National Weather Association  
Aviation Weather Committee  
9 October 2018  
Meeting Minutes

Attendees
Stephen Kearney (Chair)  Ajay Raghavendra  Gene Wall
Sarah Rogowski  Walt Rogers
Erik Proseus  Paul Suffern

The meeting was opened by the chairman at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Committee Member Report (Stephen Kearney)
- Jessica Nulty left the committee following her departing the National Weather Service.
- The committee has 11 members and there several openings to fill. If anyone has nominations to fill the vacancies you can contact Stephen to about reaching out to the person and begin the process of reviewing the nominees' eligibility.

Intermountain West Aviation Weather Safety (IWAS) Workshop Report (Sarah Rogowski)
- Dates/location of the event:  14-15 September 2018, National Interagency Fire Center - Boise, Idaho
- The attendance was impacted by the fire weather season. There were fewer attendees than expected
- A schedule of the presentations can be found on the IWAS website at https://www.weather.gov/boi/iwaws2018 where you can also download the presentations from the event, including the presentations by the committee’s own Paul Suffern and Sarah Rogowski.

Report of the 43rd Annual Meeting in St. Louis (Erik Proseus)
- The theme of the annual meeting was “Diversity in People, Models, and Methods”
- There was a very good set of panels and sessions once again. Erik provided a brief rundown on the agenda. The full agenda with links to the presentations and panel summaries can be reviewed, with abstracts, on the NWA website at https://nwas.org/annual-meeting-events/2018-annual-meeting-agenda/
- Erik attended the Committee Chair meeting on behalf of committee chair Stephen Kearney. Erik reported the following from that session:
  - The attendees discussed defining the purpose and scope of the committees relative to the overall NWA mission. The final decision was to leave the role of defining of various mission statements up to the NWA Council.
○ The Annual Meeting Committee discussed what other committees could do to help them plan and execute future meetings.
○ The 2019 NWA Meeting theme will be “Pay it Forward. It will focus on mentoring, the student conference, and marketing to early career meteorologists.
○ Trisha Palmer will be the chair of the 2019 annual meeting
○ The winner of the 2019 Aviation Weather Award was the Aviation Weather Research Team and Research Lab at NCAR. The Committee Chair reminded the committee members that anyone can make a nomination for the annual Aviation Weather Award. Each nomination is a lasts for three years.

September 2018 Webinar Wednesday
● The subject of the webinar was, “Where DSS Meets the Airwaves.”
● Stephen thanked Paul Suffren, Erik Proseus, Sean Campbell for their participation.
● The webinar can be reviewed on YouTube at:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MM9Ux9bbTg

Committee “Health Check”
● Committee Chair (Stephen Kearney) lead a discussion on the activities, organization, structure, goals, and other administrative topics of the committee. A summary of this discussion follows:
● Committee Goals: The following goals were presented with no suggested changes:
  ○ Develop a clear mission statement
  ○ Develop the webpage into a usable resource for the committee and interested parties
  ○ Establish Facebook or Twitter feed for the committee to use as publication of new weather education "tidbits”.
  ○ Bring more of our primary "users" into the discussion, (eg. Airline pilots, GA pilots, FAA, AOPA, private sector).
  ○ Periodically bring in a new speaker to discuss how they use weather products and what improvements they would like to see.
  ○ Educate the aviation community on the latest technology, such as GOES-16, Dual-Pol Radar, and high-resolution models.
  ○ Solicit and discuss additional goals from the committee
  ○ Sean’s proposal for next speaker: Snow accumulation impacts to operations at Core 30 airports
● Committee Chair, Stephen Kearney, gave a summary of successful educational seminars and queried the committee on how they liked the events. Of note, Walt Rogers stated that these seminars were essential for our committee to build a common knowledge base among members who do not all have the same backgrounds or access to current technology and methods.
● Stephen Kearney also asked the committee members if the group was structured correctly. There were no suggestions to alter the current structure.

● Gene Wall highlighted a recently research paper published by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University that looked at the level of basic meteorological knowledge of General Aviation pilots. It was suggested, and discussed, that this paper can be used as a basis for shaping future activities, engagements with the public and academia. Ajay Raghavendra suggested reaching out to faculty at schools like Embry-Riddle and soliciting membership on our committee.

● Stephen Kearney also posed a question on future goals for the committee. Education of the aviation community is still a priority goal.

● Stephen Kearney asked the committee members to give him feedback on how he is performing as the committee chair. Members complimented Stephen for his leadership. The frequency of the chairman’s meetings is good. Furthermore, the chairman is facilitating events that provide good learning opportunities for the committee.

● The chairman asked the committee members if the frequency of the committee meetings was correct. The group concluded that a formal meeting every quarter was about right, but more frequent informal contact between the members can be increased. These informal contacts can be accomplished simply by sharing e-mails between committee members.

Final Remarks

● Walt Rogers - reported on his recent experience supporting Perlan Mission II. This flight set three world records for flight, with maximum altitude achieved being 76,100 MSL. As the team meteorologist, Walt provided the following details of the mission:
  ○ Radiosondes were launched each day to show the most direct observational evidence of stratospheric waves by variations in the ascent rate.
  ○ The Egret turbine powered high altitude aircraft provided tows to between FL420 and FL450.
  ○ Forecasts of mountain waves in the troposphere were not very useful because the higher waves didn't correlate well.
  ○ Forecasts in the troposphere were only required for the tow. They were looking for non-IMC conditions. Surface winds/crosswinds for takeoff and landing were important considerations.
  ○ More information on Perlan II can be found online at http://www.perlanproject.org/.

● Paul Suffren - 2018 Turbulence Impact and Mitigation Workshop was held in Virginia in early September. During that event, the NTSB announced that it would be starting an initiative in early 2019 to look deeper into turbulence accident/incidents on the Part 121 operations. As more activity of small aircraft, including drones, increases in the airspace,
this raises the potential for safety issues. Presentations can be found online at this link: 

The meeting was closed by the chairman at 1:20 p.m. Eastern Time.

(Minutes recorded by Gene Wall)