

# Certified Consulting Meteorologists Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 1

Fall 2011

*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. All CCMs are reminded that there is a location on the AMS website for a forum to facilitate communication and exchanges between CCMs. The CCM forum can be accessed via the CCM webpage at: <http://ametsoc.org/amscert/ccm/index.html>*

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## The Chair's Column

Dear CCM Colleagues:

I continue to ask for your support of our CCM program by submitting new questions for use in our written exams. You will read elsewhere in this Newsletter that our Written/Oral Test Committee has been carefully reviewing the questions in our catalog. We particularly are seeking questions in some of the new areas of consulting such as alternate energy, climate change mitigation, as well as operational meteorology (radar, satellites, etc.). Please consider submitting a question with answer and appropriate references.

I am happy to report that the AMS Council gave final approval to the Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist during their September meeting. Nominations will soon be solicited for this award to recognize an AMS member practicing as a consultant and demonstrating exceptional performance in three key areas: (1) knowledge of a key expertise area and the profession in general; (2) service to clients, society and the AMS; and (3) an unwavering practice of ethical conduct. We owe a debt of gratitude to former CCM Board Chair John Henz for his efforts to establish this award. Thanks, John!

Final planning is underway for the Fifth CCM Forum which will be part of the Annual Meeting in New Orleans next January. New this year will be a Town Hall Meeting focusing on the ethical practice of consulting. I hope to see you there!

A short course, that we're calling *The Art & Science of Forensic Meteorology*, will be held the Sunday of the Annual Meeting in collaboration with the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists.

## CCM Board Committee Activities.

Candidate Grading Committee. The committee is charged with identifying opportunities for organizing and conducting regional oral examinations and assisting the Chair in the organization of the Annual Meeting Oral Examinations. Elizabeth Austin, Steve Harned and Buddy Ritchie.

Regional oral examinations were held in Oklahoma City in June and Raleigh, NC, in August. Thanks to John Snow (CCM #423), DeWayne Mitchell (CCM #663) and CCM Board member Mike Mogil (CCM #391) for participating with me in the exam in Oklahoma City. Thanks also to Janice Godfrey (CCM #607),

(Continued on page 2)

## The Chair's Column (Continued from page 1)

John Irwin (CCM #596), Ted Palma (CCM #515) and CCM Board member Steve Harned (CCM #622) who participated in the exam in Raleigh.

Written/Oral Test Committee. Charged with updating the questions used for the written and oral exams to reflect all aspects of current professional consulting and ethical challenges. Jerry Hill, Jay Shafer, Paul Fransioli, Dick Westergard

As noted above the committee has reviewed all the current questions in the written exam catalog, decided which to keep as is; which to modify/update; and which to remove, and is now working at updating selected questions.

Professional Status Committee. Oversees the growth and development of the CCM Forum at the Annual Meeting; develops conference links with the NCIM, NWA and AMS committees with similar interests; develops a relationship with the AMS Executive Board to ensure the CCMs can participate in the review of crucial AMS Policy Statements before they are released. John Henz, Mike Mogil, Tim Dye, Dick Westergard

The committee's primary focus has been on the Fifth Annual CCM Forum to be conducted during the AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans in January.

Marketing Committee. Promotes the CCM Program internally to the AMS and externally. Develop effective marketing tools to communicate benefits to members, potential members and potential clients. Encourages eligible meteorologists to apply for certification. Tim Dye, Dick Westergard

The committee is compiling a list of nationwide associations whose members are potential clients of meteorological consulting services. The committee plans to contact as many such associations as they can identify and provide them with information about the CCM program and why their members should consider the CCM as a benchmark standard for finding well qualified meteorological consultants. If you are aware of associations of potential users of meteorological consulting services, we would appreciate it if you could

get the names of those associations and key contacts to the committee no later than November 1, 2011.

### **Bi-Monthly Conference Calls.**

Until a few years ago the Board only got together at the AMS Annual Meetings. More recently the Board has been holding conference calls as needed. This year the Board has been meeting via conference call every other month, with summaries of the calls distributed to all Board members.

### **Promoting Our CCM Program.**

In June I gave a presentation about our CCM Program at the 39th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology and the Conference on Weather Warnings and Communication. I will have a poster presentation at the annual meeting of the National Weather Association in October.

Also in October I will be delivering a Webinar (sponsored by the AMS Board for Private Sector Meteorologists and the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists) entitled: "*What is a Certified Consulting Meteorologist?*" to a number of students across the country. I encourage all CCMs to promote our program whenever the opportunity arises.

### **Status of CCM Candidates.**

Certificates awarded in 2011 – 10

Certificates denied in 2011 – 1

New applications received in 2011 – 9

Candidates with exams assigned – 5

Candidate with exams/reports being graded – 6

Candidates ready for oral exams – 3

Candidates with inactive applications – 6

*Bernard N. Meisner*, CCM #440

Chair, Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists  
American Meteorological Society



## Board Seeks Questions for Written Examination

Perhaps you have recently been confronted with an issue or challenge during the course of your work when you thought, "That would be a good question to ask during a CCM exam!" Here's your opportunity to do just that.

We continue to seek questions in all areas of consulting, so please consider submitting a question or two, perhaps based on your own experience as a consultant.

This year CCM board member Jerry Hill is coordinating an update of the questions. Please submit your questions and answers, with any appropriate references and comments for graders to:

jerryd\_hill@sbcglobal.net.

## BCCM Marketing Committee Seeks input from CCMs

Fellow CCMs,

The marketing committee of the AMS Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists is compiling a list of nationwide associations whose members are potential users of meteorological consulting services. We plan to contact as many such associations as we can identify and provide them with information about the CCM program and why their members should consider the CCM as a benchmark standard for finding well qualified meteorological consultants.

If you are aware of associations of potential users of meteorological consulting services, we would appreciate it if you could get the names of those associations and key contacts to us no later than November 1, 2011. Contacts are Tim Dye (tim@sonomatech.com) or Dick Westergard (dick.westergard@shadetreemeteorology.com).

Thank you for your participation in our efforts!

## Short Course: The Art & Science of Forensic Meteorology

The AMS Certified Consulting Meteorologists (CCM) Board and the NCIM (National Council of Industrial Meteorologists) are offering a short course in Forensic Meteorology during the weekend prior to the AMS annual meeting in New Orleans next year. The date is January 22<sup>nd</sup>. This one-day workshop will provide an introduction and insight into the rapidly expanding field of forensic meteorology and climatology. The workshop is for those from novices to experienced forensic meteorologists. The latest advances in the forensic world as well as what it takes to become an "expert" in any field and in particular in the meteorological and climatological sciences.

Various experts in their specific fields will present and discuss specific studies including good and bad experiences as well as potential problems that either experienced or novice meteorologists may face when entering the world of forensic meteorology. The legal field is constantly changing and thus so is the world of expert witnesses. The new changes in expert rules and procedures will be introduced. In addition, the specifics of running one's own private forensic weather company will be presented and discussed. Attendees from private sector, government and academia are all welcome. The course will be an "active participation" workshop with handouts, discussions and debate.

The short course will be held at the conference site in the New Orleans convention center. The program for the short course is attached at the end of this newsletter. Please circulate it among your colleagues and others who might be interested in attending. You may register for the course at: <https://secure.ametsoc.org/>

## Register for Annual Meeting

Registration is open for the annual AMS meeting. Registration fees for all categories of admission will increase after December. Avoid the price increase and register at <https://secure.ametsoc.org/meet/atreg/>

## The Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists

Members serving on the board during 2011 are:

### Terms Expiring 2012:

- John F. Henz, CCM 270
- Bernard N. Meisner, CCM 440
- Kenneth H. Underwood, CCM 466

### Terms Expiring 2013:

- Elizabeth J. Austin, CCM 572
- Stephen W. Harned, CCM 622
- Jerry D. Hill, CCM 151

### Terms Expiring 2014:

- Timothy Scott Dye, CCM 619
- Paul M. Fransioli, CCM 291
- H. Michael Mogil, CCM 391, CBM 334

### Terms Expiring 2015:

- Buddy A. Richie, CCM 648
- Jason Shafer, CCM 662
- Dick Westergard, CCM 632

### Ex Officio Members:

- Jay J. Trobec, CCM 665, AMS Commission on Professional Affairs.
- Kelly Savoie, AMS Manager, Marketing/Special Programs

As the current board members complete their terms and rotate off of the board their replacements are needed. If you are interested in serving on the board and willing to commit the time, please let your willingness be known to the Chair, Bernard Meisner, or to Kelly Savoie.

## New CCMs

Since the last newsletter was published, the following meteorologists have completed all requirements for certification and were added to the roll of active CCMs:

- John Henderson Lexington, MA CCM 677
- Stephen Pellettiere Denville, NJ CCM 678

## Fifth Annual CCM Forum: : Meeting the Demand for Specialized Weather and Climate Information in the 21st Century Business Environment

The annual CCM forum will be held on Wednesday, January 25th, as part of the 92nd Annual Meeting of the AMS. The central theme of the 2012 Annual Meeting will be technology and its profound impact on research, operations, the business of our environmental sciences, and the public.

During the forum papers will be presented to reflect this subject as it relates to the participation of Certified Consulting Meteorologists in government, business and industry to meet the new demands of our technologically diverse society. While the CCM community acknowledges the significant contribution of technology to our profession, it maintains the equally important role of professional ethics in the conduct of our profession's many-faceted involvement in business, society and government.

The purpose of this Forum is twofold: to rekindle an interest in the ethical and technological evolution of our profession and to provide an opportunity to grow in both the practice and application of our science. To these ends the Forum will feature two morning sessions on technological evolution and practice by CCM's, and an afternoon Town Forum on Meteorological Ethics.

The Town Hall forum on ethics will begin with a presentation by the keynote speaker, who will be Professor Marsha Baum, Regents Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico. Prof. Baum teaches a course entitled *Weather in U.S. Law and Society*.

Prof. Baum's presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with invited experts and practitioners to discuss the role of ethics in the business of meteorological consulting and research. All are invited to attend this thought-provoking panel which will include time for question and answers between the panel and the audience.

For additional information please contact the program chairperson, John Henz (e-mail: [jfhenz@comcast.net](mailto:jfhenz@comcast.net)).



## Meetings of the AMS

The 92nd Annual meeting of the AMS will be held 22–26 January 2012 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The theme of the 2012 AMS Annual Meeting is, "Technology in Research and Operations—How We Got Here and Where We're Going." The call for papers has passed. Information about the meeting, conferences, and programs can be found on the AMS meeting website at: <http://annual.ametsoc.org/2012/>

Various AMS topical conferences and meetings coming up over the next few months are:

- *Ninth Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology, 18–20 October 2011, Palm Springs, CA*
- *30th Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology, 15–20 April 2012, Ponte Verda Beach, Florida*
- *International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography, 23–27 April 2012, Nouméa, New Caledonia*
- *20th Symposium on Boundary Layers and Turbulence, 8–13 July 2012, Boston, Massachusetts*
- *18th Conference on Air-Sea Interaction, 8–13 July 2012, Boston, Massachusetts*

### Other 2011 Meetings of Interest

- *Meteorological Technology World Expo, 18–20 October, Brussels, Belgium*
- *Seventh GOES Users' Conference, 20–21 October 2011, Birmingham, AL*
- *World Climate Research Programme Open Science Conference, 24–28 October 2011, Denver, Colorado*
- *Graduate Climate Conference, 28–30 October 2011, Woods Hole, Massachusetts*
- *15th Annual Great Divide Weather Workshop, 31 October–2 November 2011, Bozeman, Montana*
- *Third Santa Fe Conference on Global and Regional Climate Change, 31 October–3 November 2011, Santa Fe, New Mexico*
- *2011 IYC O3: Symposium on Stratospheric Ozone and Climate Change, 7–10 November, Washington, DC*

### 2012 Meetings of Interest

- *Second National Flood Workshop, 27 February–1 March 2012, Houston, Texas.*

## Volunteer Opportunities at the AMS Annual Meeting

Please email Kelly Savoie ([ksavoie@ametsoc.org](mailto:ksavoie@ametsoc.org)) if you are interested in volunteering at the AMS Annual Meeting. The following volunteer opportunities exist:

1. Student Conference and Career Fair:

CCM Table

Saturday (5:30pm - 7:30pm)

2. CCM Booth at the AMS Resource Center during high traffic times:

Monday (2:30–4:00 p.m.)

Tuesday (9:45–11:00 a.m.)

Wednesday (2:30–4:00 p.m.)

Thursday (9:45–11:00 a.m.)

## PowerPoint Display at the CCM Booth

There will once again be a PowerPoint display at the CCM 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 ([ksavoie@ametsoc.org](mailto:ksavoie@ametsoc.org)) by January 16th. A sample slide and PowerPoint template may be found at <http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/ccmppslides.html>. 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 at <http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/50th%20Anniversary%20CCM%20Show%20Web.ppt>

All CCMs are encouraged to submit items for this quarterly newsletter. To submit items please forward them to the Newsletter editor, Jerry Hill, at [jerryd\\_hill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerryd_hill@sbcglobal.net)



## The NCIM

The National Council of Industrial Meteorologists (NCIM) is a nationwide association of private sector meteorologists. All voting members are holders of the AMS Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) credential. The mission of the association is to ensure that the interests of private sector meteorologists are represented in various national level discussions and forums as the science of meteorology and its practice in our society evolves.

NCIM is not a large organization, but many of its members are leaders in applying meteorological science in a variety of private sector branches from air quality, to nuclear support to sailing competitions to forensic reconstructions for the courts and the insurance industry. We are always looking for young meteorologists who have recently earned their CCM who are interested in making a difference on a larger scale than their immediate employment.

NCIM also has an associate, non-voting membership available to meteorologists who have not yet completed the process of earning their CCM credential. That membership offers the young meteorologist mentorship and career coaching. It also includes encouragement in the CCM preparation process.

Finally, a non-voting associate membership category is available to people in the public and academic sectors of the meteorological community who are interested in working with NCIM to further the joint interests of all three sectors.

For more information about NCIM, please visit <http://www.ncim.org>.

## AMS Elections

Online voting for AMS elections is now open. You will find a bio and statement for each candidate running for office on the AMS Web site at <http://www.ametsoc.org/elections/>. We encourage all of you to participate in the voting process. The deadline for voting is **December 23rd**.

## Do You Know of any Dedicated Meteorologists with High Levels of Knowledge, Proficiency and Integrity?

During the next 3 months, please contact these meteorologists and educate them about the CCM program!

Encourage them to apply. In fact, many CCMs only applied to the CCM program when encouraged by other CCMs.

There are many reasons to become a CCM:

- *Recognition within the industry as someone who has subjected your credentials to peer review*
- *Improve your competitive standing with clients in the consulting world*
- *Enhance your credibility for testimony in public and adjudicatory hearings*
- *Peer review is the best real world validation for a forensic meteorologist*
- *Distinguishes you as one who meets or exceeds the professional standards established by the AMS*
- *Adds credibility to your role as a meteorological resource on campus and in your community*

## Second National Flood Workshop to be Held February 27 - March 1, 2012 in Houston

The Second National Flood Workshop is organized by the Weather Research Center and its partners. The purpose of the workshop is to bring together various agencies, emergency managers, academia, and professionals from across the nation to encourage dialogue on the various aspects of flooding. This includes the meteorological and hydrological conditions observed before, during, and after flood events, technological advancements being made in remote field data acquisition and flood modeling, and regulations and requirements in flood mitigation and floodplain management. The goal is to establish an annual national workshop to discuss flooding and related topics, provide educational and training courses, and most importantly to help reduce loss of life and property damage from floods. More information is available at: <http://www.wxresearch.com/nfw/register.html>

# *The Art & Science of Forensic Meteorology*

Short Course: Sunday January 22, 2012  
New Orleans Louisiana

## **SPONSORED BY**

The Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists  
And  
The National Council of Industrial Meteorologists

- 8:00 A.M.**      **ARRIVAL AND INTRODUCTIONS.** Elizabeth Austin, CCM, WeatherExtreme Ltd. and Stephen Harned, CCM, Atlantic States Weather, Inc.
- 8:20 A.M.**      **HOW TO GET STARTED AS A FORENSIC METEOROLOGIST. WHAT AM I AN EXPERT IN (AND NOT AN EXPERT IN)** Stephen Harned, CCM, Atlantic States Weather, Inc.
- 8:40 A.M.**      **RUNNING YOUR OWN COMPANY: Including Sole Proprietorship, LLC or Incorporation (which is best for me), How to handle Taxes, Do I need Business Insurance, The Do's and Don'ts of Schedule of Fees and Billing, How do I keep track of my hours.** John Henz, CCM, Dewberry
- 9:15 A.M.**      **ETHICS, ETHICS, ETHICS: Including how to deal with conflict of interest, what is the meteorologist expected to provide – and not provide- to the client, etc. .** Jerry Hill, CCM, and Gerry Mulvey, CCM, Northrop Grumman Corporation.
- 9:30 A.M.**      **“JUNK SCIENCE” AND STRENGTHENING FORENSIC SCIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.** Jerry Hill, CCM, Consulting Meteorologist
- 9:45 A.M.**      **COFFEE BREAK**
- 10:15 A.M.**      **THE ART AND SCIENCE OF GRAPHICS, ANIMATIONS AND MAPPING FOR THE JUDGE OR JURY.** Elizabeth Austin, CCM, WeatherExtreme Ltd.
- 10:35 A.M.**      **SUCCESS STORIES AND HORRIFIC STORES OF ACTUAL FORENSIC METEOROLOGY CASE STUDIES,** Stephen Harned, CCM, Atlantic States Weather, Inc. and Michael Mogil, CCM, CBM, NCIM, How The Weatherworks
- 10:55 A.M.**      **NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER (NCDC) PRESENTATION: Their new products including digital datasets. Has data certification gone by the wayside? The role and importance of Regional Climate Centers. What worldwide data are available at NCDC.** NCDC Speaker
- 11:40 A.M.**      **CCM CERTIFICATION AND ITS ROLE IN FORENSIC METEOROLOGY. NCIM MEMBERSHIP TYPES AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN BUSINESS.** Bernard Meisner, CCM Board Chair, NOAA/National Weather Service, and Dick Westergard, CCM, NCIM President, Shade Tree Meteorology, LLC
- 12:00 P.M.**      **SHORT COURSE LUNCHEON (included).**
- 1:30 P.M.**      **PANEL DISCUSSION** John Henz, CCM, Dewberry, Peter Hildebrand, NASA Goddard, Michael Kaplan, Desert Research Institute, KC King, Esq., Desert Research Institute, Jerry Hill, CCM, Jan Null, CCM, NCIM, Frank Lombardo, CCM, WeatherWorks, Inc., and Stephen Harned (Panel Chair), CCM, Atlantic States Weather, Inc.



- 2:00 P.M.**      **ALL ABOUT THE RESEARCH DATA ARCHIVE AT NCAR: Overview of the data, demo and question/answer session** Joey Comeaux, National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)
- 2:40 P.M.**      **BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN UNIVERSITY/GOVERNMENT WORK AND CONSULTING including how to balance your day job with forensic consulting.** Peter Hildebrand, Director Earth Sciences Division, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.
- 2:55 P.M.**      **COFFEE BREAK**
- 3:30 P.M.**      **MOCK DEPOSITION** Elizabeth Austin, CCM, WeatherExtreme Ltd., Stephen Harned, CCM, Atlantic States Weather, Inc., H. Michael Mogil, CCM, CBM, NCIM, How The Weatherworks, John Henz, CCM, Dewberry
- 4:30 P.M.**      **THE ART OF TESTIFYING.** Multiple presenters from throughout the day
- 4:50 P.M.**      **CLOSING REMARKS.** Elizabeth Austin, CCM, WeatherExtreme Ltd. and Stephen Harned, CCM, Atlantic States Weather, Inc.

### Short Course Registration Fees

	AMS Member	Non-Member	Student Member	Student Non-Member
Pre-Registration	\$225	\$265	\$160	\$190
Late Registration*	\$265	\$305	\$200	\$230

\*Registration fees change after December 1st