



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:

With the year fast approaching the end, I'd like to remind our membership of a few events happening at the 98th Annual AMS Meeting in Austin, TX from 7-11 January 2018:



1. This year the BCCM, in partnership with NCIM, has organized a Short Course, "The Art and Science of Forensic Meteorology" to be held on Sunday 7 January. Borrowing directly from the registration page; "The goal of the course is to share with other meteorologists the concept of forensic meteorology, including the business, the science, the witness stand, and the ethics." A special thank you for Steven Hanna and Gale Hoffnagle for organizing this course. You can register on the AMS Annual Meeting webpage.
2. Also check out the joint sessions between the BCCM and the Applications of Air Pollution Modelling (AAPM), and the CCM Forum and the Environmental Information Processing Technologies (EIPT).

The board will announce soon three new BCCM members to replace outgoing members, Mitchell Baer, Ronald Baskett, and myself. Thank you to all those who were nominated and considered. Please consider volunteering for 2019, it is not too early to consider the BCCM. The term of office is four years beginning at the Annual Meeting. We generally seek three new members each year. Thank you to Mitch and Ron for your four years of service, it's been a pleasure serving on the board with you. Additionally, we will announce a chair-elect for 2018 very soon as well. This person will serve as chair for 2019.

Currently, there are seven candidates who will take their oral exam in Austin having successfully passed their written exams. There are two additional candidates who are in the process of taking the written exam. A second

regional exam will take place in October with BCCM member Pamela Knox taking the lead on this. Thanks to CCMs Walt Lyons and Robert Rauber 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. Congratulations to John Henz who will be presented with the award at the 2018 AMS Meeting Banquet. Again, please consider nominating CCMs for this award that we know are making such contributions to the profession consistently. We 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 look forward to seeing you in Austin!

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

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## Do You Have a State Sales Tax?

Contributed by Matthew Bunkers, CCM

As a new CCM this year I have been exploring various business opportunities. In doing so, I learned that, as a resident of South Dakota, I am required to collect and remit sales tax for any consulting services that I provide to anyone within my state. Accordingly, I had to apply for a state sales tax license from the SD Department of Revenue and am required to charge the appropriate state and municipal tax, depending on where my services are delivered. For example, even though I live in Rapid City, if I provide services to a law firm in Sioux Falls then I need to charge sales tax based on their address (4.5% state tax and 2.0% municipal tax in this example).

As I was going through this learning process I inquired about possible taxes on services that I deliver to other states (i.e., outside of SD). The first thing I found out is that I do not have to pay sales tax to the SD Department of Revenue on services I deliver to other states. So, if I provide meteorological services to someone in Oklahoma then the SD Department of Revenue does not care. However, I still need to report this income to them when I do my state sales tax returns. The second thing I found out from at least five other sources (including an income tax preparer) is that sales tax does not apply on services provided to clients outside of your home state. Therefore, in nearly all cases that I examined a CCM would not charge sales tax on services delivered to clients in states other than their own.

This was an interesting investigation, and in the end I was somewhat surprised that other states do not collect sales tax on these kinds of services being delivered from other states. Nevertheless, if your state charges a sales tax then my advice is to check with your Department of Revenue to ensure that you are operating within their legal specifications. If not, and you are discovered, it could lead to substantial fines and/or penalties. Of course, if you have any questions, you should seek professional advice from a lawyer or tax preparer for your own set of circumstances. ■

## AMS Award Winners Announced

Congratulations to the following CCMs who received AMS Awards. They will be presented at the AMS Annual Meeting in Austin:

Congratulations to John Henz (left) who has been named winner of the 2018 Henry T. Harrison Award for an exemplary career dedicated to providing innovative, cross-disciplinary consulting services with great integrity to a diverse clientele while advancing

the societal applications of hydrometeorology.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Austin (right) and Paul Gross (center) who were named AMS Fellows this year.

Thank you for your valuable service as members of the CCM community! ■



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## Is There a Weather Gene?

Contributed by Jay Rosenthal, CCM

I am pushing my case work to the side of my desk this evening and writing this as an attempt to be a little humorous. I often muse about the unusual oddity of how many meteorologists I've come across over the years of my career who had a similar, driving passion for weather as a kid, long before understanding anything about the scientific principles, or about what a career in meteorology might entail. For me, it started at about 5 years old, maybe earlier. I know of no other technical field of work like that where you become driven before you even understand it. What and how does that passion and intense interest come from when I was still only in the early years of grade school? Is it a gene of some kind gone awry? Most meteorologists seem to fall into two general categories, at least career-wise. One understands and pursues the complex mathematical and engineering aspects of describing the atmosphere, with the ultimate goal of modeling phenomena to describe its present and future state. The other seems to be more enamored by the impacts and power of weather in all its forms. There are those who bridge both camps successfully and I regard them as the brilliant teachers and innovators of our profession. I am not one of those special ones. Rather, while I appreciate the value and goals of models, and also their limitations, I think of myself in the other camp of meteorologists mesmerized by Nature's power and variability of extremes. For me, it's like looking at a bigger picture. Connecting dots and uncertainties, recognizing patterns so you can predict and exploit them, discerning order out of seeming disorder, and experiencing them.

Like many others, and I assume most storm chasers, there is a thrill in being in it, and describing and explaining it to others. Whether that be a thunderstorm with streaking lightning and sheets of wind-blown rain, or the heat and humidity of the tropics and summer weather in the East and South, or a blizzard with bone chilling winds of a winter storm. Lacking common sense as a kid growing up in New York, I would go up to the roof and watch all the severe weather I could experience, while everyone else was smartly seeking shelter. Or making fog from my third-story living room window onto an icy pavement below when my parents weren't home. What other professions do those kinds of things at such an early age? Whatever the gene is, I'm glad it found me.

This summer, my wife and I were in Savannah and Charleston. I secretly hoped we would be interrupted by at least a hurricane remnant. Just before it was time to return home, Hurricane Harvey was moving on a more

southern route and was weakening as it approached the Yucatan. I was thinking, why wasn't there a more urgent approach to evacuate along the coast of the Gulf. With the very warm Gulf waters, Harvey's eventual arrival and re-intensification there seemed almost a certainty. General recognition of that possibility seemed to come late when Harvey was already becoming a monster. Oh well, so much for second-guessing. Not long afterwards, when we were safely home in California, Irma came knocking. I began calling my sister who lives in Naples, Florida and suggested she get ready to evacuate. All she did was get mad at me for bothering her and she decided to remain in place. I thought, how can you be so reckless? Yet secretly, I wished that I had been there myself. It just doesn't seem fair that my sister who has no interest in meteorology should wind up in the eye of a major hurricane, something I have wanted to do all my life. ■

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## The CCM Board Needs You!

The CCM Board is in need of one more volunteer to join the Board for a four year term starting in January 2018. Expertise in climate change and a geographic location west of the Appalachians is desired but not required. Volunteers are an essential and valuable part of AMS and sharing your expertise is a great way to give back to the community. If you are interested in joining the CCM Board, please email [Tony Lupo](#) as soon as possible. CCMs receive two professional development points per appointment per year for serving on an AMS Board or Committee. ■

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## New COMET Lessons

Please look below for highlights of COMET's newest publications on MetEd. This update includes 10 new COMET lessons on various topics related to different aspects of forecasting, hydrology, and satellite meteorology.

### Forecasting

- [Fire Weather Forecasting: Clear Communications, Second Edition](#)
- [Communicating Impacts and Mitigation for Wind Chill and Extreme Cold](#)
- [Forecasting Aviation Convective Impacts with INSITE](#)
- [WPC Rainfall Guidance for Tropical Cyclones](#)
- [Statistical Methods in the NWS National Blend of Global Models Part 2](#)

### Hydrology

- [Using the Hydrologic Ensemble Forecast Service \(HEFS\)](#)
- [Reservoir Pool Elevation: Considerations for Long-term Asset Management and Planning](#)
- [Using the Local Climate Analysis Tool \(LCAT\) for Water Resilience Decisions](#)

### Satellite Meteorology

- [Foundations of Global Navigation Satellite Systems \(GNSS\)](#)
- [Advances in Space-Based Nighttime Visible Observation, 2nd Edition](#)

### New Lessons in Spanish

- [ASMET 7: Detección de turbulencia en aire claro sobre Sudáfrica](#)
- [SatFC-G: Principios básicos de radiación](#)
- [SatFC-G: Bandas en el visible e IR cercano](#)
- [SatFC-G: Bandas en el IR cercano](#)
- [Modelado de las olas cerca de la costa](#)

### New Lesson in Portuguese

- [SatFC-G: Princípios Básicos de Radiação](#)

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.

CCMs receive professional development points for completing COMET modules. For a list of point values see the [Table of Activities](#). ■

## Certification Breakfast at AMS Annual Meeting

Please join fellow AMS certification holders on **Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7am** for a complimentary breakfast at the AMS Annual Meeting. Since the Conference on Broadcast Meteorology is happening in conjunction with the Annual Meeting this year, the breakfast is open to all CCMs, CBMs, and Sealholders who will be in attendance. This is a great opportunity to meet up with friends and colleagues and to hear from the Board of Broadcast Meteorologists and the Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists on their activities. Space is limited so [please RSVP by November 1st](#) if you plan to attend. ■

## Volunteer Opportunities at the AMS Annual Meeting

There are several volunteer opportunities available during the AMS Annual Meeting. We particularly would love to have a few CCMs available at the CCM Table during the **Student Conference and Career Fair reception** on Saturday night from 5:30pm – 7:30pm, if anyone is available. The table would also need to be staffed during the Career Fair on Sunday night from 6:15pm – 8:15pm. Staffing by both CCM's and NCIM members would help students fully appreciate the scope of the CCM program (both implementation and real-world applications). Please email [Kelly Savoie](#) if you are interested in volunteering at the AMS Annual Meeting during any of the below days/times.

Also, if any CCMs are available during the coffee breaks in the Exhibit Hall, and have time to answer potential questions at the **AMS Certification Booth** in the AMS Resource Center, please stop by.

### PowerPoint Display at the AMS Certification Booth

As usual there will be a PowerPoint display at the AMS Certification booth at the AMS Annual Meeting profiling the background and interests of active CCMs. If you would like to include a slide for the display, please email it to [Kelly Savoie](#) by **December 15th**. A PowerPoint [template](#) may be downloaded for your use. If you participated last year, your slide will once again be included. Please email Kelly a revised slide if there are changes. Otherwise, your previous slide will be included. You may view the [current PowerPoint](#) display online. ■

## Reminder: Presidential Forum at Annual Meeting on Sunday



Note that this year's [Presidential Forum](#) will be held on Sunday, 7 January 2018 at 4:00 p.m.; it will not be held on Monday morning, as in previous years.

AMS is excited to announce the keynote speaker for the upcoming 98th Annual Meeting will be renowned glaciologist and climate scientist Richard Alley, who serves as the Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences at Penn State University. ■



# Survey Results: Weather and Climate Service Providers Directory

In the last issue of the CCM Newsletter, we asked those of you who have taken advantage of a free listing in the Weather and Climate Service Providers Directory to provide the AMS with some feedback by taking our short survey. Thank you very much for your participation. The survey results are now available [here](#).

If you have additional questions about the Weather and Climate Service Providers Directory, please contact [Kelly Savoie](#). ■

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## AMS Awards

In January 2018, the AMS Award nominations system will be open. Now is the time to start thinking about nominating a colleague or peer for the [Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist](#) and/or [AMS Fellow](#). It takes a few months to collect supporting letters, bios, and other nomination information so start early to ensure that your nomination package is complete by the May 1st deadline. ■

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## Upcoming AMS Meetings

### [98th AMS Annual Meeting](#)

7–11 JANUARY 2018  
AUSTIN, TX

### [18th Conference on Mountain Meteorology](#)

25 – 29 JUNE 2018  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

### [AMOS-ICSHMO 2018](#)

5–9 FEBRUARY 2018  
UNSW KENSINGTON CAMPUS, SYDNEY,  
AUSTRALIA

### [15th Conference on Cloud Physics/15th Conference on Atmospheric Radiation](#)

9 – 13 JULY 2018  
VANCOUVER, BC

### [33rd Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology](#)

16 – 20 APRIL 2018  
PONTE VEDRA, FL

### [10th International Conference on Urban Climate/14th Symposium on the Urban Environment](#)

6–10 AUGUST 2018  
NEW YORK, NY

### [33rd Conference on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology/12th Fire and Forest Meteorology Symposium/Fourth Conference on Biogeosciences](#)

14–18 MAY 2018  
BOISE, ID

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

### [23rd Symposium on Boundary Layers and Turbulence/21st Conference on Air-Sea Interaction](#)

11–15 JUNE 2018  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

## 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](#) ■



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 Winter 2017-2018 Newsletter submission deadline is December 15.