Spring 2024 FPAW Meeting
Biographies of the Session Leads, Panelists and Presenters

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Notes:
(r) = Remote Participant
P/P = Panelist/Presenter
Leads and Co-Leads may also be Panelists/Presenters in their sessions

Eric Adams (AAMTEX and CASA)

Longtime lead engineer of the CASA DFW Radar Network and Founder of TxSense and AAMTEX, Eric Adams has 2 decades of experience operating sensors and applying micro-weather data to user needs. Based at Alliance Airport in Fort Worth, AAMTEX is a small but accomplished cyberinfrastructure provider for Advanced Air Mobility and small UAS, working closely with NASA and Agility Prime to develop and test concepts of operation in simulation and live flight. Eric has been at the forefront of bridging the gap between weather sensing and modeling and the representation thereof within the airspace.

Rex Alexander (Vertical Flight Society and Five-Alpha LLC)

Rex Alexander, a 40-year aviation operations and safety management veteran, is currently the president of Five-Alpha (5α) LLC, a global aeronautical consultancy specialized in helicopter and vertical flight infrastructure, safety, training, and education. He presently serves as Infrastructure Advisor to the Vertical Flight Society and Co-Chair of the U.S. Helicopter Safety Team's Infrastructure Working Group. He is past president of the National EMS Pilots Associating (NEMSPA) as well as the Indiana Association of Air Medical Services (INAAMS). Rex is an alumnus of Parks College of Aviation at St. Louis University and a former U.S. Army Warrant Officer and 'Aeroscout' Helicopter Instructor Pilot, having served both on active duty and in the Indiana Army National Guard.

Tom Amis (Turbulent Aerospace LLC)

Tom is a meteorologist with over 48 years of experience with the U.S. Navy, the National Weather Service, and the Federal Aviation Administration. Tom served as an Active Duty Weather Forecaster for the Navy during the Cold War period with tours overseas and on the USS Midway (CV-41). He also served as a Weather Service Specialist and Meteorologist for the National Weather Service for 40 years. He served at the Bismarck, ND, Kansas City, MO, and Memphis, TN Forecast Offices and was the Meteorologist in Charge of both the Memphis Center Weather Service Unit and Fort Worth Center Weather Service Unit located at the FAA Air Route Traffic Control Centers. As a Reserve Naval Officer, he served in numerous positions from Flight Meteorologist to Hurricane and Typhoon Forecast Duty Officer. Additionally, Tom had tours of duty with Joint Forces Command and the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Senior Meteorologist, Crisis Action Team Deputy Chief, and Operations Deputy Chief of Staff. From 2012 to his retirement in 2017, he commanded three Navy Reserve Component forecast units. His final command was at the Naval Oceanographic Office, Stennis Space Center, MS. Tom now serves as a meteorologist with the start-up company Turbulent Aerospace.

Randy Bass (FAA)

Randy Bass is the Manager of the Aviation Weather Division (ANG-C6) within the Portfolio Management and Technology Development directorate (ANG-C) of the FAA Office of NextGen (ANG). He leads a division that conducts research to mitigate the impacts of weather on aviation, with the mission of assuring the development, enhancement, dissemination, and integration of productive weather information into Air Traffic Management decisions by pilots, controllers, flight operations and airport operators, and has over 35 years of weather experience spanning the military, private and commercial industry, and government.

Randy earned his MS in Meteorology from Texas A&M University (1996), and his BS in Meteorology from North Carolina State University (1987). In 2014, he became an American Meteorological Society (AMS) Certified Consulting Meteorologist, is currently a member of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), the National Weather Association, and the Association of Certified Meteorologists, and has served on various boards for all three organizations.

Bryan Beck (Turbulent Aerospace LLC)

Bryan Beck is the Director of Air Traffic Management with Turbulent Aerospace. His 37-year career in Air Traffic Control began at the Houston Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) and has included stops at FAA Headquarters and the ATC Systems Command Center before retiring as the Traffic Management Officer for the DFW and North Texas. His background focused on Traffic Management and the efficiency of the National Airspace System. He has served as the National Efficiency Lead and managed the FAA Aviation System Performance Metrics (ASPM) and OPSNET leading a team utilizing advanced analytics to find innovative ways to improve NAS performance across the county.

Barbara Becker (Southwest Airlines)

Barbara Becker graduated from Penn State University with a degree in meteorology in 2016. Before graduating, Barbara interned with the Meteorology team at Southwest Airlines and with a meteorologist at Cheniere Energy in Houston. Barbara returned to Southwest as a Meteorologist in April 2017. In her free time you can find her running, traveling, and volunteering in the Dallas area.

Craig Boxrucker (ALPA)

Craig Boxrucker is a Boeing B737 Captain for Alaska Airlines. He has been with Alaska Airlines for just over ten (10) years. Prior to Alaska Airlines, he was with Horizon Airlines for 13 ½ years, an intern with American Airlines at Chicago O'Hare, a flight instructor at the University of North Dakota, and weather modification pilot for both the North Dakota Atmospheric Resource Board and Western Kansas Groundwater Management District. Craig holds a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering (specializing in material science/metallurgy) and a Bachelor's of Science in Aeronautics. He has over 16,800 hours of flight experience. Currently, he is the Air Traffic Services – Vice Chair at ALPA's Air Safety Organization (ASO) and is the IFALPA Representative on ICAO's Separation and Airspace Safety Panel (SASP).

John Celenza (Zipline)

John Celenza, Chief Meteorologist at Zipline, is a long-time weather geek and computer scientist hailing from the snow capital of Syracuse, NY. John graduated with an undergraduate degree in Meteorology from Penn State University. He then immediately went to Weather Underground where he was key to developing the global Personal Weather Station network as well as innovating public weather technology with the "weather for all" philosophy of the company. During his role at Weather Underground, John also received a Master's Degree in Computer Science from Stanford University. He used skills attained in that degree at Saildrone, then finally at Zipline International, focusing on data science and machine learning. John now spends his time developing innovative approaches to nowcast forecasting to support drone operations in Africa and around the world.

Steve Darr (Dynamic Aerospace)

Steve Darr led the development of RTCA and EUROCAE standards for ADS-B Weather, the reporting of aircraft-based meteorological data via the 1090 MHz Mode S Extended Squitter and Universal Access Transceiver (UAT) ADS-B data links. He also led the incorporation of ADS-B Weather requirements into ICAO's ADS-B surveillance standards and guidance materials and is working to develop the All-purpose structured EUROCONTROL surveillance information exchange (ASTERIX) data format used for exchanging surveillance-related information, including ADS-B Weather data, in ATM applications.

Steve is a member of the World Meteorological Organization Joint Expert Team on Aircraft-based Observations and works with the FAA, the National Weather Service, and the aviation and weather communities to implement ADS-B Weather capabilities for the improvement of aviation and general weather forecasting. Dynamic Aerospace Inc develops and implements advanced aviation technologies and analytical methods supporting system safety and capacity enhancements by planning, conducting, and directing research for the FAA, NASA, airports, and commercial clients.

A commercial helicopter and airplane pilot, Steve has experience as an airplane owner-operator and as a pilot in FAA, NASA, and commercial technology trials. He was part of the NASA cohort of the ADS-B Team that won the 2007 Collier Trophy. He has 20+ years of military service and significant command, staff, flight, flight operations, and aircraft maintenance management experience.

Don Eick (NTSB)

Don Eick is a Senior Meteorologist in the Office of Aviation Safety in the Operational Factors Division (AS-30), of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), where he provides technical weather analysis and documentation for accident investigations in all modes of transportation. He has over 48 years of experience in aviation weather and has been with the NTSB since 1998. During that time has been involved in over 1,500 general aviation, regional, majors, and international air carrier accident investigations. He has also been featured in several documentaries on weather related aircraft accidents. Prior to joining the NTSB, Don was the former head of Meteorology for Trans World Airlines for 14 years providing weather support and training for the air carrier. He holds degrees in aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and from Florida State University in Meteorology, and holds private pilot, aircraft dispatcher, and weather observer certificates.

Matt Fronzak (MITRE)

Matt Fronzak is the NAS Infrastructure and Weather Portfolio Advisor, and a Principal Systems Engineer in MITRE's Center for Integrated Transportation (CIT). His primary focus is on foundational applied weather and air traffic management (ATM)-Weather Integration research and analysis. He is also involved in a variety of projects revolving around weather uncertainty and ATM decision-making. He is the past chairman of the AMS Aviation, Range and Aerospace Meteorology (ARAM) committee and co-chairman of the Friends and Partners in Aviation Weather (FPAW) group.

Prior to joining MITRE, Matt spent 34 years at Delta Air Lines working in a variety of operational and management roles, primarily in the Flight Control department at Delta's Operations Customer Center (OCC). In between Delta and MITRE, he had a short stint with Rockwell Collins (now Collins Aerospace) as a marketing manager supporting that company's airborne weather radar products.

Matt holds a B.S. in Meteorology from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and a Master of Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with specialties in Operations and System Safety. He is an operationally experienced aviation meteorologist, an FAA-licensed and experienced aircraft dispatcher, and an experienced operations manager and ATC coordinator.

Jamey Jacob (Oklahoma State University and WINDMAP)

Dr. Jamey Jacob is the Executive Director of the OSU Oklahoma Aerospace Institute for Research and Education (OAIRE) and the Williams Chair in Energy Technology and Regents Professor of Aerospace Engineering in the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Oklahoma State University. His current efforts are focused on emerging technology and the societal impact of advanced mobility and their enhanced operation in the national airspace for broader innovative applications. Jamey is currently lead on the NASA University Leadership Initiative program WINDMAP to develop aviation weather solutions for advanced aerial mobility applications, including drones and urban air taxis. He received his B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1990 and his M.S and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley in 1992 and 1995, respectively.

Chris Johnson (Archer Aviation)

Chris Johnson is the Infrastructure Operations Lead at Archer Aviation. In this role, he is tasked with leveraging his expertise to drive advancements and operational efficiencies in advanced air mobility (AAM) infrastructure. His work focuses on optimizing vertiport site selection for urban environments and executing Archer's strategic vision for the future of advanced air mobility.

Matt Johnson (Metro Aviation)

Matt is a Helicopter Designated Pilot Examiner for the FAA and issues certificates and ratings from Private to ATP, CFI, and CFI-I. He is also an Air Medical Helicopter Single-Pilot IFR Captain, Part 135 Check Airman, Instructor, and Training Captain for a large air medical operator. Matt developed and now teaches a unique weather program to new hire Air Medical Pilots on "Weather Product Acquisition, Interpretation and Application for new HAA Pilots." In addition, Matt is a regular columnist for Rotor Professional Magazine where he authors the "Rotorcraft Checkride" column.

Doug Lotter (Airline Dispatchers Federation [ADF])

Doug Lotter is a Flight Dispatcher Instructor at United Airlines and represents the Flight Dispatch profession on behalf of the Airline Dispatchers Federation (ADF). Doug has 13 years of experience in the aviation weather industry. After an internship in the Southwest Airlines Meteorology Department, he served as an Aviation Meteorologist at Rockwell Collins, planning international flights for Part 91 operators, and has been a Part 121 airline dispatcher for the past 11 years. He

has most recently served as a full-time Dispatch Instructor focusing mainly on developing and delivering recurrent training to United's Flight Dispatchers. He has been a subject matter expert for the operational deployment of WSI Fusion as United's flight monitoring tool, and developed the weather application portion of Navigate, which is United's newly launched FAA Dispatch License certification program. Doug earned his BS in Applied Meteorology from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Prescott, AZ) and his MS in Aviation Technology from Purdue University.

Nancy Mendonca (NASA)

Nancy Mendonca is currently the NASA Deputy in ARMD's Mission Integration Office (AMIO). The AMIO integrates ARMD's AAM efforts across the four ARMD Programs and with the AAM ecosystem. She served 24 years in the Navy flying H-46 helicopters. Between the Navy and NASA, she worked at the Missile Defense Agency, on the Marine Corps MRAP Program and at NTIA working on the Federal Strategic Spectrum Plan. She graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering and subsequently earned M.S. degrees in Aeronautical Engineering and National Security and Strategic Studies.

Alfred Moosakhanian (FAA)

Alfred Moosakhanian is a PMP and FAA Senior Level Certified Program Manager. He currently serves as the Senior Technical Advisor for Aviation Weather and Aeronautical Systems and manager for Operational Weather Systems including Weather and Radar Processor (WARP), Corridor Integrated Weather System (CIWS), World Area Forecast System Internet File Service (WIFS), Weather Message Switching Center Replacement (WMSCR) and more. Previously, he served as the manager for NextGen Weather Systems that include Common Support services - Weather and NextGen Weather Processor. In addition, he is the Co-Chair for Weather Community of Interest (Wx COI) for the FAA.

James Ott (Turbulent Aerospace LLC)

James Ott is an aviation meteorologist for Turbulent Aerospace. He retired after 43 years with the National Weather Service (NWS), 37 years of which were spent at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Fort Worth Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU). James developed a wind compression tool for the Terminal Radar Approach Control environment for several major airports across the United States and has published a paper on TRACON Wind Compression. In 2017, James was awarded the DOC Gold Medal, and the Ron Brown "Excellence in Innovation Award" for his pioneering work in wind compression forecasting.

Brenda Phillips (UMass Amherst and CASA)

Brenda Philips is the Paros Research Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst who studies weather warning systems. She is the academic lead for the CASA WX project in the DFW metroplex. The project is centered around a network of X-band radars that provide high resolution weather products for real-time decision-making and research. Now in its 12th year, the project is funded through an innovative partnership model with NCTCOG, emergency managers, NWS, industry, UMass and Colorado State University.

James Pinto (NCAR)

Dr. James Pinto is the Science Deputy for the Aviation Application Program within NSF NCAR's Research Applications Laboratory (RAL). He has been a Project Scientist in RAL for 20 years. As a Post-doc at the University of Colorado Dr. Pinto gained valuable mission planning experience for the deployment of small UAS to collect in situ measurements within harsh environments of the Arctic and over tropical oceans. He is currently leading efforts to support the 2024 World Meteorological Organization UAS Demonstration Campaign to evaluate the potential for UAS to support operational meteorology by providing UAS observation to weather forecasters and numerical weather prediction modeling centers around the world. He also performs research on creating a ultra-fine resolution weather guidance products through mesoscale-to-microscale coupling and machine learning to support small UAS operations and Urban Air Mobility. Dr. Pinto received his PhD in the Program for Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences from the University of Colorado, a Master's degree in Atmospheric Science from the Pennsylvania State University and a Bachelor's degree from Cornell University.

Nathan Polderman (United Airlines)

Nathan Polderman is the Sr. Manager of Meteorology, at United Airlines where he oversees all of United's weather decision support systems and service contracts. He is also the Program Manager for United's FAA-approved Enhanced Weather Information System (EWINS) and serves as a business lead for all corporate-level turbulence injury mitigation initiatives. Nathan has actively participated in and led numerous aviation weather industry groups since 2008, including as Chair of the Airlines For America (A4A) Meteorology Committee from 2019-2020, and is currently the airline industry representative on the FPAW Steering Committee. Nathan is an FAA licensed Aircraft Dispatcher and holds an M.S. degree in Atmospheric Science from Indiana University and a B.A. in Geography from Calvin University.

Heather Reeves (OU/CIWRO and NOAA NSSL)

Dr. Heather Reeves is the assistant director for the Cooperative Institute for Severe and High-Impact Weather Research and Operations. She leads the Transportation Applications Team at NOAA/NSSL, which develops decision support capabilities for partners in operations that address both road weather and aviation weather.

Jessica Schultz (NWS Radar Operations Center)

Jessica Schultz is the Deputy Director of the Radar Operations Center, a tri-agency (National Weather Service, United States Air Force, and Federal Aviation Administration) organization, located in Norman, Oklahoma, responsible for life-cycle management of the NEXRAD weather radar. In her current role, she is responsible for leading the organization's budget and programmatic activities. A native of Norman, Oklahoma and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Jessica has 19 years of federal experience as a meteorologist. Prior positions include forecaster at National Weather Service offices in Springfield, Missouri and Fort Worth, Texas, as well as the National Weather Service's weather radar program liaison. In addition to managing the NEXRAD program, Jessica is also leading formulation efforts for the Radar Next program, which will replace the current radar by 2040.

Joel Siegel (FAA)

Joel Siegel is a meteorologist and the UTM/AAM Integration Lead for Technical Operations in the FAA's Air Traffic Organization. Joel's aviation journey began on his 10th birthday with his first flight lesson, leading to earning his private pilot's license at 17 and his instrument rating in 2020. He received his B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of North Carolina Asheville in 2008 and his M.S. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of North Dakota in 2015. During his time at UND, Joel indulged his passion for storm chasing across the Great Plains while continuing to pilot both fixed-wing aircraft and sUAS.

Joel initiated his professional career in 2012 at Rockwell Collins (now Collins Aerospace), where he obtained his aircraft dispatcher license and served as both a dispatcher and meteorologist for global business and general aviation operations. In 2018, he transitioned to Booz Allen Hamilton as an Aviation Environmental Specialist, applying his deep expertise in meteorology and aviation to support critical FAA and U.S. Navy Aviation Weather programs. This role not only honed his skills but also perfectly positioned him for his current role with the FAA, where he leads integration efforts for UTM/AAM within the National Airspace System, focusing on innovative infrastructure solutions to accommodate the evolving demands of novel aircraft types. Joel remains actively involved in the General Aviation community, regularly conducting training sessions and seminars aimed at demystifying aviation weather information for pilots and aviation enthusiasts alike.

Sarah Staudt (Airline Owners and Pilots Association [AOPA])

Sarah is the Chief Flight Instructor for the AOPA Air Safety Institute's online flight instructor refresher course ("eFIRC") where she uses her technical knowledge and experience as a CFI to create and improve content for the eFIRC and other ASI products. Prior to joining ASI, Sarah was a Senior Aviation Technical Specialist in AOPA's Pilot Information Center and the Chief Flight Instructor in AOPA Flight Operations. She started flying in high school in a late 1960s Cherokee at an airport near her parents' home in Ohio. From there her experience has grown and she currently holds a commercial pilot certificate with single- and multi- engine ratings and an instrument rating. She also holds CFI, CFI-I and MEI certificates. Sarah has instructed in Part 141 and Part 61 schools as well as conducted Part 91 commercial flying operations including aerial photography and private operations for a family in their cabin-class aircraft. Sarah graduated from the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics with majors in Commercial Aviation and Flight Education. Her education also includes a Master of Management from Colorado State University—Global.

Matthias Steiner (NCAR)

Dr. Matthias Steiner is a Senior Scientist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) serving as Director for the Aviation Applications Program of the Research Applications Laboratory (RAL). Drawing from three decades of scientific experience, he leads new initiatives and directs research and development efforts broadly aimed at mitigation of avoidable weather impacts on various sectors, with a particular focus on aviation. Matthias' vision, leadership, and substantial contributions toward mitigating weather impacts on the aviation industry reach deeply

across the traditional boundaries of developing more accurate weather forecasts to integrate weather guidance in the decision-making process to better serve aviation operators.

At present, Matthias is leading efforts to understand weather sensitivities and requirements for the rapidly growing interests in urban air mobility and using unmanned aerial systems for wide-ranging applications and safe integration into the national airspace system. He has received multiple recognitions for excellent contributions to field programs, scientific missions, and outstanding publications. Most notably, Matthias is a Fellow of both the Royal and American Meteorological Societies.

Darin Tietjen (Southwest Airlines)

Darin Tietjen is the Chief of Air Traffic Management at Southwest Airlines. At Southwest Airlines he has held the roles of Dispatcher, Air Traffic Control Specialist, and Air Traffic Control Instructor. He has roles in the Collaboration Decision-Making group's Training Team, as co-lead, and in the Flow Evaluation Team. Prior to Southwest Airlines, Darin held various positions in flight dispatch, dispatch training, and aircraft coordinator positions at American Airlines, American Eagle Airlines, Atlantic Coast Airlines (United Express and Delta Connection carrier), and AMR services.

Elizabeth Wilson (Synoptic Data PBC)

Elizabeth Wilson is the Director of Weather Programs at Synoptic Data Public Benefit Corporation, an environmental data aggregator company. She oversees business development relationships from academia, industry, and government regarding use of meteorological data through management of the National Mesonet Program, a public-private partnership program with the National Weather Service that provides non-federal weather data to the federal government. She also manages the company's aircraft-based observation strategy. Prior to rejoining Synoptic, Ms. Wilson was the Director of Product Success at Climavision, where she was responsible for facilitating inter-organizational collaboration and providing the Climavision team with the appropriate scientific knowledge and tools to both build and sell valuable products and feature sets. Prior to 2018, Ms. Wilson was a Senior Atmospheric Scientist during the development and deployment of a state-of-the-art global NWP system utilizing the TAMDAR sensor at Panasonic Weather Solutions, where she led a team in developing flight optimization and fuel savings programs used by major airlines and aerospace companies. Additionally, she managed customer relationships and business development for both domestic and international industry and government partners.

Elizabeth received bachelor's and master's degrees in Atmospheric Science from North Carolina State University. She has her Project Management Professional (PMP) certification and is a member of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) as well as a member of the AMS Board on Enterprise Communication, a member of the World Meteorological Organization's JET-ABO working group, and a charter member of the Friends and Partners in Aviation Weather steering committee.

Chris Zarzar (TruWeather Solutions)

Dr. Chris Zarzar is Director of Weather Strategy and Innovation at TruWeather Solutions. Chris joined TruWeather Solutions after a career in academia where he researched the impacts of

urban areas on local weather conditions and natural hazard risk communication. Through this research, Chris recognized that a lack of low-altitude weather observations was one of the biggest hurdles limiting advancement in local-scale weather predictions. As Director of Weather Strategy and Innovation at TruWeather, Chris builds partnerships and injects cutting-edge science into weather products to deliver state-of-the-art weather intelligence to support safe, reliable, and resilient AAM operations. He holds a Part 107 Certificate and a PhD in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences from Mississippi State University.