

AMS/NWA MEMPHIS CHAPTER 21 MAY 2019 MEETING MINUTES

1. The President welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.
2. He stated this will be our last meeting for the school year, but we will be having a summer lunch in July.
3. A nomination was received for this year's scholarship, but to date no applications have been received. We may or may not need a committee for review.
4. Election of officers took place with Dave Brown nominating the current three officers continue for the next year. A motion was made and passed.
5. The treasurer's report was given.
6. The guest speaker was Tom Salem, the Science and Operations Officer (SOO) at WFO Memphis. His presentation was titled "The April 13th 2019 Tornado event in Monroe County Mississippi." First, Tom stated that a tornado recently came within a mile of hitting the WSR-88D at the San Angelo, Texas NWS office. He then went on to show how close the two tornadoes in Monroe County, Mississippi came to hitting the WSR-88D (KGWX). The dissipation of the first tornado was approximately two miles from the site and the second tornado touched down within a half mile of the radar site. Tom displayed several archived radar pictures, including Base Reflectivity, Base Velocity, Storm Relative Velocity, and the fairly new Correlation Coefficient (CC). Due to the proximity to the radar, the radar was sampling the actual tornado. The CC products easily captured debris lofted in the air as the tornado tracked through the small town of New Hamilton, MS. Several unique radar signatures were captured and will prove useful for years of training. Tom also presented the upper air charts and the Storm Prediction Center (SPC) outlooks that led up to the event days before. The main culprit was a meso-low that formed on a slow moving cold front. Circulation around this low allowed for convection to form out ahead of the actual front where shear and instability were stronger. The two tornadoes were rated an EF-2 and an EF-1. Tom also showed the evolution of the storm from looping satellite images. Several questions were asked varying from the understanding of basic radar principles, to the EF-scale for tornadoes, to utilizing phase array radar technology.
7. The president thanked everyone for attending and reminded everyone to look for announcement for the July summer lunch.

Approved,

Tom Salem, President