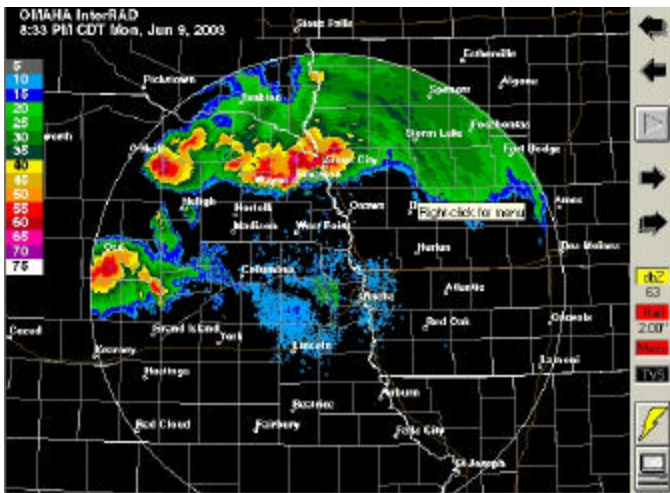


MESO Monthly Newsletter

Greetings from us all.

In what has become our typical luck, just prior to our team chase, the plains were storming mightily, and just after our return home, they fired up again. We out-foxed the weather muses this year, though. WE WENT BACK. Well, at least some of us did. Congrats to Chris Rozoff, Brian McNoldy, and Josh Jans for some marvelous June chasing in Kansas and Nebraska. We've been getting some great reports from the field, and some equally wonderful footage and stills. Among our favorites is one that Josh nailed in Nebraska. Josh paid a dear price for this shot, having to skirt a little too close to a hail shaft to intercept it, but it's not the first time the Toyota has lost its glass. Josh was able to keep NWS informed of the tornado, always reaching for his radio before he reaches for his camera... but always managing to get BOTH jobs done.



This is a radar image of the storm Josh was chasing. It's the cell SE of O'Neill. Homebound MESO members try to monitor the storms our brethren are chasing and provide guidance when possible via cell phone. Josh didn't need any help with this one, though. Went to it like a bee to honey.

This magnificent tornado was filmed and shot, but not before it was reported. Great job, Josh.



Gratuitous disclaimer: as always, storm chasing is extremely dangerous. Josh has had years of experience chasing and spotting, as well as years of studying meteorology at the University level, as well as sophisticated weather tracking equipment on board. Normal people, upon seeing such an event, should seek shelter immediately.

Chris Rozoff and Brian McNoldy led a team from Colorado State University for some early June Nebraska chases as well, and caught some great shots and a rope tornado that lasted about long enough for Rozoff to realize he was out of film.

Allan Detrich has done some chasing in Ohio, and Chris Howell did a brilliant intercept of a squall line in Michigan. Nancy's chase activities in New York have been confined to standing under a sun drenched sky with one little cumulus cloud she swore was rotating... probably from the backwash of a large bird.

Our website has seen yet another phenomenal month in June. We had 3234 unique visitors who downloaded 1.13Gb from the site, the 2nd highest ever (behind May 2003). The Gallery section always has its draw to both the Chase Photo Galleries and the Tropical Atlantic Headquarters. And once again, the articles have been a huge attraction, with over 2000 copies viewed or downloaded in June. The heavy hitters were Fire Weather (530), Tornado Terrors (440), and Hail Formation & Effects (390). It's amazing to me that we average 2000-2500 article downloads per month; the information is definitely getting out there! If you haven't checked out our ARTICLES page at mcwar.org, we would like to invite you to do so. The newest addition to our library is entitled *Tornado Terrors: The Possible Effects of Severe Weather on Children* and has become a very popular attraction. We are looking forward to articles in the near future from Chris Rozoff on *Urban-enhanced Thunderstorms*, Brian McNoldy is working on a *Radar Meteorology Tutorial*, and Shawn Hitner may take a stab at something about *The Northern Lights and Atmospheric Conditions that Affect Them*. Allan and Nancy are working on a children's article, and Randy Denzer may do some work on floods and flash flooding.

We are, by the way, delighted with our new members: Randy Denzer, Chris Rozoff, and Shawn Hitner. Randy adds yet another EMT to our ranks, and as an extremely highly trained firefighter, we cannot imagine a disaster he wouldn't be able to handle. He's quite excited about doing some classroom presentations, as well. Randy hales from Texas. Shawn grew up in Alaska, but has lived the past 7 years in Colorado. His weather training came through his flight training, and he's very well networked in the avionics community. He also has a strong background in public speaking and fundraising. Chris Rozoff is an atmospheric science graduate student at Colorado State University, where his work deals with hurricane eyewall dynamics (another hurricane specialist in Colorado???). Chris is also anxious to start classroom presentations, and has proven to be a stellar remote data assistant...having helped guide us to the best shots we had at severe weather during the end of May. Shawn, Randy, and Chris have signed on for next year's chase, and it looks as though Chris' dad is going to be our annual guest... and videographer (his profession).

Speaking of hurricanes, may we divert your attention to TS Claudette in the Caribbean, who is currently battling vertical wind shear. As of this writing, the models are not in total agreement on the track or future of Claudette, but things could get real interesting in the Gulf in the days ahead. MESO president Brian McNoldy has created a wonderful Tropics page at www.mcwar.org in the GALLERY. In addition to some wonderful tutorials and a free hurricane-tracking map, there is a link to MESO's Tropical Atlantic Satellite Sectors (affectionately known as MT ASS) where you can highlight sections of the tropical Atlantic and get current visible, infrared or water vapor satellite images singly or in a loop. You can also subscribe to Brian's insightful Tropical Weather Updates either through a link on that page or by writing him at mcnoldy@mcwar.org.

In the not too distant future, we will be enhancing the MESO store with a link to our team supplier and craftsman, who is making team golf shirts with logos for us all. Thanks to Randy Denzer for spurring us to go from "someday, wouldn't it be nice to have uniform shirts" to "done deal". At any rate, we should have things squared away in that department well in advance of the Christmas season. Hint hint.

Thanks to you all for the support and letters, we enjoy getting them and cherish the friendships we've made with so many of you over the years. We're still chasin', and still laughin'.

Nancy K. Bose
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www.mcwar.org