



Shade Tree Meteorology, LLC

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Richard J Westergard Certified Consulting Meteorologist

Professional Experience:

March 2004 to Present - President & Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM)

Shade Tree Meteorology, LLC, 2766 Rosendale Rd, Niskayuna, NY 12309-1306, providing the following services:

- forensic assessments and expert witness testimony for attorneys and insurance companies
- detailed interpretations of Doppler radar data for forensic reconstructions
- complete reconstructions of past severe weather events
- custom forecasting for tethered balloon flights and Gulf of Mexico charter fishing
- mentoring of teachers enrolled in American Meteorological Society (AMS) DataStreme courses

Recognition:

Awarded American Meteorological Society (AMS) CCM Certificate # 632 in March 2006

Admitted to Membership in the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists in June 2006

Member AMS Board on Outreach and Pre-College Education January 2007 to January 2010

Member Board of Directors, National Council of Industrial Meteorologists June 2007 to August 2013

Member, AMS Ad Hoc Committee on Uncertainty in Forecasts December 2007 to January 2009

President National Council of Industrial Meteorologists August 2009 to August 2011

Appointed to a four year term on the AMS Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists January 2011

Selected Chair (2014) of the AMS Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists January 2013

November 1988 to March 2004 – Supervisory Meteorologist (MIC & WCM)

National Weather Service Duluth, MN and Albany, NY

I appeared at hundreds of venues as the local, regional and statewide spokesperson for the NWS. I created and/or participated in numerous outreach programs, bringing state of the science information to educators and students in primary and secondary schools. I built award winning severe weather warning teams in Duluth, MN and Albany, NY. In Albany, I worked with several cutting edge severe weather researchers to incorporate the latest research findings into severe weather warning practices. I co-wrote weather emergency response plans for broadcasters and emergency managers in a half dozen states. I expanded the NOAA Weather Radio network of the Albany office from 2 to 8 transmitters by assembling groups of private and public sponsors, one transmitter at a time. Starting in 1997 I was a mentor to science teachers enrolled in AMS teacher courses.

Meanwhile, I provided or supervised the provision of a myriad of basic weather services, including:

- post storm service assessments
- newspaper radio and television interviews
- training sessions for volunteer severe storm spotters
- weather watches and warnings
- meteorological and hydrological statements

- public, aviation and marine weather forecasts
- surface weather observations
- weather radar observations
- balloon soundings of the atmosphere
- teacher weather seminars

In addition, I have been trained on and operated every Weather Surveillance Radar ever used operationally by the United States Government.

Technical Experience:

I climbed the Meteorological Technician ladder from GS-5 Upper air observer trainee in 1973 to GS-11 Official In Charge of the local service office in Huntington, WV in 1983. Prior to that I climbed the U.S. Air Force Weather Observer Technician career ladder from Apprentice Weather Observer in 1966 to Chief Observer in 1973.

Education and Training:

Weather and Management training in USAF to achieve Chief Observer rating 1966-1972
 Variety of courses from five colleges and universities on three continents 1966-1988
 Numerous courses in meteorology and management at the NWS Training Center 1980-1988
 B.A. Degree - Meteorology/Computer Science, Marshall University, Huntington, WV – 1988

Graduate studies:

University of Minnesota, Duluth - interdisciplinary studies 1990-1993
 SUNY Brockport - meteorology for primary and secondary educators 1998
 NWS Training Center - meteorology and management 1989-2002
 COMET at University of Colorado - warning decision making 1999-2002
 NOAA/NCIM Public Private Partnership Course - June 2006
 AMS Short Course in Meteorology for Surface Transportation - January 2008
 AMS Short Course on Datasets (update training on available weather data sources) - January, 2010
 AMS Short Course on the art & science of forensic meteorology - January 2012

Awards:

Cash Award for Excellence, September 2003, for expansion of the Albany Weather Radio network, Local Cline Award, August 2002 for exceptional severe weather response, time off award for teamwork, cooperation and coordination before during and after the May 31, 2002 severe weather outbreak. Cash In A Flash Award for creating the agenda for the April 2002 Regional WCM Workshop, cash award for building and leadership of the WFO Albany Service Team, August 2001, Cash In Your Account Award, September 2000 for leading a nationwide team to create a National Service Programs Tracking Database.

Publications:

Member of the BCCM question review committee 2011 to 2014 updating the questions in the database to be assigned on the written exam for candidates aspiring to become Certified Consulting Meteorologists. Editor of the National Council of Meteorologists (NCIM) 2006 & 2007 annual newsletter, Author of numerous forensic weather reports and affidavits for legal and insurance clients, Lead author on numerous internal “Service Assessment” reports created by the NWS to evaluate severe weather situations to improve warning services.

COMET funded Research with SUNY Albany Communication Department:

(communicating weather information)
 Partners Project - local focus groups - 1996-1999
 Cooperative Project - nationwide focus groups - 2000-2003
 (COMET = Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training)