

Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

June 2011

Notes from the President –

“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.”

In November 2009, I was elected President of the Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society. It is now over a year and a half later and my term will soon come to an end. But this is not an ending, it's a new beginning.

Our next President will continue to move our organization into the 21st Century. The Houston Chapter will continue to grow by bringing in new members. We will reach out to the community by judging at the Science and Engineering Fair. The Chapter will educate our members by inviting new and interesting speakers.

In order to move forward, the Chapter officers cannot do it alone.

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"Hurricane Surge, Wind and Rain - why some people don't get it"

Presented by Bill Read,
Director, NOAA National Hurricane Center

Monday, June 6th

Dinner – 6:00pm

Meeting – 7:00pm

Spring Creek Barbeque
2710 Gulf Freeway South
League City, TX 77573

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 the NHC, some of the significant Gulf Coast hurricanes he has dealt with include Ike and Gustav.

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Speaker Information continued...

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.

Prior to taking over as the HGX MIC in 1992, Bill had served at the 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 sinking of the Deepwater Horizons on April 22, 2010 while drilling an exploratory well in the Macondo Prospect about 41 miles off the LA coast.

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).

Notes from the President continued...

They require the support of our members, by coming to the meetings, paying your dues and providing your input. It is difficult to say that we have a vibrant Chapter when some meetings draw no more than five active members. We understand that people have lives but we are asking for the occasional attendance. If the meeting topics are not interesting to you, please give your suggestions. If you know of a good restaurant to hold our meeting at, write us. We are willing to listen and want your feedback.

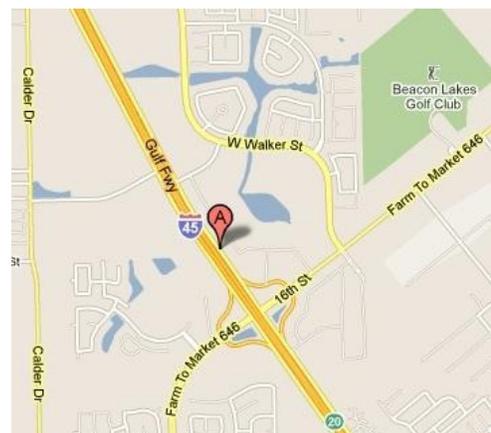
And this concludes my final President’s Notes. I wish the best of luck to the Officers stepping into new roles. To my current Officers, thank you for your hard work. To our members, thank you for your support through my term. It has been a privilege to be the President of this Chapter. Thank you!

Best regards,

Aaron Studwell

Maps & Directions

Spring Creek Barbeque
2710 Gulf Freeway South, League City, TX 77573



[Click Here For Link](#)

CHAPTER WEBSITE
www.amshouston.net

NATIONAL WEBSITE
www.ametsoc.org

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 \$15 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 \$15 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.