



Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

May 2010

Notes from the President –

When I was originally approached about a talk on peak oil, I was skeptical. In a global sense, this does certainly involve geosciences, which also includes atmospheric sciences. It was not until the Deepwater Horizon accident that I understood the interaction between meteorology and peak oil.

On April 20 of this year, the exploration rig Deepwater Horizon suffered a catastrophic explosion, approximately 50 miles off of the Louisiana coast. Two days later, the rig sank and eleven lives were lost.

Since then, I have had the opportunity to discuss the meteorological impacts on the subsequent oil spill with the media. The questions have ranged from “Where is it going?” to “What are the implications for hurricane season?” The one question I have not been asked is, “What happens next?”

Having worked in the energy meteorology sector for over ten years, I watched over the energy producing region of the Gulf of Mexico like a mother hen during hurricane season. Every little swirl, every wave could be a threat. Energy prices rallied and tumbled on these forecasts. Our energy supply relied on the Gulf and every commodity trader knew it.

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Notes from the President
- 1 Meeting Information
- 2 Maps & Directions
- 2 Contact Information
- 3 Membership Information
- 3 Current Meeting Info & Calendar of Events

Peak Oil: Concepts and Consequences

Presented by Steve Allen,
Houston AMS Local Chapter
Secretary and Member of the
Association for the Study of Peak Oil
and Gas (ASPO)

Thursday, May 27th

Dinner – 6:00 pm, Meeting 7:00-8:30 pm
Pappas Bar-B-Q
7007 HWY 59 South
Houston, TX 77074
713-772-4557

Speaker Information

Steve Allen, our current local AMS Chapter secretary, is a Cum Laude graduate of the Texas A&M College of Geosciences with a B.S. in meteorology and a minor in math. He became involved in the Peak Oil issue in 2007 after his retirement from the National Weather Service, where he spent the last 12 years of his 33 year government career as the Science and Operations Officer of the Houston NWS office.

The subject of Peak Oil became a near obsession with Steve by 2008, to the extent that he has now read five texts on petroleum geology, read and built a library of some 40 books on Peak Oil and *directly* related issues, amassed a collection of 23 documentary films on this issue, and an additional library of 29 books, 16 documentary films, 3 “docudrama” films and 5 novels that are tangential to Peak Oil and its role in shaping geopolitical policy.

continued on page 2

CHAPTER WEBSITE
www.amshouston.net

NATIONAL WEBSITE
www.ametsoc.org

Notes from the President continued...

Recently, the dynamic of the energy market has changed; our focus has shifted onshore. Shale natural gas is what will power our country for the next century. Now the meteorologist must watch the forecast during the winter to warn of freeze offs. These occur when the water in the natural gas stream freezes in the pipes and cuts off natural gas flow.

Over the years, I have heard a lot of questions. The question I have not heard until recently is, "What happens when we run out?" Oil, and by extension, all fossil fuels all have finite amounts available. While the Earth continues to produce this energy at some rate, we are depleting it at a much faster pace. So when will the oil end? And what happens after that?

These key questions, among others, are the topics of our May meeting.

Kind Regards,
Aaron Studwell

Speaker Information continued...

And this compendium of books and films largely OMIT the related environmental impacts of industrialized civilizations' quest for oil, the most energy dense substance known to the human species. But our species has, since the first use of fossil fuels to replace human and animal energy, and more particularly, to acquire MORE fossil fuels and use them for the extraction of nearly all natural resources currently in use by human kind, settled on a policy now global in scope centered on *infinite* growth based on an energy base which is finite and cannot grow. Thus Peak Oil, no matter what and/or how complex its limiting factors may be (geological or economical), it may well be the first signal in a complex global downturn. The current turmoil so evident in global economics and geopolitics may merely be the first signals that we are finally meeting limits to growth imposed by finite energy, with Peak Oil in the lead.

Maps & Directions (Meeting Location)

Pappas BarBQ 7007 HWY 59 South, Houston, TX 77074
713-772-4557



[Click here for link](#)

CORPORATE SPONSORS



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

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

<p><i>President – Aaron Studwell</i> Ph: 713-361-4973 Email: aaron.studell@weatherinsight.com</p>	<p><i>Vice President – Lance Wood</i> Ph: 281-799-7349 Email: lance.wood@noaa.gov</p>
<p><i>Treasurer – Brian Planz</i> Ph: 713-430-7400 Email: brian.planz@wilkenweather.com</p>	<p><i>Secretary – Steve Allen</i> Ph: 409-925-8953 Email: apertus@verizon.net</p>

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 (HURRICANE SEASON EVENTS LEAD THIS MONTH! ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THIS MONTH'S AMS HOUSTON CHAPTER MEETING WILL FOLLOW.)

HOUSTON/GALVESTON NWS 2010 HURRICANE WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 10 AM TO 3 PM
GEORGE R BROWN CONVENTION CENTER, HOUSTON TX
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

OTHER REGIONAL SOUTHEAST TEXAS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS EVENTS

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF PEAK OIL AND GAS (USA)
FEATURED ARTICLE : WHY THE BAKKEN WON'T SAVE OUR BACON !

THE OIL DRUM -
TARBALLS IN THE FL KEYS?
OIL IN THE GOM LOOP CURRENT?
NOAA'S OUTLOOK...

THE COMING GLOBAL OIL CRISIS :
ACCESS TO EVERY MAJOR PETROLEUM GEOLOGIST CURRENTLY WRITING ON THIS SUBJECT

AMS SHORT COURSE ON TROPICAL WEATHER—GOING DEEP INTO THE TROPICS AND OCEANS
JUNE 23, 2010, MIAMI FLORIDA