

Kelly Savoie ([00:00](#)):

Hello, Clear Skies Ahead listeners. This is Kelly Savoie, and I'm hoping you can take a moment of your time to rate and review our show wherever you listen to podcasts. We have produced over 100 episodes, and you can help us reach even more individuals that will benefit from the diverse experiences shared by our guests. Thanks so much for listening, and I hope you enjoy this new episode.

Welcome to the American Meteorological Society's podcast series, Clear Skies Ahead: Conversations About Careers in Meteorology and Beyond. I'm Kelly Savoie, and I'm here with Emma Collins, and we'll be your hosts. We're excited to give you the opportunity to step into the shoes of an expert working in weather, water, and climate sciences.

Emma Collins ([00:53](#)):

We're happy to introduce today's guest, Mallory Brooke, owner and chief meteorologist at Nor'Easter Weather Consulting in Norway, Maine. Welcome, Mallory. Thanks so much for joining us today.

Mallory Brooke ([01:03](#)):

Thanks for having me.

Kelly Savoie ([01:04](#)):

Mallory, could you tell us a little bit about what sparked your interest in meteorology and how it influenced your educational path?

Mallory Brooke ([01:11](#)):

I was always interested in weather as a kid, and I think you hear that pretty often. There's always a catalyst event, but the backstory is that we're always somehow interested in it well beyond that catalyst, which my mom will tell you that I watched the Weather Channel as a toddler. I just always loved it. I would fall asleep till the music on Local on the 8's, and I was enamored with it, but my catalyst event was the Blizzard of '96. I grew up in New Jersey. It closed schools in the entire state for about a week. That seemed really cool, but the thing that grasped me and what really made me fall in love was how something so silent could shut down a city. And that's how I look at blizzards and snowstorms. It's such a silent feature versus a tornado or a hurricane or a severe thunderstorm.

([02:09](#)):

And it made me fall in love with that type of weather. So I, from that point on, knew that this is what I wanted to do and never really faltered from that. And that's what made me pursue -we actually had a meteorology class in high school - but then pursue it into college and beyond.

Kelly Savoie ([02:30](#)):

Oh, wow. That's cool that you had it in high school. There's not a lot of high schools that have meteorology courses.

Mallory Brooke ([02:35](#)):

Yeah, it was a half year, but it was a lot of fun and I was the nerdy geeky, always raising your hand, knowing the answer person, which I'm sure a lot of kids didn't enjoy, but it went in conjunction with physics, so it was kind of almost preparatory for getting into college.

Kelly Savoie ([02:55](#)):

And where did you end up going to school?

Mallory Brooke ([02:58](#)):

I went to school at Penn State. I was only about four hours away from there. My brother was going for landscape architecture, another well-known Penn State program. We were four years apart. So when I was a freshman in high school, he was a freshman at Penn State. I went out for parents' weekend, toured the Walker Building and met all the other geeky weather kids like myself, loved it and said, "Okay, that's where I'm going to school." I applied to Penn State and Rutgers on the same day in my senior year, and I heard from both of them on Halloween that I was accepted.

Kelly Savoie ([03:32](#)):

Excellent.

Mallory Brooke ([03:33](#)):

And I knew where I was going two months into my senior year, which was great.

Emma Collins ([03:37](#)):

Other than asking questions all the time, what opportunities did you pursue that you knew would be beneficial to securing a job in your profession?

Mallory Brooke ([03:44](#)):

I think the biggest opportunity was going to a school like Penn State. It was world renowned. You knew that 25% of meteorologists came out of the university and it wasn't too far from home, which was an upside, a downside when I was in high school thinking I was too close to home, but I ended up being wicked homesick, so it was good. It was good that it was only four hours from home. But they have programs and a lot of opportunities for students. As you're going through the coursework, they have studio opportunities for you to work your craft on the green screen. They had radio opportunities because that was a little bit bigger still at that point when I was in school from '04 to '08 and newspaper, which is almost a bit obsolete at the moment, but you had the opportunity to use what you're learning in class and put it to these different types of mediums to reach different audiences.

([04:42](#)):

I also had internships. I interned at a TV station, both my rising junior and rising senior summers. The first one was at CBS in New York City, which was an amazing opportunity. They

only took a handful of interns and I was really surprised to be chosen for that. So commuting into the city was an awesome experience growing up in Jersey and just seeing how everyone did that anyways. I actually liked it. My second internship was at a station that's now defunct, but it was in Atlantic City. So that was fun to do that for a summer and live down the Shore, but also see what a really small scale station looked like compared to a news station. But TV was never something I really wanted to do. I just felt like it was one of the few opportunities I could do, especially in that timeframe.

[\(05:31\)](#):

There still weren't a lot of females in the industry, and if you were, you're pretty much going into television. So in the back of my mind, I was always looking for something else, but I fell into TV. I was good at it. I had a good rapport with audiences. So I ended up pursuing that path mostly because of the internships, but also the opportunities at Penn State to refine the craft before I had to start sending, at that point, VHS tapes and DVDs out to news directors.

Kelly Savoie [\(06:02\)](#):

And so did any of these internships help you secure a job? What was your first job in the field and how did you end up where you are today, which is not in TV anymore?

Mallory Brooke [\(06:11\)](#):

Yeah, it's a very long story, but they all connect. The internships did not help me land the job. I ended up in Harrisonburg, Virginia. So to get out of college and end up in New Jersey and New York was just a pipe dream and I realized that. I ended up in the Shenandoah Valley, which was beautiful. I enjoyed it a lot. At that point I received my CBM seal in 2010 while I was still in Harrisonburg. So it allowed me to see all weather. We had the snowiest season on record while I was there. So I like to say I was part of that Snowmageddon year in '09 and '10, and then I had to leave because it barely snowed anymore, and that's how I ended up in Maine. I just wanted to be where it snowed. I learned to ski in college. It was actually a class at Penn State, and I started getting back into it when I was in Harrisonburg, ironically enough, because you have some good mountains over in West Virginia, and then there was Massanutten right nearby Harrisonburg.

[\(07:15\)](#):

I said, "Well, it'd be nice to be somewhere it snowed a little bit more." And that's one of the reasons I put Maine in one of my out clauses in my contract for television. It ended up working and I moved there in 2011. I started in August 2011. My first weekend was when Hurricane Irene came on shore, good times.

[\(07:38\)](#):

The way in which I kind of fell out of TV was because the station put me in charge of the ski report. So every week throughout, I'd say from, I'd say January, February to early March, we'd go to a different ski area in the region at zero dark thirty, because I worked the morning show, and I'd ski down live on TV to show the conditions at that ski area heading into the weekend. So I got to meet a lot of the ski area operators and understand their industry a bit more. I became

close with several of them, one of which was at King Pine in New Hampshire after about two years of me doing this. They would invite me over to come ski and ride in the snowcat, see the grooming operations, see the snowmaking operations, and like all good conversations, they happen on a chairlift, and one day I was lamenting about the broadcast hours.

(08:38):

I was waking up at 1:40 in the morning, and it was three... Well, no, because I started in Virginia, so I guess it'd been about five years of that.

Emma Collins (08:47):

Oh my gosh.

Mallory Brooke (08:48):

And I said, "I would just love to be on the snow every day, all day, just at the ski area." The GM of King Pine, he said, "Well, I should introduce you to the gentleman who does our forecasts." I said, "That's a job? Someone does this?" I had no idea because someone did. So he said, "Yeah, I'll introduce you. He's getting old. He should retire soon." I mean, it was just so candid. Okay. So it happened to also be around the time I met my now husband. He has two kids. I'm an instant parent. There's just so much changing in my life. I met Tony Visano and he was the owner of North Winds Weather and did ski area forecasting for 16 resorts and a utility. So he said, "You know it's very different than TV. You're forecasting for a slope, a mountain, not half a state." So I apprenticed under him for a couple of years and I was really bad.

(09:50):

It was really hard to forecast for a mountainside and really understand the microclimate. And I had access to weather stations, but I was always too warm, always too warm. So it took me a couple years to really understand how to forecast for a mountain. This started in winter of '14-'15.

(10:16):

As we were going into winter '16-'17, so two years under my belt, Killington gets the bid to host the Women's Ski World Cup with Mikaela Schiffrin and all the big US skiers. They were one of his clients, Tony's clients, and the mountain ops director asked him to be on site for the event, and he said, "I'm too old for this. I have a desktop. This isn't going to work." He said, "I have this sort of intern girl. I'll send her." And that was me. So it was my first opportunity to understand how my forecasting can be so highly utilized and important, and they were making billion dollar decisions on what I was saying about how the slope was in terms of its consistency and what they might have to do it because they'll inject water into a slope if they're trying to get it harder.

(11:16):

They'll put salt on it if they're trying to melt it a little bit. So there's different ways that FIS and mountain ops will adjust a ski slope. Same thing in the Olympics, if the slope quality is not ideal, and that all revolves around the forecast. So it was really an amazing experience. It made me realize that there was a place for me to use science and meteorology outside of this television bubble, which can be so superficial. I'll never forget, I'm sitting in the jury room, which is all the

members of FIS and the people who have to make sure the slope is safe for the skiers. And of course the weather wasn't easy. It's Thanksgiving weekend in the northeast, and they asked me, because they're going to be low ceilings, and you have to have three gate visibility for the skiers to safely go down the slope.

([12:11](#)):

They said, "Well, okay, so there's going to be fog. Is there going to be mist in the fog?"

Kelly Savoie ([12:15](#)):

Oh, geez. It sounds incredibly difficult.

Mallory Brooke ([12:19](#)):

Right. And that's when I said, "This is my place. This is great." Because the temperatures were hovering around freezing. If there's mist in the fog, then the mist will go on the goggles of the racers and ice up their goggles. So there's all these nuances you had to think about beyond just what is the weather, and I loved it. So at that point I said, "This is what I'm going to do. This is amazing." The next season, winter '17-'18, Tony said, "I'm retiring after this. It's yours if you want it."

Kelly Savoie ([12:49](#)):

Oh, wow. That perfect timing.

Mallory Brooke ([12:51](#)):

Yes. As I mentioned in early 2014, I met my now husband. We married in '15. I'm split sleeping during broadcasting, so I'm getting three to four hours at night going to work, going home, sleeping two to three hours during the day, picking up kids from school. It was the right time for me because my health was really tanking from the split sleep schedule. So at the end of 2017, I handed in my resignation for my TV job, and I took the first few months of '18 to go and visit all of his clients to tell them I'd be taking over and he'd be retiring, and that's how it started. I'm now up to... So he started with 16 ski clients and three utilities. Last year I had 35 ski clients, three utilities, four plow contractors, and I do forensics for slip and fall.

Kelly Savoie ([13:54](#)):

Oh my gosh. But I mean, how incredible was it that you really enjoyed skiing and snow and this opportunity just came about and you got immediate clients?

Mallory Brooke ([14:09](#)):

Yes.

Kelly Savoie ([14:11](#)):

It's such a good stable switch.

Mallory Brooke ([14:16](#)):

It was. The stars certainly aligned because a lot of meteorologists, especially now as the industry's constantly changing, they say, "How did you start? How did you get your client list?" Most people have to start from the ground, but that was the beauty of meeting Tony and apprenticing. I essentially just paid him for the client list. There's no overhead, there's no equipment, you're just using your computer. So it was a fairly easy handoff that didn't cost an arm and a leg. And my first year was tough. I was building a new product. We took an Excel spreadsheet, made it an online dashboard, so it became more digital for the ski clients. So it was a tough, I'd say 12-14 months where I was in the red trying to figure it all out. But in the grand scheme of things as an entrepreneur, I heard that if it only takes you 14 months to get in the black, you've done really well.

([15:13](#)):

So I was pretty happy with the trajectory and how it went, and then it just became word of mouth as far as gaining new clients. This will be my ninth season and I've grown it quite a bit from there.

Emma Collins ([15:26](#)):

That's awesome. That's so cool. And also really cool to think about all the nuances that go into a ski slope. I, as someone who does not ski, had no idea.

Mallory Brooke ([15:35](#)):

Especially ski racing. And ski racing is different than the recreational skier that's going to just go to the mountain to enjoy some good snow. You don't want ice, you don't want to inject that with water, that's bad. So ski racing snow, and general recreation snow is very different.

Emma Collins ([15:53](#)):

See? Things I just don't know! That's a whole other world. That's really cool. So what is a typical day on the job at Nor'Easter Weather Consulting like? I would imagine that being in Maine, you must have a heavy focus on the winter weather, of course.

Mallory Brooke ([16:07](#)):

So the majority of my work is winter. I say I make about 70% of my income in five months. I do have year-round clients like utilities and the forensics that I do, but obviously snow plowing is a solid five months. And depending on the ski area, I'm working with them from four months to eight months. Everyone's different as to how long they want the forecasts. But I not only forecast in Maine, I actually forecast all the way south into resorts in Virginia, including Massanutten, which was one of my first resorts that I ever skied at while I was in Harrisonburg. I have a handful in Pennsylvania. It's possible I bring on my first one in the Rockies in Colorado. We just met last week, so that's exciting to get my first one there. I have one in Alaska that I started working with two seasons ago.

([17:01](#)):

The GM was in the east, worked with me at one of my clients here and then moved out to Juneau. I've been working with the Eagle Crest there. There's a lot of winter work when it comes to the ski areas. They usually start their forecast well before they're opening because they need to make snow, especially in the east, and the west is now realizing that too. But most of my forecasts start at some point between October 1 and November 1, and then I'm head down with almost all clients from November 1 to the end of March. Some of them go off mid-March in the mid-Atlantic, but it's a lot of work. I'd say on a non-storm day, I'm forecasting five to six hours a day just for ski clients. If it's a storm or leading up to a storm that's going to be impactful, especially to the utilities, it's probably a 10 to 12 hour day, usually for two days getting forecasts out.

([17:55](#)):

But there's no day off. I go seven, eight months straight providing forecasts. It is remote work, so it's not that I'm chained to an office chair. I do get out and our youngest who's now a freshman at college was a ski racer, so we were out on the slopes watching her ski races all winter. So it's nice that it's remote work, but it's a lot of work. It's a grind.

Kelly Savoie ([18:22](#)):

Is it just you?

Mallory Brooke ([18:23](#)):

It's just me.

Kelly Savoie ([18:24](#)):

Wow. That's a lot.

Mallory Brooke ([18:26](#)):

That's by design.

Kelly Savoie ([18:27](#)):

Right.

Mallory Brooke ([18:28](#)):

Because when you are making all these decisions off a forecast, the last thing you want are inconsistencies. And meteorologists all look at the same data for the most part, and we all interpret it a little bit differently. That's why we call it it's a science and an art because we'll all take this data that's in front of us and have our own little nuance or gut feeling on it. Just as you watch TV ahead of a storm coming in, every TV is a little bit different as to the start time or the snowfall total, and that creates inconsistency for a client. So it's by design, it's just me. There are times it's hard. I'm sick. I had surgery in May, and that was the first time I had someone take over for me. I have a colleague who I trust dearly to do that. It was May, so there weren't a ton

of clients still on, but that was a moment where I had to hand it off and I hadn't done that before.

([19:27](#)):

So it's tough with it only being me, but I get to develop wonderful relationships with my clients and they understand my verbiage when I'm saying my forecast in the way I'm saying it. They get used to my terms and what I mean by things. So introducing someone new would be really hard.

Kelly Savoie ([19:46](#)):

Yeah. I mean, you must have to change because we know how quickly weather can change or a storm, their track can change. So you must have to update them constantly too. How far out? You can only go a couple of days, right? A week maybe?

Mallory Brooke ([20:03](#)):

Yes. So I go out for my ski clients about a week. Same thing for my utility clients, and the granularity gets less and less as you go out. They get a full seven-day update in the morning every day. And then in the evening I do a short-term update that's mainly for snowmaking because the teams usually get on the hill by dark, and so I'm fine-tuning what they can expect for the next 24 hours. So there's a long-term component of it, and then there's a short-term. My utilities aren't daily work because on the daily, they're okay. It's just the big storms that come in. But once the storm is in the pipeline, then it's a lot of updating and constant communication.

Kelly Savoie ([20:54](#)):

Do you have any Nordic ski resorts?

Mallory Brooke ([20:58](#)):

I do, actually.

Kelly Savoie ([21:01](#)):

I'm a cross-country skier. I mean, I like downhill skiing, but I really love cross-country and it's even harder for them because they don't really have snowmaking.

Mallory Brooke ([21:10](#)):

They don't. They're starting to, but they don't have it quite as vastly as the downhill areas. But I worked with Kingdom Trails in Vermont, and then I work with the ORDA Resorts in New York, which includes Mount Van Hoevenburg right outside of Lake Placid, which is where the whole Olympic Park is too. I have a couple of Nordic, and especially as they start to add snowmaking, because it's becoming necessary. Even our local trail network right here in Norway, it's called Robert's Farm, they got a grant to get a snowmaker, not a snow gun. So they're going to be starting to making snow, and it's just necessary at this point. They don't need to make so much

like a downhill ski area so they can get away with one gun or two guns and then just groom that out and move it around.

Kelly Savoie ([22:01](#)):

Well, that's good to know because I'm always like, "Ugh, I have to wait for snow in order to go skiing, cross country skiing." But I did notice that in Jackson, New Hampshire, I like going there a lot, that they have snowmaking there now, at least around their golf course loop, so that's cool.

Mallory Brooke ([22:17](#)):

Yeah, they try and do it in the high usage areas or where they need power, they need water, so there's a lot of pieces to get into it, but it's becoming more necessary.

Kelly Savoie ([22:27](#)):

Right. So I'm going to switch gears a little bit to talk about some K through 12 classroom information. So you developed a Weather At Your School program while working at WMTW, and what is that program all about and what inspired it?

Mallory Brooke ([22:47](#)):

We were trying to become more relatable as a TV station. When I came to WMTW in 2011, social media was just starting, being online and getting clicks and that whole social media world. And that was a big reason they brought me on because I had done that in Harrisonburg so well. So that was another way to promote visibility, but also do good in the community, which was a pillar of the TV station and many TV stations, just being there with your community and making an impact and making a difference. So I had said, "Why don't we start going into the schools?" So that's how it initially started, and we would go... I think when we started, maybe it was once a week, and then it eventually ended up in twice a week that we would go just like the skier report at oh dark thirty, show up at a school.

([23:54](#)):

They'd tell the kids and parents ahead of time they could join us for the last hour from 6:00 to 7:00 AM, be live on TV. And so they'd get to see how a broadcast works from a live perspective for those who might have been interested in news or communications and be on TV, which every kid loves. And then we'd take a little break, get them in the school, get the school day started, and we'd do a presentation depending on what class had signed up for the program. There were sometimes kindergarten, pre-K classes, which were pretty hard to then explain weather, but most of them I'd say were third grade to sixth grade, which was a really awesome time to get their minds interested in it. Fourth grade was when the Blizzard of '96 happened for me, so that's when I was a sponge wanting to understand more.

([24:44](#)):

And so we would give about a 45-minute presentation to the schools, to the class, whoever signed up. Sometimes it was a class of 20, sometimes it was an auditorium of 200. It was totally

up to what the school wanted to do with it. And by the time I left MTW, I had done about 250 school visits in Maine.

(25:06):

Yes. And the kids that I had first, I think it was one of the middle schools or elementary schools I had first visited, they were graduating when I was leaving TV. So it was very cool to see that.

Emma Collins (25:27):

Are you still able to participate in STEM education now that you're a business owner?

Mallory Brooke (25:32):

Yes. I don't get asked as often because I think the program still lives on without me, so you still have a meteorologist coming and you can be on TV and you get that whole experience of it. Every so often I'll be asked and then so I've done it, but it's been a couple years. I also did, during COVID, Weather From Your Home. I was a little bored myself because all the ski areas closed. My husband was working from home. The kids were home. I just needed something to do. And so I created this Weather From Your Home twice a week where I'd pick topics and do a live Facebook session and have people join from all over the country just to have a little weather lesson for the day that was pretty easy breezy and fun and interactive and made the COVID time a little bit different that you could join from...

(26:26):

I had my friend's kids from New Jersey joining, and be able to extend that in a time where it was hard to get anything new going.

Kelly Savoie (26:37):

Yeah. And I'm sure kids at school would be interested in some of the things you do for the ski resorts and how the snow is made, especially in Maine where that's just their way of life, skiing and snow, but that's great you still have the opportunity to do it occasionally.

Mallory Brooke (26:56):

Yeah. And I've also been a guest lecturer at the University of Maine of Farmington because they have a big outdoor recreation course, or I should say degree. So a lot of students go there to have the knowledge of working in the ski industry. So I would guest lecture in their ski industry class essentially and talk about snowmaking and my work at the World Cup and all the nuances that go into it. So it's an older age range, but it was very applicable because that's where they were going next in life.

Kelly Savoie (27:32):

So you mentioned earlier that you earned the Certified Broadcast Meteorologist designation and you also have the AMS Certified Consulting Meteorologist designation. So congratulations on that achievement for the dual certification. Have these certifications been helpful in your career?

Mallory Brooke ([27:55](#)):

I feel they have. The CBM was definitely helpful as I was applying to the job in Portland. I got it during my time in Harrisonburg and Portland was my next and last stop. So I think it was very helpful and I think the Seals meant a lot at that time. And the CCM was another product of COVID. I was not alone in that because I had a lot more time on my hands and I knew it was going to be a time intensive exam and process. So that, I believe, has really helped me not only in my ski clientele as I was bringing on new clients, but to get into the forensic world, it carries a lot of weight and I don't do a lot of it, but though I've only had to go through one deposition thankfully, but the one that I had, after I explained what the CCM was all about, they really had no further questions about my character and ethics and my knowledge.

([28:55](#)):

So it was kind of a really awesome moment. So I think that the CCM carries a lot of weight with it when it comes to really knowing and understanding who you're working with and that they have the appropriate knowledge and background and experience to help you make these decisions. Some of them are multimillion dollar decisions that you have to help companies make. And to know that this person has a certification, have been through a rigorous process to test their knowledge, I think gives clients a better understanding of who they're working with and to have confidence in them and know that they have credibility.

Emma Collins ([29:34](#)):

Oh, absolutely.

Kelly Savoie ([29:35](#)):

Yeah. I was going to say too, if you didn't have a CCM, I would feel like if they're on the opposite side, they're going to get hammered a lot more than you are because they can't really defend their expertise as well. So that would be one thing why I would want to get it if I had to go in front of trial lawyers who I've heard it can be terrible. It can be very intimidating.

Mallory Brooke ([30:04](#)):

It can be. Like I said, it was just one deposition I've had to go through, thankfully, but it was intimidating. It was nerve-wracking, but I'd say it was maybe 45 minutes or an hour into it, the CCM came up and it quickly wrapped up after that. So I was pretty happy. But it's not like some degrees and professions out there where, say you're a doctor. Okay, well you went to med school, you have an MD or a DO or whatever designation you have. You really don't have that in meteorology unless you've gotten your doctorate, but then you're a doctor of meteorology. But if you don't have that, then how does one know your true expertise and your credibility in the industry? So I think that's where the CCM and CBM for broadcasting really stands out and gives employers or potential clients and contacts, the confidence in the decision they're making to work with you.

Emma Collins ([31:07](#)):

So now that you're established in your career, are there any things you wish you had done differently? Or what advice do you have for students looking to secure positions in the private sector?

Mallory Brooke ([31:18](#)):

I don't know if I'd change anything because it all led to where I am now. As I mentioned, I never really wanted to be in broadcasting, but if I never went into broadcasting, I would've never done the ski report, which brought me to King Pine, which had me meet Tony, which gave me a new job. I mean, it was definitely that if the butterfly flapped his wings two years ago, would we be in the same spot? So I wouldn't say I would do anything differently in my track. I'd say my biggest piece of advice is it's okay for your dreams to change. When I was in college and graduating, I said, "I'm going to get back to New York. I'm going to be a meteorologist in the city and I'm going to go be and live in New York." And that was the dream. And I remember when I was in Virginia, my chief was, I'd say she's 20-ish years older.

([32:22](#)):

No, 10 to 15 years older than me. So had a little bit more wisdom. And I would tell her, "I'm going to be back in New York and I'm going to get there. And this is the dream and it's going to be great." And she said, "I had that dream once. Now I live in rural Virginia with my husband and my kid and it's great." And I remember thinking like, "Well, good for you. I don't want to do that." And I live in rural Maine with my husband and my kids and my dogs and it's great. And so I just want up and coming meteorology students and really any student, it doesn't have to be confined to meteorology, to know that you might have a dream when you're graduating college and in your first job and it's great because that's your motivation and your push to the next step.

([33:12](#)):

But it was really hard when I had that moment when I had to realize that my dreams changed and my goals changed and that it wasn't bad. And that was kind of a hard thing for me to mentally work through at that time. I said, "Oh, am I failing because I'm not getting to New York and being on TV?" And eventually I'm like, "I have a great job now."

([33:43](#)):

I ski for work. I am 100% remote. I love what I do. I have so much flexibility and I feel like my work matters, which is something that I didn't always feel in TV.

Kelly Savoie ([33:59](#)):

Right. And you just hadn't experienced this new way of life, so you wouldn't have known then that this might be the real goal. This is what I really wanted to do.

Mallory Brooke ([34:15](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. Chairlift conversations, they change your life. If you're a skier, you know that. The people you meet on a chairlift, the conversations you have on a chairlift. I can't tell you how many people I've met on a chairlift, and married from being on a chairlift. And you have to seek

those opportunities and find them and realize what they are as you're in it. Because in that moment when he was telling me about, "Oh, this guy forecasts for us," I didn't think that was going to be my next job or that was going to be my life, but just the little pieces came into play and you made the next step and made the next step. And I realized, "oh, this is going to be my life". So I know that's not a hundred percent related to meteorology, it's more life in general, but there's so many changes in the industry that are probably still going to happen, but that have happened since I graduated in 2008, that having that open mind and open trajectory to the possibilities, it sounds cliché, but it's really true.

Kelly Savoie ([35:26](#)):

Well, we're so grateful for everything you've told us about your career. However, before you go, we always ask our guests one last fun question at the end of our show. So I think I know the answer to this, but what is your favorite hobby?

Mallory Brooke ([35:41](#)):

Well, not so shockingly it is skiing, but it's also running. So I'll put that in there too. I'm not built to be a runner, but I love running and my brother and I are trying to run races in all 50 states.

Kelly Savoie:

Oh, cool. Fun.

Mallory Brooke:

So either a marathon or a half marathon. I've done one full in New Hampshire and I'm pretty all much set with the full. I ran down the Kancamagus Highway, and if anyone knows that -

Kelly Savoie ([36:04](#)):

Oh, beautiful.

Mallory Brooke ([36:05](#)):

Yeah!

Kelly Savoie ([36:05](#)):

And that's very hilly.

Mallory Brooke ([36:06](#)):

Yep. Luckily it was down, but that's still hard. It was the Revel Race series they did for two years and I ran it from the top of the Kanc into North Conway. And otherwise I just ran halves, but I've been on a bit of a hiatus because I tore my ACL skiing in March.

Kelly Savoie:

Oh no.

Mallory Brooke:

The one downside of skiing is you end up with the injury that's the second longest recovery out of anything. Yeah. So I'll be back on the slopes first week of February.

Kelly Savoie ([36:36](#)):

Yeah, but I think it's cool that you started later in life, too, skiing. You didn't start skiing since you were like five.

Kelly Savoie ([36:44](#)):

You were a little older.

Mallory Brooke ([36:46](#)):

Yeah. So when I was in college, my brother and I actually overlapped one year because the landscape architecture program was a five-year program. So we said, "How do we take a class together?" The only ones between landscape architecture and intro meteorology were going to be your gen eds. So we decided to take Intro to Skiing together and we learned at Tussey Mountain in Pennsylvania and that's how my skiing started. But I really didn't become a good skier, solid skier, I should say, until I moved to Maine. So learning as an adult is a totally different beast, but I highly recommend it. Take lessons, don't learn from your friends. Get legit lessons and pick your days wisely.

Kelly Savoie ([37:27](#)):

Right. Because when you were saying that on the slopes you don't want icy conditions if you're a recreational skier, well, I've skied a lot in New England and 90% of the time it's icy and scary. But I started skiing when I was, I think I took a lesson when I was 14 and it was at Killington, which is huge. And I got lost. My brother and I got separated. My brother shows up with my parents and they're like, "Where's your sister?" And he's like, "I don't know." And this was before cell phones and I didn't know what to do. Some family took pity on me and helped me find my way back to my family. I thought I was lost forever. I still loved it though. It was really great.

Mallory Brooke ([38:13](#)):

Yeah. Killington's intimidating for sure.

Kelly Savoie ([38:16](#)):

Yeah. Especially for the first time you've skied. But I prefer spring skiing because I can't stand being cold and sometimes it's just so windy and cold.

Mallory Brooke ([38:28](#)):

Yeah. Well, the spring skiing's what took my ACL, so I'm probably off spring skiing for a little bit. Yeah. We were in Switzerland and they were having a warm spell and it was the last day. We knew it was a two week trip. It was for our 10-year anniversary and we were coming at the end and we knew it was going to snow after. So we were just kind of waiting for it, but it was so nice out. We're like, "Let's just go for a spring ski like two hours." And of course we're heading in when it happens. And it was just endless moguled snow, just mounds. And my ski got caught and I went forward. So I felt the pop, knew exactly what that meant.

Kelly Savoie ([39:08](#)):

Ow.

Mallory Brooke ([39:09](#)):

And yeah, they didn't think it was ACL when I was there, so it was such ignorance. Ignorance was bliss. I just sat in the spa for 10 days and my husband still skied a little bit and we got home, got the MRI and it was a mess.

Kelly Savoie ([39:25](#)):

Oh no.

Mallory Brooke ([39:25](#)):

They were like, "We don't know how you're walking."

Kelly Savoie ([39:27](#)):

Oh.

Mallory Brooke ([39:28](#)):

I was like, "Oh, good. Great." So yeah, my spring ski days are over for a little bit.

Kelly Savoie ([39:38](#)):

Well, hopefully you'll be recovered enough to ski a little.

Mallory Brooke ([39:42](#)):

Yeah. First week of February, they say no sooner than nine months post-op, but you have to be really choosy of your ski days. So no spring skiing, no icy. You have to have perfect days essentially when you get back to it.

Kelly Savoie ([39:56](#)):

Good luck with that.

Mallory Brooke ([39:58](#)):

Yeah, I know, right? I'd be like "Uh..."

Kelly Savoie ([40:01](#)):

Hopefully there'll be one unicorn.

Mallory Brooke ([40:03](#)):

I know.

Emma Collins ([40:04](#)):

That spa sounded good to me. I think I'll stick with that.

Mallory Brooke ([40:07](#)):

Yeah. Spa was great. Not going to lie. Anything in Switzerland is wonderful. So I would say there were worse things. It was bad, but there are worse things.

Emma Collins ([40:20](#)):

Well, thanks so much for joining us, Mallory, and for sharing your work experiences with us.

Mallory Brooke ([40:24](#)):

Anytime. This was great.

Kelly Savoie ([40:26](#)):

Well, that's our show for today. Please join us next time, Rain or Shine. Clear Skies Ahead: Conversations About Careers in Meteorology and Beyond is a podcast by the American Meteorological Society. Our show is edited by Johnny Lay. Technical direction is provided by Peter Killelea. Our theme music is composed and performed by Steve Savoie, and the show is hosted by Emma Collins and Kelly Savoie. You can learn more about the show online at www.ametsoc.org/clearskies, and you can contact us at skypodcast@A-M-E-T-S-O-C.org. If you have any feedback or would like to become a future guest.