

Greater St. Louis Chapter AMS Meeting Minutes - 30 March 2004

The March 2004 meeting of the Greater St. Louis Chapter of the American Meteorological Society was held on Tuesday, March 30, 2004 at Guido's Pizzeria and Tapas on the Hill. This location was another Local AMS Chapter first and 22 members enjoyed appetizers and a buffet, a mix of Italian and Spanish food. Chairperson Marty Baxter, began the business meeting promptly at 8:00 PM CST.

Reports

Lou Hull read the minutes of the February meeting at Michael's West End with Dr. Thomas Schlatter. They were accepted as read.

Ron Przybylinski delivered the Treasury Report and reported expenses exceeding revenue of \$29.29, dropping our balance to \$944.83.

Old Business

Ron was pleased that three AMS members have volunteered to be judges at the Science Fair on April 16, 2004. This will be the first Friday after Easter this year and the day after our next meeting. Judges who arrive by 4:30 pm will receive a free meal before the evening judging unfolds.

The membership voted to approve a \$100.00 first prize in the form of a bond or savings certificate.

Mark Britt's announced an attendance of 35 at the Severe Weather Workshop held on Saturday, March 27 at Busch Center on the campus of Saint Louis University. More were expected, but the talks were excellent and all were glad they came. The workshop was over by 1:00 PM CST.

New Business

Marty announced our April speaker, Dr. Ismail Gultepe, of Environment Canada. The date for the dinner meeting will be on Thursday, April 15.

Lou reminded the group that the election for new officers is conducted between April and May meetings. Ballots with a least 2 members per office should be decided on during the April meeting.

Speaker

Marty introduced the speaker, Mr. Marc Singer. Marc is a recent SLU graduate student, earning his BS and MS in 1999 and 2002 respectively. His research with

the CIPS program was with Heavy Snow Bands. Mr. Singer works at the Aviation Weather Center as a Meteorologist for support of Weather Information systems.

Marc's talk was entitled, "**Software and Hardware Support of the Aviation Weather Center.**"

Marc is located at the AWC Production & Support Facility, one of nine nation centers. Their mission statement includes forecasts, identification of weather hazards, and research to incorporate new tools for the forecaster's use. There is a staff of 64, with 38 meteorologist, in the Production and Support group.

The Area Forecast Desk is responsible for Airmets over 3000 sq miles and Sigments for potentially hazardous weather, turbulence, and icing. They can establish no fly zones. Ironically, pilots verifying their forecasts, get in trouble for being there in a warned area. Twelve and twenty-four hour forecasts of sigificant low-level weather are also part of their job. They also produce two hour severe convective sigments, adding WMO headers for public dissemination. Their mid and high level Significant Weather charts include the ocean expanse due to overseas flights. Forecasts for the Gulf of Mexico cover the helicopter flights from oil rigs to shore for 4000 off-shore employees.

Marc is officially a contractor for RS Information Systems supporting the Aviation Weather Center. RSIS is directly funded by the FAA. RSIS supplies meteorologists and programmers to the Aviation Support branch. Marc coordinates the assimilation of outside and inside research into the operational arena. There are product development teams of RSIS contractors developing automated products for convective weather, icing, turbulence, oceanic weather, and low ceilings and visibilities. One of their products will use WSR-88D Doppler data and propagates the feature. A future version will add growth and decay of the feature. Another product uses the RUC40 for hourly icing forecasts. Future development uses the RUC20 and RUC13 and satellite input. Graphical Turbulence Guidance uses the RUC20 with Pireps and Lightning detection to make projections out to 12 hours.

The Aviation Digital Data Services is available on the Internet at <http://adds.aviationweather.gov>

Marc announced the next big project for AWC, the installation of the Graphical Area Forecast by 2006. It will combine all of the graphic products into one system. He queried the group to see if we knew the seven grads working at the AWC. The audience only knew a few. Marc then surprised us by announcing that his contract days will soon be over. The AWC will hire him in a few months as an official federal employee.

Marty thanked Marc for a very informative presentation. Marty ended the business meeting at 9:15 PM.

Lou Hull / Secretary