



The NHWC Transmission

June/July 2017

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NHWC 2017-19 Officers and Directors

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Andrew Rooke

AMR Consults, LLC

Kevin Stewart

Urban Drainage and FCD



President's Message

Steve Fitzgerald, P.E.

National Hydrologic Warning Council President
Chief Engineer, Harris County Flood Control District



Wow! The 12th National Hydrologic Warning Council Conference in Olympic Valley, California is definitely one for the "Olympic" record books. We started off on Tuesday with excellent training and workshops. A trip on the tram up to dramatic High Camp for a reception and dinner in one of the most beautiful places in the United States made for a breathtaking evening. There was so much snow the resort was still open for skiing on the weekends!

Tom Graziano, NWS Director of the Office of Water Prediction and Don Cline, USGS Associate Director for Water, officially commenced the conference Wednesday morning with informative and inspiring words of wisdom for the hydrological warning community. For the rest of Wednesday and all day Thursday, the quality and passion of the presenters in the 70+ sessions was impressive and motivating. David Gutierrez's lunch presentation on the Oroville Dam spillway failure kept all of us on the edge of our seats. After hearing the story, we were all thankful for the men and women from local, state, and federal agencies, as well as the contractors, who worked collaboratively under stressful and dire conditions. Amazingly, no injuries or fatalities resulted from the spillway erosion or releases! The conference ended Thursday night with the Awards Banquet and our friend Ron Hartman's reflection on his 35-year career with the National Weather Service. His thought-provoking observations and all the conference slide presentations are available on the [NHWC website](#) for both those who attended and those who could not.



Don Cline



High Camp Reception

In my opinion, the most important aspect of the conference was the opportunities for members of the hydrologic warning community from both the public and private sector to talk informally and get to know each other. Many times, I heard about the success of initiatives, collaborations, and partnerships launched during previous NHWC conferences. I would like to especially acknowledge our federal agency members and attendees from the NWS, USGS, Corps of Engineers, and Bureau of Reclamation who often leap high hurdles to attend and make valuable contributions.

Thanks to all the sponsors and exhibitors who made this year's NHWC conference possible and for sharing your expertise and service with us. You perform critically important work every day to keep our hydrologic warning systems ready to collect and report data and information reliably.

With much thankfulness, I want to recognize the NHWC Planning Committee and the volunteers who planned, executed, sweated, adapted to changes, and kept smiling. There are too many to name, but Conference Co-chairs Andy Rooke and Jean Vieux, Event Planner/Advisor Chris Crompton, Program Chair Dave Curtis, and Administrative Assistant April Krieg deserve special recognition for their contributions.

I am pleased to introduce two new Directors elected by NHWC members to join the NHWC Board – Fritz Law and Jimmy Stuart. Fritz is the Director of Sales for OneRain Inc., has been in the water industry for over 30 years, and lives in Longmont, Colorado. Jimmy is an Operations Control Centre Manager for SunWater in Brisbane, Australia managing emergency planning, flood and low flow river operations, water data and

SCADA systems. We look forward to their contributions to the NHWC. Chris Crompton and Dave Curtis stepped aside as Directors, but will continue to be active members and resources to the community. Both have contributed greatly to the success of the NHWC and the hydrologic warning profession.

We held our first meeting of the 2017-2019 Board of Directors on June 5th at the conference. The following officers were nominated and elected. Three officers are returning, Secretary – Brad Heilwagen, Amec Foster Wheeler, Nashville; Vice President – Josh McSwain, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Stormwater Services, North Carolina; and President – Steve Fitzgerald, Harris County Flood Control District, Texas. The new Treasurer is Ben Pratt, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Pennsylvania. We have a dedicated group of officers to take care of business for the NHWC.



Left to right: Andrew Rooke, Jimmy Stuart, Steve Fitzgerald, Joshua McSwain, Fritz Law, Ben Pratt, Brad Heilwagen, Bruce Rindahl.

Finally, let's all remember who we're working for – the families and individuals who are or could be impacted by a flood, excessive snowfall, or drought. Together, as caring science, technical, engineering, and communication professionals, we can help reduce the chance, consequences, and recovery effort of hydrologic events.



Feel free to let me or a NHWC Director know how we can help you or your organization. 🌐



Exhibitors

2017 NHWC Biennial Awards

Kevin Stewart, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
2015-2017 Awards Committee Chair

The Awards Committee recognized the following individuals/organizations during the June 8th, 2017 NHWC Awards Banquet in Olympic Valley, California.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Robert Hartman, National Weather Service (Ret.)



Robert Hartman was also the featured speaker at the awards banquet – presenting “Two Decades of River Forecast Advances”.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Ventura County
Watershed Protection District



Ron Marotto (left) and Bruce Rindahl receive the Operational Excellence Award for the Ventura County Watershed Protection District.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Susan Janek
City of Austin, Texas

INNOVATION AWARD

Jim Moffitt
Twitter



Jim Moffitt (left) receives the NHWC Innovation Award from Dave Curtis.

OUTSTANDING NHWC TRANSMISSION ARTICLE AWARD

Jessica Cherry, Scott Lindsey,
and Crane Johnson

Appreciation Awards were presented to the following individuals and organizations:

Chris Crompton, For service in many roles from 1991 to 2017

Steve Fitzgerald

For service as President of NHWC, 2015 - 2017

Campbell Scientific, Inc.

For over 20 years' support of NHWC, 1995 - 2017

OTT Hydromet / Sutron

For over 20 years' support of NHWC, 1995 - 2017

Others were recognized for their leadership in this years' conference, including:

Andrew Rooke and Jean Vieux

2017 Conference Chairs

David Curtis, Conference Program/Agenda

Tom Ogden, Conference Golf Event

Jean Vieux, Conference Exhibitors/ Sponsors

Alan Haynes, Conference Tuesday Tours

Sue Swenor, Conference Food

April Krieg, 2017 Conference Registration

Brad Heilwagen, Conference Hospitality Suite 🍷

Save The Date

National Hydrologic
Warning Council

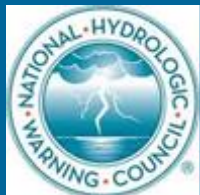
9th Annual Texas Workshop

This 2-day interactive workshop will focus on hydrologic warning programs and systems in Texas, including flood warning system performance, flood forecasts and warnings, flood impacts, public communication, reservoir operations, and post flood activities. Other topics will include radio frequency encroachment, NOAA Atlas 14, and ALERT2 implementation.

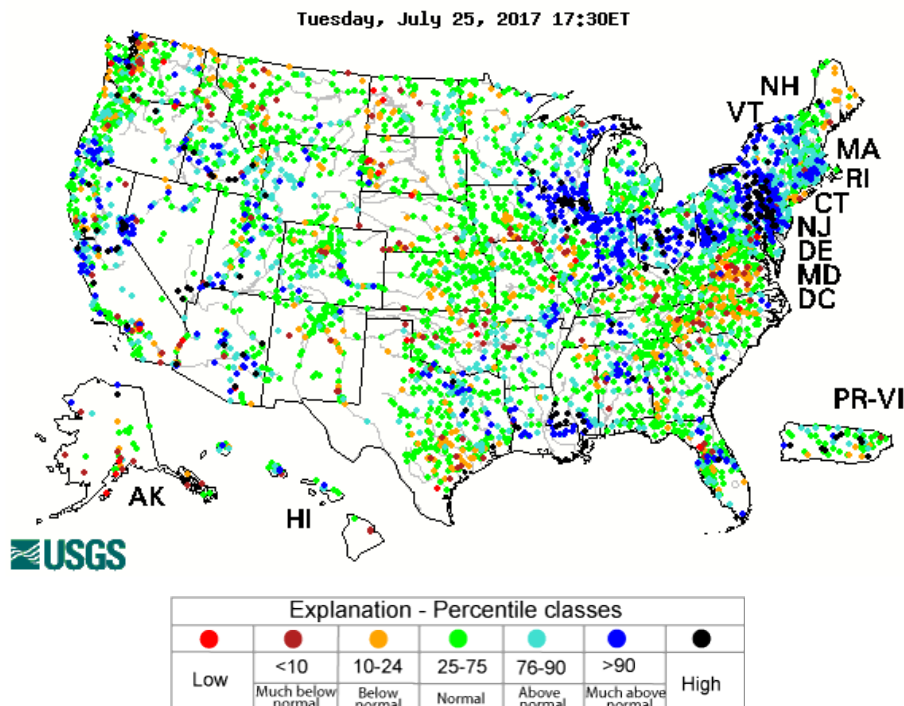
The venue for this years' workshop will be the historic Menger Hotel located at 204 Alamo Plaza in San Antonio, Texas.



More information will be available soon at the **NHWC** website.



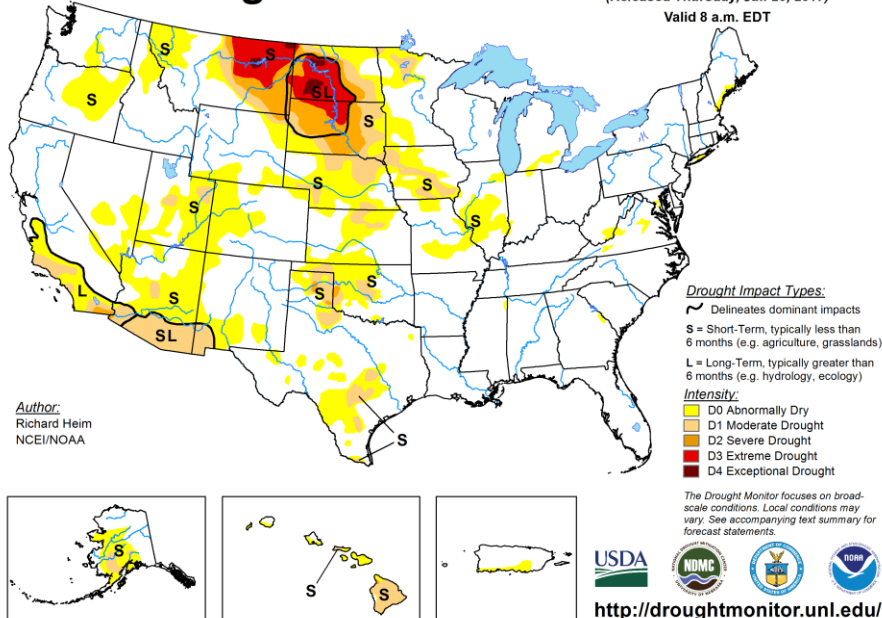
Hydrologic Conditions in the United States Through July 18, 2017



Latest stream flow conditions in the United States. (courtesy USGS)

U.S. Drought Monitor

July 18, 2017
(Released Thursday, Jul. 20, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Latest drought conditions in the United States.
(courtesy National Drought Mitigation Center)

August Newsletter Articles Focus: Hazard Communication & Public Awareness

NHWC is requesting articles that focus on getting the word out.

Please prepare an article that explains how your organization gets the right real-time data and information to the right people for the right response.

Submit your article to:

editor@hydrologicwarning.org

August 7th is the deadline for inclusion in the August issue.

Future Newsletter Articles Focus

To give you more time to prepare articles, below is the article focus schedule for the next four months:

**Aug - Hazard
Communication &
Public Awareness**
Sep - Modeling/Analysis
Oct - Data Collection
Nov - Hydrology

NHWC Calendar

November 8-9, 2017 - 9th Annual Texas Workshop, San Antonio, TX

General Interest Calendar

September 10-14, 2017 – [ASDSO 2017](#), San Antonio, Texas

November 5-9, 2017 – [AWRA Annual Conference](#), Portland Oregon

April 17-20, 2018 – [The ALERT User's Group Training Conference and Exposition](#), Ventura, California

Jun 4-7, 2018 – [2018 ASCE Environment and Water Resources Institute International Congress](#), Minneapolis, Minnesota

(See the [event calendar](#) on the NHWC website for more information.)

Parting Shot

High Water Detection System for City of San Antonio, Texas



Remote #1 on Specht Road

Photo by **Chris Chappell**, High Sierra Electronics, Inc.

National Hydrologic Warning Council

*Providing Timely, Quality Hydrologic Information to Protect Lives,
Property, and the Environment*

<http://www.hydrologicwarning.org>