

AMS/NWA MEMPHIS CHAPTER 19 MAR 2019 MEETING MINUTES

1. The President welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.
2. Introductions of Officers to new attendees was given.
3. Treasurer's report was given.
4. Announcements for 2019 scholarship applications will go out shortly, less than a month. Remember students within 150 miles are eligible.
5. Election of officers will be completed in our May meeting. Please take the time to decide on either running for a position or any nominations that you may have.
6. This weekend will be Southeast Severe Weather Symposium at Mississippi State University (MSU). Some of the folks attending or presenting will be Eric Rasmussen, Janice Huff, and Louis Ucellini. Please see Tom, Chapter President, for additional information.
7. The guest speaker was Tom Salem, the Science and Operational Officer (SOO) at WFO Memphis. His presentation was titled "Revisiting the 1994 Ice Storm of the Mid-South". Tom showed faxed weather charts that were used 25 years ago to analyze the upper levels of the atmosphere during the event. He stated that at this time there were only four Doppler radars that were in operation, with one of them being the Jackson, Mississippi site. Unfortunately, at this time there was no archived data that would have been useful to add to the post-research of the costly event. Tom showed that the heaviest swath of the freezing rain and ice accumulation actually lied to the south of the Memphis metro affecting portions of north Mississippi north and west of Tupelo. Even though Memphis missed the worst of the ice, 425,000 people were without power at one point during the storm. An estimated three million dollars of damage was a result along with thousand of trees destroyed. The event claimed three lives as well. Interstate 40 became impassable between Memphis and Nashville. The event ranked #2 on the Weather Channel's Top 10 List. A cold front dropped temperatures at the Memphis airport from the low 70's to the mid 20's in under 24 hours. Upwards of 3.5 inches of ice was reported. Tom compared the storm to the 2009 Ice Storm that affected portions of northeast Arkansas, southeast Missouri and western Kentucky. This storm produced a large swath of 1-2 inches of ice. Tom then took questions on if back-up operations were needed, what were the aviation concerns and were there embedded thunderstorms that may have produced higher rain rates.
8. The president thanked everyone for attending and reminded everyone of our next meeting in May and the spring lunch in April. Dates to be determined.

Approved,

Tom Salem, President