

July STAC Newsletter

The **WAF Committee Page on Facebook** has been online since Oct 2013 (<https://www.facebook.com/WAFcommittee>). The page provides basic information about the committee and a link to the committee's AMS website. James Belanger came up with the idea for the committee page and student member Charles Kuster was the key driver in creating the page. He designed the profile photo, which serves as an identifier for the page, and cover photo, which adds uniqueness to the page. The WAF Committee rotates the duty of posting current weather events of note on a monthly basis among those members who have Facebook accounts (15 out of 20). Other items that are posted include WAF activities, meteorological trivia, and items of note from the research community. Through early June, the page had been "liked" by 247 Facebook members. The WAF team views Facebook as an outreach mechanism. The Facebook participants are more likely to be weather enthusiasts than professionals. They may be storm chasers or people who want to know the big news in weather. Bruce Telfeyan (rbt48@cox.net).

The **17th Symposium on Meteorological Observation and Instrumentation** was held from June 9-13, 2014, in Westminster, Colorado. Wendy Ryan served as the program chair with the help of Gillian Peguero of AMS. The meeting kicked off on Monday with a tour around the Boulder area to visit instrumentation facilities which are abundant in the area. The tour featured stops at: Marshall Field Testbed, the NCAR research aircraft hanger, NEON (National Ecological Observing Network), the BAO (Boulder Atmospheric Observatory) tower, Vaisala and the dual S-pol radar facility. The meeting was opened by AMS president Bill Gail who gave his vision for the AMS meeting in Phoenix and emphasized the importance of getting weather information into the hands of users more readily to serve the needs of the public. Sessions were well attended and spanned the field from solid precipitation measurements to boundary layer observing systems. There were several joint sessions held with the 21st Conference on Applied Climatology and featured topics such as: drought monitoring, data quality control, the Climate Reference Network and the Colorado flooding of 2013. Wednesday featured keynote speaker Matt Kelsch of COMET in Boulder, who gave an overview of the September flooding and other historic Colorado flooding events. The Measurements committee also held a timely panel discussion on the Health and Sustainability of Observing Networks. State and federal programs discussed the challenges of operating and maintaining networks with shrinking budgets while established federal programs (like USRCRN) are being terminated and handed over to the states to maintain. The meeting was well attended and covered a variety of topics in the measurements field. Wendy Ryan (wendy@atmos.colostate.edu)

The **21st Conference on Applied Climatology** was held from June 9-13, 2014, in Westminster, Colorado. Barb Mayes Boustead and Melissa Griffin served as program co-chairs with the help of Gillian Peguero of AMS. The meeting was held in conjunction with the 17th Symposium on Meteorological Observation and Instrumentation, with several joint sessions throughout the

week. Committee Chair Tim Owen provided opening remarks on the importance of sustained climate-centric observations and partnerships. AMS President Bill Gail talked about meteorology's future, noting the field's focus on collaboration and dissemination of data and environmental information. The conference featured traditional applied climatology topics, including sessions on climate services, partnerships, communication, monitoring, prediction, and data quality control. In addition, special topics included the U.S. Climate Reference Network, climate trends and extremes, climate and weather connections, and decision support services. Matt Kelsch of UCAR/COMET was the luncheon speaker, and gave a comprehensive overview of the 2013 Colorado Flooding in and around Boulder. The conference afforded numerous venues for discussion. There was recurring interest in providing customer-tailored environmental information via emerging technologies. Mr. Timothy Owen (Tim.Owen@noaa.gov)

A **High Performance Computing Symposium** will be sponsored by the Board on Environmental Information Processing Technologies (BEIPT) during the week of the Annual Meeting in 2015. This is a new reoccurring symposium sponsored by BEIPT. Topics appropriate for this conference include code stability, accelerator technologies (MIC vs GPGPU), managing I/O, and data locality for analysis and post-processing. The call for papers can be found at: <http://annual.ametsoc.org/2015/index.cfm/programs-and-events/conferences-and-symposia/first-symposium-on-high-performance-computing-for-weather-water-and-climate/> Contact Brian Etherton (brian.etherton@noaa.gov) for further information.

The possible addition of a **software engineering conference** is being considered by Board on Environmental Information Processing Technologies for the week of the 2016 Annual meeting. Bill Gail, President of the AMS, was approached about such a conference with the thought that it would encourage more scientists and developers with software engineering backgrounds to participate at Society activities. The EIPT conference, formerly the Interactive Information Processing Systems (IIPS) conference, covered some of software engineering topics in past, but not as thoroughly as a conference dedicated to software engineering. Contact Woody Roberts (wood.roberts@noaa.gov) for further information.

Two named sessions are planned for the 27th Conference on Climate Variability and Change to be held during the week of the 2015 Annual Meeting. These were approved by the AMS Executive Committee this month. One will honor Eugene M. Rasmusson, Research Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland; and the Late Prof. Klaus Wyrski, University of Hawaii. This session will celebrate a legacy and pay tribute to two renowned scientists who pioneered ENSO studies that laid the foundations for TOGA and contributed greatly to its success. The second session will honor Peter Lamb of the University of Oklahoma for his research on precipitation variability and processes in the U.S., Africa, and other places around the globe, on time scales spanning the continuum from weather to regional climate.

The **STAC Annual Membership Update** process was kicked on July 15th. On a yearly basis, all STAC Board and Committee Chairs are required to review their membership rosters to determine: members whose terms must be renewed, members who must rotate off the boards and committees due to term limits, and to identify new members. See the STAC web page for additional guidance and details: <http://www2.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/chair-member-information/membership/>