

Highlights

- All TexAQS 2000 aircraft flying today
- Weather continues hot & humid with ozone alert
- Update on T-1 & Telephone Lines

Inside

- Restaurant Review - Raven Grill
- Ken Olszyna Expose
- Thoughts for the day

The Daily Plan-it

*The TexAQS 2000
Field Study Newsletter
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High Levels of Ozone Predicted Today

Friday's Weather Briefing

According to our crackerjack weather forecasters, the weather today will be very hot (100 degrees F) and humid with light west-northwest wind this morning backing around to the southeast by late morning/early afternoon. Ozone hot spots under these conditions should be over the ship channel and further west. They speculated - given the larger scale circulation pattern - that today's Houston-Galveston plume would be heading towards the Tyler-Longview area. Macroscale transport continues to be dominated by a high pressure system over southern Louisiana.

A continental "cool" front continues south bringing a little relief to the midwest and northeast. but is expected to stall out at the Ohio River. The southeast continues to bake and numerous heat and air pollution advisories (Birmingham AL and Atlanta GA) continue. For those few of you interested, TVA produced a record 29,300 megawatts as the average temperature in the Tennessee Valley rose to 99 F yesterday afternoon. Ozone "hot spots" according to the EPA AIRNOW for the eastern U.S. included Pensacola FL, and Montgomery & Birmingham AL. I'm sure that the Atlanta was in there,

too, but since GA does not participate in AIRNOW, it's not easy to find out.



Electra Flight

The NOAA/NCAR Electra (Tail Number N308D) left Ellington Field at 12:45 PM for a 4-hour flight which includes spirals over Galveston Bay and a rectangle around the Houston area. It is anticipated that the flight will last 4 to 4.5 hours.

G-1 Flight



The DOE G-1 (Tail Number N701BN) left Ellington Field at about 9:20 AM this morning for an estimated 90 minute flight over Galveston Bay and the Gulf. Flight plans call for boundary layer traverses around the ship channel to encounter polluted air as well as a vertical profile taking us above the boundary layer into cleaner air. The G-1 Science Team considers this to be a shake down cruise for both scientists and equipment.

DC-3 Flight



The NOAA DC-3 (Tail Number N56KS) will conduct a 2.25

hour "ladder" flight at 10.5 to 11.5 k feet msl proceeding from east to west across downtown Houston along north to south "rungs" before returning over the center of downtown Houston and over the Bay before returning to Ellington.

Twin Otter Flight



The TNRCC/Baylor Twin Otter (Tail Number N153BU) is planning a mid-afternoon flight to catch the Bay breeze recirculation.

FAA Call-In

Following the morning weather briefing, Peter Daum called in the TexAQS flight plans for today with nary a discouraging word. This is, indeed, good news.

T-1 & Telephones

Two out of three ain't bad although I'm sure the folks at the Southwest Services Hangar at Ellington Field would beg to differ. As it now stands, it seems quite likely that there will not be any T-1 or telephone service brought to the hangar although the CapRock Communications folks are moving heaven and earth to try to get things done. This means, essentially,

that we'll have to be grateful for whatever services we do have at CapRock Building & La Porte. It would seem to be another one of those character building opportunities that our parents were always talking about.

Upcoming Events

Eric William's Meeting - Saturday, August 19th - 2:00 PM (Ellington CapRock Building)

Science Overview Meeting - Tuesday, August 22nd - 8:00 PM (Ellington, CapRock Building)

Media Day - Thursday, August 24th - 2:00 PM (Ellington, Southwest Services)

VIP Day - Wednesday, August 30th (Ellington, Southwest Services)

The Garrulous Gourmet - Raven Grill

By Wayne Angevine Raven Grill

Four of us discovered this restaurant (in two separate groups) back in October during the first planning meeting. It's on Bissonette just northeast of Rice University. Allen White and I were out walking, desperately trying to find something decent to eat, and suddenly the Raven Grill appeared. It turned out that Michael Trainer and David Parrish were already there. I've been back at least five times since.

It is a very Boulder sort of restaurant. The menu is eclectic, ranging from burgers through pastas and vegetarian dishes to fancy meat and potatoes for those who like such things. My favorite is the catfish. Many items have a southwestern theme, but it's not overwhelming. The food is cooked in an open kitchen featuring a wood-burning oven. There are several good beers on tap, plus

coffees and wines. The prices are rather low by Boulder standards. There must be lots of cheap rich folks in Houston because there are always a bunch of Jaguars and BMWs parked outside -- or maybe they're broke from making the payments. The service is also outstanding, with just the right level of attentiveness.

The only downside to the Raven Grill is that it's a long drive (30 to 45 minutes) from Ellington Field. By the way, it's open on Mondays. I give it four stars (out of four) for good food, great service, and reasonable prices.

★★★★

Ken Olszyna Expose'



Ripe for knowledge - Ken surveys La Porte Operation

Ken Olszyna, affectionately know as "Oz" to his compadres, has been operating air quality monitoring stations and measuring nitrogen oxides (NO/NO_y/NO₂) since - well, as the Texas saying goes - they invented dirt. In some way, shape or fashion Ken has been involved in four SOS field campaigns (Nashville '94, '95 & '99, and TexAQS '00). He has carved out

a niche for himself in operating and maintaining nitrogen oxides monitoring systems. Ken also has considerable experience in auditing these systems and during the past two years has worked with EPA's Joanne Rice and counterparts from Texas and Houston to audit the Houston Photochemical Air Monitoring System (PAMS) network.

During TexAQS 2000 Ken, supported by TNRCC, is setting-up and operating high-sensitivity NO/NO_y/NO₂ systems at Aldine and Bayland Park monitoring stations. Although suffering some initial setbacks as a consequence of insufficient air conditioning (Aldine) and a faulty air calibration system (Bayland) everything has been coming up roses as of late. Ken should have both systems on line this weekend. And he can't wait to share these data with the wizards from La Porte and Williams Tower.

Thoughts for the Day

- I'll moider da bum.
- Heavyweight boxer Tony Galento, when asked what he thought of William Shakespeare
- Each problem that I solved became a rule which served afterwards to solve other problems.
- Rene Descartes
- There is more stupidity than hydrogen in the universe, and it has a longer shelf life.
- Frank Zappa