

# Meeting minutes from January 15th, 2003

## NWA Central Iowa Chapter

The January 15, 2003 meeting of the Central Iowa NWA took place at the National Weather Service office in Johnston. There were 9 members in attendance, as well as two guests from the Boone area.

We started the meeting with some new business. Bryan gave a brief overview of our chapter for Alan and Kyle, the two visitors. Andy had a few topics of discussion. The National Weather Service will be doing spotter training this spring. The sites and dates will be on the Des Moines Wx Service page. Three of these will be advanced training sessions, with Andy giving them.

A second item Andy brought up was the GIS Conference. The conference is being held June 30- July 2, 2003 at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State Campus (near Hilton Coliseum). The cost is \$70 for students and \$125 for regular attendees. Ellen Gordon, Director of the Iowa Emergency Management, and Barbara Ryan, from the USGS, will be featured speakers. For more information about the conference, contact Andy at [Andy.Kula@noaa.gov](mailto:Andy.Kula@noaa.gov)

Andy also discussed the possibility of bringing Science in a Sphere to Iowa. The cost for transportation and people to run this will be \$15,000. We will explore the possibility of joining in an effort with other organizations in possibly bringing this to Iowa in the future.

We then discussed the possibility of doing a spotter training session during the conference. We'd like to make it a session put on by members, Andy and someone else from the Weather Service, and possibly Jason.

We then broke for a demonstration on a new climatology database that has records going back (forever!). Then we got a demonstration of the National Digital Forecast Database from our featured speaker Chuck Myers. The NWS in Des Moines will soon be offering a graphical version of the new forecast on their website sometime this year. This forecast allows the NWS to give specific forecast number 7-days outs.

We returned to the meeting and began discussing the conference and other odds and ends. The agenda team will look into the possibility of having a speaker on Aviation Meteorology. The National Weather Service is giving \$2000 to pay for the expenses of bringing government speakers to the conference. (THANK YOU WEATHER SERVICE!)

Travel-- Will look into the possibility of getting discounts from the airlines for our speakers. Will also look into this for the future for our attendees as well.

Bryan has been contacted about the possibility of the chapter being involved in a parade in Downtown DSM in July (has a weather theme) He will be going to a meeting on this sometime in the future. As for the Science Center, we are not going to be entering into the \$5000 sponsorship that had been discussed at previous meetings. However, the Science Center is still interested in doing things with the chapter cooperatively. As for David Stillings, we need to get into contact with him. If we are bringing him to the conference, the Sci Ctr will pay half and we'll pay the other half of his expenses and then share him that weekend.

We then discussed our April meeting. Our April meeting will be on April 26, 2003 at noon at the Science Center of Iowa. Check the website as time gets closer for more details.

Hotel and Electronics report from Willard-- Willard spoke to Annette at the Embassy, and we have some rooms reserved already. He has gotten 4 government rate requests. As for electronics, everything is getting ready to go. Willard has PC's ready. As time draws nearer, he'll be setting up tasks for the electronics team. We are also going to put a deadline on submission of the presentations (PowerPoint) to be loaded on to the computers ahead of time.

Agenda update from Brad-- We have some speakers confirmed and some that have not been. We discussed the different nights on what we should hold. Check the website for updates. [www.iowa-nwa.com](http://www.iowa-nwa.com) We've received 10-15 abstracts.

We started to discuss promotions and registration, but due to the impending snow and people needing to leave, we adjourned. Promotions and Registration (Mitch and Penny) will send out emails about their topics.

The next meeting is on Thursday, February 13 at Chips in Ankeny. The meeting will begin at 6:30, with social time at 6.

Mitch Keegan

Central Iowa NWA Secretary