



Newsletter July 2022

President's Message

Alicia Wasula, PhD, CCM

First off, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to the many new members we have added to our ranks since the start of the year! We are excited to have such vigorous growth and member engagement; it is a sign of a healthy and thriving organization. It was great to see many of you virtually at our Midyear meeting which was held on July 10. The evening was informative and a great opportunity to get to know each other professionally. Thank you to our member speakers for your presentations!



There were many updates given from our board members and committee chairs at the meeting, and summaries of those updates are contained in this newsletter. For more detailed information or if you weren't able to attend the meeting, a recording can be found [here](#).

The board voted in June to approve our 2022-2023 budget. Our organization continues to maintain good financial health and is seeing increasing opportunities to market on behalf of our members as the world is resuming in-person meetings once again (see the Marketing Committee update below for full details).

We are also going to continue to provide professional development opportunities this year as well. The Small Business Forum will continue its quarterly meetings in the fall, and ACM is also working with the BCCM on a short course at the 2023 AMS Annual Meeting in Denver. Additionally, the Ethics Committee is exploring the possibility of developing opportunities for aspiring CCMs to learn more about and prepare for the process. This may be of particular interest for our Associate Members who are currently working towards their CCM.

Lastly, many of us rely on NCEI data and certified weather records. Members of ACM have noticed increasing issues with NCEI while searching for and downloading data. These issues are with the NCEI website and include but are not limited to: website outages, data not appearing during a search, data unavailable after a search shows an available station, and data ordered not being delivered. As an organization, ACM is considering how best to advocate for our membership in a collegial and helpful manner. Our first step is to take an informal poll to understand how many members use NCEI data, what kinds of issues they have encountered, and what they feel may help improve the situation. Please watch your email for that in coming weeks.

If you would like to become more involved with ACM, please reach out to me or one of the board members. We welcome engagement and would love to talk with you about our various committees. If you have an idea which you feel would benefit our membership (for example, a professional development or marketing opportunity), please feel free to contact us as well!

President's Message (Continued)

Have a wonderful rest of the summer, and we hope to see many of you in Denver at the AMS Annual Meeting. Stay tuned for details about a possible in-person ACM event during that time!

Calendar of Events



➤ **30th Conference on Severe Local Storms**

When: October 24-28, 2022

Where: Santa Fe, NM

For more information visit: [Weblink to Conference Details](#)

➤ **103rd AMS Annual Meeting**

When: January 8-12, 2023

Where: Denver, CO

For more information visit: [Weblink to Conference Details](#)

➤ **AMS Short Course - Meteorological Tools, Processes, and Techniques Used in Private Business**

When: January 8, 2023

Time: 9:00am-3:45pm

Where: Denver, CO at the 103rd AMS Annual Meeting

For more information: Reach out to Mark McGinnis at mmcginnis@fairskiesconsulting.com

➤ **40th Conference on Radar Meteorology**

When: August 27, 2023 through September 1, 2023

Where: Minneapolis, MN

For more information visit: [Weblink to Conference Details](#)

➤ **Quarterly Small Business Forum**

When: Fall 2023

Where: Remote

For more information visit: Stay tuned for more information as we near the fall

➤ Mid-Year ACM Meeting Held on July 10th 2022

The ACM Annual Meeting was held virtually on July 10th, 2022 from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM ET. The meeting was led by President Alicia Wasula and was a huge success. Twenty-three members were present in the meeting. The meeting started with presentations from Pat Hyland, Megan Walker, Jim Purpura, and Randy Bass. Megan provided a presentation on automated hail verification products and the limitations that they carry with them. Pat Hyland, Jim Purpura and Randy Bass shared about their professional careers and some lessons they have learned as forensic meteorologists. It was great to learn from all of them. Special thanks to the 4 of you for taking the time to share with everyone.

After the presentations, 3 separate breakout “rooms” were formed with the meeting attendees. Members spent the time sharing experiences and networking with each other. At the conclusion of the breakout sessions Alicia led the Business Meeting portion of the gathering. One of the more notable items Alicia shared was that her and Mark McGinnis plan to approach the NCEI on behalf of ACM Membership to work with them on improving their systems. Please be on the lookout in the coming weeks for a questionnaire from them inquiring on how you use the NCEI systems and any other feedback that you would like to provide regarding NCEI.

Lastly, the committee chairs shared a little about each of the committees that they lead. Mark McGinnis shared that due to Covid the Marketing Committee has more resources than during a typical year. He notably shared that the committee plans on representing ACM at the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) in Dallas, TX from October 2-4, 2022 and the Natural Disasters Expo in Anaheim from November 9-10, 2022. Jim Bria shared that since he took over the admissions process as Admissions Chair in February, we have had 10 new members join ACM and he has shorted the onboarding process to 1-2 weeks. Treasurer Gale Hoffnagle shared the financial standing of the organization with the members and also stated that he will begin sending the ACM lapel pins out to members in the coming weeks. As Awards and Recognitions Chair, Randy Bass shared that the committee is seeking a nomination for the Retired Emeritus Award. He also mentioned that the more nominations he receives from membership the better, as a nomination is good for 2 years and can be awarded to prior year’s nominee the next year.

Overall, it was a very successful and informative meeting. Thanks to all who were able to join the meeting. For those who were not able to attend you were missed, and we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Committee Updates



Marketing Committee

Mark McGinnis, CCM

The Marketing Committee of ACM met for their Q2 meeting June 23rd, 2022. Jim Bria, Rick Shema, John Lavin and Mark McGinnis were in attendance. The meeting began with a review of the Q1 minutes with the highlights being all marketing materials are now in one location, for the first time in years; we have a new intern, Makenzie White; and we passed a budget and forwarded it to the AMS Executive Committee.

New business included confirmation that ACM is attending the APCI Conference in Dallas, Texas October 2-4, 2022, and the Meteorology Tech Expo in Anaheim, California in early November 2022. That is a first for ACM – two conferences in one year!

APCI stands for the American Property Casualty Insurance Association. This two-and-a-half-day conference is a national conference on all issues with property and casualty insurance. We have never attended but this should match up well for our membership working in the expert witness field.

If you do not know about the Meteorology Tech Expo, it is a large expo with government and private industry attending. We were originally scheduled to attend in February 2022, before covid cancelled the expo. This conference is all things meteorology. Areas of interest range from forecasting and instrumentation to marine and radar. We have not attended this expo. It is a learning experience, but this expo looks large enough (they are advertising 10,000 attendees) with a wide array of specialties for our membership.

Makenzie White has written two articles for our website and social media platforms. We look forward to her helping our website with fresh and consistent content. Kelly Savoie hosts a private LinkedIn page for CCMs. If you would like to join it, email Kelly or email me and I will send the link to the private group. You can submit an application to join, and Kelly will take care of it from there.

ACM is hosting a short course with the BCCM at the AMS Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado. The short course is scheduled for Sunday January 8, 2023. Alicia Wasula, Gerry Mulvey, Tom Bellinger and Mark McGinnis are the hosts. We are happy to share that Charlie Paxton, Rick Shema, Randy Bass, and Steve Harned have already volunteered to present/ teach a session. If you would like to participate or volunteer for the short course, reach out to Mark McGinnis at mmcginnis@fairskiesconsulting.com. At this point we will just need help the day of the short course.

Finally, if you have work or service that you think would make for an interesting story on the ACM website, please reach out to any of our committee members. Articles are very important for creating unique content that brings traffic to our website and to our Find an Expert page.



Committee Updates (Continued)



Ethics & Standards Committee

Douglas Stolz, CCM

We all know it is very important to have solid Ethics & Standards guidelines for any organization but recently realized that we don't need to reinvent the wheel here within the ACM organization. Since the Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) seal falls under the umbrella of AMS and the AMS already has a well-defined "Code Of Conduct" we have been instructed to adopt those guidelines as the governing guidelines for ACM members. The full AMS code of conduct can be found at the following link: <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/about-ams/ams-organization-and-administration/ams-code-of-conduct/>.



With that in mind, we have decided that the Committee's newest focus will be on exploring the possibility of revitalizing the CMIT (Consulting Meteorologist In-Training Program) program that was proposed more than 10 years ago. Dan Pagliaro originally brought it to our attention during the last committee meeting. The following passage taken from the Winter 2010-2011 edition of the CCM Newsletter explains more about the original initiative:

The Consulting Meteorologist In-Training (CMIT) program envisages working with both recent graduates interested in becoming CCM's and with universities that offer courses in the atmospheric sciences. The aim of the program is to develop a viable pathway for candidates for CCMs and/or CBMs to successfully navigate the transition from academic training to professional practice.

So, there is quite a bit here in terms of potential and development, but it's still very nascent. We've been given some space by the Executive Board to develop the idea further and build a scope accordingly. I hope to have more for you after our next meeting. Feel free to reach out to me at doug.stolz@crossproductwx.com if you have ideas or would like to assist with the initiative.

Committee Updates (Continued)



Newsletter Editor

Steve Roberts, CCM

I would like to send out a special thanks to everyone who made contributions to this edition of the ACM Newsletter. The newsletter serves as a great way to keep us all connected and informed on the latest happenings and events with the ACM membership.

I am currently seeking ACM member profile write ups for upcoming newsletter editions. This is a fantastic way for members of the organization to learn more about you. Special thanks to Tim Hall for sharing his profile in this edition. Please reach out to me if you are interested in sharing your story in an upcoming edition of the newsletter or if you have an idea for new newsletter content. In addition, if you have an article or story you would like to share with the membership, please let me know. The Newsletter is also a great place to share announcements and upcoming events with everyone. Please contact Alicia Wasula (acm.wxexperts@gmail.com) if you have an announcement that you would like shared in an upcoming newsletter. Enjoy the rest of your summer everyone!



Admissions Committee

James Bria, CCM

The total ACM membership is currently at 57 members. The total membership consists of 38 Consulting members, 12 Associate members, 2 Affiliate members and 5 Retired members. Since I took over the admissions process in February of 2022, we have acquired 10 new members. The new membership consists of 3 Consulting members, 6 Associate members and 1 Affiliate member. Since February, my focus has been on streamlining the process and getting new members onboard. From the first contact of an interested party the process now takes 1-2 weeks from start to finish. These changes will allow us to continue to build the membership for qualified members at a much faster pace than in the past.



For those who may not be aware there are different levels of membership to ACM that allow for a more diverse membership than just CCM's. There are currently 4 levels of membership. Consulting members, Associate members, Affiliate members, and Retired members. Explanations of the different levels of membership can be found on the ACM website at: [ACM Membership Levels](#). The process to join is easy. A candidate starts by filling out the form on the ACM website (also found at the aforementioned weblink), and then someone from the Admissions Committee will contact them to assist with determining their status and onboarding them as a member. So, if you know anyone you think would be interested in joining the organization, please pass the link to the form along to them to fill out and the admissions committee will reach out them.

Committee Updates (Continued)



Awards and Recognition Committee

Randall Bass, CCM

Like many other activities, Awards and Recognition is in a summer lull. The deadline has passed for all 2022 AMS nominations, and we are awaiting word on our Harrison Award nomination. Soon we will begin working on considerations for next year's nominations for the Harrison Award, AMS Fellows, and the ACM Retired Emeritus award. If you have someone in mind for any of these awards let me know. The Committee will assist with writing the award and preparing the documentation, so you don't have to do it alone.

In general, we are always looking to build up our database for future award considerations by accepting CVs from all members. Please send your CV to me (bassweather@gmail.com) or the ACM Secretary, Morgan Yarker (mbyarker@gmail.com). We would love to have several candidates for each award to choose from every year.



Meet ACM Member Tim Hall, CCM

I love weather, especially snow! When it comes to winter storms I want to measure its depth on my snowboard; perform skew-Ts analysis to see if we will get rain, freezing rain, snow, sleet, or a mix; interrogate radar to identify mesoscale bands; and loop the high resolution GEO imagery to identify signs of bomb cyclogenesis. I am always hoping that it will be the "big one."

I suspect that my interest was stoked due to early childhood snow deprivation. I grew up in central Florida where snow was a curiosity experienced only vicariously through pictures and paintings, the movies, or TV (i.e., the Winter Olympics). The only snow I saw in person prior to a family relocation to Maryland in 1984 was a freak event on January 19, 1977 that dropped about a quarter inch of slush after sunset across central Florida (and included the first-ever, measurable snow on record in South Florida). My family built a miniature snowman by scraping the slush off of the hood of our 72 Chevy Impala which we subsequently preserved in our freezer for about a year. During my high school years in the piedmont of the Appalachians near Frederick, Maryland, I became a snow enthusiast and fell in love with sledding, skiing, snow football, building huge snowmen, and epic snowball battles.

For what it lacks in snow, central Florida is plagued by frequent thunderstorms. From a young age, I was simultaneously fascinated and intimidated by lightning. I recall being pasted to the sliding glass patio door of our home during the daily afternoon summer thunderstorms watching for the inevitable, nasty, frequent and often close proximity lightning strikes. I marveled at the blinding flash of light and powerful rolling thunder and rattled the glass of the door.

In spite of a clear weather fixation, I never contemplated becoming a meteorologist. The only career option I associated with meteorology was the weatherman on the local newscast. I enjoyed watching Danny Treanor on WFTV Channel 9 in Orlando, and later Bob Ryan on WRC-TV Channel 4 in Washington D.C., but TV was not the thing for me. It wasn't until I took METEO 201 during my sophomore year of college from Penn State master instructor, Jonathan Merritt, that my inner weather weenie activated and I catapulted into meteorology. Like the little boy in Dr. Seuss' book, *Oh the Places You'll Go*, I could only wonder and imagine where this choice would take me.

Since practically the moment I walked into Merritt's class, my academic, professional and personal lives have been virtually all weather, all the time. In hindsight, I could never have envisioned the twists and turns of the wild ride of my chosen profession and passion. Following my commissioning as a weather officer through Air Force ROTC in 1992, my first assignment took me and my bride to Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom where I directed weather forecast support to three F-15 squadrons. What an amazing way to storm into operational meteorology! Following an 18-month stint at Colorado State University for an M.S. in Satellite Meteorology, I was assigned to Asheville, North Carolina to serve as an applied climatologist in the Air Force's climate center. While there, the Air Force tapped me to manage a research and development program advancing technology to inject realistic weather scenarios into Joint warfare simulations. Next, I was selected in 2000 to serve as Officer-in-Charge, Joint Presidential Weather Support Unit (JPWSU).

JPWSU was the most challenging, stressful and rewarding assignment of my military career. I was privileged to lead a crack Air Force-Navy weather team charged to provide support to the President of the United States (POTUS). Our forecast and METWATCH responsibilities followed POTUS around the globe and included weather watches and warnings for Camp David and other sites depending on the President's location. After three years, my career vectored to the intelligence community at the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) where I engaged in myriad weather-related activities and became immersed in Measurement and Signature Intelligence (MASINT), space systems engineering, and space acquisition program management. I have remained in the space business ever since. I transitioned in 2006 to the U.S. Air Force Reserve, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2013 following



Member Profile (Continued)



stints as a weather systems architect at NRO and then as a weather intelligence analyst and Air Force Chief of Staff Crisis Action Team member assigned to the Air Force Operations Group at the Pentagon.

In 2006, I joined The Aerospace Corporation (Aerospace) as a member of the technical staff. Aerospace operates a Department of Defense Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC), serving as a think tank for the nation's space enterprise. Following four years in Aerospace's Engineering and Technology Group, I moved to Aerospace's Civil Systems Group and was selected to direct corporate support to NOAA's space arm, the National Environmental Satellite and Information Service (NESDIS). I currently serve in a Chief Scientist role as Aerospace's Principal Engineer for Weather, Water and Climate in its Civil Space Program Operations Division. In this role, I consult on topics ranging from corporate climate strategy to weather satellite constellation architecture and hot environmental topics such as wildfire detection and tracking.

My foray into the CCM community started in 2009 when I earned my certificate and became CCM #645. My interest in the CCM credential had two dimensions. First, the CCM certificate represented a preeminent personal and professional achievement. Second, I was interested in pursuing private consulting. I joined ACM (then called NCIM) in 2009 to expand my professional network and seek mentoring. To my great fortune, ACM member Dick Westergard took me under his wing and showed me the ropes in forensic meteorology. For about five years, I operated a private firm called WeatherSleuth LLC which offered forensic weather and forecasting services. It was moderately successful and fun, but I found the growing demands of running a burgeoning business difficult to balance with my Aerospace career. For now, WeatherSleuth LLC remains on hiatus.

My association with CCM colleagues through ACM and AMS has been immensely satisfying and afforded me opportunities to give back to the meteorological community through key, volunteer roles. I served on the CCM Board for 2014-2018 with a term as Chair in my final year. I served completed two terms on the ACM Board including my recent tenure as President that concluded in January 2022. I currently remain on the ACM Board as Past President. In addition to involvement in the AMS for 20+ years including numerous leadership roles in the past decade, I am active in the National Weather Association and currently serve on its Remote Sensing Committee.

While making a difference through my work is important, nothing eclipses family. I am happily married to my brilliant and beautiful wife of 31 years, Courtney. Together, we have three amazing adult children, Kenny, Patrick and Deirdre and a wonderful daughter-in-law, Nichole. I am ever-thankful for the loving, stable home my parents, John and Margo Hall, provided to me growing up. They remain my most vigorous cheering section. In my spare time I enjoy singing, playing banjo, fencing (my weapon is epee), golfing, and sound engineering in my home recording studio.