

Certified Consulting Meteorologists Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter 2010-11

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 end of the year beckons with record breaking mountain snows and coastal rains on the West Coast, an Arctic Chill threatening southern states' agriculture and the East Coast getting a blizzard of winter weather. Over the past eleven months your Board and Chair have moved steadfastly at achieving the goals we established last January:

- Streamline the CCM application and examination process while maintaining the high selection standards, enhancing communication and upgrading the CCM exam questions.
- Provide a prompt but professional resolution to the backlog of 2007-2009 CCM candidates awaiting grading and oral examinations.

- Begin the process to establish an annual AMS CCM award
- Continue to build on the evolving reputation of the CCM Forum at the Annual meeting, and
- Work to enhance the relevance of the CCM program within AMS, our profession and the business community.

Streamlining the CCM application and examination process. We are proud to announce that the CCM Candidate "grading logjam" has been removed and most candidates have completed the process in less than 12

months. Here's the tally with the number of applicants processed each year:

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Volunteer Opportunities at the AMS Annual Meeting

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

Student Conference and Career Fair:

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

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.)

The Chair's Column (Continued from page 1)

2007(5): Three candidates are completing their written exam/report with oral testing expected in 2011, one candidate is ready for orals in Seattle and another candidate, who failed the orals in 2009, was extended an invitation to retest in Seattle.

2008(4): One candidate passed a regional oral and is a CCM; two more will take orals in Seattle and the last candidate requested an extension until January 2011 for family reasons.

2009(6): Two Candidates passed oral regional exams and are CCMs; two will take orals in Seattle; one was granted an extension until January 2011 to complete the written exam and one failed.

2010(12): One passed tests and is a CCM; five will take oral exams in Seattle; one is being graded; one has an extension; three are completing the written exams and one candidate failed the written test.

I would like to commend our BCCM graders for doing an outstanding service to the AMS to remove this backlog and restoring the honor and intent of the CCM examination process.

"The Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Certified Consulting Meteorologist to the profession, clients and society". I need your help! Certified consulting meteorologists reflect the complete Weather Enterprise with members from the private, government and educational sectors. The CCM program celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2007. The continuity of the CCM program is reflected in the importance of the services CCM's provide to both the AMS and society in general. Thus the value of consistent contributions to the education of young meteorologists, to an evolving area of research, to the provision of exceptionally high value operational weather predictions and warnings and to the development of innovation and excellence provision of consulting and forensic services will all be judged equally and within a consistent, professionally appropriate framework.

Both the need for this award and the intent to present it to a CCM has been questioned by some within the Council as too exclusive to a small portion of the membership. The entire BCCM unanimously stands behind the award expressly because (1) CCM's stand for the highest levels of meteorological consulting achievement, (2) all AMS members who meet the requirements for knowledge, experience, and character

are eligible to apply to the CCM program and (3) the contributions of CCM's to all sectors of the Weather Enterprise have been undervalued and it is time for change.

Do you believe in the CCM program and the integrity, pursuit of meteorological excellence and highest level of customer support for which it stands? If you do, please let the members of the AMS Council or the CCM Board know your feelings before the Annual meeting in January. It is crucial if we are to establish this most appropriate and needed award. Your response will make a difference.

Continue to build on the evolving reputation of the CCM Forum at the Annual meeting - Details of the final program are now posted on the AMS conference website and described in another newsletter item. We have 15 high quality science and applied meteorology papers with a distinguished panel to answer "What is a CCM and How Do I Become One?"

Work to enhance the quality of CCM exam questions. The BCCM is in the process of updating all the exam questions used in the written CCM process. If each practicing CCM submits one question and referenced answer to the BCCM, we could complete this effort over the next 90 days. Can you help? See the separate item in this newsletter with more details about how to submit your suggested questions.

Bernard Meisner – 2011 Chair of the BCCM: Bernard Meisner of the National Weather Service has accepted the nomination to become your new chair in January 2011 at the Annual Meeting in Seattle. Bernard will strive to extend the CCM invitation to members of NWS and NOAA. Please come to the CCM breakfast on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 to meet Bernard and stay for the CCM Forum from 8:30AM to 4:30PM.

See you in Seattle. Cheers,

John

John F. Henz, CCM #270

Chair, Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists
American Meteorological Society

An Update on the Review of the Written Exam Questions and a Call for New Questions.

As noted in the discussion of the 2009 AMS Member Survey reported in the May 2010 issue of BAMS one of the concerns expressed by those who responded was the need to reevaluate the questions used for the written examinations. Over the past two years the current CCM Board members, and those who recently served on the Board, have been reviewing all the questions in the current catalog, deciding which to keep, which to update, and which to retire. The quality of the recent candidates has been such that, in some cases, we found their answers to certain questions were preferred over the original answers. The review of the existing questions will be completed by upcoming the Annual Meeting in Seattle.

In addition to reviewing the questions and answers, the questions have been categorized by subject area in order to identify where substantial gaps exist in the current catalog. Historically, candidates with earned doctorates have been asked to develop and submit several new questions and answers as part of their examination. At this time we are now asking all CCMs to please consider submitting questions with answers that can be added to the catalog. The questions can be in any subject area, although we particularly desire questions for topics underrepresented in the catalog. We are in need of questions in all expertise areas including climate change, forensic meteorology; severe storms; hydrometeorology; risk-based decision making; modeling; etc.

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.

During the next year Board Member Jerry Hill will be coordinating the update. Please submit your question, answer, with any appropriate references and comments for graders to jerryd_hill@sbcglobal.net

Professional Ethics and Personal Conduct

Through an interaction with the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists a suggestion was made to the BCCM that our membership might be interested in reading an article about professional ethics and personal conduct focused on our field. Ethics awareness training is widely conducted in other professions, especially those that are state regulated. An article on this subject might target some of the issues that can arise in our profession, especially in the private practice of Meteorology. The BCCM has taken the suggestion under advisement and an article is currently being drafted with plans to offer it for publication in the BAMS sometime in 2011.

Promoting the CCM Program Locally

Many CCMs are active in their local AMS chapters and have an opportunity to promote the certification program before the other chapter members. You may know other meteorologists in your chapter who would benefit from becoming a CCM and also be able to contribute to the program. Consider writing a short article for your chapter's newsletter to call attention to the steps to become a CCM. Chapters are always looking for speakers and programs so every current CCM should take advantage of the opportunity to speak about how they became certified and how it has aided them in their own career.

CCM Profiles

For the past several years CCM profiles have been published in the monthly AMS Bulletin. These are profiles that have been provided by various CCMs to help promote the program. If you have not submitted a profile in the past please consider participating and writing a bit about yourself.

To submit your profile please contact Kelly Savoie at AMS headquarters ksavoie@ametsoc.org.

The Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists

A special thanks to George Greenly, CCM 214, and Gerry Mulvey, CCM 571, for their service as members of the board. Their terms on the board will expire in January 2011. The members who will continue to serve on the board during the next year 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

Ex Officio Members:

Jay J. Trobec, AMS Commission on Professional Affairs.

Kelly Savoie, AMS Manager, Marketing/ Special Programs

New CCMs Recently Recognized

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

Jay Trobec, Sioux Falls, SD, CCM 665

Walker Ashley, Dekalb, IL, CCM 666

Esmail Malek, Port Orange, FL, CCM 667

A total of ten candidates were awarded CCM status in 2010.

CCM Activities at the Annual AMS Meeting in Seattle, Washington January 24 to 27, 2011

The CCM board has organized an excellent forum program on Wednesday, January 26th. There are several informative sessions and a panel discussion that will be offered in Room 309 of the convention center starting at 8:30 AM. The complete CCM forum program can be found at <http://ams.confex.com/ams/91Annual/webprogram/4CCM.html>

The CCM forum will be preceded by the annual CCM breakfast meeting from 7 to 8:15 AM to be held in room 4C-3 of the convention center.

Resolution for the New Year

Right now, at the beginning of 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/>

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

Enhancements to the CCM Program

The BCCM has identified several new initiatives over the past three years that will serve as the initial framework for enhancing the CCM program. These initiatives include:

- The Consulting Meteorologist in Training (CMIT) program envisages working with both new degreed meteorologists interested in becoming CCM's and with new academic programs that will develop newly degreed meteorologists with a CCM as a goal. St. Louis University and University of Florida and the new University of Arizona degree program, Bachelor of Applied Science in Meteorology was put together, in conjunction with the USAF Air University, specifically for those folks with an AAS degree and time on their hands while on active duty to complete the degree course as an on-line oriented course. We should consider this a possible new source of candidates for CCMs and/or CBMs and adjust our current stated requirements for a B.S. to include a B.S. in Meteorology.
- Enhancing the interaction between the CCM program and the NCIM and NWA to foster cross-discipline interactions at conferences with the goal of "bridging the gap" between research, applied, operations and management sectors. Our first two steps include maintaining the CCM Forum as part of the AMS Annual Meeting and participating in a NWA Annual Conference with a joint NWA-CCM session to "break the ice" in 2011. A similar activity is planned for the 2011 Broadcast Meteorology Conference.
- Developing closer ties with the other committees within the Committee on Professional Affairs and the AMS Executive Board to foster a working relationship that can benefit the greater good of the AMS and society.