AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Chapter Happenings

Asheville

The Asheville chapter of the AMS had another successful community outreach event on February 23, 2015, co-sponsored with the student chapter at the University of North Carolina at Asheville (UNCA). The invited guest speaker, Dr. Marshall Shepherd, a former NASA scientist, AMS president and now a professor and TV host, gave a talk entitled: "Zombies, Cola, and Cereal: Implications for Communicating Weather and Climate", which drew nearly 90 attendees consisting of members from the Asheville local and student chapters, scientists and staff from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)-Asheville, Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites – North Carolina (CICS-NC), and U.S. Air Force's 14th Weather Squadron, professors, science teachers, and students from UNCA and local high schools, and the general public. Dr. Shepherd's dynamic presentation revealed existing zombies in representing facts about climate and weather concepts and inspired an active discussion on ways to communicate weather and climate information accurately and effectively.



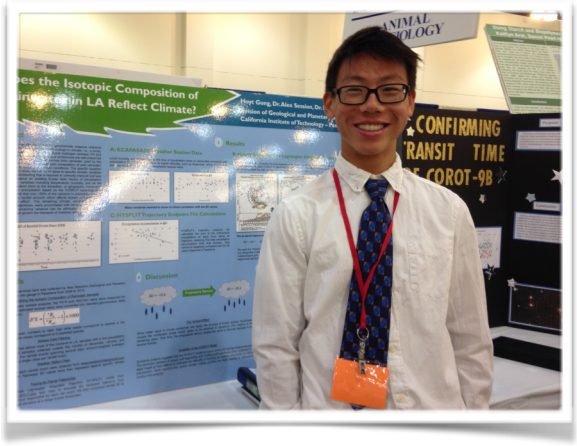
Cornell

The Cornell Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (CCAMS) has been busy this spring with many activities geared towards professional development and community outreach. Recently, members of the chapter presented an interactive workshop on the fundamentals of forecasting and weather instrumentation to a local middle school. The chapter hosted a campus-wide resume and curriculum vitae workshop. Many students from various STEM fields attended and participated in hands-on activities geared towards tailoring these important documents to advisers and employers. Five chapter members attended the Northeastern Regional Storms Conference held in Saratoga Springs, New York to present undergraduate research and network with students and professionals alike.



Los Angeles

The LA Chapter again (going on 3 decades) supported the LA County Science & Engineering Fair at the Pasadena Convention Center, March 27, 2015. Chapter members Scott Moore and Steve LaDochy judged the best "weather-related" projects in the Junior and Senior divisions (Middle and High Schools). After lots of deliberation, they decided to award the top prize (1-year subscription to Weatherwise and invitation to our annual banquet for the students' families) to Hoyt Dong, 10th grader from South Pasadena High School, CA. His project was, "Understanding the Role of Climatic Variables on Isotopic Ratios of Rainwater." Mr. Dong used H1/H2 and O18/O16 ratios to differentiate input variables on rainwater. He found that water from storms that had prolonged rainfall (rained out) had a different isotopic ratio than rainwater from shorter or recent rainfall events. Hoyt collaborated with Dr. Wu, California Institute of Technology on the project. In the Junior Division, prize winner Stacey Bedolla, 8th grader from St. Joseph in Long Beach, built a "Tornado Chamber" and experimented on the model design. The impressive tornado funnel used water and dry ice, a plexi-glass chamber, with slits, and a small motor fan on top. Honorable Mention in the Junior Division went to Esmeralda Roque, 7th grader from Luther Burbank Math, Science & Technology Magnet, Los Angeles, for her project, "Is an El Niño Event Occurring This Year?" Ms. Roque took numerous water temperature measurements in the Santa Monica Bay during the current winter (2015) and compared it with normal SSTs.



Lyndon State University



The Lyndon State College student chapter of the AMS & NWA held its 40th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference from Friday, March 6 to Sunday, March 8, 2015. This year, the conference returned to Saratoga Springs, New York where a record 400+ students, prospective students, and professionals gathered to learn about ongoing research and current job opportunities in the field of meteorology. Even the DOW was in attendance! Highlights from the conference included keynote speakers Jim Cantore (The Weather Channel), Tom Bogdan (President of UCAR), Louis Uccellini (Director of the National Weather Service), and Paul Kocin (winter weather forecaster at the Weather Prediction Center). There were over 80 poster and oral presentations. The conference was another huge success thanks to the planning of the Lyndon State AMS & NWA. We hope everyone will join us again next year for the 41st Northeastern Storm Conference! More details can be found at www.lyndonams.com/nesc2015.

University of Missouri



The University of Missouri - AMS local chapter got out and spread the word about hazardous weather preparedness. On March 3, 2015 the organization passed out over 1,100 Dum Dum suckers to students on campus. The suckers had severe weather preparedness and safety facts attached to them. The members will be doing another Dum Dum blitz coming up after spring break on the other side of campus.

Northwest Indiana

On March 21, 2015, the Northwest Indiana Chapter of AMS/NWA hosted their 13th Annual Great Lakes Meteorology Conference at Valparaiso University. Over 80 people participated at the conference and many schools were represented including Valparaiso University, Central Michigan University, Michigan State, Purdue University, and more. This created a wonderful environment for networking with fellow students and professionals in the field. The conference focused on where meteorology has been and where the field is going. Speeches were given on various topics including historic events, modeling, emergency management, aviation meteorology, and much more. We were honored to host all of our speakers, including our keynote speaker Ken Carey



Rutgers



Rutgers University Meteorology Club sent 30 of its members to the annual NorthEast Storms Conference this past March. This was our largest turnout of students attending this event with a mix of sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Students were able to attend many talks and the underclassmen had a small taste of what next year's AMS will be like. Students were excited to have the chance to meet and talk with meteorologist Jim Cantore, along with many other students and professors from other universities. Our members had the chance to tour the DOW, the first time the majority of our members viewed a working doppler radar. Two of our members, John McCarty and Colleen McHugh, presented their research at the student poster session as well. The picture above shows a few of our sophomores and juniors waiting to hear Jim Cantore's talk.

Texas Tech (West Texas)

The 9th Annual Severe Weather Awareness day was held on March 8, 2015 in Lubbock, TX, put on by the Texas Tech AMS Student Chapter to help bring awareness to severe weather dangers in West Texas. The National Weather Service Lubbock Forecast Office, the Science Spectrum, KCBD News Channel 11, and other partners joined the student chapter to provide materials and information to over 2500 visitors, surpassing last year's record attendance. The student chapter provided hands-on experiments and raffled off severe weather safety items including a safety kit for an entire family. Vehicles were brought to display outside the Science Spectrum so that attendees could see the instrumentation used to spot severe storms and communicate their danger. New to the event this year was the National Storm Shelter Association, which displayed a variety of above and below ground storm shelters.



University of Utah

During the spring 2015 semester, our chapter held a Radiosonde Launch. A group of 10 members helped by launching the balloon, collecting data, and by recovering the data collection device attached to the Radiosonde. The launch was a success with a complete recovery of the device. Members were able to get experience with launching a Radiosonde and collecting environmental data. Our chapter also held a seminar with one of the professors in the department, John Horel. John informed members about possible research opportunities over the summer and ways to get involved with instrumentation through the department. Our chapter is planning future seminars with professors in the department to help members learn about possible undergraduate research opportunities.

Creative Nonfiction Magazine is Seeking Essays of "The Weather"

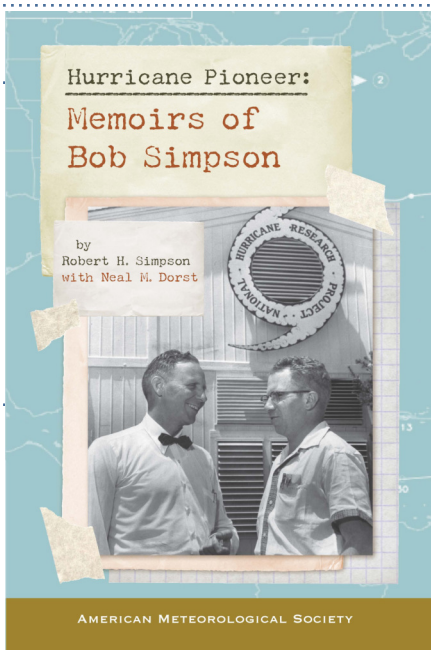
Creative Nonfiction magazine is now seeking unpublished essays on the subject of "The Weather." They are looking for stories about anything from biometeorology to climate change to storm chasing, and the winning essay will receive $1,000. To view the complete call for submissions and guidelines, see https://www.creativenonfiction.org/submissions/weather. ***The deadline for submissions is May 11, 2015***.

America's PrepareAthon!

Twice a year, America's PrepareAthon! holds a National PrepareAthon! Day to bring together stakeholders, communities, and individuals to take action and engage the nation in a conversation on resilience. This spring, America's PrepareAthon! National PrepareAthon! Day takes place on ***April 30, 2015*** and will encourage individuals and communities to prepare for earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and winter weather. It only takes three easy steps to participate in America's PrepareAthon!: 1) choose your hazard and preparedness activity, 2) create an account and register your activity on the website and, 3) download materials designed to help you plan and promote your day of action. Join the movement!

News from AMS Headquarters

New Release From AMS Books



Hurricane Pioneer: Memoirs of Bob Simpson

by Robert H. Simpson, with Neal Dorst
© 2015, 156 pages, paperback
ISBN: 978-1-935704-75-1
List price: $25;
AMS Member/Student price: $20
http://bookstore.ametsoc.org/

In 1951, Robert (Bob) Simpson rode a plane directly into a hurricane—just one of his many pioneering explorations. Over his decades-long career his research led to great leaps in our understanding of tropical meteorology and our approach to hurricane safety. He was the first director of the National Hurricane Research Project and the second director of the National Hurricane Center. He may be best known as co-creator of the widely used Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale, familiar to anyone who has heard a reporter use the words "category five." Proceeds from this book help support the American Meteorological Society's K. Vic Ooyama Scholarship Fund.

Award for Early Career Achievement

The Board for Early Career Professionals will be awarding a new commission level award to recognize the significant achievements of early career professionals within their community, society, scientific discipline, and profession. Please nominate a deserving early career professional for the Award for Early Career Achievement. ***Nominations are due by June 1, 2015***. Submit nomination packets to the AMS Board for Early Career Professionals at amsbecp@gmail.com.

Grants Available for 2015 AMS Specialty Conference Sessions

Travel grants are available for current senior undergraduate (*applicants must be in their senior year of undergraduate study at the time of application*) and graduate students. The travel grants are available to student members of the AMS. *Interested students cannot be a presenter at the conference*. An online application form must be completed. Detailed information can be found on the AMS web site at www.ametsoc.org

News from AMS Headquarters

Chapter of the Year Award Applications

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

Chapter Elections

As the reporting of election results is a requirement, please update your online local chapter directory listing when your chapter elections have been held. If you need your local chapter account number for access, please contact Sang Lee (slee@ametsoc.org). Updated election results should be entered no later than 1 June 2015. Please keep in mind that the chapter president/chairperson is required to be a member (Associate, Member, Student) of the Society. If the chapter president/chairperson is not a member or pending member of the Society, then the chapter will not be recognized as being active. You may apply for Membership online at http://www2.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/membership/join-ams/. Please update your last election date even if your officers were reappointed for 2015. This will ensure that your chapter remains active in our files and that you receive important emails from AMS Headquarters.

Thanks for taking the time to check out our newsletter! The next newsletter will be published in August. If your chapter would like to announce upcoming events, Webinars, conferences, etc. in the next issue of the Newsletter, please email Kelly Savoie (ksavoie@ametsoc.org) no later than July 15. To view prior newsletters, see http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/newsletters.html

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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www.facebook.com/AMSLCAC
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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