

President Elect's Message

Hello members!

The following is an update of the Weather Modification's Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho which was held in conjunction with the 85th Annual meeting of the Western Snow Conference (WSC).

The meeting was a learning experience for everyone on both sides, as the two organizations came together to learn from each other with two fields that are very closely related. The first day of the conference provided a short course for attendees titled "Tracing the Effects of Cloud Seeding through the Hydrologic Cycle." A number of meteorologists, hydrologists and water managers gave presentations discussing cloud seeding and its effect on the water cycle. Presentation topics ranged from a general overview of cloud seeding to trace chemistry to modeling studies, all aimed at how cloud seeding is involved in the water cycle. A social hour took place on Monday evening, to allow attendees to mingle and get to know each other.

During the first morning of the conference, a keynote speaker along with other guest speakers took place. During the afternoon, concurrent technical sessions occurred for both the Weather Modification Association and Western Snow Conference. A poster session also took place throughout the conference for attendees to view. The second full day of the conference offered another day of concurrent technical sessions. A memorial luncheon was held on this day to remember our dear departed member and Past President, Hans Ahlness. The "Know your Snow" Public forum took place on Tuesday evening. This forum included a panel of presenters discussing cloud seeding, snow science, and winter recreation which was open to the public. Another day technical sessions took place with presentations focusing on weather modification, snowpack measurement and many other topics. A social hour occurred before the awards banquet. The NAWMC once again hosted a wonderful silent auction. The awards banquet was different this year as the WMA and WSC presented awards together. The WMA awarded Hans Ahlness the Thunderbird post humorously and also awarded Barry Lawrence the Thunderbird Award.

The WMA business meeting was held on Friday morning. At this time, the Black Crow Award was given to David Yorty and a distinguished service award was awarded to Farren Hiscutt. In addition, President Ryan discussed a number of issues pertaining to the membership. The next meeting was to be determined, as there were a few locations that were attractive and information needed to be gathered before the membership could vote. A vote occurred online and was decided that the 2018 meeting would be held in Estes-Park, Colorado.

I look forward to serving in my upcoming presidential term as there are a number of issues affecting the association. It is my honor to help evolve the WMA into a place where we increase membership and find ways to increase outreach to those who know very little or nothing about the field of weather modification. I'm very excited for our next meeting in Estes-Park and also the addition of a workshop cohosted with the ASCE.

Stephanie Beall

WMA President Elect, 2016-17