

AMS/NWA MEMPHIS CHAPTER 16 MAY 2017 MEETING MINUTES

1. The President welcomed everyone for attending the last 2017 meeting.
2. The treasurer's report was given.
3. The president announced that we received one application for the 2017 chapter scholarship. So a scholarship committee in the next few weeks will convene. We currently have two folks who have volunteered to sit on this committee.
4. The 2017/2018 year elections are due and a call was made for any nominees for the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. No one was interested to hold office so a vote was taken for the current elected members to continue in their positions for the next upcoming year.
5. The president asked if the chapter would be willing to become a Weather Ready Nation (WRN) ambassador to the Memphis NWS WFO. Everyone agreed.
6. Introduction to tonight's speaker Jeffrey Stano, a contractor for NASA Sport in Huntsville, AL. Jeffrey's presentation was on the use of the Geostationary Lightning Mapper (GLM) used with the recently launched GOES 16 satellite. At first estimated statistics for lightning data was given, but then Jeffrey went into why the GLM is so much more useful for both operational and research meteorology. The GLM can record intra-cloud lightning strikes besides cloud-to-ground strikes but at the current time can't discern between the two. The addition of capturing intra-cloud lightning (of several different types) gives the meteorology community the "Total Lightning Package". Jeffrey described that the GLM is basically a very large digital camera that uses pixels to determine the strike location(s), sending data every 20 seconds to various users such as the NWS. He showed that the majority of lightning is actually intra-cloud lightning and that this form of lightning generally occurs several minutes before potential cloud-to-ground strikes occur. Comparisons to distinguish between types of strikes was then used with the current NLDN (National Lightning Detection Network) which captures only cloud-to ground strikes. From this he showed the GLM usefulness in the recent upper level low pattern the Midsouth and Southeast States experienced the last few days of April and on May 1st. Electrical strikes from intra-cloud lightning occurred long before any cloud-to ground-strikes. This first activity allowed forecasters from the Morristown, TN WFO to provide earlier decisional support services for the safety of a large outdoor venue taking place in Chattanooga, TN. Attendees were warned several minutes that lightning was occurring overhead before the first cloud-to ground lightning bolt actually struck within the 5 mile radius. A safe and prompt evacuation resulted. Jeffery then ended the presentation and opened the floor for several questions.
7. The president gave a final thanks to those who attended, and reminded everyone of our mid-summer lunch in July. The next official meeting will be in September.

Jim Branda, Secretary

Approved,

Tom Salem, President