

Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

August 2009

Movie Night: 'Hurricane Carla'

Thursday, August 27th
Dinner – 6:00pm / Meeting – 7:00pm
Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
10830 Northwest Freeway

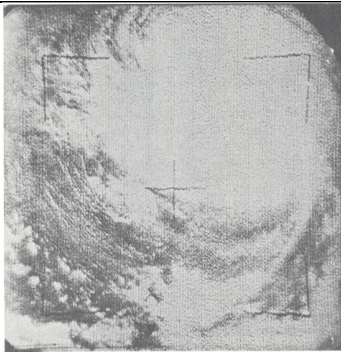


FIGURE 6.—Hurricane Carla, a very large storm, 1730 EST, September 10, 1961 at approximately 26° N., 93° W.

'The New Orleans hurricane center described Carla as one of the largest, most intense and destructive hurricanes ever to strike the United States Gulf coast. Carla's center moved inland over the Port O'Conner-Port Lavaca area on the central Texas coast during the afternoon of September 11. Sustained hurricane force winds were reported from Corpus Christi to Galveston and hurricane gusts were felt along almost the entire length of the Texas coast.'

Read more on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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

Notes from the President –

Greetings!

I want to thank our Vice Presidents, Drew Wasson, and Aaron Studwell, who secured the Olive Garden banquet room for the August AMS Chapter Meeting.

Yes, I know this is the last of the Summer Meetings, so at the last meeting in July, the members present discussed what we could do that might be interesting for the August Meeting, and we came up with "Movie Night". We are looking for a good turnout for this month's meeting as we will be having a special showing of rare film, HURRICANE CARLA, which was produced back in 1961 by famed Houston Newsmen, and Texas Author, Ray Miller.

Some of you may remember Mr. Miller as the original host of the KPRC-TV Program, The Eyes of Texas, later replaced by another great Houston Newsmen, Ron Stone. Both are now passed away, but still remembered as true legends of Houston TV News. I received my copy of the film back in the early 1980's when Ray came to me with it and offered to trade a copy of it for a copy of another rare historical film. I had heard of this film on Hurricane Carla, but had never viewed it. I had seen the very brittle 16mm film in its can at the Rosenberg Library Vault. The last time I showed it in public was at the Galveston County Historical Museum for a special presentation on the 40th Anniversary of Hurricane Carla by Bill Read and me. It is an amazing film, shot in black-and-white as most were back in that day. The footage coverage is not only the Galveston area, but also the area where Carla made landfall, near Port O'Connor in Matagorda Bay. It runs less than 30 minutes. Remember, Carla, is known as the strongest Hurricane to hit the Texas Coast, so invite a friend and enjoy a meal with the membership, and watch a bit of hurricane history.

I want to thank those that attended last month's meeting at Floyd's in Webster and the National Weather Service Office. Dorri Breher gave a very

Read more on page 2

Speaker Information continued...

'Peak gusts of 175 mph were estimated at Port Lavaca. A gust of 153 mph was observed on the anemometer of the Bauer Dredging Co. before the instrument failed. The lowest reported pressure at Port Lavaca was 27.62 inches (935 mb) and it remained at that value from 1545 to 1735 CST. Available information indicates the needle was below the scale during that period.

Total damage in Texas was estimated at \$300 million, two-thirds to property and one-third to crops. Fatalities were 34 in Texas, 6 in Louisiana, 5 in Kansas, and 1 in Missouri. Of the 34 dead in Texas 8 were killed in a tornado that swept across Galveston from the Gulf as the hurricane there was subsiding. Eight tornadoes in all were associated with Carla in Texas and 10 in Louisiana. Persons injured in Texas totaled 465; 1,915 homes, 568 farm buildings, and 415 other buildings were destroyed; 7,398 homes, 1,382 farm buildings, and 1,219 other buildings received major damage; and 43,325 homes, 4,238 farm buildings, and 9,268 other buildings received minor damage.

Timely and accurate hurricane advisories resulted in the largest evacuation of persons from danger areas in the Nation's history. An estimated 350,000 persons fled inland from the Texas and Louisiana coastal areas. This evacuation was responsible for the comparatively low death toll. In September 1900 some 6,000 persons died, mostly from drowning, in the well-remembered Galveston hurricane.' Taken from the Monthly Weather Review, March 1962.



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CHAPTER WEBSITE
www.amshouston.net

NATIONAL WEBSITE
www.ametsoc.org

Notes continued...

interesting presentation covering Marine Forecasting. It is an example of the amazing and differing skills our membership has.

Our Chapter Library is growing at the NWS Office, and if you have any text books covering meteorology or other earth science. Feel free to donate them to our library. We will also accept, related DVD's, CD's, VHS tapes as well, even copies of BAMS.

Does anyone want to volunteer to be the chapter photographer to capture meetings and other events for the website? Contact me or one of the other officers, if you are interested.

We are also trying to raise funds for our own audio/visual equipment for the chapter, so if you would like to pay your dues, be a chapter sponsor, or just have money you would like to donate to the chapter, please contact Brian or myself.

We still need our membership to step up to work on a few committees as well, so get involved please. Remember what someone once said, "Don't ask what the Chapter can do for you, but rather, how can I support my Chapter and help it grow?"

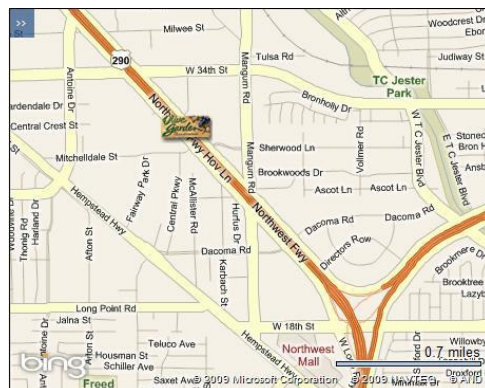
Keep cool & dry,
Lew

"If you spend your whole life waiting for the storm, you'll never enjoy the sunshine."

Morris West

Maps & Directions

Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
10830 Northwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77092
713-682-1465



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.

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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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

34TH NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

LOCATION: NORFOLK, VA – DATES: 17-22 OCTOBER

THE FIFTH EDUCATION AND SCIENCE FORUM

LOCATION: WASHINGTON D. C. – DATES: 12-14 NOVEMBER