



Who: John P. Monteverdi

What: Weather forecasting services and forensic meteorology; professor of meteorology, San Francisco State University

When: CCM since 1988

Where: San Francisco Bay region



Why: To enhance his research and teaching skills. ["My 'day' job is as a professor at San Francisco State University. If you think about the word 'professor,' the root of it is the verb 'to profess.' My career is to 'profess' the career of meteorology to my students. In the modern university environment, the old stereotypes of 'ivory tower complex' or 'those that can, do, those that can't, teach' have gone so far out the window that no one can see them anymore. If I am a meteorologist who is teaching, I should also be a meteorologist who does research, and whose services are valued by society as a whole. I do research and publish in the refereed literature in service of the former, and I am a consulting meteorologist to bear witness to the latter."]

How: John became a CCM in his ninth year at San Francisco State University. He had already been hired in previous years to provide weather forecasts for wineries, architects, and private parties, and to serve as a forensic meteorologist in legal proceedings involving expert witness testimony. At the same time, his professional career blossomed into a research area of severe and unusual storms in California. This in turn encouraged in him a deep interest in the relatively infrequent supercell thunderstorms and mesocyclone-induced tornadoes in California.

John's greatest thrill involves studying tornadic supercell thunderstorms in the field since the mid 1980s. And his greatest honor involves his coeditorship of *Weather and Forecasting* in the 1990s, as well as contributing to the awareness in forecasting offices in California that supercell thunderstorms in California are not an "anomaly"—that the processes/ingredients that produce these storms in their more typical stomping grounds (the Great Plains) occur in California, too, in certain typical weather patterns.

In His Own Words: "During the 1980s, I became increasingly aware that unlike professionals in the legal, engineering, or geological sciences fields, there was no legal or mandatory requirement for objective certification in the area of consulting meteorology. Nor was there a requirement, legal or otherwise, that mandated the sort of background necessary for an individual to call him/herself a meteorologist. The result of this was a surge of virtually incompetent individuals or persons with inadequate background characterizing themselves as trained meteorologists and selling their services.

"I believe that trained professionals have a right and obligation to police their own ranks. While those individuals who practice meteorology can come from diverse backgrounds and bring with them a set of skills that can be learned at the university in various degree programs, and/or by practical experience, the fact of the matter is that there was a crying need for some objectively administered set of standards to which all those involved in the practice of consulting meteorology should adhere. The AMS has done us all a service by requiring those who seek the status of Certified Consulting Meteorology to show how they adhere to these standards.

"By attaining the CCM status, I am also bearing witness to my students that a professor does more than stand in front of a classroom and preach. By the very fact that my services are sought after by companies or individuals ranging from wineries to attorneys seeking help in forensic meteorology testifies to the fact that what they are learning has value to society."

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