the general public and public safety agencies through
the use of technology and alliances with the public and
private sector. The speakers focused on some of the
new relay technology available for storm warning no-
tification and other EMA-related alerts. This system
is capable of broadcasting emergency information
onto televisions, pagers, Radio Broadcast Data Sys-
tem car radios, mobile data receivers, roadway signs,
sirens, smoke detectors, and even shaking the beds of
the deaf. The system is highly flexible, allowing the
creation of separate local area networks to be set up
for special situations. The next step in this rapidly
advancing technology will be a totally automated sys-
tem. ECAMS’s Web site address is http://
www.ecams.org—Benjamin Boorman.

**Packerland**

The chapter serves the meteorological interests of
central, northern, and northeastern Wisconsin. This
region’s close proximity to Lakes Superior and Michi-
gan introduces a multitude of challenges to the weather
forecaster. Research is currently under way at the Uni-
versity of Wisconsin—Milwaukee to improve the un-
derstanding of the lake–land interaction and to develop
techniques to better model and forecast the mesoscale
interactions within this boundary.

Paul Roebber is a leading researcher in the field of
mesoscale modeling and was invited to speak at the
chapter’s June 1999 meeting. Although Roebber con-
siders himself more of a synoptician, his current re-
search involves running MM5 over multiple domains
including Lake Michigan and its associated shoreline
areas.

Roebber began his presentation with a brief descrip-
tion of large- versus small-scale circulations, empha-
sizing the improvements in forecast skill of
hemispheric and synoptic-scale forecasts over the
years, while mesoscale forecast skill has improved at
a significantly slower rate. He commented that “in
forecasting, the devil is in the details.”

Roebber talked about the significant amplification
of inherent observational errors as forecast time in-
creases. He also explained the significance of a spa-
ghetti diagram showing the dramatic change in a
forecasted wave pattern with only a minor change in
initial conditions. Roebber explained how most me-
oscale models are initialized using a medium-
to small-scale grid (i.e., meso-ETA, RUC, etc.). Interest-
ingly, he uses the global AVN grid to initialize MM5.
The success of this procedure is evident in the results
of his MM5 runs, which have verified well in a num-
ber of tests. Also, using the global AVN provides the
flexibility to run MM5 over any domain worldwide.
Since the AVN is a long-range model, it is also theo-
retically possible to generate high-resolution forecasts
(from MM5) in the long term. Historically, the exor-
bitant price of supercomputers has been a roadblock
to operationally running small-scale forecast models.
With the significant increase in computational power

The United State Air Force
(Air Materiel Command) has
negotiated a cost reimburse-
ment scientific Research and
Development contract with the
American Meteorological Soci-
ety for services and data cover-
ing the examination, evaluation,
cataloging, abstracting and publication of meteo-
rological literature for the Geophysical Research
Directorate. The publication service will consist
of the publication, ten times per year, of a peri-
odical called, Meteorological Abstracts and Bib-
liography. The contents of this periodical will
consist of selected bibliographic entries and me-
teorological abstracts from the card catalog and
abstract file of the services.

[... ] The staff of the service will be based at
Washington, D.C., under the technical direction
of Mr. Malcolm Rigby. The project should be in
operation by the first of August and the first is-
ssue published early this fall.

An opportunity will be given to members of
the Society and others to subscribe as soon as the
printing methods and costs are determined. It
would be appreciated if authors would forward
reprints of material that they publish which
might not otherwise come to the attention of the
project. Also, exchange of publications contain-
ing any meteorological literature is invited. For-
warding of publications should commence
immediately.

*Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, 30, 260.*