



Q & A with NWS Raleigh Meteorologist Jason Franklin



Jason Franklin

Position: Meteorologist In Charge

Education: SUNY Albany; University of Oklahoma

Hometown: Endicott, NY

Q: Where did you go to school and what was your NWS Career Path to get to NWS Raleigh?

A: I received my undergraduate degree in atmospheric science and mathematics from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, and attended the University of Oklahoma at Norman for graduate studies in meteorology.

My career path in the NWS began as a summer volunteer at the NWS office in Binghamton, NY just after graduating high school in 1988. After two summers of volunteer experience, I applied and was selected for a student trainee meteorologist position at the NWS office in Albany, NY. My position at the Albany office converted to meteorologist intern once I received my Bachelor's Degree. For the next year or so, I attended graduate school in Norman, OK while working at the Albany office during winter and summer breaks. At the end of 1993, I was assigned to a full time meteorologist intern position at the NWS office in Atlantic City, NJ.

From there, I worked at several NWS offices including Mt. Holly, NJ (Philadelphia) as a meteorologist intern; Taunton, MA (Boston) as a general forecaster; NWS Eastern Region Headquarters (Long Island) as a regional aviation meteorologist; Charleston, WV as a warning coordination meteorologist; NWS Headquarters (Washington DC) as NWS chief negotiator; Buffalo, NY as the meteorologist in charge; and then to Raleigh, NC as the meteorologist in charge.



Q: What got you into weather?

A: Growing up in central New York, I was fascinated with the significant weather that accompanied each season. As early as my elementary school days, I could be found peering out my bedroom window or watching the local TV newscasts during snowstorms, severe thunderstorms, tropical storms, or high wind events. I especially enjoyed listening to stories from my parents or neighbors as they recalled their experiences with bad weather.

Q: What is your current role here at NWS Raleigh?

A: As the meteorologist in charge, I oversee all operations at NWS Raleigh and am responsible for the planning, implementation, delivery, and maintenance of critical weather services in central North Carolina.

Q: What is your favorite type of weather to forecast?

A: Severe Thunderstorms. Lake Effect Snow comes in a close second!

Q: What is the most challenging part of your job?

A: In my opinion, leading change is the most challenging and necessary part of my job. As customer needs and expectations evolve, so must the information and services provided by the NWS. How do I shift the office culture from the “legacy” way of doing business to a new business model where the emphasis of forecasting will focus on providing highly detailed information, spatially and temporally, in the short term? How do I better incorporate the newest technology into our daily operations? How do I ensure that my staff is properly trained toward all the skills needed in the future? Leading change can be slow and cumbersome, but at the end of the day, keeps us adaptable and relevant.

Q: What is the most memorable weather event you have covered in your career?

A: The first thing that comes to mind was a January 1996 blizzard while I was a meteorologist intern at the NWS Mt. Holly, NJ office. Imagine having to dig your car out of a 6 foot snow drift after working 32 consecutive hours!

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

A: I took up jogging over 10 years ago and I continue to enjoy it today! It helps keep my other favorite activity, eating great food, in check.