NOAA REPORT

Vol. VI, No. 5 May 1997

News Briefs

Northwest Coho Protected: NMFS has reached an agreement with Oregon and pledged to continue to work with California with the aim of protecting dwindling populations of coho salmon on the West Coast.

NMFS will place coho along the central Oregon coast on its "candidate species" list, not listing it under the ESA as "threatened," and will rely in part on Oregon's salmon plan to protect these coho. A transboundary population of coho that straddles portions of Oregon and California will be listed as threatened. The agency will continue to work with both states to support their salmon conservation efforts.

GOES-K OK: The third in a series of five advanced U.S. weather satellites was successfully launched in the early morning of April 25 from Cape Canaveral Air Station. The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, now called GOES-K, will be renamed GOES-10 once it reaches geostationary orbit. GOES satellites orbit the equatorial plane of the Earth at a speed matching the Earth's rotation. This allows them to hover continuously over one position on the surface. The geostationary orbit is usually reached at about 35,800 km (22,300 miles) above the Earth, high enough to allow the satellites a full-disc view of the Earth.

"GOES satellites are vital to weather

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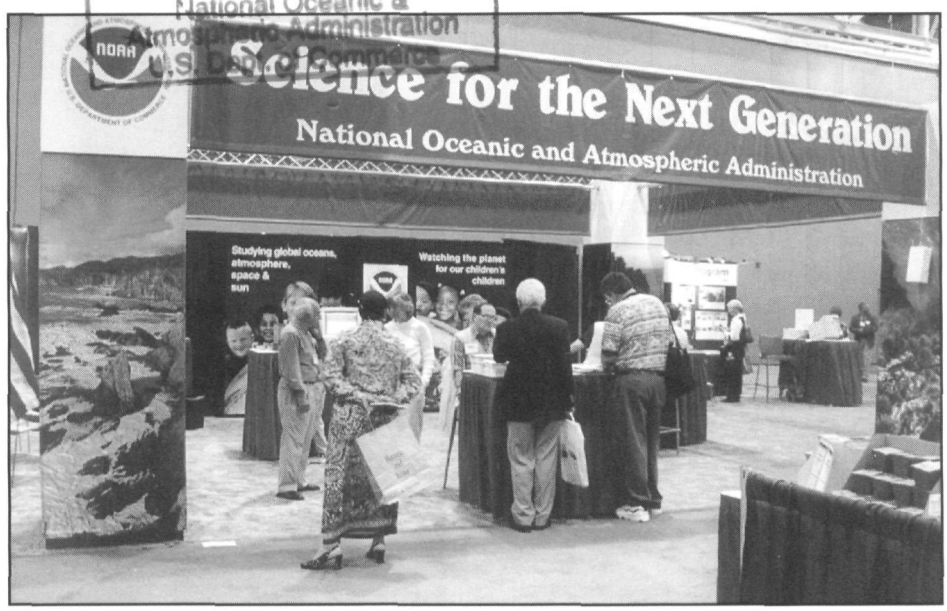

More than 16,000 members of the National Science Teachers Association caught a glimpse of the NOAA exhibit at the association's national convention in New Orleans. NOAA's presence at the convention shows its commitment to science education.

Science Teacher Assn. Exhibit Draws Over 16,000 Visitors

Representatives from all of the line offices and the GLOBE Program (Global Observations to Benefit the Environment) staffed the 1500 square foot NOAA exhibit booth at the Annual Conference of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) in New Orleans. For the third year in a row, NOAA established a large presence at the exhibit as evidence of the agency's growing commitment to education.

NOAA staff who worked in the booth included employees from the Weather Forecast Office and the River Forecast Office in Slidell, Louisiana, from the National Data Buoy Center in Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, and from the Pacific Marine Center in Seattle, Washington, in addition to a cadre from Suitland and Silver Spring, Maryland and from Washington, D.C.

The booth, with a helium filled weather balloon floating in the air overhead, was visited by many of the 13,630 teachers who were registered to attend the programs and exhibits. NOAA's booth housed three Internet connections, and teachers were provided with information on how to access NOAA's home pages with information of immediate interest to educators. Other handouts and posters were available from all of the

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Researcher and Explorer Was 66

Former OAR Chief, Ned Ostenso, Dies

Dr. Ned A. Ostenso, former assistant administrator of NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, a leading science and research administrator, and a key figure in the development of United States military and civilian science policy, died of cardiac arrest April 13. He was 66.

Dr. Ostenso was born in Fargo, N.D. He moved to Washington, D.C., more than 30 years ago.

In January 1996, Dr. Ostenso retired as the assistant administrator of OAR, NOAA's research arm, a position he held since 1989. He also served as NOAA's Acting Chief Scientist from October 1989 to December 1990.

He joined NOAA in 1977 after serving as deputy director and senior oceanographer in the Office of Naval Research. He served as assistant presidential science adviser in the Office of Science and Technology of the Executive Office of the President between 1969 and 1970. He also served on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin's Department of Geology and Geophysics.

Mapped Ice Thickness in Antarctica

Dr. Ostenso joined the International Geophysical Year program in 1963 as a geophysicist. He took part in a mission to Antarctica mapping the ice thickness of the continent seismically and determining the mass of the Antarctic ice sheet. He also conducted pioneering research in the Arctic, Africa, North America and Europe later in his career. His research activities resulted in more than 50 published scientific papers.

For his scientific achievements, Dr. Ostenso was awarded the American Geophysical Union's (AGU) 1996 Waldo E. Smith Medal for "extraordinary service to Geophysics." He was instrumental in the construction of AGU's building in the Dupont Circle area. A mountain in Antarctica as well as a seamount in the Arctic are named after Dr. Ostenso.

Dr. Ned Ostenso

Doctorate From University of Wisconsin

He attended the University of Wisconsin where he received a bachelor's degree in 1952, a master's degree in 1953, and a doctorate in 1962.

Dr. Ostenso is survived by his wife, Grace L. Ostenso of Washington, D.C.; a sister, Mary Ellen and her husband Ralph Jondle of Wales, Wisc.; a sister, Ruth and her husband Gerald Lundeen of Edina, Minn.; a

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(Left to right) Acting Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere Terry Garcia, NOAA Under Secretary D. James Baker and Representative Sam Farr (D-CA) share thoughts on the 25th anniversary celebration.

SRD Chief Stephanie Thornton and Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) enjoy the National Marine Sanctuary accomplishment report during the 25th anniversary celebration.

Marine Sanctuary Program Turns 25

Three hundred enthusiastic supporters of the National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Research Reserves crowded the Dirksen Senate Building on April 15 to celebrate the programs' 25th Anniversary. The walls and display tables were decorated with posters of marine sanctuaries and wetland wildlife while overhead a large screen displayed photos of the many marine and coastal creatures who are protected by these programs.

Department of Commerce Secretary Daley, NOAA Administrator D. James Baker stopped in to thank the many workers in the field. Senators John Kerry (D-MA), Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka (D-HI) also attended.

Representative Sam Farr (D-CA) presented a certificate of congressional recognition to Monterey National Marine Sanctuary Manager LDR Terry Jackson and praised the efforts of both programs in protecting marine and coastal resources.

Sanctuary and Reserves Division Chief Stephanie Thornton outlined plans for future partnerships in the coming years and pointed to the overhead screen where video clips of *Little Texas*, a country rock band, played. Little Texas will be donating part of the proceeds from a benefit concert to the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in Texas.

Science Teachers Throng to NOAA Exhibit at Assn. Conference

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line and program offices. The overall NSTA exhibit was large with more than 3,000 exhibitors staffing the 998 different booth spaces. These exhibiting companies and organizations provided teachers from across the country with information and products for the classroom.

Several NOAA staff were featured on the NSTA program and these sessions were designed to provide teachers with the opportunity to learn about many of NOAA's current educational programs and opportunities.

The National Science Teachers Association traditionally holds three regional exhibits in addition to the Annual Conference. NOAA will continue to provide teachers with an opportunity to learn more about how NOAA's products, information and services can help educators teach science in the classroom.

Focus On...

Mark Trail and NOAA Weather Radio

Who's the cleanest cut, most All-American guy you can think of? Why, it's writer, environmentalist and long-time comic page fixture Mark Trail, and he's joining NOAA.

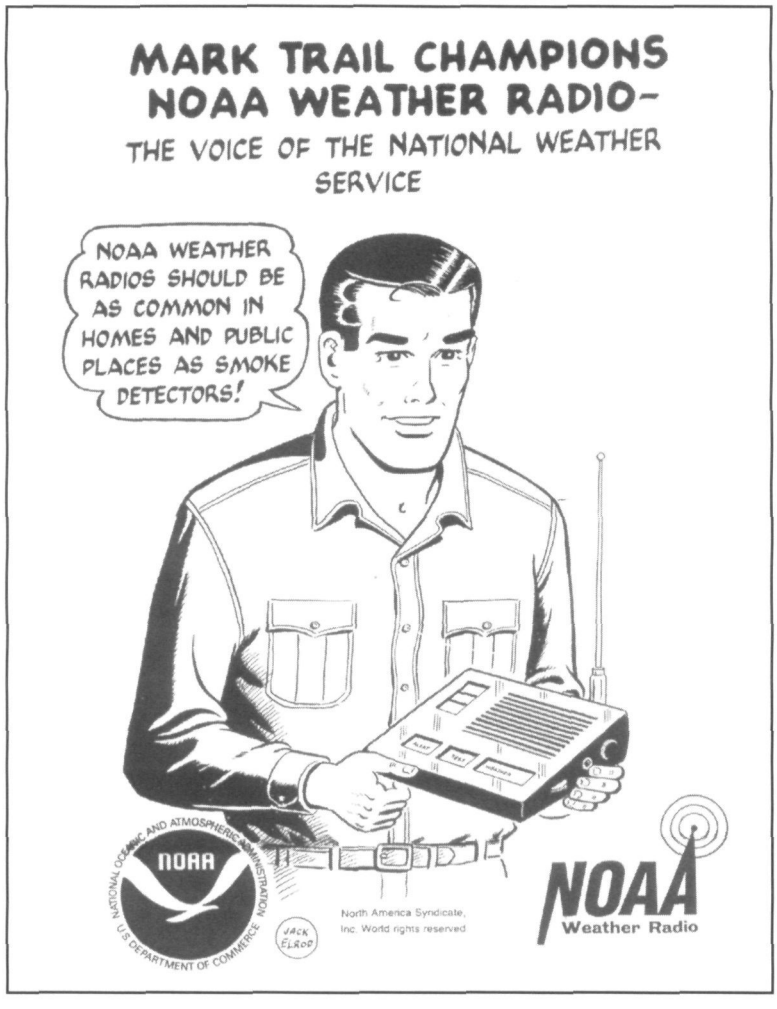
The nationally syndicated character, friend to man and beast alike, will serve as the campaign symbol for educating the public about the National Weather Service's NOAA Weather Radio program, in a joint venture between NOAA and King Features Syndicate, the strip's distributor.

"I hope that Mark Trail will encourage people across the country to get early warnings of severe weather by having a NOAA Weather Radio," said Mark Trail artist and writer Jack Elrod of Atlanta.

COLOR POSTER UNVEILED

The announcement was made during a conference in Washington, D.C., focusing on the direction NOAA's National Weather Service will take for disseminating weather information, forecasts and warnings through NOAA Weather Radio and new telecommunications technologies. A color poster of Mark Trail holding a typical NOAA Weather Radio was unveiled during the announcement.

In the past two years, several Mark Trail full-color Sunday strips have focused attention on weather-safety issues, including flash floods, tornadoes and hurricanes, and the value of having NOAA Weather Radio receivers to get severe weather warnings quickly.



As you can see from this poster, Mark Trail always carries his NOAA Weather Radio with him wherever he goes. Shouldn't you?

NOAA Assistant Administrator for Weather Services Elbert W. Friday Jr. praised the public education contributions of Elrod and King Features.

"Mark Trail has rendered an invaluable public service by drawing attention to the dangers associated with flash flooding, tornadoes and hurricanes," said Friday. He also credits Elrod and King Features for giving national attention through Mark Trail to NOAA Weather Radio, "one of the biggest public safety 'secrets' in the United States."

The Mark Trail strip is syndicated by King Features in more than 175 newspapers, with an estimated readership of about 35 million people.

"King Features is pleased to team up with NOAA and the National Weather Service to help educate people about how they can stay safe

Ellen Young (third from left), a staffer in the office of Rep. Bill Hefner (D-NC), accepts a Mark Trail Award from the strip's artist, Jack Elrod. Young accepted the award for Yadkin Inc., which provided a weather radio transmitter in Hefner's district. NWS chief Elbert W. Friday Jr. (far left) and NOAA Administrator D. James Baker (far right) look on.

and get immediate warnings of hazardous conditions by having a NOAA Weather Radio," said King Features spokesperson Claudia Smith.

ARTIST A FORMER MILITARY FORECASTER

Elrod, who since 1950 has been associated with the outdoors strip known to generations of Americans, said he's always had an interest in weather. He shares a pretty common experience with many NOAA scientists who have been forecasters in the military—Elrod was a Navy weather forecaster in the Pacific during World War II.

Six Mark Trail Awards were given by NOAA and NWS to individuals and companies in recognition of their public service in helping spread the availability of the radio warnings.

The winners included:

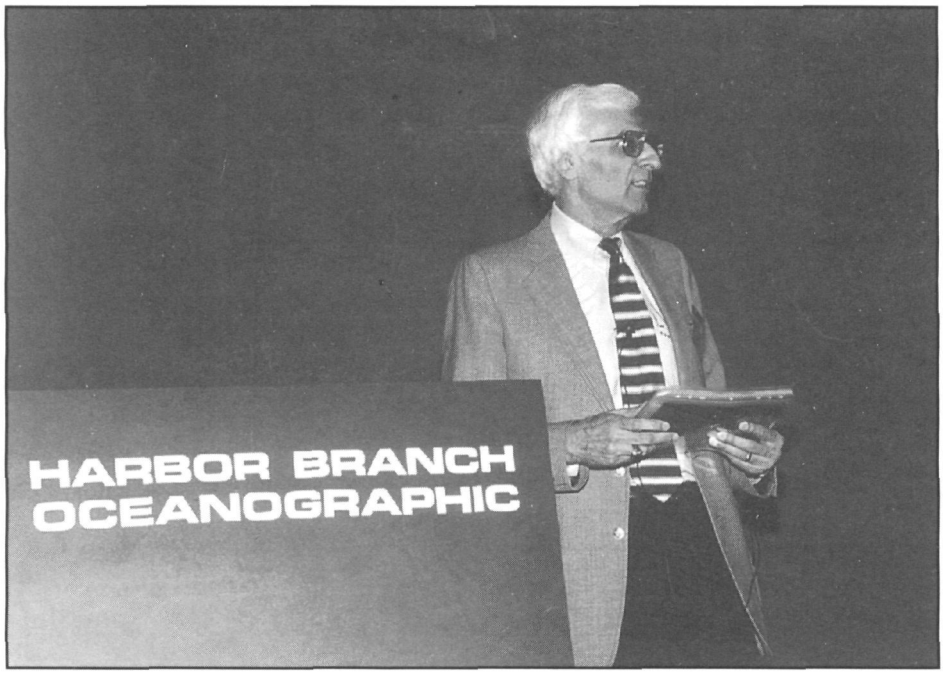
- Florida Power & Light for their grant that helped build the NOAA Weather Radio transmitter in Fort Pierce, Fla., and the printing and distribution of 450,000 leaflets outlining the NOAA Weather Radio program and the benefit of having a radio in your home;
- Yadkin Inc., a subsidiary of Alcoa, which contributed a NOAA Weather Transmitter in Badin, N.C.;
- The Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, whose leadership brought about the donation of two NOAA Weather Radio transmitters by five rural electric cooperatives for Crawford and Shannon Counties in Missouri;
- The Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives for its leadership as the first state to complete expansion and provide 100 percent NOAA Weather Radio coverage.
- The New England States Emergency Consortium, which provided over 300 school districts in eastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire with NOAA Weather Radios.
- Christine E. Ohlsen of the Washington state Grange, who spearheaded a drive that placed a NOAA Weather Radio receiver in all the school districts in Washington state. Ohlsen is currently working to place NOAA Weather Radio receivers in all hospitals and nursing homes throughout the state, and she is also working with the Oregon and California Grange.

During an emergency, National Weather Radio lets NWS forecasters interrupt routine weather radio programming and send out a special tone that activates weather radios in the listening area. The tone alarm feature can sound an alert from a "standby" or mute setting and give people immediate information about a life-threatening situation. Hearing- or sight-impaired people can also get these warnings by connecting weather radios with alarm tones to other kinds of attention-getting devices such as strobe lights, pagers, bed-shakers, and printers.

Center Holds Coastal Ocean Data Workshop

More than 100 coastal scientists and managers from Federal, state, and local governments, academia, and the private sector attended a NOAA Coastal Ocean Data Workshop on March 11-13, at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution in Fort Pierce, Fla. The workshop, sponsored by NOAA's National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC), was designed to identify data and information important to coastal areas throughout the United States.

"Half of the people of the United States live in coastal counties, including the Great Lakes," said Dr. Henry Frey, NODC director. "The workshop was designed to increase NOAA's responsiveness to the coastal ocean community, which includes millions of people."



Robert Winokur, NOAA assistant administrator for satellite and information services, addresses NOAA's Coastal Ocean Data Workshop, held in Fort Pierce, Fla.

NODC designed the workshop to learn what data are most important to the coastal community. NODC plans to acquire and archive these data at its Silver Spring facility. In addition, NODC sought to determine which information and synthesis products, developed from these data, are most important to the coastal community.

Worldwide Participation

Participants at the workshop included representatives from the East Coast, the Carribean and the Pacific Islands (including U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and Hawaii), West Coast (including Alaska), Gulf of Mexico, and the Great Lakes.

They formed into working groups to discuss coastal ocean data and information important to different U.S. geographic areas, scientists and managers, and organizations from different sectors of the community.

Workshop participants discussed data required to address issues such as input to coastal areas from waste treatment facilities; oxygen depletion; algal blooms) habitat modification; the ecological consequences of the introduction of nonindigenous species; global climate change and variability; shoreline erosion and hazardous storms; and pathogens and toxins affecting human health.

Final Report This Month

The results of the workshop will be used to increase NODC's responsiveness to coastal ocean data customer requirements; provide additional opportunities for NOAA to form partnerships and joint ventures with its partners in the coastal ocean community; increase the knowledge and awareness of NOAA's activities within the coastal ocean community; and be responsive to the new Oceanographic Partnership Program. The final workshop report will be available this month.

Dr. Ostenso, 66

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brother, Donald and his wife Helen of Rochester, Minn.; a sister-in-law, Victoria Ostenso of Eau Claire, Wisc.; a cousin, John Ostenso and his wife Beverly of Washington, D.C.; including a host of nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on Monday, April 21 at the American Geophysical Union

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions may be made to:

Ned A. Ostenso Public Service Fund
c/o The American Geophysical Union
2000 Florida Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20009-1277

Flags at NOAA facilities across the country were flown at half-mast on April 21, 1997, in honor of Dr. Ostenso.

NOAA Scientists Earn AMS Recognition

Several NOAA scientists and forecast offices were presented with special awards from the American Meteorological Society (AMS) at the February 1997 AMS annual conference in Long Beach, Calif.

Special Award

The Spaceflight Meteorology Group (SMG), at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, received a special award "for pushing the limits of mesoscale weather forecasts in support of NASA's Space Shuttle mission for more than 15 years." The Award is presented to individuals or organizations who have made important contributions to the science or practice of meteorology or to the Society. The SMG is a critical member of the Flight Control Team in the Mission Control Center at NASA Johnson Space Center. The forecasters provide detailed weather forecasts and briefings for NASA flight directors, astronauts, and the NASA Mission Management Team for space shuttle landing sites in Florida, California, New Mexico, Spain, and Africa. Members of the team include a chief, Frank Brody; six lead forecasters, Wayne Baggett, Dan Bellue, Tim Garner, Richard Lafosse, Karl Silverman, and Steve Sokol; four technique development meteorologists, Cara Heist, Mark Keehn, Tim Oram, and Doris Rotzoll; and an administrative assistant, Monica Sowell.

In addition, SMG was selected to "Hang the Plaque" in the mission control center following six separate shuttle missions in 1983, 1989, 1991, 1994, and 1995 (two missions). This honor is given to the flight control team member who provided the most outstanding support to the just-completed shuttle mission.

Gregory Jackson (left), of the NWS Forecast Office in San Angelo, Tex., was awarded the Francis W. Reichelderfer Award for a computer project has allowed NWS offices to issue warnings for severe weather in as little as 30 seconds.

Charles L. Mitchell Award

The AMS also named Kermit K. Keeter, a science officer with the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Raleigh, N.C., the 1997 recipient of its Charles L. Mitchell Award. Keeter was honored "for leadership in forging strong collaborative applied research relationships between forecasters and university professors and students." The Charles L. Mitchell Award is awarded for long-term service by persons engaged in weather forecasting activities. It is one of three awards given by AMS specifically to weather forecasters.

Francis W. Reichelderfer Award

Gregory E. Jackson, a science and operations officer at the NWS Forecast Office in San Angelo, Texas, received the Francis W. Reichelderfer Award. Jackson was honored "for development of computer programs that greatly facilitate preparation and issuance of special weather statements for the public." Jackson created the Warning and Interactive Statement Editor, an ongoing project for nearly four years that has allowed NWS offices to issue warnings for severe weather in as little as 30 seconds.

The Francis W. Reichelderfer Award is presented for distinguished public service contributions by personnel of the weather services. Originally designated the "Award for Outstanding Service by a Weather Forecaster," the award was renamed in 1982 for Reichelderfer, who led the U.S. Weather Bureau from 1938 to 1963.

Exceptional Specific Prediction Awards

The AMS presented Awards for Exceptional Specific Prediction to David R. Willson, lead forecaster for the National Weather Service, Portland, Ore.; Bruce Renneke, lead forecaster for the NWS in Seattle, Wash., and Ira Kosovitz, a journeyman forecaster for the NWS in

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forecasting in the United States," said Gerry Dittberner, NOAA's GOES program manager. "The GOES satellites are a critical component of the ongoing National Weather Service modernization program, aiding forecasters in providing more precise and timely forecasts. With GOES-K, we are ensuring the continuity of GOES data."

Field Study to Examine Arctic Ozone Loss: A major international field mission to study stratospheric ozone over the Arctic during the spring to late summer time period will begin this month, involving researchers federal agencies, universities, and other nations. The study, dubbed POLARIS, (Photochemistry of Ozone Loss in the Arctic Region in Summer), will investigate the large natural seasonal decrease of ozone that

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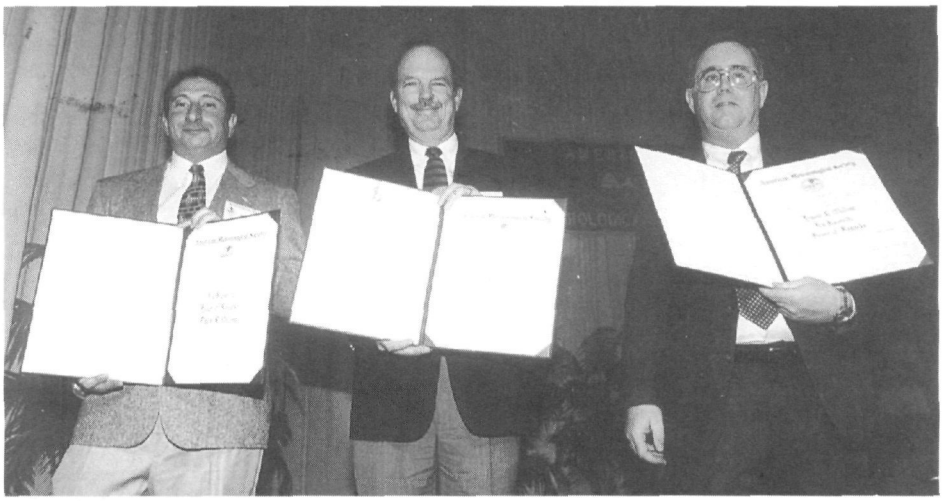
occurs in the Arctic.

Scientists from the NOAA Aeronomy Laboratory and Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory in Boulder, Colo., will join other government and university researchers in loading scientific instruments aboard NASA's ER-2 high-altitude research aircraft. The scientists will participate in three four-week sessions running from April to September. The scientists will be measuring ozone, reactive nitrogen compounds, and other reactive and trace gases, looking at the photochemistry that destroys stratospheric ozone and the dynamics that influence ozone transport in the region. High-altitude balloon measurements will also be made.

"This mission represents one of the most intensive campaigns ever conducted to investigate summertime ozone above the Arctic," said scientist James Elkins, a principal NOAA investigator.



(Left to right) Ira Kosovitz, of the NWS Forecast Office in Portland, Ore.; Bruce Rennecke, NWS, Seattle; and David Willson, NWSFO, Portland, Ore., were awarded the AMS Award for Exceptional Specific Prediction for the advance forecast of a 1995 severe windstorm.

AMS Award Winners

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Portland, Ore. The three were honored "for forecasting well in advance a very severe windstorm that struck Oregon and Washington on 12 December 1995."

The Award for Exceptional Specific Prediction is presented in recognition of the great importance of weather forecasting to public safety and well-being, and of the valuable professional services provided by persons who are engaged in forecasting.

In addition to the Award for Exceptional Specific Prediction, Willson received the Outstanding Performance Award from the National Weather Service in 1981, 1992, and 1994, the Sustained Superior Performance Award in 1983, 1988, 1994, and 1995, and the Special Act Award in 1987, 1988, 1989, 1994, and 1996. He has received numerous performance awards from the Oregon Department of Forestry and, in 1970, was honored with the U.S. Air Force Commendation medal.

Certificate

W. Paul Menzel, team leader of the Advanced Satellite Products Team, NOAA/NESDIS/ORA in Madison, Wisc., and adjunct professor in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, University of Wisconsin—Madison, Wisc., along with his colleagues James F. W. Purdom and Dennis Chesters, were awarded a certificate "for extraordinary leadership efforts in introducing information from the new GOES series to weather forecasters throughout the Western Hemisphere."

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