

CENTRAL ALABAMA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

10/23/2008

Attendees:

Mary Schmitt
Dave Scott
Richard Blume
Brian Peters
Sean Boogard
David Brommer
Ashley Brand
Mark Rose

Location: Ezell's Fish Camp
Pelham, AL

The meeting was opened up by Mark Rose, thanking everyone for attending the last meeting of the year. He announced that elections for the upcoming year. Nominations for officers would open November 15th and close on the 30th.

Mark Rose recapped the National Weather Association Convention that took place in Louisville, Kentucky - October 11-16. Jim Stefkovich, Meteorologist-in-Charge at the NWS Birmingham, and Mark Rose, Senior Forecaster at NWS Birmingham, both presented posters at the convention. Jim Stefkovich hosted two poster sessions: Alabama Heat Waves 1980/2007 and a Downburst Event in Montgomery, Alabama on May 8 2008. Mark Rose presented a poster on a Central Alabama Derecho Event of Feb 26, 2008. Also sighted at the convention from the Central Alabama area was James-Paul Dice, WBRC Birmingham, and Rich Thomas, WSFA Montgomery. The convention hosted a record attendance which was a welcome surprise for the convention hosts. During the convention there were many keynote speakers, including Tom Skilling of WGN Chicago. There was a student session on Sunday that generated 40 poster presentations. The other area of interest was the Historical weather presentations which highlighted the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane – Florida Keys, 1975 Edmund Fitzgerald Storm, Hurricane Iniki 1992, Mount Washington 1934 Windstorm – Peak Gust 231 mph, and the Columbus Day Windstorm (1962) Pacific Northwest. Mark also mentioned that there were numerous presentations on the Super Tuesday Tornado Outbreak.

In addition to all the fun of the convention it was also announced that the Central Alabama NWA is going to bid on the 2011 NWA Convention to have the convention come to Birmingham. Bill Murray, Jim Stefkovich, and Mark Rose had a meeting with Steve Hearn, Executive Director of the NWA. Steve will visit Birmingham in the spring to see local hotel facilities. Steve will submit Birmingham's proposal to the NWA council in June 2009. It was mentioned that San Antonio, Texas, is also making a bid. At the NWA awards luncheon Mark Rose was presented the NWA Public Outreach Award for his development and marketing of a weather safety DVD.

There was discussion on a membership drive for 2009. The chapter needs to recruit more members, especially from the media market.

The meeting hosted a great presentation with guest speaker David Brommer, Ph.D., from the University of Alabama. The impactful presentation was about the Primary Meteorological Variables Impacting Hurricane Evacuation Decisions: A Case Study of Hurricane Gustav".

Minutes submitted by: Mary Schmitt (Secretary)