

FAA Safety Team presents:

## **Upper Air Program - Its Role in Weather Prediction**

Weather balloons sounds like an outdated technology for making upper air observations, but it continues to be the best method for gathering critical weather data above the earth's surface. There are approximately 70 upper air stations scattered across the lower 48, including at the Spokane Weather Forecast Office, and there are around 800 upper air stations world wide. Observations from weather balloons are part of the initial conditions that go into our global model predictions and observations are taken twice each day every day of the year. These observations will be taken rain or shine, during wind storms or blizzards. This talk will go into the process of making an upper air observations and why they are still an important factor when it comes to numerical model prediction. Steven Van Horn is a forecaster out of the forecast office in Spokane, Washington. Steven has a Master's Degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). His National Weather Service career began at the Los Angeles/Oxnard office as a Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) student. He was hired on as a Meteorologist Intern at the Spokane Weather Forecast Office in January of 2009 and then promoted to a general forecaster in May of 2012. Steven is the aviation

## **Event Details**

**Sat, Feb 22, 2020 - 13:00 PST**  
**Puyallup Fair & Events Center**  
110 9th Avenue SW  
Puyallup, WA 98371



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FPM ROBERT TICKNOR

program leader in Spokane. Three main areas of the aviation program consists of issuing Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs), forecaster training and verification.

**Directions:** Western Washington Fairgrounds are located in Puyallup, just off Hwy 512, at the corner of S. Meridian and 9th Avenue SW. Enter fairgrounds through the Blue Gate. FREE Parking in BLUE Lot. If flying in to PLU see additional information below for shuttle details.

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