

Highlights

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TexAQs Airforce Dodges Balloons This Weekend

Balloon Madness

It won't be the first time that field study scientists have run from an excess of hot air - but it will be for us. A weekend-long NASA Open House and hot air balloon festival will take place over and around the Johnson Space Flight Center.



Aircraft Intercomparison

The aircraft intercomparison study is center stage today for all Houston-based aircraft. The species of interest include: O₃, CO, NO, NO₂, NO_y, SO₂, CH₂O, H₂O₂, PM, PAN, HNO₃, canister VOCs, and aerosol sulfate as well as general flight information. This study is intended to identify any major differences/problems in sampling & measurement systems. As Peter Daum expressed it, "the goal of the study is not to nit-pick small differences of 10 to 15 % but rather to identify major

differences that might be resolved before the end of the study." He and Jim Meagher will be expecting to receive all intercomparison data collected today by end of the day on Monday, August 28th. Pete & Jim also stressed that the intercomparison data should not be handled any differently than routinely collected data.

Next week, Pete & Jim will cast the data in a common time format and consider intercomparison time series and correlation plots between the various aircraft. They will, in turn, distribute raw measurement results to all parties for their own consideration. Following their own insightful analysis, they will meet with the principal investigators to discuss results. Finally, after due deliberation, the principal investigators will present the salient intercomparison results at a full-blown science team meeting.

The intercomparison (see Electra flight plan on page 3) will take place northwest of the Houston metro area along the 95° 20' meridian. The Electra, G-1 and Twin Otter will fly three legs - about 50 miles in length - at altitudes of 3k, 4.5k and 8k feet agl between 30°40' N and 31°30' N. The DC-3 will rise above it all and fly at 11.5k feet agl along the same meridian. According to plans, the aircraft will rendezvous at approximately 12:10

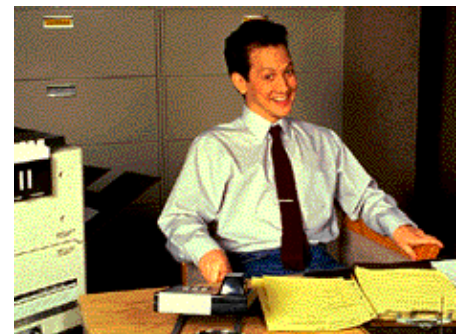
PM CDT at 20°40' N and 95°20' W to begin the intercomparison.

Media Day Success

Pete Daum, the instrumentalists and air crews did us proud at yesterday's Media Day. Fortunately, the reception was held in the South West Services hangar. The rains tried to foil the event but actually only served to lower the temperatures and make for an more enjoyable afternoon.

Makin' Copies with the Copier!

Although the "Richmeister" (famous Saturday Night Live character) isn't here to help us make copies, at least now we'll have the opportunity to do it for ourselves. Pitney-Bowes copy machines were installed here at the CapRock Building (Coffee/Copy Room) and over at the Southwest Services hangar offices. Go forth and copy!



TNRCC Web Site Down

NOTICE: The TNRCC Web site, including the **Monitoring Operations** pages, will be down Saturday & Sunday August 26 and 27, and will not be back up until sometime during the day, Monday, August 28. They are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. Please contact the Call Center at 512 239-0911 if you have questions.

Weather Ways & Means

John Nielsen-Gammon provided the weather forecast today.

While there's a slight chance of showers this afternoon (<20%), tomorrow's looking quite good from the pollution perspective. A high pressure system over Louisiana should lead to more favorable pollution conditions for tomorrow and Sunday when it is anticipated that there will be a good likelihood of "classic" land breeze/sea breeze circulation. Circulation aloft should be relatively light from the southeast.

Tropical storm Debby has pretty much fallen apart with its remnants heading for the Gulf. While it may reassert itself somewhat, it isn't expected to be much of a concern from a hurricane perspective, it may still provide some wet weather this coming Tuesday & Wednesday. Tomorrow morning's weather forecast is set for 7:30 AM.

Electra N308D

The Electra is participating - with all the other Houston-based aircraft - in today's intercomparison study.

After the intercomparison, the Electra will conduct a bay breeze/urban area characterization flight from the Gulf through the north

side of Houston (see flight plan on page 3).

While it has been partly cloudy today, a large "pool" of ozone appear to be forming over and just south of the ship channel. An hourly average of 157 ppbv (1:00 to 2:00 PM) has been recorded at the Clinton station near the ship channel.

G-1 N701BN

Intercomparison flight today. As Bob Hannigan said "we'll have to speed up for the Electra and slow down for the Twin Otter."

Two 2.5 hour G-1 flights are anticipated for tomorrow. One leaving at 9:30 AM and the other at 2:00 PM.

DC-3 N56KS

Intercomparison flight today.

Although no one from the Lidar team was present for the 1:00 planning meeting/met briefing today, we might anticipate a mid-day flight for tomorrow. Clear conditions are forecast over land tomorrow

Twin Otter N153BU

Intercomparison flight today.

Two land breeze/sea breeze characterization flights are planned for tomorrow. The early flight will get off at 6:30 AM to beat the balloons and a second flight is planned for high noon.

Upcoming Events

Aerosol Group Meeting - Tuesday at 2:00 PM (29th Meeting at Place to be determined)

LaPorte Team Meeting - Every Tuesday at 3:00 PM (29th Meeting at Place to be determined)

TNRCC/EPA Region 6 Data Analysis Meeting Tuesday, August 29th - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Ellington, CapRock Conference Room)

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

Trooper of the Day



Today's TOD award goes to the NOAA-AL Webwoman - Cathy Burgdorf. Cathy has had to deal with a lot of challenges in these last few weeks what with no service, late service and then slow service but through it all she has retained her sense of dignity and composure. While we are not shy about coming to her with our various problems, we seldom say enough thank yous for doing a good job under extenuating circumstances. So, Cathy, on behalf of all of us - a big **THANK YOU!!!**

Thoughts for the Day

"When we contemplate the whole globe as one great dewdrop, striped and dotted with continents and islands, flying through space with all other stars all singing and shining together as one, the whole universe appears as an infinite storm of beauty."

-John Muir

"Don't be so humble - you are not that great."

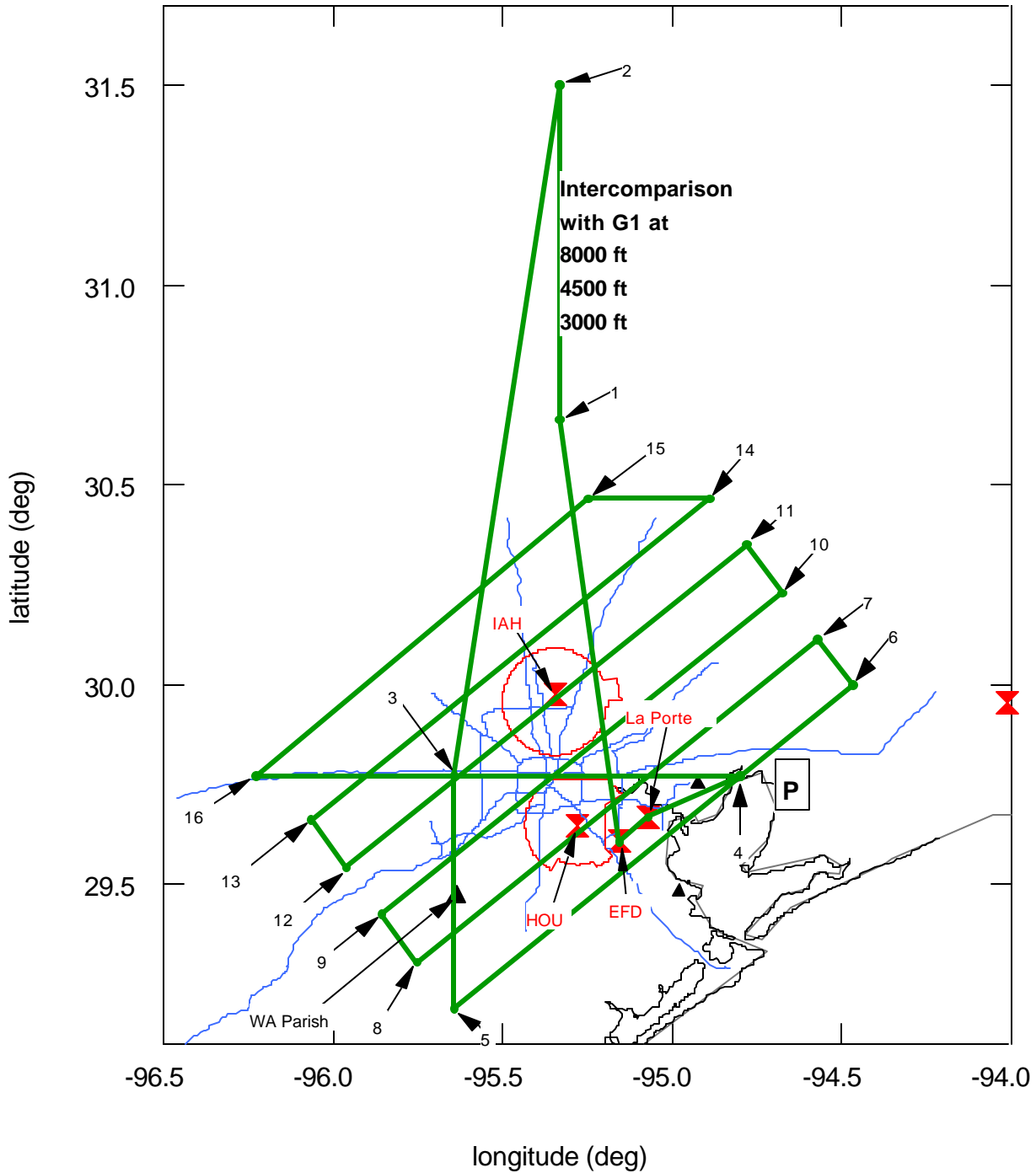
-Golda Meir

Flightplan for Fri 25 Aug 2000

Intercomparison with G1

Urban Plume, within the PBL and from above

Flow from SE



flight legs = 145 km, ~ 23 min

distance = 2220 km, flight duration : 6 - 6.5 hrs