

President's Message

This past year has been an eventful one for both me as your President and for the Weather Modification Association as a whole. We have lost one of our beloved members and Past President, Tommy Shearrer. We have seen a new ethics issue arise, and I urge all members to carefully read the Ethics Statement on our website. We need to strive to treat one another with dignity and respect, as Tommy Shearrer set a shining example with his peers and coworkers. There have been a number of encouraging developments worldwide in the weather modification discipline, and these are highlighted below:

- WMA Annual Meeting, Call for Papers: Our President Elect, Gary Walker, has already issued a request for presentations for the meeting in San Antonio, April 8-10, 2013. A tribute to our beloved Past President Tommy Shearrer, who tragically passed earlier this year, is also planned.
- Our new JWM Editor has now converted the journal paper submission/publication process to an online procedure, and is putting all JWM back issues online. Papers that are submitted to the Editor, David Delene, will be put on the WMA website as soon as they pass the review process, before complete JWM publication. Dr. Delene has also put out of Call for Papers for the April 2013 JWM issue, and he urges authors to go to the WMA website to set up a free account for submitting articles.
- Following the very successful workshop on "*Extra-Area Seeding Effects*" at the April 2012 Las Vegas meeting, Dr. DeFelice and I have been working with the presenters to write a summary paper for publication. We have progressed to a final draft, and hope to submit the paper early in 2013. The results will pleasantly surprise some skeptics, as nearly all projects with sufficiently-long and spatially complete data suggest a significant positive downwind increase in precipitation.
- The 19th Conference on "*Planned and Inadvertent Weather Modification*" was held in January, 2013, in conjunction with the Annual AMS Meetings in Austin, Texas. Some WMA Members attended and gave presentations. I encourage all WMA members to go to our new Website and send us contributions especially for the "What's New" section. Thanks to Stephanie Beall for her hard work on improving the content and quality of the website!
- Ms. Beall has also produced a new revised draft of the WMA Facts brochure, one of our primary outreach tools in educating the general public and news media on current knowledge and practice in weather modification. She and some of our Texas colleagues set up a booth at WeatherFest at the AMS Annual Meeting, and distributed copies of the WMA brochure.
- Several WMA Members, including myself, are serving on the ASCE/EWRI atmospheric water management standards committee (AWM SC), chaired by Darin Langerud. The AWM SC produces important peer-reviewed documents in weather modification. ASCE Document 44-05(to be changed to #44-13) on "*Fog Dispersal*" is nearing completion, and after the resolution report in 2013, could be approved by ASCE and issued as an ANSI Standard. This would be a major achievement for our field if it happens! A revision of #39-03, "*Hail Suppression Standard Practice*" has completed 2 ballots, edits are being completed, and a 3rd ballot will be voted upon soon. This document should be completed in 2013. A third ASCE/EWRI effort, to revise/update Document #81, "*Guidelines on Cloud Seeding*", will be started next year.

- I sent a letter to my Colorado Senator Mark Udall in late summer (before Superstorm/ Hurricane SANDY), pointing out the persistent drought in the West and new breakthroughs in weather modification technology that might be developed and applied in a new Federally funded program. I was surprised at the rapid response, and his Regional Director in Denver, Brandon Rattiner, contacted me and arranged a meeting on September 5. I thought that the half-hour meeting went well, and I made some good points. It became clear that Senator Udall's primary focus would be the difficult budget negotiations currently in stalemate. Mr. Rattiner did note that Senator Udall might support new investments in technology in the new year, after the Federal budget situation gets firmed up.
- There are some real breakthroughs in our discipline that give me encouragement: thanks to the leadership of Barry Lawrence, the Wyoming Pilot Program successfully convinced the Wyoming State Legislature to appropriate funding and extend the project for a few more winter seasons, so that a statistically significant sample of cases may be obtained. In Australia, the government gave the go-ahead to turn the Snow Hydro winter feasibility project into a full operational program for snow enhancement.
- This past summer, I was contacted by a Film Producer in New York City who is producing a mini-series for the Weather Channel that may air early next spring. They plan episodes on tornadoes, hurricanes, and weather modification (mainly new approaches towards modifying hurricanes and tornadoes!). The film crew came to Boulder in November 2012, and spent half a day filming in my office and neighborhood. A new series called "Hacking the Planet" began airing on the Weather Channel in March, and I was featured in one of the early episodes dealing with possible approaches to tornado modification.
- I've listed some recent articles on these and other weather modification topics for your reading and sharing (some of these, and others, are posted on the "What's New" section of the WMA website):
 - a. An interesting article on cloud seeding, mainly in China (overblown, in my opinion). <http://www.canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/49672>
 - b. Very good article on Colo River Upper/Lower Basin Co-op Projects: High Country News Wxmod Article ..<http://www.hcn.org/blogs/goat/the-cloud-seeding-believers>
 - c. A news story from a Colorado TV station on possible seeding during forest fires(good video):<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2012/06/26/cloud-seeding-not-really-an-option-during-wildfire-season/>
 - d. A well written, informative article on cloud seeding: http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/be93d016-b5b5-11e1-ab92-00144feabdc0.html?ftcamp=published_links%2Frss%2Fmagazine%2Ffeed%2F%2Fproduct#axzz1yAMiLQVz.
 - e. Article from the Daily Caller(TX) earlier this year: <http://dailycaller.com/2012/08/03/senators-want-to-spend-tax-dollars-to-control-the-weather/>
 - f. A well-written article on hurricane modification: <http://www.economist.com/node/21563279>
 - g. Good news from AUSTRALIA!--Snowy Mountains Program now permanent: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-10-19/cloud-seeding/4322880>

Joe Golden,
WMA President 2012-2013