

QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER FOR THE
WICHITA CHAPTER OF
THE AMERICAN
METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY AND THE
NATIONAL WEATHER
ASSOCIATION



Quarterly AMS/ NWA News



Some of the companies represented in the Organization.

- AccuWeather (WeatherData)
- Local Broadcast Media
- Local Public Schools
- McConnell Air Force Base
- National Weather Service
- Wichita State University

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Volume 1, Issue 3

July 2010

Letter from the President

Hello everyone,

It has been a great year for the AMS Chapter. We have had some great speakers including Paul Schlatter (Warning Decision Training Branch), Mike Smith (Weather Data CEO) and soon Eric Rasmussen. I have seen this chapter go through many ups and downs in the last 5 years. One of the good things that really stand out in my mind is when we hosted the AIRMASS conference in 2005. This conference was ignited by our former president Pete Wolf, and thanks to those who followed through after Pete's departure it was a complete success. As we look towards the future of the AMS/NWA committee, I would like to see you continue moving forward by hosting the High Plains conference at Wichita in 2011. You have the potential to attract a large number of people along with great speakers.

As you know, I will not be able help lead the committee after the next meeting, because I have accepted a Science Operations Officer position in Cheyenne Wyoming. This position will allow me to train and mentor other meteorologist's on the various aspects of the weather phenomena in that region. Of course, they may be training and mentoring me more at least initially. Their climate is obviously somewhat different than ours with quite a bit more wind. In fact, they are ranked 8th in the U.S. for windiest places, while Wichita is ranked 23rd. Another interesting fact is that they received over 100 inches of snow last season which was anomalously high. Even though, I will be in different place, I look forward to seeing what transpires from the Wichita AMS/NWA chapter. At the next meeting, we will discuss who among our officers will be taking over or sharing the duties of the President. Barring unforeseen, I look forward to seeing you at the July meeting, and thank you for allowing me to be your President.

Sincerely,

Rob Cox

Upcoming July Meeting



Speaker: Erik Rasmussen,

Next Meeting: July 11th , 2010 , 12:30pm.

A Boxed Lunch will be available for \$13.00 at 11:30am before the Meeting. Please see below for selections for the boxed lunch.

Location: Holiday Inn at Rock Road and Kellogg (549 S. Rock Rd Wichita, Kansas 67207)

Speaker: Erik Rasmussen, Founder of Rasmussen Systems LLC.

Topic: Tornadogenesis: Unknowns, with a dash of Vortex 2

Lunch Options for the Box Lunch, Please RSVP Choices, one from each column to Lorrie by **July 7th, 2010.**

Tornadogenesis:

Unknowns

Bread	Meat	Cheese	Side	Drink
Croissant	Ham	American	Potato Salad	Bottled Water
Hogie	Turkey	Cheddar	Cole Slaw	Soft Drink
White	Roast Beef	Provolone	Pasta Salad	
Wheat	Ham & Turkey		Chips	

RSVP to Lorrie Donham via e-mail to hdscteach@cox.net

Reminder: Annual Dues for Members are \$15 and will be accepted at any Meeting by cash or check.



Spotlight on a Member

Craig McPherson

My first taste of weather started when I enlisted in the Air Force in 1983 and since then I never left it or it never left me. My Air Force assignments consisted of two tours in Germany and three stateside assignments in Albuquerque, NM where I met my wife Mollie of 23 years; Riverside, California and Tucson, Arizona where I retired from the Air Force six years ago this coming July. I came to Wichita, KS in February 2005 to work as a Meteorologist Technician at McConnell Air Force Base. Among my duties as meteorologist technician, I issue weather warnings, watches and advisories for the base, prepare flight weather briefings to the aircrews and preparing a forecast for the base in collaboration with our regional weather hub in Shreveport, LA. After accepting the job offer for McConnell, I was thinking to myself, what is there to do in Wichita? To my surprise, there is plenty to do here and surrounding areas.



Craig McPherson, Meteorologist Technician at McConnell Air Force Base with Grandson Jesse.

Amidst of my assignments, my temporary assignments include two three month tours to Saudi Arabia, one in Riyadh and the other in Dhahran. Both were just after Desert Storm and within 18 months of each other. I spent four months in Kaposvar, Hungary at a Hungarian Air Force base. This was a staging base for the Army before going to and returning from their yearlong assignments Bosnia.

My biggest thrill in the Air Force was doing Space Shuttle weather support at the transatlantic abort landing sites such as Zaragoza, Spain; Banjul, The Gambia; Moron, Spain and Marrakech, Morocco. I was the noncommissioned officer in charge of these support missions which consisted of a four person weather team, all of which was military personnel. We worked side by side with NASA personnel as well as a NASA astronaut. Our mission there was to provide pre-shuttle launch weather observations and sending up radiosondes. The biggest concern was the first 8-1/2 minutes of the shuttle launch because at any one moment, the shuttle could have aborted their flight into space and land at our location. A couple of missions later, I was informed that we were within one failure during launch that the shuttle was close in aborting to my location.

Since my arrival here, I am active with my church and weather does play a part with them. A couple of years ago, our youth group were out camping in Kingman County when a severe thunderstorm was heading their way. I quickly called them and told them they may need to consider packing up to leave. As they left the campsite, hail began falling with a heavy rainshowers. So if the weather goes wrong for their planned event, of course they blame me, but I tell them Mother Nature has her own mind of what she wants to do. I really

don't mind and I guess that I am their personal weatherman. Besides weather, my other hobbies include golf, fishing and NASCAR. I also belong to the Sedgwick County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for the past two years.



Note from the Editor: This section is to highlight a different, randomly selected member each quarter. My vision for this section, is to see all of the different aspects of how Meteorology is apart of our Chapter and getting to know one another.

February 11th, 2010 Meeting Minutes



Total Attendance: 35
Member Attendance: 19

This meeting was held at the Sedgwick County Emergency Management center. They graciously provided the room for us while the Chapter catered from Hog Wild BBQ. The lunch was served around 1130am.

We had a short business meeting at 12:10 pm and discussed several issues.

1. The first item addressed was to charge non-members a higher price to eat at the luncheons than members. This could promote more members to join and allow our chapter to be more cost effective. The members were in favor of this proposal and we will implement at the next meeting.
2. The next meeting is expected to be held in July. Rob had a couple of ideas for speakers.
 - The first idea was to have someone from the Project Vortex speak about their discoveries from last spring and possibly this spring.
 - The second suggestion was to have a representative from southeast Kansas and tell us about the flooding that occurred in the 2007.
 The members voted on which speaker they would prefer and the majority preferred a speaker from Project Vortex. We will post more information on this at a later date.
3. Rob suggested that we need to draft a constitution for our chapter. Our chapter does not have any record of a constitution or by-laws, and should have some guidelines to follow for future members. Rob asked for some volunteers to help draft this constitution. Stephanie Dunten and Lorrie Donham both volunteered for this task. We will keep you updated on our progress in later meetings.

**Keep an eye
out for Future
AMS/NWA
Meetings.**

We concluded the short business meeting at 12:20 pm.

Chapter Secretary Mike Smith gave an excellent presentation on his new book "**Warnings - The True Story of How Science Tamed the Weather.**" coming in May. The book tells the story of how meteorology has been more effective at saving lives than cardiology, cancer research or traffic safety during the last 50 years. Rob suggested that we purchase Mike's book for the chapter. We will most likely be voting on this at the next meeting

Mark your Calendars

Keep an eye out for future AMS/NWA Meetings

September 2010

AMS/NWA Officers

Let us know what you think. Do you have ideas for Speakers, Suggestions, etc. Please feel free to contact the Officers

President: Rob Cox, Rob.Cox@noaa.gov

Vice President: Lorrie Donham, hdsciteach@cox.net

Treasurer: Craig McPherson, Craig.McPherson@mconnell.af.mil

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