

# NWS Melbourne Marine Web Letter

May 2011

(For Marine Forecast Questions 24/7: 321-255-0212 ext. 242)

## Boating Safety Page

A new [web page](#) is available that includes some east central Florida boating accident statistics and links to safe boating events/classes. If you have any boating education classes that you would like listed, please contact me.

## Convective Season

During the late part of May or early June, there is usually a noticeable increase in the frequency of thunderstorms. This is typically referred to as the onset of the “Wet Season.” However, there is often a period preceding the Wet Season when *occasional* flare ups of thunderstorms occur during daytime heating. I refer to this as the “Convective Season.”

This period can be anytime from March through May when the sea breezes act to generate storms. The atmosphere usually has a substantial dry layer during this time of the year. When storms form in such an environment, they are often strong to severe. Also, the storms will usually show more movement than the typical slow moving summer storms.

Therefore it is important to know what the storm motion is each day. The Melbourne National Weather Service office strives to include this information in the [Hazardous Weather Outlook](#) (HWO). So if storms are in the forecast, make sure you check out the HWO before going out on the water.

Also, it is important to have an idea about the timing of storms. This is difficult to communicate in the marine forecast or even in the HWO. So, I have a suggestion. Use our Aviation Forecasts. Yes, that’s what I suggest! They are site specific and usually updated more frequently than marine forecasts. I have a [web page](#) that provides more details.

## Talks

If you are interested in having me give a talk about marine forecasting, the best way to contact me is via [email](#).

Good weather and safe boating to all,

**Randy Lascody**

