

## REAL-WORLD METEOROLOGY

*A series of profiles celebrating a half-century of Certified Consulting Meteorologists*

**Who:** Bernard N. Meisner

**What:** Chief of science and training, NWS Southern Region

**When:** CCM since 1989

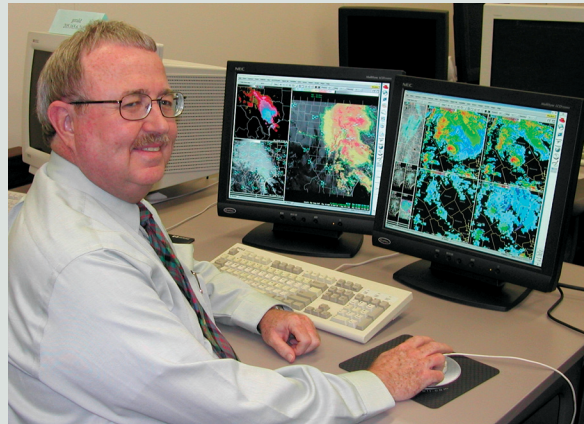
**Where:** Fort Worth, Texas



**How:** Bernard became a CCM at the suggestion of John Freeman, a longtime advocate of the CCM program. At the time, Bernard and John were teaching meteorology at The University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas—a program John had established in the 1960s—as were CCMs Leon Graves and Bill Hildreth. Meisner notes that it may have been the only instance when the entire meteorology faculty at a university were CCMs.

Bernard has taught physics, physical science, and Earth and space science in the Pittsburgh public schools; meteorology at the University of Texas and the University of Oklahoma; and meteorology, weather communications, and astronomy at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, where he also served as chair of the Meteorology Department. He has worked as an intern at the Satellite Field Service Station in Honolulu, Hawaii; as a visiting scientist at the Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research at the University of Hawaii; as a National Research Council resident research associate at the NWS Climate Analysis Center in Washington, D.C.; and as a research associate at the Institute for Storm Research in Houston, Texas. Prior to joining the NWS in 1994, he worked for the USDA Forest Service as a research meteorologist at the Forest Fire Laboratory in Riverside, California.

Bernard has been a member of the AMS since 1976 and served as the first chairman of the Local Chapter Affairs Committee. He is a past president of the Society's Houston and Riverside-San Bernardino chapters and past vice president, and current webmaster, of the North Texas chapter. He was active in the Society's Project Atmosphere education program. For the past four years, he has served on the CCM Board, most recently as the chair.



**In His Own Words:** “My interest in meteorology began when, as a 10-year old, I began timing the flash-to-bang while delivering afternoon newspapers in Pennsylvania during what my mother called ‘the five o’clock storm.’ As a teenager, I built a Heathkit multiband radio that gave me access to an all-weather channel, and I became a regular listener. After graduating from college, I taught physical science and Earth and space science in Pittsburgh. Both of those courses had sections on meteorology, which piqued my interest. Three years experiencing the trials and tribulations of an inner-city high school teacher led me to decide I would rather teach more mature students, which required an advanced degree. I remember finding a book in my local Carnegie Library that said, ‘If you are going to study the weather, go somewhere where you enjoy the weather!’ Having endured more than 20 Pittsburgh winters, it turned out that I applied to, and received my masters and doctorate degrees from, the University of Hawaii.

“Following a series of one-year research and teaching appointments in academia and government research institutions, I settled in Houston and began some consulting work. Hurricane Alicia (1983) resulted in a number of legal cases, including one where I had the pleasure to collaborate with Ted Fujita. As a government meteorologist for the past 21 years, I consider my primary clients to be the staff in the field offices throughout our region. My web pages result in frequent queries from the general public. Short answers I provide myself, while referring the more complex cases to my fellow CCMs. I value my CCM as an indication that I have demonstrated the high standards of knowledge, experience, and character in the performance of my work.

“One of my favorite quotes regarding the CCM program is from former AMS president Richard Reed: ‘Anyone of sufficient experience, who is committed to raising the standards of the profession and who provides advice and services at a professional level, whether for private fee or not, should regard himself as a proper candidate for certification.’”

For more information on the Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) Program, please visit the AMS website at [www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html](http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html).