014 meeting just before the holidays. This was a very exciting meeting because it focused on community outreach, as well as the latest in lightning research. Members learned about volunteer opportunities to prepare for the 5th Rocket City Weather Fest, which will be held on February 21, 2015 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). They were presented with the opportunity to serve in several committees or to volunteer on the day of the event. Next, invited speaker Dr. Phillip Bitzer showed members the latest results from his research in lightning processes. This included answering basic questions about lightning, such as: What is a lightning flash? Are there different types of lightning? Does lightning go up or down? Fascinating lightning videos created at UAH, filmed at 60,000 frames per second, were shown and lightning-related processes were explored. Interesting observations from sensor data were shown, such as the change in the electric field during the preliminary breakdown process, and the distinctive signature in the electric field just before the return stroke. Finally, lightning sensors such as Dr. Bitzer's Huntsville Alabama Marx Meter Array (HAMMA) sensor, the Lightning Imaging Sensor (LIS), and the Geostationary Lightning Mapper (GLM) were discussed.

Michigan State University

A year after forming, the Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society at Michigan State University sent its officers to the Annual AMS Student Conference. One officer even presented her REU research there! The officers went to local chapter discussions and the Local Chapter officers' breakfast to gain insight on improving their newly established chapter. In addition to networking opportunities the Spartans spent much time planning for a successful upcoming semester at MSU. Just a few of the planned activities include possible events and outreach with nearby chapters, trips to more conferences, and touring the National Weather Service and local news stations. Good things are sure to come to Michigan State's chapter!



Chapter News Submission Reminder

This is a reminder that AMS is no longer posting Chapter News to the AMS Web site. As of September 2014, chapter news is being accepted in the Local Chapter Affairs Quarterly Newsletter and the new Chapter Channel Section of BAMS. For IMPORTANT information on the changes and examples of what should and should not be submitted, please see http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/chaptercommunications.html

Plymouth State University

During our fall semester, our chapter at Plymouth State completed our annual hike up Mount Washington. With a total hike length of ten miles, and over 4000 feet of elevation change, our members were challenged and tested on one of America's highest peaks. At the summit, the group was able to take photos and get a tour of the facilities at the observatory.



Shortly after the hike, the group participated in a fundraiser at New Hampshire Motor Speedway to raise money for the chapter. Members sold tickets for race weekend and scanned tickets before the race on Sunday. Some of our members were even able to meet some of the NASCAR drivers competing in the races that weekend. The club was able to raise over $1000 thanks to the speedway.

Rutgers University

The 2015 school year has been a successful one for Rutgers Meteorology chapter. A group of 12 members visited Penn State in November to check out their meteorology building and meet some of the staff. While in the area, we also were able to visit the National Weather Service and AccuWeather so our members got to see both sides of government and privately owned companies. While at AccuWeather different aspects of forecasting where talked about, so our members interested in computer programming/graphics, broadcasting, and general forecasting were able to talk to the people working in these areas. It was a great networking and overall learning experience for our members.

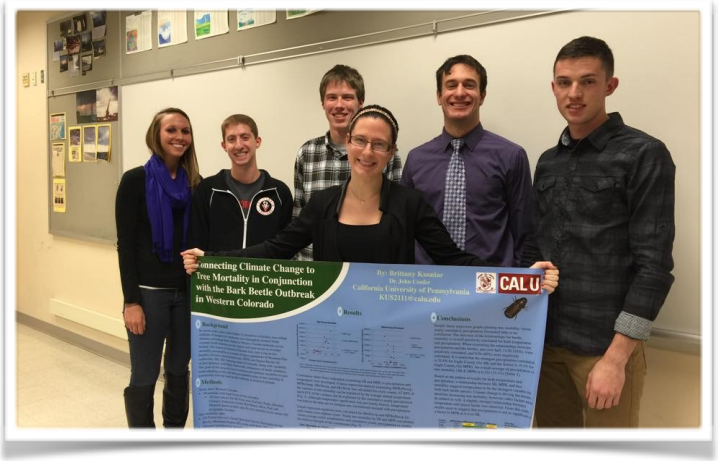


A couple of our members helped out with tours for local community groups throughout the semester. A Girl Scout troop, the American boy choir, and a middle group all came to tour our meteorology building and WeatherWatcher studio where our 3 time daily forecasts are recorded.

Local Chapter Town Hall Survey

The Local Chapter Affairs Committee would like to receive feedback on the Chapter Town Hall meetings that were held at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix. Please take a few minutes to complete their survey by **March 1.**

Southwest Pennsylvania



Students and faculty of the AMS Southwest Pennsylvania Chapter took part in our Second Annual Student Research Symposium on December 3, 2014. Students from our chapter are encouraged to use this time to present the research they have completed. Those presenting are able to gain practice for upcoming professional conferences and receive feedback from their peers and professors. This year a total of six students presented. Four upperclassmen presented their completed research and two freshmen presented a research proposal. Chapter president, Josh Gebauer, presented his research titled "Verification of the Bragg Scatter Algorithm on the WSR-88D". Social media coordinator, Ryan Lingo, presented research titled "EarthCube paleogeosciences C4P: Catalog Project". Chapter treasurer, Brittany Kusinar, presented her research titled "Connecting Climate Change to Tree Mortality in Conjunction with the Bark Beetle Outbreak in Western Colorado". Chapter member, Ryan Adams, also presented research, his being titled "Understanding the 2013 Boulder Flood: assessing extreme precipitation events and future climates in the Community Earth System Model (CESM)". The two research proposals were given by Adam Andresen, who presented "Nocturnal Tornado Climatology in Ohio", and Aaron Haegele, who presented "Synoptic Climatology of Philadelphia NWS Office CWA Winter Storms".

West Central Florida

The West Central Florida Chapter would like to invite you to participate in the biennial International Summit on Hurricanes and Climate Change. The Summit will be June 9-14, 2015 at Chania, Crete, Greece. The Summit's venue and schedule offer participants an unparalleled opportunity for stimulating discussions, planning, and in-depth interaction with scientists from all parts of the world.

For more logistical information (including information on Chania, Crete and travel to Greece), a list of invited speakers, and to register and submit an abstract, please see http://www.aegeanconferences.org/src/App/conferences/view/95

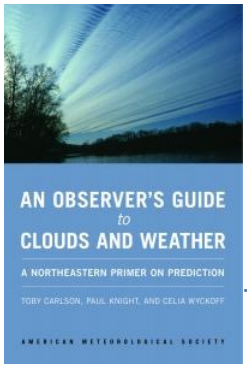
Please note that the cost of the registration includes the registration fee and material, 5 nights hotel accommodation at the Avra Imperial Hotel (Check in June 9 & Check out June 14), a city tour, coffee breaks, breakfasts, lunches and dinners (including a welcome and Gala dinner).

In order to encourage the participation of young scientists, the Aegean Conferences is offering student travel awards to offset a portion of the travel expenses to the Conference. The recipients of these awards will be selected based on the scientific merit of abstracts submitted by applicants.

We look forward to welcoming you in Chania for a scientifically stimulating and socially enjoyable meeting. Please don't hesitate to contact Rick Murnane (rickjmurnane@gmail.com), Jennifer Collins (collinsjm@usf.edu), Jim Elsner (jelsner@fsu.edu) of the organizing committee for more information.

New Release From AMS Books

An Observer's Guide to Clouds and Weather: A Northeastern Primer on Prediction



by Toby Carlson, Paul Knight, Celia Wykoff
© 2014, paperback
ISBN: 978-1-935704-58-4
List price: $30;
AMS Member price: $20
http://bookstore.ametsoc.org/

AMS recently released *An Observer's Guide to Clouds and Weather: A Northeastern Primer on Prediction* by Toby Carlson, Paul Knight, and Celia Wykoff. This primer, intended for both serious enthusiasts and new meteorology students, will leave you with both refined observation skills and an understanding of the complex science behind the weather: the ingredients for making reliable predictions of your own. It is currently possible to access the weather maps, satellite photographs, and radar displays and learn forecasts up to ten days or more in advance online. Available data are generated by powerful computers that use banks of differential equations and mounds of data to make their predictions. And yet knowing what the atmosphere has in store can be a much more simple, intimate, and rewarding experience: simply look at the sky.

This informative and accessible guide walks readers through the process of making weather predictions through understanding cloud types and sky formations. It connects fundamental meteorological concepts with the processes that shape weather patterns, and will make a potential expert of any dedicated student or reader. The book is available online through the AMS Bookstore at http://bookstore.ametsoc.org/catalog/book/observers-guide-clouds-and-weather.

Toby Carlson is Professor of Meteorology Emeritus at Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, Department of Meteorology.

Paul Knight is a Senior Lecturer in Meteorology at Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, Department of Meteorology, and producer and host of the show Weather World.

Celia Wykoff is a former editor for World Campus at Penn State.

National AMS Membership Video Contest — Deadline Extended

What does being a member of the national AMS mean to you? If you had two minutes to explain the best parts of being a national AMS member, what would you say? Now we're giving you the chance to show why you believe national AMS membership is worthwhile and beneficial to you!

Chapter members are invited to create their own video highlighting why they think national AMS membership is worthwhile. The best student chapter video and regular chapter video will be showcased on the AMS website. They will be used to help new members and those interested in joining the AMS understand the benefits that come along with national membership.

Rules and guidelines:

1. The objective is to showcase the benefits of AMS membership, specifically national society membership rather than involvement in a local chapter alone.
2. The winning videos (one from the Student Chapter Category, one from the Regular Chapter Category) will be featured on the national AMS website.
3. One or more person(s) can put the video together.
4. Videos may be no longer than 2 minutes.
5. More than one submission from each chapter is acceptable as long as the submissions are from different chapter members.
6. Upload your submission to YouTube or Vimeo and then forward the link to Kelly Savoie (ksavoie@ametsoc.org). Please reference your chapter name in the email.
7. Submissions are due by April 1, 2015.

Although only one video will be chosen as the winner from each category, other submissions or portions of submissions may be used in AMS promotional materials. The AMS encourages creativity in the submissions, but asks that videos remain appropriate for all audiences. Any submissions containing inappropriate material will not be shared or considered.

Got questions? Email Kelly Savoie (ksavoie@ametsoc.org).

News from AMS Headquarters

95th Annual Meeting Update



The 95th Annual Meeting was a terrific success. More than 3,300 people attended this year, with 2,600 presentations, workshops, and sessions. There were also 100 main hall exhibitors and 40 Weatherfest exhibitors. The new design of the Resource Center looked great and offered a more consistent look and feel. One of the highlights was the new AMS series, 23/5 Talks, presenting innovative and creative thinking in weather, water, and climate. The initial set of four presentations entertained a packed house of AMS attendees and the public at the Arizona Science Center. You can watch the talks on the AMS youTube Channel. In addition to these talks, BAMS Editor-in-Chief Jeff Rosenfeld interviewed several experts at the Annual Meeting. These interviews are also available for viewing through the AMS youTube Channel. The AMS thanks the hundreds of volunteers that helped make the meeting an outstanding event.

Chapter of the Year Award

The deadline for the local chapter of the year awards is 1 May 2015. Applications must be received by this date. Award applications and information may be found on the AMS Web site at http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/index.html#awards. For guidance on what the committee is looking for when judging for the award, please see http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/awardguidance.html.There is also a sample Chapter of the Year Application available at http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/LCAC%20COY_Sample.pdf

Science Fairs

Science fairs have already started and we want to remind you that "Certificates of Outstanding Achievement" are available through AMS Headquarters free-of-charge. If you would like to order certificates, please contact Katelyn Angland (kangland@ametsoc.org). We also encourage you to submit a summary of winners when the fairs have ended. The summary should be written in paragraph format and should include the name(s) of the fair winner(s), grade and school attended, project title, and award won. A summary of winners will be published in BAMS. Please send them electronically to Erica Callahan at (ecallahan@ametsoc.org).

Application Deadline



The February 6th deadline date for all AMS scholarship programs is fast approaching!!! Apply online now at http://www2.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/information-for/students/ams-scholarships-and-fellowships/ Questions? Contact Donna Fernandez at dfernandez@ametsoc.org or 617-226-3907.

News from AMS Headquarters

Publications Update

Did you know that peer review and production times hit all-time lows for AMS journals in 2014? Did you also know that color charges to authors in AMS journals were eliminated in April 2013? It is now faster and cheaper than ever to publish in the journals that are perennially among the top-impact publications in meteorology and related sciences. Consider this when publishing the results of your research. Have any questions? Please feel free to contact AMS Director of Publications at kheideman@ametsoc.org.

Local Chapter Public Outreach

As many of you probably heard at the AMS Annual Meeting, "community resilience" is a serious buzzword these days. The AMS Policy Program has been working on the issue of resilience to high-impact weather at the federal level for several years, but we would like to expand our work to resilience at the local level. The work you do on your campuses and in your communities is critical to building a resilient nation – a resilient nation is built upon the backs of its resilient communities.

We know that many of you are already doing incredibly important work to engage your communities in becoming weather-ready. We would like to start a dialogue between the AMS Policy Program and the Local Chapters about the work you do. What are you already doing to build resilience in your community? What would you like to do that you don't have the resources for? If you are not already engaged in the local community, what would get you interested?

This conversation may end up informing the development of a program for expanding the efforts of AMS Local Chapters to work as leaders in local communities, but it will depend on what we hear from you. We look forward to learning more about your interests and priorities. Contact Bill Hooke (hooke@ametsoc.org) or Ya'el Seid-Green (yseidgreen@ametsoc.org, 202-355-9821) and tell us what's up!

Local Chapter Mission

The AMS Local Chapter Affairs Committee serves as a link between local student and professional chapters and the national AMS. The committee exists in order to provide guidance and support in the mission of all local AMS chapters.

Committee Leadership

Kristy Carter, Chair
Elizabeth Smith, Chair-Elect
Kelly Savoie, AMS Liaison

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45 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108

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AMS Local Chapter Affairs

This newsletter is constructed by members of the American Meteorological Society's Local Chapter Affairs Committee in conjunction with AMS Headquarters. The LCAC meets at every AMS Annual Meeting to help foster the growth of the local chapters. E-mail the committee at:
amschaps@ametsoc.org