

**AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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**AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY  
SEPTEMBER SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

This monthly tip sheet is designed to give you story ideas and tips about upcoming AMS meetings, papers in our nine peer-reviewed journals, and other happenings in the atmospheric and related sciences community.

**Paper Trail**

**How the Swells of Hurricane Isabel Impacted Southeast Florida.** A fascinating article about hurricane swells and their impact on Southeast Florida appeared in the August issue of the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. Authors Richard J. Davis and Charles H. Paxton explore a unique series of events occurred that sent large waves to the southeast coast of Florida. The waves generated by powerful Hurricane Isabel broke along a narrow 10-mi (16.1-km) stretch of beaches along southern Palm Beach County on 16 September 2003. The complete article is online at <http://ams.allenpress.com/pdfserv/10.1175/BAMS-86-8-1065>

**Improved SHIPS.** Forecasts of tropical cycle tracks have significantly improved over the past few decades, primarily because of advances in numerical models. Intensity predictions have not improved as rapidly because of the wide range of physical process such as the energy exchange with the ocean and the thunderstorm structure near the storm center are fundamentally important for intensity change. That's why simpler statistical model such as Statistical Hurricane Intensity Prediction Scheme (SHIPS) tend to have smaller errors. The SHIPS model, run by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has undergone several changes since 1997, all improving the models accuracy. A paper by Mark DeMaria appeared in the August issue of AMS's *Weather and Forecasting*. For a PDF file contact Stephanie Kenitzer.

**Hurricane-Flood-Landslide Continuum.** NOAA, NASA and the US Geological Survey are working on a hurricane-flood-landslide continuum aimed to reduce the global loss of life and property from the floods, landslides and debris flows caused by tropical storms. The proposed three-year project would develop and transfer a warning system to a prototype region in the Central Caribbean. For more on this project see the September issue of the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological*

Society (<http://ams.allenpress.com/amsonline/?request=get-toc&issn=1520-0477&volume=86&issue=9> )

### Science Seminar Series

**Ocean Acidity.** Changes in ocean acidity resulting from the buildup of CO<sub>2</sub> is the next topic of the AMS Environmental Science Seminar Series on Capital Hill. What are the links between ocean acidity, ocean temperature and elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>? What are the implications of increasing ocean acidity in the upper ocean to ecosystems and to society? Is there historical evidence of increased ocean acidity associated with warmer temperatures and higher levels of oceanic and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>? If so, what were the consequences? Are there options for keeping ocean acidity in check? Is the increase in ocean acidity independent of any climate warming resulting from the buildup of CO<sub>2</sub>? Dr. Richard A. Feely, Supervisory Oceanographer, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, Washington, and Dr. Kenneth Caldeira, Department of Global Ecology, Carnegie Institution, Stanford University, California, will address these questions on Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room G-50.

**Hurricanes: Are they Changing?** The next seminar is tentatively scheduled for October 25, 2005. Topic: Hurricanes: Are They Changing and Are We Adequately Prepared for the Future?

**AMS Report on Hurricane Preparedness and Response.** More than five years ago, the American Meteorological Society and The Weather Channel listed a workshop to identify the risks and challenges of the nation's hurricane preparedness system. The report, issued in September 2000 noted that the nation is at risk to increased damage and loss of life cause by hurricanes and recommended specific changes. For the complete report see <http://www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy/PolicyForums.html>

### Meeting Mania

**Radar Meteorology and Fire Weather on the Horizon** – The AMS has a few more specialty meetings scheduled for the rest of 2005. The first is the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference on Mesoscale Process combined with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Radar Meteorology, October 24-28 in Albuquerque. The Sixth Fire and Forest Meteorology Symposium and Interior West Fire Council Meeting takes place Oct. 25-27 in Canmore, AB, Canada. For details see <http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/meetinfo.html> Media are invited to attend the scientific sessions and talk the experts on hand.

**Annual Meeting Right Around the Corner.** The AMS 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting takes place January 29-February 3, 2006 in Atlanta. The meeting is being organized around the broad theme of "Applications of Weather and Climate Data" with an emphasis on documenting success stories in the applications of atmospheric, hydrologic and oceanic sciences, and the research needed to continue benefiting from new knowledge. Two integrating subthemes that will be highlighted are "Managing Our Air, Energy, and Water Resources" and "Environmental Risks and Impacts on Commerce." The program is now online at <http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/>

**Missed an AMS meeting but want to know what happened?** -- Check out the

links to abstracts, recorded presentations and graphics online. Most authors and presenters at AMS meetings give the Society permission to record the presentations and make them available at no cost on the AMS web site. The recorded presentations (both audio and video when possible) are a great tutorial. Listen, read and then contact the author for more details. You can find the presentations online at <http://ams.confex.com/ams/htsearch.cgi>

### **Miscellaneous**

**A Seal of Approval?** – Did you know the AMS has a Seal of Approval program for broadcast meteorologists, those folks that deliver the weather reports on television each day. That's right, the Society has a certification program that sets a standard for the delivery and content of the weather information delivered to millions of households on a regular basis. Last January the Society launched a new program called the Certified Broadcast Meteorologist (CBM). The CBM raises the standard even higher, requiring the broadcasters to take an exam, and for all future applications that don't already have the seal, to hold a bachelor's degree in meteorology or related sciences. The CBM and Seal of Approval are a sign of accomplishment in the field and are often displayed on the bottom of the screen during the weather broadcast. Now you can tell the viewers what that little blue and white or black and white logo means. Want more details – check out <http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html> And go ahead, pass this along to your television beat reporter.

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The AMS (<http://www.ametsoc.org>) is the nation's leading professional society for those in the atmospheric and related sciences.