The Royal Meteorological Society’s role in amateur meteorology

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The presentation

• What is an amateur meteorologist?
• Are they all the same?
• What proportion of members are amateurs?
• What does RMetS offer the amateur meteorologist?
• What other things could RMetS offer?
Definitions

• **Meteorology** = the branch of science concerned with the processes and phenomena of the atmosphere, especially as a means of forecasting the weather (*Oxford English Dictionary*)

• **Amateur Meteorologist** – a term in use for a long time! (*“Confessions of an Amateur Meteorologist” Weather, March 1963*)
  – Like a professional, drawn to meteorology
  – Like a professional, has a focus of activity
  – Like a professional, will be concerned with quality of work & accuracy
  – Like a professional, their work contributes to national and international programmes
  – Unlike a professional, meteorology is not their primary income source
So, that considered, are all amateurs the same then?
Not at all!

- Some are retired professionals still pursuing an interest in the weather
- Some are avid weather observers
- Some are keen weather photographers
- Some volunteer for work with RMetS and other groups
- Some simply enjoy the publications
- Some pursue academic and professional training
- etc
Some occupations

- Avionics Technician
- Biomedical Scientist
- Accountant
- Gardener
- Interior Designer
- Carpenter
- Airline Pilot
- Cider Maker
- Vegetable Grower
- Farmer
- Chartered Surveyor
- Tax Consultant
- IT Manager
- Electrician
- Pathologist

- Care Home Worker
- School Teacher
- Vicar
- Chartered Civil Engineer
- Railway Signaller
- Risk Manager
- Investment Banker
- Journalist & Writer
- Psychologist
- Merchant Navy Captain
- PCSO
- Broadcast Engineer
- Hydrologist
- Embassy Secretary
- Solicitor
RMetS UK Membership by type

- Amateur: 33%
- Professional: 23%
- Academic: 33%
- Unassigned: 11%
Our role in Amateur Meteorology

- Bringing together the Amateur Community
- Informing the Amateur Community
- Sharing information with the Amateur Community
- Linking with other meteorological bodies (COL, CAS, TORRO, etc.,)
- Supporting projects that involve Amateurs (WOW)
- Listening to and representing the Amateur Community
- Maintaining the heritage and history of Meteorology
- Advancing the science for the benefit of all

All are benefits
Examples

- The Amateur Conference
- Saturday National Meetings
- Regional Meetings
- Occasional Papers
- The RMetS website
- theWeather Club
- Weather Magazine
- WOW website
Value to Amateurs?

• “The RMetS membership is of value to me because it puts me in touch with the wider professional world of meteorology and topical issues in weather and climate. The journal Weather is often a fascinating read, and I look forward to it arriving on the doormat each month. The Weather Log and Weather Images pages are invaluable ...”.

• I have particularly valued the residential conferences that have taken place in recent years, since these offer the opportunity to explore topics and chat to other enthusiasts. The Field Course at Borrowdale in the Lake District in September 2005 was excellent (please could the Society consider putting on another of these in the future).”.

• I have valued the support of the Society in furthering my own education and learning by lending support in the study of the OU module in meteorology which I have just completed”.
What other things could we offer?
Thank you

www.rmets.org
www.theweatherclub.org.uk
www.metlink.org
wow.metoffice.gov.uk