

The American Meteorological Society

Certified Consulting Meteorologists

Newsletter

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This newsletter is intended to enhance communications between CCMs, the BCCM, and the AMS. It is published quarterly to provide information about the on-going activities of the CCM program. Please remember to use the [CCM LinkedIn page](#) for your communication and exchanges between CCMs.

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The Chair's Column

Dear CCM Colleagues:

We are halfway through 2017 and that means some deadlines are approaching for the AMS 98th Annual meeting which this year will be in Austin, TX from 7 – 11 January 2018. The deadline for submitting abstracts for conferences and symposia is 1 August. Of particular interest for us are two joint sessions; the first is between the BCCM and the Applications of Air Pollution Modelling (AAPM) STAC committee. The focus will be on types of models, analysis, and science issues associated with air pollution. The second is between the CCM Forum and the Environmental Information Processing Technologies (EIPT) conference. The theme of this session will focus on the technology and information that CCMs use in customer support. More information for both can be found on the AMS Annual Meeting website.



The theme for this year's meeting is "Transforming Communication in the Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise". This theme is right in our ballpark as CCMs since our responsibility is to deliver weather and climate information to our clientele that is accurate, state-of-the-art, clear, and reliable. This year the BCCM has organized a Short Course, "The Art and Science of Forensic Meteorology" to be held on Sunday before the conference. The course, led by BCCMs Steven Hanna and Gale Hoffnagle, will include sessions that address many aspects of communication germane to the CCM. More information will be available shortly

Service is an integral component of membership in any organization. If you are interested in serving on the CCM Board please send me an email stating your interest as well as a paragraph about yourself and why you are interested in serving on the BCCM. The term of office is four years beginning at the 2018 Annual Meeting. We are seeking three new members for this year. We try to

balance, as best we can, factors such as diversity, geography, and work sector.

Currently, there are four candidates who will take their oral exam in Austin having successfully passed their written exams. There are five additional candidates who are in the process of taking the written exam. There was also one regional oral exam administered recently and thanks go to Chair Elect Tim Hall for shepherding the process and board members Mitch Baer, Lou Cantrell, and former BCCM member Joseph Chang for giving of their time to make this possible. If you know of someone who has the attributes of a CCM, please encourage them to apply!

Finally, the BCCM recommended a worthy CCM for the Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist. There will be more information forthcoming once the process is finished at AMS. Please consider nominating CCMs for this award that we know are making such contributions to the profession consistently. We will need more nominations for next year and the nomination stays in the pool for three years. It is not too early to begin the process of nominating a colleague.

I hope to see you in Austin!

Anthony R. Lupo, CCM #660
Chair, Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists
American Meteorological Society ■

NOAA's NCEI Hourly Data Products

Contributed by Buddy Ritchie, CCM

On April 25, 2017, NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) not only changed the format for the hourly surface data but also the databases used to generate the product. Prior to April 25, the hourly data was identified as QCLCD (Quality Controlled Local Climatological Data), now the product is identified as just LCD.

While working on an incident investigation, I needed data from some North Alabama ASOS stations. I downloaded the hourly data and continued with my analyses. I did not request these data be certified at this time but I could have. After April 25, I needed additional data. When I downloaded the data I saw the format of the hourly product had changed. When I cross checked the products pre and post April 25, I found that the sky conditions were different. I contacted NCEI customer services about the discrepancies. (I was impressed with the responsiveness and thoroughness of their response.) They provided the following information:

1. NCEI also noted some precipitation issues as well and are currently looking into that issue.
2. The now-archaic QCLCD product was based on hourly observations ingested from various sources including the older MAE files. The replacement product, the new Local Climatological Data, has only one input source, the digital surface hourly data base, ISD (Integrated Surface Data).). More information about ISD can be found at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/data-access/quick-links#dsi-3505>.
3. The new LCD product is the "official" archived product, and NCEI will certify these data.

For the Climate Reference Network (CRN) stations, their standard output is hourly observations, but they do note and archive five-minute data. When NCEI was developing the new LCD product, they decided to provide the five-minute data for the CRN sites.

Bottom line is: If you downloaded and had certified data prior to April 25 and you can still change your source, I recommend you download the new LCD product and have that certified. ■

Call for papers, joint session between the CCM Forum and Environmental Information Processing Technologies (EIPT) Conference

The 34th EIPT Conference and the CCM Forum will be hosting a joint session at the 98th AMS annual meeting, January 7–11, 2018 in Austin, TX. The theme of this session will be on specialized applications, hardware, software and information that CCMs use in work to support their customers. Since many CCMs own and operate a small business, either full time or on the side, they usually don't have large budgets to acquire, analyze and present data. What kinds of techniques, programs or systems do CCMs use that could be shared with other CCMs and the audience at large? How do they stay abreast of new capabilities? This call is to solicit presentations on this or similar topics regarding the use of data and information systems by CCMs and other weather business owners and providers.

Abstracts are due NLT August 1, 2017. The abstract fee is \$95, payable at the time of submission. Submit the abstract to the 34th EIPT conference [here](#). Because this session is a late entry it is not listed as a topic selection. However, submit it under "Disseminating Earth Science and Climate Information for Better Decision Making" and as long as you use the term CCM somewhere in the abstract we'll make sure it's pulled out for this session. For any questions please contact [Randy Bass](#). ■

Call for Papers, Joint Conference on the Applications of Air Pollution Meteorology (AAPM)

A joint session on Air Pollution Meteorology Studies by Certified Consulting Meteorologists (CCMs) will be hosted in collaboration with the AMS Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists. Papers are requested that present examples of air pollution meteorological studies used by meteorological consultants. Focus should be on the types of models and analysis and the key scientific issues that were addressed.

The full AAPM call for papers can be [found here](#). The deadline for abstract submissions is August 1, 2017. ■

Annual Meeting Short Course on Forensic Meteorology being planned

The CCM Board is in the process of planning an Annual Meeting Short Course on Forensic Meteorology with a tentative date of January 7, 2018, the Sunday prior to the meeting. More details will be posted online as it becomes available. ■

BECOME A MENTOR

Register now for the 2018 Mentorship Program!

The AMS Board for Private Sector Meteorologists has designed a mentorship program to create and foster one-on-one personal interactions between mentors employed in the private sector and students interested in working in the private sector. The program is tailored to the needs of each individual to enhance their understanding of opportunities and professional growth potential in the private sector of the weather and climate professional enterprise. The 2018 application period is open so [register today](#)! CCMs receive one professional development point per person mentored per year. ■

Tropical Awareness Training



James Caron, CCM # 652, had the opportunity to be the keynote speaker at the Fugro May Safety meeting regarding the topic of Tropical Awareness Training on May 24th, 2017 in Houston, TX. Approximately 80 people were in attendance. Fugro is the world's leading, independent provider of geo-intelligence and asset integrity solutions for large constructions, infrastructure and natural resources. Their services are specifically designed to support engineering design and large structure building projects. Fugro creates value by acquiring and interpreting earth and engineering data to assist their client with the design, construction, installation, repair and maintenance of infrastructure.

In preparation for his keynote, he developed a 24-slide presentation with a review of the 2016 tropical season and projections for the 2017 tropical season. Included in his talk were details on how/ when/where tropical systems typically form, various 2017 tropical forecasts from Colorado State and NOAA, and National Hurricane Center updates for 2017. He finished with information on hurricane preparation (disaster kits, etc).

After serving in the United States Air Force as a meteorology officer, Mr. Caron was hired as a consulting meteorologist for Citigroup in their commodity trading division. He currently works as the senior meteorologist for Macquarie providing short and long-term weather forecasts for various types of commodity trading such as power and natural gas.

The event was a great success, and the attendees were able to receive a thorough understanding of tropical weather and how to prepare for the upcoming season. ■

David Moran featured on the Weather Channel's WX Geeks

CCM David Moran was featured on [WX Geeks](#) in May. David is originally from Kansas but has spent most of his life in Oklahoma. After growing up near Tulsa, he moved to Norman to pursue degrees in meteorology and mathematics at the University of Oklahoma. His specialties in the science include radar, synoptic, and mesoscale meteorology, while his forecast expertise lies in severe weather.

The most inspiring part about David's story is that he has cerebral palsy, and has since he was a child. Much like many of us, David knew he wanted to be a meteorologist since he was young, but with his disability no one really gave him a chance so to speak. Not only did he end up becoming a meteorologist but received both degrees from the University of Oklahoma, all with his condition. In the past, David interned at the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory while in college. These days, David acts as a consulting meteorologist at WDT. He also just earned his Certified Consulting Meteorologist Certification through the American Meteorological Society. ■



Thomas F. Downs Receives EPA New England 2017 Environmental Merit Award

Thomas F. Downs, CCM #575 and chief meteorologist with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, has put in place significant local, regional, and national ambient air quality programs. Tom invests much time and effort to analyzing air monitoring data gathered in Maine and throughout the eastern United States. Many states, regional organizations and EPA depend on his work to demonstrate the success of various transported pollution control programs that impact ozone levels and regional haze, and to appropriately plan for the future of these programs. The results of past efforts to use lower-sulfur fuels, improve efficiencies in mobile sources, operate cleaner-burning heating appliances and improve the natural gas infrastructure show that these strategies are working.

Tom's work provides a consistent approach to data analysis, making the results easier to compare and understand which is crucial given problems that could arise if analyses were performed differently by different organizations. Tom's analyses let environmental leaders make data-driven decisions on ambient air quality issues. His analytical and technical background has helped him anticipate the progression of regional and national air quality improvement efforts. Tom often foresees the need and advantage of analyzing data in a different manner, which helps guide decisions by environmental leaders before they recognize the question. Tom is widely respected by his colleagues as highly intelligent with a tremendous knowledge base pertaining to a myriad of complex air-quality issues. His dedication to the improvement of the environment and his 25 years of service has earned Tom this recognition.

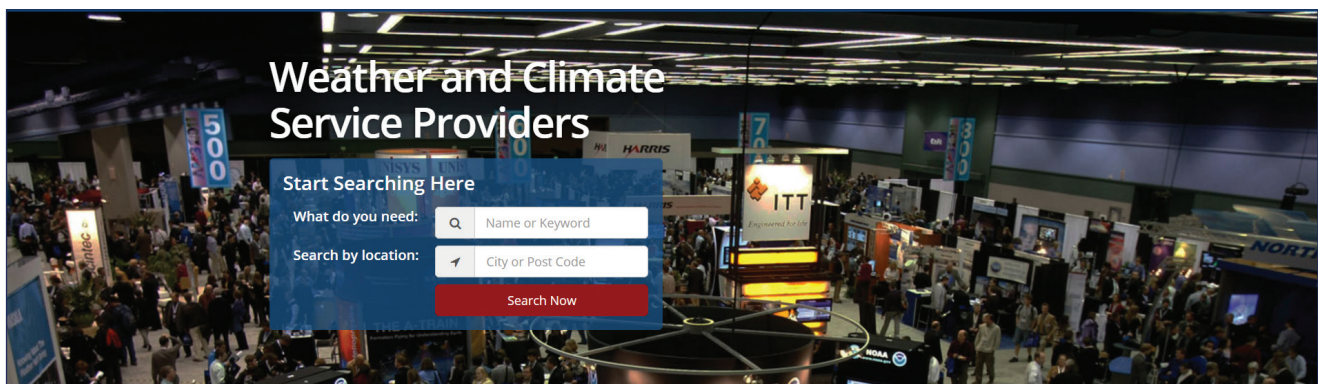
Here's a [link to more information](#) on this year's merit awards. ■

Weather and Climate Service Providers Directory

We want to remind you that AMS launched a new online Weather and Climate Service Providers Directory last year and CCMs may add a listing free of charge. Some of the great features of this new directory include the ability to add:

- company logo
- profile photo
- social media links
- Website URL
- CV
- photo albums
- videos
- text articles
- up to ten specialties

To enter your free listing, go to the following [sign up page](#) created exclusively for CCMs and follow the prompts; have your AMS Member Account Number and CCM Number available. If you have questions, feel free to [email us](#). ■



Weather and Climate Service Providers Directory Survey

For those of you who have already taken advantage of a free listing in the Weather and Climate Service Providers Directory, we ask that you take a few minutes to provide the AMS with some feedback by taking our [short survey](#). Survey responses will be collected through August 15, 2017. ■

New COMET Lessons

Please look below for highlights of COMET's newest publications on MetEd. This update includes 11 new COMET lessons on a variety of introductory topics, forecasting, NWP, satellite, etc.

Introductory Lessons

- [Foundations of Meteorological Instrumentation and Measurements](#)
- [Met 101: Introduction to the Atmosphere](#)
- [Met 101: Basic Weather Processes](#)
- [Met 101: Introduction to the World's Oceans](#)

Forecasting

- [Communicating Forecast Uncertainty, European Case](#)

NWP

- [Limitations of High-Resolution NWP Models](#)
- [EPS Products Reference Guide](#)
- [Introduction to EPS Theory](#)

Interested in translation? COMET's new [Translation Resource Center](#) supports the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) community's efforts to expand the availability of training materials through translation. Here you'll find resources to guide and support your translation efforts and a forum to exchange ideas and resources, such as the Guide to Translation Project Management.

New Spanish Lessons

- [Incertidumbre en los pronósticos de ciclón tropical](#)
- [Introducción a la marejada ciclónica](#)
- [Identificación satelital de estructuras: los ríos atmosféricos](#)

Currently, these materials are freely available to everyone, courtesy of our primary sponsors. They are NOAA's NWS, NESDIS and NOS programs, EUMETSAT, the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, the Meteorological Service of Canada, Bureau of Meteorology, and the USACE and DOI/Reclamation. ■

Air and Waste Management Association Event of Interest to CCM's

A three day conference on air quality dispersion modeling entitled "[Guideline on Air Quality Models: The Changes](#)" will be held in Chapel Hill, NC on November 14-16. It features presentations by EPA on the status of model developments, over 40 papers on modeling issues, and a Town Hall with the regulators answering questions about the modeling issue of today. The specialty conference will be held in Chapel Hill, NC on November 14-16. ■

Connect on Social Media

LinkedIn

The LinkedIn page is becoming more active. If you have not joined, please do! The LinkedIn page is accessible and open only to CCMs. You must join LinkedIn (it is free) first before requesting to join the CCM page. Once you join LinkedIn (or if you are already a member), then just simply type "Certified Consulting Meteorologist" in the search box on the top right to search for our group. We anticipate the LinkedIn site to be an easy way for CCMs to communicate with each other and keep us all abreast of news, developments, and items of interest to CCMs.



Facebook

For all CCMs, colleagues, and the general public, we have a CCM Facebook page. It can be found by searching in Facebook for "Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM)." This page needs much more interest to be generated, beginning with every CCM "liking" the page.



Twitter

For all CCMs, colleagues and the general public, we have a new Twitter account. Leading up to the Annual Meeting, this year we intend to market the CCM booths at the Student & Career Fairs and AMS Resource Center via Twitter. If you are on Twitter, please follow the handle [@AMS_BCCM](#) ■



Upcoming AMS Meetings

17th Conference on Mesoscale Processes

24–28 July 2017

San Diego, CA

30th Conference on Climate Variability and Change, 24th Conference on Probability and Statistics, and 16th Conference on Artificial Intelligence

28–29 July 2017

Baltimore, Maryland

2017 Summer Community Meeting

2–3 August 2017

Madison, WI

38th Conference on Radar Meteorology

28 August–1 September 2017

Chicago, IL

Abstract submissions are now open for the [98th AMS Annual Meeting](#) in Austin, TX. The deadline is August 1, 2017.

Upcoming [meetings of interest](#) being offered by other organizations may be found on the AMS website.

Thanks to all of our contributors
for this issue.

We encourage you to share your
experiences, views, findings, or studies for
the next newsletter.

E-mail your articles to:
[Alicia Wasula](#)

The Fall 2017 Newsletter submission
deadline is September 15.