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**The Journal
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Press Release



A convergence-zone for some interesting, but controversial subjects

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October's issue of The International Journal of Meteorology provides some rather controversial but highly interesting papers on a number of different meteorological issues. In particular, TORRO's site investigation coordinator and director, Tony Gilbert discusses the issue of Convergence-zone tornadoes; examining conditions which spawn these types of tornadoes, Gilbert writes "*The convergence zone tornado has shown that upper-air conditions have little or no relevance to what may be occurring in the lower layers of the atmosphere*". Gilbert, himself has witnessed convergence-zone tornadoes and so has the relevant experience and knowledge to passionately and interestingly present this subject in a paper which appeals to the experienced scientist as well as the beginner. "*Thursday the 9th August 2001 ... Less than a mile from his home, the author witnessed the formation of a funnel cloud and then developing tornado (Gilbert, 2002).*" Causal conditions are then examined as were reported immediately after the event unfolded.



Peter Van Doorn's mind-blowing research into Ball Lightning continues this month with Part two: *Four distinct modes of ball lightning*. This paper adheres quite well with another ball lightning paper written by V. L. Bychkov from Russia: *The physical nature of gelatinous meteors 'Pwdré Ser' or 'Star Jelly'*. Both papers give truly fascinating accounts of this phenomenon including witness statements about pungent odours and the strange disappearance of these 'meteors' also known as 'star jellies' (V. L. Bychkov). These two papers encourage the examination of witness' observations and actually provide some explanation for otherwise unbelievable events; written in a logical and stimulating way for the lay reader as well as providing formulae for the advanced meteorologist these papers are not to be missed.

This month's issue also includes quite a pleasant book review section by Peter Rogers, including some excellent books for a meteorologists Christmas wish list featuring some specific reads as well as the more general interest book. Along with this we see the return of Richard Muirhead's World Weather Diary incorporating 3 months of disastrous weather events over the world providing some pleasurable relief for the non-scientific reader.

Overall, following the ground-breaking 30 year anniversary edition, *The International Journal of Meteorology* once again satisfies all, from any enthusiastic weather fanatic to the complex scientific meteorologist with interesting evidential accounts of some fascinating, but controversial subjects.

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