

Certified Consulting Meteorologists Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 3

Spring 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>

Highlights Inside this Issue

Promote the CCM Program	2
Regional Oral CCM Exams	2
Planning for the 2012 Annual Meeting	3
Status of Award for Consulting Meteorology	3
Current Members of the CCM Board	4
Status of New CCMs	4
CCM Board Personnel	5
Nominations Are Due for Annual AMS Awards	6

The Chair's Column

Dear CCM Colleagues:

When, during our discussions regarding the transition of the duties and responsibilities of the CCM Board Chair, John Henz asked if I had a particular goal I would like to achieve during my year of service, I indicated I would like to see greater involvement by all the CCMs in promoting and supporting the CCM Program. Recently every CCM received an e-mail in which I listed some of the ways they could promote and support our program. Several have already responded and I look forward to hearing from many more in the near future. Thanks, in advance, for volunteering!

The AMS Annual Meeting in Seattle was a busy and productive time for your Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists. John Henz completed a

very successful term as Chair, having essentially eliminated the logjam of candidates patiently waiting for their exams and reports to be graded and oral exams scheduled. John also has been spearheading the process to establish a Consulting Meteorologist award, which would be named in honor of Henry T. Harrison (CCM #1).

On Sunday evening in Seattle new CCM Board member Dick Westergard and I manned the CCM table during the Student Conference and Career Fair. We enjoyed quite a number of conversations with the students about the program. Thanks to fellow CCMs Dian Seidel, Steve Rich, and Jason Shafer for staffing the CCM Booth at the AMS Resource Center during high traffic times.

(continued on page 2)

Nominate a CCM for Election to Fellow

The AMS Council would particularly like to see more Fellow nominations from the private sector. Those eligible for election to Fellow "shall have made outstanding contributions to the atmospheric or related oceanic or hydrologic sciences or their applications during a substantial period of years."

Of the nearly 1,000 AMS Fellows, 132 are CCMs. However, many of those CCMs have primarily worked in academia or the government. If you would like to recommend a member as a Fellow, please complete the online form at <http://www.ametsoc.org/awards/index.html> and submit it with a one-page nomination letter. Three one-page letters of support, including at least one from an individual outside the nominee's home institution or company, must supplement the nomination. All nominations must be complete by May 1st

The Chair's Column (Continued from page 1)

The annual CCM Breakfast provided an opportunity for those CCMs attending the AMS Annual Meeting to renew acquaintances and meet some new colleagues. Outgoing chair John Henz reviewed the Board's activities during the past year and acknowledged the excellent support the CCM Program receives from the AMS Headquarters staff led by Executive Director (and CCM!) Keith Seitter and Kelly Savoie, Manager of Marketing/Special Programs, both of whom were at the Breakfast. John also thanked outgoing board members Gerry Mulvey and George Greenly for their service.

Interest in the Fourth CCM Forum in Seattle was so great that we had to move to a larger room! The presentations were fascinating and covered a spectrum of consulting topics. Margaret Benner from Weatherwise Magazine and CCM Board member Jerry Hill moderated a very interesting panel discussion during the Forum on how (and why) to become a CCM. There were many good questions from the audience. All the recorded presentations from the Forum are available online at: <http://ams.confex.com/ams/91Annual/webprogram/4CCM.html>

Past CCM Board Chair Gerry Mulvey and CCM Board member Jerry Hill, with the support and encouragement of the rest of your CCM Board, have submitted a paper entitled *Professional Ethics and Personal Conduct in the Meteorology Profession* for publication in the AMS Bulletin. Look for it to appear in an upcoming issue.

It was a pleasant surprise to read "A Certified Consulting Meteorologist Certificate is desired" in a recent job announcement posted by San Diego Gas and Electric. The stature and significance of the CCM Program is being recognized in private industry, no doubt due in large part to the continual demonstrations of knowledge, experience and character by you, the members of our CCM community.

Did you note the nine CCMs promoting and supporting our CCM Program I mentioned in this article? More are mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter. I look forward to recognizing your contributions in a future issue.

Bernard N. Meisner, CCM #440

Chair, Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists
American Meteorological Society

Promote the CCM Program

Here are some things each CCM can do to help promote the CCM program:

- Offer to make a presentation about the CCM program to an interested organization (trial attorneys, engineers, the evolving energy sector, etc.), an appropriate class at a local university, and/or your local AMS chapter. A link to a boilerplate PowerPoint presentation on the program is available on the CCM Web page <http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/#ccm>.
- Encourage a colleague to become a CCM. "*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.*" Richard J. Reed, 1973: President's page, Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc., 54, 4.
- Volunteer to mentor a student or new meteorologist. Visit the Private Sector Mentorship Program page at: <http://www.ametsoc.org/boardpages/bpsm/> if you are interested in participating in their student mentorship program.
- Volunteer to staff our CCM table at the Student Conference & Career Fair, and/or our CCM Booth during the Annual Meeting.
- Bookmark the CCM Web page <http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/#ccm> and visit the site frequently.

Regional Oral CCM Exams

Not all CCM candidates are able to attend the AMS annual meetings where the oral exams are normally conducted. To help accommodate some of the candidates, the board occasionally conducts regional oral exams on an as-needed basis. Through the regional oral exams we have been able to reduce the waiting time for applicants. The regional panels consist of at least one current or recent (within the past three years) board member and at least two other CCMs. Please assist with an oral exam if requested. The exams normally last two hours and you will find it to be a rewarding experience.

New Questions Are Needed For the CCM Written Exam

One of the concerns expressed in the 2009 AMS Member Survey was the need to reevaluate the questions used for the written examinations. 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 need questions in all areas, but especially global change, forensic meteorology, operational meteorology, hydrometeorology, risk-based decision making, and alternate energy.

This year CCM board member Jerry Hill will be 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.

Planning for 2012 Annual Meeting of the AMS

Planning is already underway for the Fifth CCM Forum, which will be part of the Annual AMS Meeting in New Orleans next January. Ideas being considered for the next CCM Forum include maintaining the focus of the Forum on CCM issues while encouraging CCMs to also make presentations in the other conferences and symposia. The pros and cons of a two day symposium vs. a one day forum are being evaluated

Some of the possible session ideas being considered include:

- a panel discussion about how to start a consulting business
- a session with invited well-known CCMs addressing the theme of the annual meeting "Technology in Research and Operations -- How We Got Here and Where We're Going"
- possible joint sessions with the Conference on Weather, Climate, and the New Energy Economy or the History Symposium
- a session on professional ethics
- a session on the origins and history of the CCM program

Please consider making a presentation at our next CCM Forum when the call for papers is issued.

Exploration of Common Interests

Common interests are being explored with sister organizations NCIM and NWA. Elizabeth Austin and Steve Harned have begun collaboration with the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists on a possible forensic meteorology short course to be conducted with the AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Status of Award for Consulting Meteorology

The proposal by the BCCM to create the Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist to the profession, clients and society is being considered by the AMS Council, with the proviso that it not be exclusively for CCMs but that preference be given to CCMs. Details about the award are currently being worked out and, pending approval by the Council, it is anticipated that the first award will be bestowed at the annual meeting in 2013.

The Board felt that it would be appropriate to name the award for Henry Harrison, who was instrumental in creating the CCM program and became CCM #1. Harrison was a pioneering meteorologist who had a long and illustrious career. He served as an expedition meteorologist for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition of 1928-30. Years later, while working for United Airlines Harrison pioneered applications of weather information for the operations of scheduled air carriers.

In the mid 1950s The AMS recognized a need for a professional certification program to be administered by a Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists (CCMs). It was proposed in a report submitted to the Council by the AMS Committee on Industrial Meteorology in the fall of 1956 and approved by the Council on 8 March 1957. The Board, as initially comprised, was: Henry T. Harrison, Robert D. Elliott, Alfred H. Glenn, E. Wendell Hewson, and Woodrow C. Jacobs. The Council named Elliott, Glenn, and Harrison as Certified Consulting Meteorologists in order to fulfill the requirement that three members of the Board must be so rated. Harrison was assigned CCM number one.

In 1960 the AMS award for *Outstanding Contribution to the Advance of Applied Meteorology* was given to Henry T. Harrison "for his pioneering work in aviation meteorology and his continuing key role in the development of modern aeronautical meteorology and its application to the jet era." Harrison was also named a Fellow of the society.

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

Update Your Professional Development Portfolio

Right now, early in the new year, is a good time to update your professional development portfolio. A CCM must accumulate 28 Professional Development points over a continuous five-year period and this is a good time to log the points you accumulated in 2010. The link to the electronic tracking system is at: <http://www.ametsoc.org/PDTS/>. The Board has established a committee on Professional Affairs that will be conducting audits during the coming year.

Status of New CCMs

Seven candidates had their oral examinations in Seattle and all passed. In February, CCMs Joe Shafer, Kit Wagner and Richard Carpenter Jr. joined Bernard Meisner at the National Weather Center in Norman, OK, to conduct a regional oral exam that resulted in our newest CCM.

Here is the current status of our CCM candidates:

- Three are ready for their oral exams and one of these candidates is scheduled for a regional oral exam in May
- Three are having their exams and reports graded.
- One has just submitted their completed exam and it will be distributed for grading shortly.
- Two new candidates are in the process of taking their written exams.
- Six applications are inactive at this time.

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

Patrick C. Campbell	Laramie, WY	CCM 669
Frank R. Freedman	San Jose, CA	CCM 670
Jason P. Finley	Sherman Oaks, CA	CCM 671
Timothy W. Garner	Friendswood, TX	CCM 672
John R. Scala	Lancaster, PA	CCM 673
Jennifer M. Call	Florence, AL	CCM 674
Thomas M. Else	Hackettstown, NJ	CCM 675
Kimberly L. Elmore	Norman, OK	CCM 676

CCM Profiles in BAMS

You may have noticed that since January 2008, a CCM has been featured each month in *BAMS*. We are still trying to keep this monthly feature going and we need more CCMs to submit profiles for publication. You may view a sample profile at <http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/ccmprofiles/sample.pdf>. If you would like to contribute, please email your profile along with a jpeg or tif file of a photo to Kelly Savoie (ksavoie@ametsoc.org).

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

CCM Board Personnel

Incoming Chair of the CCM Board:

Bernard N. Meisner (CCM 440) is chief of the Science & Training Branch of the National Weather Service Southern Region, where he has worked for 17 years. Prior to joining the NWS, he worked for the USDA Forest Service at the Forest Fire Laboratory in Riverside, CA; the NOAA Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research in Honolulu, HI; and the NWS Climate Prediction Center in Camp Springs, MD.

Bernard has taught in the Pittsburgh public schools and at the Universities of Texas, Oklahoma, and St. Thomas (Houston), where he also served as chairman of the Meteorology department. His connections to broadcast meteorology include mentoring students majoring in Weather Communications at the University of St. Thomas, and serving on one of the evaluation panels for the National Weather Association's broadcast seal of approval.

His experience in the private sector include work at the Institute for Storm Research, and in private practice working on forensic meteorology cases (including one with the legendary Ted Fujita) and providing advice related to heating and air conditioning. Bernard's current consulting clients include the staff of the 45 field offices of the NWS Southern Region, and he also responds to inquiries from the public he receives via his web pages. Dedicated web searchers might even find a record of his consulting work for a Hulk Hogan movie!

An AMS member since 1976, and a Fellow since 1997, Bernard served as the first chairman of Local Chapter Affairs Committee, past president of the Houston and Riverside-San Bernardino chapters, and past vice president of the North Texas chapter. He has been active in the society's K-12 education program--Project Atmosphere--for which he wrote an El Niño reference paper. He currently serves on the Board of Continuing Professional Development. He received the Society's Reichelderfer Award in 2009 "in recognition of distinguished contributions to the provision of operational environmental services to the public."

Bernard is a past vice president and a current counselor of the National Weather Association. He has served on the Association's education committee, conducted two membership surveys and supervised the NWA logo redesign contest. He was honored as the NWA's Member of the Year in 2000 for his significant contributions to the Association.

Bernard is an alumnus of, and Alumni Merit Award recipient from, Carnegie Mellon University, where he majored in physics and German. He learned his meteorology in the tropics, earning a M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii.

New Members of the CCM Board

The following CCMs have joined the Board and form the class that will serve until 2015:

Adrian (Buddy) A. Ritchie, Jr. retired after a 45 year career in Meteorology. Prior to his retirement, he was the Raytheon program manager for support of the National Weather Service Automated Weather Interactive Processing System. In addition to daily operational support and software maintenance, he directed the development of the next generation of the system, called AWIPS II. He also served as the Raytheon program manager supporting NASA Marshall Space Flight Center's science and technology efforts. Dr. Ritchie began his career in Meteorology in 1964 as a weather officer in the U.S. Air Force. He retired from the Air Force in 1992 as the Air Weather Service Director of Technology. Prior to this assignment, he commanded the Air Force Global Weather Central that provided operational weather support to the Department of Defense agencies, the US Army, and Air Force. Dr. Ritchie is a Fellow of the AMS who holds a Ph.D. and a M.S. in meteorology from the University of Oklahoma and a bachelor's degree in math from the Catholic University of America.

Jay Shafer is an assistant professor at Lyndon State College, and directs its Vermont Institute of Applied Meteorology (VIAM). He teaches synoptic meteorology courses (among many others), and supervises students on VIAM projects. He holds meteorology degrees from Plymouth State University and the University of Utah. His specialties include mountain, energy, and transportation meteorology. He was awarded his CCM in 2010.

Richard Westergard founded Shade Tree Meteorology, LLC, located in Niskayuna, NY after retiring from government service in 2004. Dick started his career in weather in 1966 as an Air Force weather observer, then became a NWS Meteorological Technician in 1973 and used the GI Bill to take college courses at a variety of colleges and universities, culminating in a degree from Marshall University in 1988. From 1988 to 1994, Dick was Meteorologist in Charge of the Duluth NWS office, and from 1994 to 2004 he was Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Albany NWS office. Dick now practices primarily forensic meteorology, with a specialization in reconstructing severe weather events. He is also currently president of the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists.

Nominations Are Due for Annual AMS Awards

Nominations for the annual AMS awards are due by May 1st. Within the CCM community there may be several people who are candidates to receive one of the awards. In particular, the Board for Private Sector Meteorology is encouraging nominations from the *private sector* for the Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Advance of Applied Meteorology.

A couple of the candidate awards are:

The Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Advance of Applied Meteorology is

granted to an individual for contributions to the direct application of meteorological or climatological knowledge to the fulfillment of industrial or agricultural needs or in research and development of scientific knowledge which can meet such needs. Names of nominees are submitted to the Board of Private Sector Meteorology with input from the Applied Climatology STAC Committee. The Board submits a recommendation to the Commissioner on Professional Affairs, who reviews the recommendation and then makes a recommendation to the Council for final approval.

The Awards for Outstanding Service by a Weather Forecaster are presented to individuals who, through performance of exceptional forecast service, have distinguished themselves and brought credit to their profession. The Society presents the awards in recognition of the great importance of weather forecasting to the public safety and well-being, and the valuable professional services provided by persons who are engaged in forecasting activities. Recommendations for the awards are made by the Committee on Weather Analysis and Forecasting.

Two awards are given:

1. **The Charles L. Mitchell Award** is given in recognition of long-term service by persons engaged in weather forecasting activities.
2. **The Award for an Exceptional Specific Prediction** is given to one or more individuals in recognition of an exceptional prediction of one or more significant events.

For more information on the awards and a link to the online nomination forms please go to: <http://www.ametsoc.org/awards/>