

Central Oklahoma Chapter of the AMS (COCAMS)

Meeting Minutes

Jeremy Grams, Secretary

Thursday, 5:00 PM, September 20, 2007

National Weather Center (NWC) in Norman, OK

Welcome/Recap

President Patrick Burke welcomed the group to the first meeting of the 2007-2008 chapter year. He provided a recap of chapter events during this past summer, which included the May BBQ, an Oklahoma Redhawks minor league baseball game in July, and an officers' meeting to plan out the upcoming chapter year.

Upcoming Planned Events

Saturday, September 22nd, from 3 to 6 pm, the chapter will have a fall picnic hosted at Bob Johns' home in east Norman. The chapter will provide food/drinks and setup outdoor games. There is also a weather station and farm trails to explore. A map to Bob's place was sent in email with printouts available to be picked up at the end of meeting.

Tuesday, October 2nd at 6:30 pm, COCAMS and OUSCAMS will hold a special joint chapter meeting in the NWC. Carolyn Brewer, author of Caught in the Path, will be the guest speaker. Her book chronicled the Ruskin Heights F5 tornado that killed around 40 people in the Kansas City metro area on May 20th, 1957. Having been in the path of the storm herself, Ms. Brewer's Caught in the Path provides accounts of those who survived and died in the storm, as well as the reconstruction that followed afterwards. With 2007 marking the 50th anniversary of the storm, and ten years after Caught in the Path, Ms. Brewer is compiling additional stories and details to write a sequel. She plans to share this new material at the October 2nd meeting.

Wednesday through Friday, October 10th-12th, the chapter will co-sponsor the Multifunction Phased Array Radar Symposium: Leveraging Technology for a Next-Generation National Radar System. This event will be held in the NWC, co-sponsored by OFCM and NSSL. Kit Wagner, treasurer, will assist with collecting exhibitor fees similar to how COCAMS assists with the National Severe Weather Workshop. For more information, please see <http://www.ofcm.gov/mpar-symposium/index.htm>

Ideas for Future Meetings/Activities

From the officers' planning meeting, the following items were presented to the membership as possible ideas for meetings and/or events.

- Monthly meetings will typically be scheduled every 3rd Thursday.
- A tour of the Phased Array radar on OU's north research campus will likely occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting on October 18th. More details will be provided at the special meeting on October 2nd.
- A committee should be formed to help staff a booth at the National Weather Festival, which will be held on Saturday, October 20th from 9 am to 1 pm at the NWC.

- Additional committees should be formed to help with sponsoring the Storms of 2007 DVD and for putting together a poster to display at the AMS annual meeting in January.
- A tour of the Moore Emergency Management Center will probably be scheduled in November or December.
- The chapter will likely participate in the 2008 Oklahoma State Science and Engineering Fair in March.

A handout was passed around the membership to solicit committee members for the National Weather Festival, Storms of 2007, AMS annual meeting poster, and Fawbush & Miller scholarship maintenance.

Fawbush & Miller Scholarship

Bill Martin had maintained the Fawbush & Miller award for COCAMS since its inception several years ago. This involved determining the yearly winner of the National Collegiate Weather Forecasting Contest (now the OU WX-Challenge), communicating this information to Fred Carr in the OU School of Meteorology to have the scholarship check drawn, and having the perpetual plaque and an individual plaque engraved at Sooner Trophy. Since Bill has left for a position within the NWS in Montana, a new responsible person will be needed to take over.

Storms of 2007 DVD

Greg Stumpf presented the membership with a request for the chapter to sponsor the Storms of 2007 DVD. Greg asked the chapter to pay for the DVD cost upfront, with the chapter receiving 25% of the profits plus the cost of the DVDs. The chapter had sponsored the 2004 and 2005 versions of the series, raising \$14,365 for the American Red Cross. A motion was made to have the chapter provide up to \$500 for the upfront cost associated with producing the initial set of DVDs. This motion was approved. Greg followed up by saying that this year the producers of the DVD may decide to initially purchase a unit of 500 replicated DVDs to save on overall production cost. This could cost \$1000 to \$1500. There was some discussion on whether this larger initial sum should be approved instead of up to \$500. Kit announced that COCAMS had a little over \$10,000 in the treasury. It was decided to table any additional motions on this item until a future meeting.

Special Election for Vice-President

Amy Gardner had resigned as chapter Vice-President after taking a position at a TV station in Amarillo, TX. The nominating committee had selected Mark Sessing as her replacement. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Mark was approved by the membership as the new Vice-President.

Speakers

COCAMS members Steven Kruckenberg, Service Hydrologist at the NWSFO Norman, and Chris Sohl, Senior Forecaster at NWSFO Norman, presented "Record Rainfall and Flooding of 2007 in Oklahoma and North Texas". Their talk gave a chronological perspective on heavy rain events during the spring and summer of 2007. They showed the upper-level weather pattern, as well as an analysis of rainfall/river levels during this time frame. Photographs of damage caused by flooding were also displayed.