"The Project"

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Introduction

The initially rather small and close-knit weather radar (later "upgraded") to radar meteorology community exhibited a playfulness, much of which has been recorded in the series of conference volumes. Pride of place for initiating the concept at the 4th Weather Radar Conference 60 years ago goes to Alan Bemis and Aaron Fleisher, who were able to produce results similar to ones we see in modern studies of polarimetric radar (see figure). That playfulness continued over the years as the size and scope of the conferences increased, but with the disappearance of the conference volumes in this era of electronic communication this gentle irreverence now seems sadly in danger of also disappearing.

As a service to the community, we have compiled a collection of as many of these treasures as we could locate; samples from some of the items appear below, along with a complete reference list. We also included some relevant items that were not presented at radar meteorology conferences. Copies of all will be placed on the Radar Committee website. Some things appear to have been lost, such as the complete score of the musical revue at the Sixth Conference (1957) including the tunes to "Don't Take the Bright Band Away from Me" and "More Data, More Data (from Pole to Equator)." Perhaps awareness of this collection will stimulate recall of these and other missing elements in some of the senior members of the community. We also hope that it will provide the younger members with some appreciation of the way these bits of humor have made the conferences more memorable, and maybe even induce some of them to carry on the tradition.

More data, more data, from pole to equator. We'll gain our salvation through mass measurement.

Recall, you polarimetric geeks out there, that rainfall estimation often has been declared a solved problem.

The wavelength, as can be determined in the usual way, will be a few inches. An equally important characteristic is wave width, which has yet to be established. Wave height is also of interest for application in coastal regions.

Refer to “The design of YESRAD” (Smith & Geotis, 2013).

The expert in weather, Dave Atlas, with new theories was always the fastest; though when “Angels in Focus” was deemed hocus pocus he demurred – then withdrew it at last.

From “I love you my mug if they'll just pull the plug on that good ol' ZDR.”

From Atlas Limericks (Rogers, 2002): I think that I shall never see a poem ugly as this tree.

Wave height is also of interest for application in coastal regions.

From “In search of the lost mandolin” (Carbone, 2002): I think that I shall never see a poem ugly as this tree.

From “Ground detection radar meteorology” (Zawadski et al., 1983): It is nevertheless surprising that the wealth of meteorological information contained in ground echoes was hitherto neglected.

From “More data, more data, from pole to equator. We’ll gain our salvation through mass measurement.”

QPE are really the initials of a Latin phrase “Quid pro quo Pontifex Emeritus.”

Of particular importance is the acknowledgement by the Next Generation Weather Radar Program Office (NEXRAD, 1985) of possible “frozen hydrometeor effects” on measurements of precipitation by radar.

From The Iliad of Atlas (Anonymous, 1966): Though his salary was small, his wallet he’d fatten By spending his nights finding things he could patent.

References (in chronological order)


Atlas, D., and C. W. Ulbrich, 1990: Early foundations of the measurement of rainfall by radar. Radar in Meteorology. Chap. 12, Fig. 7, page 96.

Geotis, S., 1987: The Atlas Tree. Poem inspired by first draft of Atlas and Ulbrich (1990), Fig. 7.

Committee on Radar Meteorology (R. E. Carbone, chair), 1987: Script for awards presented at Battan Memorial and 40th Anniversary Conference on Radar Meteorology, Boston.


Collier, C. G., 2007: Wet and wonderful: The alternative history of QPE. Banquet talk at 33rd Conf on Radar Meteorology, Cairns.