



Houston Chapter of the

American Meteorological Society

April 2010

Notes from the President –

Depending on your point of view, Houston is either fortunate or unfortunate to usually be out of the path of severe weather. We are close enough to Tornado Alley to go storm chasing, if so inclined. I hear, “severe thunderstorm watch” and I watch the radar and out the window for severe storms. However, even being away for the majority of the action, we cannot become complacent.

As a meteorologist, when I hear about “severe weather”, I think of the general criteria: winds in excess of 58 mph, large hail (now more than 1 inch in diameter) and tornadoes. One weather threat that we face in Houston and all too many are complacent about is flash flooding. The National Weather Service has a public awareness campaign with the tagline, “Turn around, don’t drown.” Because of our geography, Houston is especially susceptible to this threat.

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Severe Storms Prediction and Warning in the Gulf Coast Region

Presented by Dr. Philip B. Bedient,
Herman Brown Professor of Civil
and Environmental Engineering,
Rice University

Tuesday, April 20th

Dinner – 6:00 pm, Meeting 7:00-8:30 pm

Joe's Crab Shack Houston-610
2621 South Loop West Houston, TX 77054
(713) 666-2150

Speaker Information



Dr. Philip B. Bedient is the Herman Brown Professor of Engineering in the Dept of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rice University. He teaches and performs research in surface and ground water hydrology, disaster management, and flood prediction systems. He served as Chair of Environmental Engineering from 1992 to 1999. He has directed 55 research projects over the past 33 years, has written over 180 articles in journals and conference proceedings. He is lead author on a text on “Hydrology and Floodplain Analysis” (Prentice Hall, 4rd ed., 2008) used in over 75 universities across the U.S. Dr. Bedient received the Herman Brown endowed Chair of Engineering in 2002 at Rice University. He was elected to Fellow ASCE in 2006 and received the prestigious C.V. Theis Award from the American Institute of Hydrology in 2007.

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CHAPTER WEBSITE
www.amshouston.net

NATIONAL WEBSITE
www.ametsoc.org

Notes from the President continued...

Our speaker this month is Dr. Phil Bedient of Rice University. He is the Director of Severe Storm Prediction, Education and Evacuation from Disaster (SSPEED) Center. One of the issues that the SSPEED Center is addressing is a radar-based rainfall and flood warning system for urban and coastal areas along the western Gulf Coast. Another item of note is their educational programs for both secondary schools and the public.

The first item listed is the topic of our April meeting. The second one is something that our organization can do in our day to day work. The education of the public is something that we can contribute to whether we work for the National Weather Service or in the private sector. Admittedly, some of us have better opportunities to do this. But even if we inform one neighbor, speak at a local school or talk with a co-worker - that could be the difference between someone making the fatal decision to drive across the flooded section of road versus turning around. One life saved for a few minutes of our time; I will make that trade every day.

Kind Regards,
Aaron Studwell

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Contact an officer to see how your company
can support the local chapter.

Speaker Information continued...

He has worked on surface water problems for over 35 years including major floodplain studies, water quality assessments, and hydrologic modeling for a number of watersheds in Texas, Florida, and Louisiana. He has been actively involved in the area of hydrologic analysis for flood prediction and warning, and recently teamed with others to develop a real-time flood alert system for the Texas Medical Center. It is based on converting NEXRAD radar directly to rainfall via a GIS system, which is then used in hydrologic models for predicting peak floods. The system is currently delivered real-time on a web site that has been tested on major flood events in Houston, including TS Allison and Hurricane Ike. He is also funded by HGAC & TxDOT to develop a real time flood alert system for bridge inundation within the Houston area.

Maps & Directions (Meeting Location)

Joe's Crab Shack Houston-610
2621 South Loop West Houston, TX 77054
(713) 666-2150



[Click here for link](#)

Feel free to contact any of the officers for comments, questions, suggestions or even additions to the newsletter. We would appreciate hearing from you.

Contact Information

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Houston Chapter boasts of one of the most diverse memberships in the country. Due to our location we have meteorologists and scientists working for many different types of industry, government, private and media. These people are involved in forecasting and monitoring weather world-wide, right from Houston.

In addition, we welcome everyone and anyone who is interested in weather and weather-related topics.

Our dues are only \$10 per year. Funds are used to pay for dinner and thank you gifts for our speakers, and provide awards for the winners of the Houston AMS Special Awards at the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston held each spring.

If you'd like to become a member, please fill out the form below with your most recent information, include \$10 cash or check and turn it into any officer. If you prefer, you can mail the form and money to our Treasurer. Please see the address below. Checks should be made out to: *Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society*

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Work or Home? (please circle one)

Email Address _____

Home phone number _____

Work _____

Mail to:

Brian Planz

c/o Wilkens Weather Technologies, Inc.

2925 Briar Park Drive, 7th Floor

Houston, TX 77042

Send my newsletter by: ___ mail/ ___ email.

This is for: ___ Dues/ ___ Address change.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (NON-EVENT INFORMATION ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE UPCOMING AMS HOUSTON CHAPTER MEETING MAY BE LISTED FIRST)

SSPEED - SEVERE STORM PREDICTION, EDUCATION, AND EVACUATION FROM DISASTERS

(FINAL DRAFT EXPECTED NLT MARCH 30)

CASA (COLLABORATIVE ADAPTIVE SENSING OF THE ATMOSPHERE) FLOOD ALERT SYSTEM FOR HOUSTON USING NETRAD

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SKYWARN TRAINING - BRENHAM TX

APRIL 29, 2010, 6:00 - 8:30 PM

BRENHAM'S FIREMEN TRAINING CENTER

**1101 US HWY 290W, BRENHAM TX 77833 - POC - BRIAN SCHEFFER -
BSCHEFFER@CI.BRENHAM.TX.US -979-337-7314**

HOUSTON/GALVESTON 2010 HURRICANE WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, JUNE 19TH, 10 AM - 3 PM

GEORGE R. BROWN CONVENTION CENTER, 1001 DE LAS AMERICAS, HOUSTON, TX 77010

AMS SHORT COURSE ON TROPICAL WEATHER—GOING DEEP INTO THE TROPICS AND OCEANS

JUNE 23, 2010, MIAMI FLORIDA