

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 forum on the AMS website** for your communication and exchanges between CCMs.

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CCM Newsletter Editors

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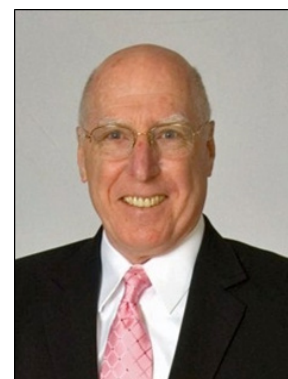
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The Chair's Column

Dear CCM Colleagues,

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as the Chair this year. I was able to work with 11 superb CCMs who served on the Board. These CCMs gave of themselves and their time to serve the Society and to uphold the 58 year legacy of the CCM Board, ensuring that only those candidates who demonstrated high standards of technical competence, character, and experience were designated as Certified Consulting Meteorologists. It has been my privilege to represent you and the CCM community as a member of the AMS Commission of Professional Affairs.



Four Board members have completed their appointments. In addition to myself, the three other retiring members are: Dr. Esmail Malek, Dr. Joseph Chia-Yung Chang, and Mr. Jay S. Rosenthal. We thank them for their dedication and service. Each brought a unique perspective to the Board and as such made the Board richer.

Finding the four CCMs to replace the retiring members was relatively easy. Previously some CCMs had volunteered to serve on the Board. I just had to verify they were still interested. However, we have depleted the pool of CCMs who are willing to serve on the Board. Now is your time to make a commitment to serve. Just send me your name and a short paragraph on why you would be willing to serve on the Board. My email address is bccm.chair@gmail.com. Of course, Jennifer Call as the 2016 Chair of the Board will be contacting you to confirm your interest.

There are 15 candidates who have passed their written exams and are eligible for their oral exams and certifications. We will be holding oral exams at the AMS annual meeting on Mon-Wed, Jan 11-13. If you would like to attend one of the oral exams, please let me know at bccm.chair@gmail.com. It is a great opportunity to understand the exam process and the thoroughness the Board employs. It would be a beneficial experience if you are able to participate in a regional oral exam. We typically hold one or two regional exams for outstanding candidates each year. We invite local CCMs to participate in the regional exams and of course earn Professional Development points. This year, Bob Ryan and Lou Cantrell participated in a regional exam in DC. Thanks to Bob and Lou for adding their experience to the exam process.

Each of you has your own personal reason for becoming a CCM. This reason could be professional or personal, but to you it was well worth the effort. And each of you is a spokesperson for the benefits of being a CCM. So I challenge you to talk to a least one of your fellow AMS members and encourage them to apply for certification. The application can be found on the AMS web page at <https://www2.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/education-careers/ams-professional-certification-programs/certified-consulting-meteorologist-program-ccm/application-process/>.

Every scientific organization seeks to acknowledge those individuals or teams of people whose work should be recognized for its greater purpose and value to the entire enterprise. The Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist was established to recognize a consulting meteorologist for outstanding contributions to the profession, clients, and society. And those eligible for election to AMS Fellow shall have made outstanding contributions to the atmospheric or related oceanic or hydrologic sciences or their

applications during a substantial period of years. The 2016 nomination window is open and will close 1 May 2016. This is your opportunity to nominate those colleagues who are so deserving of recognition. The nominations are at: <https://www2.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/about-ams/ams-awards-honors/>.

Paul Gross suggested that we publish "My Favorite Trial" articles. In this issue of our Newsletter, Paul kicks off the series with his own story. Please consider submitting stories from your favorite trial (or trials) where you testified and if you can, try to include some lessons learned. We encourage your sharing anecdotes from the lighter side as well.

Have a happy holiday season and may next year be the best ever.

Buddy Ritchie CCM #648
2015 Chair, Board of CCMs
Fellow of the AMS ■

New Online Weather and Climate Services Directory Coming Soon

In January 2016, the AMS will be replacing the Professional Directory in BAMS with a new online Weather and Climate Services Directory. The advantages to this new directory will include the ability to update your own listing, enhanced features, greater visibility for your business, and a lower cost. Listings in the Professional Directory in BAMS will conclude with the December 2015 issue. Further information on the new Weather and Climate Services Directory will be available shortly. ■

My Favorite Trial

Contributed by Paul H. Gross, CCM #583

This is the start of a series of articles that, hopefully, will become a regular feature of our newsletter. Many of us CCMs have testified in trials, and it goes without saying that some of us have had some unique and interesting experiences. Let's share them! Some of these articles may teach a lesson that we all can learn from, while others may just be humorous. But this can be a great way for us CCMs to interact and hear each other's "war stories." I'll fire the opening salvo and share with you my favorite trial, which also happened to be my very first trial (I'm now over forty trials, but that's not the only reason why my first trial is my favorite). This goes back twenty-six years, so some of the details are a little fuzzy, but I remember enough to tell the story.

The year was 1989, and this particular case involved a driver who (after consuming five drinks at a local establishment) was driving home on a mid-winter night on Jefferson/Lakeshore Drive in Wayne County, which runs right along Lake St. Clair. At some point, she weaved to the right into the guard rail (which was later found to be defective...the seams faced the wrong direction), blew out a tire, and then ended up out on the ice. Since it was a relatively mild night, there was dense fog on the lake. Disoriented both from the alcohol and the fog, the driver got out to walk to shore but, instead, was walking out farther into the lake, and eventually fell through the ice and died. The family sued the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), alleging that the dense fog was blown onto shore and that it was the fog, not the alcohol, that caused her to hit the guard rail, and that the defective guard rail caused the tire blowout and her to lose control of the car.

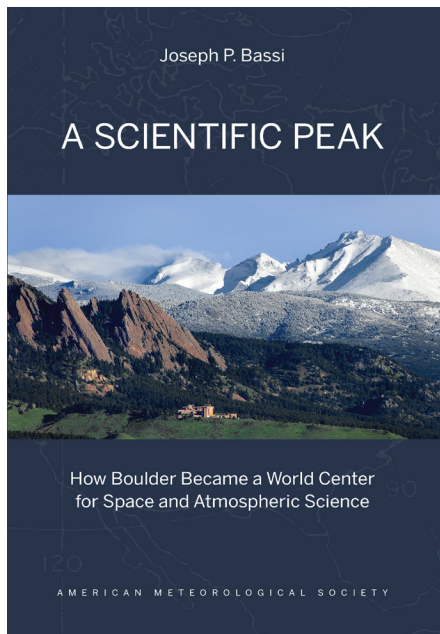
MDOT hired me to look into the meteorology, and Plaintiff's counsel hired his own meteorologist. This ended up being a classic advection fog case, as there was some wind that night that would have advected the fog ashore. And Plaintiff's meteorologist indeed wrote a report saying that the wind experienced that evening caused the dense lake fog to blow ashore (fog at inland reporting stations was not dense). However, not only had this meteorologist not looked closely at a map of Lakeshore Drive, but he got his

wind data only from the National Weather Service Hourly Weather Roundup, which reports wind only in letters (N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW). Examination of the actual surface observations, which reports wind direction in ten degree increments, and comparing the orientation of Jefferson/Lakeshore Drive, told a different story: the wind direction would NOT have blown the dense fog ashore in the area of the incident, because the roadway was parallel to the wind and the edge of the lake! In fact, if memory serves me correct, it was even a little past parallel...the wind clearly keeping the denser lake fog offshore in that area. Other parts of Jefferson/Lakeshore Drive may have had some dense fog, but the stretch of roadway where this incident occurred likely did not.

At trial under cross-examination, Plaintiff counsel asked me to testify about the road's orientation on a map that was not nearly as zoomed in and detailed as the one I used and, even though I told him that his map was inappropriate to use and that mine offered much greater detail, he plodded on. It was one of my all-time favorite moments in front of a jury...I could tell from the expression on their faces that they knew what was going on. Adding to the uniqueness of this trial for me was the remarkable experience of testifying before a blind judge. Judge Teranes had his guide dog sleeping at his feet, and he took notes with a stylus. If he had to make a ruling about something being shown in court, somebody would describe what it was to him. He was extremely thoughtful, highly attentive, and exceptionally fair with no apparent bias. I was so impressed by him, and wished I had met him at a later date to tell him so, but he has since passed away. And by the way, last year, voters in the State of Michigan voted what I believe is the nation's first blind Supreme Court Justice onto our bench, an inspirational victory for my state's physically challenged.

Oh, so what happened with the trial? The jury no-caused the State of Michigan in the seven-figure lawsuit. Well, that's the story of my favorite trial. I look forward to hearing about some of yours! ■

New AMS Book Release



AMS Books has released [*A Scientific Peak: How Boulder Became a World Center for Space and Atmospheric Science*](#) by Joseph P. Bassi.

Why did big science come to Boulder? How did Boulder become the research mecca it is today? Once a Wild West city tucked between the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains, Boulder, Colorado is now home to some of the biggest names in science, including NCAR, NOAA, and NIST. *A Scientific Peak* is a fascinating history that introduces us to a wide variety of characters, such as Walter Orr Roberts, and the serendipitous brew of politics, passion, and sheer luck that, during the post-WWII and Cold War eras, transformed this “scientific Siberia” into one of America’s smartest cities. ■

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
10 - 14 JANUARY 2016 • 96TH ANNUAL MEETING

2016 AMS Annual Meeting Activities

CCM Breakfast

The CCM Breakfast at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans will take place at the Convention Center on Wednesday, January 13th from 7-8:15am in room 231/232. This is a time for CCMs to get together and chat and learn about the activities of the CCM Board from the past year. The NCIM meeting will immediately follow the CCM breakfast in the same room. ■

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 (ksavoie@ametsoc.org) by January 2nd. 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 [online](#) ■

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. Also at the Annual Meeting, we use this account to announce upcoming speakers to promote the CCM Forum during each talk. If you are on Twitter, please follow the handle @AMS_BCCM ■



Upcoming AMS Meetings

[Forum on Observing the Environment from the Ground Up](#)

8–9 March 2016 Washington, DC

[2016 Washington Forum](#)

12–14 April 2016 Washington, DC

[32nd Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology](#)

18–22 April 2016 San Juan, PR

[44th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology](#)

15–17 June 2016 Austin, TX

[Exhibitor Information](#)

[17th Conference on Mountain Meteorology](#)

27 June–1 July 2016 Burlington, VT

[Joint 21st Satellite Meteorology, Oceanography and Climatology Conference and 20th Conference on Air-Sea Interaction](#)

15–19 August 2016 Madison, WI ■

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:
[Ron Baskett](#) and/or [Jennifer Call](#)

Spring 2015 Newsletter
submission deadline is
March 11