

NWA Remote Sensing Committee Meeting Summary

Tuesday October 5, 2010

At the 2010 NWA Annual Meeting, Tucson, AZ

Meeting Participants: Ken Carey (PD), Ralph Ferraro, Jim Gurka, Craig Nelson, Peter Roohr, Pablo Santos

1. Welcome and opening remarks (Ferraro)

This is our fourth meeting of 2010; we are taking advantage of a core group of committee members being at the annual meeting to meet face to face to discuss committee activities. It's good to see everyone!

2. General Discussion

Rather than have a formal agenda, we just chatted on a variety of topics while having lunch.

- **Membership** – We have four members rotating off the committee at the end of the year (Craig, Jay, Jeff and Pam). Certificates of appreciation will be given to all; thanks for your efforts over the past three years! Ralph also mentioned that he will be rotating off after this year and will be looking for someone to run the committee starting in January 2012, however, the sooner we get someone on board, the better we can have a smooth transition. Pablo is considering this role (we will give him sometime to think it over!). We have four new members that were approved by the council – Peter Roohr (NWS), Les Lemon (CIMMS), Rob Cifelli (CIRES) and Sheldon Kusselson (NESDIS) – welcome!

Action: Waiting for decision from Pablo about leading the committee starting in January 2012.

- **GUC/NWA2011** – Due to the dedicated efforts of Ken and Jim, it looks like we have the go ahead from the 2011 Birmingham committee for the joint NWA/GOES User Conference (GUC). Details to be worked out but strong likelihood of a joint poster session, joint plenary session followed by parallel sessions Wed – Thurs of the meeting (followed by just the GUC on Friday). *Subsequent discussion with the Birmingham organizing committee has lead to the inclusion of one member from the Remote Sensing Committee to be on the 2011 Organizing Committee. Due to his previous role at NASA/MSFC and interactions with the Birmingham, AL NWSFO, Wayne Mackenzie will serve in this capacity; Tom Lee will serve as Wayne's alternate..* We also should consider organizing a training workshop as well – some comments at the council meeting suggested a similar dual-pol workshop that was held in Tucson be redone in 2011 due to different set of broadcasters likely to be there.

Action: Wayne to be added to organizing committee and participate at periodic telcons.

- **Newsletter Articles** – Word from NWA is that Janice Bunting is “overwhelmed” by the articles and editing them down for the Newsletter. Nonetheless, we should continue to forge ahead with our typical 6-8 submissions per year. But it was also suggested that we submit shorter items of interest, for example, recap of some of the recent remote sensing meetings like the AMS and EUMETSAT conferences and the upcoming GUC/NWA 2011.

Action: Ralph to work with Ken on developing some short summary articles on the recent satellite related meetings and a “look ahead”

- **Interactions with AMS** – Ken is now a member of the AMS Committee on Satellite Meteorology and Oceanography, so he’ll keep an eye open for some linkages with NWA. Ralph presented a poster at the AMS Conference in Annapolis, MD last week that described what our committee does for the NWA. Tom, Ralph and Ken also chaired sessions at the conference.
- **METSAT award** – Response to the METSAT award was once again very weak (only 1 completed on-line application that was subpar) despite better promotion all across NWA. We need to do better this year; Ken stressed that we just have to be more proactive. Ralph also wants to send an email directly to the faculty members of the NWA and then follow up with calls. With folks like Pat Market, Paul Croft, Sam Ng, Chuck Graves and Scott Rocette, we should certainly get two or three get applications. Time is critical because students can’t be expected to do this on short notice.

Action: Looking for a champion on the committee to take this on for us!

- **Advocacy** – Pablo mentioned that there are significant biases in raobs when compared with humidity information that is received from airline sensors in regions where there are tight gradients in moisture (the raobs just don’t respond quickly enough). He has discussed this with Seth Guttman (NOAA/ESRL). There is an apparent lack of response from NWS regarding this because of the legacy of raobs. This might be a potential area for an NWA advocacy letter, however, we discussed that we would have to carefully construct such a letter.

Action: Pablo to keep us abreast of this situation and if warranted, initiate the development of an advocacy letter from NWA

- **Training** – Craig mentioned that the broadcasters testing for the NWA seal continue to struggle with remote sensing. How can we help? Maybe develop a more focused area on our web site – FAQ’s?, Resources for Broadcasters, etc.? *See subsequent discussions from the meeting with the Council and Committee Chairs below.*

3. Relevant Information from Meetings with Council (evening October 5)

- There are some good opportunities to do joint articles with the Aviation Committee, now being chaired by Matt Lorentson. Some topics include volcanic ash monitoring and convective turbulence products.
- Nick Walker is the new co-chair of the Broadcasters Committee and Miles Muzio is working on developing resources to help with the NWA seal certification, i.e., remote sensing resources. I indicated that we are willing to work closely with them on this.
- Awards. Fred Glass is the new chair of the Awards Committee and mentioned that nominations were lagging again this year. There was a lot of discussion by the council on this! In particular, Fred was urged to send acknowledgements to the nominators and then feedback/status of the nominations. It was also suggested that rather than simply putting an unsuccessful nomination into the queue for two more years' consideration, there should be feedback to state what might need improvement. Most committee members felt that there is simply not enough feedback in this process.
- Advocacy. Jeff Waldstreicher mentioned that we might want to consider developing NWA advocacy to encourage NWS to develop "product improvement" budget after the dual-pol. Implementation; apparently, they are struggling with this. I told him we are willing to help, just contact us to get something started.
- Some other random thoughts that came to mind while at this meeting:
 - John Gordon has been working hard on getting more local chapters, in particular, converting some of the AMS local chapters into dual NWA-AMS chapters. Is there a way for us to try to do this with the DC AMS chapter?
 - Are there any opportunities for us to attend and present remote sensing talks at any of the NWA local chapters near where we live or when we are on travel?

NEXT TELECON – December 2010

