

FAA Safety Team presents:

# **Winter Weather Patterns of the Northwest - 2023 NW Aviation Conference**

Steven Van Horn, Spokane Weather Forecast Office Winter weather will produce a number of different hazards that present risks to personal safety for pilots. This talk will go into how high and low pressure systems form and associated weather patterns that can be expected from each. Storm systems in the winter ride the Polar Jet Stream generating cyclogenesis over the eastern Pacific before pushing inland into the Pacific Northwest Region as a mid-latitude cyclone. The orientation of the jet stream will play a big role on the weather types that are observed. Mid-latitude cyclones are larger scale areas of low pressure that span hundreds of miles commonly referred to as the synoptic scale. Smaller scale features spanning tens of miles, on what is referred to as the mesoscale, will also bring the potential for hazardous winter weather. Understanding how and why these features form with the aid of satellite, radar, and automated weather instrumentation is important to remaining weather aware and practicing safe flying. Steven Van Horn is a California native and 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

## Event Details

**Sat, Feb 25, 2023 - 16:30 PST**  
**Puyallup Fair & Events Center**  
110 9th Avenue SW  
Puyallup, WA 98371



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FPM ROBERT TICKNOR

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 forecaster position in May of 2012. Steven is the aviation program leader at the Spokane Weather Forecast Office. In his spare time, he enjoys the outdoors by camping, hiking, rock climbing and snowboarding.

**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.

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