

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, CHARLESTON SC

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STORM COURIER

SUMMER 2006



Next Newsletter Going Digital

Due to increasing postal costs and to allow us to deliver the latest newsletter in a more timely fashion, the Charleston Storm Courier is going electronic. Starting with the next issuance, the newsletter will only be accessible from our web site. We will place a link to the newsletter on the main page, but you can also access the newsletter (as well as previous versions) at our spotter newsletter page (www.weather.gov/chs/newsletter.shtml). For those of you who have provided us with your e-mail address, we will send a quick announcement to you when the new edition has been posted.

If you have not given us your e-mail address and would like to, please send a quick note to chs.skywarn@noaa.gov and request that we add your address. If you have moved since you attended the spotter class or your phone number has changed, please take this opportunity to send us your updated information as well. Also, for those of you who provided us with your e-mail address when you attended the training, we may need your e-mail address again. We have found many incorrect e-mail addresses when sending out announcements, so if you have not received any e-mail from us, that means you need to follow the above instructions to give us your correct address. You can be assured that we keep your contact information private. We thank you for your interest and look forward to serving you with future newsletters (in full color!).

What's Inside This Issue

- Upcoming hurricane season
- Lightning safety
- Jerry Harrison's retirement
- Recent severe weather



In Memory of Riley Stone K4HYY

Riley Stone of Summerville, South Carolina passed away on Monday, April 17, 2006. Mr. Stone was an avid ham radio operator and was the station licensee of WX4CHS, the Charleston National Weather Service ham radio station. Riley was born January 25, 1935 in New York City. He was a graduate of Ohio State University and served in the United States Air Force Reserves.

Riley was heavily involved with the SKYWARN program in the Tri-County area. During severe weather events, Mr. Stone was often called upon by the National Weather Service to come to the office and activate the Lowcountry Skywarn Net Control. He also was one of the ham radio operators that led the weekly Skywarn Net call-in on Tuesdays at 9 PM on the CARS linked repeater system. Riley Stone showed great dedication in his volunteer efforts in keeping the public informed during severe weather and tropical events.

His services will be sorely missed.

2006 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON OUTLOOK: ANOTHER RECORD BREAKER?

By Robert Bright - Meteorologist

2006 Atlantic Names

Alberto
Beryl
Chris
Debby
Ernesto
Florence
Gordon
Helene
Isaac
Joyce
Kirk
Leslie
Michael
Nadine
Oscar
Patty
Rafael
Sandy
Tony
Valerie
William

The Atlantic hurricane season officially began June 1 and runs through November 30. The list of names for this season will be the same as the one used in 2000 except for Kirk (replaces Keith). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) seasonal outlook issued in May calls for another busier than normal season with 13-16 tropical storms, 8-10 hurricanes, and 4-6 major (Category 3-5) hurricanes. In addition, NOAA says there is an 80% chance that tropical cyclone activity will be above normal, the highest percentage ever given in a May outlook. For comparison, NOAA's prediction in May 2005 included a 70% chance of an above-normal season and there ended up being a record 28 tropical storms. Fortunately, coastal South Carolina and Georgia experienced minimal impact from tropical systems last year.

NOAA's prediction for this year was based primarily on a continuation of a multi-decadal signal which has yielded warmer than normal sea surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean Sea as well as favorable climatic patterns, including neutral to cold El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions. Typically, warm ENSO conditions (El Niño) tend to reduce tropical cyclone activity while cold ENSO conditions (La Niña) tend to favor increased numbers of tropical cyclones. For example, the El Niño years of 1997 and 2002 saw below-normal activity during the considerably above-normal 1995-2005 period.

For more information on NOAA's 2006 hurricane outlook, preparedness information, and active storm information, visit the National Hurricane Center's website at www.nhc.noaa.gov. If a storm approaches coastal South Carolina or Georgia, additional information can be found at our website: www.weather.gov/chs

'It's not all about the numbers. It just takes that one hurricane over your house to make for a bad year.'

Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center

Play it Safe with Lightning!

Since we are now in the heart of thunderstorm season, it is important to understand the dangers of lightning to avoid serious injury or death. Unlike some weather hazards, lightning provides a very convenient heads-up of its approach: thunder! If you can hear thunder, you are at risk of being struck. A considerable amount of all lightning fatalities occur when there are no clouds overhead. Remember, it does not have to be raining for you to be struck.

If you hear thunder, take shelter in a building or vehicle. Stay away from windows, doors, and any metal objects that are grounded. This includes electrical systems and plumbing. If you are a boater, it is best to seek safe harbor and get off the water as soon as thunder is heard. If you frequently venture far from shore, you may want to invest in a lightning protection system for your boat. These systems connect all metal parts of the boat together so a lightning strike has a better chance of being safely grounded.

Remember...when thunder roars, head indoors!



JERRY HARRISON RETIRES, REPLACEMENT SELECTED

Our longtime Warning Coordination Meteorologist retired on April 3, 2006. Jerry began his career in the NWS on July 8, 1973 after graduating from Claflin University in Orangeburg with a Bachelors Degree in Mathematics. He worked in the Columbia, SC Forecast Office first as an Intern, then later as a Fire Weather Forecaster. In 1994 during the modernization of the NWS, he became the first Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Charleston, SC office. Besides two years spent at the Washington, DC forecast office in the early 1980's, Jerry has worked in South Carolina for his entire NWS career.

Throughout his career, Jerry has been an ambassador for Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Affirmative Action Programs on the local, regional and national levels. The Eastern Region recognized Jerry as their EEO Regional Employee of the Year in the mid-80s. Another of Jerry's biggest achievements was being the first WCM in Eastern Region to get all counties of our Warning Area designated as StormReady. Jerry's hard work and dedication will definitely be missed.

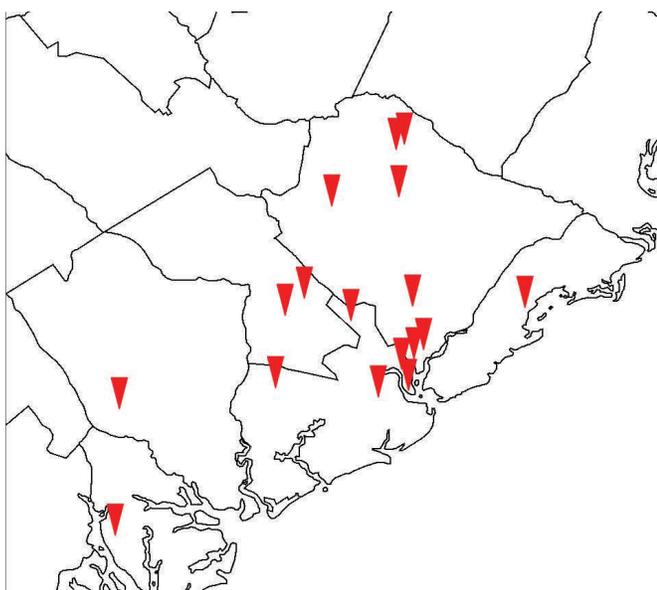
Our new Warning Coordination Meteorologist is Paul Yura, promoted on-station from Senior Forecaster.

Area Buffeted By Severe Weather

2006 has so far been quite active for severe weather across southeast Georgia and southern South Carolina. A deep upper-level trough has persisted across the eastern United States for longer than usual in the Spring and early Summer months. This has resulted in a favorable setup for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes in this area. In addition to receiving a large number of wind damage and hail reports, we have had an impressive 20 confirmed tornadoes this year. Interestingly, a large percentage of our severe weather outbreaks have occurred on weekends.

The first tropical system of the season, Tropical Storm Alberto, had significant impacts on the area on June 13-14. Such weak systems usually do not result in large tornado outbreaks, but in this case, enough solar heating occurred in-between rain bands to develop thunderstorms that could produce weak tornadoes. We confirmed seven tornadoes over a two-day period, although other tornadoes may have occurred that simply were not reported.

Please remember that, not only do we need real-time severe weather reports, but any storm damage you discover after the storm passes is very useful to us. It helps us enter accurate information into our official storm report database, as well as make sure our warnings are effective. If in doubt, do not hesitate to call in your report!



Each triangle represents a confirmed tornado. Notice the impressive number of tornadoes affecting the Tri-County area.

Tornado summary for 2006 -- Charleston CWA

Date	County(s)	City	F Scale
South Carolina			
4/8/2006	Charleston	4 SW of Adams Run	F1
4/8/2006	Charleston/Berkeley	Charleston Neck area onto Daniel Is.	F0
4/8/2006	Berkeley	Daniel Island/Family Circle Cup	F0
4/8/2006	Charleston	West Ashley	F0
4/26/2006	Colleton	9.5 WSW Walterboro	F1
4/26/2006	Dorchester	5 SSE of Givhans	F0
4/26/2006	Dorchester	Summerville	F1
4/26/2006	Berkeley/Charleston	7 W of Huger	F1
5/7/2006	Berkeley	St. Stephen	F0
5/14/2006	Berkeley	Daniel island/Clements Ferry Rd	F0
5/20/2006	Berkeley	1 N St. Stephen	F0
5/20/2006	Berkeley	Bonneau	F0
6/13/2006	Beaufort	Laurel Bay	F0
6/13/2006	Charleston	MUSC/downtown	F0
6/13/2006	Charleston	Awendaw	F0
6/14/2006	Charleston	Lincolville	F0
6/14/2006	Berkeley	Cross	F0
Georgia			
1/2/2006	Jenkins	10 S Millen	F0
6/13/2006	Chatham	Savannah/Riverside	F1
6/13/2006	Effingham	3 S of Springfield	F0



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NOAA AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE...WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES!



Whenever severe weather strikes, remember, as a trained weather spotter *we want to hear from you!* If you measure or estimate winds of 50 mph or greater, observe trees and/or power lines down, structures damaged, hail (any size), flooding (water running across the road, ditches overflowing, creeks/streams out of their banks), tornadoes, funnel clouds or waterspouts, pick up the phone and call us. In addition, if you see or hear of any injuries, fatalities, or damage from lightning, give us a call. Your valuable reports help us confirm what we're detecting on radar, and could make a life-or-death difference for the people in the next town or in the next county about to be hit by the severe storm that just went over your house. *When in doubt, please call us!*



You can always call the toll-free number we provided to you during the training.

Or, leave a report on our severe weather answering machine :
1-888-383-2024

E-mail reports and pictures to:
CHS.SKYWARN@NOAA.GOV

Forecasts & Conditions:
843-744-0303

Did you know?

So far this year, our County Warning Area has been impacted by 20 confirmed tornadoes, seven of which have occurred in Charleston County!

See inside for details on the recent severe weather.

If you take any interesting pictures of weather phenomena, we would love to see them. You can e-mail your digital pictures to our Skywarn account at chs.skywarn@noaa.gov