



Discovering the supercell

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The discovery of the supercell as a distinct class of storm resulted from a serendipitous encounter with a severe hailstorm during a field experiment in SE England in 1959. The talk will describe how the new paradigm was arrived at during the early 60s, initially in the UK with the analysis of the Wokingham Storm and then in Oklahoma with the real McCoy. Radar played a big role but I shall take you back to a pre-Doppler era of ex-World War II radars. It was also a time when we were accustomed to thinking about convective storms solely in terms of the Byers-Braham model and it was quite hard to persuade colleagues to countenance a quasi-steady kind of dynamics.