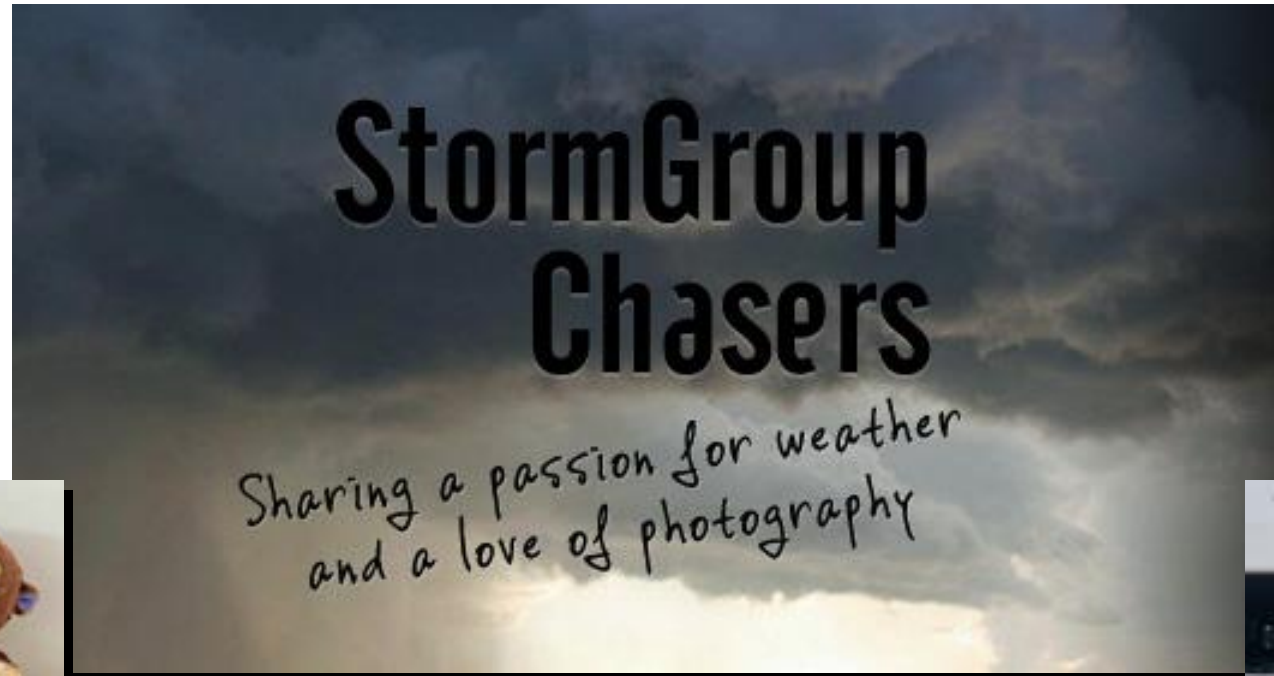


Memories – Tour 3

May 22nd to May 28th, 2022



“at home in New Zealand”

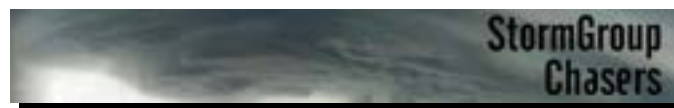


“standing watch in the USA”

The team ...



Steve, Dave, Peter, Kathie & Rick



Chasing summary – Tour 3

On this tour we drove 3,311 miles across seven states – Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Montana, Nebraska and Kansas. We chased severe thunderstorms on 4 of the 7 days out on the Plains, sighting 1 memorable tornado.

While the week's weather had some active weather patterns, there were a few quiet sunny days, however we managed to pack in some great sightseeing as compensation. Some pretty decent restaurant meals on this tour, and a few picnic lunches, combined with the usual chaser fast food!

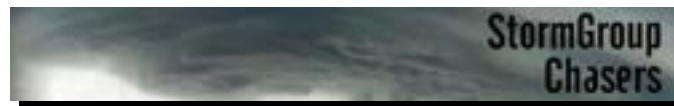
One of the highlights of the tour had to be the impressive tornado we sighted near Morton, TX on May 23rd – fabulous structure on the supercell as the wall cloud developed right next to us, a brief retreat to the south before the tornado touched down as a stovepipe with a huge rotating collar cloud, eventually morphing into a large dusty wedge. Then the tornadic supercell carried on for hours, eventually treating us to a “spaceship” mesocyclone near Levelland, TX along with some impressive lightning.

Given all this just on Day 2, it would be hard to top this during the rest of the tour. ☺

Always fascinating to witness the rotating mesocyclonic supercells in action – some very photogenic opportunities – it “never gets old”.

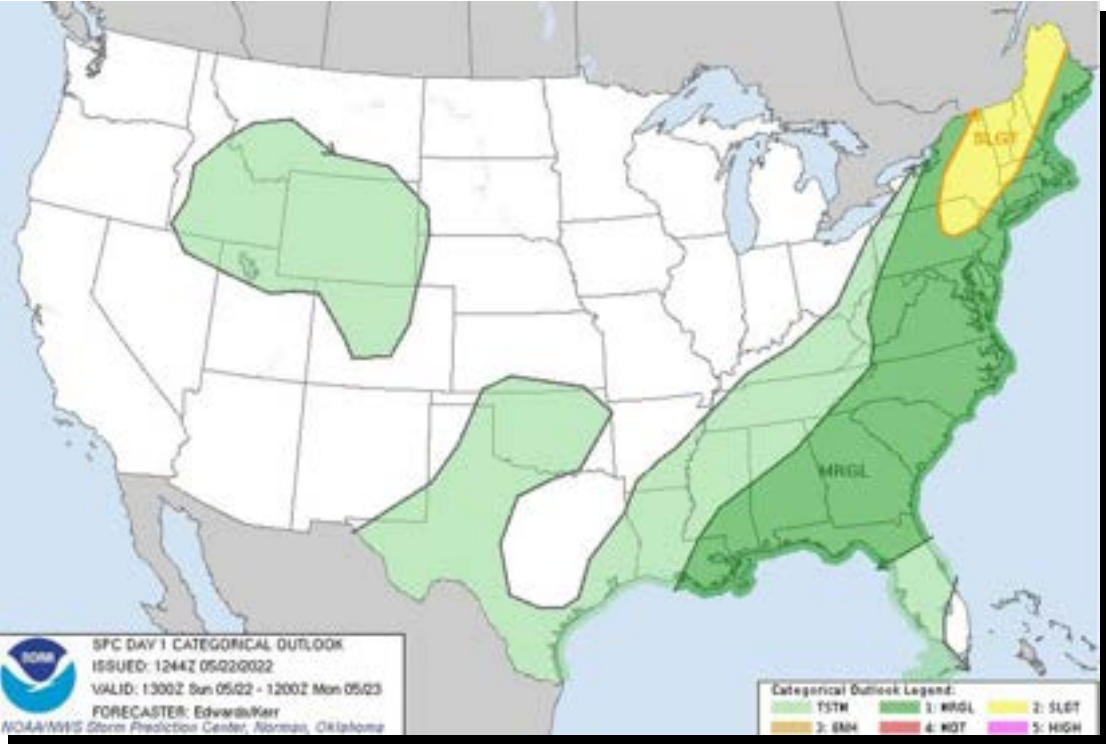
The shared experience on these tours is what makes the time so special – many thanks to Rick for his able assistance with co-driving & forecasting.

Of course, the challenge on any tour is to make the most of what's doled out by Mother Nature, while taking a great road trip across the landscape, towns and culture of the middle of America ... as detailed on the following pages.

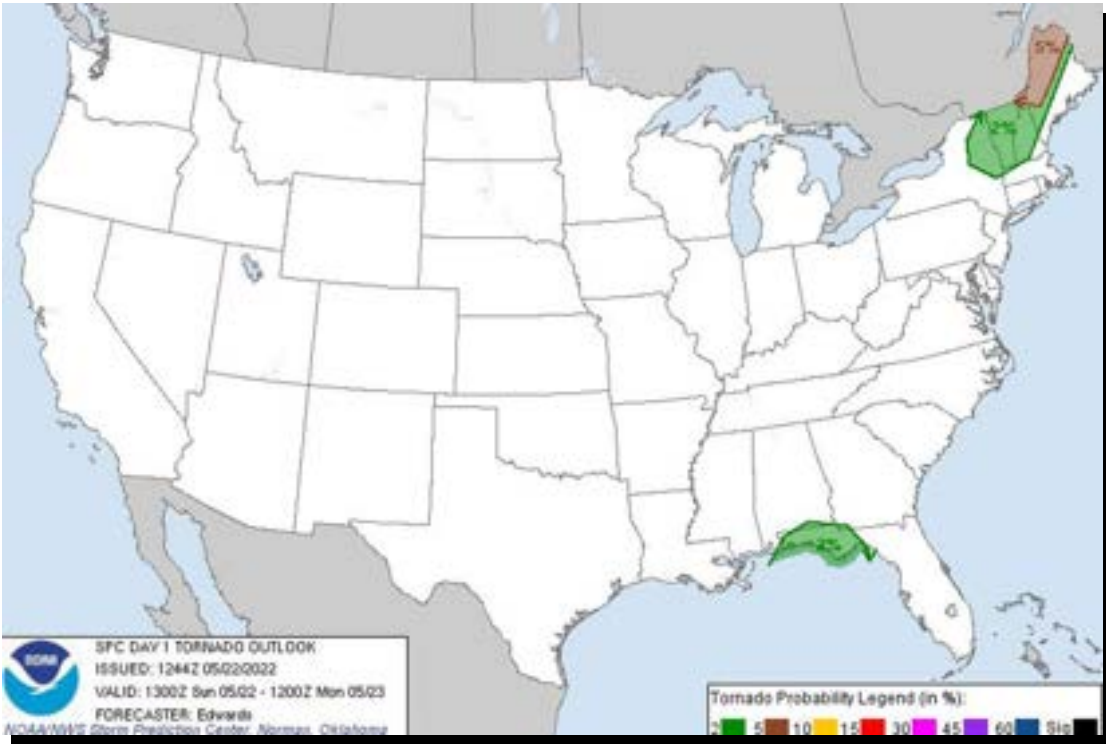


The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 1, May 22nd

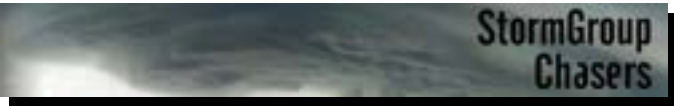
Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – is only guidance for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...



The chase day in words ... Day 1, May 22nd

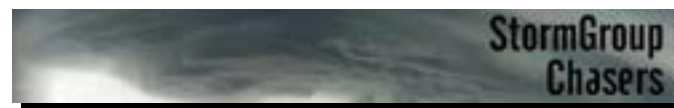
... drove just 230 miles today from our home base hotel in Oklahoma City to Henryetta, OK via Catoosa, OK ... no storms to chase today, so a “touristy” day ... abbreviated tour briefing, off to Walmart, then Starbucks, then a visit to the Oklahoma City National Memorial - an elegant design commemorating the 168 people killed in the bombing/explosion in April 1995 ...off NE to Route 66 about 11:30am, under breezy, very cold conditions ... stopped at Pops 66, a landmark diner & gas station near Arcadia, OK - with hundreds of sodas of every imaginable combination of flavours, and some close to unimaginable ... stopped next at the Arcadia Round Barn, a structure first built in 1898 using native bur oak boards soaked while green and forced into the curves needed for the walls and roof rafters - a restoration was completed in 1992, after the 60ft diameter roof collapsed in 1988 ... next a side trip to Wellston, OK, then stopping at the Seaba Station Motorcycle Museum in Warwick, OK - a cool collection of dozens of old motorcycles, including some famous bikes ... time for Route 66 “souvenir time” ... then a picnic lunch at Tilghman Park in Chandler, OK - a little warmer now, but still on the fresh side when the wind blew ... from there, various photo stops for a number of iconic Route 66 signs ... into Tulsa, OK about 3:45pm to visit the newly opened Bob Dylan Center ... an Ironman competition was underway, meaning many of the downtown streets to access the Center were closed ... the display is an immersive multi-media presentation of his musical career, very entertaining - a “who’s who” list of music royalty he worked with over his career, and, new to me, that Dylan wrote “All Along the Watchtower”, the song that was so famously covered by Jimi Hendrix in 1968 - many memories prompted by wandering through the various displays, with headphone audios triggered by each display - thoroughly recommend - <https://bobdylancenter.com/visit/> ... then off east to see the Blue Whale of Catoosa, another iconic Route 66 landmark - built in the early 1970s, it operated as a structure to enjoy a popular local swimming hole until 1988 - after falling into disrepair, it was restored by a fund-raising and volunteer effort by the people of Catoosa ... off for dinner at one of the Rib Cribs in Tulsa, then south for the hour drive to our hotel in Henryetta, OK ... tomorrow is looking like a much better chase day, with scattered supercells & possible tornadoes in the south Texas Panhandle, and points further south & southwest ... today was a pleasant way to fill in a “storm-free” day ...



... 12:14 pm – Pops 66...



... 12:25 pm – Arcadia Round Barn ...



On a sunny day, tourist time ... Day 1, May 22nd



... 11:08 – Oklahoma City Memorial ...



... 12:09 pm – Pops 66, Arcadia, OK ...



... 1:13 pm – Seaba Station, Warwick, OK ...



... 2:39 pm – Stroud, OK ...



... 4:44 pm – Bob Dylan Exhibition, Tulsa, OK ...

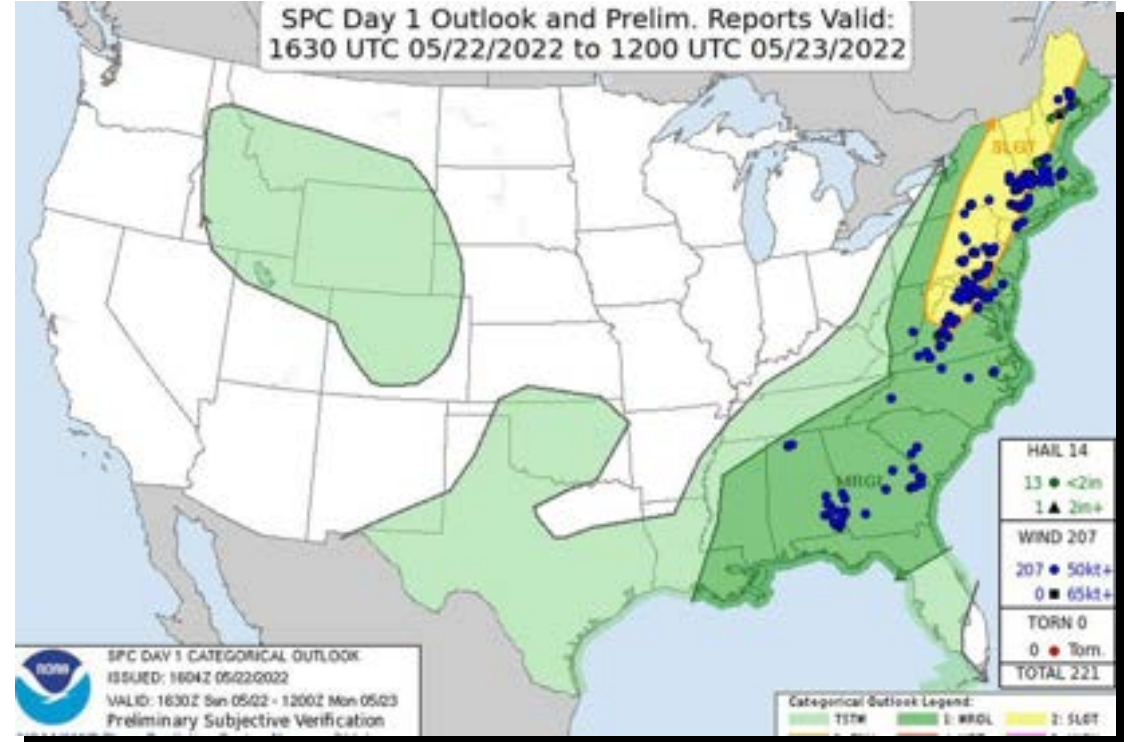


... 5:26 pm – Blue Whale, Catoosa, OK ...

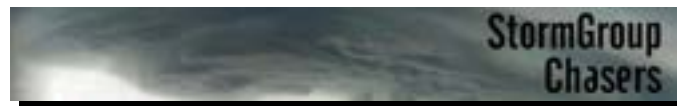
The chase day in maps ... Day 1, May 22nd



... where we drove on the day – 230 miles ...

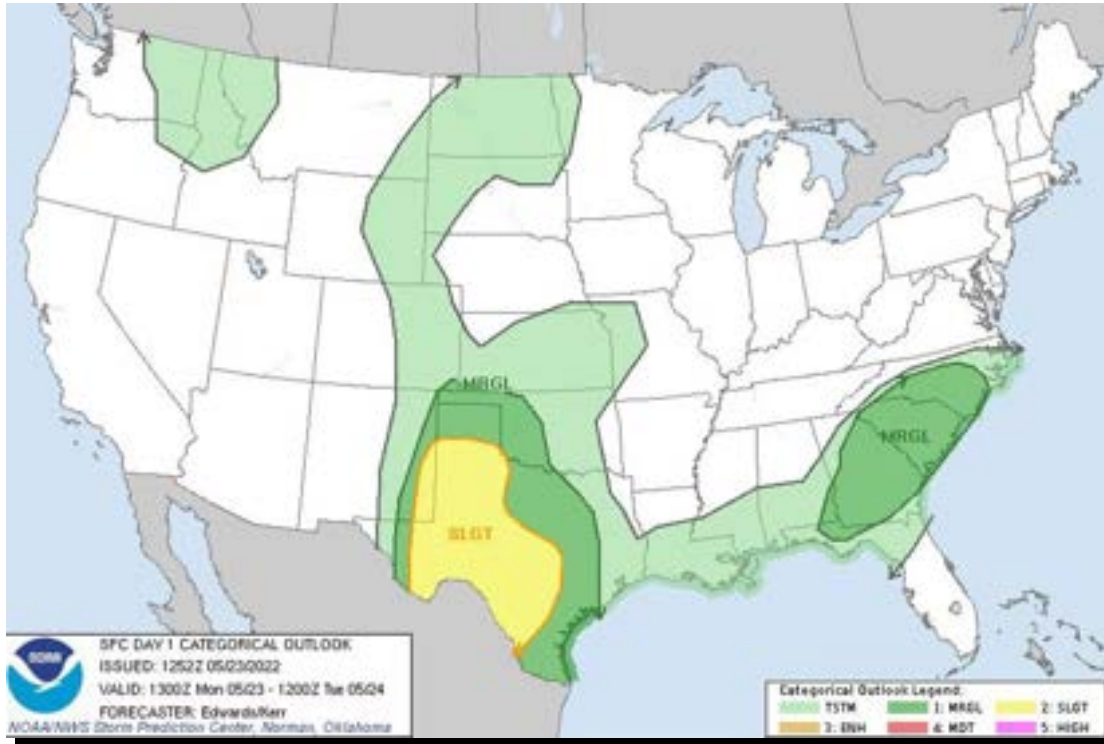


... where the storms were on the day ...

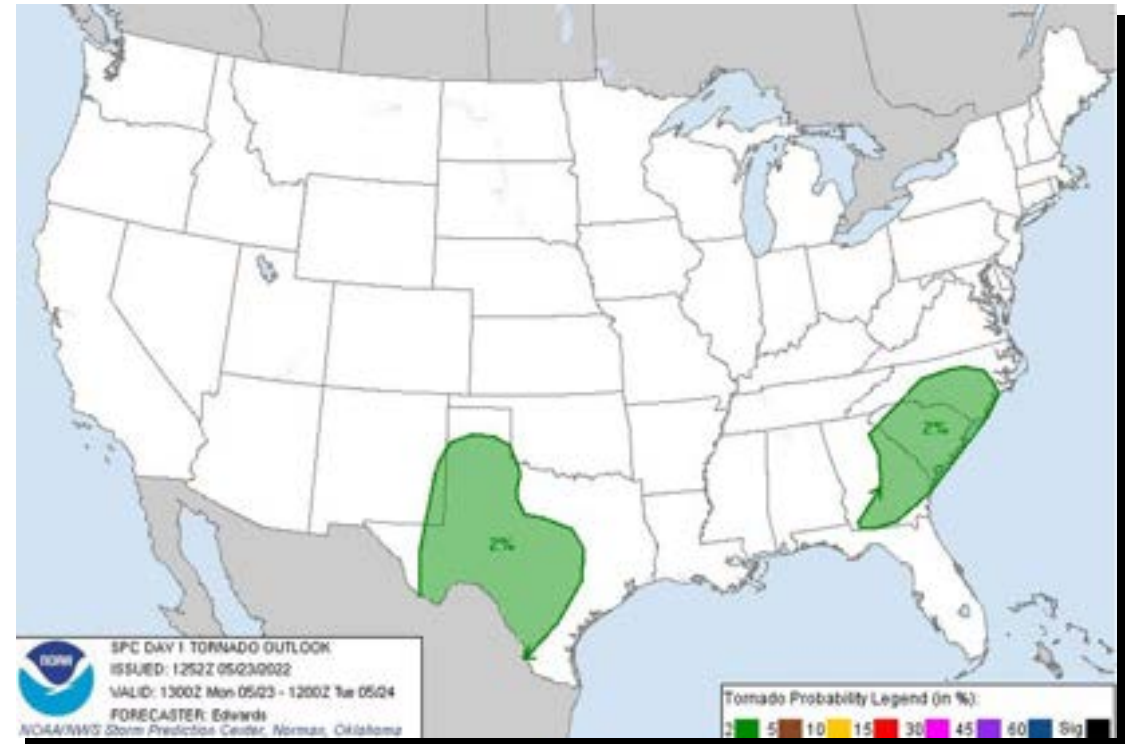


The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 2, May 23rd

Convective Outlook



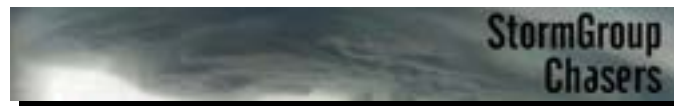
Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – is only guidance for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...

The chase day in words ... Day 2, May 23rd

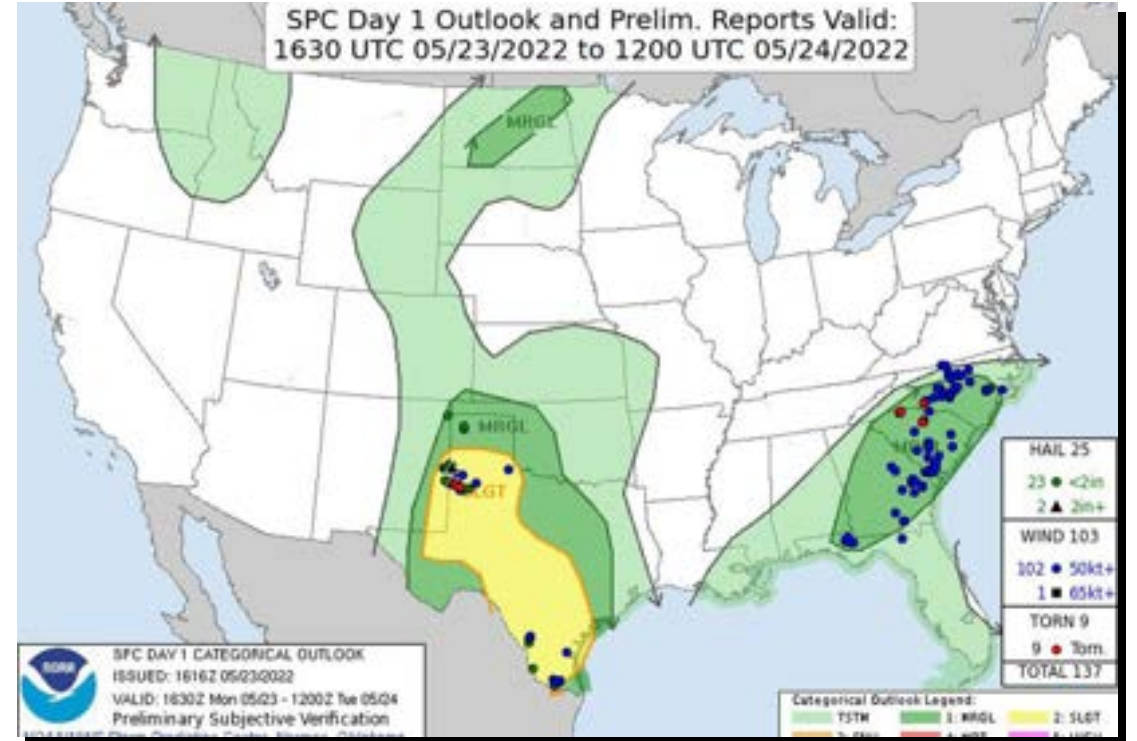
... fabulous chasing day with a huge stovepipe tornado, changing to a wedge tornado, then closing with a classic Texas “spaceship” from the same supercell ... drove 575 miles today from Henryetta, OK to Lubbock, TX via Amarillo, TX and Morton, TX ... very cold start to the day, just 50F ... breakfast to go from McDs, and away west towards Oklahoma City about 7:30am ... a cluster of non-severe storms greeted us as we neared OK City with heavy rain & some lightning/thunder ... into the Car Rental Center at Will Rogers Airport to pick up a replacement vehicle for the defective Chevy Suburban LT ... Mercedes at National had gone the extra mile in securing the right vehicle - now have a 2020 GMC Yukon XL SLT - same passenger space and wheelbase as the 2021 Chevy, but less sophisticated electronics, which could be a boon with less potential points of failure ... and, as a bonus, it’s a 4-wheel drive - I feel those country roads beckoning now ... transferred all the gear, and re-setup the “operations center” in heavy rain & thunder <good omen?>, into Starbucks for a restorative latte, then west on I40 about 10:30am ... targeting Morton, TX for some dryline storms later today, with ample moisture, CAPE and low LCLs with adequate low-level shear for some possible tornadoes - modelled soundings indicate conditions favourable for tornadoes, within a 2% tornado risk area issued by the SPC across a broad swathe of the Texas Panhandle & West Texas ... Subway lunch at Shamrock, TX about 1pm, then the obligatory visit to the Conoco Art Deco Gas Station, before resuming our drive about 1:30pm to the target area ... Rick had picked Morton, TX as a target as well the previous evening, and as we reviewed the developing parameters across various models, including the SPC mesoanalysis page & the NAM, it was apparent that a “bullseye” was developing over Morton ...arrived at Friona, TX about 3:30pm, sunny & a little warmer, but atmosphere getting murky & dusty ... stopped in Muleshoe, TX at some grain elevators, cumulus started to get agitated, with some towers to the west/southwest ... south of Muleshoe, about 5pm, a couple of storms fired to our west, decided to target the southern storm for its relative position & proximity to moisture, albeit the northern storm looked briefly more severe, and had slightly better upper air support ... stopped west of Enochs, TX to observe several developing cells, some precipitation, lightning & thunder - early in development, but soon severe-warned ... as a premonition of what was to come, SElyS freshened, and dust started blowing ... dropped down south of Enochs to observe as the cells started to consolidate into one storm, continually intensifying ... then about 6:10pm stopped about 5 miles north of Morton, TX to watch the storm aggressively grow, sucking in strong gusty inflow winds filled with dust, which was then lofted into the updraft ... moved north to better observe a developing wall cloud to our west, then around 6:30pm dropped south a couple of miles to line up with a wall cloud directly to our west ...the wall cloud grew increasingly large and well-defined, and started showing signs of rotation, albeit heavily obscured with dust ... rotation markers started showing up on the base velocity radar, and the storm developed a distinct hook echo on the base reflectivity, then was tornado-warned ... the wall cloud looked to be touching the ground just to our west, heading straight for us, so dropped south another 1/2 mile, and spun around to watch ... a dusty tornado soon dropped, morphing through a stovepipe, to a wedge, to just a black mass on the ground from our perspective ... became rain-wrapped cutting off our visibility, so dropped down to Whiteface, TX to get east under the storm’s now ESEly path, and up to Pettit, TX to get another view under the storm ... inflow winds increasingly violent, with huge volumes of dust obscuring the storm, then streams of chasers started heading south past us ... decided to head back south, then east to Levelland, TX ... violent cross-wind inflow winds buffeted the vehicle, with clouds of dust streaming across the road, reducing visibility to nil at times ... made it into Levelland, TX about 8:40pm, then dropped south about 12 miles - taking shelter behind some farm buildings & a shelter belt of trees to get some perspective on the storm - incredible supercell structure, lightning flashing constantly across the updrafts & meso-structure and anvil ... then the storm morphed into one of those classic “mothership” structures, curved laminar bands arcing across our field of vision, all the time laced with frequent lightning ... a great day, and a memorable way to initiate the new chase vehicle ...



The chase day in maps ... Day 2, May 23rd

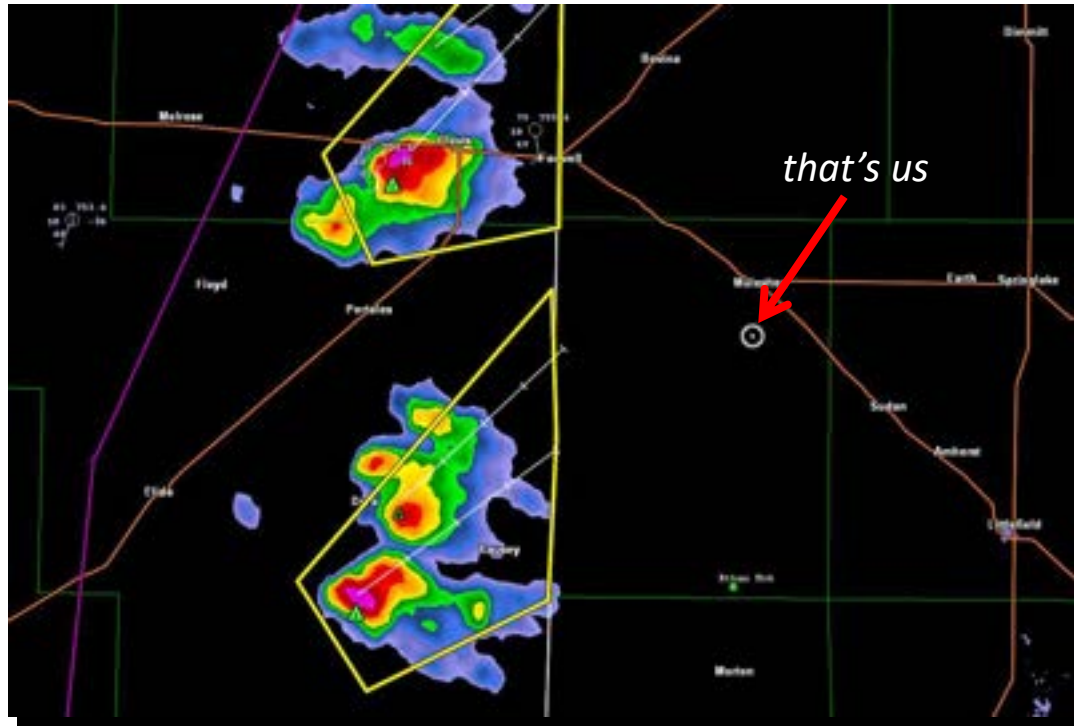


... where we drove on the day – 575 miles ...

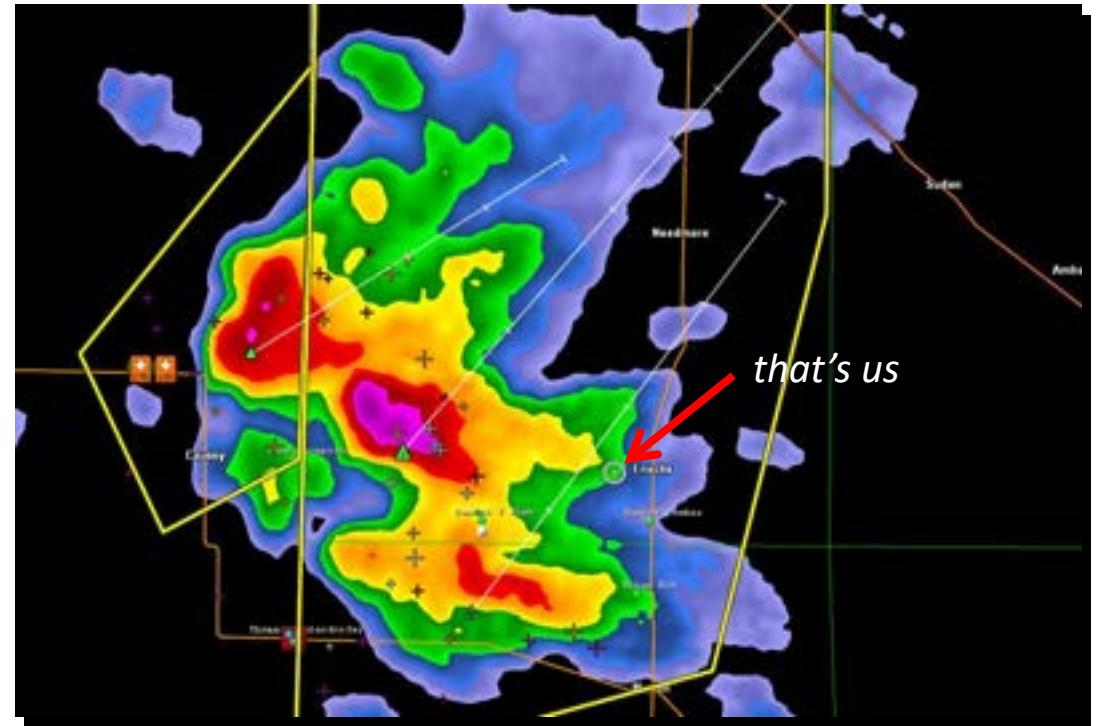


... where the storms were on the day ...

During the chase ... Day 2, May 23rd



... 5:03 pm – south of Muleshoe, TX ... hmmm, which storm to target? ...



... 5:51 pm – just west of Enochs, TX - picked the southern storm ...

During the chase ... Day 2, May 23rd



... 5:49 pm – about to warn farmer of severe hail coming ...

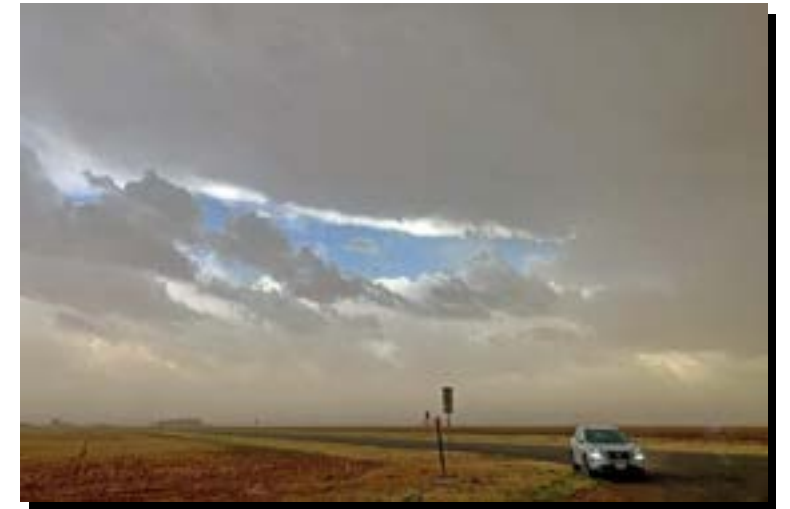


... 5:54 pm – storm intensifying, just west of Enochs, TX ...



... 5:28 pm – southern storm, just west of Enochs, TX ...

... early stages on “our storm” – not yet organised, and while to go before it turned tornadic ...

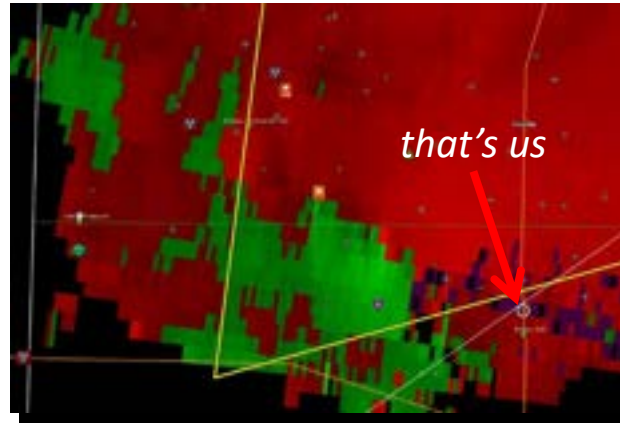


... 6:10 pm – anvil soaring overhead just south of Enochs, TX ...

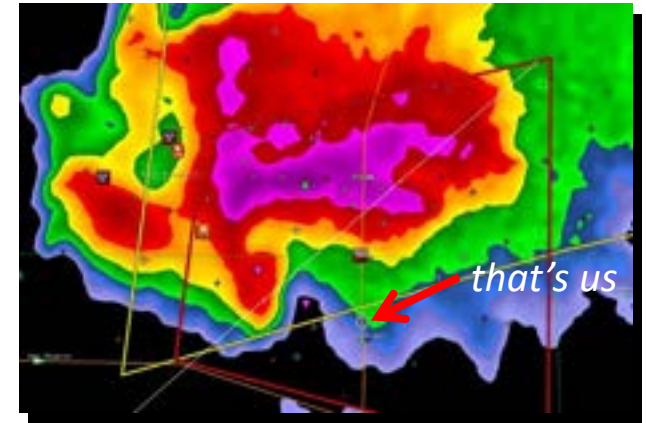
During the chase ... Day 2, May 23rd



... 6:28 pm – massive hail core just to our left ...



... 6:43 pm – real rotation on the base velocity scan ...



... 6:48 pm – tornado-warned ...

... these images are all from our vantage point north of Morton, TX ... radar images are the times when the radar scans were completed, our position as per GPS & photo times are when taken ...



... 6:39 pm ...



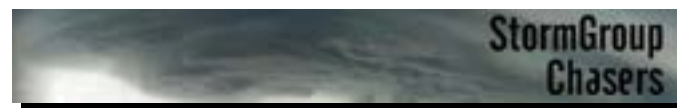
... 6:41 pm ...



... 6:47 pm ...



... 6:52 pm ...



During the chase ... Day 2, May 23rd



... 6:56 pm – wall cloud heading pretty much straight for us ...

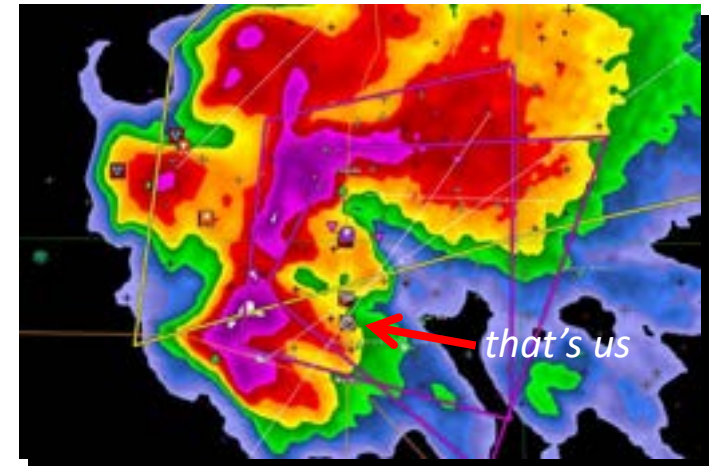
... tornado forming right beside us, tactical retreat about a mile south ...



... 7:03 pm – rapidly developing ground-based circulation ...



... 7:03 pm – view from further south, swirl on ground ...

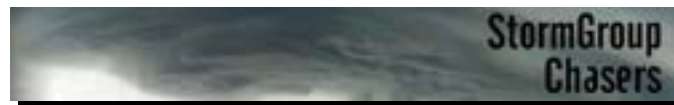


... radar image at 7:08 pm – reported tornado on the ground ...

... and we have a tornado – Day 2, May 23rd ...



... video of Morton, TX tornado – May 23rd, 2022 ...
... taken by David Evans ... timestamped 7:03 pm, ~ 42 secs long ...



During the chase ... Day 2, May 23rd



... 7:05 pm ...



... 7:06 pm ...

... amazing how quickly the tornado morphed through various shapes ...

... apologies for the image quality – I was too busy just watching the spectacle, and didn't get out my "big boy" DSLR – my iPhone struggled in these lighting conditions ...

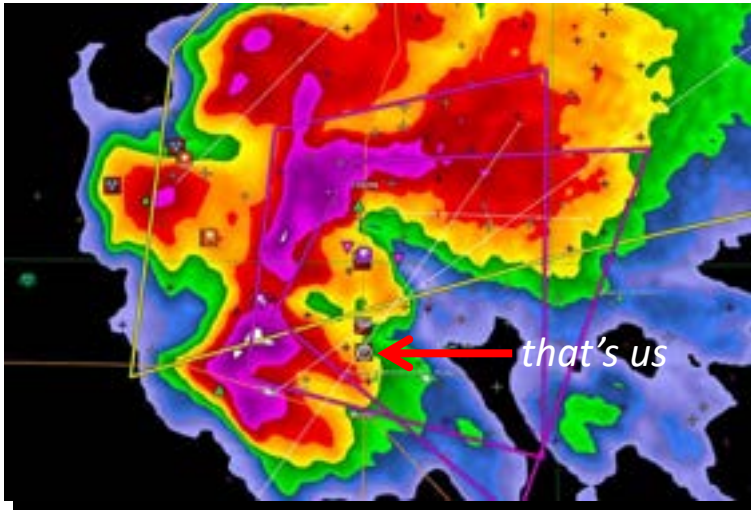


... 7:07 pm ...



... 7:09 pm ...

During the chase ... Day 2, May 23rd

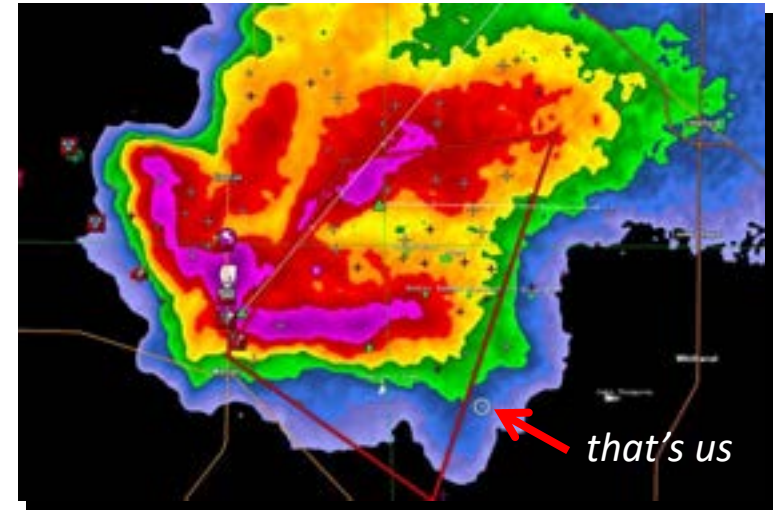


... radar at 7:18 pm – crossing the road in front of us ...



... radar at 7:43 pm – on road east of Whiteface, TX – still solid rotation to our northeast ...

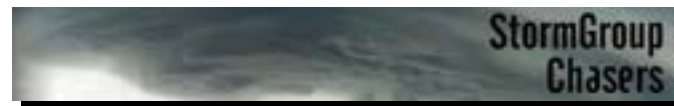
... continuing the chase, trying to get back in front of the storm after it crossed the road in front of us ... dropped south through Morton, TX, then east of Whiteface, then only option was dirt road going north to intercept again ... very poor visibility, lots of dust in the air, tricky to safely penetrate the storm from the southeast, any tornado would be hidden in the murk ... chaser exodus past us, so time to go ...



... 7:56 pm – probed north, but chasers streaming south past us now ...



... 8:17 pm – heading to Levelland, TX ...



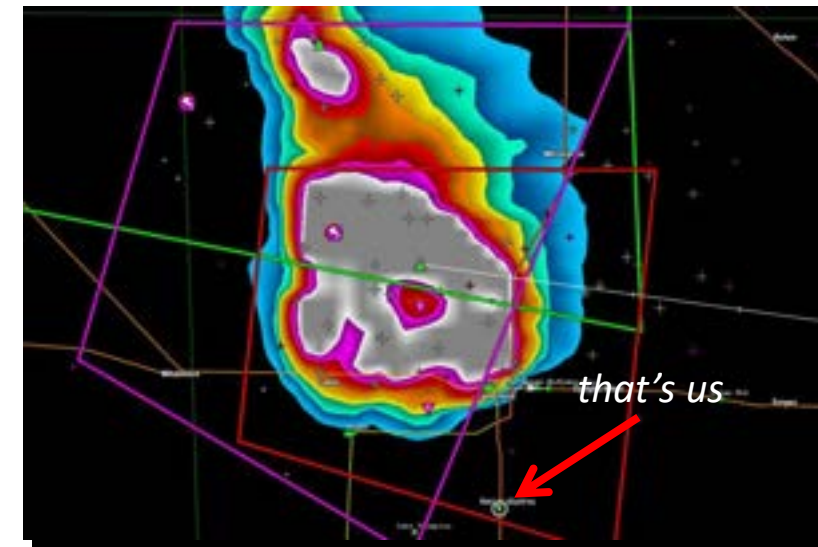
During the chase ... Day 2, May 23rd



... 8:50 pm – sheltering in the lee of a building south of Levelland, TX – significant rotation still evident nearly 3 hours after the tornado at Morton, TX ...



... 9:01 pm – spaceship structure in the sky ...



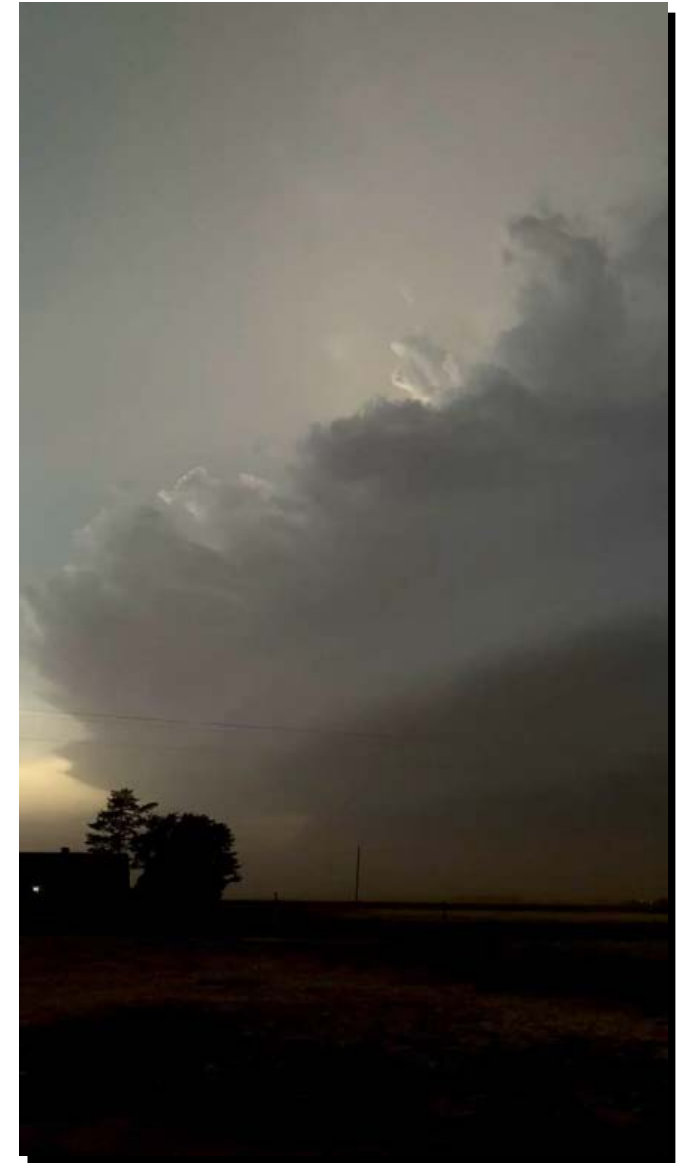
... 9:04 pm – massive hail core just to our north ...

During the chase ... Day 2, May 23rd



... 8:58 pm – left video – lightning viewed from south of Levelland, TX ...

... 8:59 pm – right video – pan across spaceship structure viewed from south of Levelland, TX ...

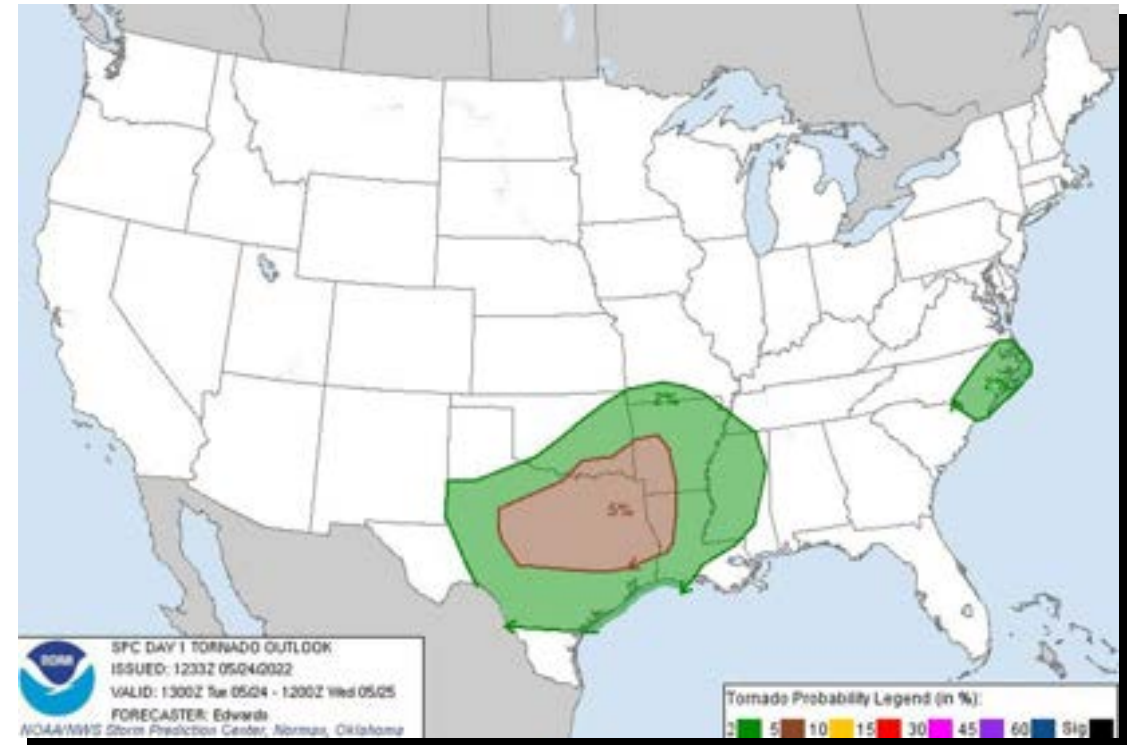


The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 3, May 24th

Convective Outlook



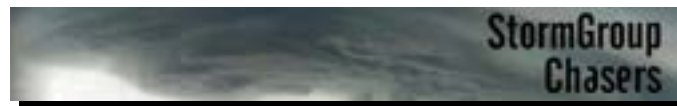
Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – is only guidance for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...

The chase day in words ... Day 3, May 24th

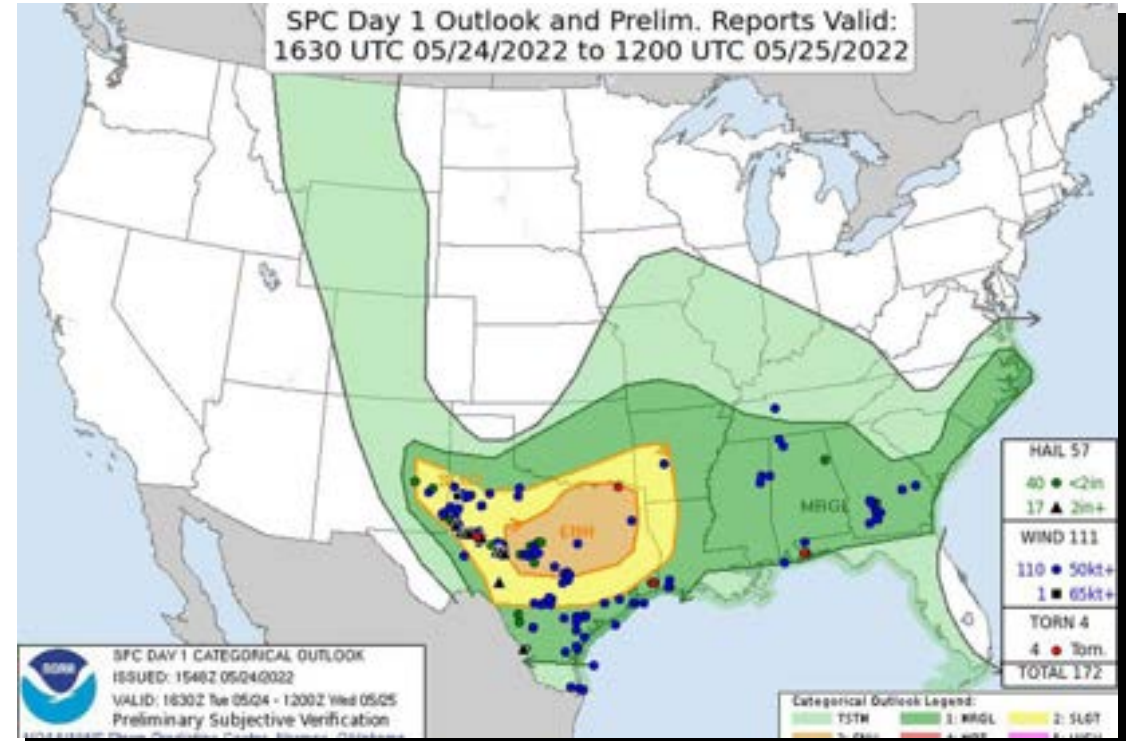
... drove just 282 miles today from Lubbock, TX to San Angelo, TX ... targeted a cold outflow boundary draped across West Texas just south of San Angelo, TX for discrete supercells later today, with very large hail, and a 5% probability of tornados, where storms could interact with the boundary ... modelled soundings showed TOR conditions later this afternoon in the target area around San Angelo ... another cold, cloudy morning after overnight storms in Lubbock, brought much needed rainfall to the area, albeit with local flooding ... relaxed start to the day - breakfast at the Red Zone Cafe, then a visit to the American Windmill Museum, which has more than 160 American style windmills in exhibition - also a huge model train set which runs around the entire main warehouse building - <https://windmill.com/> ... Walmart, Starbucks, then away on US87 about noon ... essentially the tactics were a drive south into sunshine, then target any developing storms among the boundary ... as we approached Lamesa, TX saw the battered patched-up van of Cloud 9 Tours, damaged in their recent close encounter with the Lockett, TX wedge tornado after dark on May 4th ... stopped to gas up in Sterling City, TX after noticing some developing towers to our south, nothing yet on radar ... stopped between two rapidly developing updrafts, then drove through the rapidly developing southern storm - heavy rain and 1/4-1/2" hail already ... stopped south of the storm to watch it rapidly grow to a 48,000ft echo top ... developed a sharp base, with some interesting lowerings and minor rotation on radar, but soon a new updraft on its southern flank took over, and dominated the storm ... east to Mertzon, TX along the southern flank, heavy hail core just to our north, with vision under the updraft obscured ... storm now moving ESE, we headed east to Tankersley, TX then south to Knickerbocker, TX ... storm very black in front of us, starting to see occasional larger pieces of hail lying on the road, just south of Tankersley, stopped for some larger hailstones ... stopping just north of Christoval, TX on US277, realised that the storms were devolving into a linear mess, with strong cold outflow undercutting the storms, eliminating any tornadoes for today ... decided to call it a day, and head north to San Angelo, TX through a gap in the line, and await the next round of storms later this evening ... dinner at a relatively uncrowded Texas Roadhouse next door to the hotel, then a tornado-warned storm was spotted moving in from the NW on the cold front, headed for our hotel ... moving at 40kts in the gathering darkness, it didn't really represent a chasing opportunity, so watched it front the hotel - torrential rain, 1/4-1/2" hail and some lightning, especially after the main cell, when looping bolts flashed across the sky to our west ... early night, time for some rest ... next 2 days look a "bit thin" as the moisture is scoured out all the way to the Gulf Coast by the cold front ...



The chase day in maps ... Day 3, May 24th



... where we drove on the day – 282 miles ...



... where the storms were on the day ...

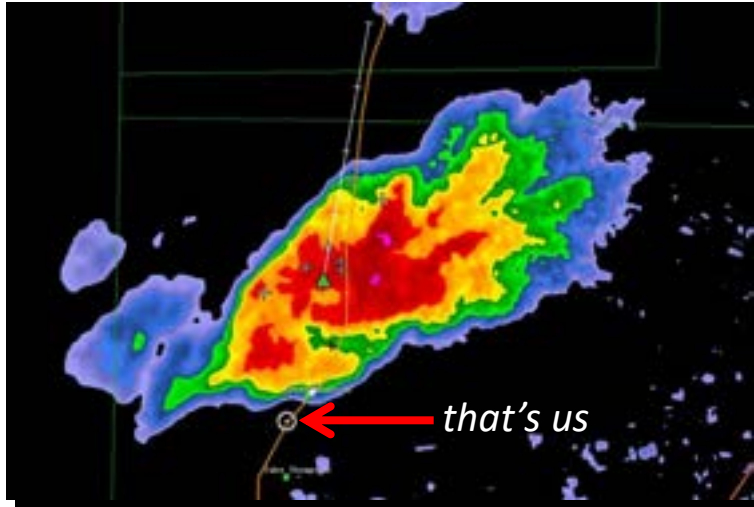
Before the chase ... Day 3, May 24th



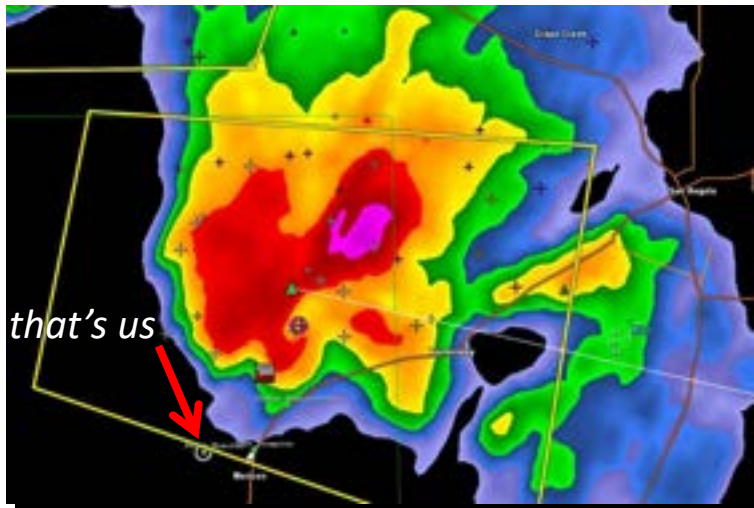
... American Windmill Museum, Lubbock, TX ...
... left about 11:00am ...



During the chase ... Day 3, May 24th



... radar at 2:57 pm – just “core punched” this storm ...



... radar at 3:53 pm – wall cloud reported ...

... two rounds of chasing today:

... initial storms soon undercut by surging cold outflow ...

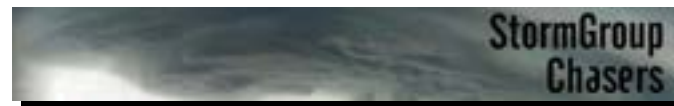
... evening storm, “hotel chasing” as the storm rolled over our hotel in San Angelo ...



... radar at 6:43 pm – tornado-warned, coming for us ...



... radar at 7:08 pm – serious hail core closing in ...



During the chase ... Day 3, May 24th



... 3:06 pm – north of Barnhart, TX ...



... 3:07 pm – north of Barnhart, TX ...



... 3:31 pm – near Ketchum Mountain, TX ...



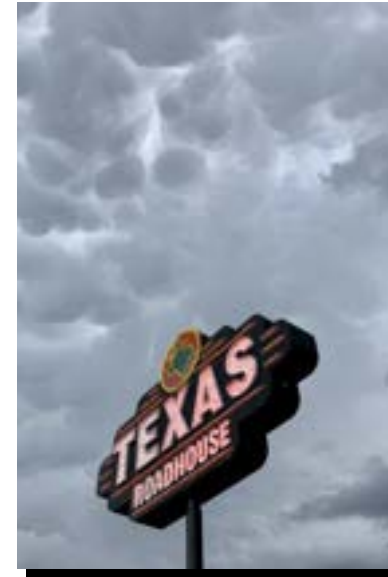
... 3:53 pm – just NW of Mertzson, TX ...



... 4:09 pm – just NE of Mertzson, TX ...



... 4:28 pm – near Tankersley, TX ...



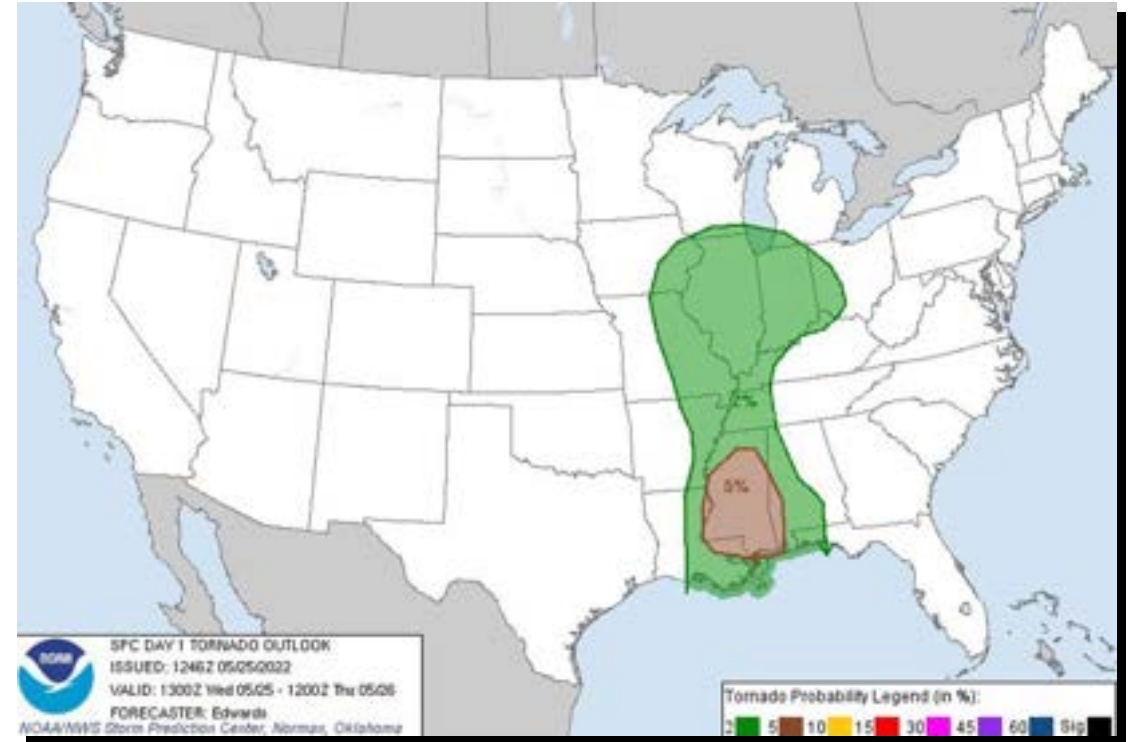
... 5:31 pm – dinnertime in San Angelo, TX ...

The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 4, May 25th

Convective Outlook



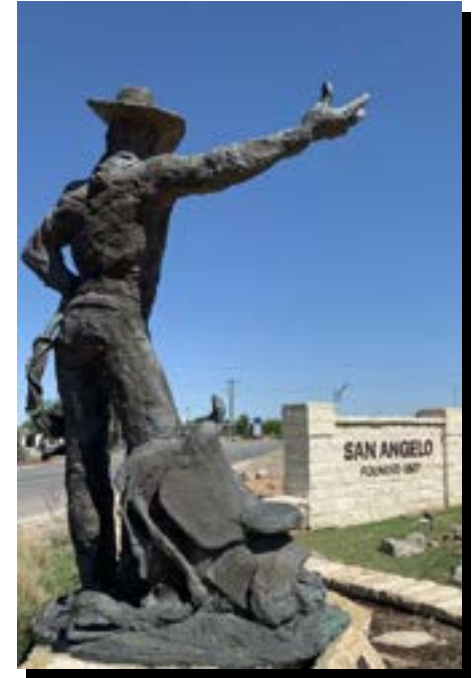
Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – only guidance for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...

The chase day in words ... Day 4, May 25th

... with the passage of the cold front, pretty much all the moisture has been scoured out to the Gulf Coast - blue skies, sunny & cold - never a good outlook for storm chasing - so, a couple of days of "touristing" as we reposition ourselves northwards for some potential later this week ... drove 529 miles today from San Angelo, TX to Albuquerque, NM ... started out the day with breakfast at Fleming's Family Diner at Stadium Lanes, then visited the International Water Lily Collection in Civic League Park - one of the world's foremost waterlily collections, this garden contains hybrid & old favourite water lilies - many were about to bloom, with buds everywhere ... off to the San Angelo Historic District for a 1/2 hour walkabout until 10:45am - unfortunately, one of my favourite shops, J Wilde's, simply for the visually colourful feast that is their retail stock, wasn't open until 11am ... coffee pickup from Starbucks, then north on US87 ... stopped for a picnic lunch at about 1:45pm CDT in Coleman Park in Brownfield, TX - on the coolish side still, with northerly winds - pleasant in the sunshine though ... into New Mexico about 3:00pm CDT - clear blue skies, could see Capitan Peak from about 60 miles away, the other side of Roswell, NM ... passed through Roswell, then north on US385 about 4:00pm MDT - then steady climb up US385 towards I40 which leads to Albuquerque - the road rises to over 7,100ft, before dropping down steeply along I40 into Albuquerque which is at 5,300ft ... into the outskirts of town, then up to the Sandia Tramway, which climbs up to 10,378ft altitude on Sandia Peak ... great views on the way up, quite cool & breezy at the top, then nice lighting on the mountain on the way down as the sun set ... over to Sadie's of New Mexico Restaurant for a Mexican dinner, seated at outdoor patio seating - soft, warm evening with the light slowly fading in the west ... in to the hotel by 9:40pm MDT after a full, enjoyable day ... off tomorrow to the Great Sand Dunes National Park, after a morning tour of Old Town in Albuquerque ...

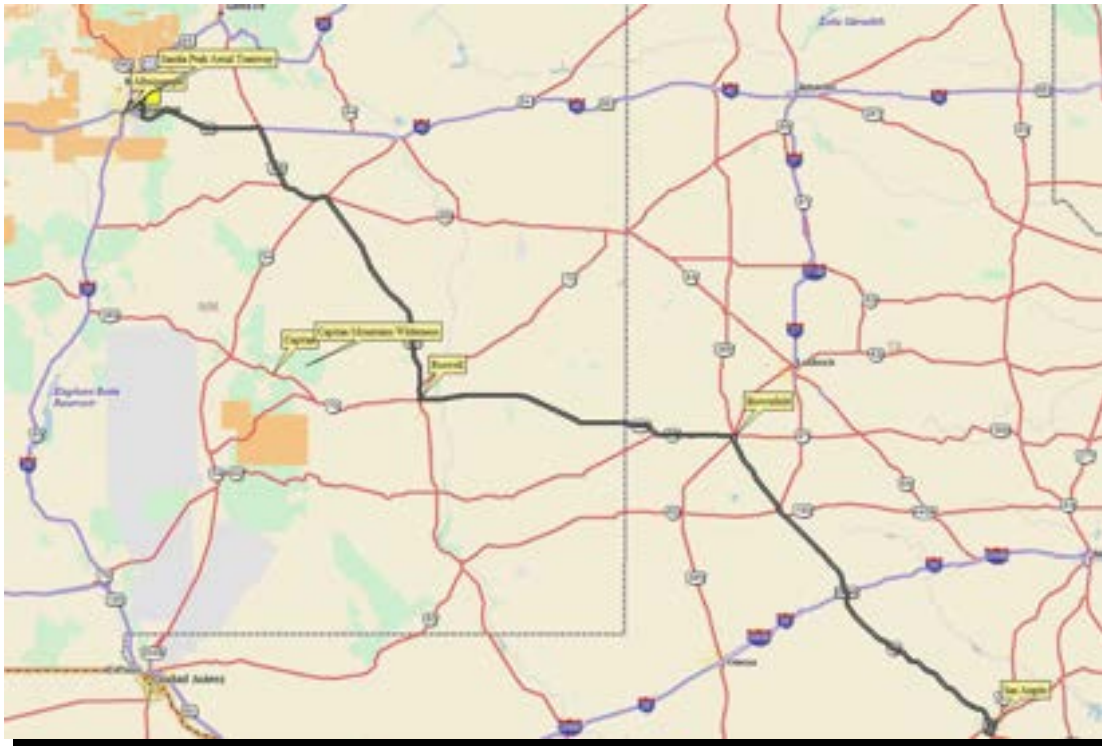


... "Working Cowboy" – San Angelo, TX ...

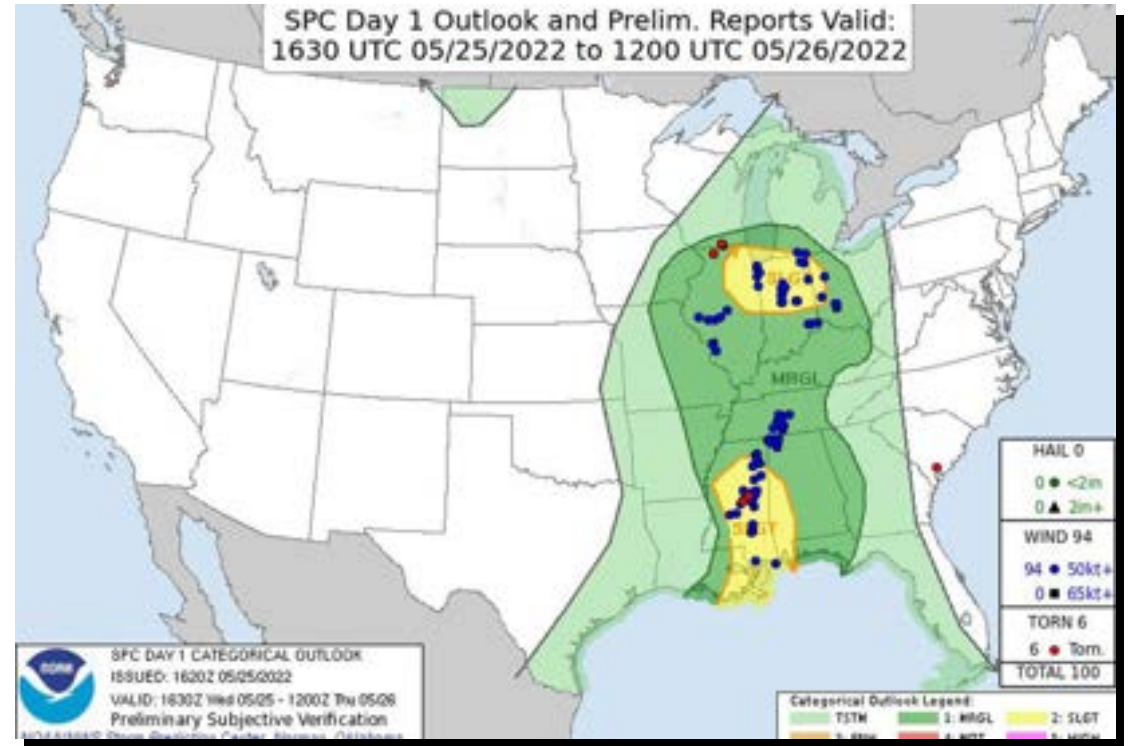


... "no storms today" ...

The chase day in maps ... Day 4, May 25th



... where we drove on the day – 529 miles ...



... where the storms were on the day ...

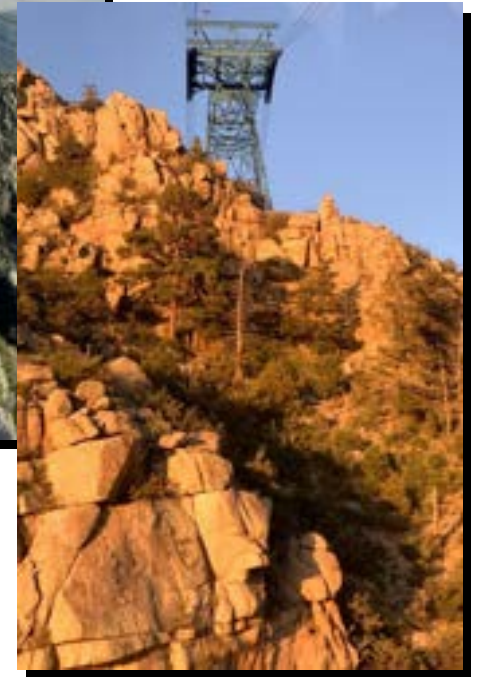
On a sunny day, tourist time ... Day 4, May 25th



... ~ 10:00 am – International Water Lily Collection – San Angelo, TX ...



... Sandia Tramway – Albuquerque, NM ...
... ~ 7 pm to 8 pm MDT ...



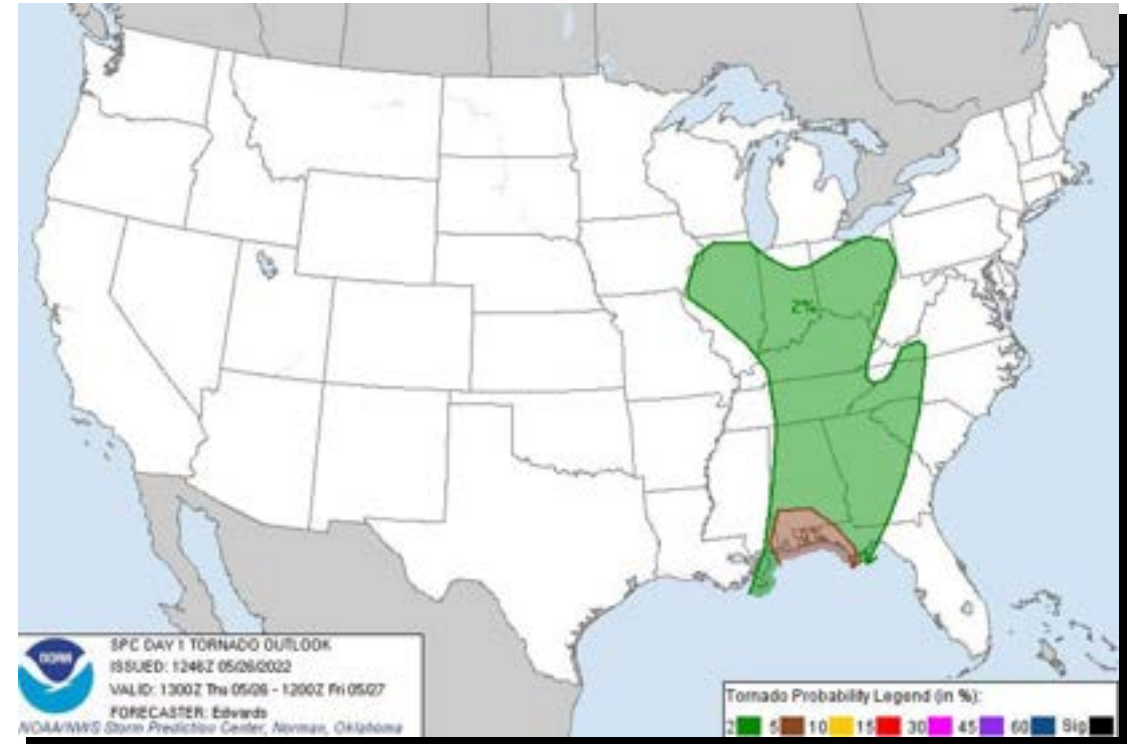
... smoke from wildfires visible on the horizon –
Albuquerque, NM to the right ...

The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 5, May 26th

Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – only guidance for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...

The chase day in words ... Day 5, May 26th

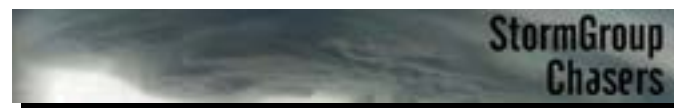
... another “non-storm chasing” day ... drove 478 miles from Albuquerque, NM to Idaho Springs, CO ... blue skies day, but still coolish ... off for breakfast at Hannah & Nate’s - the “eggs benny” was delicious ... then visited the Old Town precinct of Albuquerque - while the adobe church is attractive, it’s pretty much surrounded by an extended souvenir mall, which thankfully due to the early hour was quite peaceful - had 45 minutes of unguided walkabout, just taking random images of the sights ... off to Walmart north of Albuquerque for lunch supplies, then north on I25 about 10:30am MDT ... the countryside north of Albuquerque to Santa Fe is stark desert, “dry as a bone” country - occasional outcrops to relieve the flat sere landscape with barely any plants, the local Pueblo Revival architecture in a multitude of shades of brown, reflecting the landscape around the buildings ... as we climbed out of Santa Fe, the landscape changed to low forests, and we crossed the Carson National Forest ... a long drive in an essentially wilderness setting ... the backdrop of the snow-topped mountains providing some relief ... climbing to the Taos Volcanic Plateau, at 8,500 ft, beautiful open grassland vistas opened up towards the Rockies ... coming into Tres Piedras, we hoped to find a gas station to take a break, but the town had essentially died, with most buildings boarded up & closed ... occasional ancient lava flows towered over the roadsides by San Antonio Mountain ... Blanca Peak, at 14,351 ft, towered over all the mountains, covered in fresh snow ... after nearly 3hrs driving finally reached “civilisation” at Antonito, CO for a much needed break, gas for the vehicle, and a picnic lunch on the wooden picnic tables beside the gas station ... spied a quirky looking set of towers while driving through Antonito, so spun around to have a look ... finally reached the Great Sand Dunes National Park about 3pm MDT ... dunes were a spectacular sight, the highest reaching 690 feet tall ... drove to a picnic site nearer the dunes, then walked across Medano Creek which was only trickling across the sand flats, to reach the first of the dunes - feeling the elevation at 8,200 ft walking in the soft sand ... finally headed north to our hotel for the night on SR 17 about 4:45pm MDT ... pretty drive, flanked by the snow-topped Rockies to our right ... a steady climb from Saguache, CO, getting ever closer to the snow line, reaching over 9,000 ft ... then over the pass dropping down to 7,200 ft at Salida, CO - a cirrus shield starting to spread in from the west, muting the lowering sun in the west, and spreading a gorgeous soft golden light across the wide mountain valley vistas, the fresh green of spring leaves glowing in the sunlight ... then climbing up past 10,000 ft into Leadville, CO for a short break & look around ... then over the Fremont Pass at 11,370 ft, well above the snow line, banks of snow beside the road, ice floating on the lakes, and beautiful white snowy vistas up side valleys to the mountains ... steep downhill run down to Silverthorne, CO then another climb to over 11,000 ft pass through the 1.7 mile long Eisenhower/Johnson tunnel ... then the run downhill to Idaho Springs at 7,500 ft arriving about 8pm MDT ... out to dinner at a great restaurant, MTN Prime, then to our hotel for the night at 9:30pm MDT ... a second day of long driving, broken only by occasional sightseeing <it never seems as long when you’re actually chasing>, but hopefully getting us far enough north to chase some storms over the next few days ...



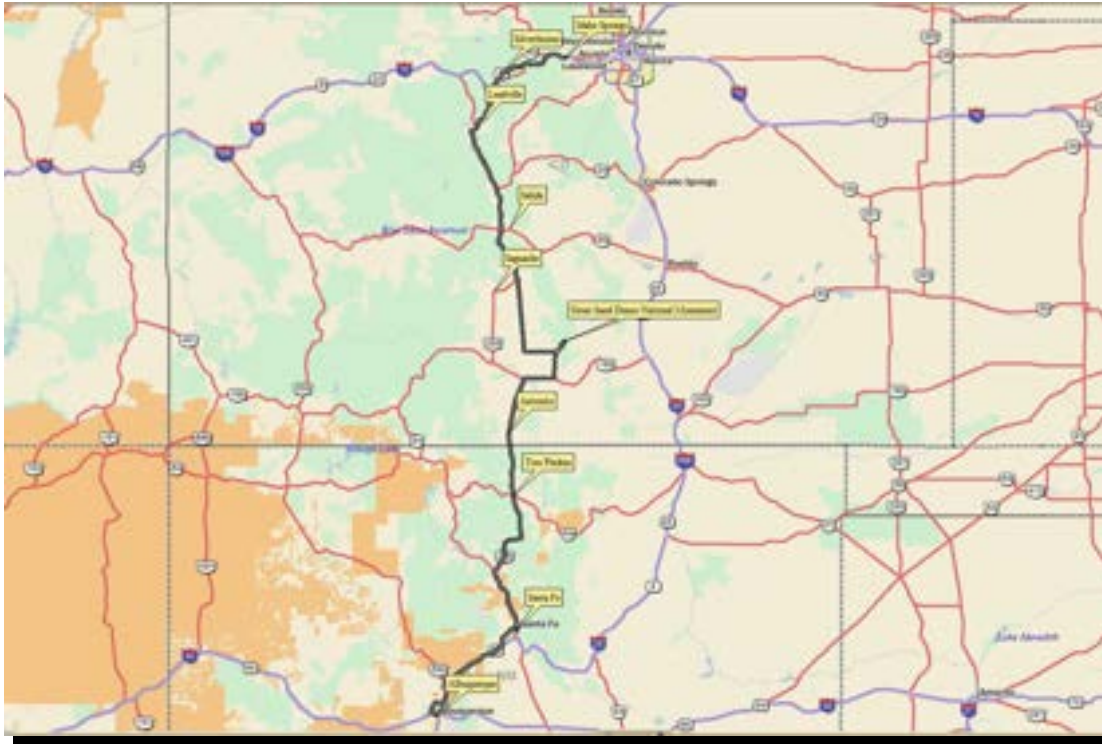
... when will it stop being sunny? ☺ ...



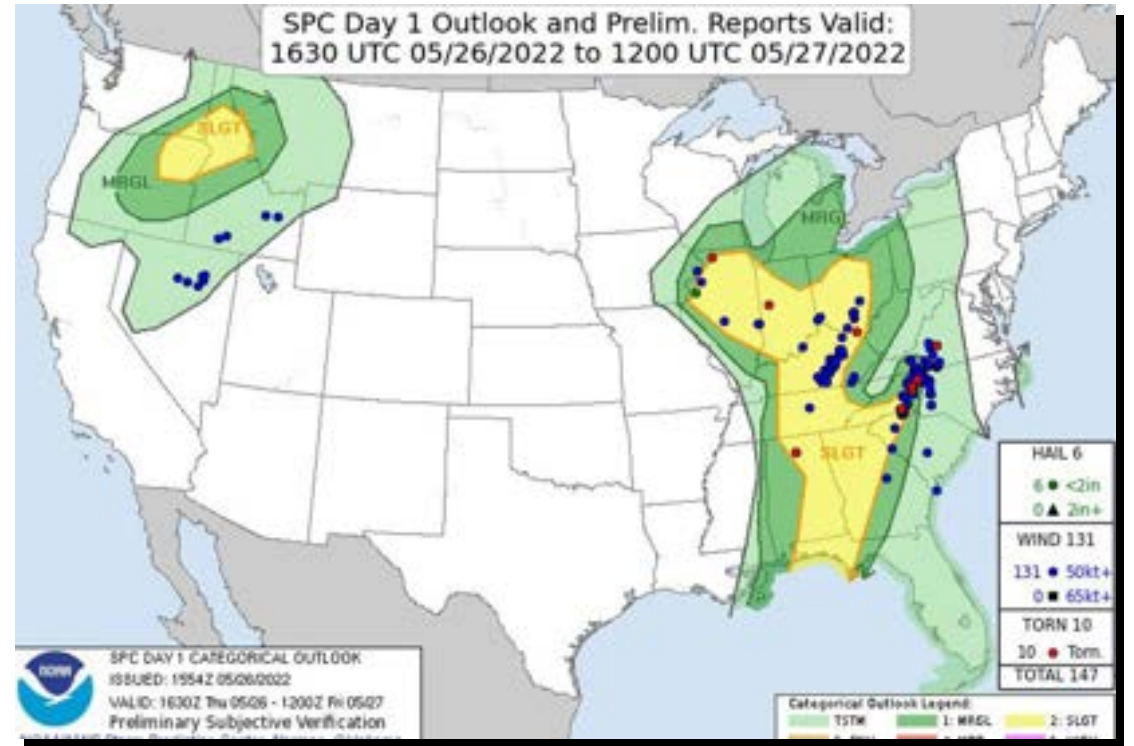
... we’ve got lots of time, why not? ☺ ...



The chase day in maps ... Day 5, May 26th



... where we drove on the day – 478 miles ...



... where the storms were on the day ...

On a sunny day, tourist time ... Day 5, May 26th



... Albuquerque Old Town, NM ... ~ 9 am MDT ...



On a sunny day, tourist time ... Day 5, May 26th

... Great Sand Dunes National Park, NM ... ~ 3 to 4 pm MDT ...



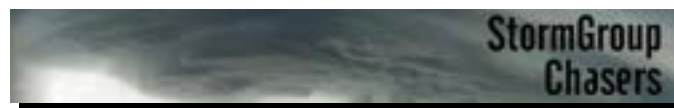
... ever hopeful, storms? ...



... hotel tonight? – Antonito, CO ...



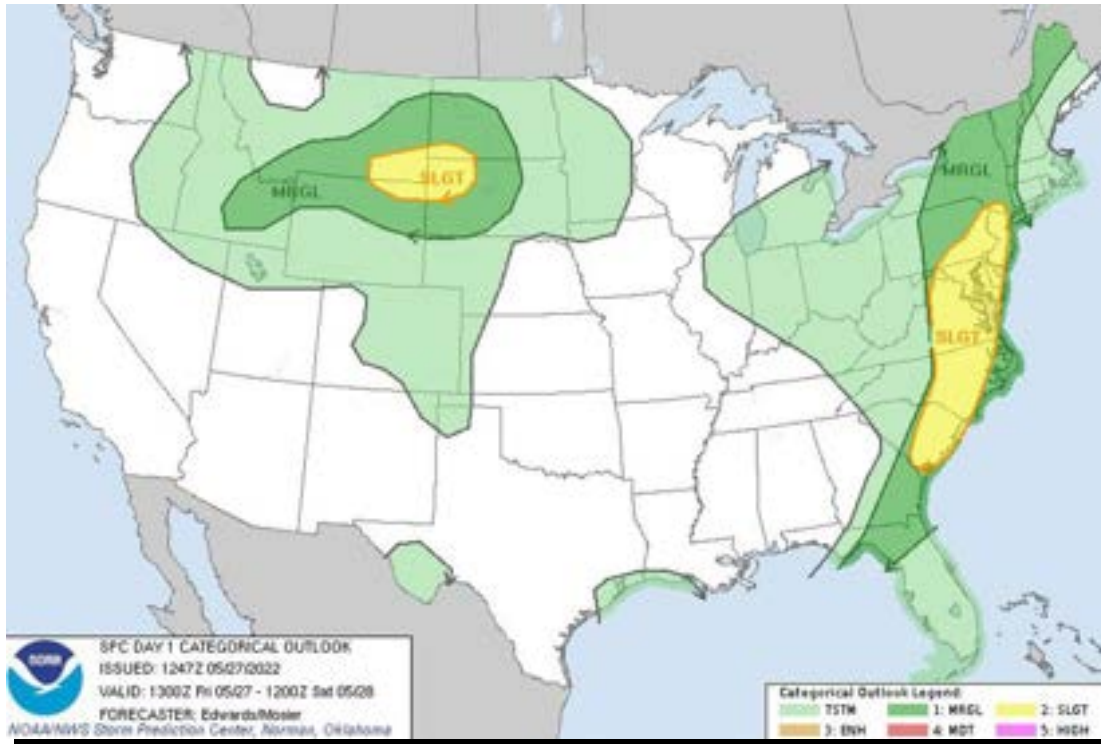
... “on the road again” - ~ 5pm MDT ...



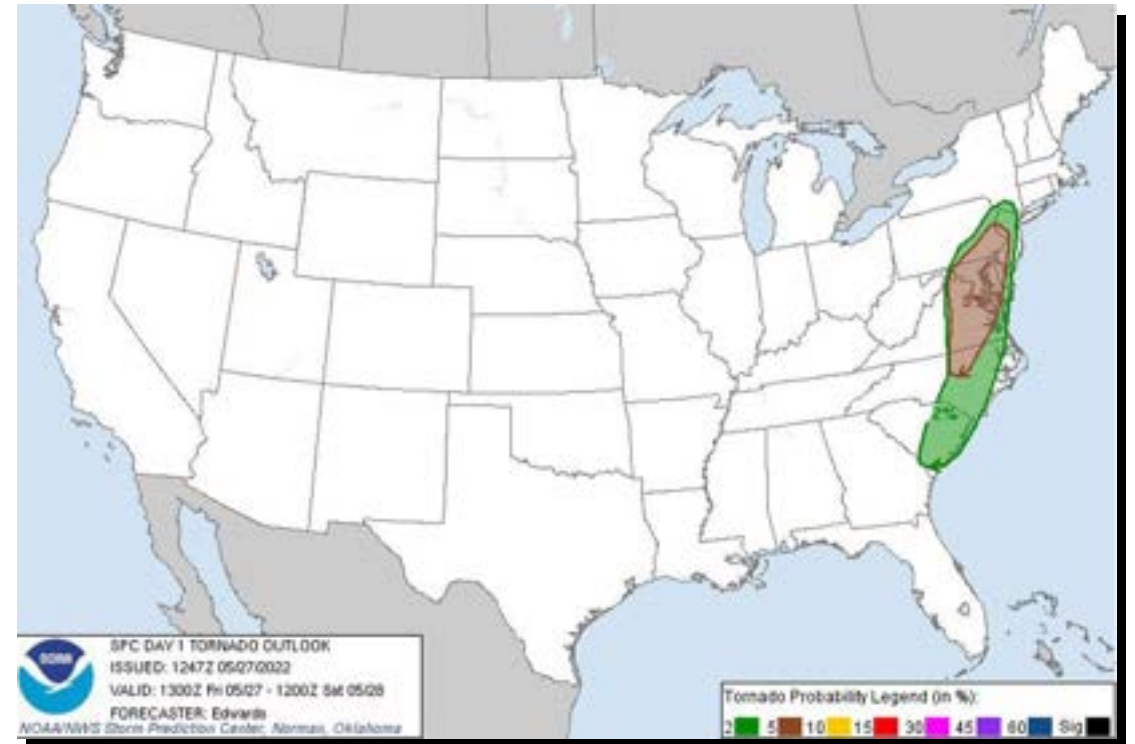
... 6 pm MDT – Buena Vista, CO ...
... “let us pray”, for severe weather ☺ ...

The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 6, May 27th

Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – only guidance for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...

The chase day in words ... Day 6, May 27th

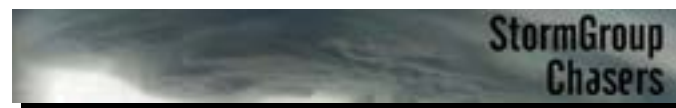
... drove 428 miles today from Idaho Springs, CO to North Platte, NE via Scotts Bluff National Monument, NE ... targeted SE Wyoming/Western Nebraska Panhandle for an area of probably non-severe storms forecast by the various CAMs ... started with breakfast at Marion's of the Rockies in Idaho Springs ... picnic lunch at about 1:15pm MDT at Lions Park in Cheyenne, WY then a visit to Holliday Park, where one of the "Big Boy" Union Pacific locomotives is on display ... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Pacific_Big_Boy ... storms started popping up as we were having our lunch, and further strengthened while we were in Holliday Park ... however, lack of moisture/upper level support meant these storms would probably never be more than transient thundershowers ... dramatic dark virga started hanging down as precipitation evaporated into the boundary layer that had very low surface dewpoints in the mid-30s ... some lightning, with the occasional CG, along with mostly small 1/4" hail markers, but then one 3/4" hail marker on a stronger cell ... a dusty downburst occurred just after we turned east on SR15, just before LaGrange, WY - briefly obscured the road, with a spiral along the leading edge of the dusty gust front ... up Scotts Bluff National Monument <thanks to an after-hours intervention by a friendly National Parks Service officer> ... dramatic clouds in all directions around the bluff ... all sorts of varied cloud forms, "dangly bits", and numerous downbursts raising clouds of dust on the way down SE from Scottsbluff ... then as we drove into Ogallala, a line of storms were in front of us, with dramatic dark bases, shafts of falling precipitation, billows of cold moist air falling from the bases, and downbursts hitting the ground raising dust over a thousand feet in the air ... then the storms that were tracking along I70 towards North Platte were severe-warned for winds in excess of 60 mph .. on the way into North Platte, the turbulence overhead resulted in continuously changing cloud forms, billows, mammatus, twists, rolls etc etc - very dramatic ... excellent dinner in North Platte at the North 40 Chophouse, then into our hotel by 9:50pm CDT ...



... 7:15am MDT – view from hotel in Idaho Springs, CO ...



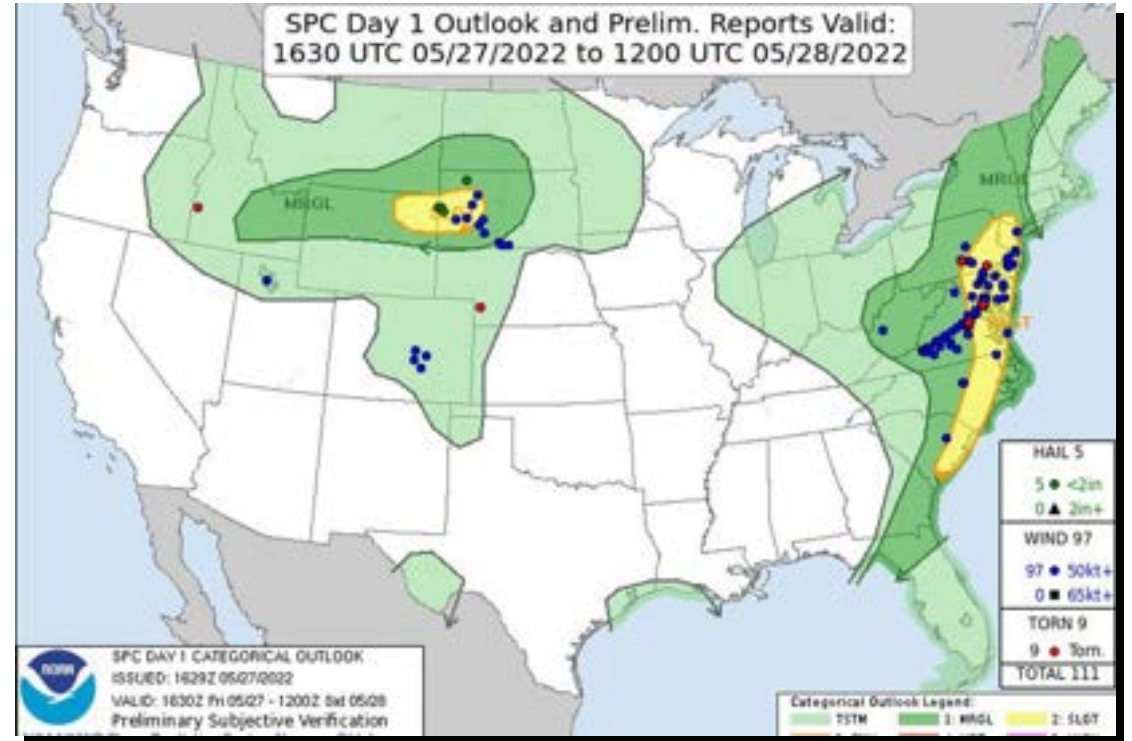
... 1:58 PM CDT - "Big Boy" – Cheyenne, WY ...



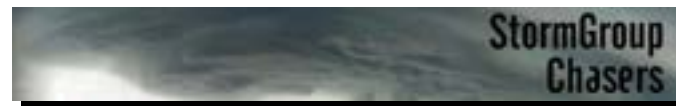
The chase day in maps ... Day 6, May 27th



... where we drove on the day – 428 miles ...



... where the storms were on the day ...



During the chase ... Day 6, May 27th



... 1:43 pm MDT – lunch, Cheyenne, WY ...



... 2:16 pm MDT – heading out of Cheyenne, WY ...



... 3:00 pm MDT – about as intense as it would get today ...



... 3:02 pm MDT – just south of Meridan, WY ...



... 4:13 pm MDT – view from Scottsbluff National Monument, NE



... 4:59 pm MDT – downburst near Bridgeport, NE ...



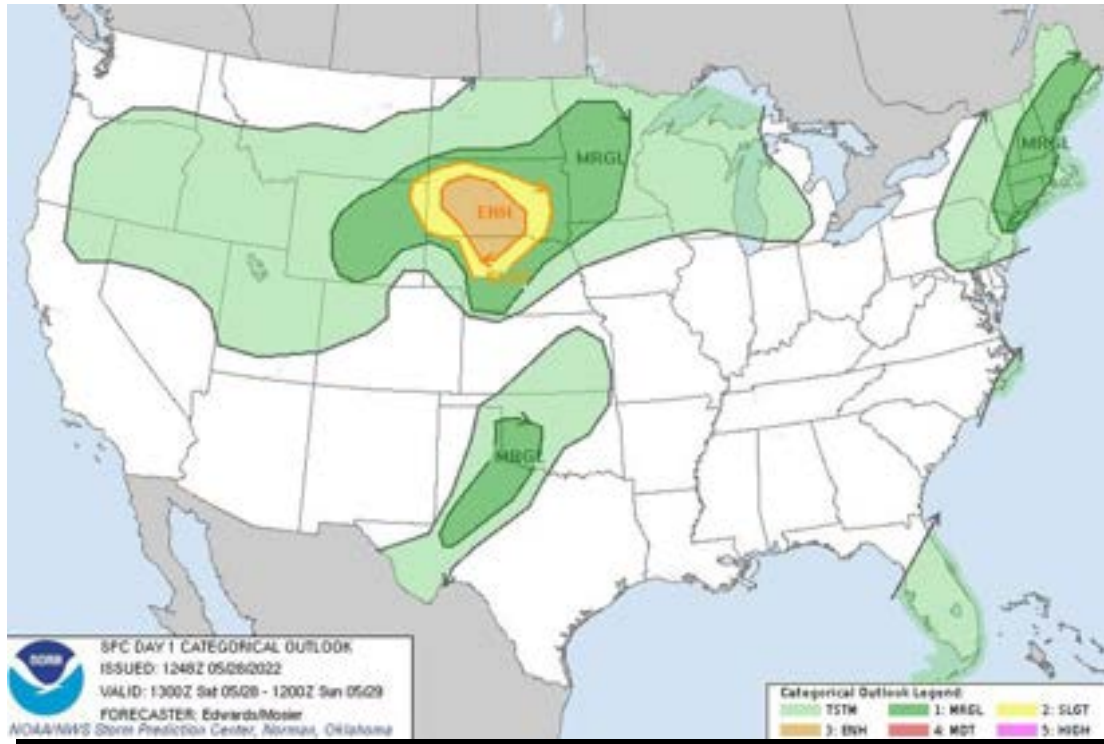
... 7:49 pm CDT – near Ogalalla, NE ...



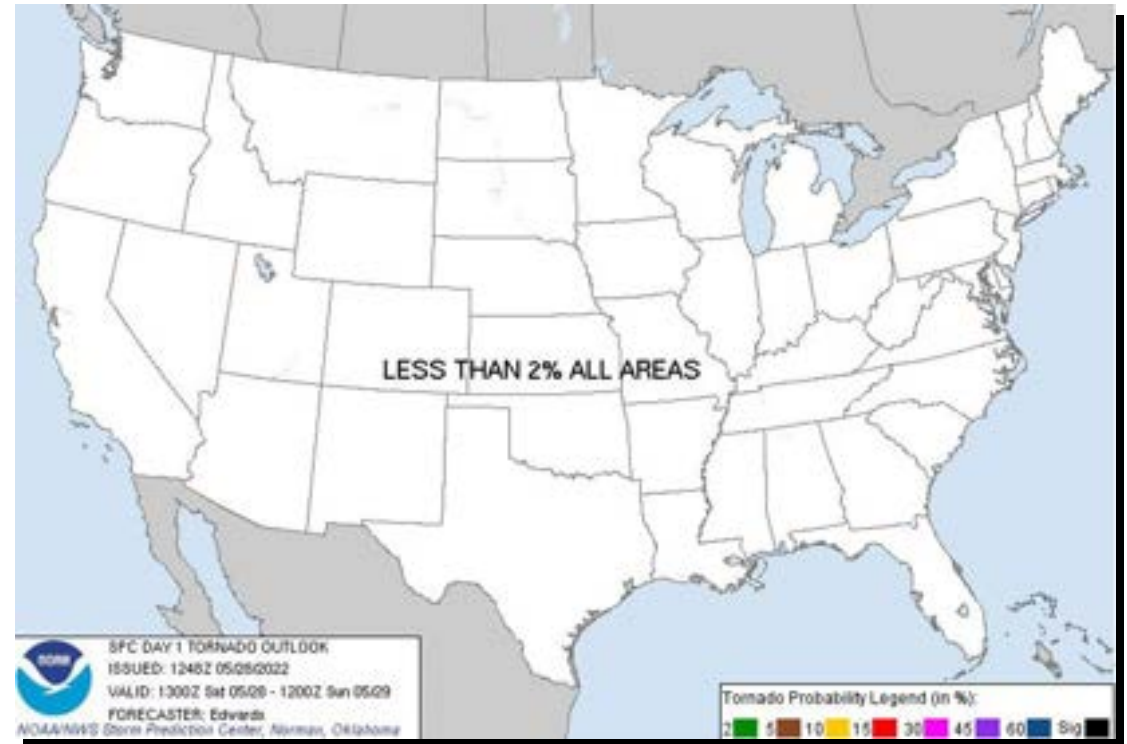
... 7:51 pm CDT – near Ogalalla, NE ...

The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 7, May 28th

Convective Outlook



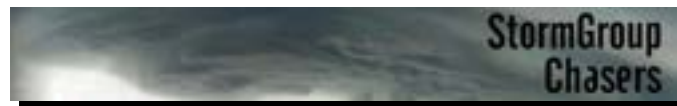
Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – only guidance for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...

The chase day in words ... Day 7, May 28th

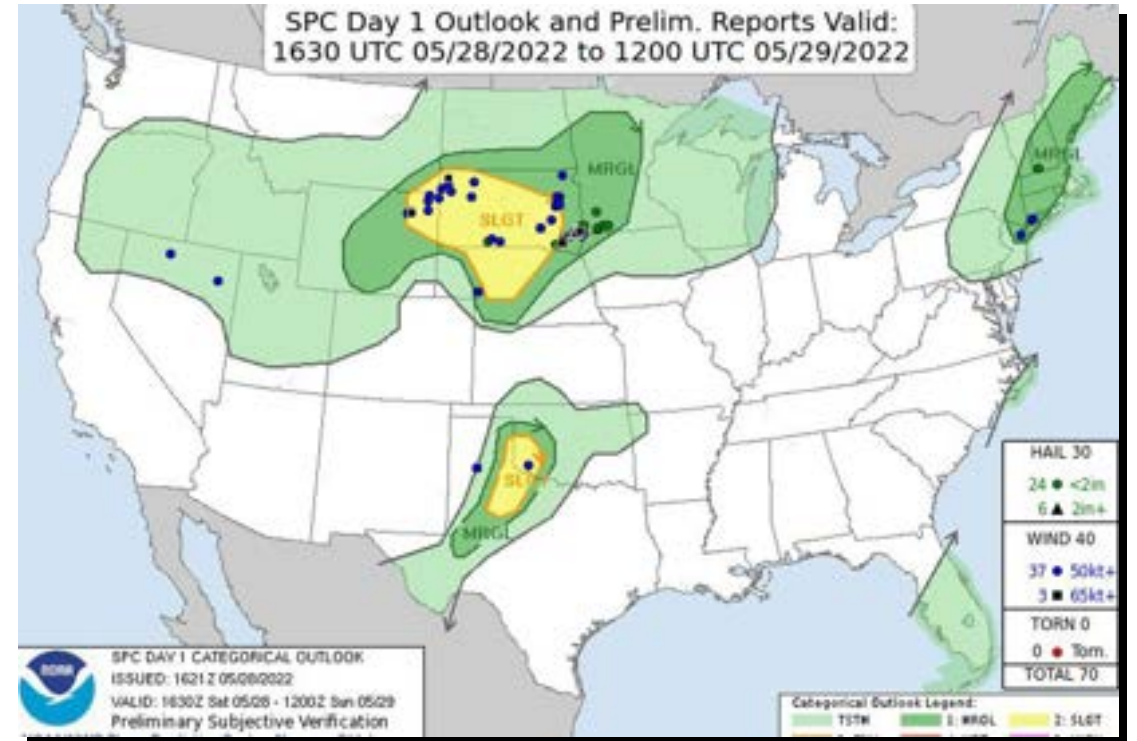
... drove 789 miles today from North Platte, NE to our home base in Oklahoma City to conclude Tour 3 ... targeted SW Oklahoma for storms meant to fire off a dryline boundary along the Texas Panhandle/Oklahoma border ... models flip-flopped all day, especially the HRRR, and the forecast was finely balanced between extreme heating on the boundary <Canadian, TX forecast to reach 105F>, and a stout cap overhead at 15-17C which would normally mean no storms ... the models showed a ripple at the 700mb level coming through around 6-7pm, reducing temps aloft at that level to 12-13C, which given the intense surface heating would “break the cap” & initiate storms ... in the afternoon the SPC issued a slight risk for the target area, with their increased confidence of storms with potentially severe downburst winds ... away early with a McDs to go breakfast, then on US83 south at about 7:30am - clear, sunny blue skies ... into Walmart at McCook, NE, for lunch supplies then south to the Oasis Travel Center at Colby, KS for gas, Starbucks & a short break to repair a broken windshield wiper ... south for a brief visit to Monument Rocks & the Keystone Gallery, then a picnic lunch stop at Lake Scott State Park ... south on US83 about 1pm, with about a 5hr drive for as south as we'd need to go, to be in time for initiation ... the NAM 3km was much more aggressive on convection, with storms into SW Kansas along the dryline by 4pm ... as we approached Canadian, TX around 4:15pm CDT a large elevated storm fired, looking quite impressive, but on the wrong side of the dryline <winds strong westerly at Canadian with mid 30s dewpoints>, the storm never made it far enough east to encounter better moisture, so just dried up from the base, becoming an orphan anvil floating east ... soon became apparent as we headed towards Shamrock, TX that dryline storms were not lasting north of the Childress area & points SW, so decided to keep heading south past the nominal target of Wellington, TX to Hollis, OK set earlier in the day ... as we came into Childress, TX intense downbursts starting kicking up dust, with one briefly obscuring the road ahead ... decided to just drive through the now severe/warned line of storms ... just past Childress another short-lived downburst threw up billows of dust high into the air - dramatic ... unfortunately the line of storms collapsed as we drove through them as the cap re-established itself as the sun lowered in the western sky, the storms evaporating before our eyes with black virga, mammatus and other turbulent clouds ... one storm to the south intensified, and another to the north broke away from the line and headed northeast into Oklahoma ... stopped at the DQ in Wichita Falls, TX for a bite, hoping for some sunset effects on the turbulent skies overhead, but a new storm to the west blocked the light from the setting sun ... decided to call it a day, and head north to Oklahoma City ... as we headed north of Wichita Falls, golden light from the setting sun lit up numerous orphan anvils - gorgeous ... to our north, the storm that had broken away north was now also evaporating from the base up, the anvil, virga & mammatus now hanging like a black shroud over our view to the north ... a great tour, with a memorable tornado ... thanks to Rick for his co-driving and help with forecasting & pinpointing targets ...



The chase day in maps ... Day 7, May 28th



... where we drove on the day – 789 miles ...



... where the storms were on the day ...

During the chase ... Day 7, May 28th



... 11:30am – Monument Rocks, KS ...



... 6:14 pm – downburst near Childress, TX ...



... 6:15 pm – video of downburst ...



... 6:17 pm – severe-warned storms as we headed SE from Childress, TX ...



... 6:41 pm – near Quanah, TX - anvil soaring over storm to our SE ...



... 6:54 pm – near Chillicothe, TX looking underneath severe-warned storm to our SE ...



... 7:20 pm – last decent storm as we headed for Wichita Falls, TX ...

Chaser comfort stops ...

Hotels:

- 21-May Wyndham Garden Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK
- 22-May Days Inn - Henryetta, OK
- 23-May La Quinta Lubbock North - Lubbock, TX
- 24-May Days Inn - San Angelo, TX
- 25-May La Quinta Inn Northeast - Albuquerque, NM
- 26-May Argo Inn & Suites - Idaho Springs, CO
- 27-May Super 8 - North Platte, NE
- 28-May Wyndham Garden Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK

Picnic Sites:

- 22-May Tilghman Park - Chandler, OK
- 25-May Coleman Park - Brownfield, TX
- 26-May Antonito, CO
- 27-May Lions Park - Cheyenne, WY
- 28-May Lake Scott State Park, KS

Other Stops:

25 stops at gas stations, convenience stores and supermarkets, including 2 Walmarts, 3 McDonalds, 1 Subway, 1 DQ & 5 Starbucks

Restaurant meals:

- 22-May Rib Crib BBQ - Tulsa, OK
- 24-May Red Zone Cafe - Lubbock, TX
- 24-May Texas Roadhouse - San Angelo, TX
- 25-May Sadies - Albuquerque, NM
- 25-May Fleming's Family Diner - San Angelo, TX
- 26-May Hannah & Nate's Cafe - Albuquerque, NM
- 26-May MTN Prime Steakhouse - Idaho Springs, CO
- 27-May Marion's Of The Rockies - Idaho Springs, CO
- 27-May North 40 Chophouse - North Platte, NE



... Lake Scott Lake Park, KS – May 28th ...

Being a tourist ...

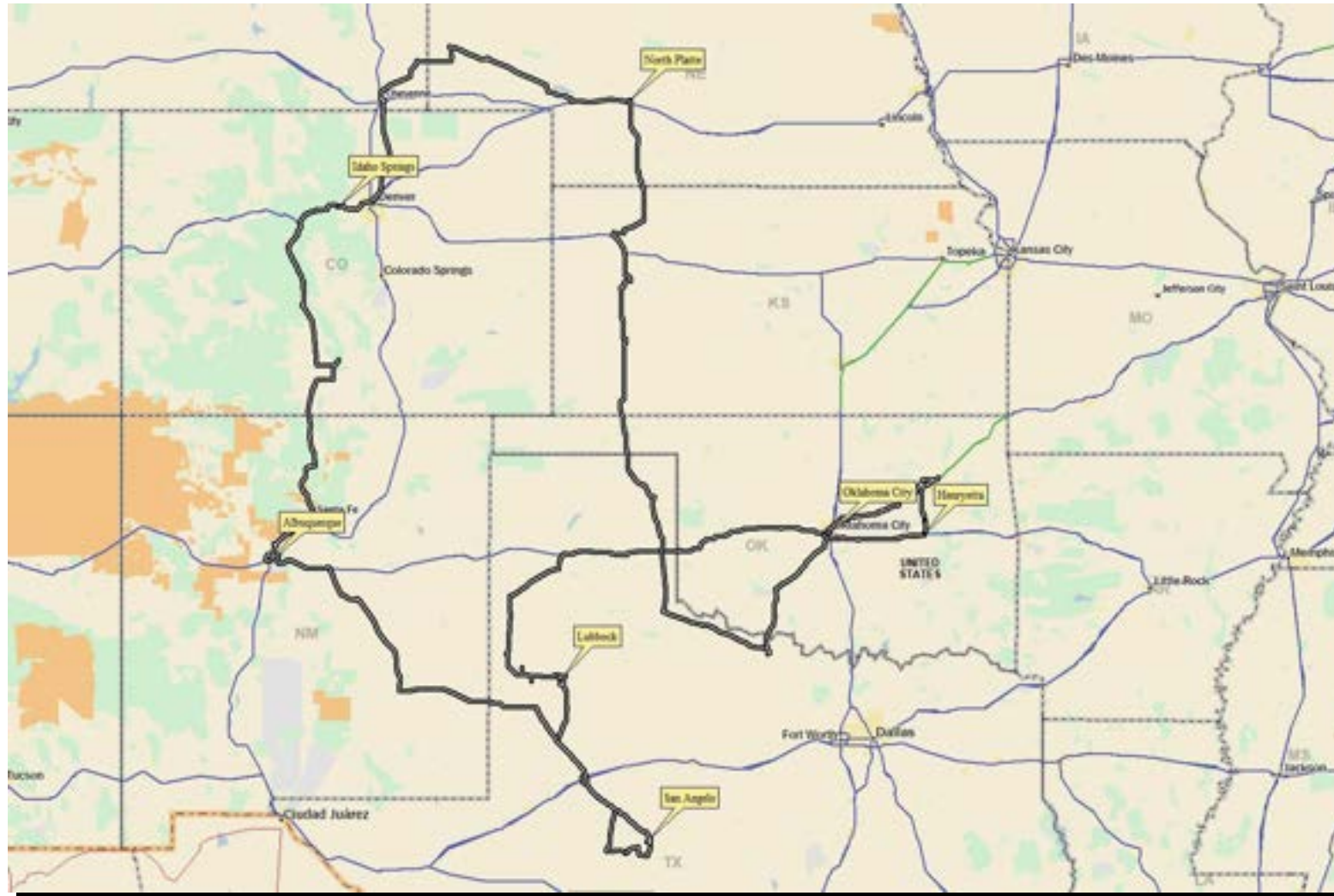
Sights:

- 22-May Oklahoma City National - OK, City
- 22-May Pops 66 - Arcadia, OK
- 22-May Arcadia Round Barn - Arcadia, OK
- 22-May Seaba Station Motorcycle Museum - Warwick, OK
- 22-May Bob Dylan Center - Tulsa, OK
- 22-May Blue Whale of Catoosa - Catoosa, OK
- 23-May Conoco Art Deco Gas Station - Shamrock, TX
- 24-May American Windmill Museum - Lubbock, TX
- 25-May International Water Lily Collection - San Angelo, TX
- 25-May San Angelo Historic District – San Angelo, TX
- 25-May Sandia Tramway - Albuquerque, NM
- 26-May Old Town - Albuquerque, NM
- 26-May Great Sand Dunes National Park - NM
- 27-May Scotts Bluff National Monument - NE
- 28-May Monument Rocks - KS

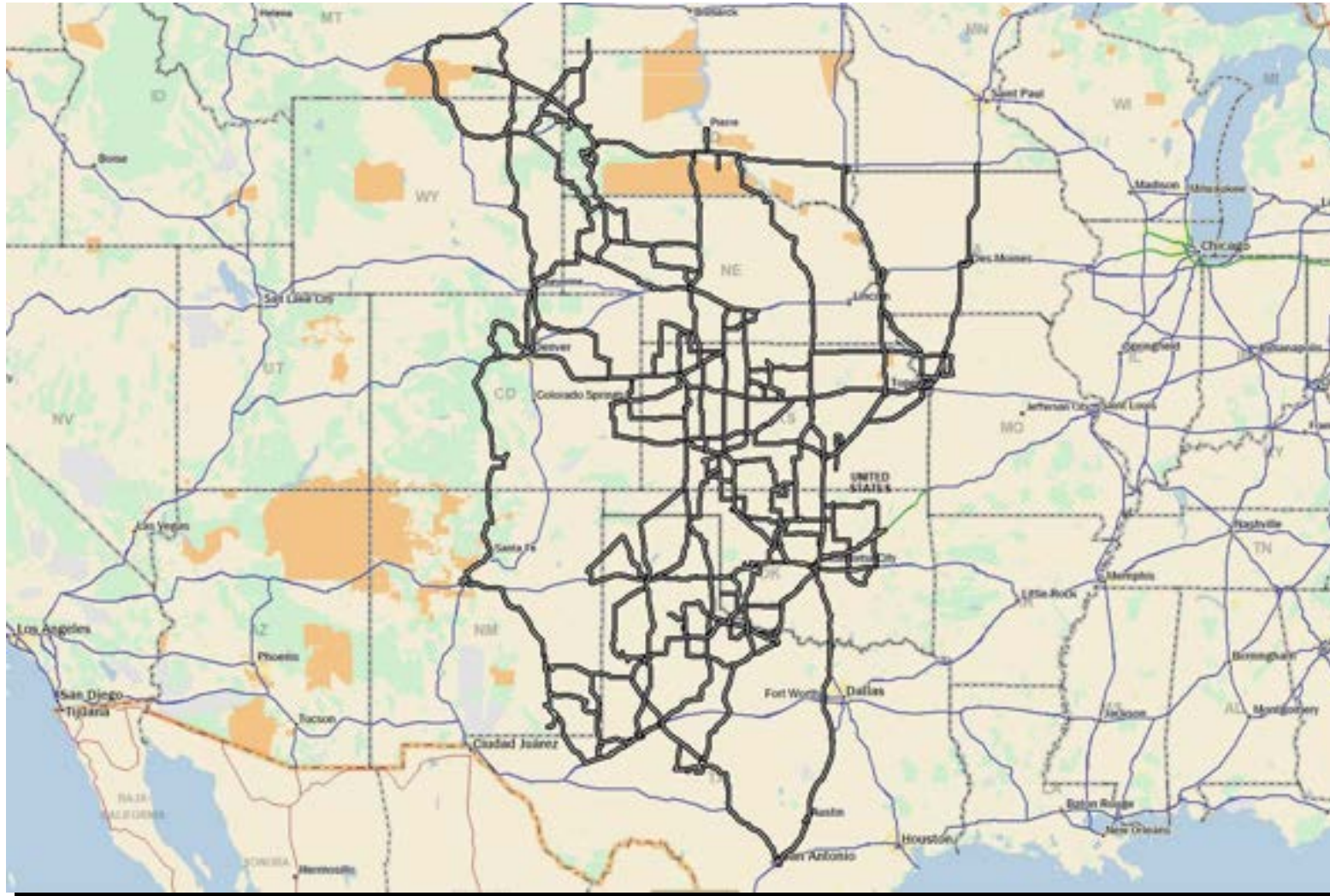


... Conoco Art Deco Gas Station –
Shamrock, TX – May 23rd ...

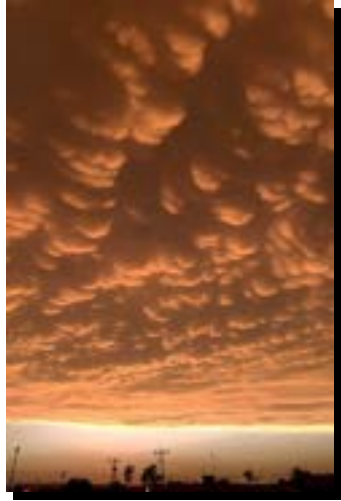
The complete journey for Tour 3 ... 3,311 miles



The SGC 2022 season ... 26,655 miles



... why we chase ... it's not just about the tornadoes...



... May 2nd – Oklahoma City ...



... May 15th – Wetumka, OK ...



... June 11th – Ashland, MT ...



... June 12th – Sturgis, SD ...



... May 17th, Norton, KS ...



... May 18th – Eads, CO ...



... June 11th – Biddle, MT ...



... June 12th – Wall, SD ...



... June 7th – Herndon, KS ...



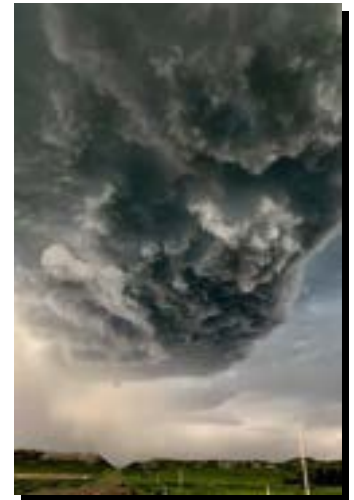
... May 30th – Potwin, KS ...



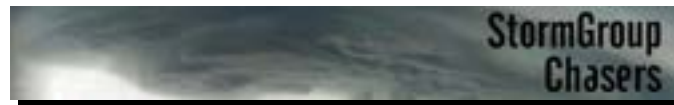
... June 11th – Albion, MT ...



... June 19th – Alzada, MT ...



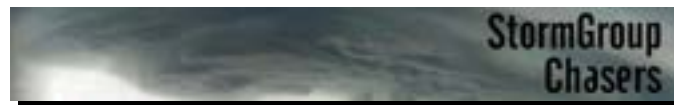
... June 11th – Biddle, MT ...



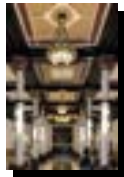
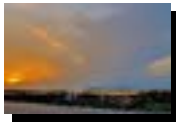
... on the other hand ...



... video of Morton, TX tornado – May 23rd, 2022 ...
... taken by David Evans on Tour 3 ...




... why we chase ... it's all about the shared experience ...



You Might be a Storm Chaser if...

1. You spend more time looking at the sky than the road when driving.
2. You've sprinted in and out of a gas station.
3. You have more power cords in your car than any of the rooms in your house.
4. You've ever pulled over at a restaurant to upload a video on their Wi-Fi.
5. Your favorite months are April, May and June.
6. You've said to yourself "Should I drive on that muddy dirt road or not?"
7. You've gone through 8 gigabytes worth of photos in 30 minutes.
8. You've laughed when your worried spouse said they think a cloud is a tornado.
9. You know what gray soup is.
10. You've changed the direction of your parked car every 4 minutes.
11. You've put Rain-X on a camera lens.
12. You've driven over 20 hours in a single day without having a destination.
13. Your favorite sound is a Tornado Siren.
14. Your car looks like a golf ball.
15. You have 3 or more weather apps on your phone.



... bring on 2023 ...



"looking forward to getting back on the Plains and chasing together again"

