

Certified Consulting Meteorologists Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 4

Summer 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:

The Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists has continued to be quite busy in 2011, with all members actively contributing to the Board's activities. Thanks to the transition to electronic applications, the revival of regional oral exams for the best qualified candidates, and the dedicated work of the previous Board chairs and all Board members, the backlog of candidates awaiting exams has essentially been eliminated. The time from initial application to oral exam has been reduced to one year or less for most candidates.

Planning is underway for the Fifth CCM Forum which will be part of the Annual Meeting in New Orleans next January. Topics being discussed include a session on ethics, and perhaps another on the origins and history of the CCM program. Please consider making a presentation at our Forum. Collaboration with the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists on a short course, that we're calling The Art & Science of Forensic Meteorology is also underway.

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 Norman, OK, in February and in Houston, TX, in May. Additional oral examinations are being scheduled for Oklahoma City in June, the Denver area in June/July, and Raleigh, NC, in August/September.

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

The committee has reviewed all the questions that have been submitted by candidates with PhDs. over the last few years. Potential exam questions received from the CCM community in response to a blanket email were also reviewed. The committee recommended some questions for inclusion in the catalog of written examination questions without modification; some, for possible inclusion in the catalog after additional editing/clarification by the submitters; and some were deemed not acceptable for inclusion.

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The Chair's Column (Continued from page 1)

The committee is now in the process of reviewing all the current questions in the written exam catalog, to recommend which to keep as is; which to modify/update; and which to remove.

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 has been in communication with former committee members, including Stan Marsh and Jill Hasling, to review previous marketing activities. They have also been compiling a list of organizations/associations (e.g., air quality, trial attorneys, alternate energy, etc.) which would be appropriate to contact to promote the CCM program.

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.

Feedback to Graders.

I have been asked by at least one Board member, and have often wondered myself: "How does my grading compare with that of the other graders?" This year, once all the grades for a particular candidate have been submitted to the Chair, each grader receives an anonymous summary of the grades assigned by each grader for each question and for each aspect of the technical report. There has generally been good consistency among the scores.

The processing of this information also results in an analysis of the individual questions. Assuming the intent of an exam is to ascertain the knowledge and skill level of the individual(s) being examined, it is useful to perform such an analysis. Questions that almost everyone answers correctly, or those that almost everyone answers incorrectly, are not "effective" questions. Questions that are difficult for people who don't know the material, but straightforward for those who do, should be considered effective.

Promoting Our CCM Program.

In April I gave a presentation about the CCM Program to my local AMS/NWA chapter. In June I will make a similar presentation at the 39th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology and the Conference on Weather Warnings and Communication. I hope to also give a presentation at the annual meeting of the National Weather Association in October. I encourage all CCMs to promote our program whenever the opportunity arises.

As you read through this quarter's newsletter you'll note the names of 20 CCMs who are actively promoting and supporting our CCM Program. I look forward to recognizing your contributions in a future article.

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.

Thanks to Jason Finley (CCM 671) of Fugro Consultants, Inc., Mark Wenclawiak (CCM 631) of O'Brien and Gere, and Thomas M. Else (CCM 675) of Weather Works LLC for submitting questions for the CCM written exam. 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.

Proposed Short Course: The Art & Science of Forensic Meteorology

The AMS Certified Consulting Meteorologists (CCM) Board and the NCIM (National Council of Industrial Meteorologists) are planning to offer a short course in Forensic Meteorology during the weekend prior to the AMS annual meeting in New Orleans next year. The tentative date is January 22nd. 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 also 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.

An announcement about 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. Stay tuned for more information about the exact date, times, and place for the program.

Status of Award for Consulting Meteorology

The AMS Council Executive Committee reviewed the updated proposal from the CCM Board for The Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist in March. The Committee was pleased with this draft, recommended a few more edits, and then agreed it should go to the Awards Oversight Committee of the Council for its review, with the intent that the proposal would be presented to the Council at its fall meeting.

BCCM Marketing Committee Seeks input from CCMs

The BCCM Marketing Committee is in the process of compiling a list of national associations and organizations whose members might have need of the services of consulting meteorologists.

Once the list is complete, the intention is for the BCCM and/or the AMS to send letters to the leaders of those associations describing the CCM program and offering to provide information for their newsletters on the topic. There is also some discussion of making the case in those letters for checking the AMS CCM list when those services are needed and possibly even suggesting that they specify that a CCM is preferred or required when contracting for meteorological consultants.

If you have names of nationwide associations that you think should be on this list, (or any other ideas you think the marketing committee should be pursuing) please contact Tim Dye (tim@sonomatech.com) or Dick Westergard (dick.westergard@shadetreemeteorology.com).

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.

Status of New CCM Candidates

In 2011 eight certificates have been awarded to new CCMs. There have been four new CCM applications received so far this year. The following is the status of candidates who are moving through the certification process:

- Candidates with exams assigned – 3
- Candidates with exams/reports being graded – 2
- Candidates ready for oral exams – 5
- Candidates who need to submit completed exam/ or revised report – 3
- Candidates with inactive applications – 4

Three regional oral exams are scheduled to be held during this year and so far two exams have been put on the calendar to be held in New Orleans during the annual meeting.

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.

Thanks to former CCM Board chair Jill Hasling (CCM 496) of the Weather Research Center and James Caron (CCM 652) of Macquarie for participating in a regional oral exam led by CCM Board member Jerry Hill in Houston in May. In June, DeWayne Mitchell (CCM 663) of Weather Decision Technologies and John Snow (CCM 423) of the University of Oklahoma College of Geosciences joined board members Mike Mogil and Bernard Meisner for a regional oral exam in Oklahoma City.

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

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 been issued for a number of Conferences and Symposiums that will make up the Annual Meeting. The deadline for submitting abstracts is August 1st.

Various Topical Conferences and Meetings coming up over the next few months are:

- 19th Conference on Applied Climatology, 18–20 July 2011, Asheville, North Carolina
- The AASC 36th Annual Meeting, 20–22 July, 2011, Asheville, North Carolina
- Practical Solutions for a Warming World: AMS Conference on Climate Adaptation, 18–20 July 2011, Asheville, North Carolina
- 15th Conference on Aviation, Range, and Aerospace Meteorology, 1–4 August 2011, Los Angeles, California
- 14th Conference on Mesoscale Processes, 1–4 August 2011, Los Angeles, California
- 2011 AMS Summer Community Meeting, 8–12 August 2011, Boulder, Colorado
- AMS Short Course on Millimeter Wavelength Radars, 25 September 2011, Pittsburgh, PA
- 35th Conference on Radar Meteorology, 26–30 September 2011, Pittsburgh, PA
- Ninth Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology, 18–20 October 2011, Palm Springs, CA

More details on the above AMS conferences, as well as other meetings of interest may be found on the AMS Website at <http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/meetinfo.html>

Major Redesign of the MetEd Web Site

The MetEd Web site <www.meted.ucar.edu> provides free education and training resources for operational forecasters and anyone interested in learning more about meteorology, weather forecasting, and related geoscience topics. MetEd is populated and maintained by the COMET® Program, which is part of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.

The MetEd Web site recently underwent a major revision. However, the existing accounts remain valid and all the modules still work the way they always have.

Here are some of the key changes:

- Gave the site a whole new look
- Reduced the amount of content on the front page
- Consolidated our topic areas under the "Education and Training" tab
- Added a 'MyMetEd' page with your quiz results, access to certificates, a personal module queue, and course enrollment management
- Made it easier to share quiz results using a "Share Score" button next to your quiz results
- Added a feature to add modules to a personal list, making it easier to revisit modules of interest
- Added an enrollment feature, an average quiz score, and a progress bar for all the courses, which are collections of modules

These courses provide an opportunity for continuing education and helping to meet the requirements for CCMs to gather Professional Development Points.

Meeting Announcement

Short Course: January 2012
New Orleans Louisiana

The Art & Science of Forensic Meteorology

The American Meteorological Society's Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists (CCM) and the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists (NCIM) are pleased to present the workshop entitled "The Art & Science of Forensic Meteorology". This course 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 also present and discuss specific studies including good and bad experiences as well as potential problems that either experienced or novice meteorologist 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.

SEE YOU IN NEW ORLEANS !



Sponsored by The American Meteorological Society and The Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists in collaboration with the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists.