news from our chapters

Asheville
The 114th meeting was held Tuesday, 3 March 1987, in the private dining room of the Highsmith Center on the University of North Carolina-Asheville (UNC-A) campus. This was another combined meeting with the UNC-A Student Chapter; the Asheville Chapter did not hold a business meeting.

Guest speaker Mike Seidell, meteorologist with WYFF-TV (4), Greenville, South Carolina, spoke on broadcast meteorology. He noted that, as far as educational requirements are concerned, a bachelor's degree is all that is needed for a television-weathercaster position. The meteorological background is an important building block, but experience, a "living-room" personality, and strong communication skills are the most important factors in getting a job. According to Seidell, the part of a weathercast having the greatest viewer demand is the forecast, followed by satellite pictures.

The chapter met again on Monday night, 16 March, in the basement auditorium of Pack Memorial Library (the Asheville-Buncombe Public Library). Minutes were summarized and approved and the treasurer's report made. Status reports were also made on the essay contest, the Severe Weather Workshop, the Winter Forecast Contest, and the banquet.

The topic of guest speaker William Haggard's talk was the use of National Climatic Data Center products in forensic meteorology. He began the presentation by giving a general introduction to forensic meteorology. The meteorological expert presents the information and facts, and then the court weighs the evidence and makes a reasonable decision regarding the case. Haggard pointed out that if the attorneys fail to ask the right questions, then the whole truth is never brought out.

He illustrated his talk with two aircraft accident cases. In the first, Haggard demonstrated that the pilot knew he was flying into a thunderstorm by using surface synoptic and radar summary charts, satellite pictures, radar weather-observation forms, radar overlay of PPI scope, and a special film that integrated the radar observations and the airplane's track. The second example involved the use of visible, infrared, and computer-enhanced satellite pictures.—Richard Heim, Jr., secretary.

Central Louisiana
The 12 February meeting of the Central Louisiana Chapter was held at the Red Carpet Inn in the Magnolia Room. Edward St. Pe called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. Individuals introduced themselves; there were 11 members and two guests in attendance.

The minutes from the January organizational meeting were summarized by St. Pe and accepted by the membership. There was a very brief discussion regarding the fees for annual dues for members and student members ($20.00 for members, $10.00 for student members).

Mike Graham has offered to provide available daily weather data and charts from his office for review by the members.

1 Meeting reports received at headquarters before 1 May 1987 are included. Copy from chapter representatives should be typed double-spaced and submitted to the news editor in duplicate.—News Ed.

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Bulletin American Meteorological Society
As permitted according to the chapter by-laws, the Executive Committee appointed Jay Grynse as interim secretary-treasurer.

The evening’s program was on tornado awareness. The speaker was Michael Koziara, meteorologist at the National Weather Service State Forecast Office in Slidell. His topic was titled “Warning and Preparedness.” Vice-President Robert Muller introduced Koziara, who concentrated on the particular aspects of tornado activity within Louisiana. His presentation included periods of occurrence, frequencies, and severity of these storms.—Mike Graham, secretary-treasurer

Central New York

The Central New York Chapter of the AMS held its first organizational meeting in September 1986 at the offices of Galston Technical Services, Inc., in East Syracuse, New York. The constitution was approved and the following officers were elected: Roger Caiazza, president, Robert Sykes, vice-president, Rosemary Krol, secretary; and Jack Kaplan, treasurer. Plans for the 1986–87 season were discussed.

The 8 October meeting occurred at the Environmental School of Forestry in Syracuse, New York. A program on the long-term climate conditions with limited samples was given by Kim Mills. In addition, Roger Caiazza gave a presentation on the responsibilities of a meteorology adviser in a nuclear generating station.

In November, the chapter held a panel discussion on various aspects of lake-effect snow at the State University of New York in Oswego. Members of the panel included Robert Ballentine, Dan Bartholf, Eugene Cherrmack, Livingston Lansing, and Bob Sykes. Topics included National Weather Service forecasting, Oswego and Tug Hill snow depths, climatology, and the dynamic aspects of lake-effect snow. More than 200 people from around central New York were present, including the local news media, which covered the event. Plans are under way to organize the proceedings from this meeting.

We have had a very successful start and are looking forward to more interesting meetings here in central New York.—Rosemary Krol, secretary

Chicago

The officers for 1986–87 were Maureen Dungey, president (University of Chicago); Thomas Skilling, vice-president (WGN radio/TV); Robert Grumbine, secretary (University of Chicago); and Brian Smith, treasurer (University of Chicago). The newly elected officers for 1987–88 are Walter Bohan, president (The Walter Bohan Company); Paul Frenzen, vice-president (University of Chicago); Thomas Skilling, vice-president (University of Chicago/Argonne National Laboratory); David Kristovich, secretary (University of Chicago); and Brian Smith, re-elected treasurer. The mailing address is: Walter Bohan, 1607 Oakton Street, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

The Chicago Chapter of the AMS is preparing to finish another successful year. The following meetings took place:

On 14 October Professor T. T. Fujita of the University of Chicago spoke on “Preliminary Findings of the MIST [Microburst and Severe Thunderstorm Project]” and described the video [taken by the Minneapolis WARE-TV helicopter minicam crew] of the 18 July tornado in Minneapolis, Minnesota. On 11 November the membership heard Thomas Dietrich, National Weather Service (NWS) hydrologist at O’Hare, speak. His topic was titled “On the Recent Flooding in Northeast Illinois by the Des Plaines and Fox Rivers.”

On 9 December the group was pleased to hear Bruce A. Barkstrom, experiment scientist and science-team leader, Atmospheric Science Division, National Aeronautics and Space Administration Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia, speak on “The Earth Radiation Budget Experiment—Some Recent Results.”

On 13 January the group heard Professor Dave Fultz, University of Chicago, talk on “Some Underlying General Circulation Questions Posed by Experiment.”

On 10 February, Richard Koeneman, forecaster at the NWS at O’Hare Airport, spoke to the group about “A Current Look at the Winter Temperature Climatology of Chicago.”

On 10 March, Doug Sisterson, assistant meteorologist at Argonne National Laboratory, gave a talk titled “Using Pollutants to Study Convective Flow Fields: C3PO—‘Storm Wars’ of the Future.”

Professor Douglas MacAyeal, University of Chicago, was the speaker for the 1 April meeting. He spoke on “Weather Influences on Polar Exploration.”

The speaker for the 30 April banquet meeting, scheduled at this writing, was to be Wayne Wendland, climatologist, Illinois State Water Survey, Urbana, Illinois. His talk was to be on “Gradients in Illinois: From Grits to Climate.” This final meeting was to be held jointly with the Northern Illinois University Chapter of the AMS, at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, at their Holmes Student Center.

The chapter participated in the Chicago Public School Science Fair of 3–5 April, held at the Museum of Science and Industry. Two of the chapter officers, Maureen Dungey and Brian Smith, served as judges in choosing four students to be awarded the AMS certificates of award. The Chicago Chapter of the AMS voted to send subscriptions of Weatherwise to the top two finishers: Esther Sullivan, a ninth grader at Kenwood High School for her exhibit, “The Effects of Oil Spills on Cloud Formation,” and to Kate Donley, a ninth grader at Whitney Young High School for her exhibit, “Effects of Winter Storms on Chicago Beaches.” The projects were consistently good, which should serve as a reminder that meteorology is not dead in high schools.—Robert Grumbine, secretary

Farthest North

The 3 March meeting of the Farthest North Chapter of the AMS was held at the Elison Air Force Base Officers’ Club. Fourteen people attended, including members from the Geophysical Institute, the National Weather Service (NWS), Fort Greely, and Elison Air Force Base. Dinner was followed by a business meeting and a program covering current work in the field of air pollution.

John Lingaas, meteorologist with the NWS Forecast Office in Fairbanks, led off the discussion with a summary of how local government agencies use meteorological input to make short-range forecasts of carbon monoxide levels in the Fairbanks area. Ronald Johnson, professor of mechanical and environmental-quality engineering at the University of Alaska, gave a review of the pollution modeling work being done at the university, emphasizing the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) CALINE 4 model and other applications to the Fairbanks air-pollution problem.

During the winter, Fairbanks experiences a large number of violations of the EPA’s standard for allowable carbon monoxide concentrations. The primary cause of the high concentrations is the combination of cold-start auto emissions, and a strong low-level inversion preventing needed ventilation. Inversion conditions are often persistent from late fall through late winter, when the input of solar radiation is at a minimum.
This gives little opportunity for atmospheric mixing near the surface, and an attendant increase in carbon monoxide levels dependent on local emissions.

Although general synoptic and mesoscale patterns that contribute to inversion conditions have been identified, further research to find more-specific ingredients for the onset of maximum levels of carbon monoxide is needed. One of the primary concerns of those involved in research is establishing a better data base of temperature and wind data within 30 meters of the surface in the Fairbanks area. Data from locations in close proximity to emissions sources, as well as from areas removed from the sources but still representative of local circulations, is necessary for more-complete model input.

A discussion followed the presentations by Lingaas and Johnson, giving further insight on the pollution problem to those present. Chapter President Jim Laurenti then closed the meeting after a brief summary of the upcoming meeting's agenda.

The 2 April meeting was held at the Club 11 restaurant, with 14 people in attendance. Dinner was followed by a business meeting, and then a program led by Warren Wisner, chief of the Alaska Meteorological Team supporting the Department of Defense at Fort Greely, Alaska.

Fort Greely is located approximately 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks, nestled close to the northern slopes of the Alaska range. The nearby higher terrain, with several peaks reaching over 13,000 feet in elevation, can have a dramatic effect on the weather in the vicinity of Fort Greely. The cold season is the most critical time for support from the Fort Greely Meteorological Team. Their meteorological input is used heavily by the Department of Defense for equipment testing during adverse weather conditions.

Wisner summarized the structure and mission of the weather support program at Fort Greely, using an IBM PC color graphics display to guide his presentation. Four full-time meteorologists, with the assistance of 8 to 12 meteorological technicians, provide weather information to the Department of Defense. An extensive observation network on the test range allows the team to refine short-term forecasts.

After the overview by Wisner, forecaster Jeff Millard gave a presentation detailing the use of forecast 1000-850 MB thickness values in forecasting surface temperatures for the Fort Greely area. Millard found a good correlation between the thickness values and actual temperatures during the cold season. He compared the low-level thickness and temperature correlation to the relatively poor correlation found using forecast 1000-500 MB thickness values. He demonstrated how the change in low-level thickness more accurately portrays changes of surface temperatures in the Fort Greely area, and pointed out the possible application of this tool elsewhere in Alaska. Following a discussion of the presentation, President Jim Laurenti closed the meeting.—Tom Hoeffner, secretary.

Los Angeles
The Los Angeles Chapter has been meeting for the current year at the Federal Building on Wilshire Boulevard. The Weather Bureau has given the group the use of a meeting room. This location has been very successful due, in part, to the availability of adequate parking facilities for the many members. There are 67 paid members of the Los Angeles Chapter for the current year.

Meetings are held monthly from September to April, followed by an annual awards banquet in May. These meetings are at 8:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month.

Featured speakers this year have included Art Lessard, meteorologist-in-charge, National Weather Service Forecast Office, Los Angeles; Carlos R. Mechoso, Ph.D., professor of atmospheric dynamics, University of California at Los Angeles, Atmospheric Sciences Department; Robert Anderson of AMEX; George P. Ettenheim, Aerovironment, Inc.; Lawrence D. Mendenhall, United States Air Force Advanced Weather Office; Arnold Court, California State University, Northridge (retired); and J. Robert Stinson, California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Topics have included remote sensing, monsoons, design and development of automatic weather stations for the Federal Aviation Administration, meteorological support for the space-shuttle program, the El Niño-Southern Oscillation, and phenomenology in modeling. Many of these topics were selected from those included on surveys mailed to all members of the Los Angeles Chapter, thus allowing many members to give direct input and have an active part in the decision process of the programs presented at this year's meetings.

Officers serving the chapter during 1986-87 included Roberta Lewis, chair; Kevin Durkee, vice-chair; Charles McClellan, treasurer; and Ivory J. Small, acting secretary.—Marilyn McClellan, incoming secretary

Miami
Vice-Chairman Herb Spiegel opened the 2 April 1987 meeting with a report on the Miami Chapter's participation in the Dade and Broward County science fairs. He and Howard Freidman judged the Broward fair, while Peter Dodge, Frank Marks, and John Gamache judged the one in Dade County. In the Broward County fair, awards were made in both the senior and junior divisions, while in Dade only a junior-division award was made, with the winners each receiving a plaque and $50.00 in cash.

Next, Pete Black introduced the evening's speaker, Ted Fujita. Black mentioned their long friendship, going back to 1965, when he first worked for Fujita. He said that Fujita's work has always been marked by new ideas, of which the concept of downbursts is the latest.

Fujita's talk concerned the Microburst and Sever Thunderstorm Project (MIST) that was carried out last summer near Huntsville, Alabama. This project involved looking for microbursts in an environment moister than was studied in the Joint Airport Weather Studies (JAWS). He contrasted the 20 percent of JAWS microbursts that were wet with over 90 percent of the MIST microbursts that were wet.

The experiment was carried out with five ground-based Doppler radars, some 77 reporting Portable Automated Meteorological mini-stations, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration P-3 aircraft with its airborne Doppler radar. Fujita said that this was the densest network of reporting stations in any weather experiment. He said that the data set that was obtained was excellent and that only 43 of the 60 flight hours of the P-3 had to be used.

The best example during this experiment was the Monrovia microburst, which occurred on 20 July. The incipient cloud tower was detected nearly a half hour before the microburst formed, and so the entire life cycle of the storm was recorded. The P-3 flew a triangular pattern around the cloud during this period, and even flew directly over two of the ground-based Doppler stations on one leg. Ground measurements of the wind were supplemented by wind damage to a hay field, which provided graphic evidence of the wind's force and flow. Fujita said that it was the cheapest reusable anemometer he had ever used.

Doppler-radar pictures from the P-3 and ground, with photos from the plane and satellite, showed how the cloud at first
seemed to grow quickly in an area of general suppressed convection, but that the top became cut off from the lower part of the cloud, as the updraft collapsed. While the top formed a cirrus anvil, the bottom section, heavy with rain and cold air from evaporation, sank and formed a strong downburst with 60-knot to 70-knot winds on the surface. Using ghost returns from the ground radar, Fujita could estimate the downward speed of the particles in the downdraft.

Fujita concluded by contrasting downburst activity with the 70-year tornado study that he has just completed. He noted that the two phenomena seemed to be mutually exclusive in areal extent, and speculated that storm conditions that are favorable for one are not for the other. He pointed to this as a rich area for future study. He then answered several questions.—Neal M. Dorst, secretary

New York City/Long Island

The New York City/Long Island branch of the AMS held its second spring meeting of the year on 31 March 1987. Walter Hoydysh, of Environmental Science and Services Corporation (ESSCO) discussed the application of wind-tunnel modeling to studying meteorological and air-quality problems. With the use of slides and his company’s experience, he described various studies demonstrating the validity of wind-tunnel models compared to theoretical modeling of complex terrain and high-rise cities.

The application of wind-tunnel modeling to environmentally site a hotel complex on the island of Aruba in the Netherlands Antilles was extremely interesting. The island requires a fluid-dynamic study of any new high rise to determine its impact on the local wind patterns. The trade winds of the Caribbean Sea being quite persistent and strong can be especially annoying if a hotel complex is oriented to amplify the wind speed on the beach or at poolside.

Other examples of wind-tunnel models cited ranged from street canyon modeling in New York City to odor analysis associated with a sewage-treatment plant as well as the US Environmental Protection Agency regulatory “Good Engineering Practice” stack-height studies.

The 20 members and friends who attended this meeting at the National Weather Service’s Eastern Region Headquarters, Garden City, Long Island, thoroughly enjoyed this fine presentation by Hoydysh.—Edwin C. Heidelberger, corresponding secretary

Oregon

The 31 January 1987 meeting was held at the Hi Hat Restaurant in Tigard, Oregon. Roger Ross began the meeting by calling on Charlie Feris to talk about the essay contest that the chapter had sponsored. Feris explained that some entries were received already, and that the prizes this year would be a weather instrument worth approximately $100.00.

Nancy Stephan was called on next to give the treasurer’s report. She reported that the balance now stood at a low $53.61, but would be higher after the dues collected at the current meeting were added to the account. Nancy also asked that those people who had not already paid their dues please do so as soon as possible.

The next item of business was the annual election of the officers. The Elections Committee produced the following slate of officers: Charlie Feris, president; Nancy Stephan, vice-president; Terry Worrell, secretary; Ted Buehner, councilor, and Bob Bachman, councilor. At that time Ross asked if there were any other nominations, and having none the chapter passed the slate by unanimous voice vote.

Ross then asked for any new business or announcements. Nancy Stephan asked the members to please check their names and addresses on the chapter’s member list, available after dinner, so that the list could be updated.

As the last item of business, Ross then reported on the conference earlier in the day titled “Conference on Weather, Climate, and Hydrology of the Pacific Northwest.” There were two sessions of the conference, which was overseen by chairpersons Terry Worrell and Don Caniparoli. Five papers were presented at each session, and about 40 people attended at least one of the two sessions. Ross announced that next year’s conference was to be headed by Bill Lowery.

After the business part of the meeting, Ross presented the speaker for the evening, Allan Murphy, from Oregon State University. Murphy’s presentation was titled “Arc Today’s Weather Forecasts More Accurate and More Useful?”—George Stephan, secretary

Santa Barbara-Ventura

The chapter held its monthly dinner meeting in Oxnard on 11 February. The speaker for the evening was Arnold Court, Emeritus Professor of Climatology at California State University at Northridge, whose topic was “Climate Analysis.” Court is a nationally recognized authority on climatology and statistics, and his presentation covered research on graphical presentation of meteorological parameters, such as wind speed and direction, pressure, temperature, and humidity. He presented numerous examples of climate diagrams on the above parameters from the last centuries and recent decades, many obtained during his research on this subject in Europe.

The underlying theme in Court’s presentation was the need for clarity and consistency in visual presentations of climatic parameters. He made reference to his “Ten Proposed Rules for Numerical Diagrams,” a paper that he presented in early January at the winter conference of the American Statistical Association called “Statistics in the Information Age,” while reviewing and commenting on a large selection of climate diagrams that were included in his slide presentation.

A well-attended dinner meeting was held by the chapter on 26 March. The meeting was opened by Chairman Alan Fox with a brief map discussion on the current synoptic conditions. The map discussion expanded into the broader topic of the anomalous dry winter season that has prevailed over California this year and the tie-in mechanism with the ongoing weak El Niño event.

The speaker for the evening was Steve Lyons, a meteorologist with the Geophysics Division, Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu, who presented an illuminating talk on two separate topics. The first part of his presentation dealt with the topic “Observed Modes of Vacillation in Averaged Global Zonal Winds During Winter and Summer.” Lyons has conducted extensive research on large-scale circulation patterns and tropical-midlatitude interactions, which was summarized in a paper presented at the December 1986 AMS International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology in New Zealand. Using 200-mb wind data from six winters and five summers along a given latitude between 48°N and 48°S, Lyons analyzed the interhemispheric variation
in the zonal component of the wind. The analysis focused on the meridional propagation and temporal variation in the zonal-wind component with an emphasis on the most dominant cyclic patterns in both hemispheres.

In his abbreviated presentation, Lyons highlighted the energy-source regions for the predominant fluctuations of the polar and subtropical jetstream regimes by means of composite time-series plots. These source regions vary significantly between summer and winter and between the two hemispheres. The analysis shows that during the Northern Hemisphere winter, the energy-source region for the Northern Hemisphere polar jet (35°N) is in the polar region and for the subtropical jet (25°N) is in the tropics near the equator, whereas in the summer the source region is in the tropics north of the equator for both jets. In the Southern Hemisphere the source regions for both subtropical (25°S) and polar (35°S) jets are in the tropics for both the summer and winter cases. The observed differences in the source regions for the fluctuations in the strength of the zonal flow in the two hemispheres are attributable to the continents in the Northern Hemisphere, according to Lyons.

His second topic of discussion was an analysis of a very predominant singularity in rainfall in southern California. The *Glossary of Meteorology* defines singularity as a characteristic meteorological condition that tends to occur on or near a specific calendar date more frequently than chance would indicate. A rainfall singularity for Point Mugu was first studied by Robert DeViolini, retired meteorologist with the Geophysics Division at Point Mugu. From 21 years of data he demonstrated a very distinct maximum in the frequency of maximum rainfall during the period of 11–16 November.

Lyons has recently expanded upon this study by including a 38-year period (1947–84) in the data base. His analysis showed that 31 out of the 38 years display a data base. His analysis showed that 31 out of the 38 years display a distinct maximum in precipitation occurrence around the same dates. Expressed in terms of probability, Lyons said that there is an 84 percent chance of rain occurring during the 11–16 November period.

To explore the reasons for this singularity, Lyons conducted an analysis of five-day changes in the average heights at the 700-mb level in the Northern Hemisphere. He found a very persistent pattern in these height changes, extending from the east coast of Asia to the California coast. According to Lyons, there appears to be a distinct meteorological event that takes place over the Asian continent at a repeatable time each fall that triggers the precipitation singularity over southern California. He hypothesized that it is associated with the southward shift of the polar jetstream over Tibet in the fall, which produces a pronounced height anomaly downwind of the Himalayas. The topographically induced wavetrain results in the formation of an offshore trough along the California coast during mid-November with accompanying precipitation. A similar effect is also found downwind of the Rockies, as suggested by precipitation singularities found in the precipitation records from the eastern United States, according to Lyons.—Einar L. Hovind, secretary-treasurer

**Southern Nevada**

On 11 March, Doc Ross and Mike Davis, weathercasters at KVBC-TV, conducted a tour of the station for 12 members of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the AMS and their guests. Ross started the tour by explaining the coordination and technique of obtaining meteorological data from the Kavouras computer terminal. Coordination is a key element because of the variety of users served by the station in a short amount of time. In addition, the station is dependent on the wire services for a number of products from the National Weather Service.

While Ross did his radio broadcast, Davis showed how he obtained various types of information from the Minneapolis-based Kavouras network. He also demonstrated the graphics capabilities of the computer and the technology, which displays the information on the television screen.

The group then watched the television broadcast from behind the cameras. The excitement behind the scene surprised a number of people, but Davis carried off the broadcast with practiced ease.

After the tour, a chapter business meeting was held at the station. It was announced that the chapter received a letter from Kenneth Spengler, informing the membership that the Southern Nevada Chapter had been formally recognized by the AMS Council. A proposed constitution was examined and approved. The current officers were also approved under the new constitution.

Under new business, the next chapter meeting was planned to be a picnic in May at the Spring Mountain Ranch in the Red Rock Canyon Recreation Area.

Lt. Col. Dale Ambos announced that the US Air Force is sponsoring a mini-conference in June for high-desert meteorologists. More details will be forthcoming.—Vincent A. DiCarlo, secretary

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