



# Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

June 2010

## Notes from the President –

I am currently at the halfway point of my second term as the President of the Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society. I look back over my terms and also my professional career and do not think I have had the honor of introducing someone that I have held in such high regard. I have had the good fortune of knowing Bill Read a long time. It will be a real pleasure introducing him at our June meeting.

Bill Read will speak on his thoughts on the National Hurricane Project. With hurricane season now underway and the forecast for an active season, the implications of the National Hurricane Project's (NHP) work are even more important. The NHP provides assessments and technical assistance to the local and State agencies in the development of hurricane evacuation plans. Their work helps to reduce the loss of human life by better defining the areas in a hurricane's path that need to be evacuated.

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

## The National Hurricane Program - some thoughts going into my 3rd season

Presented by Bill Read,  
Director, NOAA National Hurricane Center

Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

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

Saltgrass Steakhouse  
20241 Gulf Freeway  
Webster, TX 77598-4809  
(281) 338-9778

## Speaker Information

Bill Read is the current Director of the National Hurricane Center (NHC), where he has led the nation's Hurricane Warning and Forecast program since January 2008. The NHC has hurricane forecast responsibility for the Atlantic Basin and Eastern Pacific, and deals with an average of 30 cyclones per year. During Bill's two and a half years leading NHC, some of the significant Gulf Coast hurricanes he has dealt with include Ike and Gustav.

Prior to serving as the NHC Director, Bill was the Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) of the Houston-Galveston (HGX) area Warning and Forecast Office (WFO) from January 1992 through January 2008. HGX was the 5th office to "spin up" during the NWS Modernization and Restructuring during the 1990s. Bill led the office from an original Weather Service Office staff of 11 to an end state WFO staff of 24, with warning and forecast responsibility for 23 counties in southeast Texas and the adjacent marine waters out to 60 nm. Significant events during Bill's tenure as the HGX MIC included the Nov. 1992 tornado outbreak, the Oct. 1994 floods, Tropical Storms Frances (1998) and Allison (2001), and Hurricanes Claudette (2003) and Rita (2005). Bill was also instrumental in facilitating the co-location of the HGX office into the new Galveston County Emergency Management Center in 2005.

continued on page 2

**CHAPTER WEBSITE**  
[www.amshouston.net](http://www.amshouston.net)

**NATIONAL WEBSITE**  
[www.ametsoc.org](http://www.ametsoc.org)

### Speaker Information continued...

Prior to taking over as the HGX MIC in 1992, Bill had served at NWS HQ (in the Washington DC area) from March 1989 - January 1992 as the Program Leader for the Severe Storms and Flash Floods Program.

Bill's other NWS service included 6 years as a Lead Forecaster at WFO Fort Worth (1983-1989), 5 years as a General Forecaster at WFO San Antonio (1978-1983), and a stint as a researcher at the NWS Test and Evaluation Division in Sterling VA (1977-1978). As an interesting factoid relating to current events, Bill was the Marine Focal Point at the SAT office and hence was the primary forecaster for the Oil Spill Response team during the IXTOC 1 oil well disaster in which the drilling platform Sedco 135F caught fire and sank, and the consequent huge oil spill (the well spewed 140 million gallons of crude into the Bay of Campeche from July 1979 - March 1980) - an event eerily similar to the recent sinking of the Deepwater Horizons on April 22 while drilling an exploratory well in the Macondo Prospect about 41 miles off the LA coast and the ongoing spill.

Prior to his NWS career, Bill was a US Navy Meteorological Officer from 1971-1975 serving in the Hurricane Hunters 1971-1973, in Iceland 1973-1974, and at Kingsville TX 1974-1976. Bill is a TAMU graduate with BS and MS degrees in Meteorology (1971 and 1976, respectively).

### Maps & Directions (Meeting Location)

Saltgrass Steakhouse, 20241 Gulf Freeway, Webster, TX 77598  
(281) 338-9778



[Click here for link](#)

### Notes from the President continued...

The improvement in evacuation planning impacts all of us, even those who live away from the Gulf coast. As we saw during Hurricane Rita, in which elevated public concern of threat due to the steady stream of media coverage following Katrina a month before, thousands not in mandatory evacuation zones decided to leave, tremendously impeding the evacuation of those that were truly at risk. Thus, as the meteorologists in the community, in our own way, we have to further the NHP's work by educating the public to appropriate risk assessment and appropriate action. Whether it is simple as "Run from the water, hide from the wind" or explaining how storm surge impacts various areas, we all should help our neighbors.

Everyone wants to avoid the debacle we experienced in the past. The AMS can be one of the ways to do that in the future.

Kind Regards,  
Aaron Studwell

### 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

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<p><i>Treasurer – Brian Planz</i></p> <p>Ph: 713-430-7400</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:brian.planz@wilkenweather.com">brian.planz@wilkenweather.com</a></p>	<p><i>Secretary – Steve Allen</i></p> <p>Ph: 409-925-8953</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:apertus@verizon.net">apertus@verizon.net</a></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!)

**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**

**NOAA HURRICANE FORECAST FOR THE 2010 SEASON**

**ACCUWEATHER HURRICANE FORECAST FOR THE 2010 SEASON**

**DRS. GRAY & KLOTZBACH (CSU) HURRICANE FORECAST FOR THE 2010 SEASON**

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

**JUNE 23, 2010, MIAMI FLORIDA**