

Jambalaya



WFO Lake Charles Newsletter

Fall 2007 Edition

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NWS Lake Charles County Warning Area Facts

Counties: **6 in Southeast Texas**
Parishes: **16 in Southwest Louisiana**
Marine Zones: **6 in Northwest Gulf of Mexico**
CWA Land Area: **21,472 square miles**

CWA Population: **1,565,315**
Most Populated County/Parish: **Jefferson County (248,605)**
Least Populated County/Parish: **Cameron Parish (9,708)**
Largest City: **Beaumont, TX (112,434)**

Worst Hurricane: **Hurricane Audrey, June 27 1957**

(500+ killed, \$1.1 billion damage 2007 USD)

Worst Tornado: **Alexandria LA F4 Tornado, April 4 1923** *(15 killed, \$9 million damage 2007 USD)*

Worst Winter Storm: **February 14-15, 1895 Snowstorm** *(30" in Beaumont, 24" in Lake Charles)*



Meet The Staff

Meteorologist-In-Charge
Administrative Support Assistant
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
Science & Operations Officer
Service Hydrologist
Information Technology Officer

Andy Patrick
Lisa Bowers
Roger Erickson
Felix Navejar
Jonathan Brazzell
James Raley

Senior Forecasters

Stephen Carboni
Lance Escude
Kent Kuyper
Joe Rua
John Traes

Journeyman Forecasters

Donovan Landreneau
Mike Marcotte
Sam Shamburger
Jim Sweeney

Meteorologist Interns

Rob Chobin
Erin Snavelly

Hydrometeorological Technicians

Todd Mogged
Jimmy Nunn

Electronic Systems Analyst
Electronics Technicians

Danny Dowden
John Crawford
Ricky Guidry
Hank Hughes

Cuckoo for CoCoRaHS!

CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). **CoCoRaHS** stands for the **Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network**. This network of precipitation observers is intended to complement official National Weather Service reporting stations (which can be few and far between) with daily precipitation readings, thereby giving a more complete picture of rainfall, hail, and snow events.

CoCoRaHS is based at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, and is sponsored by numerous organizations, including NOAA and the National Weather

Service. **CoCoRaHS** currently operates in many states across the country, including Texas, with Louisiana scheduled to join the network on January 1, 2008.

NWS Lake Charles is looking for willing volunteers in Southeast Texas and Louisiana to take daily precipitation readings, join the **CoCoRaHS** network, and be cuckoo for **CoCoRaHS!**

To Join CoCoRaHS

1) Contact your **CoCoRaHS** Regional Coordinators

Southeast Texas

Sam Shamburger
(Sam.Shamburger@noaa.gov)

Southwest & South-Central Louisiana

Donovan Landreneau
(Donovan.Landreneau@noaa.gov)

Central Louisiana

Jonathan Brazzell
(Jonathan.Brazzell@noaa.gov)

2) Fill out an application on the **CoCoRaHS** website located at <http://www.cocorahs.org>

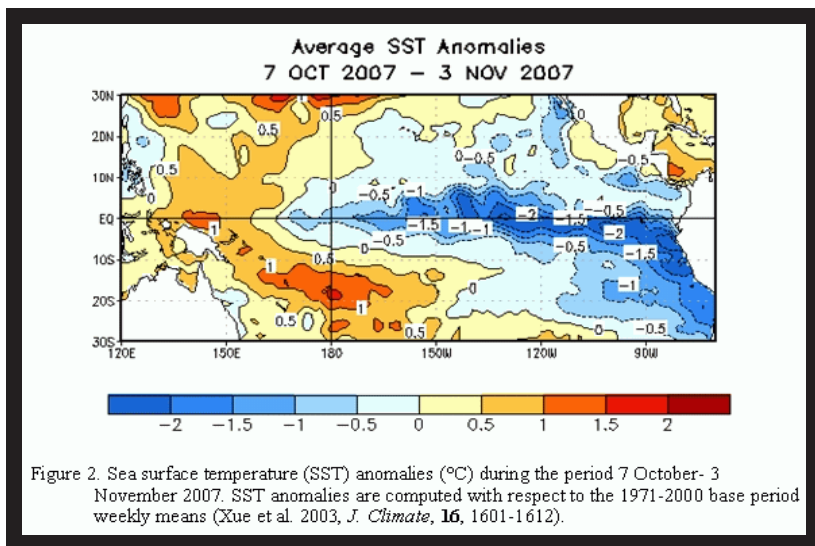
3) Complete the **CoCoRaHS** training slide show on the **CoCoRaHS** website to learn all the details about **CoCoRaHS**

4) **CoCoRaHS** will contact you and assign you a station name and ID number, making you an official **CoCoRaHS** observer!

5) Start measuring daily rainfall, hail, and snow and report on the **CoCoRaHS** website!



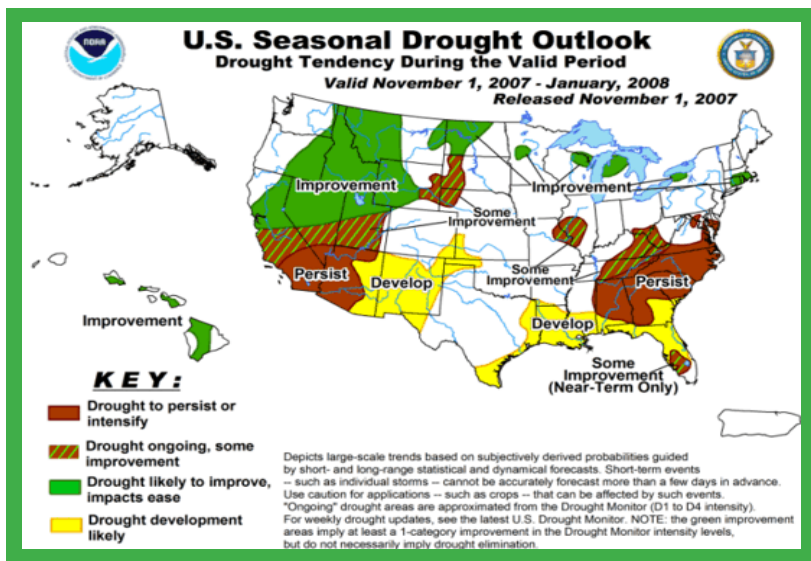
La Niña and its effects on Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana

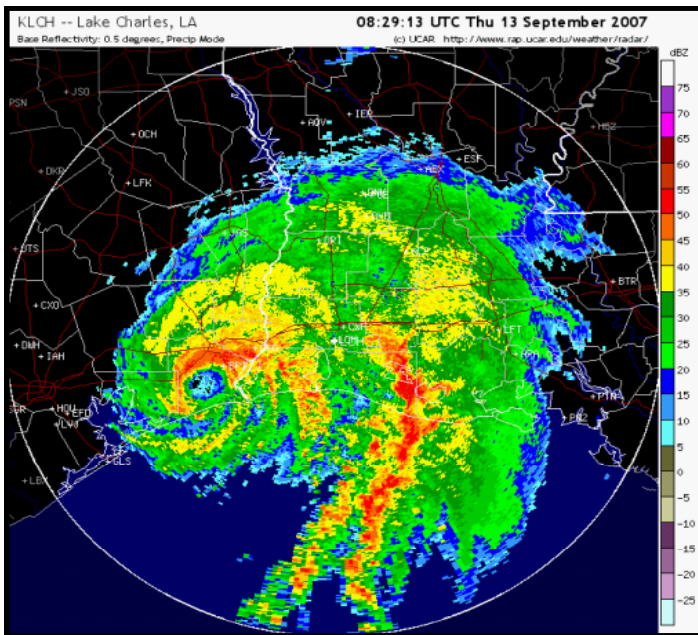


On Thursday, November 8, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) updated their ENSO Diagnostic Discussion, and indicated the La Niña event in the Niño 3.4 Region (between 120W and 170W within +/- 5 degrees of the equator) has continued to strengthen. As per the CPC, the Niño 3.4 SST anomaly is now -1.3°C . This places the magnitude of the event in the moderate range (SST anomalies colder than -1.0°C).

Current atmospheric and oceanic conditions, and recent trends, indicate that the La Niña will continue into 2008. Climatologically, most La Niña events reach their peak in the December to January time frame, with weakening thereafter.

As expected with La Niña, the current three month outlook indicates an above normal chance for warmer than normal temperatures, and an above normal chance of below normal precipitation, across Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana. In fact, the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates that drought conditions are expected to develop across our region through the winter months.





Hurricane Humberto Recap

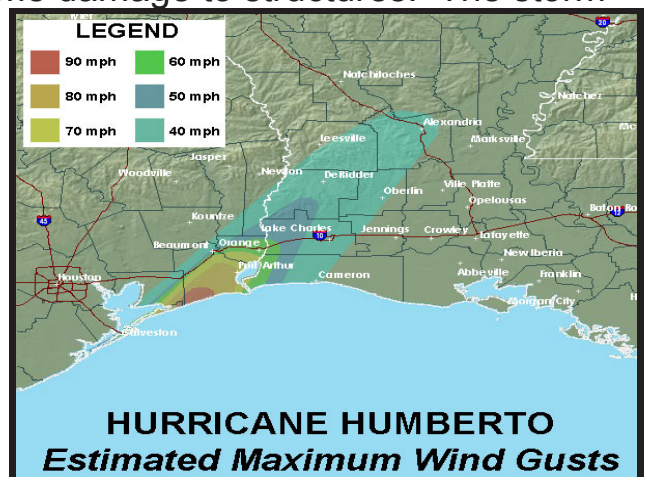
Hurricane Humberto developed extremely rapidly on September 12, 2007, before making landfall along the southwestern Jefferson County, Texas coast as a Category 1 hurricane early on the morning of September 13, 2007. Humberto made history due to its

rapid strengthening from a tropical depression the morning of September 12, 2007, to a hurricane early on September 13, 2007. No other hurricane has ever strengthened so quickly close to landfall. After making landfall between High Island, TX, and Sea Rim State Park, TX, Humberto then tracked northeast across Jefferson and Orange counties, impacting the Golden Triangle metropolitan area of Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange. This area had been severely damaged by Hurricane Rita just two years earlier. Although a small hurricane with a very tight wind field, Humberto caused considerable



Damage to apartment buildings in Port Arthur, TX (photo by Joe Catalina)

wind and flood damage across Jefferson and Orange counties, with numerous trees and power lines blown down along with some damage to structures. The storm knocked out power to 120,000 customers in the area. Damage estimates across Southeast Texas from Humberto were around \$60 million.



Visit the NWS Lake Charles Hurricane Humberto webpage at

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lch/tropical/humberto.php>

for more information!

November 7, 1957 Tornado Outbreak 50th Anniversary

Tornadoes in the NWS Lake Charles CWA from November 7, 1957

LOCATION	COUNTY/ PARISH	TIME (CST)	F-SCALE RATING	PATH LENGTH (miles)	PATH WIDTH (yards)	DEATHS	INJURIES	DAMAGE (1957 \$)
Lowry/Iota LA	JEFF DAVIS/ ACADIA	1430	F1	23	50	0	0	\$25,000
China TX	JEFFERSON	2015	F2	5	50	0	0	\$14,000
Leesville LA	VERNON	2035	F2	1	50	0	0	N/A
Alexandria LA	RAPIDES	2055	F3	13	60	3	35	\$500,000
Port Acres TX	JEFFERSON	2123	F2	1.5	70	0	1	\$75,000
Groves TX	JEFFERSON	2129	F3	3	150	2	53	\$2,300,000
Higginbotham LA	ACADIA/ ST. LANDRY	2130	F3	15	200	4	12	N/A
Orange TX	ORANGE	2327	F4	6	200	1	50	\$1,500,000
Carencro LA	LAFAYETTE	2330	F1	2	50	2	13	\$250,000

The worst tornado outbreak ever recorded across Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana occurred 50 years ago on November 7, 1957. On that day, 12 people were killed and hundreds were injured by at least 9 separate tornadoes that struck this area over a 10 hour period. Even more tornadoes affected other parts of Louisiana, as well as other states throughout the Southeastern U.S. Ironically, this large tornado outbreak occurred only a few months after the deadliest natural disaster in the area's history – Hurricane Audrey.

The November 7, 1957 Tornado Outbreak was unique among tornado outbreaks in Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana. This outbreak produced numerous intense and killer tornadoes, with 5 different tornadoes causing fatalities across the area. This was despite the relatively small path widths and lengths of the tornadoes. In addition, an F4 tornado which struck Orange County on this day remains the strongest tornado ever recorded in Southeast Texas. Several other tornadoes were rated F3 on the Fujita Scale, including very damaging ones in Groves, TX and Alexandria, LA. Damage totals across the area were around \$5 million, which would equate to around \$37 million in today's dollars.

Visit the NWS Lake Charles website at
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lch/sigevents/110757.php>
 for more information on the November 7, 1957 Tornado Outbreak!

Jennings, LA Cooperative Observer Honored with Thomas Jefferson Award

Jennings, Louisiana resident Douglas Hollier has been awarded the National Weather Service's Thomas Jefferson Award for 27 years of outstanding service to the Cooperative Observer Program. The award is the agency's most prestigious, and only seven are being presented this year to deserving cooperative weather observers across the nation.

Bill Proenza, director of the National Weather Service Southern Region, said, "Hollier and the thousands of cooperative observers across the nation have given generously of their time and energy because of their interest in weather and dedication to our country. We honor them and thank them for their commitment."

Hollier has maintained a complete set of accurate, legible records for nearly three decades; and, when he was unable to record observations, he always ensured that trained observers were available.

His contributions extend well beyond the Cooperative Observer program. A licensed pilot, he frequently flies over storm damage areas providing photographs for the forecast office in Lake Charles. As an Offshore Oil Operator with Anadarko Petroleum, he also provides Lake Charles with offshore weather and marine conditions.



NWS Lake Charles MIC Andy Patrick (left) presents the Thomas Jefferson Award to cooperative observer Douglas Hollier (Photo: WFO Lake Charles - 10/25/07)

During tropical cyclone conditions, his observations have been used by the National Hurricane Center to assist in assessing tropical cyclone intensity. And he has also assisted in the retrieval and redeployment of the Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler. Data from this profiler is provided to the NWS National Data Buoy Center.

The National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Observer Program has given scientists and researchers continuous observational data since the program's inception more than a century ago. Today, some 11,700 volunteer observers participate in the nationwide program to provide daily reports on temperature, precipitation and other weather factors such as snow depth, river levels and soil temperature.

Marine Weather Definitions

Small Craft Should Exercise Caution
Issued for winds of 15 to 20 knots or combined seas of 6 feet

Small Craft Advisory
Issued for average wind speeds of 20 knots to 33 knots,
and/or forecast seas of 7 feet or greater

Special Marine Warning
A warning issued for 2 hours or less to warn boaters of any of the following:
thunderstorm or non-thunderstorm winds of 34 knots or more (39 mph);
waterspouts, detected by radar or observed;
tornadoes moving from land to water

Gale Warning
Wind of 34 knots to 47 knots sustained or frequent gusts

Storm Warning
Sustained or frequent winds of 48 knots or more

Waterspout
A small and relatively weak rotating column of air underneath towering cumulus clouds or rapidly growing cumulonimbus clouds, common over tropical and subtropical waters;
or, a tornado occurring over water.

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LAKE CHARLES WEBSITE

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lch/>