



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

NWSEO MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

NEW YORK CENTER WEATHER SERVICE UNIT (ZNY CWSU)

(April 1, 2019) The New York Center Weather Service Unit (ZNY CWSU) is 1 of the 21 CWSUs nationwide that were created in 1978. In 1977, while en-route to Atlanta, an airplane unknowingly flew into a thunderstorm causing a fatal aircraft accident. The following year, as a response to a recommendation by the NTSB, the FAA entered into an Interagency Agreement with the National Weather Service to create CWSUs at each FAA Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC). The goal was to develop rules and procedures for the timely dissemination by air traffic controllers of all available severe weather information.

In order to serve the FAA in weather information dissemination, all CWSU offices provide both scheduled and un-scheduled weather briefings to air traffic supervisors and traffic management unit supervisors. Some briefings are provided in-person while others are done over the phone. Two of the original cornerstone products that are produced by all CWSUs are the Meteorological Impact Statements (MIS) and CWA (Center Weather Advisories). A MIS can be valid up to 48 hours, containing 4 lines or less of non-technical discussion on weather related impacts to aviation. A MIS usually discusses the entire ARTCC and is generally used by air traffic managers and personnel to aid in strategic planning of air traffic operations. A CWA is only valid up to 2 hours, issued for specific weather impact, and always defines an exact location of that impact. For a CWA, a location is defined using aviation navigational points known as VORs and can be described as a point, line, or area. CWAs are disseminated among controllers and pilots, and are mainly used by air traffic personnel to help make tactical decisions over shorter periods of time.

Through the years the relationship between the NWS CWSUs and FAA has had its share of turmoil. In the late 2000s there was an idea to drastically reduce the number of or possibly eliminate all of the CWSUs within the FAA.

During this time *the NWSEO provided unwavering support in keeping the CWSUs within the FAA*, and continuing the interagency agreement with the NWS. The NWSEO not only helped to re-state the historical and current importance of CWSUs at ARTCC, but they also helped to organize and demonstrate ways CWSUs support could be even more influential in the preservation of air traffic safety. As stated by the NWSEO CWSU ZNY Steward, *“This type of effort and foresight is one of the biggest reasons there has been such support for the NWSEO in the office here at the ZNY CWSU! I strongly encourage every NWS bargaining unit employee to support and join NWSEO.”*

Since that time there has been re-invigoration at ZNY CWSU and over the years additional forecast tools have been developed and put into operational use. ZNY along with some other CWSUs developed Tactical Decision Aids (TDA), graphical weather forecasts which are composed using computer software and are displayed on each centers CWSU webpage. These various TDAs provide forecasts for thunderstorms, icing, turbulence, and wind. Also, as of recently, all CWSUs are also producing short video briefings, three times daily, that can be accessed at any time on the CWSU webpage. These videos contain numerous weather depiction graphics accompanied by a brief voice-over forecast discussion given by the forecaster on duty. The video briefings discuss current and short term weather impacts as well as outlooks for later in the day or the next day.

The ZNY CWSU was awarded a National Cline Award by the NWS and NWSEO for their work on compression forecasting for New York and Philadelphia TRACONS. At the request of the FAA, ZNY CWSU recently developed an automated, web-based, compression tool. The tool has been in use now for a few years and has been very successful in helping to mitigate the safety and efficiency issues that come with compression events in New York TRACON and Philadelphia airport. ZNY CWSU has also provided in-person IDSS support at New York TRACON during times of high traffic volume, including Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday seasons, as well as in 2014 during the week of the Superbowl.



ZNY CWSU, like all CWSUs is staffed with three forecasters. *Kirt Squires, the CWSU ZNY NWSEO Steward*, has been there the longest, arriving at ZNY in April of 2007. It was his first position within the National Weather Service after completing a B.S. in Meteorology in 2004 and M.S. in Meteorology in 2006, both from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Kirt was born and grew up on Long Island just miles from ZNY CWSU.



Scott Sukup, NWSEO member, grew up in the Albany area, and has received both a B.S. and M.S. in Meteorology from the University of Albany. Scott's first position in the National Weather Service was as an intern in the Oxnard office in 2012. Scott moved back east and started at ZNYC CWSU in February 2017.

Scott Sukup
NWSEO Member
CWSU ZNY

The newest member of the ZNY CWSU forecast team *and NWSEO member* is Adam Daum. While Adam is new to the ZNY CWSU, he is not new to aviation forecasting. Adam arrived at ZNY in December of 2017 after spending five years providing aviation forecasts in the New York area at The Weather Company, embedded with Jetblue Airways. Prior to his employment at The Weather Company, Adam worked for two years as a forecaster with the Israel Meteorological Service. Adam's education includes a B.S. in Atmospheric Science from the Cornell University in 2005. All three employees joined the NWSEO since arriving at the National Weather Service.



**Adam Daum
NWSEO Member
CWSU ZNY**

We are so appreciative for the time and dedication to the work the members and employees of Eastern Region and CWSU do every day and also, for participating in our *NWSEO Member Spotlight*. We hope this will be a communication tool for NWSEO Members to get to know each other, from across the nation, connect even more and, together, support each other in our work and in building our membership. **Please submit your *Member Spotlight*, suggestions, and comments to Christy Fox at mediarelations@nwseo.org.**

-NWSEO-

**No one cares more for National Weather Service employees than
National Weather Service employees.**

**No one works harder for National Weather Service employees than
National Weather Service employees.**

We are NWSEO.