

REAL-WORLD METEOROLOGY

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



Who: Steven A. Root

What: President of an environmental and forecasting company

When: CCM since 1980

Where: Edmond, Oklahoma

Why: Was encouraged by other CCMs to apply



How: As president and chief executive officer of WeatherBank, Inc., a private environmental and weather forecasting company, Root provides the technical and scientific management to transportation, energy, recreational, and aviation companies worldwide. As a graduate student in the late 1970s, Root had the idea that computerization and technology could be used to create accurate weather forecasts. His research of weather patterns and experimentation with computer hardware design allowed him to fabricate the first handheld weather forecasting computer. This computer capability formed the basis for color graphic computer systems now used to generate television news weather presentations. He has also designed new, state-of-the-art weather advisory systems, which will have a dramatic impact on how location-specific weather information is presented to end-users, wirelessly. Root was selected and employed by the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City to provide site-specific weather forecasts for one of the five outdoor venues at the games.

In His Own Words: “ I was prompted to seek the CCM designation from other CCMs back in 1979, and upon review of the program, I agreed that it would be a worthwhile endeavor. I was not surprised by the level of effort required to become a CCM, and the time went quickly from one requirement to the next. I am very glad that I applied for the program and do feel that it has been beneficial to my career. There have been many requests for service proposals I have responded to over the years, and most have required the response from a CCM.”

For more information on the Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) Program, please visit the AMS Web site at www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html.