

President's Message

Greetings, WMA members and welcome to the 2015 Journal of Weather Modification.

I want to especially point out the efforts of David Delene, Stephanie Beall, and the team at UND for their progress in getting a large portion of the historical Journal issues online and available to a wider audience.

This issue of the Journal comes out at a time when the world is facing increasing challenges concerning water availability and use in the face of crippling droughts and increasing populations. According to a new report from the United Nations (The World Water Development Report), water resources may meet only 60% of the world's water demands in 15 years. The report predicts that demand for water will continue to increase, yet the amount of water available is always the same. The report mentions climate change as one reason for the shortfall, which could cause irregular rainfall and dwindling underground aquifers. What it does not say is that human populations continue to increase, and in the American West for instance population increases are coinciding with record drought periods. This is leading to ever more creative ways to conserve and distribute what water is available.

Those efforts are a good thing; better management of water supplies and usage is critical to humanity in the future. Whether due to human-caused global warming or naturally occurring climate change, the challenges facing humanity are the same. However, the weather modification industry also continues to push ahead as we search for methods and processes that will help coax more water from the atmosphere. The recently completed Wyoming study will release a report in the coming months detailing the efforts to quantify the success of current methods. Much has been learned about the difficulties involved in siting seeding equipment for proper targeting, in measuring the results of both natural and seeded storm systems, and in forecast modeling to help guide and evaluate seeding efforts. These lessons now need to be applied and expanded to both current and upcoming operational projects to allow the industry to deliver a better product.

Will the weather modification discipline grow to include anti-global warming techniques in the future? Much as theories to decrease hurricane damage must be tempered with the realities of surrounding circumstances, so too would any attempts to modify global warming have to take into account the potential effects on all other facets of climate and water distribution.

While we ponder the future and what it may hold, please remember the pioneers who contributed to our chosen paths. This issue contains the obituaries of two individuals who had a great effect on our industry and on my life personally.

It has been an honor to serve as your President this year, and I look forward to working with you all in the years to come!

Hans Ahlness
President, WMA
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