

Dear Participants,

The virtual format for the upcoming 34th AMS Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology is now set. The conference will run from 11 AM to 5:30 PM EDT on Monday to Thursday, and end with a half day on Friday. It will consist of generally four, one-hour blocks of triple sessions with one-hour poster sessions in the afternoon. Each block will start with intro remarks, followed by 5-min lightning presentations/ Q & A, and some discussion time at the end, depending on the session. Almost all abstracts were accepted in the format that they requested.

If you are giving an **oral presentation**, you will need to pre-record your presentation and upload it approximately a week prior to the meeting. Your presentation will be available for on-demand viewing by the conference participants. An online discussion forum will be associated with your presentation for discussions and feedback for an extended period of time. Your presentation will be highlighted by a single summary slide during a 5-min live Q&A as part of one of the one-hour blocks.

If you are giving a **poster presentation**, you will need to upload a single pdf file of your poster (an e-poster format is being negotiated) also a week in advance. You will also have an opportunity to upload a pre-recorded presentation. Your poster/presentation will be available for on-demand viewing by the conference participants. An online discussion forum will be associated with your presentation for discussions and feedback for an extended period of time.

A detailed program and more information on the poster/oral formats and upload instructions will be coming within the next week or two.

We are aware that this format will not be able to replace the experience of an in-person meeting, and there have been many long hours of discussion and compromises. We are aware that some parts may work out better than others and individual experiences are likely to vary. Perhaps counter-intuitively, the virtual meeting requires more effort to maximize benefits, including watching talks ahead of time and devoting valuable time during the week of the conference to separate from your usual (telework) routine. There's just no perfect way to replace an in-person meeting that we all wish were to take place in New Orleans. But, we are excited to be able to go forward with 'virtually meeting' with everyone in May and discussing new research results.

Sincerely,

Eric Blake and Carl Schreck
Program Chairs of the 34th AMS Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology