

AMS/NWA MEMPHIS CHAPTER 4 DEC 2012 MEETING MINUTES

1. An opening welcome to everyone and thanks for attending our December meeting. Please don't forget to sign in.
2. If you haven't paid your yearly dues of \$10.00 please see Jim Branda after the meeting.
3. Dave Brown was given special thanks for WMC-TV Channel 5 in Memphis sponsoring our AMS/NWA website again for the next upcoming year.
4. The treasurer's report was given; there is \$381.15 in the savings/scholarship fund and \$973.66 in the checking account. A new total balance of \$1,354.81 dollars are available in funds.
5. Introduction to tonight's speaker, Ben Schott the new Warning and Coordination Meteorologist from the National Weather Service office in Memphis. Ben's presentation was on Conducting Tornado Damage Surveys. It initially consisted of both thunderstorm/tornado climatology, with the percentages of nocturnal tornado occurrences across the United States; and then specifically for the Midsouth. Next, he showed the breakdown of the Enhanced Fujita scale that was initiated in Feb 2007 and how it compared to the old Fujita scale. From this, Ben moved into the importance of getting storm reports from the public, media and County Emergency Managers during severe weather to determine where damage needs to be surveyed. He describe how the Memphis NWS office sets up teams of two with an EF (Enhanced Fujita) kit that consists of documentation and pictures describing both Damage Indicators (DI's) and Degrees of Damage (DOD's) to determine wind speed values and potential tornado ratings. Ben also talked about the importance in evaluating the difference between good and poor construction to help adjust the determined baseline wind speed up or down. Next Ben showed how the Memphis NWS is planning on mapping damage surveys/tornado tracks using GPS and GIS tools in 2013, along with describing how damage is laid out differently based on storm phenomena, i.e. Tornadoes, and straight-line winds from Downbursts, Bow Echos/Squall lines. Last an invitation for questions was given.

Jim Branda, Secretary

Approved,

Tom Salem, President