

AMS/NWA MEMPHIS CHAPTER 18 SEP 2018 MEETING MINUTES

1. The President welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the first meeting of the 2018-2019 school/chapter year.
2. Introduction to tonight's speaker, James G. LaDue, via Google Hangout. James is a Lead instructor with the National Weather Service Warning Training Division in Norman, Oklahoma. Jim is also a co-chair of the Tornado Wind Speed Estimation Standards Committee which is a team compiled under the American Society of Civil Engineering or ASCE. His presentation was titled "The Future of the EF Scale". James first shared pictures and data from the outbreaks in 2011 which was classified as the year of the "Tornado". He specifically discussed the outbreak of the 24th of May across Oklahoma and stated that the public needs to always have an evolving accurate scale to determine tornado intensity based off risk assessment, the development of new communities and the ever changing critical infrastructure. Jim reminded everyone that the new EF-scale was implemented in 2007 with 6 intensity levels and 28 damage indicators to determine wind speeds. The Greensburg EF-5 tornado was the first violent tornado to be classified by the new scale. In the years that followed 2011 the new EF-scale brought about better damage surveys but it also brought additional questions and concerns. A few of these concerns were rotational velocities seen on radar did not always correlate with the damage seen on the ground. This was the case from the famous El-Reno Oklahoma tornado. Only a few structures were in the tornado's path and therefore the damage was only assessed as EF-3, though the tornado was 2.5 miles wide and radar indicated EF-5 rotational velocities. Jim went on to explain that modifications were needed to the 28 damage indicators, such as a determination for tree size is actually not needed as certain small young trees can withstand EF-5 winds then larger older trees. Jim also presented that new DI's are likely to be added in the near future such as parking stops and Jersey barriers along with railroad cars, farm silos and grain bins. He finally stated that these new standards with the scale can potentially help with more than just classifying tornadoes. A few questions were asked such as lowering the EF-0 threshold won to 40 or 50mph to capture landspouts/non-supercell tornadoes that occur. A second question was asked about the increased use of drones in NWS offices in helping capture all tornado occurrences and to survey the damage more accurately.
3. After the presentation the president introduced this year's officers...Tom Salem as President, Ned Savage as Vice President and Jim Branda as Secretary/Treasurer.
4. The president mentioned we are collecting dues for this year of \$10.00 per member or \$5.00 for student members. We are always accepting scholarship donations. Please see Jim Branda for payment.
5. The treasurer's report was given.
6. The 100 year anniversary of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) will be held this Jan 2019 in Phoenix, Arizona. Please see Tom if you're interested in attending for more details.

7. The president announced that the chapter is an official Weather Ready Nation Ambassador (WRN) with the National Weather Service Memphis, TN Forecast office. Please check the Chapter's website for more details.
8. The president gave a final thanks to all attendees, and for new members who were attending. He stated we will be having a fall lunch in October to be announced soon and our next official meeting will be in November.

Jim Branda, Secretary

Approved,

Tom Salem, President