



# Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

September 2010

## Notes from the President –

Here we are over two months since our last AMS meeting. As I am writing this, we have had six named storms at the start of what was forecast to be a more active tropical season. The crude oil being spewed into the Gulf of Mexico after the Deepwater Horizon accident has stopped, but its impacts could be experienced for years, if not decades. The Astros were 26-41, flirting with a 100 loss season. Since then, they are 37-30 and would only be 3 games out, if they had played this way all season. A lot has happened, a lot has changed.

However, one thing has not changed. The success of the Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society depends on you, its members. As an Executive Board, we can always have a meeting. If we don't have people attend, we wonder why. We have ideas but never receive any feedback.

Please use this meeting as an opportunity as a chance to let us know what we're doing right and what we're doing wrong. If you have an idea for a speaker or would even like to present to our group, please contact us. If you know of a good place that we can meet, tell us. We are also always willing to listen to constructive criticism.

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## Oceanographic and Meteorological Support Following the Deepwater Horizons Incident

Presented by Dr. Don Conlee, Associate Professor of Meteorology, TAMU, and Kent Prochazka, NWS Houston Senior Forecaster and Incident Meteorologist (IMET)

Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

Dinner – 6:00 pm, Meeting 6:45-8:00pm  
Lyndon's Pit Bar-B-Q  
5320 Hollister St, Houston, Texas 77040

### Speaker Information

Dr. Conlee is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of U. of La. (Monroe) with a B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences; holds a M.S. Meteorology and Physical Oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School, and finally went on to acquire his Ph.D. in Meteorology from TAMU in 1994. Since this newsletter is not of sufficient size to accommodate half of Dr. Conlee's accomplishments (see [Dr. Conlee's Profile](#) for more info), it will have to suffice to say here that due to his specialization in oceanographic in-situ instrumentation, Don was on a ship launching bathymetry soundings in and around the Deepwater Horizons incident area after the sinking of the rig.

Kent Prochazka acquired his baccalaureate degree in Earth Science from the University of Northern Colorado. After graduating, Kent joined the National Ocean

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

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

### Speaker Information continued...

Service (NOS) in 1990 as one of 5 meteorologists at NMC (now NCEP) quality controlling all marine meteorology observations and bathymetry data over the entire globe. He transferred to the Houston/Galveston NWS office in 1993 as an intern, and has hence risen to become a Senior Forecaster, Fire Weather focal point, and NWS Houston's only Incident Meteorologist (IMET). Kent was loaned out to the NWS office in Slidell, LA after the Deepwater Horizons incident mainly to free up and support the Slidell IMET for site-specific forecasts based in part on NCEP's HYSPLIT (Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory) model forecasts, a micro-domain model used to forecast high probability trajectories of hazardous materials released into the troposphere by any hazardous materials (HAZMAT) release incident. These forecasts were passed on in turn to NOAA's HAZMAT team working the incident.

### Maps & Directions (Meeting Location)

Lyndon's Pit Bar-B-Q  
5320 Hollister St, Houston, Texas 77040  
(713) 690-2112



[Click Here For Link](#)

### Notes from the President continued...

Also, please pay your dues for the 2010-2011 year. Your dues are the life blood of this organization. They pay for our speakers' dinners and our scholarships for the Science Fair winners. Other additional costs we are increasingly facing are steeper room reservation fees in many of the most popular meeting locations. We can only meet these expenditures with your continued support by paying your dues. Without you, there is no Houston Chapter.

I have said it before and I truly believe that the Houston Chapter has the most diverse group of members of any Local AMS Chapter. However, we all share one thing, our membership. Please come to the September meeting to meet some new members and see some old friends.

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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## 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*

This is for: \_\_\_\_ Dues/\_\_\_\_ Address change.

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

**APRIL 15TH, 7:15 PM: WEBINAR - NOAA AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS CENTER AND THE SUPPORT TO THE DEEPWATER HORIZON GULF OF MEXICO OIL INCIDENT - CONTACT CRISTINE MAZZA FOR THE URL AND PHONE PASSCODE FOR THIS EVENT (CMAZZA@MAIL.USF.EDU)**

**NATIONAL FLOOD WORKSHOP, OCT. 24-26, HOTEL ZA ZA, HOUSTON, TX**

**FORT BEND COUNTY SKYWARN TRAINING, OCT 18, 6:30-9:00 PM, FIRE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 3849 CARTWRIGHT RD, MISSOURI CITY TX, POC JOHN SHEFFIELD (JSHEFFIELD@MISSOURICITYTX.GOV), PH. 281-403-4305**

**17TH CONFERENCE ON AIR-SEA INTERACTION, 17TH CONFERENCE ON SATELLITE METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY, NINTH CONFERENCE ON COASTAL ATMOSPHERIC AND OCEANIC PREDICTION AND PROCESSES**