



# The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

## NWSEO MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Meet NWSEO Member Jamie Morrow



(April 17, 2020) Please meet NWSEO Member and Meteorologist James (Jamie) Morrow of NWS Raleigh (RAH), NC. NWSEO would like to congratulate Jamie on recently being selected to fill the NWS XO/PCO position at NWS HQ beginning in early May of 2020.

#### **Where are you from originally, and what sparked your interest to pursue a career in weather?**

I originally grew up in King George, Virginia, a small farming county located in the tidal basin of Virginia, known mainly for its abnormally large landfill full of Bald Eagles and its historical role of housing John Wilkes Booth days before his eventual shoot-out demise. I first became fascinated with weather after witnessing numerous hurricanes, summer thunderstorms, and experiencing first-hand the aftermath of

the 2002 Laplata, Maryland tornado. This led to me pursuing a Meteorology degree at Virginia Tech where I received a B.S. in Meteorology and B.A. in Geography. As a student, I further cemented my love of weather through several opportunities to partake in and even lead "HokieStorm Chase" trips with VT undergrads, along with beginning my NWS career as an unpaid student intern at WFO Blacksburg. The same office I later joined on as an NWS Met-Intern in March of 2015.

***Pictured: Members of the 2019 Virginia Tech "Hokiestorm Chase" research crew pose for a picture as the "whale's mouth" from a formerly severe warned storm approaches in north-central OK.***

#### **What's your history working within the NWS?**

I've worked in the NWS for 5 years now, beginning my career as a Met-Intern at WFO Blacksburg, VA (RNK) in early 2015 before promoting to NWS RAH as a Meteorologist in the Fall of 2017.



Throughout my career, I've focused on improving inter/intra-office communication, primarily through Social Media, IDSS, Fire Weather, and Media Partner relationships. I've also worked extensively with the Student Volunteer/Internship programs both at RNK/RAH, and I'm proud to be able to call many of the alumni from these programs now colleagues within the NWS ranks. When not on an operational shift, I can usually be found giving in-person or remote weather safety and Skywarn presentations or setting up for the next NWS outreach event.

Some career weather event "highlights" that stick out to me include the [June 23rd Greenbrier Valley \(WV\) Convective Flash Floods](#), [Presidents Day \(2015\) snow event](#), along with Hurricane(s) [Florence](#), [Michael](#), and [Dorian](#) events.



***Caption: "Pictured from left to right: Lindsay Hochstatter (NCSU), Anthony Charlonis (NCSU), Seth Goodnight (NCSU), Meteorologist/NWSEO Member Chrissy Cockrell (NWS RAH), and Maher (GSO Upper-Air Observer) prepare the 00z balloon launch on April 12, 2019, in Greensboro, NC.***

**Why did you join NWSEO?**

I joined NWSEO about two years ago, primarily in an effort to broaden my perspective on the overall agency that I plan to call home for the next 30+ years of my career. While I fairly well understand the local role of NWSEO, I was quite surprised how extensive the role that the national organization plays. This was especially highlighted through my attendance at my first NWSEO convention last year in Des Moines, Iowa. I was very impressed by the NWSEO organization's efforts to protect the employees of the NWS as a whole, and I was encouraged by the friends and colleagues that work very hard on a day to day basis, both at the regional and national level, to make not only NWSEO's mission, but the agency's mission successful.

**Would you recommend joining and supporting NWSEO to others, if so, why?**

I would recommend that everyone gives NWSEO a fair shake. Not many people in today's society have the opportunity to have bargaining unit representation at their employer's table, and in a sense, a "say" in the agency's path forward as it reacts and positions itself for future successes. At the beginning of my career, I'll admit that I was hesitant to lose that small sum of \$\$ out of each paycheck. Looking back, my only regret is not giving it a shot sooner. The potential benefits of union membership, especially the union's role in local, regional, and national teams, can really help to propel your career while also providing a platform for you to make a difference for your co-workers all across the agency. While disagreements happen quite often at all levels, I am very appreciative of the efforts that the NWSEO and NWS representatives make, especially when it comes to protecting their employees along with evolving and pushing our agency forward in this fast paced age of science and technology. I will always cherish the relationships, opportunities, and contacts that I've made through my short-time within the NWSEO organization.

**What do you look forward to about your new position?**

Similar to my reasonings for joining NWSEO originally, I most look forward to the ability to expand my perspective of the agency, its structure, and mission as a whole as I prepare to transition into the XO/PCO rotation in early May. Having the opportunity to work alongside the NOAA and NWS leadership is a once in a career-type opportunity that I hope will cement my eventual career path going forward. Transitioning from a WFO-centric position into an agency-wide position will be a challenge, especially attempting to do so in this type of social-distancing and telework heavy environment. Luckily, I am confident that the skills and professional experiences that I've been able to furnish from my time in the field will be well suited for my future successes. I'd like to thank all of those in the NWS and NWSEO who have helped me get to this point in my career, especially those in the NWS RAH and NWS RNK families that have adopted me thus far in my career. I know confidently that I wouldn't be where I am today without their support.



**Caption: A 2018 holiday luncheon with some members of the NWS Raleigh Family (of past and present).**

**What are your hobbies and interests outside of work?**

Outside of work in a virus-free environment, I can typically be found on the local greenway, playing volleyball, getting crushed by RNK colleagues on the disc golf course, or watching hockey! During virus times, I typically just look forward to going in on my next shift while attempting not to let out an allergic cough or sneeze in this Raleigh, NC Green-wave. Strange times that we live in... Stay safe and keep the mission going everyone!

We are so appreciative for Jamie's time and dedication to the work he and the members and employees of WFO Raleigh 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](mailto:mediarelations@nwseo.org).

-NWSEO-

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**No one works harder for NOAA employees than NOAA employees.**

**We are NOAA employees. We are NWSEO.**

**NWSEO is the largest NOAA Union representing the employees of the National Weather Service, NESDIS Office of Satellite and Product Operations, Office of General Counsel, Aircraft Operations Center, and Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory.**