



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:

- custom forecasting for tethered balloon flights and Gulf of Mexico charter fishing
- forensic assessments and expert witness testimony for attorneys and insurance companies
- science teacher seminars sponsored by local museums and school districts
- mentoring of teachers enrolled in American Meteorological Society (AMS) DataStreme courses

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. From 1997 to 2004 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 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

Awards:

Awarded AMS CCM Certificate # 632 in March 2006
Admitted to Membership in the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists in June 2006
Appointed to the AMS Board on Outreach and Pre-College Education effective January 2007
Elected to the Board of Directors, National Council of Industrial Meteorologists in June 2007
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 the nationwide team to create a National Service Programs Tracking Database, time off award for contributions toward the creation of the NOAA-University at Albany Cooperative Institute - January, 2000, Department of Commerce Bronze medal, as a member of the NWSFO Albany team, for the 1998 Ice Storm, Sustained Superior Performance Award, 1997, NOAA Unit Citation for tornado outbreak in 1997.

Publications:

Editor of the National Council of Meteorologists 2006 annual newsletter, Lead author on numerous internal "Service Assessment" reports created by the NWS to evaluate severe weather situations after they occur with the goal of continuing to improve warning services by incorporating things that worked well in established policy and eliminating things which were less successful. Editor and frequent author for the Albany Forecast Office StormBuster newsletter from 1994 to 2004, co-author of COMET research papers on communicating weather information in 1998 and 2002.

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)