

# NWA Remote Sensing Committee Meeting Summary

Friday, May 1, 2009

Telecon

Meeting Participants: Dennis Buechler, Stacey Bunin, Gary Ellrod, Ralph Ferraro, Pam Heinselman, Tom Lee, Jay Martinelli, Brian Motta, Craig Nelson

## 1. Welcome and opening remarks (Ferraro)

This is our second meeting of 2009; nine participants (noted above) were able to phone in. Ralph thanked everyone for their efforts so far, much of what was summarized in the committee's mid-year report just delivered to A. Gerard. In particular, the newsletter articles continue to be excellent and the web page continues to be updated by Gary on a regular basis.

## 2. 2009 Accomplishments (not discussed specifically, will keep building this list as year progresses)

- Presented remote sensing research and operational applications at the 89th AMS Annual Meeting in Phoenix (January)
- Enhanced a committee web site that is more user-friendly and more easily indicates areas of interest for site visitors
- Published a series of remote sensing training and education articles in the NWA monthly newsletter; regularly submitted other articles for publication; posted all articles, some in expanded form, on the committee web site.
- Recruiting applications for the undergraduate 2009 Meteorological Satellite Award Grant
- Publication of remote sensing articles and newsworthy items in the NWA newsletter and electronic operational journal
- Nearly every committee member has contributed to the creation, review and co-authorship of monthly articles submitted for publication in the NWA newsletter.
- Held quarterly committee conference calls and communicated regularly by e-mail to keep committee members and the NWA informed on remote sensing issues
- Participated or are planning participation in numerous technical conference/symposia
- Engaged with Professional Development and Broadcaster Committees to develop training workshop at 2009 Annual Meeting in Norfolk

## 3. Web Page Status (Ellrod)

Gary continues to do an excellent job with the web site – THANKS! We get useful links from time to time from Brad Herold (IT Committee) and some of these get linked on our site. Gary reported that the top hits on the web page continue to be the satellite links, the specialty pages and the committee information; the number of hits is fairly constant, so he was wondering how often this should be reported upon in the future. Gary also suggested (and received concurrence) to restructure the web page to move the news/articles, etc. to the top.

**Action: Restructure web site to highlight update information on top of page; summarize the number of hits on an annual basis (Gary)**

#### **4. Support NWA Awards (e.g., T. Fujita Research Achievement and Undergraduate METSAT Award) (Ferraro)**

Prior to the meeting, Jay agreed to work with Craig on the METSAT award. Craig mentioned that no applications have been received to date, so he is going to work on promoting it through additional mail lists, etc.

**Action:** Craig and Jay to work together on this and report progress to the committee by May 31.

We are required to put together at least one nominee for the NWA awards (listed below). The deadline is July 1, which means we really need to get a nomination decided upon by May 15 and then begin the application process. Two potential nominations were discussed.

**Action:** By May 15, indicate to Ralph which of these nominations (or identify an additional candidate and circulate to entire committee) that you would endorse. Gary and Ralph will work on the package after the selection is made (if someone else wants to contribute to this, please let me know!).

**Operational Achievement Individual Award:** This award is presented to a NWA member who has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology (e.g., an accurate and timely forecast for one or more significant weather events or for long-period achievement).

**Operational Achievement Group Award:** This award is presented to a group of two or more individuals for a significant contribution to operational meteorology. At a minimum, a majority of the group (greater than 50%) must be NWA members.

**Member of the Year Award:** This award is presented to a NWA member who has made significant contributions to the organization over a period of time.

**T. Theodore Fujita Research Achievement Award:** This award is presented to a NWA member whose research has made a significant contribution to operational meteorology.

**Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award:** This award is presented to an individual or organization directly assisting the meteorological community in providing weather-related information to the public. Individuals and organizations in the meteorological profession are ineligible for this award.

**Public Education Award:** This award is presented to an individual or organization providing significant contributions to increase the public's weather awareness.

**Broadcaster of the Year Award:** This award is presented to a NWA member Radio or Television weathercaster, or other member of the broadcast media, whose activities have significantly contributed to the development and presentation of weather information to the public service. Radio and Television weathercaster candidates must be current NWA Seal of Approval holders and have had the NWA Seal of Approval for at least one year prior to being nominated for this award.

**Aviation Meteorology Award:** This award is presented to an individual or group to recognize significant contributions to aviation meteorology, such as impact of operational forecasts on aviation operations or advances in aviation meteorology including research in detection and forecasting of aviation hazards.

**Local Chapter Award:** This award is presented to a Local Chapter of the NWA whose activities have significantly increased awareness of the weather and of the NWA in their local area.

**The Larry R. Johnson Special Award:** This award is presented to an individual or a group to recognize unique events or extraordinary accomplishments, which significantly contributed to operational meteorology.

**J. Kevin Lavin Leadership Award:** This new award recognizes those who exemplify the highest qualities of effective and honorable leadership which significantly strengthened an organization.

## 5. Remote Sensing Training and Education Articles (Ferraro)

Our development and submission of monthly newsletter remote sensing articles is held up by every member of the NWA leadership as the model to follow. Nearly every committee member is active in either authoring or providing feedback on these pieces, and the readership has praised them for their value. Three more papers (in green) have been published since the last telecom and one more was just submitted (blue). The group had a lengthy discussion and vetted the list of near-term articles (purple).

Authors	Issue	Title	Comments
Nelson, Gurka and Lee	Nov-08	A New Constellation - Leveraging NPOESS and GOES-R	
Torres and Heinselman	Jan-09	Super Resolution for the NEXRAD Network	
Motta	Feb-09	Remote Sensing Outlook and Update	Could be a bi-annual type of submission?
Gurka	Apr-09	GOES-R Users Conference/Update	
Ellrod	May?	Remote Sensing of Mt. Redoubt Volcanic Eruptions	
Lee and Motta	May or June	Emerging new tools - Cloudsat	Draft expected by May 15
Heinselman	Jun or Jul	Operational Assessment on Radar Refractivity and Forecaster Assessment	Draft expected by June 15
Ferraro and Motta	Jul or Aug	Hydrometeorological Test Bed	Draft expeted by July 15

**Action:** Generate draft of CloudSat Paper for review by committee by May 15 (Tom and Brian) and final version by May 20 for May or June newsletter

**Action:** Generate draft of Operational Assessment on Radar Reflectivity and Forecaster Assessment for review by June 15 (Pam) and final version by June 20 for June or July Newsletter

**Action:** Generate draft of Hydromet. Test Bed paper by July 15 (Ralph and Brian) and final version by July 20 for July or August Newsletter

## 6. Newsletter Input (Nelson)

We have been very active in developing and submitting articles on current remote sensing events of interest to NWA members. We need to stay aware and vigilant for appropriate news

and other information that should appear in the NWA newsletter and on our web page – Craig continues to lead this effort and is doing a great job.

**Action:** (1) Send a request for committee newsletter input on the 1st of each month. (2) Ensure committee newsletter articles are received by the NWA newsletter staff by the 20th of each month. (Craig)

## 7. Ideas for the 35<sup>th</sup> NWA Annual Meeting (Ralph)

The 34th NWA Annual Meeting will be held at the [Sheraton Waterside Hotel](#) in Norfolk, Virginia during 17-22 October 2009. The theme will be — **The Future is Now: New Technologies and Techniques to Support the Weather Enterprise and Society: 2010 and Beyond**. Abstracts are due June 1.

Ralph and Ken Carey (PD) have been working closely with the Broadcasters group (Mike Goldberg) on potentially developing a training session for the broadcasters; details are still a bit sketchy on this and whether it will be a stand alone session or just part of a broader based session for the broadcasters. Our focus would be on remote sensing topics that the broadcasters struggle with when taking the NWA Broadcaster Certification test. Some examples received from Mike Goldberg were discussed. Brian pointed out that a lot of the problems stem from ambiguity in the terminology, example, “bright band” typically refers to the bright reflectivity due to the freezing level, however, a common answer given on the test has to do with where the most intense echoes are (could be misconstrued as a bright band of heavy precipitation in the color encoded radar image).

**Action:** Quick action and participation in planning telecons being organized by Ken Carey are needed in order to flesh out this workshop session. Focal points are Ralph, Brian and TBD (can someone else step forward? We can use your help!).

## 8. Miscellaneous

- Ralph discussed our possible involvement in the Virginia State Science Olympiad (attachment with meeting agenda). Jay mentioned he participates in the Nebraska event and it is very fun and rewarding.

**Action:** If anyone is interested in participating, please let Ralph know by June 1

- IT Survey. NWA has requested each committee to fill out a short survey (attached with the meeting agenda) so it can take a long term look at IT requirements.

**Action:** Gary will coordinate the input. Please send to Gary by May 22.

- K-12 level remote sensing briefing for broadcasters. Brian mentioned that many broadcasters would like to have an entry level presentation that could be used to explain how remotely sensed data is used in weather forecasting. Stacy mentioned a guide on “How to build a weather satellite” (which she subsequently sent out).

**Action: If anyone has any ideas for Brian, please pass those along.**

- Links to archive remote sensing and weather data. Brian also mentioned that there are often inquiries by broadcasters on the best way to get satellite/radar/synoptic data to do retrospective analysis and presentations on particular case studies in a forecast region.

**Action: A set of links specifically tailored for this need will be developed and posted on our web page. Pam (radar), Tom/Staci/Gary (satellite), Ralph (weather data) will identify these and send to Gary by May 31.**

#### **9. Here are our goals for 2009 (As a reminder)**

- Raise awareness of the value of remote sensing capabilities, to include use of radar, profiler, lightning, satellite and GPS Meteorology (GPS-Met) data network sensors
- Publish regular articles on remote sensing training and education topics in the NWA newsletter, on the NWA web site and in NWA journals, as appropriate
- Host a special session or workshop on remote sensing topics at the 2009 NWA Annual Meeting
- Promote and solicit applications for the NWA Meteorological Satellite Applications Award Grant (for undergraduate students)
- Explore a possible partnership and leverage relationships with like-minded committees and boards such as the AMS Satellite Meteorology committee
- Participate and support scientific and technical exchanges at conference and symposia remote sensing fora
- Support the NWA awards process by developing and submitting at least one NWA annual award nomination package
- Update web pages as new resources become available and report on usage semiannually
- Explore opportunities for outreach with international partners like EUMETSAT.

#### **10. Next committee conference call (Ferraro)**

Our next Remote Sensing Committee meeting will be a conference call in July 2009.

**ACTION: Schedule the next committee conference call (Ralph – June 30)**