



**Central Iowa NWA Meeting**  
**October 29, 2012 – 6:30 pm**  
*Center Grove Orchard - Cambridge, IA*



**1. 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference Update**

**a. Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny, Iowa: April 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**b. Please see Pre-meeting Conference Update for all of the teams' update**

**c. Latest Team Info**

*i. Agenda*

1. Lou Wicker accepted to be the banquet speaker.
  - a. *Will talk about state-of-the-art storm-scale modeling*
2. Dr. Veer from Joplin responded via email asking if there was an honorarium?
  - a. Like a tip or compensation
  - b. Typical in guest medical lectures
  - c. Need to vote via email a.) Should we offer a honorarium and b.) How much should it be?
    - i. Don't want to go over \$500 so need to decide how bad we want him.
    - ii. We do have the money to spend since we have fewer invited speakers
3. Might talk to Bob Ryan about the derecho
4. Possible have the Fort Worth tornado, but whom and should we?
5. Talked about a possible discussion and/or career panel
  - a. About 50-60% of attendees are students
  - b. A Topic could be on "how people should act/respond in severe storm situations."
  - c. If not possible for this year, maybe next year
6. Maybe bring in a big name for the tape swap
  - a. Have a short introduction
  - b. Provide great feedback for the students

*ii. Registration*

1. No updates/no chance to test paypal 'here' yet
2. Would likely use Square because it is more accessible on ipad/tablets
  - a. One possibility is for chapter to get a prepaid smartphone and pay a set price for 1 month of service (March) versus monthly costs due to getting into a contract
  - b. A small investment with all the registration and DVD sales to speed service at the registration table.

*iii. Radar Workshop*

1. Possibility of expanding it since there might be more time with less invited speakers

- a. *Complaints last year of rushing the introductions and wrap up, but the storm simulation seemed to drag on*
  - 2. *Kevin mentioned having presentations on how to use dual-pol and how to use GR (will be placed on the website for review prior to workshop).*
    - a. *Have more instruction and less warning time.*
  - 3. *Should also stress that every table needs to have a laptop*
    - a. *Mention to those with a laptop to invite those who don't have one to join your group(split up groups with multiple laptops with those that don't have one as last year some tables did not have any and others had more than one)*
- iv. *Pam Daale Scholarship*
  - 1. *Scholarship Amount Proposal*
    - a. *\$1500 Scholarship, \$250 towards travel expenses*
    - b. *Needs to be voted on via email*

## **2. NWS Group Travel/Invited Speaker/Participation Issues**

- a. **NWS/NOAA need to have a travel grant acceptance form if 10 or more employees from any office attend**
  - i. *Mindy is waiting on more information about this*
  - ii. *High possibility there could be no NWS employees attending the conference because of this (will hopefully know more toward January after the government sequestration period has ended)*
    - 1. *DSM possibly can't go as NWS representatives but maybe as regular guests*
    - 2. *Will need to avoid NWS people as invited speakers in the future*
- b. **Past NWS Attendance Breakdown**
  - i. *2012 – 24 NWS/NOAA employees overall (3 invited, 5 DSM, 10 regular, 6 waived)*
  - ii. *2011 – 19 NWS/NOAA employees overall (1 invited, 7 DSM, 7 regular, 4 waived)*
  - iii. *2009 - 32 NWS/NOAA employees overall (3 invited, 11 DSM, 15 regular, 3 waived)*

## **3. Treasurer Update**

- a. **Member Dues: \$10**
  - i. *Give to Jim Lee*
  - ii. *Cash or check (made out to Central Iowa NWA)*
  - iii. *Due at the start of the January Meetings*
  - iv. *New members need to pay asap, will cover through January 2014*
- b. **Current balance: \$23,103.32 (as of the meeting)**
- c. **Jim Lee and Mindy were also finally added onto the account** (appears the bank last year screwed up and had never added Jim)

## **4. Secretaries Notes**

- a. **Update on the new mail box**
  - i. *Officially changed to the main Ames Post Office: PO Box 512*

- ii. *Rod Donavon and Dave Flory each given a key to the box*

## **5. Other**

### **a. Meeting ideas**

- i. *A joint meeting with the ISU AMS club next time in Ames (late Jan/early Feb)*
- ii. *One possible meeting location is at Hawthorne Market at Frederiksen Court*
- iii. *In-house team trivia event for possible activity (chapter may provide pizza)*

### **b. Getting more attendees to meetings**

- i. *Try and get more media people to come to meetings*
- ii. *Personally invite the through postcards, phone calls or cards*
  - 1. *Possibly have a brunch/meal with them and cabinet members, get thoughts on how to get more of them involved*

## **6. Next Meeting: Thursday, December 6 in Des Moines at 6:30 pm**

- a. **Location to be announced**
- b. **Harry Hillaker (State Climatologist) will speak**

## **Attendance**

Melinda Beerends

Lyndee Clark

Peter Effertz

Bill Gallus

Jim Lee

Kevin Skow



Central Iowa NWA  
October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012



## Pre-Meeting Conference Update

1. 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference Summary
  - 2013: April 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>: Courtyard by Marriott - Ankeny
  - Conference Teams listed on last page
    - To join a team, email [melinda.beerends@noaa.gov](mailto:melinda.beerends@noaa.gov)
  - Conference Team Update Highlights
  - Agenda
    - The agenda team had several discussions about banquet speakers and conducted several votes.
      1. In the first vote, Roger Wakimoto was overwhelmingly favored, but had to decline our invitation due to a conflict with an NSF meeting.
      2. The second place finisher, Howie Bluestein, was then invited, but he also called to reluctantly decline due to scheduling issues.
      3. At the present time, voting is ongoing to decide between Lou Wicker, Reed Timmer, and Ginger Zee.
        - a. Lou was a late suggestion by some severe weather experts, and it appears he may be the one we ask.
        - b. Reed could attract a big audience but the team had some concerns about his personality, image, and self-promotion.
        - c. Ginger likewise would offer a unique perspective, but there were concerns that she is not really that well-known, and there is no obvious "hook" or compelling reason to have her speak.
    - The team also spent much time deciding on other invited speakers. It appears there is a consensus to invite the Henryville, IN school principal who rode out the tornado with his students during the March 2 outbreak. Likewise, the team favors re-inviting Frank Veer, the trauma doctor from Joplin. The team is still weighing options for other speakers, which might include Bob Ryan from the DC TV market to talk about the June 29 derecho, and also speakers for some (but not all) of these events:
      1. Colorado Springs firestorm
      2. Dallas tornado (Apr 3)
      3. Wichita and/or Woodward tornadoes (Apr 14-15)
      4. Duluth flash flood

- There also might be a panel discussion about how to get people to take action, which would have a good connection with both the March 2 event and the derecho (and possibly firestorm).
- Invitations to the banquet speaker and the school principal and Frank Veer will likely be extended in the next week, possibly prior to the next meeting.
- Electronics
  - Need a sheet of costs from the hotel for the needed AV equipment
- Pam Daale Scholarship
  - Team is working on the scholarship application and developing questions. Hope to have the application done by mid-November and posted on our site and the NWA scholarship page.
  - Propose same scholarship amount as last year which included \$1500 for the scholarship and up to \$250 for travel. The travel includes one room night at the hotel.
- Radar Workshop
  - Issue #1 – Is Daryl willing to help this year?
    1. He says he is in.
  - Issue #2 – Willard will not be able to participate this year.
    1. Willard has said that he would be able to loan us his networking equipment. If it is a matter of setting up a simple LAN it shouldn't be too difficult. Caveat will be the subtleties of the wireless network.
  - Issue #3 – Educational presentation before warning workshop?
    1. Kevin Skow has offered to help create a PowerPoint presentation/PDF that could be posted to our web site and included with the electronic registration confirmation. This would hopefully enable us to bring students and those less familiar with NEXRAD data up to speed before the workshop begins. Instructions for the WarnGen software could also be included to hopefully expedite the introduction
  - Issue #4 – Selecting a case.
    1. here are a number of cases that are being evaluated. One should be selected by the next meeting.
  - Issue #5 – Obtaining software from Chris Karstens.
    1. Chris has said he is willing to pass all materials on.
- Registration
  - Have updated the registration types on the web for the 2013 conference (links not active yet)
  - Google Checkout has changed to Google Wallet
    1. Functions the same and should be transparent, only change is web page now says Google Wallet instead of Google Checkout
  - Have some badges and folders, and 270 lanyards. Therefore sometime between now and February will have to order the badges and folders.

- Have ordered a PayPal Mobile Card Reader through my personal PayPal account to check it out and see how it all works. Figured we can check it out before we would try to get anything for the group at this point in time.
- Travel
  - So far, no confirmed invited speakers
  - No NWS funding for this year
  - Need to work with NWS to see if there will be restrictions on travel, including if we are bringing in a NOAA employee
- Vendor
  - Drove through Ankeny near hotel to see what restaurants are located in nearest strip mall. Will be compiling list to see if they will be interested in advertising.
  - Trying to figure out what to do about vendor displays. Baron has attended in the past. It will be interesting to see if the new conglomerate of WSI/Weather Central will attend.

# 2012 – 2013 Conference Committees

## Registration Team

Mindy Beerends (Chair)  
Josh Alland  
Corey Harguth  
Ethan Milius  
Thomas LeBlanc  
Lyndee Clark  
Frank Boksa  
Kristy Carter  
Rachel Hatteberg

## Electronics Team

Dave Flory (Chair)  
Jimmy Cayer  
Kevin Snow

## Travel Team

Aubry Bhattarai (Chair)  
Ken Podrazik  
Jim Lee  
Jimmy Cayer

## Vendor Team

Chris Maiers (Chair)

## Agenda Team

Dr. Gallus (Chair)  
Ethan Milius  
Mindy Beerends  
Chris Maiers  
Dave Flory  
Ron Donavon  
Aubry Bhattarai  
Karl Jungbluth

## Pam Daale Scholarship Team

Rod Donavon (Chair)  
Jeff Zogg  
Aubry Bhattarai  
Karl Jungbluth  
Ken Podrazik

## Radar Workshop Team

Chris Maiers (Chair)  
Tim Marquis  
Dave Flory  
Kevin Skow

## Hotel Team

Mindy Beerends (Chair)  
Chris Maiers  
Jim Lee

