

Editor's Message

The past year has been very busy with Wanda Seyler and I learning all the details involved in publishing a journal. We would like to thank our predecessors, Connie Crandall (Editorial Assistant) and Andrew Detwiler (Editor), for all their help getting us going and their hard work over the years putting together the Journal of Weather Modification. As we have found out, there is a lot of time involved in getting the Journal put together. The Journal is late in getting published this year but there are several good articles that you hopefully will enjoy reading. Thanks to all the authors for submitting their manuscripts and all the reviewers for taking the time to provide feedback on science articles. The Journal depends largely on Weather Modification Association (WMA) members to serve as reviewer and your time is greatly appreciated.

An important improvement to the Journal's publishing process is to start using an online Web-based software tool kit. Using Web-based software will make the handling of the review process less time consuming and speed up the article publication process. The latest version of the Public Knowledge Project software has been setup on the WMA website and will be used for all future articles. This software provides editorial functions (accepting submission, sending out review, sending emails) and handles publication of articles online. Science papers for 1979 and 1980 are currently available online and accessible by creating a fee account. The WMA board is currently discussing my proposal to put additional articles online. One critical issue under discussion is when an article should appear online. I have proposed that articles be published online as soon as they have been accepted. The idea is that immediate open access makes research freely available to the public which supports a greater global exchange of knowledge. Having immediate open access would hopefully result in more articles being submitted to the Journal and an increase in funds from page charges. The drawback to immediate publication online is that it may reduce library subscriptions of the Journal. Hence, a delay of between one and five years for the online version of articles may be appropriate.

We have moved to a print-as-you-need publication model for the Journal. This results in lower printing cost because fewer copies are printed since only the number currently needed is printed. Additional copies can easily be printed at a later date if they are needed. Another improvement that we are looking into is having a DOI number for each article to make the Journal more visible and hopefully lead to more submissions.

I believe the future of the Journal is bright. There will be increasing interest in the type of research and activities that the Journal reports on. Increasing demands on fresh water supplies around the world will drive research to furthering our understanding of the precipitation process. Increasing populations and the desire for more hydropower will lead to more operational programs. With the adaptation of the latest technologies, the Journal is well positioned to report the ever changing field of Weather Modification.

Dr. David J. Delene
Journal of Weather Modification Editor 2011-2012