

Central Iowa NWA Meeting

March 8th, 2011

Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny, IA

15th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference

March 31st – April 2nd at the Courtyard by Marriott in Ankeny, IA

For conference team sign-ups, email President Chris Maiers (cmaiers@gmail.com)

Agenda Team (Dr. Gallus)

We do not have enough abstracts submitted to fill the full conference. There was talk of shifting the video night to Saturday afternoon so that there is a full session post-lunch hour. Otherwise, we can start earlier (8:10 am) one morning instead of 8:30 am so that the conference will be wrapped up by lunch hour on Saturday.

Another possibility is having some people lead forecast briefings each morning to fill some time. Final details of the conference agenda will be finished soon since the abstract deadline has been extended until tomorrow (Wednesday, March 9th).

We have 7 posters for the poster session which will take place on Friday, April 1st.

(Food Update) There was a misinterpretation regarding the food contract with the hotel. After debating, a compromise would be to have lunch items and add dessert option for an additional \$3 or so for next year. It was decided to select the Stuffed Chicken entrée because it will help us reach our targeted food cost. We are assuming around 190 attendees, so that will put us roughly \$50 short of the \$6,000 budget. This amount will include the banquet dinner meal and various desserts/snacks for mid-morning and afternoon breaks. With the leftover money in the budget, we have the option of giving door prizes such as free breakfasts to attendees.

(Room Block Update) There were issues regarding getting the link for our hotel room block. Everything is cleared up now however, we lost out on several registrants staying in the hotel block. Our room block reservation is held for another week or so before we have to relinquish some of our rooms. Instead of having to give up all rooms in the block at once, they compromised with us and will gradually take a few away every week up until the conference weekend.

Registration Team (Jeff Duda)

40 people are currently registered, which is slightly less to where we were at this time last year. Registration team's schedule has been sent out. If there conflicts with your scheduled times, switch with someone or talk with Jeff. Volunteers are lined up to set up the poster session.

Look for an email from Jeff Duda regarding registration at the member rate.

All supplies (folders, lanyards, as well as a printer) have been purchased by Adam Deppe. Big thanks to him for doing that.

Travel Team (Aubry Wilkins)

The total cost for all of the invited speaker's travel, hotel, and registration arrangements came out to be approximately \$3,500. Travel arrangements were paid fully by the chapter this year since NWS budget decisions are still being made; the \$2,000 was not dispersed to us.

A non-refundable (\$540) ticket has been purchased for Rick Mitchell from Oklahoma City since it seemed like the best financial route to go. He is still not confirmed yet.

Vendor Team (Chris Maiers)

Sold back page to the agenda to Severe Studios. A radar application will be advertised from a private company as well. Baron is still on the fence about attending as a vendor. If they cannot attend, we will try to sell them advertising space on the agenda. Advertising will need to be added into the agenda through JPEG format. The secretary is usually responsible for handling this. Ken is still working on getting restaurants on board. They are asking for more information regarding our conference and costs for advertising space. It might be a good idea to develop a flyer or packet showing perspective vendors what our club and conference provides and how they would benefit from us.

Electronics Team (Willard Sharp)

The wireless network for the radar workshop is good to go. He is waiting on a couple questions to be answered from the hotel, but the list of hardware we will be renting from the hotel is ready to go. He is requesting some additional assistance at the A/V table during the conference. Email Willard at madridwx@gmail.com if interested in volunteering with this. He will be sending out an email out to the presenters asking for their presentations once the abstract deadline has passed A more detailed report from the electronics team will come shortly.

Does the hotel have the capability of running Skype? If Rick Mitchell cannot attend due to severe weather occurring in OK during the conference, he has volunteered to do his presentation via Skype.

Wireless presenters, laser pointers have been purchased thanks to Chris Maiers and Adam Deppe. We have reserved two projectors: one from the NWS in Des Moines, and the other from Iowa State University that JoBeth Minniear reserved for the club.

Radar Workshop Team (Liz Suess)

Need to double check with the hotel if we are able to use the outlets on the walls for during the workshop because there will be a large power draw needed, and may need to go through an alternate high-current source.

Daryl Herzmann is helping to set up the beta testing, which should be ready by Thursday of this week. Liz and the other people on the workshop team will work at doing the testing once she returns from Spring Break.

We will have access to the conference room right away in the morning. Liz is prepared to arrive at the hotel in the morning to make sure the setup is working flawlessly. Chris Maiers will double-check the details for when our space will be available.

Liz has been in contact with Mike Gibson, and is working on getting a trial-extension key code. Dr. Gallus is going to contact him to see if he would like to have a time slot to advertise his products. He may also give a tutorial at the start of the workshop.

Pam Daale Scholarship Team (Rod Donavon)

Finalists have been selected. The applications have been sent out to the committee (Brad Edwards, Andy Kula, and Steve Decker) and we will have the results of the scholarship recipient shortly. 12 applications from 6 universities were received. This is slightly higher than previous years.

Video Recording the Conference Update

The hotel will be updating their sound system this week for us. The hotel is not charging us to use their recording hardware, so all we will need to do is swap out CDs once they are full. We will be going ahead with the recording. Prices for a recording of the conference are \$20/\$40 for purchasing at the conference, and afterwards, respectively.

Attracting the National NWA Conference to Des Moines Update

We still have 6 months to decide whether we are going to put in a bid for this. The Des Moines Chamber of Commerce is very excited about this, and is willing to help out in any way. We will visit this topic later in the year.

Fundraising Summary (Melinda Beerends)

Pizza Ranch – Happened Monday, March 7th, 2011 Thank you all for volunteering your time and eating at the restaurant. We earned about \$65 in tips, and then we will also be receiving a portion of the revenue. We may benefit more if we make it clearer where the donations are going, and will look into that for next time.

Treasurer Update (Adam Deppe)

Current Balance \$18,691

Member dues are \$10 if you have not paid them yet. Contact Adam at ajdeppe@gmail.com if you still need to pay them.

If cannot attend conference, club will be refunding registration fees in full up to one week prior to the conference.

Secretary Notes – No updates

Other Items

The ISU AMS chapter has asked us again if NWA would be interested in hosting a booth at their weatherfest during VEISHEA this spring. JoBeth Minniear mentioned that the rates for renting a booth have gone up to \$60, but she may be able to get us in for the prior fee of \$30. After discussion, there is some interest in putting a booth together with some interactive activities. If you are interested in helping out, email Melinda Beerends at Melinda.Beerends@noaa.gov or Chris Maiers at cmaiers@gmail.com.

A motion was made by Darren Snively to end the meeting and seconded by Justin Schultz. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm

The next meeting is Thursday, April 14th, 2011 location TBD

Any questions regarding meeting minutes from March 8th, 2011 can be directed at the Central Iowa NWA Secretary Rachel Hatteberg (rah@iastate.edu)

Previous meeting minutes along with a copy of the agenda for this meeting can be found on the Iowa NWA web page at the following address:

<http://www.iowa-nwa.com/minutes.php>