



Monthly Newsletter of the Central North Carolina Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

Volume: 7

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December 2011

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 8, 7:15 PM.

SPEAKER: Dr. John (Jack) Thigpen,
Extension Director, North Carolina Sea
Grant

LOCATION: Room 1132, Jordan Hall,
North Carolina State University

TOPIC: North Carolina Sea Grant and
its Work in Climate and Education along
the North Carolina Coast.

ABSTRACT/BIO:

North Carolina Sea Grant is a partnership between NOAA and the state of North Carolina, providing research, education, and outreach opportunities relating to current issues affecting the North Carolina coast and its communities. Since 1970, North Carolina Sea Grant has prided itself on being a valuable resource for scientists, educators, local officials, government agencies, coastal businesses and the public to find unbiased, scientifically sound information about the state's coastal ecosystems.

In recent years a focus on coastal hazards including storm surge and inland flooding as well as more gradual environmental changes due to climate change have been a focus of Sea Grant funded research and extension programming.

As extension director, Jack Thigpen oversees Sea Grant's extension and education specialists and

activities. His expertise includes researching the sociological and economic impacts of coastal recreation and tourism on communities, and he is associate faculty in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at North Carolina State University.

Thigpen has received numerous awards and recognition for his multidisciplinary work, including chairing the National Sea Grant Assembly of Extension Program and helping lead the creation of the South East Coastal Ocean Observing System (SEACOOS), a collaborative university partnership to collect, manage, and disseminate integrated regional ocean observations and information about southeastern coastlines. Thigpen is the past president and recipient of the excellence in extension award from the Southern Rural Sociological Association, and was a rural affairs fellow for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Before becoming extension director, Thigpen worked as a coastal recreation and tourism specialist for North Carolina Sea Grant and earlier as an associate professor of rural sociology at Texas A&M University. He holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of Kentucky, a master's degree in agricultural economics and a bachelor's degree in agricultural business, both from the University of Tennessee.

As a friendly reminder, dues are \$10 (\$5 for student members) for the year, with half the dues going towards the Academic Achievement Fund. Dues can be paid at the monthly meeting or sent to:

Marilyn Schiermeier
303 Glasgow Road
Cary, NC 27511

Please make checks payable to "CNCC-AMS". Donations to the Academic Achievement Fund are also welcome, and are tax deductible.

NEWS

American Meteorological Society Space Weather Short Course

From Kelly Savoie, Manager of Marketing and Special Programs (ksavoie@ametsoc.org):

Have you ever wondered what is a solar flare and why I need to know about it? At the January 2012 AMS Annual Meeting, for the first time, we are offering a short course on space weather

The AMS Space Weather Short Course: What is it and who needs to know about it?, will be held on 22 January 2012 preceding the 92nd AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA

Space weather affects many aspects of modern society. Professionals in the atmospheric science disciplines will benefit from understanding its sources and how it affects national infrastructure and aspects of daily life. Radio frequency communications, high-flying airliners, and national power grids are a few of the high-tech systems affected by space weather phenomena. Local and national planners, as well as system designers must account for the possible disruptions and interference caused by electromagnetic waves and charged particles spewing from our Sun and arriving from deep space daily. Common system elements such as Global Positioning System receivers and cell phones react to some solar emissions, degrading service for a time.

The short course will describe the sources of space weather disturbances (solar flares, coronal mass ejections, energetic particles, ionospheric storms) and their potential to disrupt regional and global systems. It will describe the developing models at NOAA's National Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC), the federal agency charged with warning the public of potentially damaging space weather events. It will also cover

concepts relating space weather to terrestrial weather.

The goal of the course is to provide sufficient background information be able to: Define space weather; know the primary sources of space weather and which regions of Earth's atmosphere and geospace are affected by space weather; know the characteristics times of space weather disturbances; be able to describe which systems and signals are affected by space weather disturbances and be able to link these to the NOAA Space Weather Scales; be able to read NOAA SWPC forecast and warnings; describe links between terrestrial and space weather.

The target audience is meteorologists who potentially receive, use and convey space weather information to the public, and or, their clients. This course will be presented as "101 level" offering geared toward (a) an audience of meteorologists who are seeking a background in space weather phenomena and impacts; (b) government and academic meteorologists whose work extends to the upper atmosphere. Undergraduate and graduate students wishing to learn more about space weather and seeking to enter the discipline are also encouraged to attend.

The course consists of one day of interactive lectures. The course will be instructed by experts drawn from academia, and national research organizations and operational agencies.

Prof Delores Knipp, University of Colorado. She will be joined by: Bob Rutledge Chief Forecaster, NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center and McArthur Jones, Aerospace Engineering, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO. "Hands on" material will be provided on a course CD and, most likely, via the internet.

Attendees will benefit from viewing the UCAR COMET material on introduction to space weather before the short course. This material introduces vocabulary unique to space weather

and space environment. (SpaceWeather Welcome-
-No Quiz
http://www.meted.ucar.edu/topics_spacewx.php).

Attendees will receive a copy of “The Sun, The Earth and Near-Earth Space: A Guide to the Sun-Earth System,” by John A. Eddy.

Pre-registered AMS student members may be eligible for a course fee waiver (funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis). Students should send a statement of interest along with an advisor's statement of support to delores.knipp@colorado.edu by 31 December 2011.

For more information, please contact Delores Knipp at CU Aerospace Engineering, 626 Engineering Center Office Tower, 429 UCB, Boulder, CO 80909 (email: delores.knipp@colorado.edu).

Announcements from the Student Chapter

The Student Chapter will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 26th at 6:00 PM in Jordan Hall room 1214. The meeting will feature a presentation from Accuweather.

For more information, please contact Student Chapter President Ashley McCraney (ajmccran@ncsu.edu).

November Meeting Minutes

Business Meeting Notes:

- 23 people were in attendance.
- Treasurer Marilyn Schiermeier noted that total Chapter assets are \$10,217.49, including \$155.00 in the Academic Achievement Fund. Chapter membership stands at 35 individuals.
- Member John White reviewed the Chapter's participation at the North Carolina Science Teachers Association meeting in Greensboro. Members of the NWS Forecast Office in Raleigh, including Darin Figskey and Brandon Vincent, displayed interesting materials about the April tornado outbreak. John recommended an increased Chapter presence at future meetings.
- President Frank Schiermeier reviewed the four incoming N.C. State students recently receiving scholarship awards from the AMS.
- Discussion about the May banquet location was initiated. Suggestions included Irregardless Café and returning to the Holiday Inn Brownstone.
- Student Chapter President Ashley McCraney will again represent our Chapter at the AMS Annual Meeting Chapter Breakfast.
- Member Bob Medred recommended members read a paper regarding the state of climate science.

Speaker Notes:

- Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Watson, retired Associate Professor of Meteorology, Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences, North Carolina State University, presented, "Planetary Meteorology – Fundamentals, Key Discoveries, Future Research".
- Jerry discussed the various ways (accretion, solar nebula, solar wind, comet/asteroid) a planetary atmosphere is created by focusing on the four inner planets.
- Temperature and gravity primarily determine the makeup of gases in an atmosphere.
- Differences in planetary characteristics influence the nature of atmospheric circulation.
- Hadley cell location and intensities differ between Venus, Earth, and Mars.

Mark those Calendars!

Here are the tentative dates and speakers for meetings during the 2011-2012 chapter year. We look forward to seeing you.

- September 15: Darin Figskey – WFO Raleigh
- October 20: Bill Reh – NBC17
- November 17: Dr. Gerald Watson - NCSU
- December 8: Dr. Jack Thigpen – North Carolina Sea Grant
- January 19: Mitch Burton – Progress Energy
- February 16: Jessica Losego -RENCI
- March 15: Jonathan Blaes – WFO Raleigh
- April 19: Paschal Waniha - NCSU

Please be aware that dates are subject to change.

Officer Information

We are interested in any feedback or suggestions you may have. Please feel free to email any of the officers with comments.

President: Frank Schiermeier
schiermeier@msn.com

Vice President: Darin Figskey
Darin.Figskey@noaa.gov

Treasurer: Marilyn Schiermeier
schiermeier@msn.com

Secretary: Ryan Cleary
rhcleary@hotmail.com

Education Chair: Marvin Maddox
maddoxmarvin@aol.com

Webmaster: Joseph D'Addezio
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From the Archives

Success! The Central North Carolina Chapter receives approval!



AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

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CABLE: ATMOSPHERE BOSTON

KENNETH C. SPENGLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1 November 1968

James J. B. Worth
Research Triangle Institute
P. O. Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, N. C. 27709

Dear Mr. Worth:

It is a pleasure to inform you that the Council of the American Meteorological Society at its meeting on 24-25 October 1968 approved the application for a chapter in your area.

The Council recommends that the chapter take the name Central North Carolina Chapter to distinguish it from the already existing Central South Carolina Chapter.

We wish the chapter success, and if we can be of any assistance, kindly let us know.

Sincerely yours,

David F. Landrigan
David F. Landrigan
Secretary-Treasurer

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