



Newsletter  
September 2022

## President's Message

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Fellow ACM members,

It's hard to believe we are nearly through September already! Our organization continues to grow and thrive, and I have many updates for you since our last newsletter.

We continue to add new members at a steady rate. To all new ACM members, welcome! We are glad to have you onboard and encourage you to become involved. There are many opportunities to connect other ACM members which I will highlight here, and we encourage you to take advantage of those opportunities. I personally can say that the professional connections I have developed with colleagues as a result of being a part of this organization has been one of the most valuable member benefits for me personally. A few upcoming events of interest:



- 1) The ACM is hosting an in-person gathering during the AMS Annual Meeting in Denver. The event will be held at Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery, located just a few blocks from the convention center at 1001 16th St Mall A-100 from 8pm-10pm MST on Sunday January 8, 2023. This event is open to all CCMs, including ACM members. The event is also open to attendees of the Short Course which will be offered by the BCCM and ACM on the same day. If you plan to be in Denver and are able to attend, please RSVP to me at [alicia@stmweather.com](mailto:alicia@stmweather.com).
- 2) The quarterly Small Business Forum will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. This event is open to associate and consulting members. An email was recently sent out to the membership. If you did not receive the invite, and you are interested in attending, email Mark McGinnis at [mmcginnis@fairskiesconsulting.com](mailto:mmcginnis@fairskiesconsulting.com)
- 3) Our ACM Annual Meeting will be held virtually on Sunday evening, February 5, 2023. Please-watch your email for details about this event as we get closer to the date!

In other news,

A team of CCMs organized by CCMs Mark McGinnis, Alicia Wasula, and Gerald Mulvey, have combined forces to create and offer a short course at the 2023 Annual AMS Meeting in Denver, Colorado. The short course is titled: Meteorological Tools, Processes, and Techniques Used in Private Business. ACM will sponsor the lunch for this short course. If you plan to be in Denver on Sunday January 9 and have some time to help out, please email Mark McGinnis at [mmcginnis@fairskiesconsulting.com](mailto:mmcginnis@fairskiesconsulting.com). Thank you!

## President's Message (Continued)

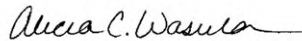
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The marketing committee has arranged to have ACM represented at two conferences this fall. Please see the marketing committee update below for details.

ACM thrives on member engagement. If you are able and willing to serve, we would love to have you onboard! Please email me or Mark McGinnis and we would be happy to discuss some of our committees and activities with you.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Denver this coming January!

~Alicia



Alicia C. Wasula, PhD, CCM  
President, ACM

## Calendar of Events

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### ➤ Quarterly Small Business Forum

**When:** October 13, 2022

**Time:** 7:00pm-8:15pm

**Where:** Remote / Virtual

**Topics:** Recap of ACM exhibition at APCIA in Dallas, then open forum member discussions

**For more information:** : Reach out to Mark McGinnis at [mmcginnis@fairskiesconsulting.com](mailto:mmcginnis@fairskiesconsulting.com)

### ➤ 30<sup>th</sup> Conference on Severe Local Storms

**When:** October 24-28, 2022

**Where:** Santa Fe, NM

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

### ➤ 103<sup>rd</sup> AMS Annual Meeting

**When:** January 8-12, 2023

**Where:** Denver, CO

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

## Calendar of Events (Continued)

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- **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 103<sup>rd</sup> AMS Annual Meeting
  - For more information:** Reach out to Mark McGinnis at [mmcginnis@fairskiesconsulting.com](mailto:mmcginnis@fairskiesconsulting.com)
  
- **AMS Annual Meeting – ACM Gathering**
  - When:** January 8, 2023
  - Time:** 8:00pm-10:00pm
  - Where:** Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery
  - Address:** 1001 16th St Mall A-100, Denver, CO 80265
  - Website:** <https://rockbottom.com/>
  - For more information:** : RSVP to Alicia Wasula at [alicia@stmweather.com](mailto:alicia@stmweather.com)
  
- **ACM Annual Meeting**
  - When:** February 5, 2023
  - Time:** TBD
  - Where:** Remote / Virtual
  - For more information:** Watch your email for more details about the event as we get closer to the date

## Announcements

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- **ACM Exhibiting at the APCIA in Dallas**

The ACM Marketing committee will be representing ACM and exhibiting at the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) in Dallas, TX from October 2-4, 2022. Mark McGinnis and Jim Bria will be representing ACM at the event. A recap of the experience will be provided at the Small Business Forum being held virtually on October 13, 2022 from 7:00-8:15pm.
  
- **ACM Exhibiting at Natural Disasters Expo in Anaheim**

The ACM Marketing committee plans to represent ACM by exhibiting at the Natural Disasters Expo in Anaheim, CA from November 9-10, 2022.

## Committee Updates

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### Marketing Committee

*Mark McGinnis, CCM*

The Marketing Committee is made up of James Bria, Dan Schreiber, Morgan Yarker, Mike Mogil, Rick Shema, John Lavin and Mark McGinnis. The marketing committee met on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1pm Central. Here are some notes from the meeting:



1. Jim Bria and Mark McGinnis are representing ACM on the exhibitor hall of the American Property Casualty Insurance (APCIA) Association Conference October 2-4<sup>th</sup> in Dallas, Texas. This conference allows us to market our membership directly to the legal and insurance companies that are members of APCIA.
2. The Natural Disasters Expo is in Anaheim, California on November 9-10, 2022. ACM will be an exhibitor at the conference. Mark McGinnis will be attending.
3. Ingrid Fuller joined us for our meeting. Ingrid hosts our website. We discussed developing a plan to increase traffic to our website. Our “Find an Expert” page is the most popular page, landing more traffic than the homepage.
4. Jim Bria is researching 2023 conferences for ACM to exhibit at.
5. The AMS Short Course is now being promoted by AMS. The short course is on Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Denver, just prior to the start of the AMS Annual Conference. We are still looking for volunteers to assist with light load tasks.
6. Morgan Yarker updated the committee on the AMS Mind the Gap initiative. They are looking for interesting case studies for AMS to hold mock trials for students. If you would like to get involved in this mentoring opportunity, reach out to Morgan.
7. The ACM Marketing Committee holds their Q4 meeting on Monday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm Central

Thank you for your help and, as always, reach out to me if you have any questions, recommendations, or concerns.

Cordially,

Mark McGinnis

## Committee Updates (Continued)



### Newsletter Editor

*Steve Roberts, CCM*

Special thanks to everyone who made contributions to this edition of the ACM Newsletter. There are a lot of events and announcements for the group and the Newsletter is a great way to provide them to the membership. If you ever have an announcement that you would like included in the Newsletter, please contact Alicia Wasula ([acm.wxexperts@gmail.com](mailto:acm.wxexperts@gmail.com)).



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 Jim Bria 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. Have a great fall everyone!

### Admissions Committee

*James Bria, CCM*

The total ACM membership is currently at 59 members. The total membership consists of 38 Consulting members, 13 Associate members, 3 Affiliate members and 5 Retired members. Since I took over the admissions process in February of 2022, we have acquired 12 new members. The new membership consists of 3 Consulting members, 7 Associate members and 2 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)

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### Awards and Recognition Committee

*Randall Bass, CCM*

The big news is that Jan Null was selected by AMS for the Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist for 2022. He will be honored at the 2023 AMS Annual Meeting in Denver on January 8, 2023. Congratulations to Jan for not only winning the award but also on a fantastic career (so far). His work and tireless education about heat deaths in automobiles, especially children, has saved lives and made a positive impact on society.



After the normal summer lull, it's time to get busy again. We're already looking for nominations for next year's Harrison Award, AMS Fellows, and the ACM's Retired Emeritus Award. Please contact me at [bassweather@gmail.com](mailto:bassweather@gmail.com) if you have someone in mind for any award. This past year we did not receive any nominations for AMS Fellows. Many of our members have long, successful careers with significant contributions to AMS, the meteorology career field, and most importantly the public. Let's make sure they are recognized for their efforts and achievements. The Awards Committee will assist with filling out the application and collecting the required information for the submission, so the nominee doesn't have to do everything themselves.

Finally, as always, we are looking to build up our database for future award considerations by accepting CVs from all members. Please send your CV to me or the ACM Secretary, Morgan Yarker. Our goal is to have several candidates for each award to choose from every year.

## Member Profile

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### Meet ACM Member Jim Bria, CCM

My name is Jim Bria. I have been a CCM since 2014, an ACM member since 2019 and currently employed at CompuWeather.

Growing up in Connecticut, I always remember being interested in the weather. I still recall many weather events like they happened yesterday; from the day after Hurricane Gloria and the limited damage she left behind in my neighborhood, to staring out the window as the snow began to fall, to watching the long range forecast on the Weather Channel, which was the only way I knew pre-internet. I always knew I wanted to be a meteorologist. I couldn't imagine doing anything else.



Fast forward to senior year of high school when I started the process of becoming a meteorologist. I decided to attend the University at Albany to pursue meteorology and graduated in 2001 with a Bachelors of Science in Atmospheric Science and a Minor in Business. I was hired by CompuWeather in 2003 as an Entry Level Forecaster which consisted of preparing weather forecasts for clients throughout the United States. Over the years, I worked my way up the ranks to Staff Meteorologist and eventually as the Forecast Operations Manager a few years later. At the same time, an opportunity arose in the Forensic Department at CompuWeather that I jumped at. I really enjoyed using my knowledge and experience in a new and exciting way that I never knew even existed just a few years prior.

In 2014, I earned the CCM designation. What a proud moment it was for me to be accepted into such a distinguished group by my peers. I joined the ACM in 2019 and was recently honored to be elected as a Director to the ACM Board in January of 2022. I am extremely proud to be a part of this wonderful community and look forward to connecting with you all in the future.