



# Q & A with NWS Raleigh Meteorologist James Morrow



**James Morrow**

**Position:** General Forecaster

**Education:** Virginia Tech

**Hometown:** King George, VA

James (Jamie) Morrow is one of the office's newer additions, arriving from our neighboring (and backup) office in Blacksburg, Virginia in late November of 2017. Jamie first joined the weather service in early 2015 after graduating from Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Meteorology and a B.A. in Geography. While in school, he served as President of the Blue Ridge Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and National Weather Association, and helped found the [Hokie Weather Watch](#) student organization on campus. He also participated in and helped lead the [Hokiestorm Chase Trips](#) in 2012, 2014, and 2016. Since joining the weather service, Jamie has worked extensively with improving weather communication within the agency, especially across local office Social Media platforms. He has also worked to improve relationships between the local forecast office and media partners, through the organization of Media Familiarization Visits and [Media Weather Event Simulations](#). When not found behind the forecasting desk, he is likely conducting school visits and spreading weather safety information at numerous outreach events around the forecast area.

## **Q: What got you into weather?**

A: While, like many, I have always had an interest in weather, it wasn't until I became a lifeguard back in grade school that I was truly bitten by the bug. Working at an outdoor facility that is highly susceptible to changing weather conditions, I quickly found the importance of learning some basic radar and weather forecasting skills in an effort to keep swimmers safe! So during the coveted "Adult Swim" break, I was often found on my phone checking out the latest radar scan!



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

A: I currently serve as a General Forecaster within our office. The role of general forecaster (also called journeyman forecaster) can vary, but we are primarily responsible for analyzing the current conditions of the atmosphere and creating a forecast up to 7 days in advance. We often find ourselves working the radar desk during active thunderstorm days, issuing aviation forecasts at least 4 times a day, and issuing fire weather forecasts when a partner requests them. We also maintain and publish the forecast that can be accessed 24/7 on our website ([www.weather.gov/rah](http://www.weather.gov/rah)) while also monitoring our social media platforms ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#)). Currently, I serve on both the Decision Support Services and Social Media Teams within the office."

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

A: Severe Weather. Largely driven by my experience with the Hokistorm Chasers at Virginia Tech, forecasting strong to severe thunderstorms is my true Meteorological passion. There aren't many things on this planet as mesmerizing as watching a cumulus cloud evolve into a powerful thunderstorm. Being able to understand the "what" "why" and "how" of these processes still can be extremely challenging, but continuing to improve upon our forecasts is vital in our agencies mission to protect lives and property.

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

A: Communicating weather information. While our primary job is to create the forecast, what good is it if we can't disseminate it to our partners or the general public? In today's society, we are lucky to have numerous platforms to disseminate important weather watches and warnings, but ensuring that the information is easy to understand and relevant to our wide audience is always a challenge!

**Q: What is your most memorable event that you have covered in your career?**

A: A significant flash flooding event that occurred on June 23rd across portions of the Greenbrier Valley of West Virginia. This event was my first taste of widespread, high-impact, severe weather and unfortunately it resulted in several lives lost. While I am certainly proud of my office's life-saving actions and performance during that event, it also shows that significant improvements and progress in the science/communications aspects of Meteorology is still needed to hopefully improve our ability to protect life and property in similar events in the future. If interested, you can read more about this event [here](#).

**Q: What non-weather hobbies do you enjoy?**

A: When not in the office, I can typically be found playing and/or watching sports, going on a quick hike, or out exploring and taking pictures at a local park or lake. Eventually, I'd like to become a hobbyist drone pilot allowing for a unique combination of my love for weather, photography, and exploration of nature! I can say that I eagerly look forward to the warmer seasons, which should allow for a bit more time to explore the numerous sites and experiences around Raleigh that have recently been added to the bucket-list!