

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



# Quarterly AMS/ NWA News



Volume 1, Issue 5

November 2010

## 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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## Upcoming November Meeting

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday November 10th , 2010 11:30am.  
Presentation will begin at noon

**Speaker:** Tom Hein, Wichita Metro Public  
Affairs Manager

**Topic:** How Weather impacts Roadways and  
what is done in response.

**Location:** Sedgwick County Emergency Management Center  
714 N Main St., Wichita, KS 67203

**Cost:** \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers

**Lunch:** Hog Wild Pit BBQ

## Meeting Topics:

- High Plains Conference Update
- Election of Chapter Officers
- Vote on February Meeting Speaker

**RSVP to Lorrie Donham by November 8th, 2010,  
via e-mail to [hdsciteach@cox.net](mailto:hdsciteach@cox.net)**

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

<http://www.wichita-amsnwa.org/>



## Spotlight on a Member

### Kevin Darmofal National Weather Service Wichita, KS



*Kevin Darmofal*  
*Lead Meteorologist, NWS Wichita*

Kevin Darmofal has been a lead meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Wichita, KS for almost 15 years. He began his professional career in weather after graduating from the University of Kansas in 1988. He ventured briefly into television part-time, doing on-air weather for Sunflower Cable, Channel 6 in Lawrence, and also produced the weekend weather shows at KMBC Channel 9 in Kansas City. Kevin then went into full-time, private sector work for two years with WeatherData, Inc, before beginning his career in the National Weather Service, as an intern at NWS Chicago/Romeoville, in March of 1991. In the Summer of 1994, he was promoted to general meteorologist in Louisville, KY, before coming to Wichita as a lead, in January of 1996. Like many meteorologists, Kevin's love for weather began at a very early age. The great derecho of July 4, 1969 that ripped across Lake Erie and northern Ohio, was his first recollection of weather, at the age of 4 1/2, and is likely what gained his interest in the science of meteorology. He would go the Toledo, Ohio (his hometown) public library in his early elementary years and look at books about tornadoes.

Kevin considers his unofficial start to a life in weather began at the age of 8 years old, when he began drawing weather maps and forecasts from watching the early evening news (weathercasts).

Kevin has worked many memorable weather events while in Wichita, including the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1999 tornado, the Halloween flood of 1998, which affected the Cowskin Creek in west Wichita, and most recently the record Kansas (Wichita) hailstorm, September of 2010. He loves the daily challenge of forecasting, and also likes to occasionally get out on the road to spot and photograph severe local storms, including tornadoes.

Kevin met his wife, Julie, in Wichita, and she has become an avid KU sports fan through marriage. They also love hockey and their son is in his second year of mite hockey. Summer trips to the Colorado front range are becoming a more frequent family venture, and perhaps will become their second home some day.



**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.

## 2011 Officer Nominations

### Voting will take place at the November 10th Meeting

Below are the Members that have expressed interest in holding an elected position for the 2011 term. If you have an interest, please make it known, names can be written in at the November meeting.

President: Jerilyn Billings  
 Vice President: Lorrie Donham  
 Treasurer: Ross Janssen and Craig McPherson  
 Secretary: Mark Bogner



Email Jerilyn.Billings@noaa.gov if you have an interest to serve the chapter as an officer

### September 21st, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: 8 Members

#### Meeting Summary

Meeting was held at Sedgwick County Park Shelter #1 and began with a Pot Luck BBQ. 6:30pm  
 The business meeting began around 7:15pm

- High Plains Conference:  
 A committee consisting of 15 AMS/NWA members has been put together as a planning committee for the High Plains conference. Jerilyn Billings is the team leader for the committee. The first meeting was held on August 26<sup>th</sup> and meetings will be held every 6 weeks to begin with.  
 The dates chosen for the Conference will be **Thursday August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011** and will be held at the Marriott on the east side of Wichita.
- Nominations for Chapter Officers:  
 It was discussed that we wouldn't necessarily nominate, but let people volunteer their interest and time for the 2011 officer elections.  
 Jerilyn will send out an e-mail to the Chapter to request any persons interested in becoming a chapter officer to respond.  
 All persons interested will be listed in the November issue of the Chapter Newsletter  
 Vote will take place at the November Meeting  
 Persons interested at the meeting include:  
 President: Jerilyn Billings  
 Vice President: Lorrie Donham  
 Secretary: Mark Bogner  
 Treasurer: Ross Janssen
- Meeting options for November Meeting:  
 It was discussed that exclusively lunch and/or evening times for meetings is difficult for some to make. (i.e. All lunch meetings restricts teachers/college profs from attending). It was suggested to Alternate evening and lunch time meetings to make the meetings accessible to all members of the Chapter. We will move forward with these alternating meeting times and reassess at a later time.

Rob Cox left a list of ideas for meeting speakers, and others were brought up at the meeting, these included:

## September 21st, 2010 Meeting Minutes cont.

KDOT – Discuss how the weather impacts them and what they do to prepare for weather events

Mayor of Greensburg?

Someone from Chapman, KS

Arborist who could talk about how the weather has impacted the Trees in the area (ice)

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Andover

Coffeyville EM or southeastern KS, to discuss the Flooding of 2007

Storm Photography

Someone from the Department of Wildlife and Parks on how weather impacts their life.

Climate Change

After a vote, the Chapter chose to pursue the KDOT speaker for the November Meeting. The plan is to shoot for a lunch time meeting on either November 8<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>. Jerilyn Billings will continue to make arrangements for planning this meeting.

- Chapter Bylaws:

Stephanie Dunten and Lorrie Donham have looked into the Chapter by-laws and have found very little, upon their recommendations and a vote by the chapter, it was decided to closely follow a set of bylaws that other Chapters have and make them relevant to the Wichita Chapter.

- Science in Kansas:

Lorrie had received an E-mail that a group will be highlighting 150 Kansas scientists, both past and present. Nominations must be in by **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010**. Please see: [http://www.adastra-ks.org/events/150\\_scientists\\_index.html](http://www.adastra-ks.org/events/150_scientists_index.html), for more information. This website has a link to a page for nominations to be included in this group. It would be great to have Meteorology represented.

The meeting adjourned around 8pm

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### Mark your Calendars

Keep an eye out for future AMS/NWA Meetings

**February 2011**

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### 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:** Vacant

**Vice President:** Lorrie Donham, [hdsciteach@cox.net](mailto:hdsciteach@cox.net)

**Treasurer:** Craig McPherson, [Craig.McPherson@mccconnell.af.mil](mailto:Craig.McPherson@mccconnell.af.mil)

**Secretary:** Mike Smith, [michaelsmith@mac.com](mailto:michaelsmith@mac.com)

**Wichita AMS Newsletter Editor:** Jerilyn Billings, [Jerilyn.Billings@noaa.gov](mailto:Jerilyn.Billings@noaa.gov)



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

