

American Meteorological Society (AMS) - St. Louis Chapter Meeting

Thursday, March 19th, 2009

Location: Bevo Mill Restaurant, Bevo Mill, St. Louis, MO

Call to Order: 8:18 pm by Charles Graves

Board Members in Attendance:

Dr. Charles Graves – President
Ron Przybylinski – Vice President
Allison Wreath – Treasurer
Benjamin Sipprell – Secretary
Lou Hull – Membership
Chad Gravelle – Webmaster

Introductions – Dr. Charles Graves

Welcoming notes

Secretary Report – Benjamin Daniel Sipprell

Minutes to the February 2009 meeting were read

Ms. Allison Wreath motioned for approval and members approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report – Allison Wreath

Checking ...	\$808.97 ... Additional \$817 in deposits for February meeting
	\$1625.97 ... Minus \$828.17 for Bevo Mill
	\$797.80 ... Final
Savings ...	\$262.05

Old Business – Dr. Charles Graves

Our next meeting is set for April with Chris Higgins being the main speaker
Mr. Higgins will present his meteorological experiences in Afghanistan

Questions raised as to where the next meeting should be held
Suggested around Chesterfield, MO as that is where Mr. Higgins lives

New Business – Ron Przybylinski

Elections for new officers will be held in April
There will be a reminder sent in the next meeting notice concerning upcoming elections

Ron pressed members to become active and join the board
Kansas City incorporates a project for which they rotate their officers

Ms. Allison Wreath reminded everyone to pay their dues of \$10, as they will be going up to \$20
with next year ... payment of dues gets you \$4 off of buffet dinners

Fred Glass and Mark Britt will be participating in the Vortex2 project during the month of May

Chad Gravelle and Dr. Charles Graves will be presenting a poster at the AMS WAF Conference
June 1st – 5th in Omaha, NE

Speaker Introductions – Allison Wreath

Dr. Paul Strivaka –Professor of Meteorology – College of Dupage, Chicago, IL

Notes:

Dr. Paul Strivaka has been with the College of DuPage for over 20 years with many outstanding awards after developing the entire meteorology curriculum with the College

- Has worked in developing NexLab, a user-friendly meteorological web resource encompassing observational and numerical model data
- Has done scores of TV/newspaper interviews along with regular radio weather-casts to the Chicago-metro area region
- Has given both spotter training and weather symposiums in the Chicago-land area

College of DuPage is a community college with roughly 29,000 enrollment
Located in the western suburbs of Chicago
Meteorology program began 20 years ago going full-time immediately with the development of several program making it the first comprehensive community college for meteorologists

Courses include:

Introductory Meteorology, Severe and Unusual weather, Forecasting, Intermediate Meteorology, Mesoscale, Thunderstorm Lab, Climate and Global Change
Meteorology has a well-known chase program

Storm chasing program began in 1989 and serves as the oldest known group of storm chasers
First chasing trips were within Kentucky, followed by Wichita, KS

By August 28th, 1990 the chase team was well-known with intercept of the Plainfield, IL tornado
Worked in cooperation with EMA of DuPage County and recognized together that the county was unprepared for the tornadic situation
Meteorology department for the College of DuPage increased public awareness to the Chicago-area as to the vulnerability of tornadoes and severe thunderstorms
Each year the Meteorology Department teaches both students and communities on how to spot storms and serve their local constituents
For the past 18 years spotter training has been offered by the department

The College of DuPage chase-team has logged over 300,000 miles from Alberta, Canada to Roswell, NM, to Cincinnati, OH

- Seeing a tornado is not the objective, rather the understanding of severe weather and thunderstorms first-hand (e.g., structure)
- Multiple analyses occur during the chase
- Terrain matters ... southern Indiana being the worst
- Good spotting techniques such as identification of the updraft, wall cloud versus shelf cloud, identifying the downdraft

Important notes with chasing

- Shelf clouds provide information; laminar features associated with lifting of stable air
- Wall clouds overrated in tornado spotting
- Supercell storms with high bases potentially have a lot of cold air underneath, no tornadoes
- Clear slot the most important thing a spotter should understand
 - For not all wall clouds have rotations
- It's all about understanding in real-time
- Impossible to know which storms will produce tornadoes and which will fail

Meeting Adjourned: By Allison Wreath