

Highlights

- Intercomparison Update
- Weekend Weather Report
- Today's and Tomorrow's Flight Plans

Inside

- New Telephone Numbers - The RV's of your dreams!
- Restaurant Review - The Aquarium
- Thought for the Day

The Daily Plan-it

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Field Study Newsletter
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Hot, Hot, Hot! Like ozone? Great weekend for it!

NASA Open House Today

Balloons, traffic, cotton candy and plenty of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Most of the southeast corner of Houston is having a big time today at the Ballunar Festival. While a few of us are in the office slaving away (the few, the proud, the morons – no, wait, that's Marines, isn't it?). NASA is having an open house, today, too.

Aircraft Intercomparison

The intercomparison effort concluded at least in part successfully. Unfortunately, as I understand it, the G-1 had some battery problems and had to break off about half-way (5-minutes into the second leg) through the intercomparison flight. Michael Trainer suggested that he hoped the amount of time they did have would be sufficient - ah, confidence.

Fortunately, given the truncated intercomparison, the remainder of the TexAQs Houston airforce made the best of their remaining flight time by taking a long, hard look at the high ozone conditions in the boundary layer over downtown and the western part of the ship channel. All of the aircraft encountered ozone levels in excess of 200 ppbv and these high levels were mirrored at the surface stations.

Telephone Numbers

The RV's on the ramp just outside the Southwest Services Hangar now have telephones. You can reach them at:

- Baylor RV - 281 922-6533
- DOE RV (*Chez Springston*) - 281 922-7698

Media Day TV Coverage

For those of you who missed the actual event, the TexAQs is being played and replayed on the local access TV channel - it's channel 65 on the TownPlace Suites TV's anyway. The title they gave it is "Mayor's Press Conference - Texas Air Quality Study."

I thought that all the speakers - particularly our own Pete Daum - did a commendable job of explaining why we are here and why this study is needed.

Weekend Weather Forecast

John Nielsen-Gammon provided the weather forecast today but Fred Fehsenfeld provided the entertainment when he asked John to "read the meteorological tea leaves" several days ahead. John indicated that he was having orange juice today, not tea, and

that he'd have to read the "pulp," to which Fred replied, "oh, that would be pulp fiction then." Fred, we must admit, has wonderful timing.

Just as predicted yesterday, today's weather is just the ticket for interesting secondary pollution production and accumulation. A high pressure system over Louisiana continues to produce favorable pollution conditions for today, tomorrow and Monday.

Macroscale circulation aloft continues light and from the southeast. These light upper level winds allow the formation of a surface level land breeze - off the land and towards the Bay and Gulf - at night and enhance the formation of the bay breeze - off the Gulf/Galveston Bay to the land - at midday.

This morning, Debby was just a shell of her former self, a tropical wave bringing squally thunderstorms and heavy rains to Cuba. Models, which to date have not performed well with Debby, show the wave continuing to move west and emerging over the open Gulf in a day or two. If enough remains, the system could possibly regenerate then, perhaps, threaten the Yucatan and the western Gulf.

Electra N308D

Yesterday, after the intercomparison, the Electra conducted a bay breeze/urban area characterization flight from the Gulf through the north side of Houston.

Today the Electra is having a hard down day.

Tomorrow the Electra will conduct a midday sea breeze/urban characterization flight from the Gulf and following a standard ladder or stack pattern across the Houston metro area.

G-1 N701BN

The G-1 left the intercomparison party early yesterday but, fortunately for us all, the indicated problems have been resolved.

The G-1 is conducting two 2.5 hour flights today - one at 9:30 AM and the other at 2:00 PM.

The G-1 plans a hard down day tomorrow.

DC-3 N56KS

Bob Banta's Big Day!!
Following the intercomparison flight yesterday, the DC-3 attacked targets of opportunity while dancing between the clouds.

Today and tomorrow the DC-3 will conduct midday urban/sea breeze characterization flights. Mostly clear conditions are forecast.

Twin Otter N153BU

Yesterday, after the intercomparison flight, the Twin Otter conducted a urban area characterization flight back

and forth across the high ozone/precursor rich I-10 corridor Houston. Maximum ozone levels of more than 200 ppbv were encountered. Before returning to Ellington the Twin Otter also flew the a refinery plume and measured over 60 ppbv of SO₂.

Two land breeze/sea breeze characterization flights are planned for today. The early flight left Ellington at 7:15 AM with a later flight planned for 12:00 noon.

Tomorrow, the Twin Otter will conduct two (9:30 AM & 12:30 PM) transition model validation flights consisting of multiple legs and spirals over Galveston Bay, La Porte, and Ellington.

hourly ozone data provided to EPA "missed" the maximum running hourly ozone concentrations encountered by the Houston surface sites. According to the "preliminary" official data yesterday did not show an exceedence of the 1-hour ozone standard.

TNRCC's Dan White says he's not surprised at the incongruities and that the "peaky" nature of ozone production in Houston often leads to such apparent differences.

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)

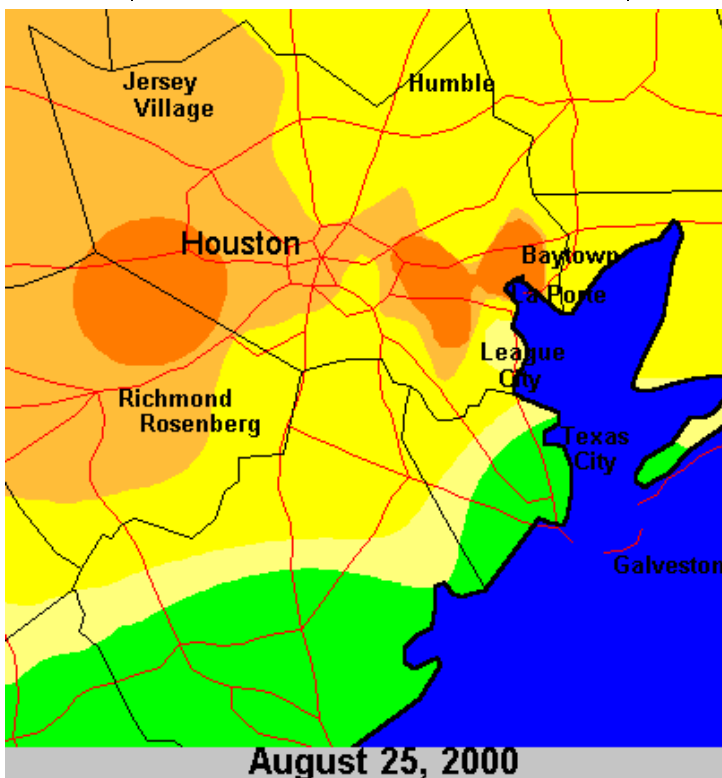
VIP Day - Wednesday, August 30th (Ellington, Southwest Services)

Restaurant Review -
Aquarium

By Mohammed Ayoub

NASA Road One East to 146 South, go over the Kemah Bridge at turn left at first light, go to 4-way stop, turn left and follow the signs.

The Aquarium - on the Kemah Boardwalk is one of the most beautiful and interesting theme restaurants that I have been to in a long time. The entrance to the restaurant is adorned with a three-story high aquarium, that runs up the revolving



Interesting Conundrum

According to the EPA AIRNOW website, the Figure depicts the maximum 1-hour ozone concentration for the Houston area yesterday. It is interesting to note that the "official"

stairs. Inside they have a number of tanks, the largest - a 50,000 gallon tank - houses a variety of incredibly beautiful fish, a couple of rays and several sharks. They also have several side tanks with exotic fish from Japan and Hawaii among other places. Be sure to mention that this is your first visit to your host, so you can benefit from the "full treatment."

As visually stimulating as the setting is, the food matched it in every way and was absolutely incredible. I had the daily house special. The meal consisted of stuffed blackened redfish topped with shrimp and crawfish in a creamy white wine sauce served with squash, carrots, boc-choy and Spanish rice. It was all EXCELLENT.

The Kemah Boardwalk also offers several boat rides and has a large number of theme restaurants and bars. All in all I would rate Aquarium as an astounding four stars. It is a MUST EAT establishment for special occasions!!

Note: It is a little heavy on the wallet, but it is well worth the money so you won't mind.

Thought for the Day

A big-city lawyer went duck hunting in rural Texas. He shot and dropped a bird, but it fell into a farmer's field on the other side of a fence. As the lawyer climbed over the fence, an elderly farmer drove up on his tractor and asked him what he was doing.

The litigator responded, "I shot a duck and it fell into this field, and now I'm going to retrieve it."

The old farmer replied, "This is my property, and you are not coming over here."

The indignant lawyer said, "I am one of the best trial attorneys in the U.S. and, if you don't let me get that duck, I'll sue you and take everything you own."

The old farmer smiled and said, "Apparently, you don't know how we do things in Texas. We settle small disagreements like this with the Texas Three-Kick Rule."

The lawyer asked, "What is the Texas Three-Kick Rule?"

The Farmer replied, "Well, first I kick you three times and then you kick me three times, and so on, back and forth, until someone gives up."

The attorney quickly thought about the proposed contest and decided that he could easily take the old codger. He agreed to abide by the local custom.

The old farmer slowly climbed down from the tractor and walked up to the lawyer. His first kick planted the toe of his heavy work boot into the lawyer's groin and dropped him to his knees. His second kick nearly wiped the man's nose off his face and the barrister was flat on his belly when the farmer's third kick to a kidney nearly caused him to give up.

The lawyer summoned every bit of his will and managed to get to his feet and said, "Okay, you old coot! Now, it's my turn!"

The old farmer just smiled and said, "Naw, I give up. You can have the duck!"

