



# Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

October 2012

## Notes from the President –

Greetings! We had a great start to the year with our first meeting last month at Rice University. Dr. Cohan provided a very informative talk on Texas air quality and what we can expect for the future. Since then, we had our first significant cold front of the season, and it looks like it might be awhile before we see another one, so it must be October in southeast Texas.

I am pleased to announce that Matt Moreland has agreed to speak to our group at our upcoming October meeting. I had the pleasure of working with Matt for many years, while he was here at the NWS Houston/Galveston office. Matt has worked many significant weather events here locally during the past 10 years as a forecaster, and therefore, he is well known and respected by the Houston area Meteorology community.

Continued on page 2

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Notes from the President
- 1 Meeting Information
- 2 Maps & Directions
- 3 Contact Information
- 3 Membership Information

## *"NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge Weather-Ready Nation Pilot Project: Decision Support in a Marine Environment"*

### **Speaker:**

Matt Moreland  
Emergency Response Meteorologist - Team Lead  
NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge

### **Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

6 PM Dinner  
7 PM Meeting

### **Dinner/Meeting Location:**

Rudy's BBQ  
21361 Gulf Freeway  
Webster, TX 77598  
Phone: 281-338-0462

## **Speaker Information-**

Since December 2011, Matt has been the team lead for the NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge Impact-Based Decision Support Pilot Project. This is one of the six NWS Pilot Projects as part of the Weather-Ready Nation Initiative which employs the newly-created Emergency Response Specialist positions. Our purpose is to provide impact-based decision support services to our federal, state, and local government partners for major planned and unplanned events such as a tropical cyclone, oil spill, or chemical release in which the need exists to protect public safety as part of the NWS core mission.

Continued on page 2

## Notes from the President continued...

Matt had a great opportunity to become involved in a new NWS pilot program last year, and he relocated to the New Orleans area to become more involved in decision support services.

Please come out and support the Houston AMS as we get a chance to hear about Matt's experiences with the new project. I think many meteorologists are being asked to expand their role from traditional forecasting to include helping others make good decisions when faced with significant weather. Therefore, I think this topic will generate some great discussion opportunities within our group.

Thanks,  
Lance

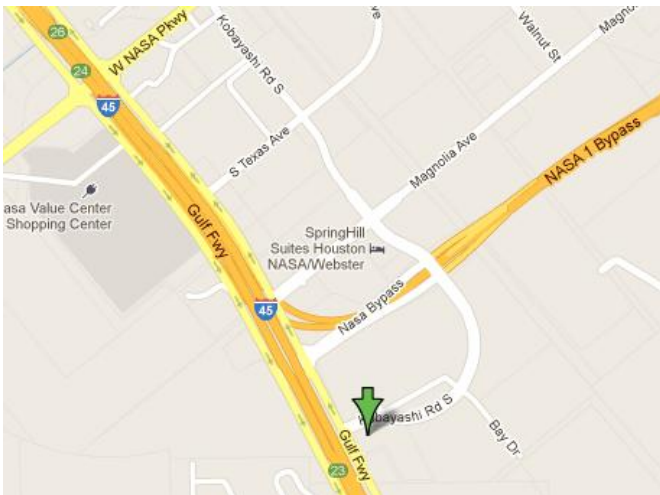
## Speaker Information continued...

Our focus is decision support in a marine environment. The team will enhance this type of support through incorporating new technology, leveraging research being accomplished throughout NOAA, developing an enhanced IDSS-oriented training plan, bringing in social science, and forming an impacts catalog and NIMS-compliant playbook which will document our best practices. Our team has already deployed for several major events including Hurricane Isaac, Navy Week in New Orleans, and Final Four weekend in New Orleans.

From 1998 through 2011 Matt was at the NWS Houston/Galveston Office where he was employed as both a Senior Forecaster and General Forecaster. He has worked closely with the NWS tropical program for the last several years. Matt is part of the NWS Storm Surge Warning Team and the Tropical (HLS) Improvement Team, and has worked to improve tropical training in the agency, including the development of a Tropical Training Short Course at NHC (June 2012) and training simulations on Hurricane Rita and Hurricane Ike. Matt is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Meteorology, Class of 1996.

## Maps & Directions

Rudy's BBQ  
21361 Gulf Freeway  
Webster, TX 77598



[Click Here for Link](#)

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

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

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

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## 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 \$20 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 \$20 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.