



Shade Tree Meteorology, LLC

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Richard J. Westergard, CCM - Curriculum Vitae

A summary of over four decades in the field of weather

Highlights of my Private Sector Career

March 2004 to Present - President & Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM)
Shade Tree Meteorology, LLC, 2766 Rosendale Rd, Niskayuna, NY 12309-1306
Awarded American Meteorological Society (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
Provide customized weather information services, including:

- 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
- aviation weather presentations at libraries in the Mohawk and Hudson Library Associations
- continue to mentor science teachers enrolled in the AMS teacher courses

Highlights of my 31 year National Weather Service Career

Climbed two career ladders - most recently the professional meteorologist ladder from GS-12 Meteorologist In Charge at the Duluth, MN local service office in 1988 to GS-14 Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Albany Forecast Office in 1996. Prior to that 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.

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 in a dozen states. I built award winning teams in Huntington, WV, Duluth, MN and Albany, NY and earned a reputation as an agent of orderly change on the cutting edge of field operations during two decades of turbulent technological advancements. 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:

- o post storm service assessments
- o newspaper radio and television interviews
- o training sessions for volunteer severe storm spotters
- o weather watches and warnings
- o meteorological and hydrological statements
- o public, aviation and marine forecasts
- o surface weather observations
- o weather radar observations
- o balloon soundings of the atmosphere
- o teacher weather seminars

Highlights of my 7 year U.S. Air Force Career

Climbed the Weather Observer Technician career ladder from Apprentice Weather Observer in 1966 to Chief Observer in 1973.

- o Trained and worked as a Surface Weather Observer.
- o Trained and worked as a Weather Radar Observer (and worked with every operational weather radar ever used by the U.S. government)
- o Plotted weather maps and charts.
- o Trained as a leader and supervisor.
- o Created all new operating procedures for a newly opened weather office.
- o Helped streamline office operations by incorporating new technology of the day

Education, Training and Research

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 "Meteorology for Surface Transportation" - January 2007

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)