Intermediate Marine Weather

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Overview of the Course

The scales of weather systems will be studied from the largest global patterns, i.e. the Jet Stream, to the local weather phenomenon, i.e. Gulf Stream North Wall, coastal winds and squall lines. Upper air charts will be introduced and integrated with surface weather maps for forecasting and introductory routing and heavy weather avoidance. Sea and swell formation, propagation and decay will be introduced. This knowledge will be applied to the OPC and TPC wind and wave analyses and forecast charts. Tropical cyclone basics and the rules for avoidance will be introduced. Favorable boating weather (e.g. afternoon winds and sea-breezes) and potentially dangerous weather (e.g., squall lines and tropical cyclones) will be emphasized. This course, along with the MTC Basic Marine Meteorology course, provides the foundation for the MTC Advanced Marine Meteorology course.

Goal of the Course

To weatherproof you: recognize, understand, act!

Intermediate Marine Weather Topics

- Scales of weather: global weather patterns; local weather phenomena, i.e. Gulf Stream 'north wall', coastal winds, squall lines
- **Introduction to upper-air charts:** integration with surface weather maps for forecasting (*forecasting* exercise) and introductory routing to avoid heavy weather
- **Introduction to sea and swell**: formation, propagation and decay; overview of OPC and TPC wind and wave analyses and forecast charts
- **Tropical cyclone:** basics and the rules for avoidance

This presentation is at www.sci.ccny.cuny.edu/~hindman

Certification

Upon completion of the course, you will receive a Landfall Navigation-Marine Training Center *Certificate of Completion in Intermediate Marine Weather*

References

Reeds Maritime Meteorology 3rd edition, Cornish & Ives (ISBN: 0713676353, available from Amazon.com)

Weather at Sea 4th edition, Houghton

(ISBN: 1904475167, available from Landfall Navigation)

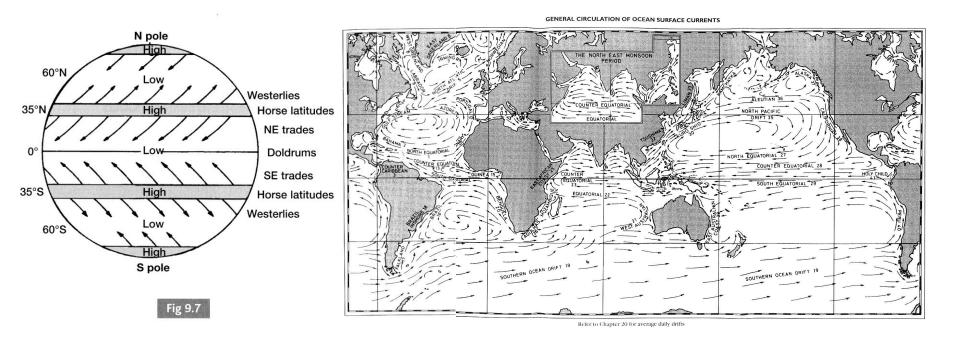
North U Weather for Sailors 2nd edition, Biewenga

(ISBN: 097446760X, available from Landfall Navigation)

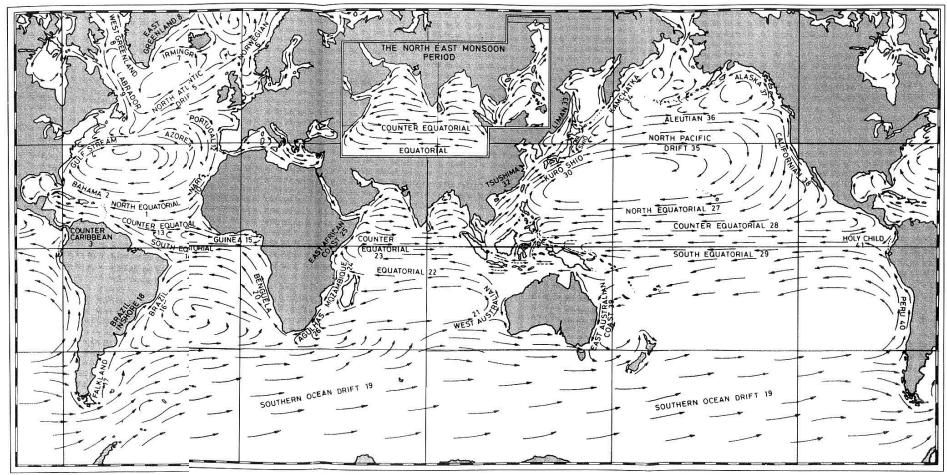
Your course expectations?

Scales of weather: Global weather patterns

•To balance the energy excess in the Equatorial regions and the energy deficit in the Polar regions, the Earth's atmosphere and oceans transport the 'excess warmth' toward the Poles and the 'excess cold' toward the Equator. The transport is accomplished by the atmospheric winds (60%) and oceanic currents (40%):



Scales of weather: Global weather patterns – the major ocean currents

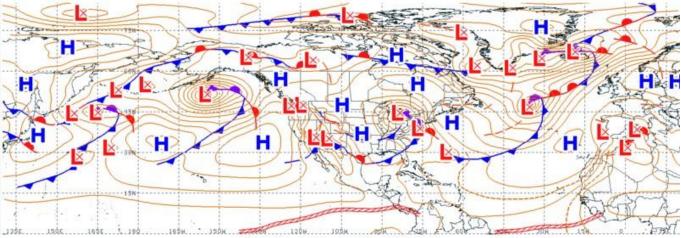


GENERAL CIRCULATION OF OCEAN SURFACE CURRENTS

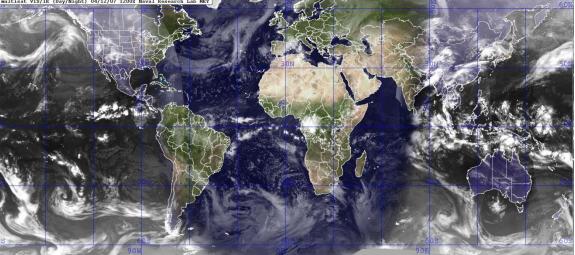
Refer to Chapter 20 for average daily drifts

Scales of weather: Global weather patterns simultaneously from the surface and from satellites

- •Surface weather map from www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/
- •Satellite image & loop from www.nrlmry.navy.mil/sat-bin/global.cgi
- •Satellite loop (Global mollwiede) from www.ssec.wisc.edu/data/comp/ir/irmoll.mpg



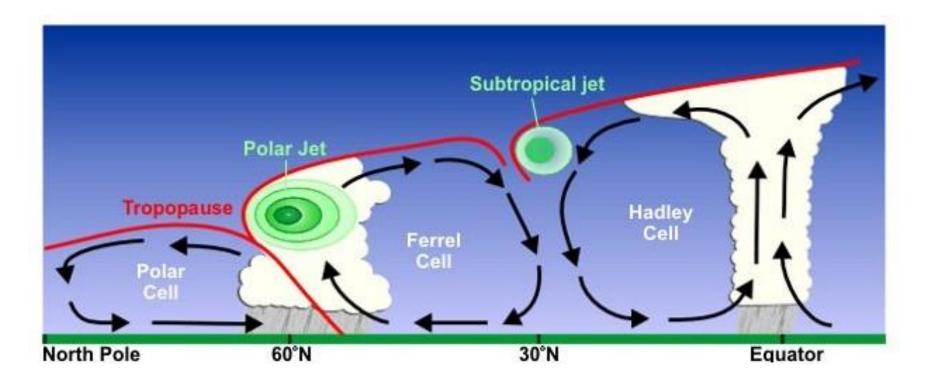
12 UTC APRIL 12 2007 - NATIONAL HEATHER SERVICE



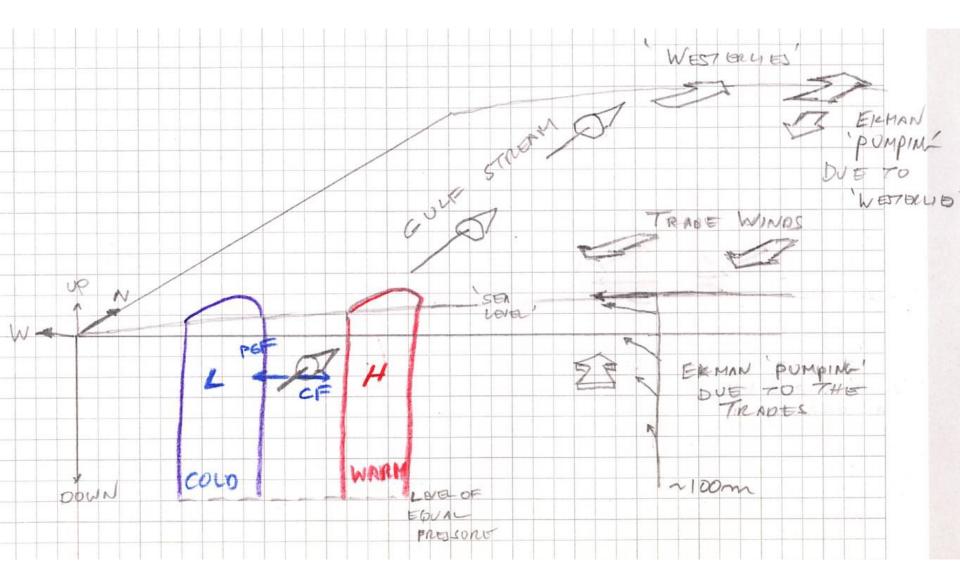
Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Gulf Stream

•The Gulf Stream is an oceanic 'jet stream'.

•First, what is a 'jet stream'? It's a high speed river of air aloft in the Earth's atmosphere. There are two 'jet streams', the subtropical and the polar. The subtropical is formed by the conservation of angular momentum and the polar is formed by temperature differences across the Polar Front.

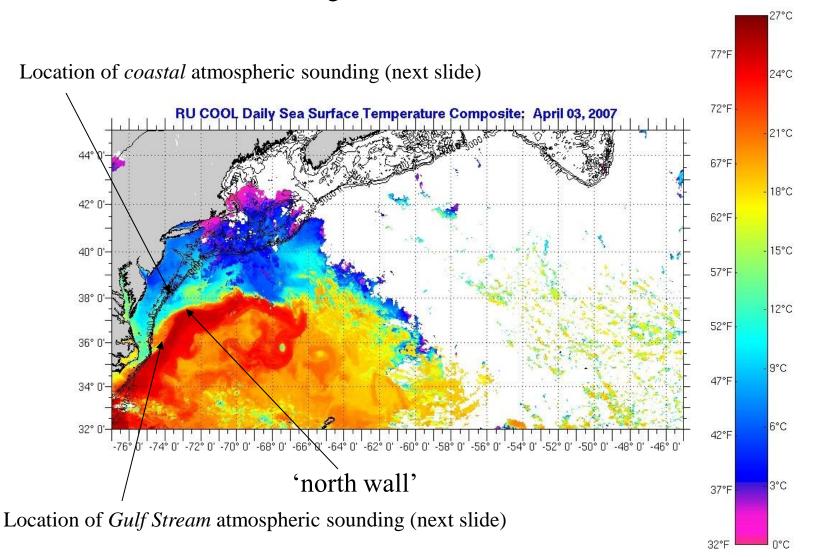


Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Gulf Stream formation

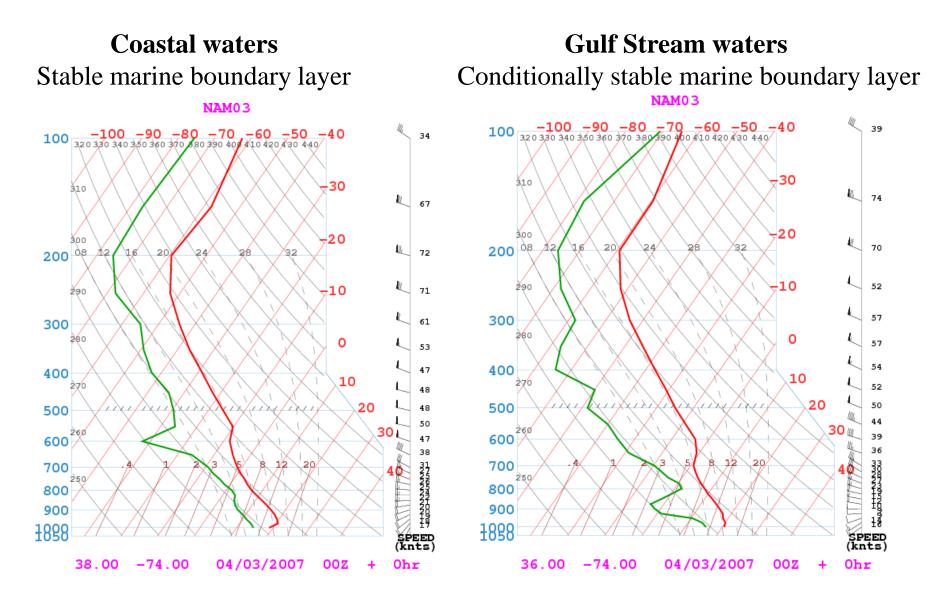


Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Gulf Stream 'north wall'

•The 'north wall' refers to the extremely strong temperature gradient between the cool coastal water and the warm Sargasso Sea waters.

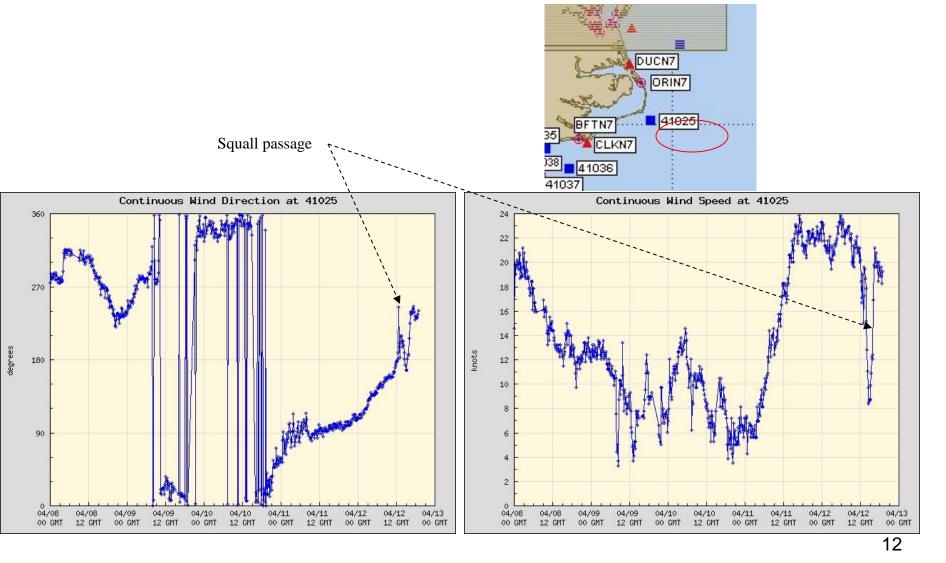


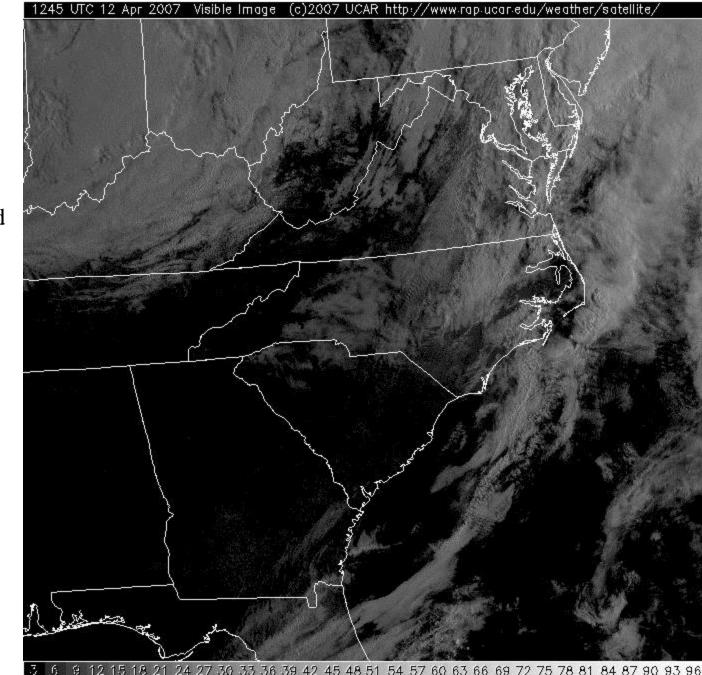
Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Gulf Stream 'north wall' weather



Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Gulf Stream 'north wall' weather

- •Squall passage 11 April 2007
- As measured from NOAA Buoy 41025:

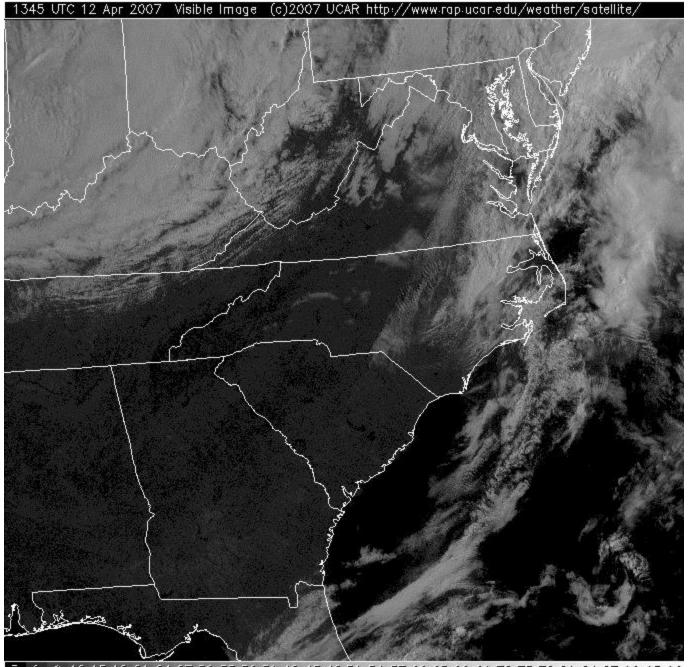




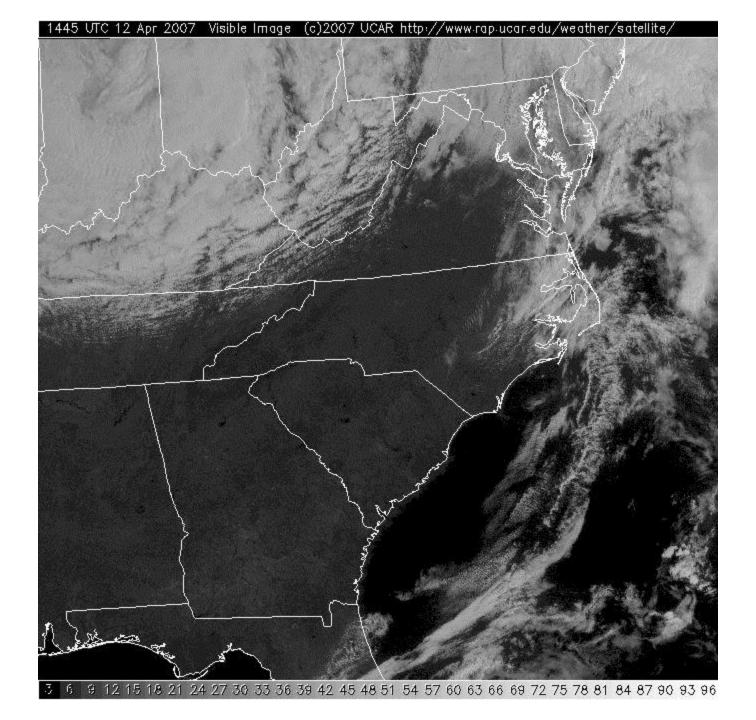
As detected by satellite

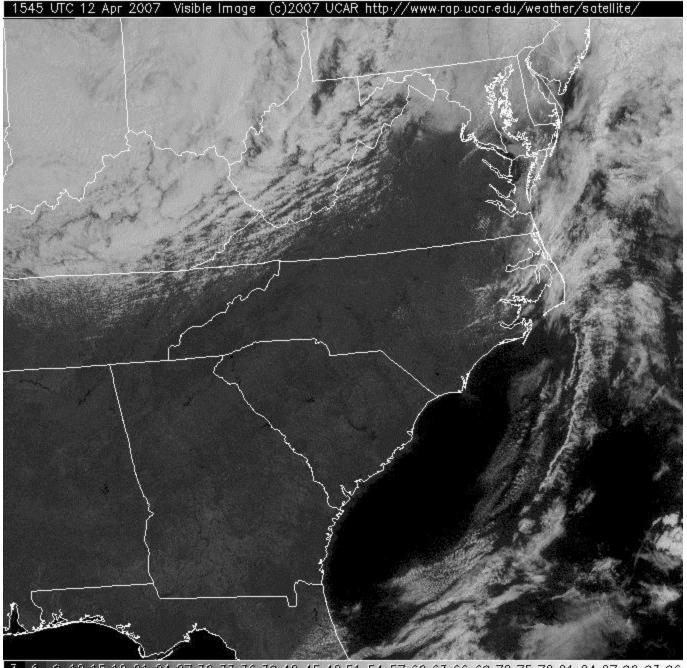
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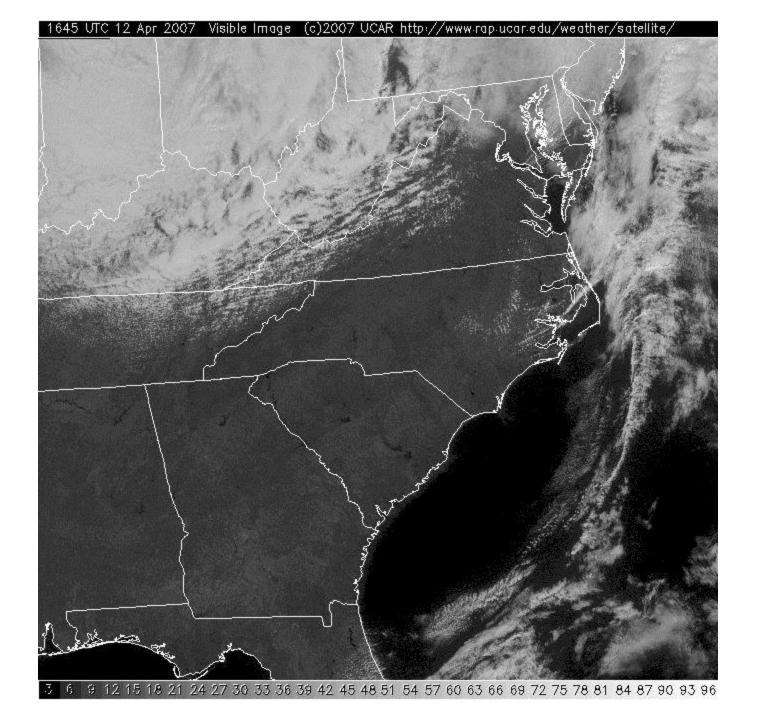


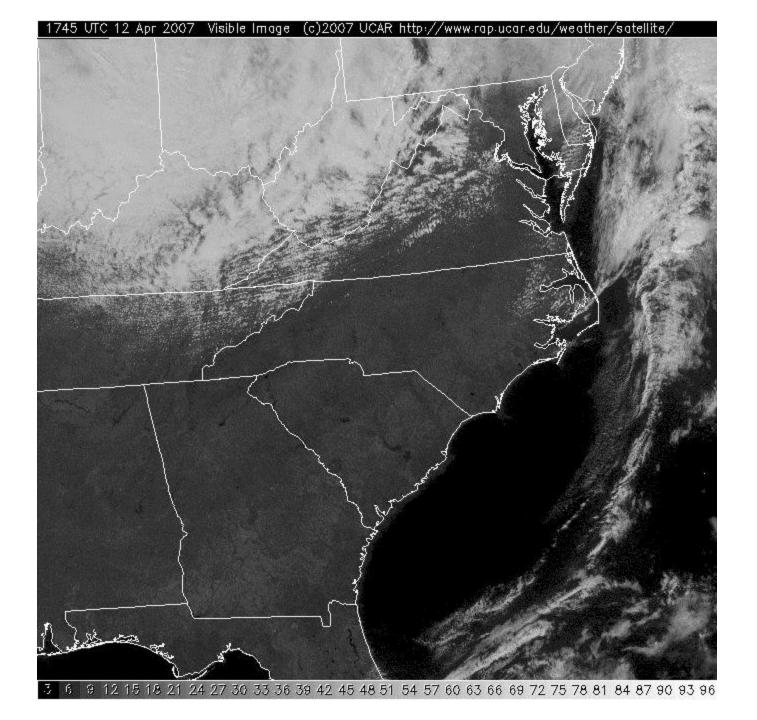
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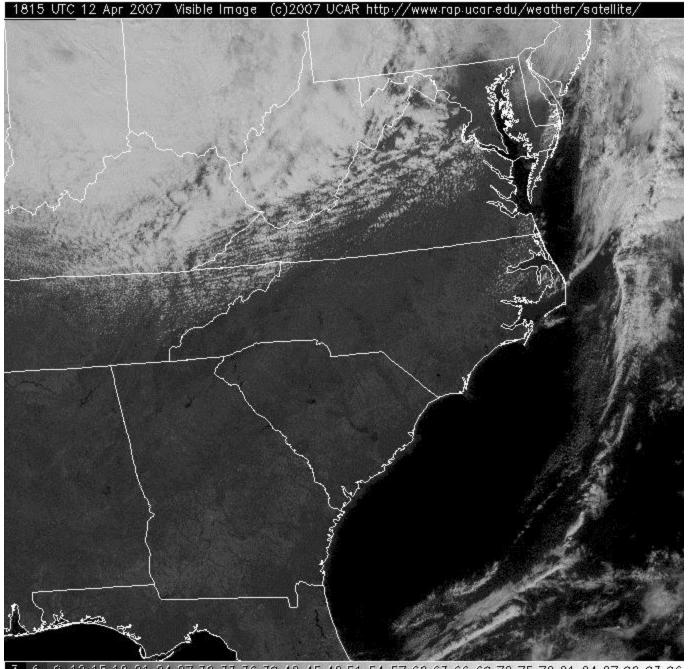




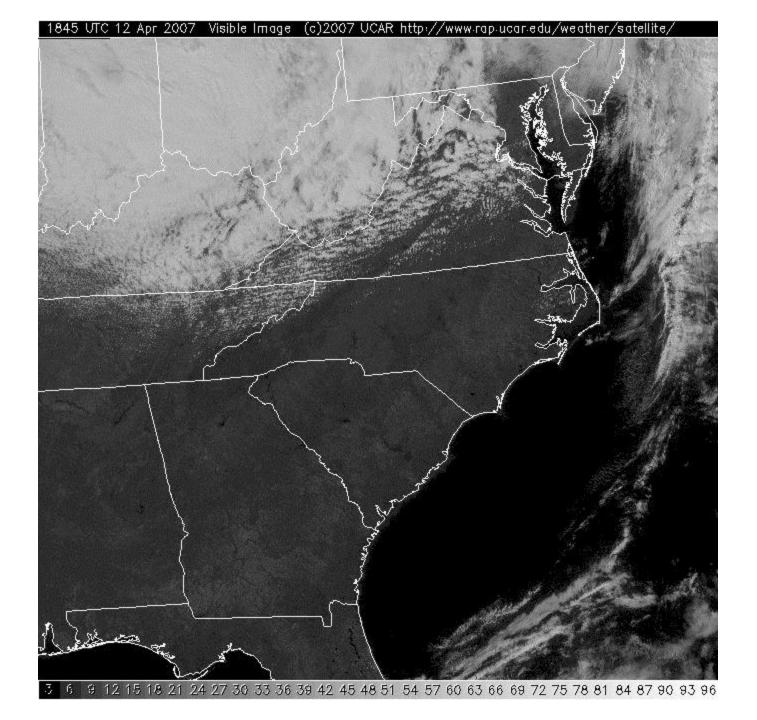
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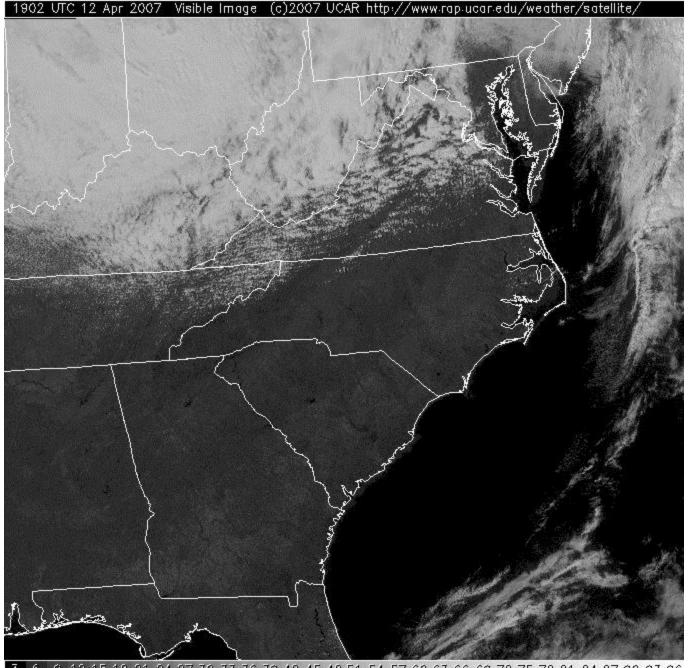




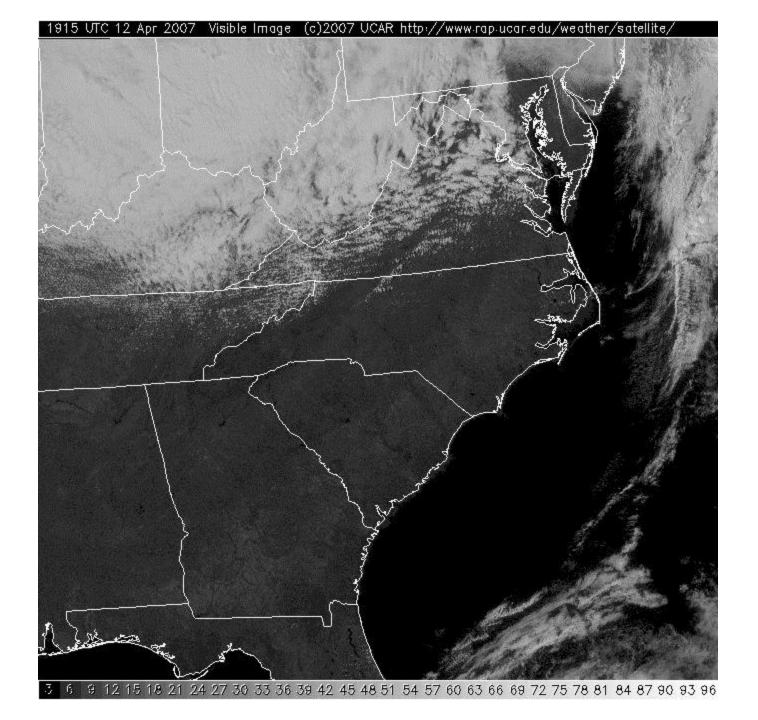


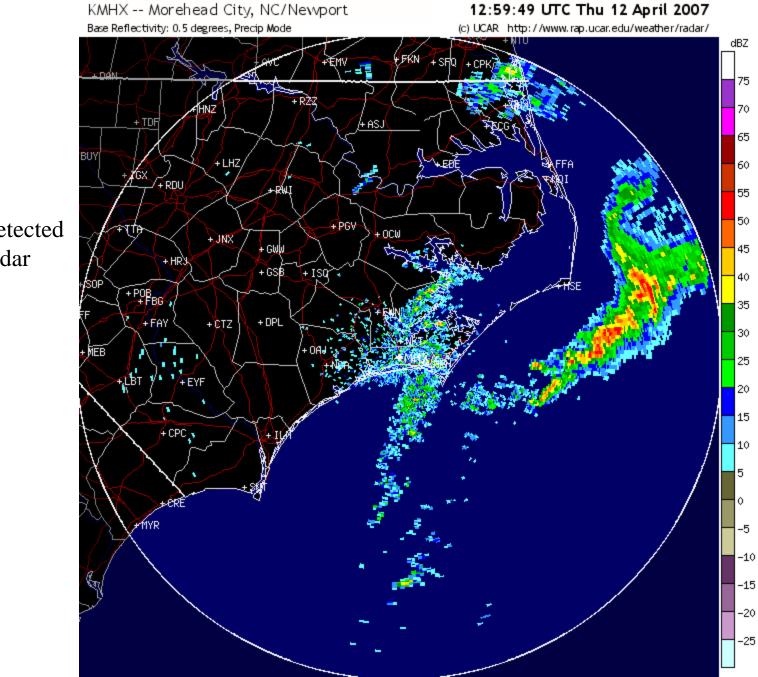
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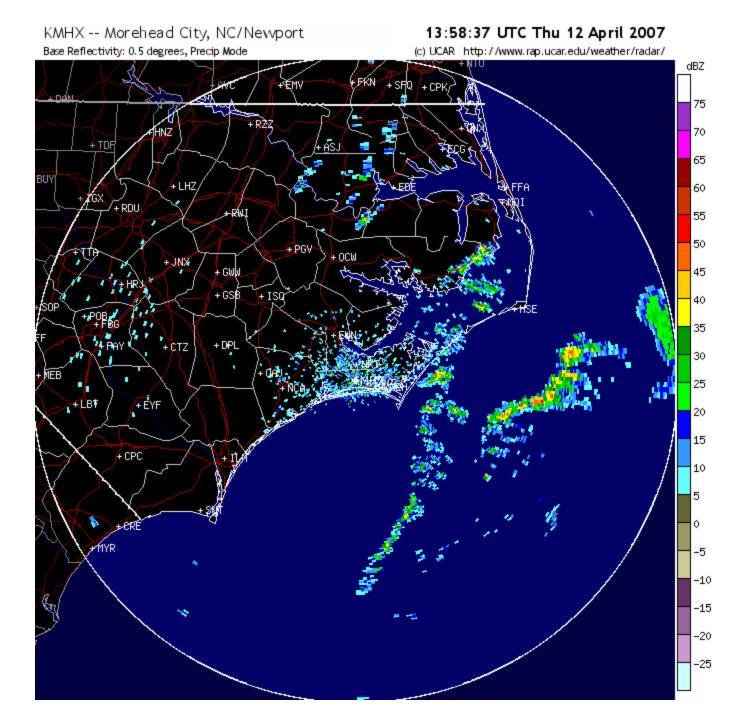


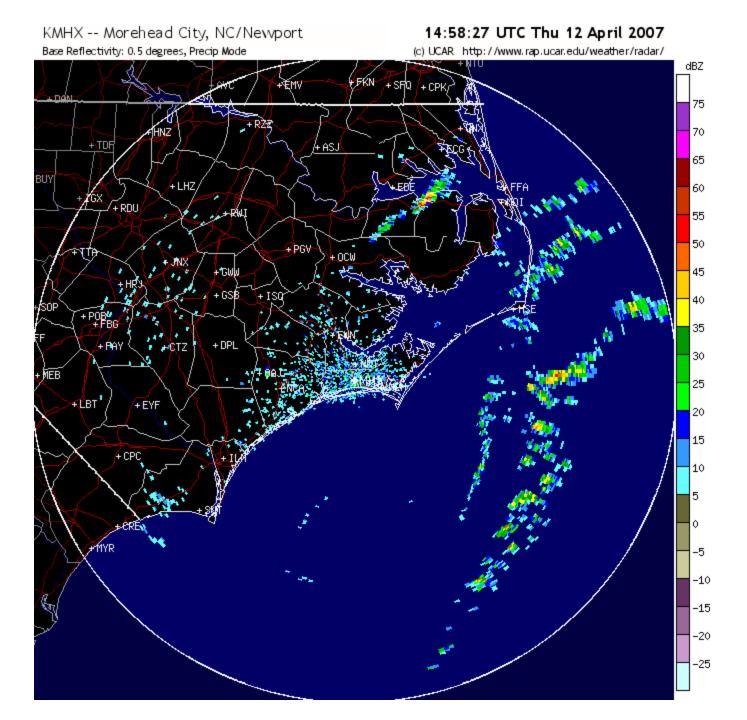
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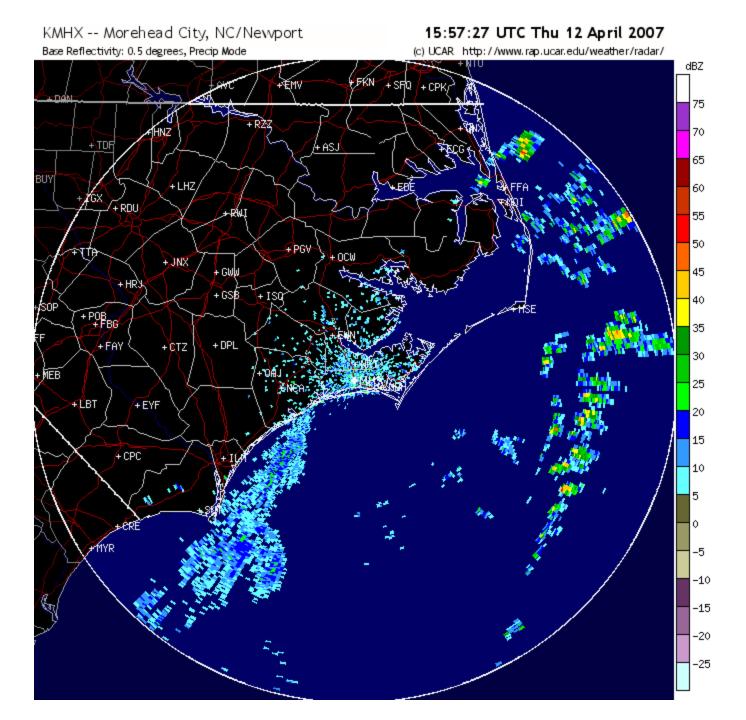


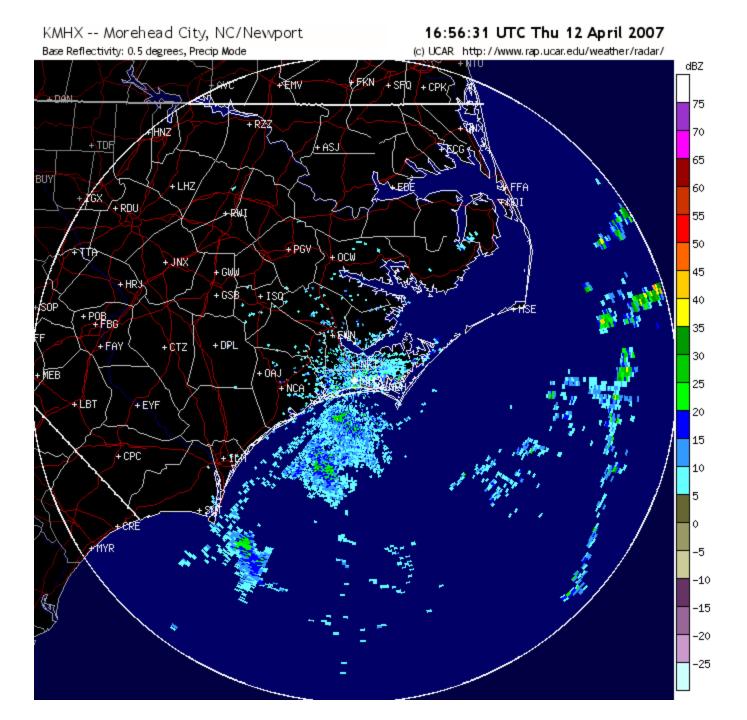


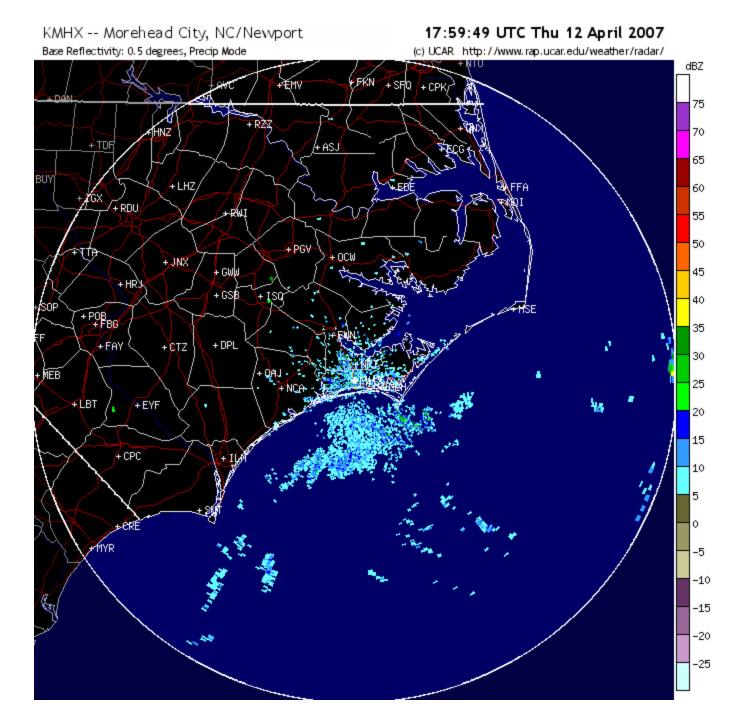
As detected by radar

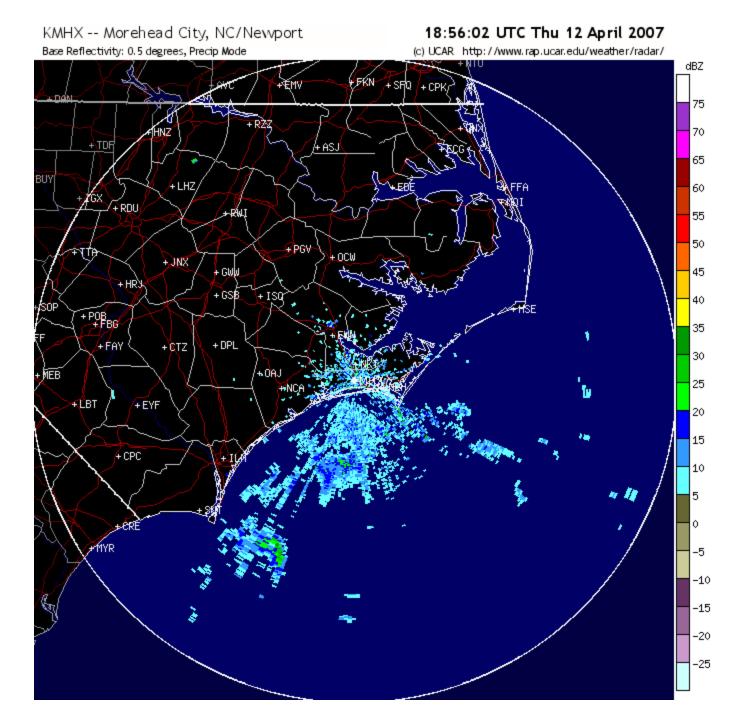






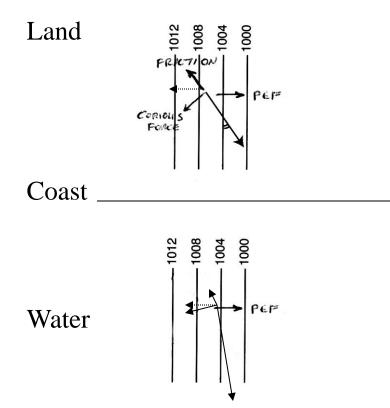


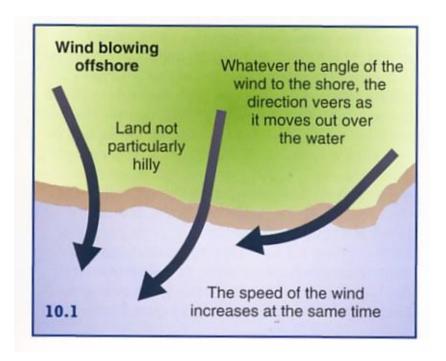




Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Coastal winds (adapted from *Weather at Sea* 4th Edition)

•When winds flow offshore, the direction 'veers' (turns to the right) and increases in speed:

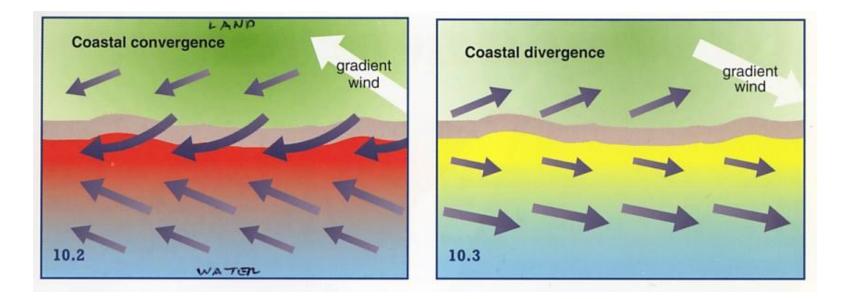




(When winds flow onshore, the direction always 'backs' (turns to the left) and decreases in speed) $\frac{30}{30}$

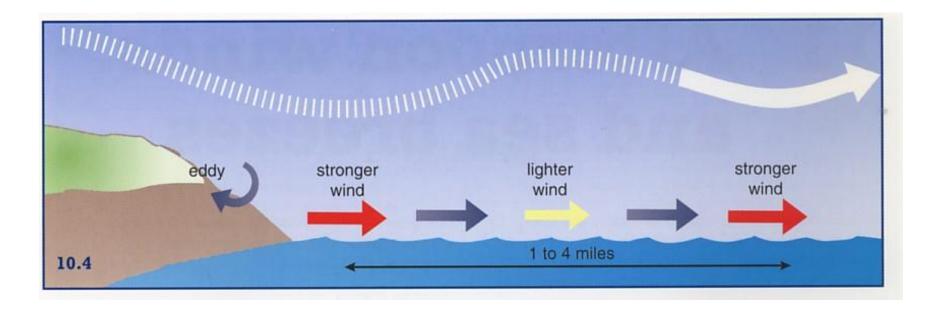
Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Coastal winds

•When you are aboard and the coast is to your right (left) with your back to the wind, the winds over land and water will converge (diverge) causing a region of increased (decreased) speed. Note, the gradient wind is the 'frictionless' wind.



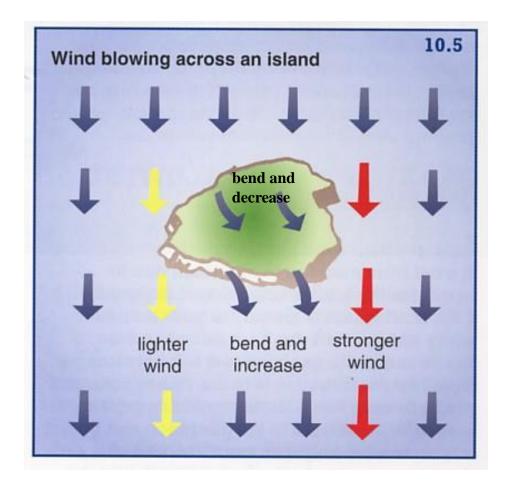
Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Coastal winds

•When the wind is blowing offshore, standing waves may form downwind of the coast if the air is stable. Zones of stronger and weaker winds are produced parallel to the coast:



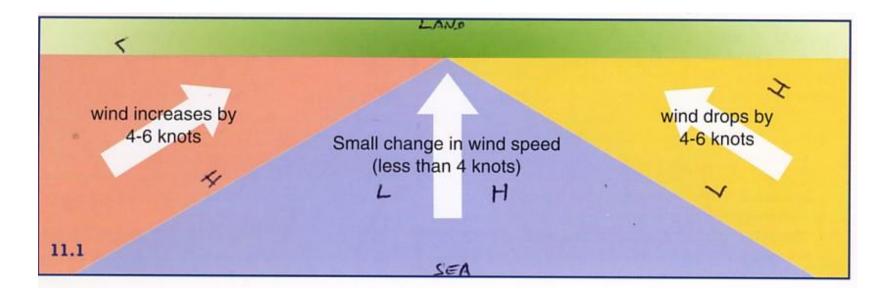
Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Coastal winds

•When the wind is blowing across a flat island in a stable air mass the following wind distribution will probably occur:



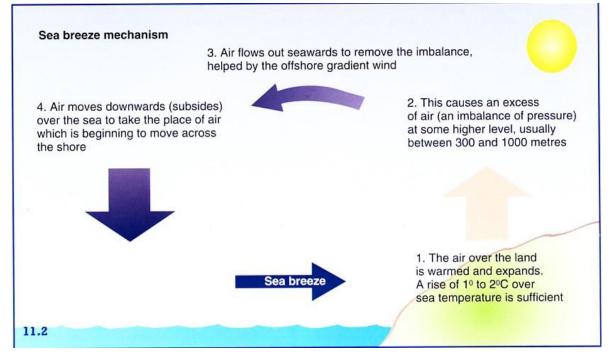
Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Coastal winds, afternoon winds

• For a wind blowing onshore from three different directions, the change in speed can be significant from morning to afternoon due to heating of the land reducing surface pressure:

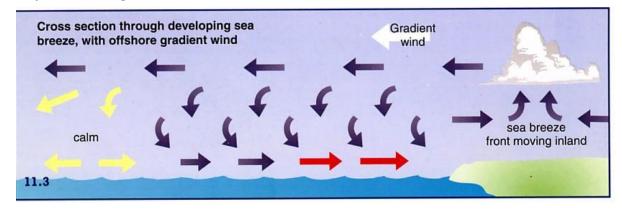


Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Coastal winds, the sea breeze

• The sea-breeze mechanism (the sea-breeze requires an off-shore gradient wind of less than 20 knots and no major storms in the vicinity):

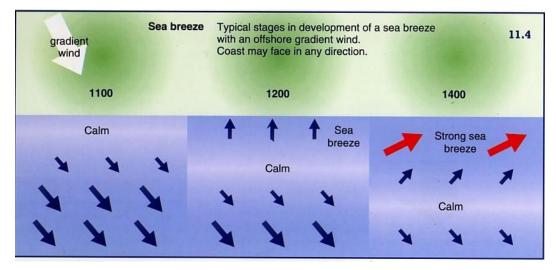


•The breeze is always strongest near the shore:

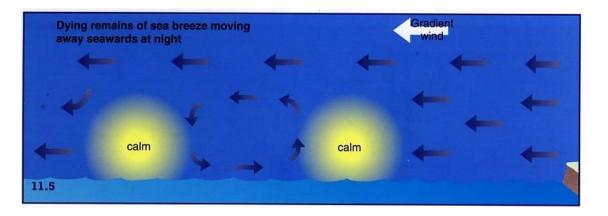


Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Coastal winds, the sea breeze

• The sea-breeze is deflected to the right of the flow by the Coriolis effect:



• The breeze drifts offshore in the evening in the gradient flow:

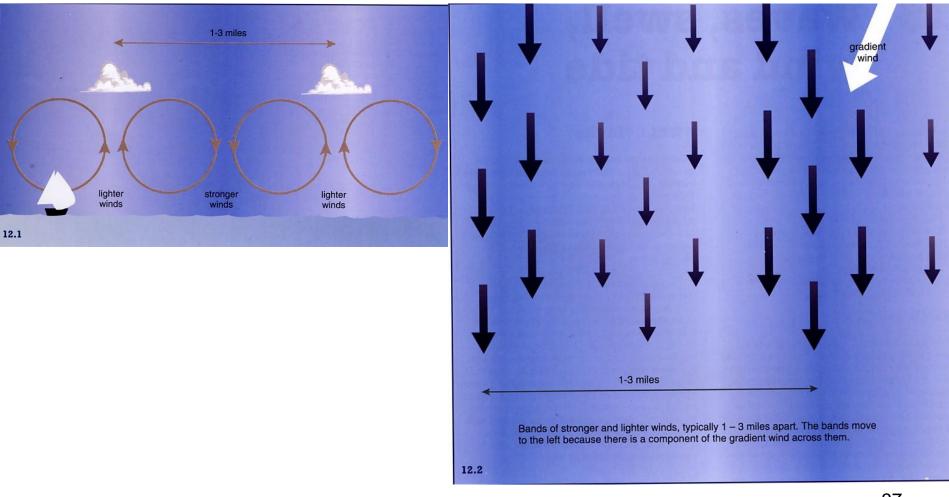




Sea breeze cumulus forming ashore

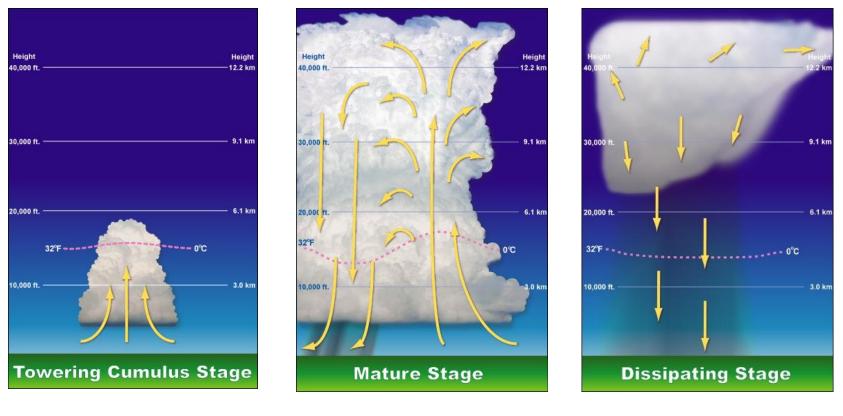
Scales of weather: Local weather phenomena – Winds over the open ocean

• In a stable marine boundary layer, a steady wind will develop horizontal roll vorticies that will produce regions of suppressed and enhanced wind speed:



Scales of weather: Squall lines

• A squall line is a propagating, organized line of thunderstorms, each storm has a life cycle that leads to new cell formation:



~30 min

~30 min

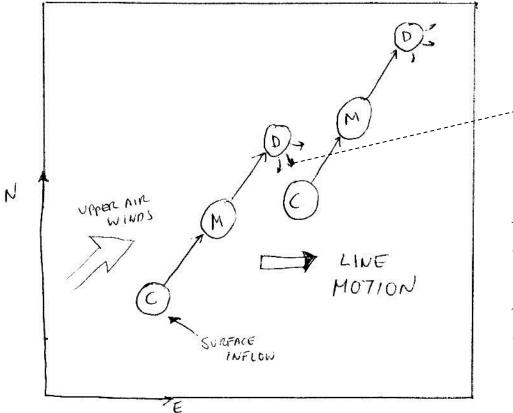
~30 min

The sudden storm lasts not three hours; the sharper the blast, the sooner 'tis past.

From www.srh.weather.gov/srh/jetstream/tstorms/life.htm

Scales of weather: Squall lines

• A squall line is a propagating, organized line of thunderstorms, each storm has a life cycle that leads to new cell formation:

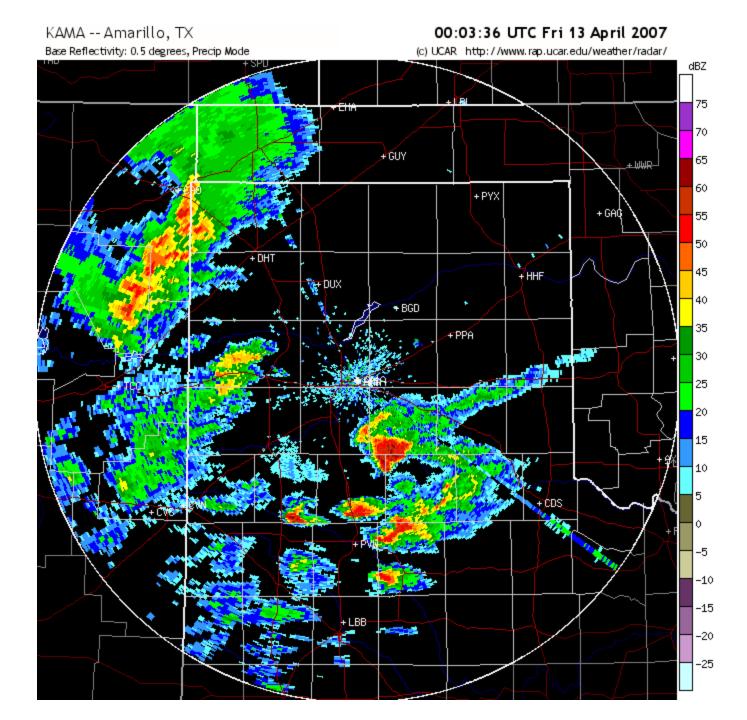


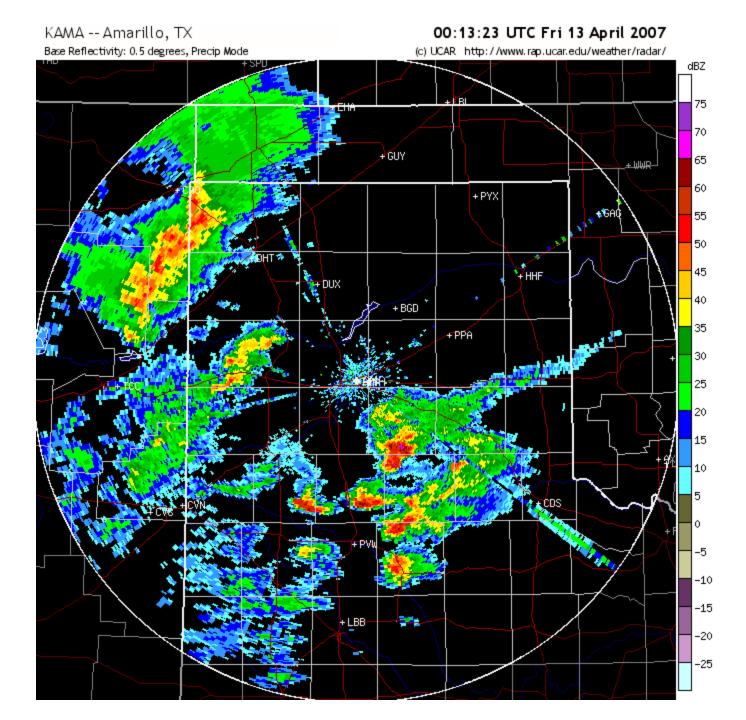


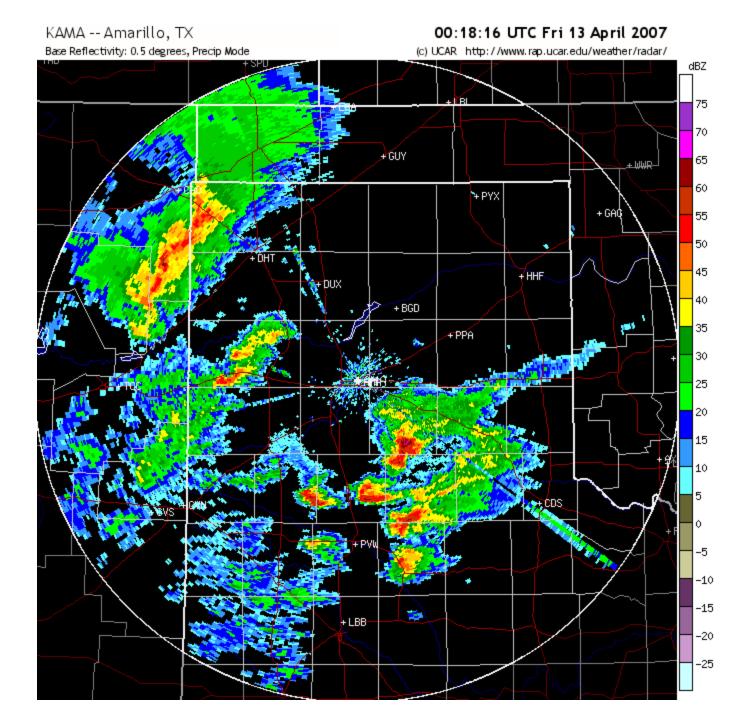
Beware the bolts from north or west; in south or east the bolts be best.

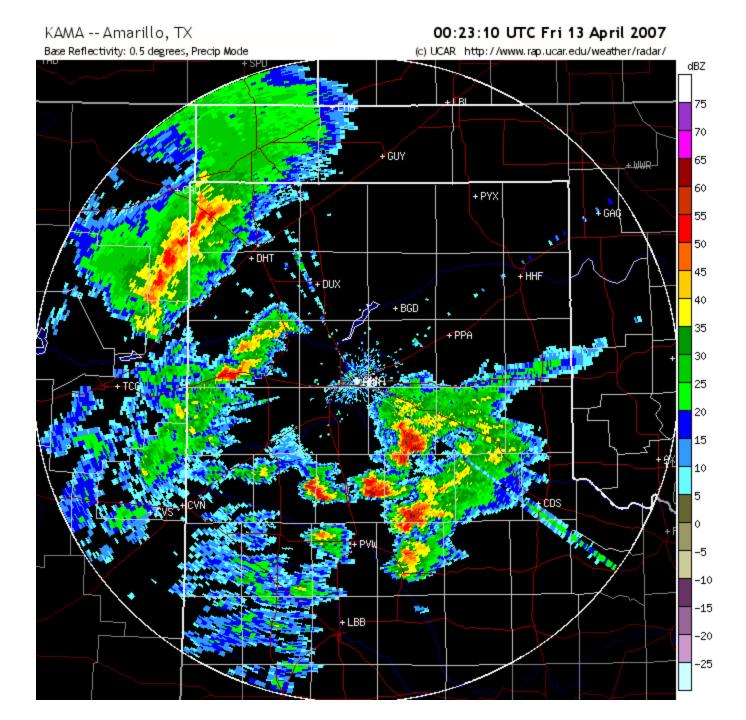
Rainbow to windward, foul fall the day; rainbow to leeward, rain runs away.

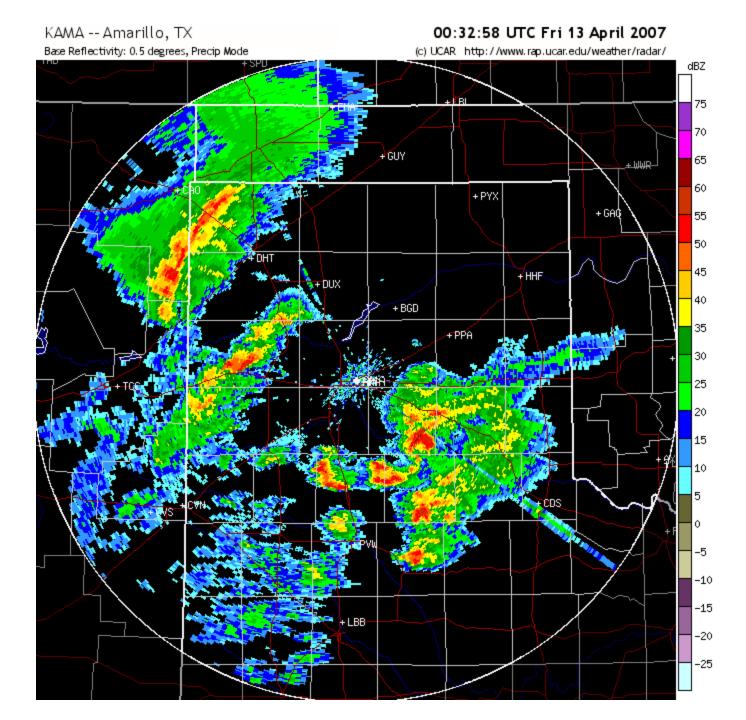
Observe squall line motion for 12 April 2007 evening storms in west Texas in the following sequences: radar, satellite and surface.

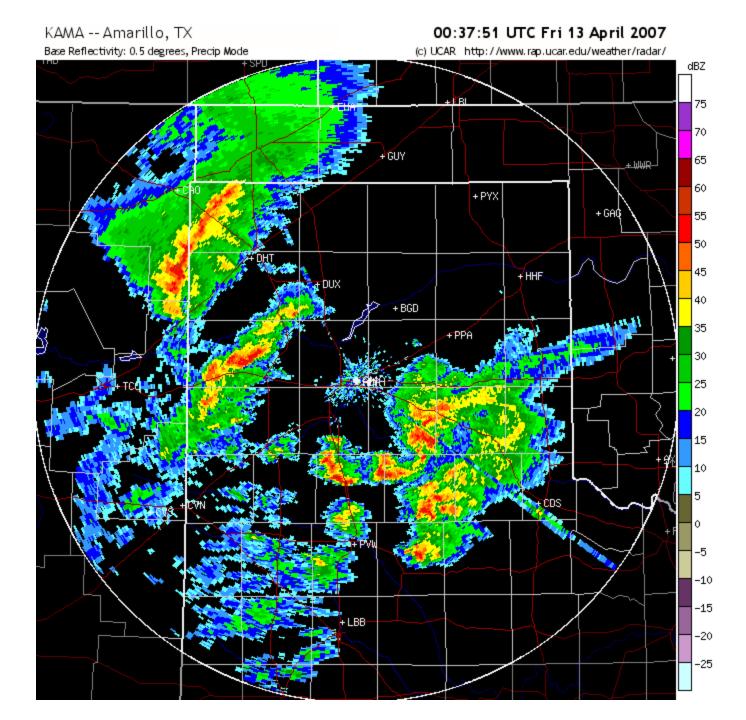


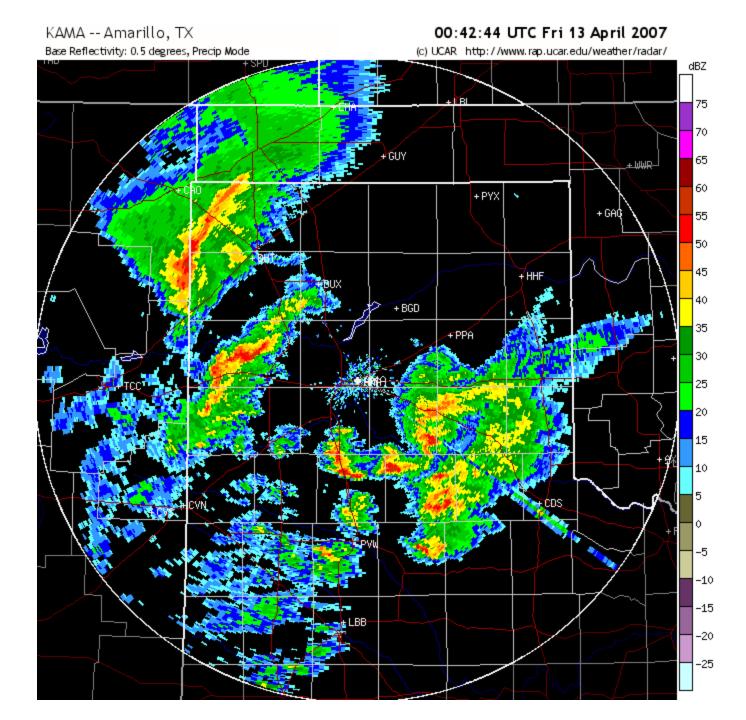


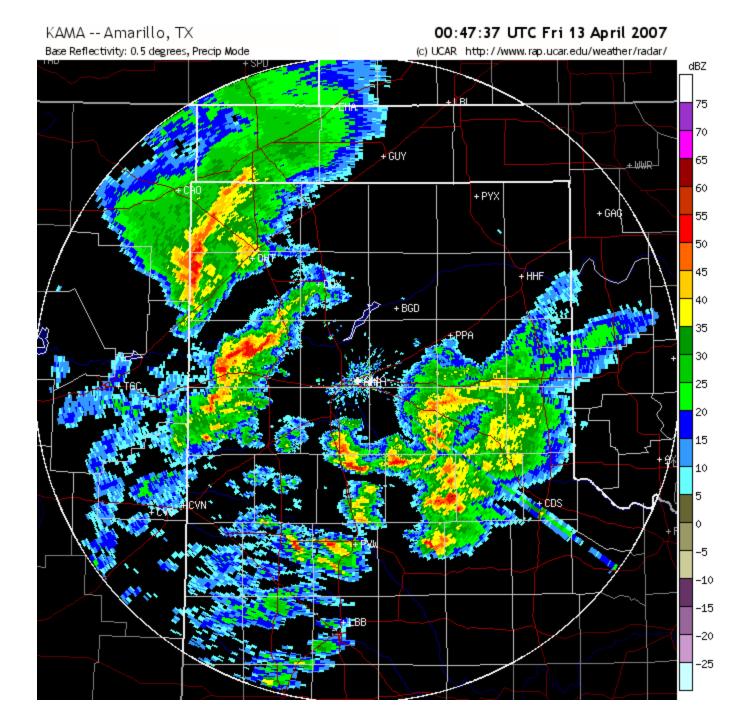


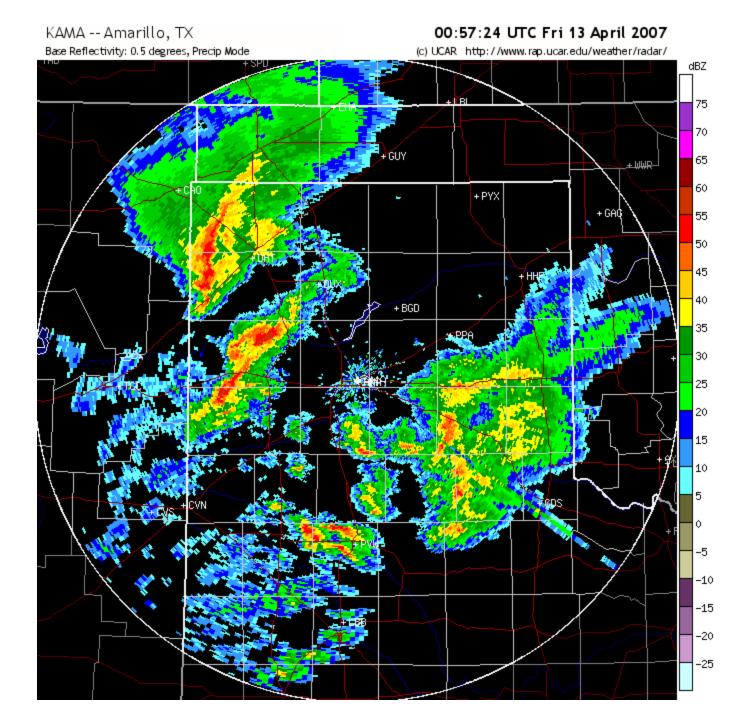


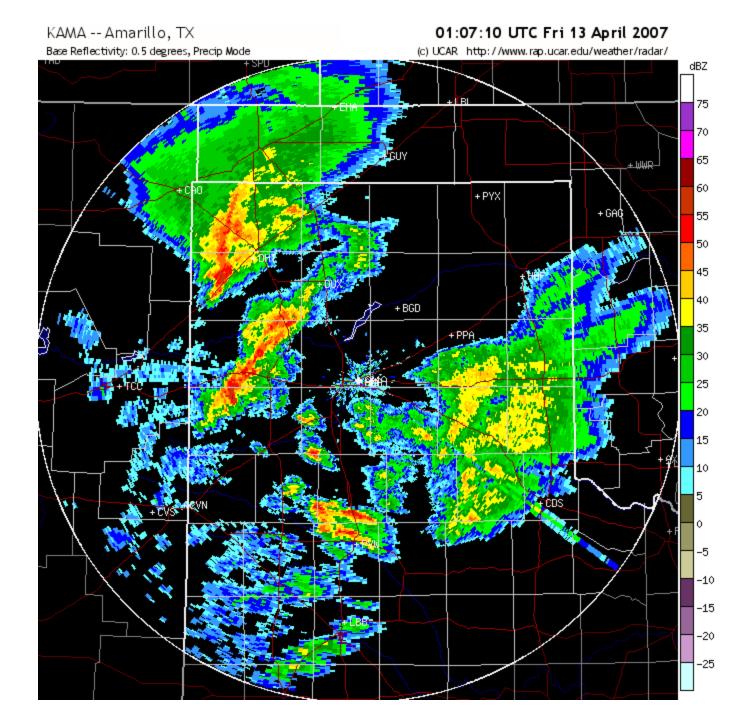


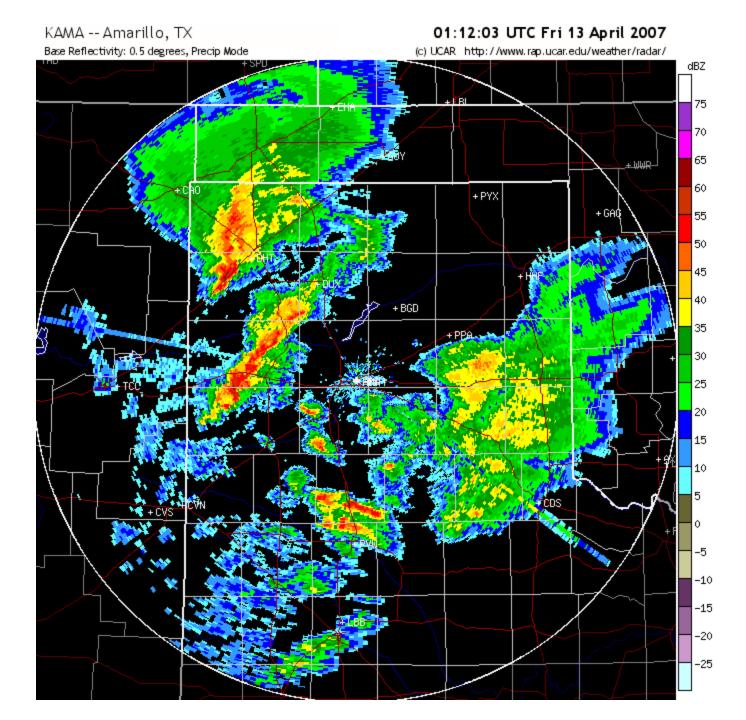


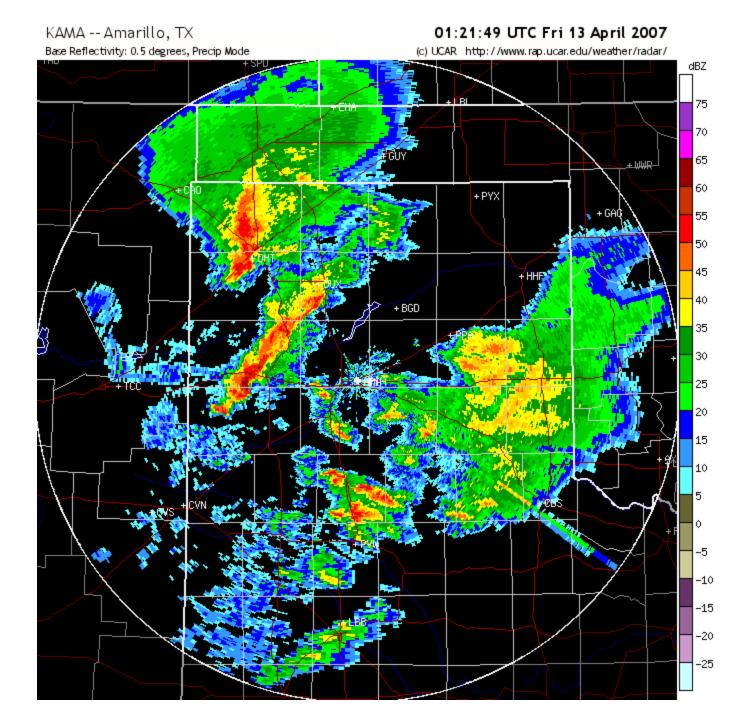


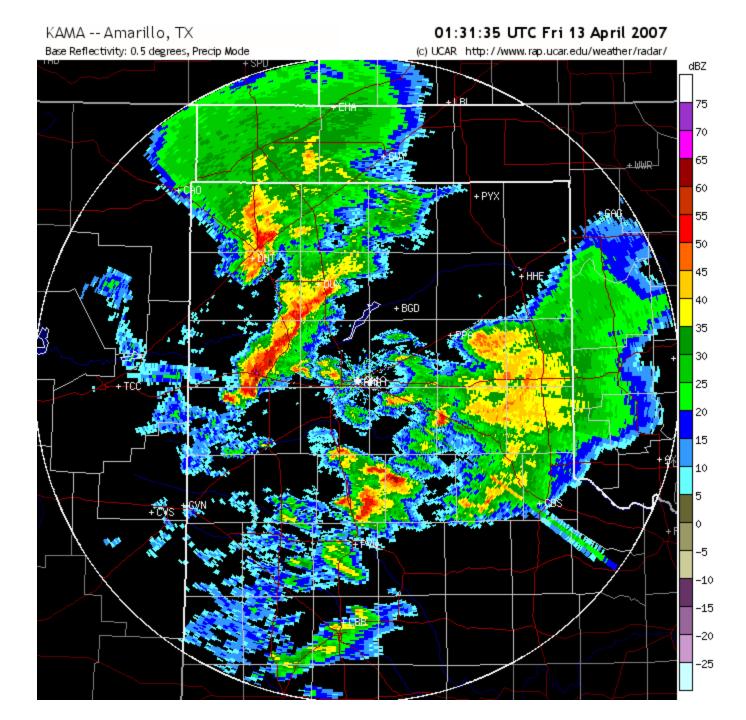


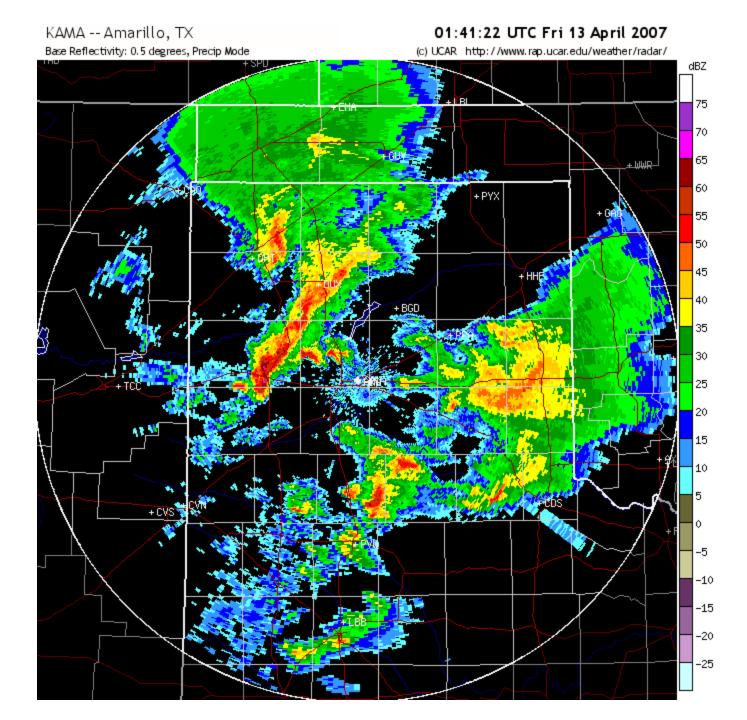


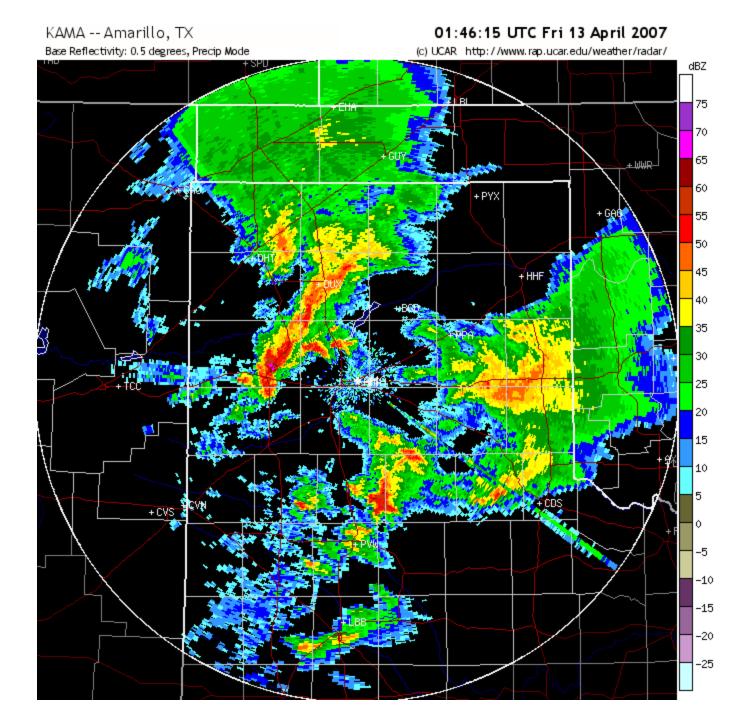


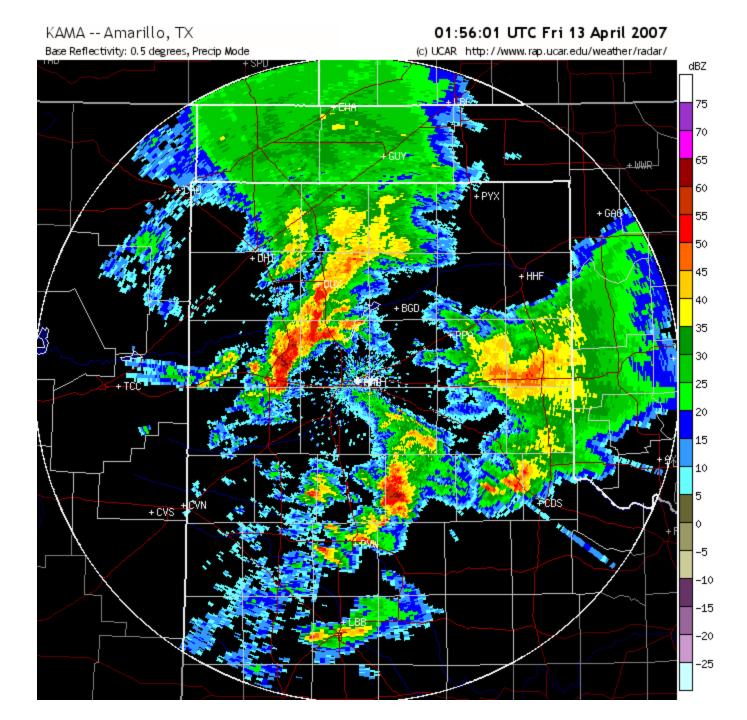


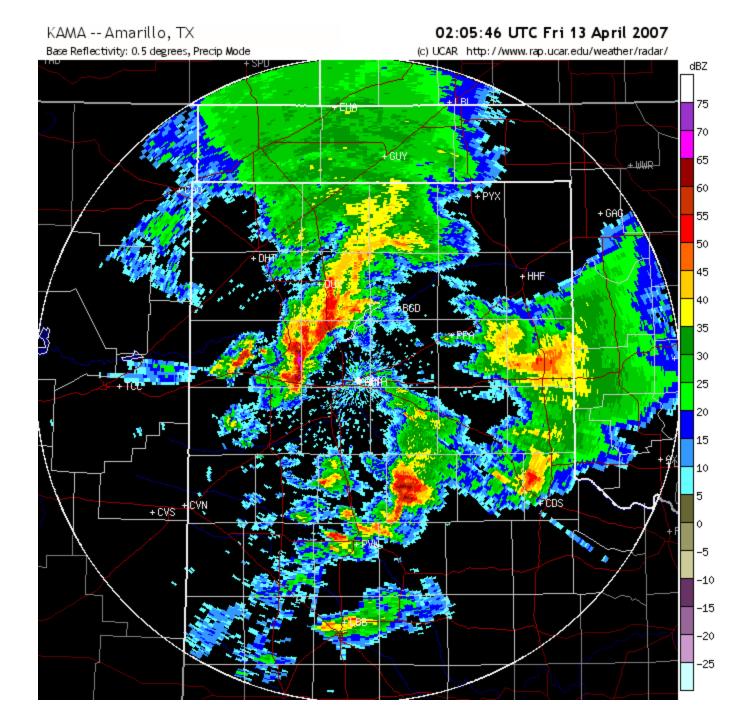


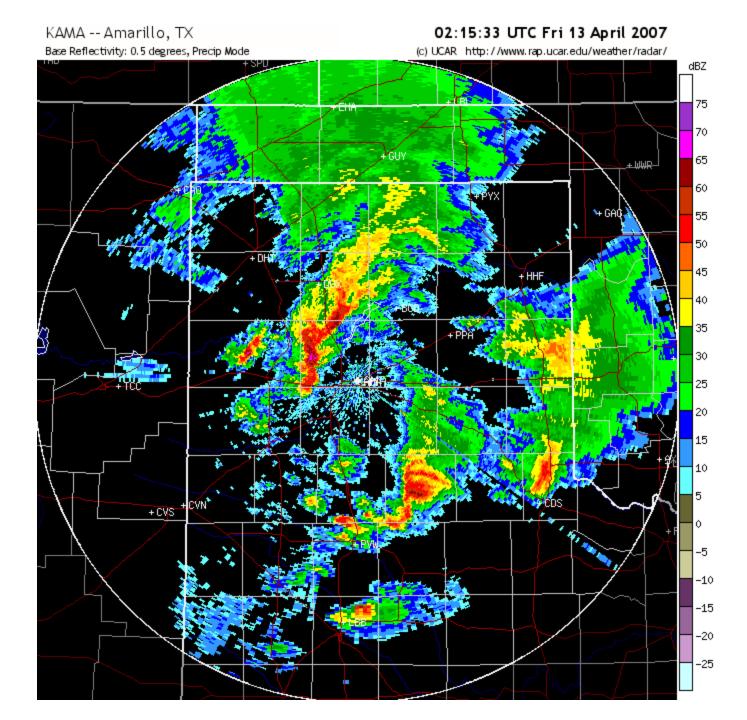


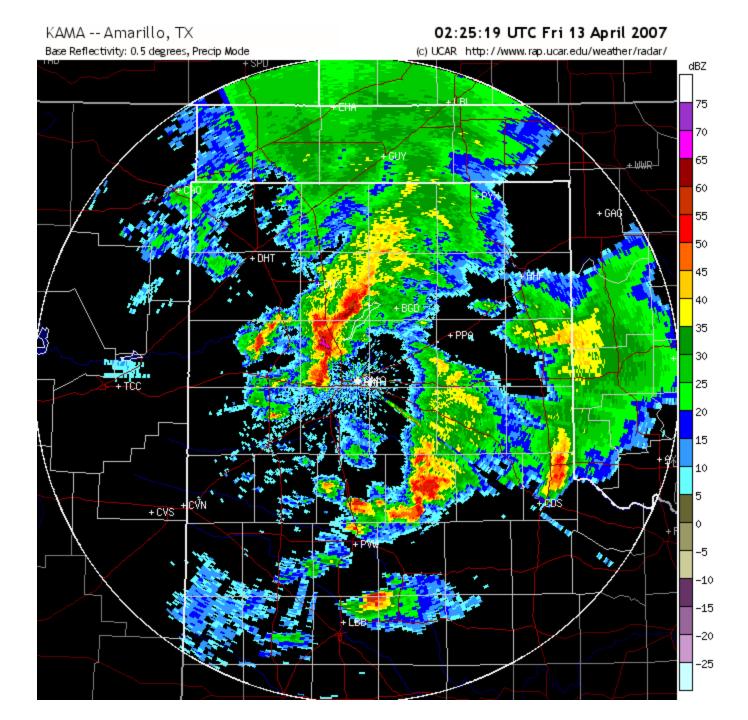


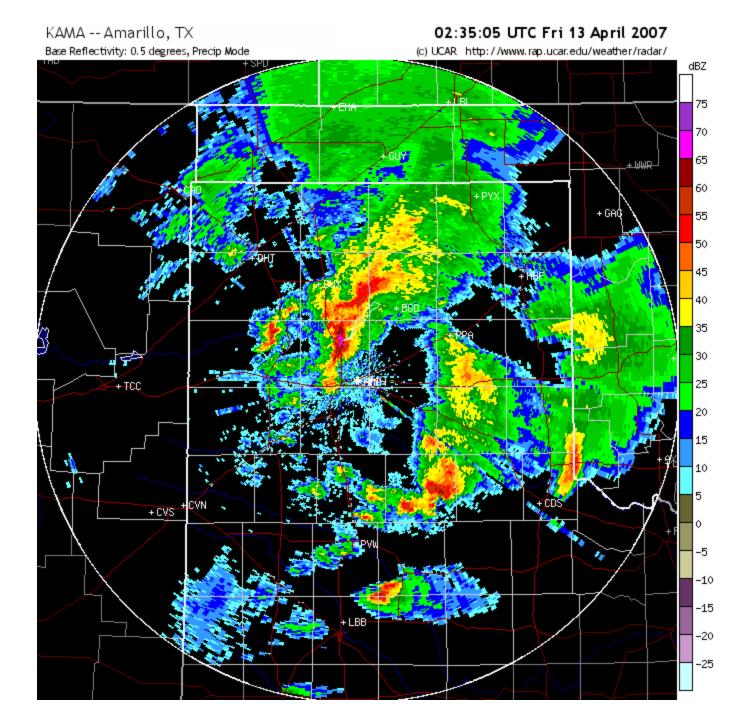


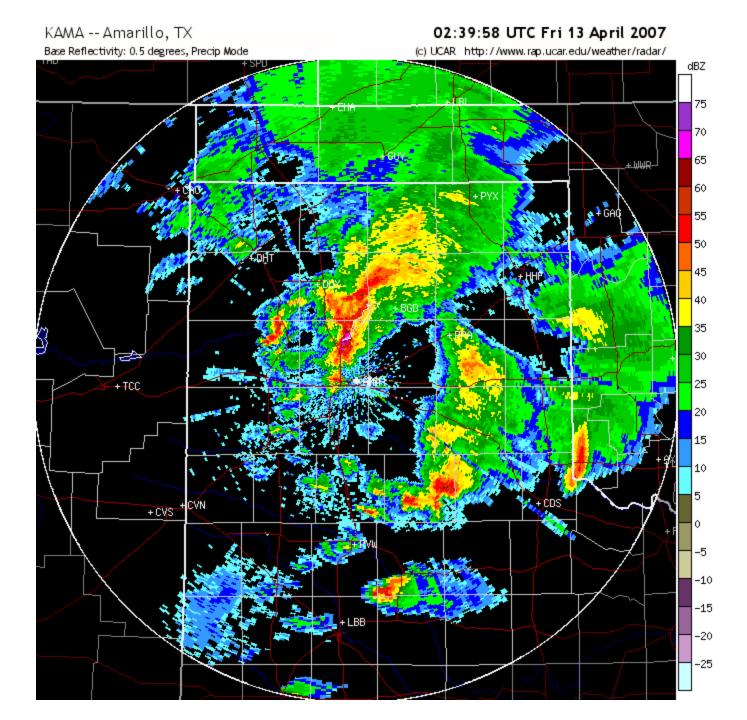


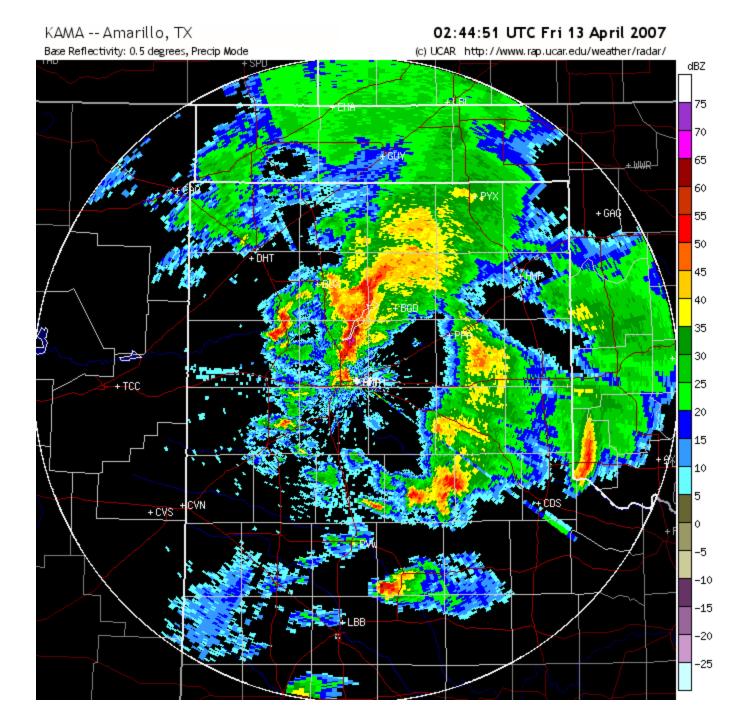


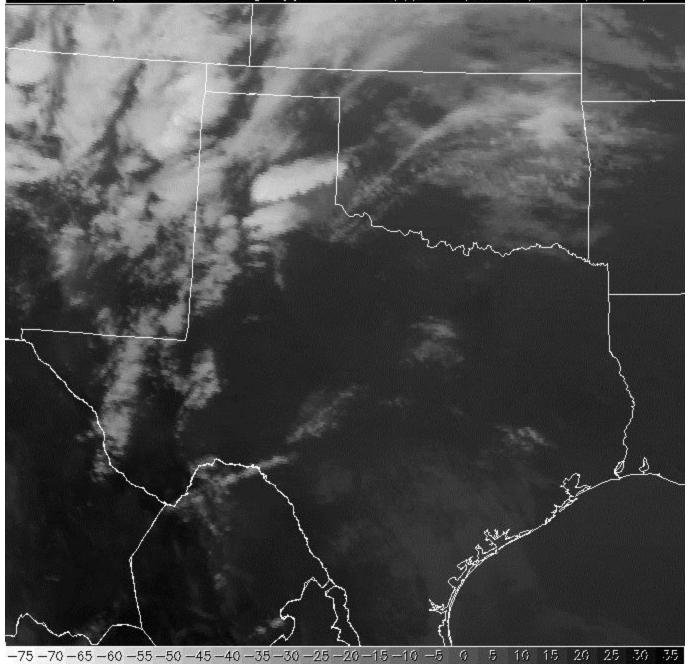


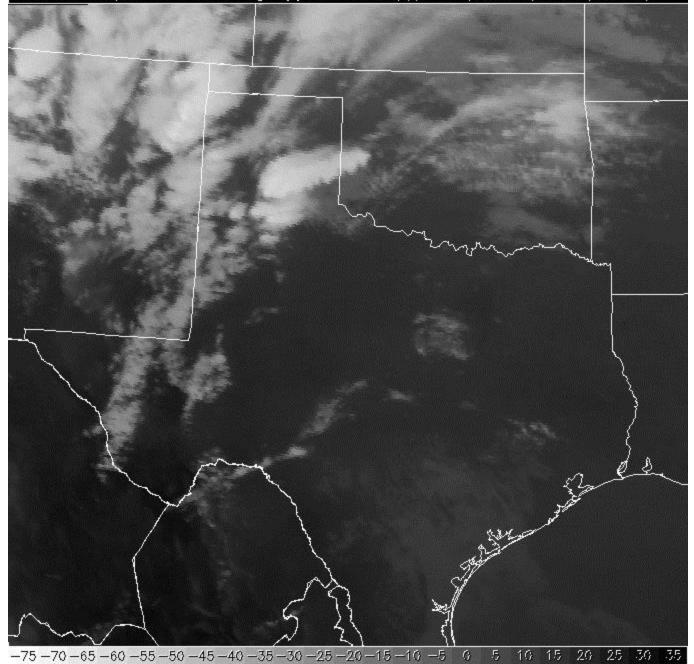


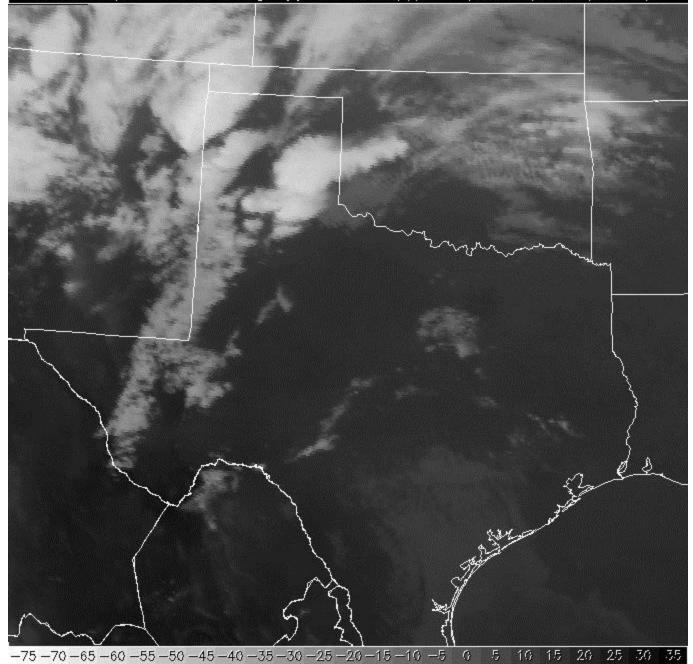


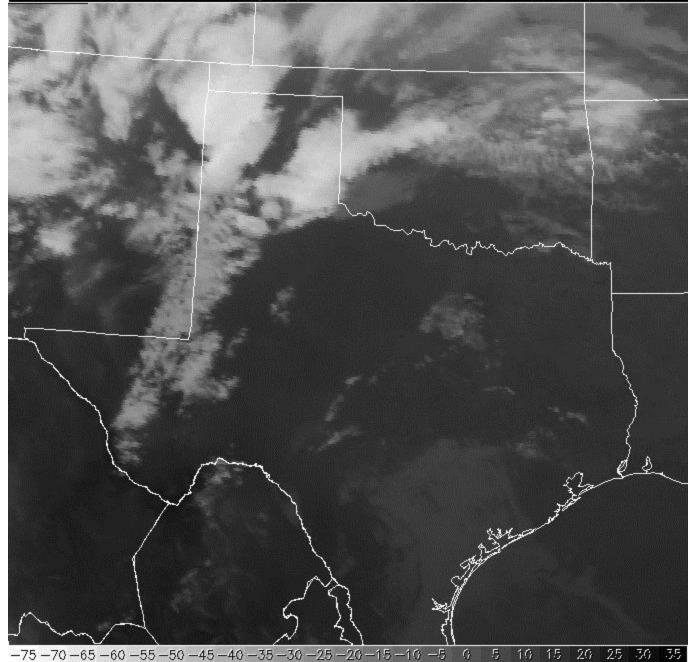


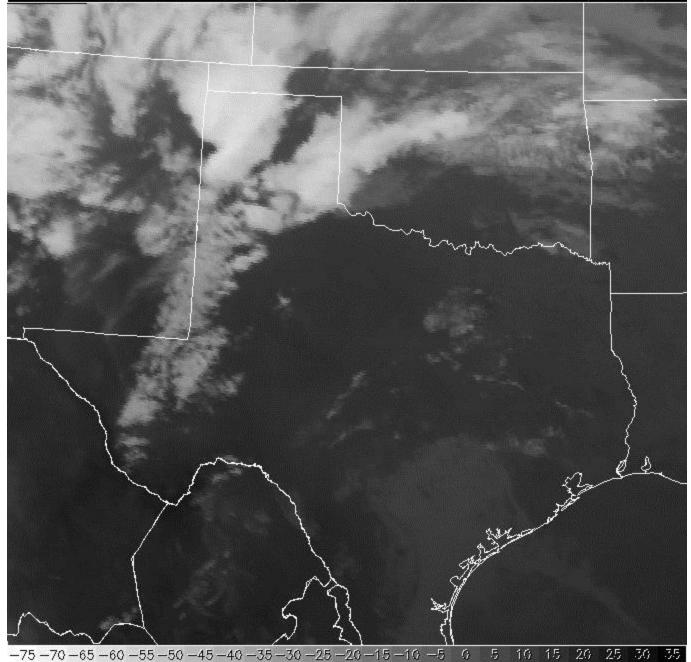


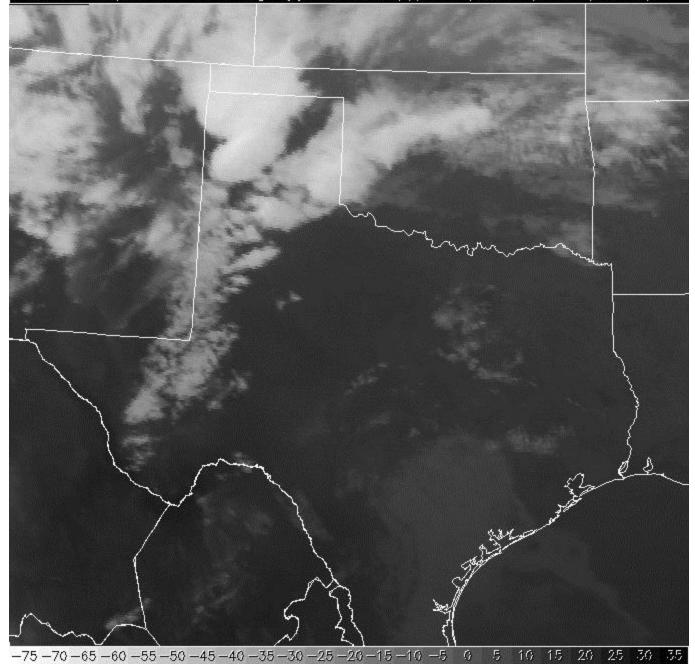


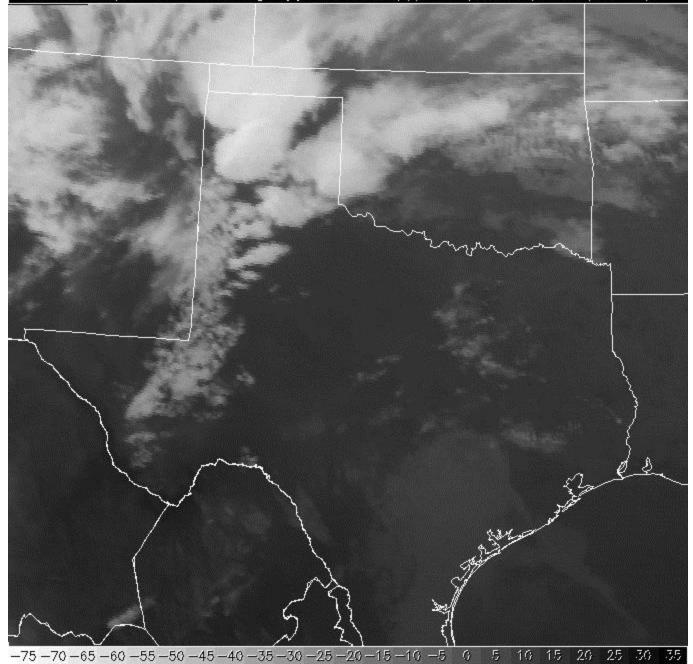


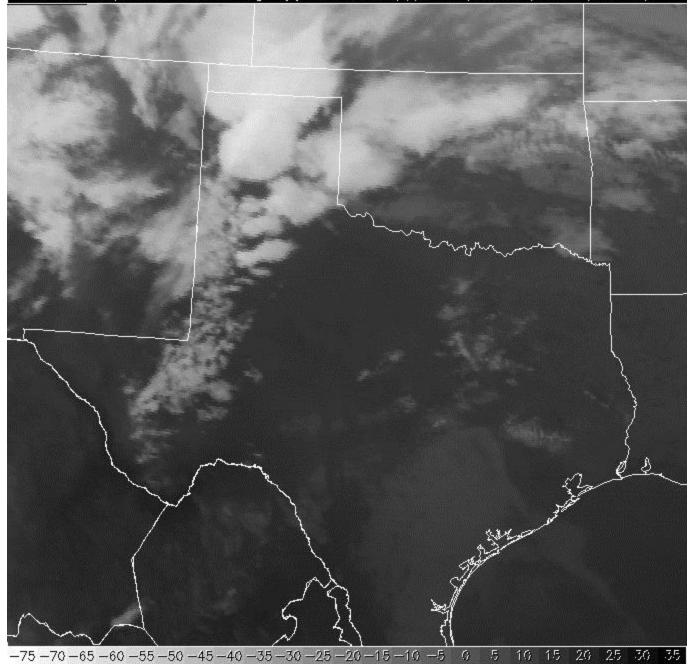


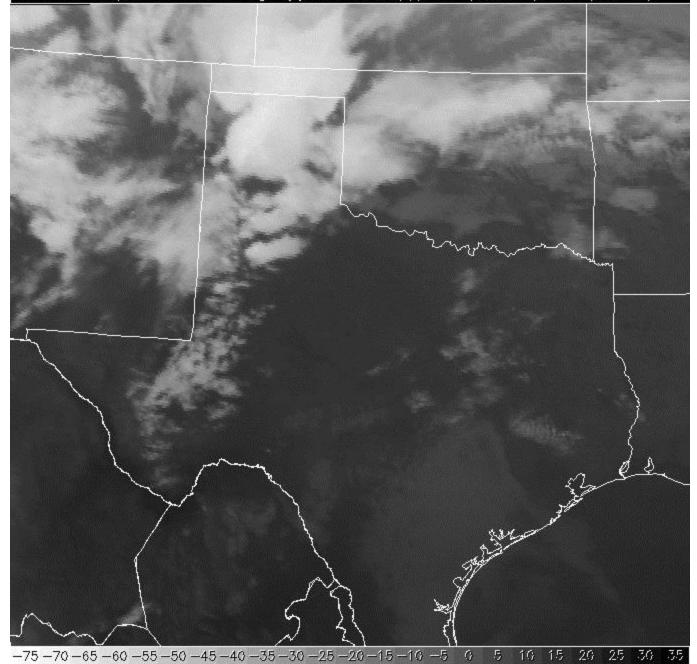


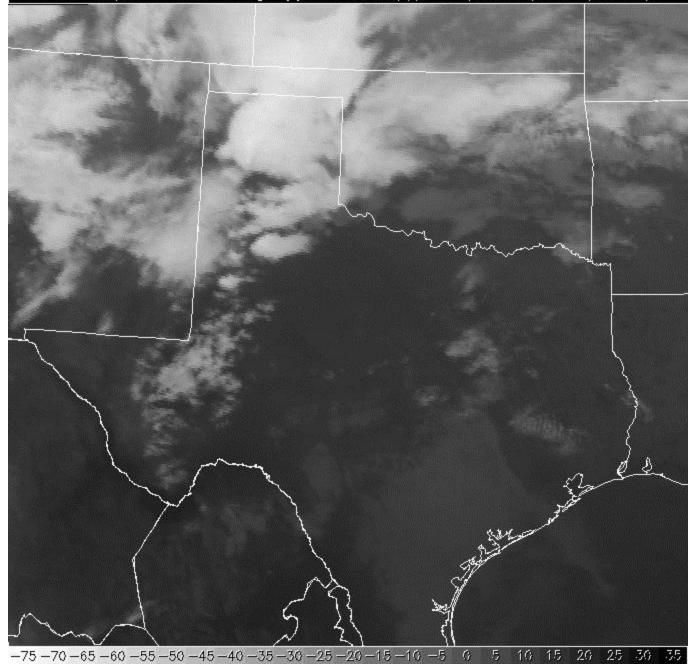


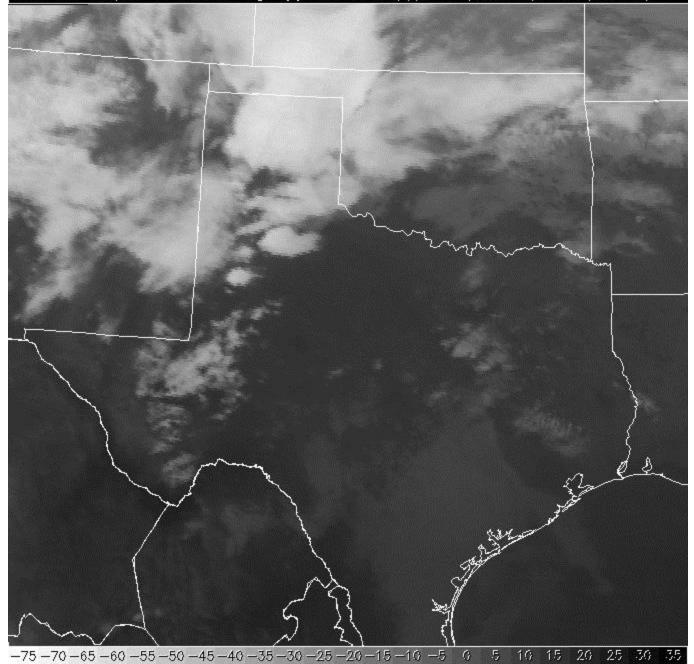


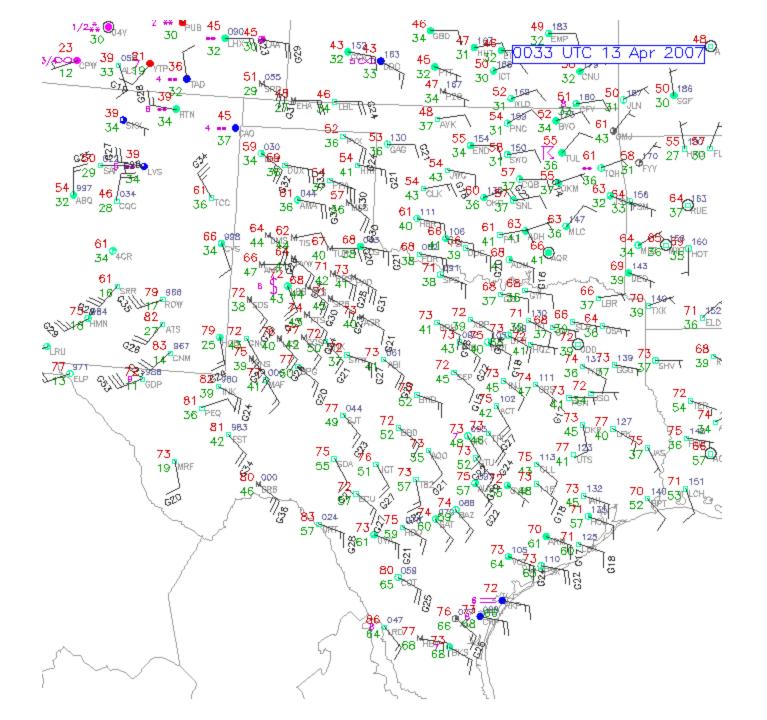


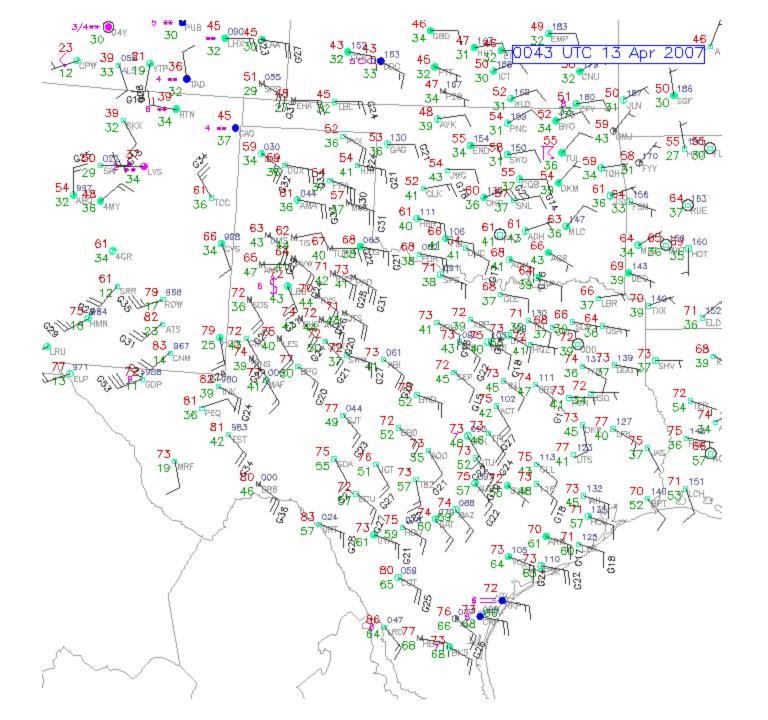


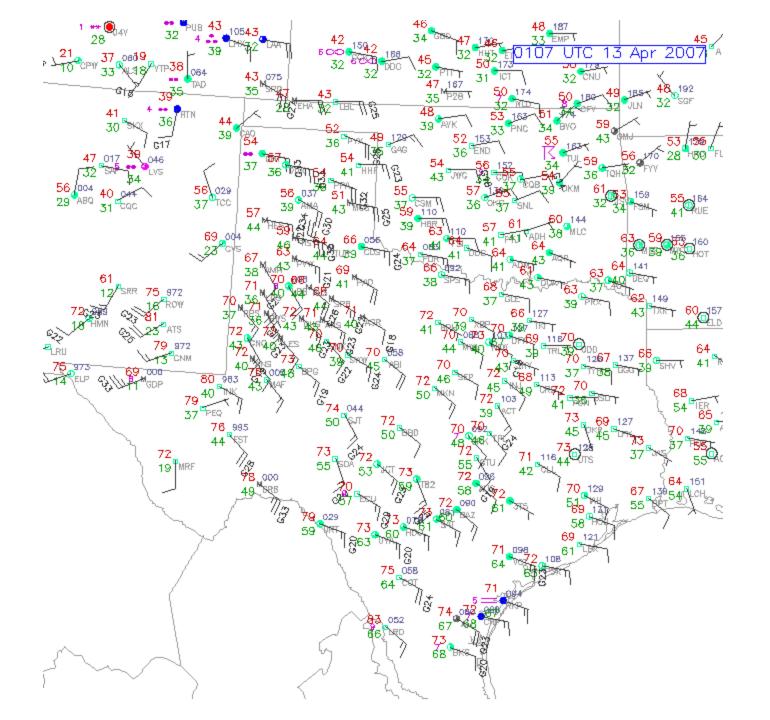


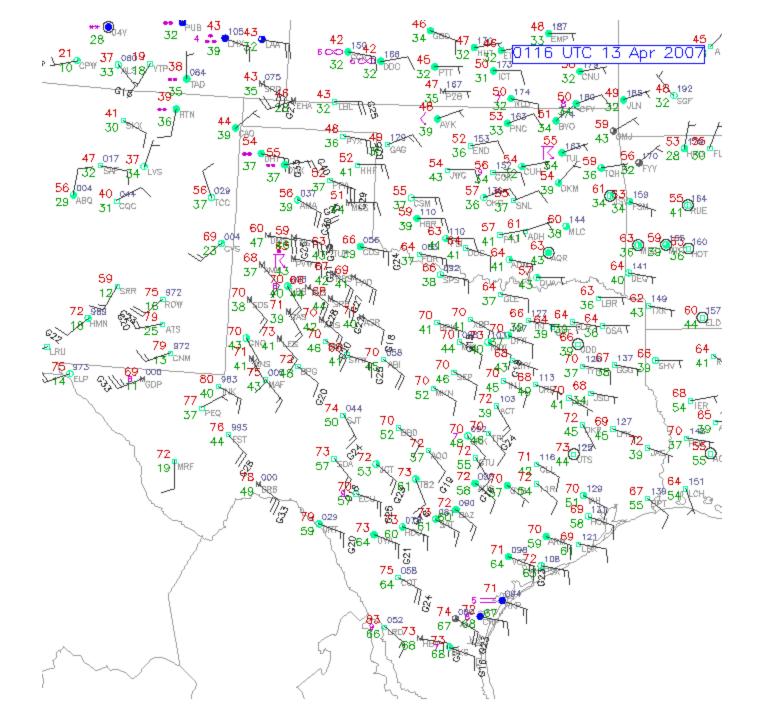


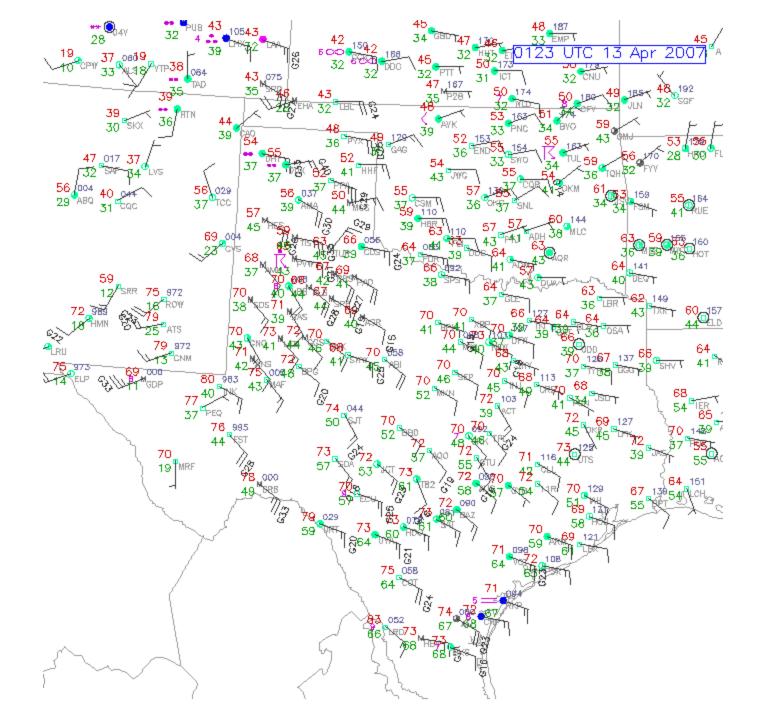


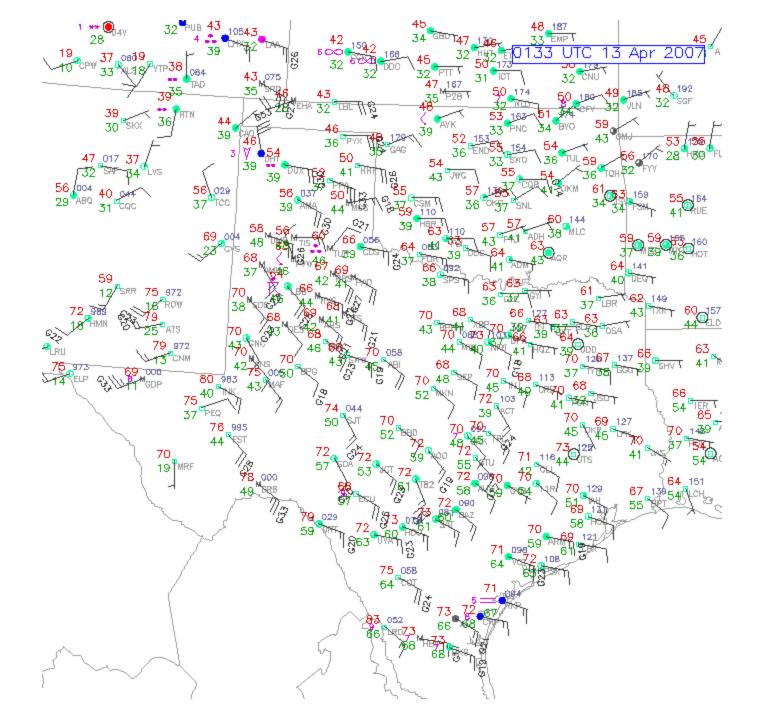


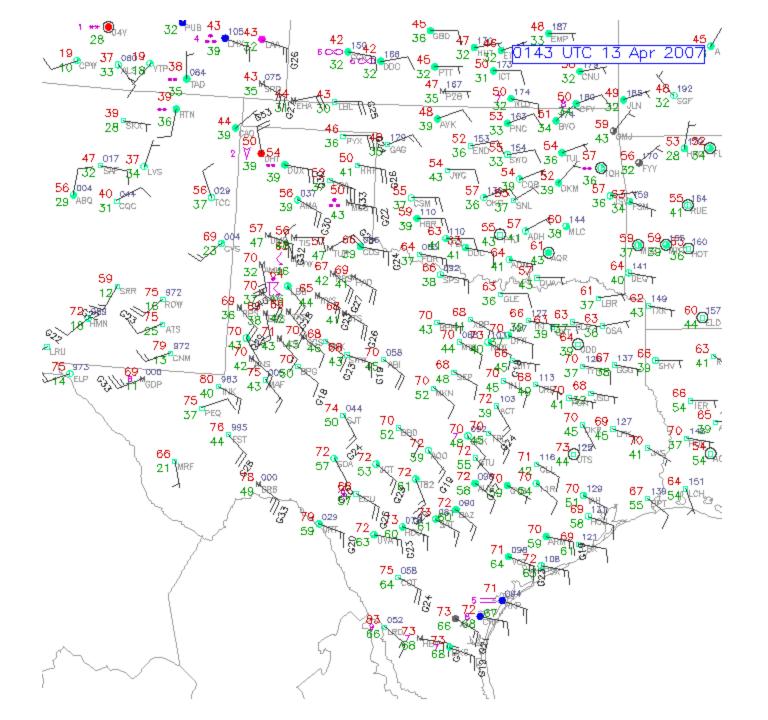


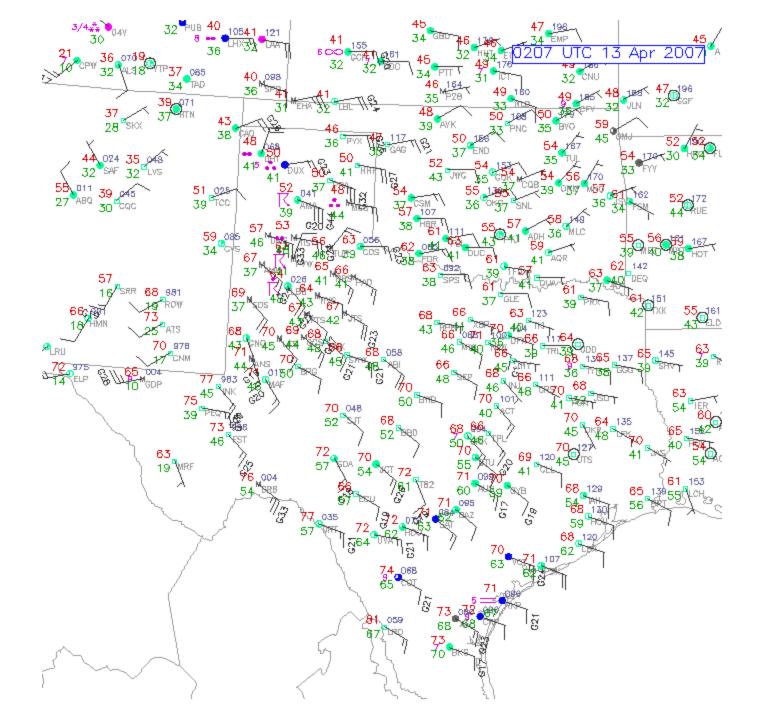


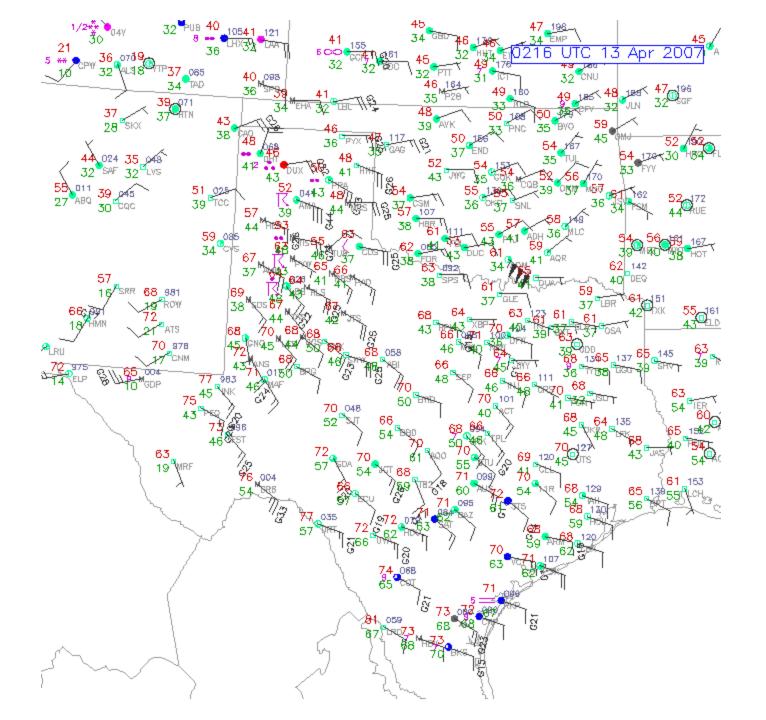


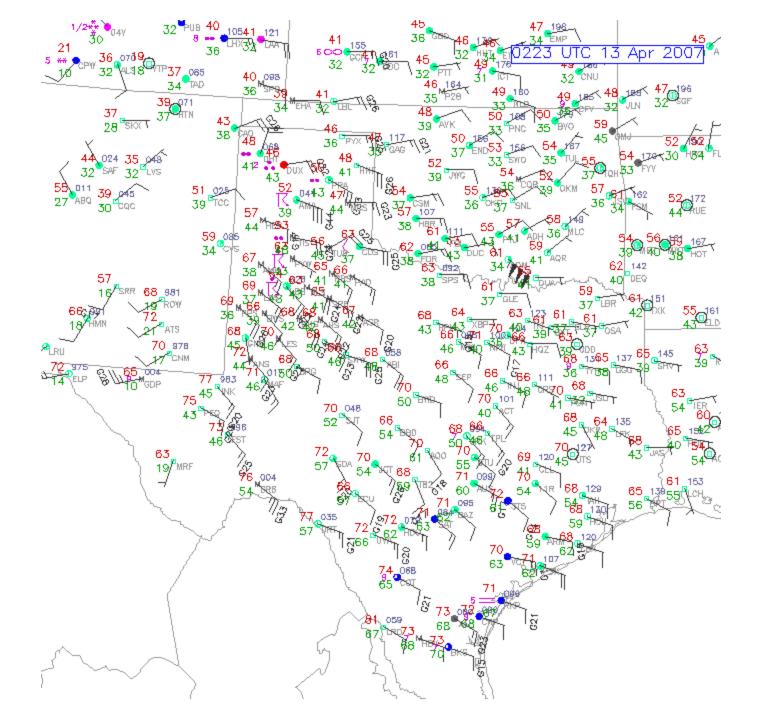


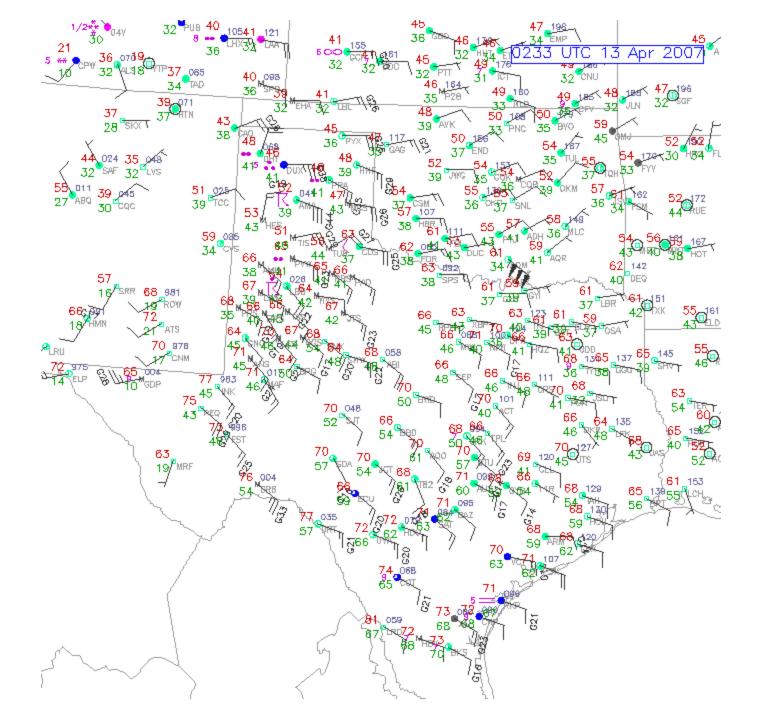






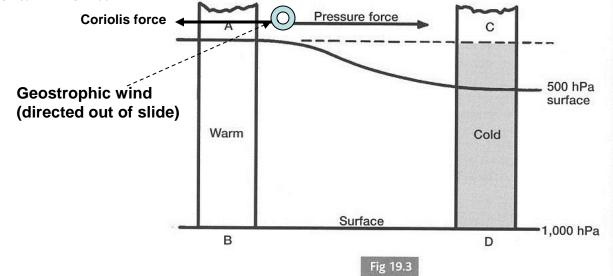




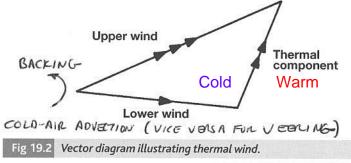


(adapted from Reeds Maritime Meteorology 3rd Edition)

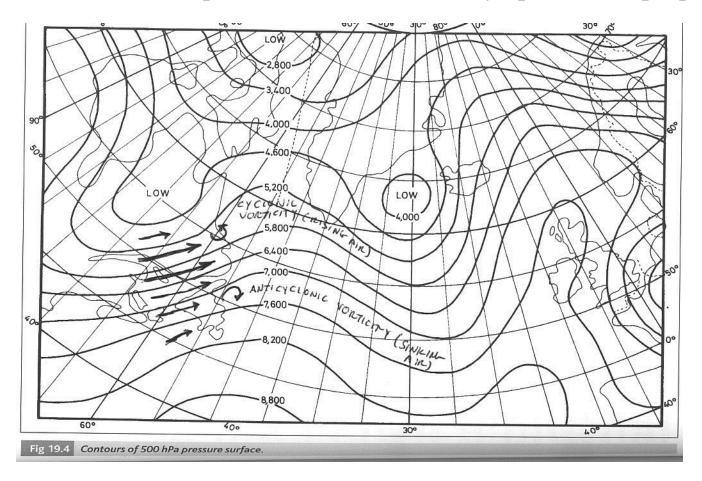
• Pressure gradient force develops aloft due to significant temperature gradient in the region of the Polar Front:



•Knowing the change in wind direction with height, you can determine if cold air is invading the region (destabilizes the atmosphere) or if warm air is invading (stabilizes the atmosphere):

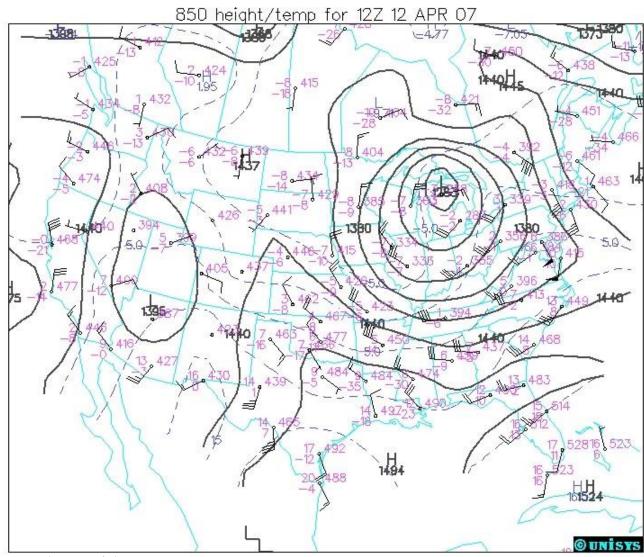


• The 500 hPa (mb) constant-pressure surface is half way up in the Troposphere:

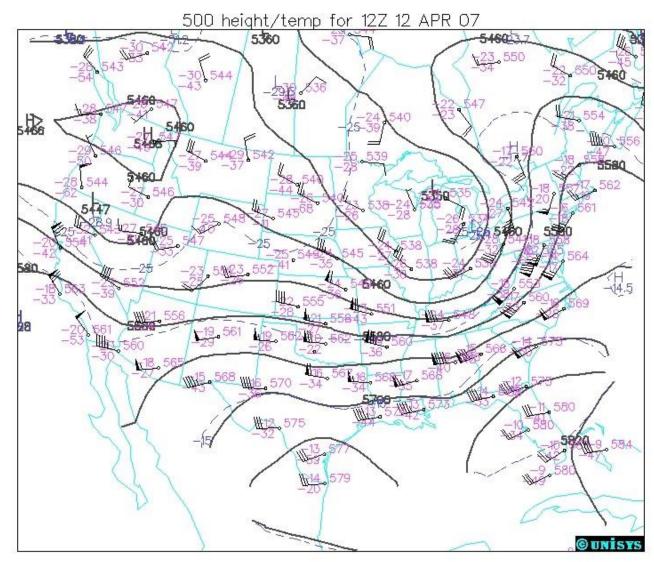


•Identifying the wind-speed shear will define regions with cyclonic vorticity (rising air) and regions of anticyclonic vorticity (sinking air).

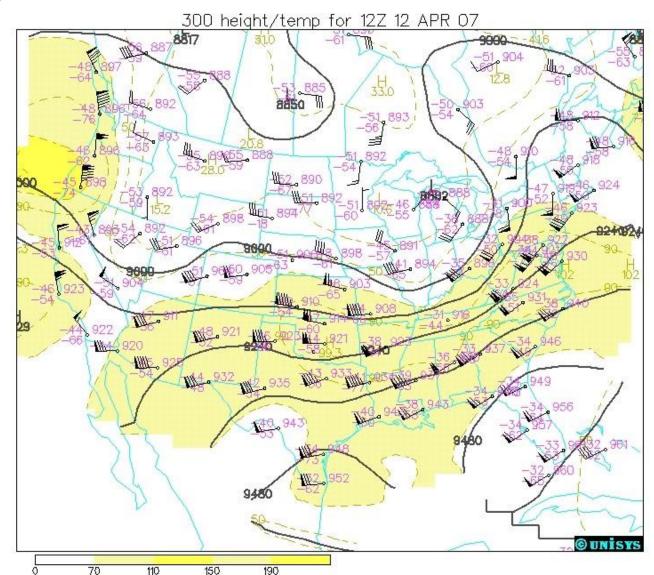
• A 'stack' of charts, each of a decreasing constant-pressure surface, reveals 'backing' and 'veering' regions, the Polar Front Jet Stream, anticyclonic vorticity and cyclonic vorticity, long-waves and short waves:



• A 'stack' of charts, each of a decreasing constant-pressure surface, 'backing' and 'veering' regions, the Polar Front Jet Stream, anticyclonic vorticity and cyclonic vorticity, long-waves and short waves:

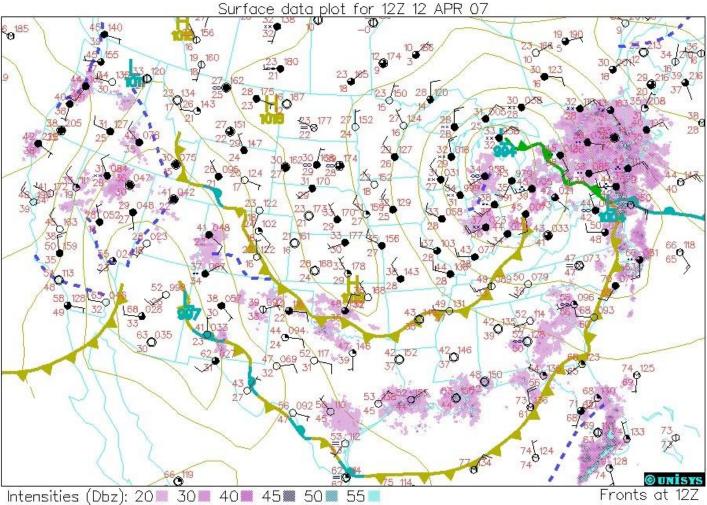


• A 'stack' of charts, each of a decreasing constant-pressure surface, reveals 'backing' and 'veering' regions, the Polar Front Jet Stream, anticyclonic vorticity and cyclonic vorticity, long-waves and short waves:



Introduction to upper-air charts: integration with surface weather maps for forecasting

• A sea-level pressure chart (negative image) and the corresponding 500 hPa constant-pressure chart (next slide) illustrate the connections between the surface and upper-air:

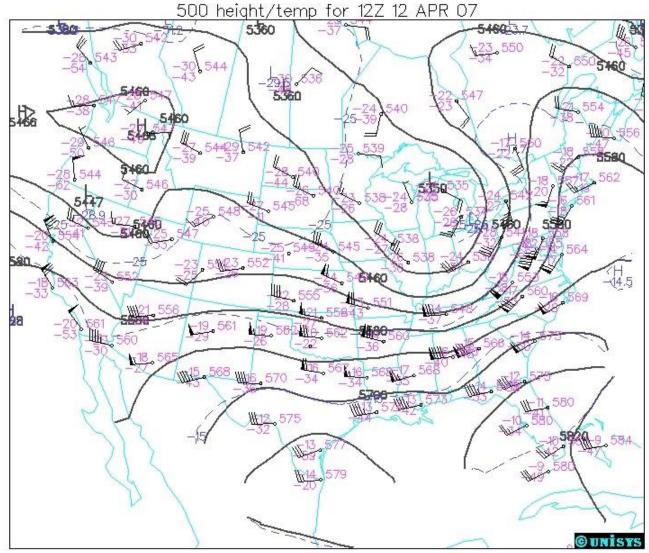


The wind maximum in the Jet Stream is above the occluding cold and warm fronts indicating additional development toward the NE. And, indeed I heard a clap of thunder at about noontime on 12 April 07.

From www.weather.unisys.com/archive/sfc_map/

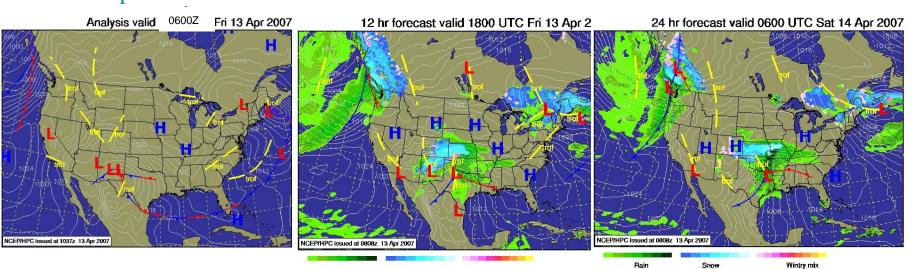
Introduction to upper-air charts: integration with surface weather maps for forecasting

• A sea-level pressure chart (previous slide and the corresponding 500 hPa constantpressure chart illustrate the connections between the surface and upper-air:

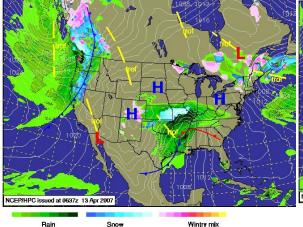


Weather forecasting-large scale

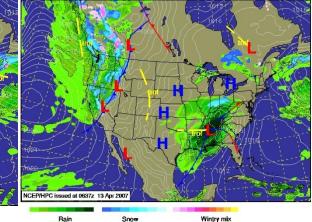
• Given current weather conditions and the governing physical relationships, detailed calculations are performed to produce future conditions. Meteorologists, then, interpret the conditions to produce forecasts. The NCAR-RAP site is one of the best: weather.rap.ucar.edu/model/



36 hr forecast valid 1200 UTC Sat 14 Apr 200



48 hr forecast valid 0000 UTC Sun 15 Apr 2007

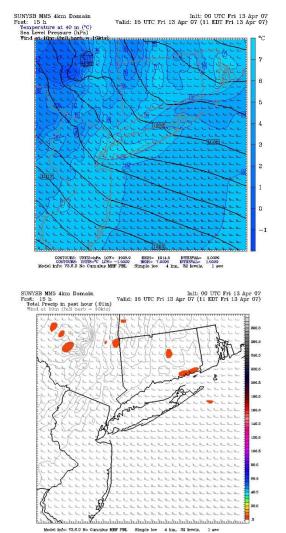


Let's visit the NCAR-RAP site for the current 2- and 7.5-day GFS forecasts.

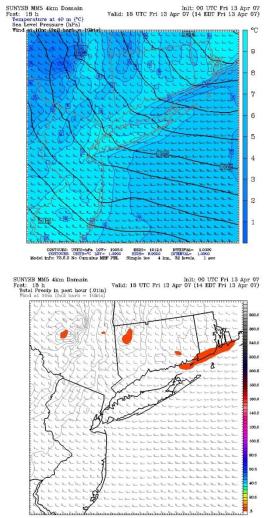
Weather forecasting-local scale

• The numerical simulations can be made on extremely fine scales (4km) producing local forecasts at 1-hour intervals for 24h or more. The SUNY-Stony Brook is one of the best sites (cheget.msrc.sunysb.edu/html/alt_mm5.cgi):

Valid 11EDT, 13 April 2007



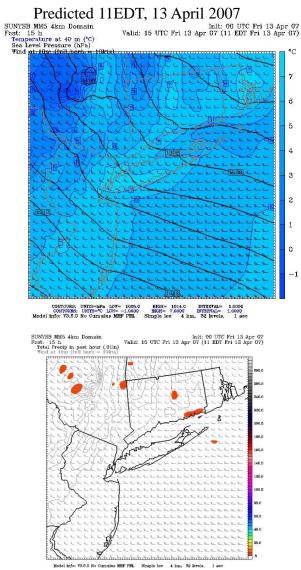
Valid 14EDT, 13 April 2007



Model info: ¥3.8.0 No Cumulus MRF PBL Simple ice 4 km, 32 levels, 1 s

Weather forecasting-local scale

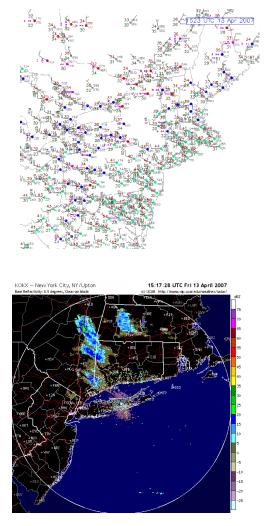
• Validation of the numerical simulations made at 20EDT (00UTC) 12 April 07:



Let's visit the Stony Brook site for the current forecasts.

Forecasts at sea available in GRIB (GRaphics In Binary), see Biewenga Chapter 6 and www.sailwx.com/PUBLIC/index.html

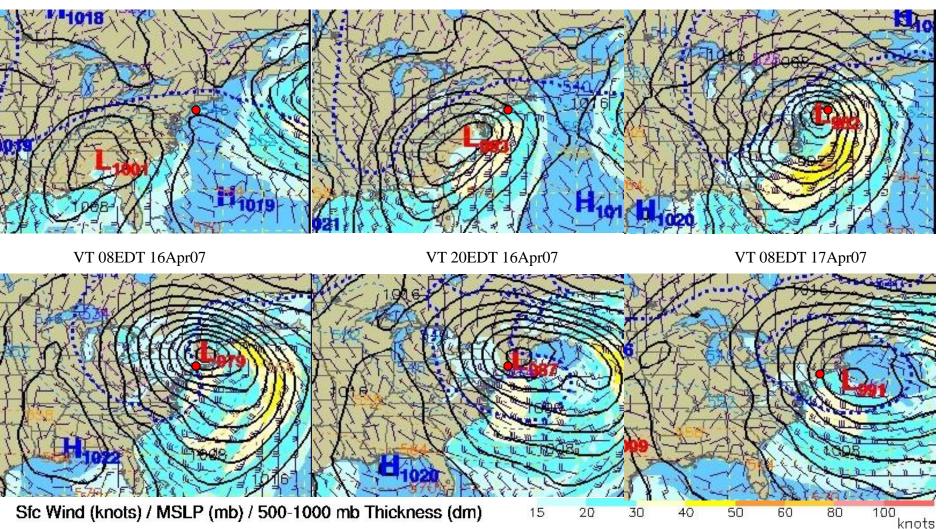
Actual 11EDT, 13 April 2007



Weather forecasting – exercise (data from the UCAR-RAP site)

•Here is a sequence of Global Forecast System (GFS) forecasts: VT 20EDT 14Apr07 VT 08EDT 15Apr07

VT 20EDT 15Apr07



•Write down the expected wind speed and direction for NY Harbor (RED dot) at 94 each time. What 4-hour period would you put your sailboat back in the water?

Introductory routing - climatology

•Routing using climatology - utilize the seasonal ocean currents and winds to determine the direction to sail.

For example, the Arabians used the SW and NE Monsoons to, respectively, sail to and from India.

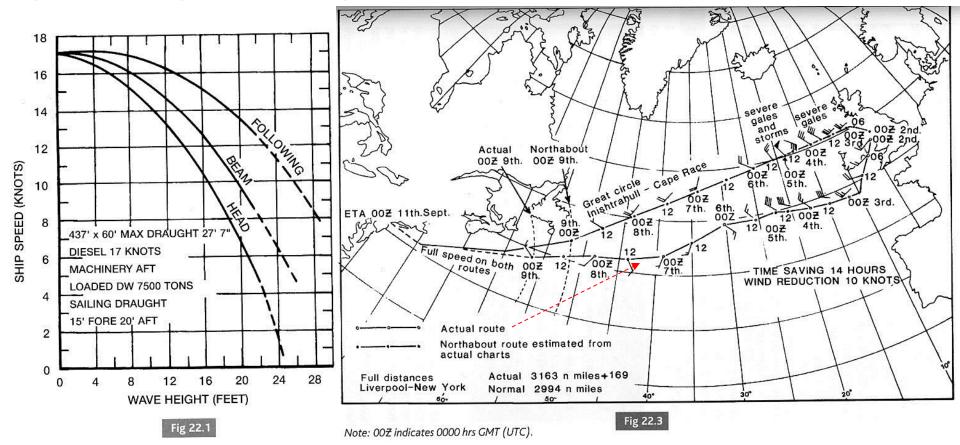
Another example is the early mariners utilizing the Gulf Stream and Westerlies to sail from W to E across the N. Atlantic and the Atlantic Drift and NE Trades to sail from E to W across the sub-tropical Atlantic.

A final example. When I sailed from Annapolis MD to-and-from Ft. Lauderdale FL with the USNA in early June 1987, we motored the Inter-coastal Waterway to avoid the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras and used the Gulf Stream to speed back to Annapolis.

Introductory routing – synoptic weather reports

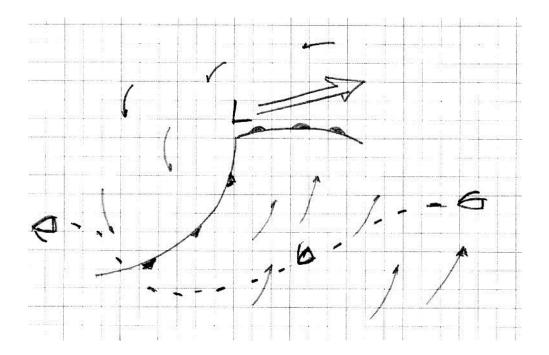
•"The shortest route is not necessarily the quickest"

•Routing using synoptic weather reports and forecasts is the current method to avoid regions of strong winds and large seas:



300 miles were added to this 3000 mile passage but, reducing time, fuel and cargo damage.

Introductory routing – cold front avoidance

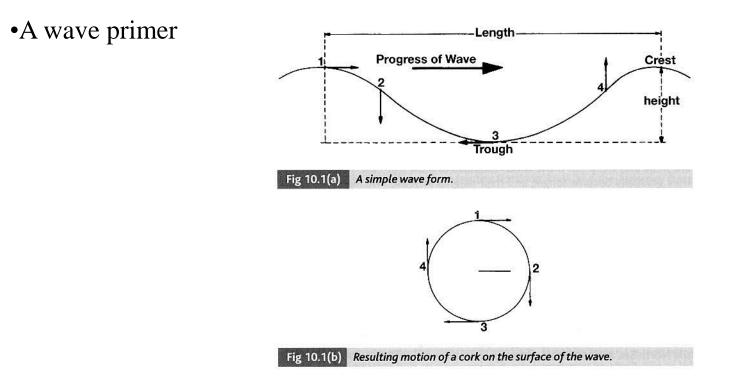


•Squall line avoidance: They move too fast to avoid. Reef, point into the wind and motor to keep headway.

•"Quick to come, quick to pass. Slow to come, slow to pass", Hindman

•Tropical cyclone avoidance discussed later

Introduction to sea and swell waves:



Period – time it takes for two crests to pass a point

Deep water waves do not 'feel' the bottom and shallow water waves 'feel' the bottom, slow down and increase in height.

Introduction to sea and swell waves: formation

•Wave formation depends on the speed of the wind, duration of the wind and the 'fetch'. High speed winds of long duration over the longest fetch produce the largest waves and vice versa.

•The height of a wave may be either speed, duration or fetch limited (or limited by all). For example a north wind blowing across the Long Island Sound may be fetch limited.

•Sea waves are those generated in the region of the storm. They are chaotic in nature because of the continuously varying speed, duration and fetch in the region of the storm.

•Swell waves are the uniform, high speed waves that escape the storm regions and move far ahead of the storm.

•It's a challenge for the mariner to identify the swell waves transiting the locally generated sea waves or, in the case of Long Island Sound on a Sunday afternoon in August, the swell waves from the motor boat wakes!

Introduction to sea and swell waves: propagation and decay

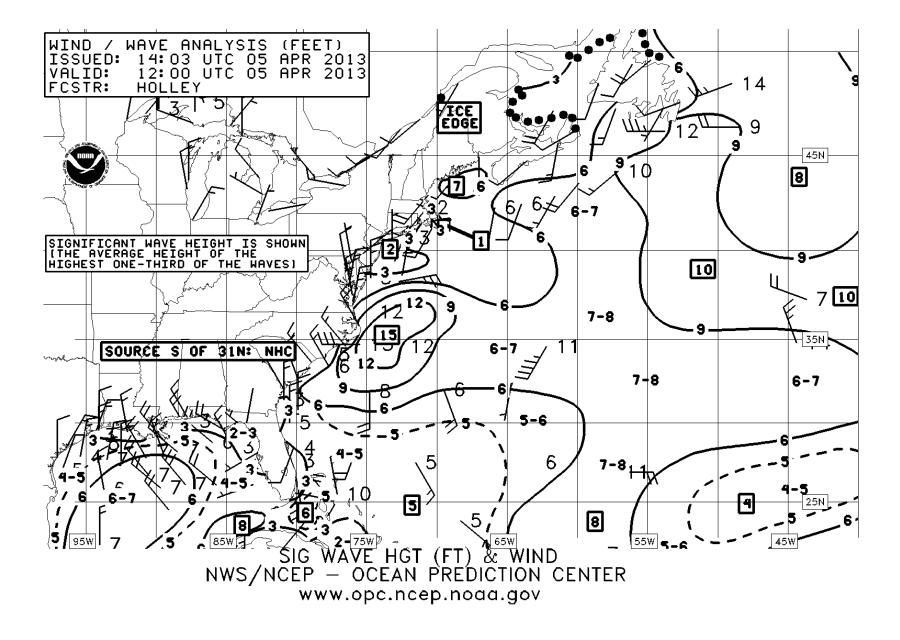
•Sea waves do not propagate significant distances because they are 'anchored' to the storm. The storm is injecting energy into the sea which radiates from the storm in the form of the swell waves.

•Sea waves decay (dissipate) as soon as the storm dissipates.

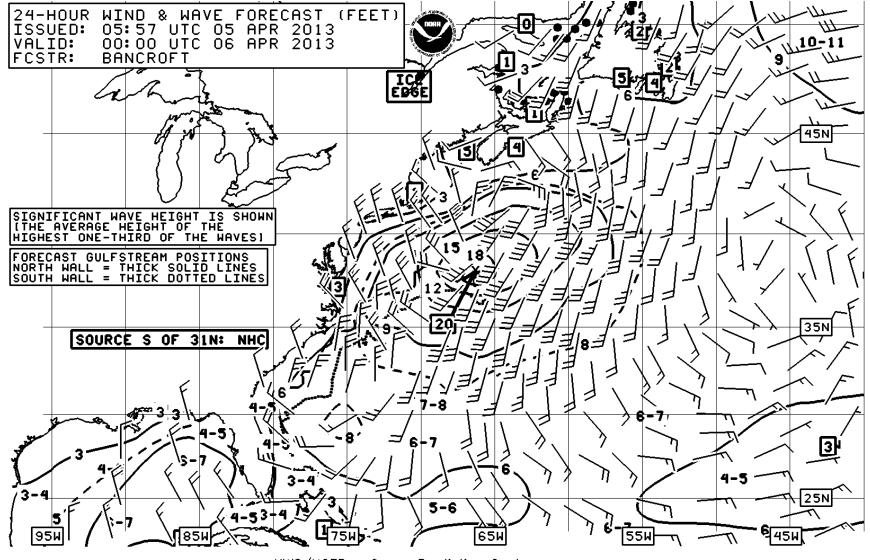
•Swell wave propagate great distances but loose height as they move from the storm. For example, swell generated in the Southern Ocean has been detected moving northward across the Pacific and dissipating as centimeter high waves on the Alaskan shores.

•Swell waves dissipate as the surf of the world's beaches.

Overview of OPC wind and wave analyses charts: wind/wave analyses (weather.noaa.gov/fax/marsh.shtml#WIND, scroll to appropriate 'gif' chart)

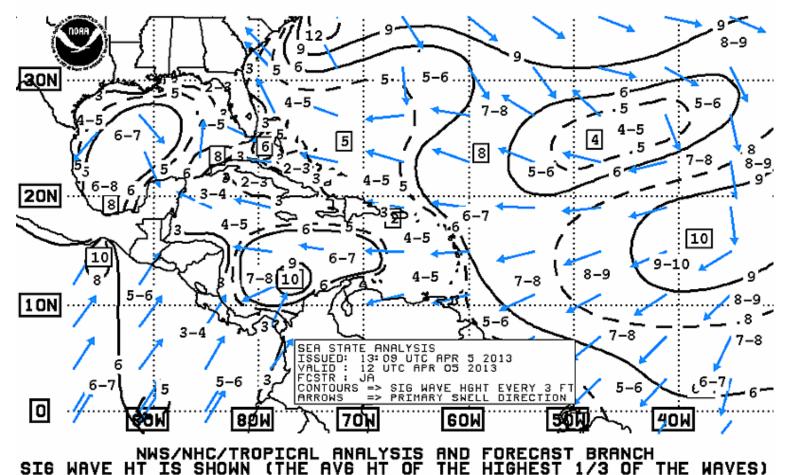


Overview of OPC wind and wave forecast charts: wind/wave forecast (weather.noaa.gov/fax/marsh.shtml#WIND, scroll to appropriate 'gif' chart)



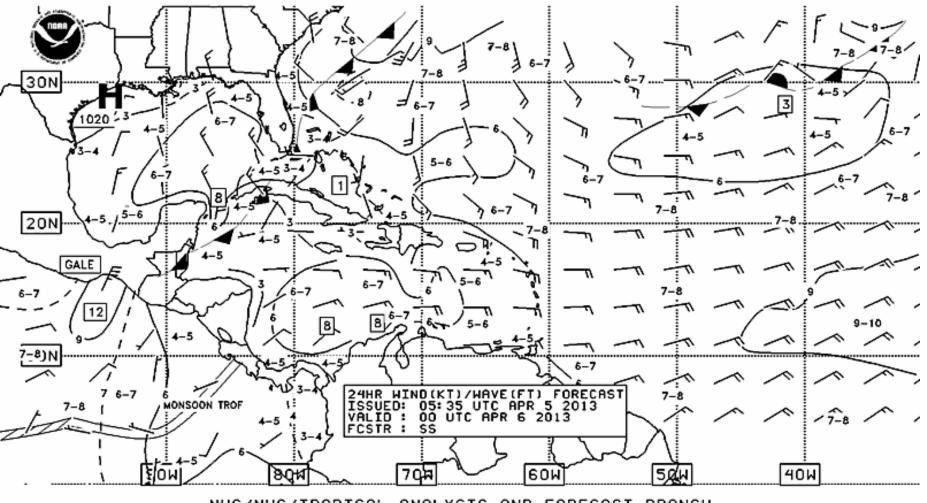
NWS/NCEP — Ocean Prediction Center www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov

Overview of TPC wind and wave analysis charts: sea state analysis (<u>www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/</u>), scroll down to 'Graphical Products, Atlantic' and, then, to 'Significant Wave Height Analysis')



The me menter ing of the Mhyest

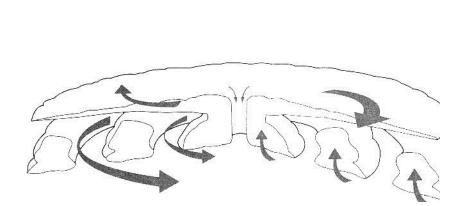
Overview of TPC wind and wave forecast charts: wind / wave (<u>www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/</u>), scroll down to 'Graphical Products, Atlantic' and, then, to 'Wind/Wave Forecasts')



NWS/NHC/TROPICAL ANALYSIS AND FORECAST BRANCH SIG WAVE HT IS SHOWN (THE AVG HT OF THE HIGHEST 1/3 OF THE WAVES)

Tropical cyclone: Basics and the rules for avoidance:

Because of the geostationary satellites that ring the World, there are no more undetected tropical cyclones. Therefore, you should have ample warning to either not set out or avoid if underway. If, however, you goof, here are some strategies:



Characteristics of the mature tropical cyclone (hurricane in west Atlantic and eastern Pacific) from Biewenga reference.

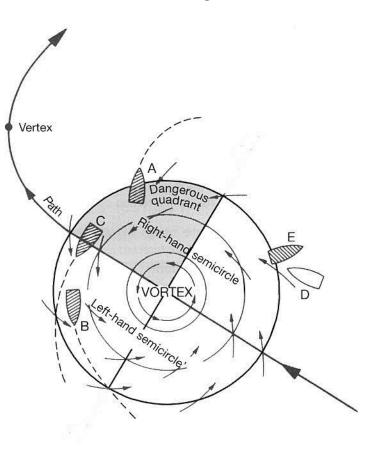


Fig 17.2

Where to access weather information

Summary of sites visited in "Intermediate Marine Weather":

- •Global satellite image from www.nrlmry.navy.mil/sat-bin/global.cgi
- •Global satellite loop from www.ssec.wisc.edu/data/comp/ir/irmoll.mpg
- •Weather schematics at www.srh.weather.gov/srh/jetstream/global/jet.htm
- •Gulf Stream sea-surface temperatures from marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/
- •Atmospheric soundings above the Gulf Stream from
- ready.arl.noaa.gov/READYamet.php
- •Current coastal buoy data from www.ndbc.noaa.gov
- •Upper air charts from www.weather.unisys.com/upper_air/
- •Archived surface weather maps from <u>www.weather.unisys.com/archive/sfc_map/</u>
- •Large-scale weather forecasts from weather.rap.ucar.edu/model/
- •Local weather forecasts from cheget.msrc.sunysb.edu/html/alt_mm5.cgi (free) and <u>www.sailwx.com/PUBLIC/index.html</u> (charge)
- •Ocean wind and wave analyses and forecast maps for the east coast from weather.noaa.gov/fax/marsh.shtml#WIND
- •Ocean wind and wave forecast maps for the sub-tropical regions from <u>www.nhc.noaa.gov/marine/</u>

End of 'Intermediate Marine Weather'

Now you are 'weatherproofed': recognize, understand, act!