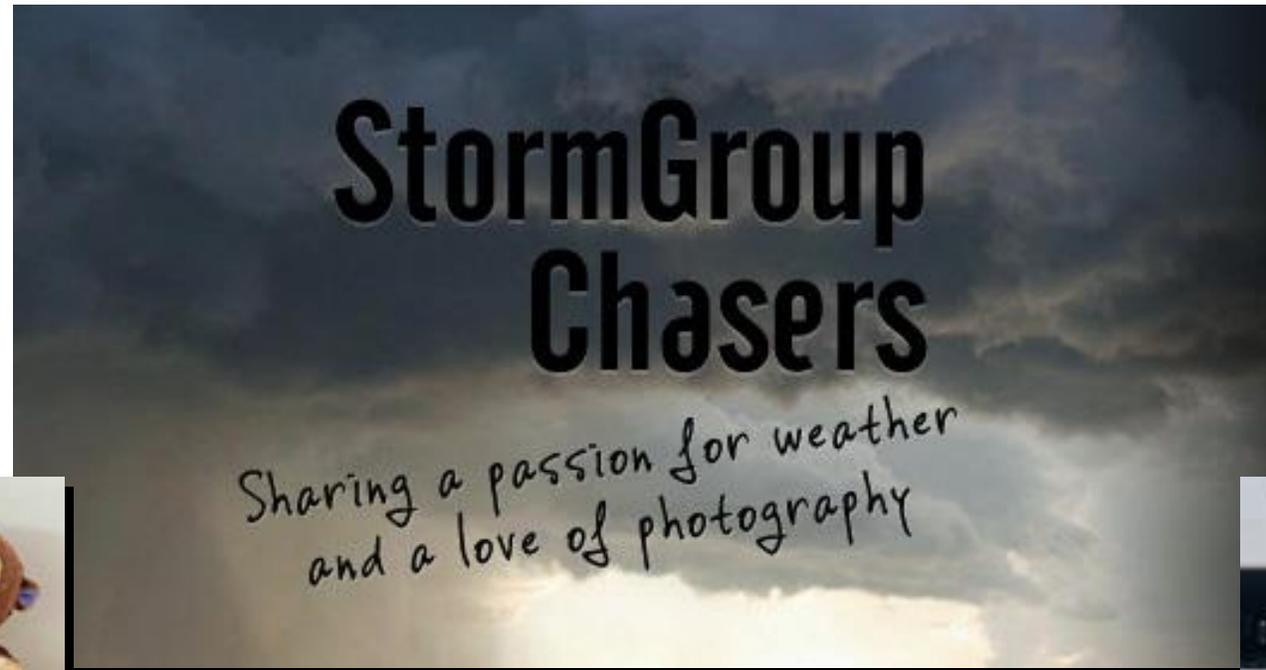


Memories – Tour 3

May 25th to June 3rd, 2024



“at home in New Zealand”

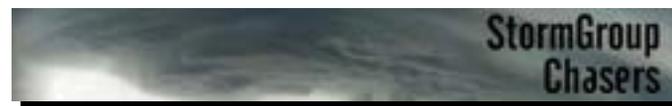


“standing watch in the USA”

The team ...



Rick, Andy, Peter, Arron, Adam & Alex



Chasing summary – Tour 3

On this tour we drove 5,379 miles across six states – Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, Colorado & Nebraska.

We had severe thunderstorms occur on 10 of the 10 days with multiple funnels, & one tornado sighted on our first chase day.

The week's weather had very active weather patterns, producing many intense storms – with some great photographic opportunities.

It's always fascinating to witness these rotating meso-cyclonic supercells in action – we got close to multiple rotation markers/hook echoes & placed in the notch on many of the chase days, and were well positioned to see under the base, but were sometimes frustrated by poor visibility, and storms that didn't quite produce despite some serious rotation.

A highlight had to be Day 6, May 30th, which produced a long-lived supercell which assumed a stunning “barber-pole” structure as it matured from a tornadic storm into one sculpted by increasing capping towards sunset. Awe-inspiring sights.

Despite driving long distances & active chasing, we managed some great restaurant meals on this tour, along with the usual chaser fast food, and enjoyed some picnic sites and even some tourist spots.

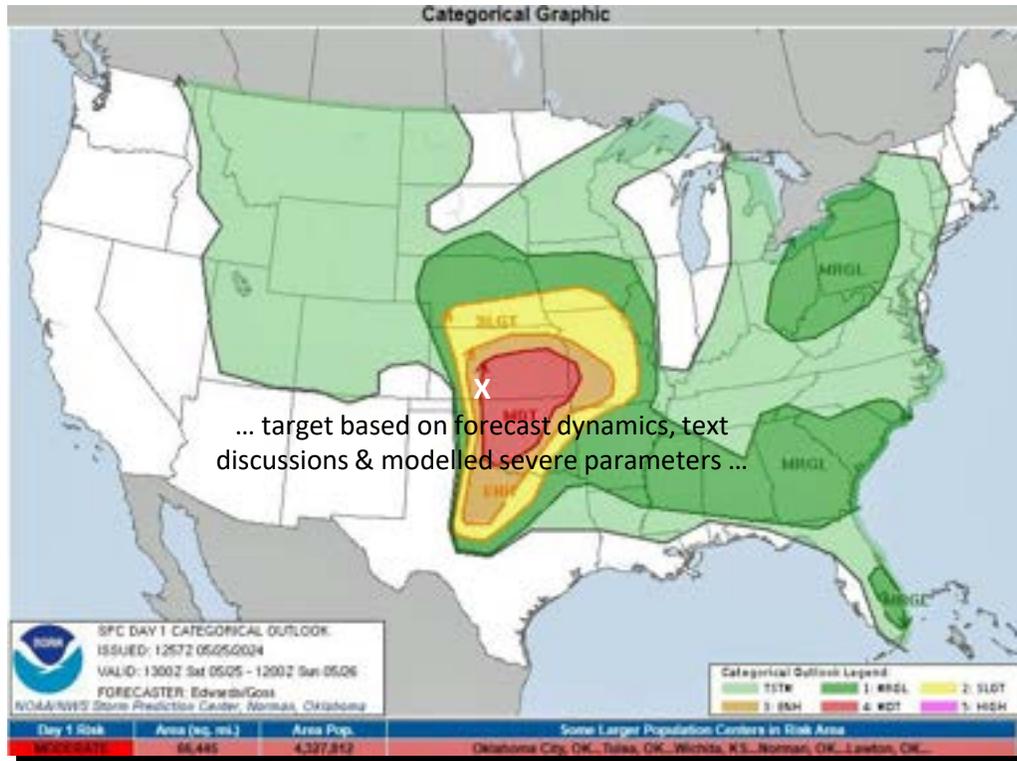
The shared experience on these tours is what makes them so special – many thanks to Rick for his able assistance with co-driving.

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.

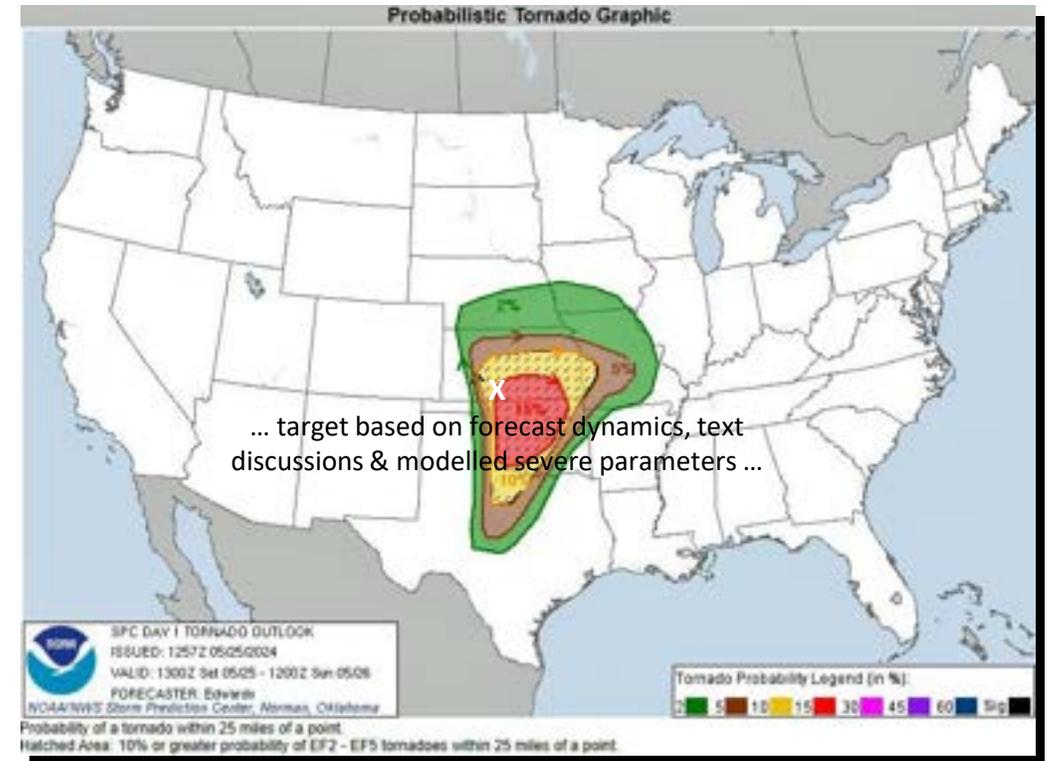


The SPC forecast at 8am CDT... Day 1, May 25th

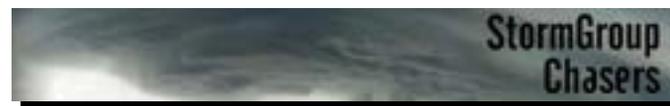
Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook

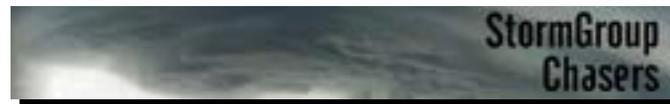


... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – chasing guidance only for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...
<refer chase account for specific targeting analysis and tactics for the day>



The chase day in words ... Day 1, May 25th

... an excellent chasing day, with one tornado sighted & confirmed 🌩️😎 ... drove 436 miles today from Oklahoma City to Wichita, KS via Enid & Buffalo, OK to open Tour 3 of the SGC 2024 season ... extremely volatile situation developing today across northern Texas, Oklahoma & southern Kansas with most tornadic parameters maximised, however the Norman local forecaster was concerned with initiation in Oklahoma off the dryline, with the potential for early high-based storms to go outflow dominant with large cold pools, undercutting later tornadic storms ... decided to target the southern portion of Kansas, in and around Coldwater, KS - upper air support better in northern Oklahoma/southern Kansas overriding concerns about initiation ... morning CAMs showed discrete long-lived supercells tracking along the Kansas/Oklahoma border, in much “friendlier” chasing territory than southwest of OKC, and into metro OKC after dark 😊 ... delicious midday meal about 1:45 pm CDT in prep for afternoon/evening chasing at Napoli’s Italian Restaurant ... headed out from Enid about 2:45 pm CDT as a few cumulus starting appearing on satellite far to the west ... a Particularly Dangerous Situation Tornado Watch was issued over us at 3:25 pm CDT as we were heading west near Ingersoll, OK ... as we were taking a last pre-chase break in Alva, OK <quite a few chasers about> storms initiated to our west about 4:15 pm CDT ... headed west, and then north from Buffalo, OK about 5:20 pm CDT to position under the now severe-warned storm, developing a hook echo & rotation markers ... base started to visibly rotate, and I reported a ragged rotating wall cloud which extended almost to the ground, but it soon dissipated ... storm was moving rapidly NE, so started to head east again, as a new storm developed to the SW on an intercept course with our storm, moving at 52 kts to the NE 😬 ... east again to Alva, OK then north to get in front of our now merging storms ... a major unmodelled <at least on the CAMs> tornado-warned storm to our south starting to cause concern as it was likely going to contaminate the inflow air to our storm ... blasted NE out of Kiowa, KS about 6:50 pm CDT right in front of intense VIL core, just skirting an obvious hail core just to the NW of our vehicle - brilliant CGs striking all around our vehicle, with some deep booming chest-shaking thunder ... made the turn to the east unscathed by large hail under a “flying eagle” radar signature ... then straight east for a bit of “storm fleeing” about 1/2 way to Anthony, KS ... stopping twice to observe the rapidly approaching storm, we were looking SW with a high-contrast view of a ground-scraping strongly rotating wall cloud - Alex captured a photo of a brief tornado, confirmed by a spotter report as ENE of Corwin, KS, so just SW of our position ... tornado sirens blaring in Anthony, KS as we passed through heading further east ... then a string of damage reports emerged from the highway just behind us where we had stopped to observe - one a roof blown off a house ... once again another new storm slammed into our storm from the SW, disrupting the circulation ... about 7:30 pm CDT, cooler contaminated air began to be advected into our area from the earlier storms in Oklahoma SW of Enid, rapidly weakening our storm as temps dropped to 73F ... time to call it a day, and head for our hotel in Wichita ... stop at McDs for dinner in Wellington, KS then the one hour drive north to our hotel in Wichita ... as we drove north lots of lightning flashing to our east from some invigorated storms rumbling their way into a new tornado watch in Missouri ... arrived at our hotel about 10:15 pm CDT ... a great way to open Tour 3 😎 but the forecasted long-track intense tornadoes did not eventuate ... tomorrow’s setup in Missouri very much dependent on how the overnight convection evolves ...



During the chase ... Day 1, May 25th



... 3:25 pm CDT – PDS tornado watch issued over us ...



... 4:21 pm CDT – first storms firing to our west ...



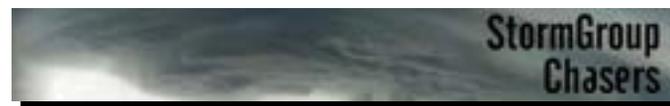
... 4:56 pm CDT – heading west to severe-warned storm ...



... 5:21 pm CDT – impressive anvil from severe-warned storm – looking west from Buffalo, OK ...



... 5:24 pm CDT – tucked up under storm with rotation marker ...



... 5:26 pm CDT – video by Alex of rotating lowering from wall cloud ...

During the chase ... Day 1, May 25th



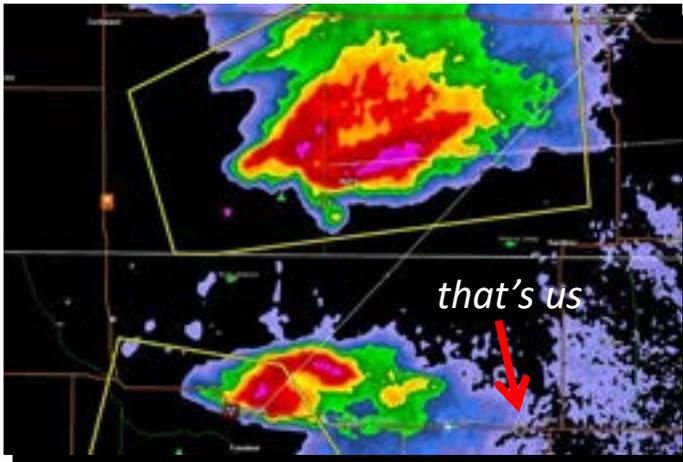
... 5:31 pm CDT – lowering has rapidly dissipated, sculpted base still rotating ...



... 5:36 pm CDT – storm heading by us, ENE at 40 kts – need to drive east just to catch up ...



... 6:01 pm CDT – new storm from SW on interception course at 51 kts with original storm ...



... 6:22 pm CDT – new storm from SW had been towering over us – solid updrafts and anvil – had crossed road behind us ...



... 6:39 pm CDT – massive un-modelled tornado-warned storm well to our south...



... 6:59 pm CDT – blasting northeast around intense VIL core on original storm – saw 3" hail core just to our northwest, CGs striking all around us ...

During the chase ... Day 1, May 25th



... 7:02 pm CDT – in “storm fleeing” mode heading east – classic “flying eagle” radar signature – 60,000 ft echo top diverting upper-level winds ...



... 7:12 pm CDT – inflow notch developing with rotation markers just to our WSW ...



... 7:15 pm CDT – storm developing a hook echo ...



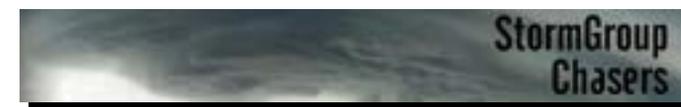
... 7:17 pm CDT – storm tornado-warned, strong hook echo just to our immediate WSW ...



... 7:19 pm CDT – rotating wall cloud just WSW of our position ...



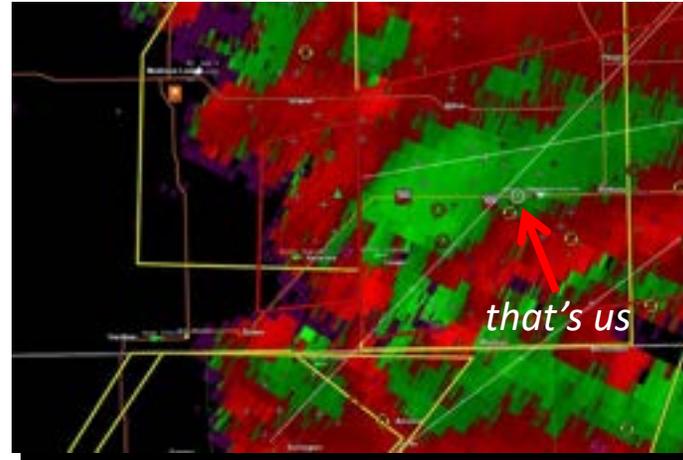
... 7:20 pm CDT – photo capture by Alex of brief tornado WSW of our position ...



During the chase ... Day 1, May 25th



... 7:20 pm CDT – very clear hook echo consistent with the sighted & reported tornado...



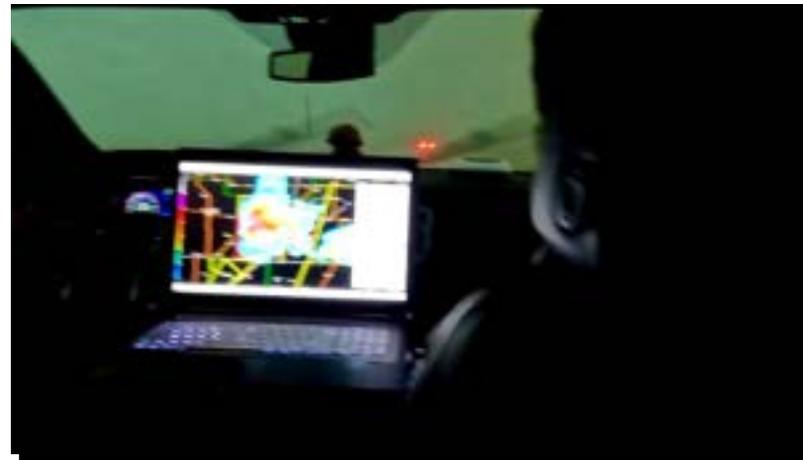
... 7:22 pm CDT – confirmed rotation couplet on base velocity – given high beam elevation it was a deep rotation ...



... 7:23 pm CDT – large ground-hugging rotating wall cloud just WSW of our position ...



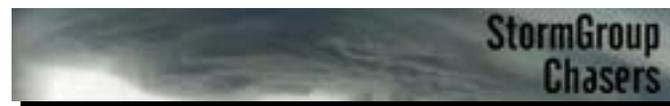
... 7:28 pm CDT – in Anthony, KS – tornado sirens blaring ...



... 7:43 pm CDT – video by Alex, heading east from Anthony, KS ...



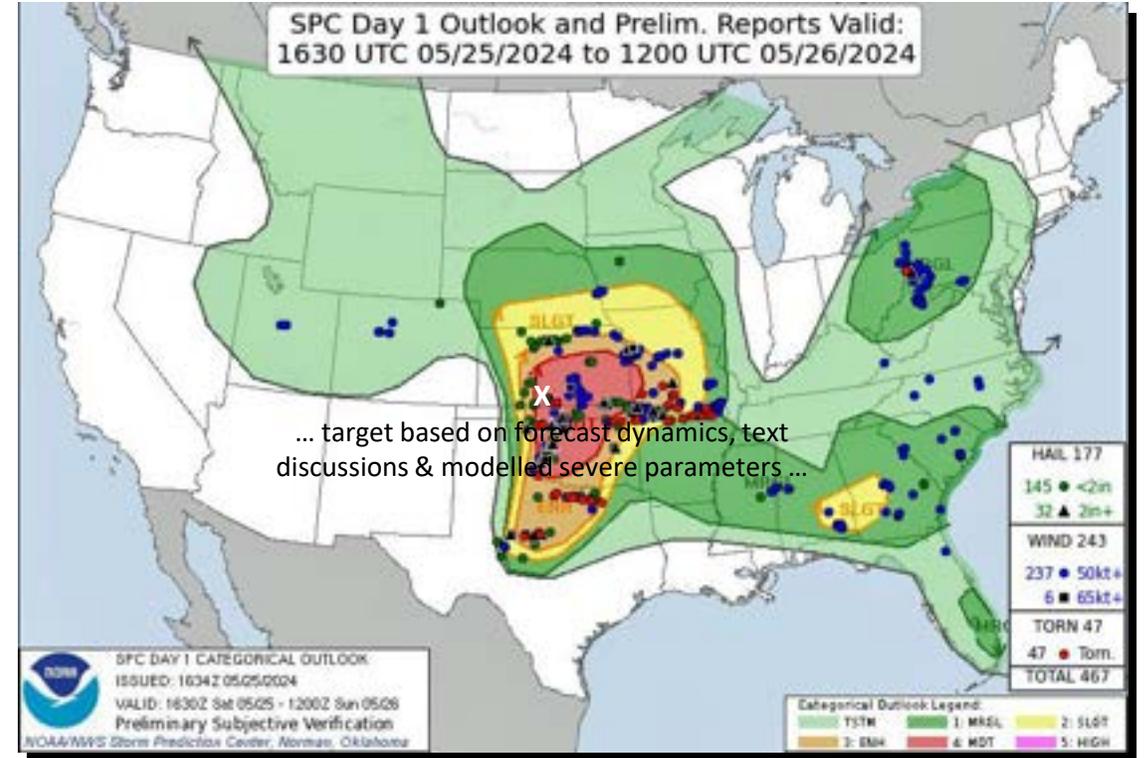
... 8:20 pm CDT – about to head to Wichita, KS – lots of lightning ...



The chase day in maps ... Day 1, May 25th



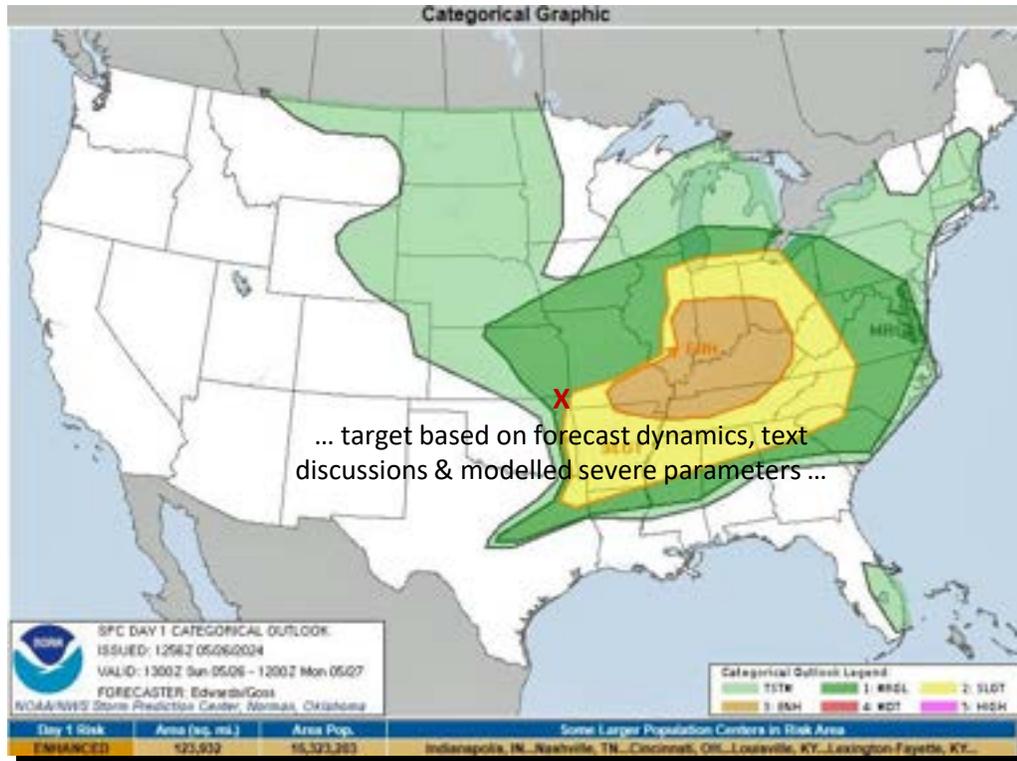
... where we drove on the day – 436 miles from Oklahoma City, OK to Wichita, KS via Enid & Buffalo, OK ...



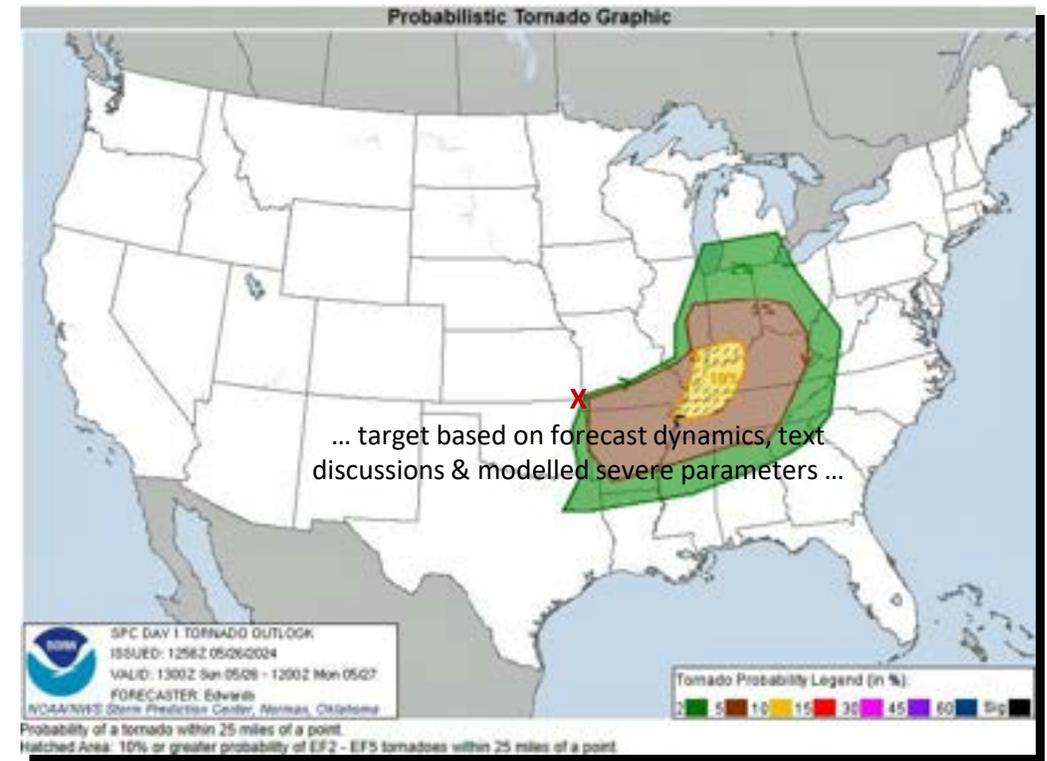
... where the storm reports were on the day, mapped on the updated SPC Outlook from 11:30 am CDT ... 47 tornado reports on the day, but only 5 in our target area – the rest were in Texas, and then near/after midnight further east in Oklahoma & Missouri/Arkansas

The SPC forecast at 8am CDT... Day 2, May 26th

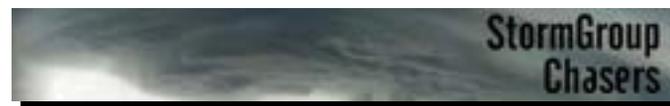
Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – chasing guidance only for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...
<refer chase account for specific targeting analysis and tactics for the day>



The chase day in words ... Day 2, May 26th

... drove 405 miles today from Wichita, KS to Springfield, MO via Vinita, OK - four states in one day - Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas & Missouri ... after much deliberation & musing on the various forecasts & models, given ongoing morning convection which was in the process of laying down an outflow boundary in southern Iowa, the forecast position of the boundary, along which supercells were forecast to track, was still uncertain ... CAMs were pretty consistent with initiating long-track supercells in SE Kansas/NE Oklahoma, tracking later into southern Iowa - upper level support looked good here, with very high CAPE, but modest low level shear until evening ... storms would be moving easterly along this boundary ... away from Wichita about 11:15 am after a delicious breakfast at Doo Dah Diner ... initially thought to go to Joplin, MO but adjusted southwestwards into SE Kansas/NE Oklahoma as the models got a better grip on evolving conditions ... lunch at Uncle Jack's Bar & Grill in Independence, KS as skies started to clear ... headed then to Miami, OK about 1:45 pm CDT as active cumulus starting developing south of the boundary, with turkey towers going up, and then a storm initiated to the WSW about 2:45pm CDT near Delaware, OK ... decided to head west & target this storm, had a bit of gravel road driving south through Centralia, OK ... storm looked promising, but then a dry boundary blew through from the NW, clearing out the moisture & clouds, and undercutting the storm & weakening it temporarily ... tornado watch issued at 3:25 pm CDT just to our east, mostly over Missouri ... heading east through Vinita, OK, about 3:45 pm CDT the storm strengthened again, so despite it having now blown past us, decided to keep heading east tracking the storm, as it headed into the tornado watch box ... tracking storms from behind can often feel quite fruitless as poor road networks can make you fall behind, and this storm was heading east at 31 kts 🙄 ... still, some great views of boiling updrafts on the storm's southwest flank, some lowerings under the main updraft base, a huge anvil overhead with occasional CGs to the east - all the while driving through some picturesque countryside in full sunshine - however, it was pretty hopeless chasing territory 🤔 ... coming into Noel, MO about 5 pm CDT, there were sedimentary rock formations overhanging the road, with the river beside us in full flood stage, brown water boiling just below the road level ... driving east of Noel we drove through some really scenic road cuts through sedimentary layers, waterfalls coming off the tops, glinting in the westerly sunshine ... still frequent CGs to the east against the dark expanse of the retreating storm ... we continued east in the damage path of the storm, lots of leaf litter from large hail, small branches down - hail fog on the roads in many places - coming into Gateway, AR much more obvious wind damage with larger branches down - there was a major traffic jam for traffic heading SE from Gateway - likely a large tree across the road ... thankfully it was time for us to call it a day and head north to Springfield, avoiding the traffic jam ... a few storms blew up on our path north, one severe-warned with 1" hail ... into Springfield about 8 pm CDT for a well-deserved steak dinner <the SPC forecast? 🤔> at Texas Roadhouse ... into our hotel about 9:30 pm CDT ... an enjoyable scenic day, albeit not quite the usual chasing outcomes 😎 ... tomorrow's setup may be a long 8 hr drive to Northwest Texas ...



During the chase ... Day 2, May 26th



... 2:49 pm CDT – heading west to storm initiating near Delaware, OK ...



... 2:57 pm CDT – storm intensifying ...



... 3:08 pm CDT – tucked up under now severe-warned storm ...



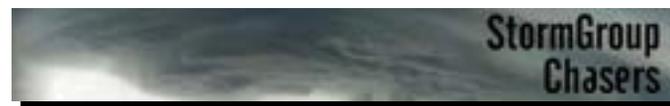
... 3:13 pm CDT – looking west ...



... 3:13 pm CDT – looking west towards severe-warned storm near Centralia, OK ...



... 4:14 pm CDT – tracking re-intensified storm eastwards into Tornado Watch box ...



During the chase ... Day 2, May 26th



... 4:19 pm CDT – 1 3/4" hail reports coming in ...



... 5:47 pm CDT – falling behind in poor chase territory – large hail reports all along our route ...



... 6:16 pm CDT – last glimpse of retreating storm looking east near Gateway, AR ...



... 6:47 pm CDT – looking west ...



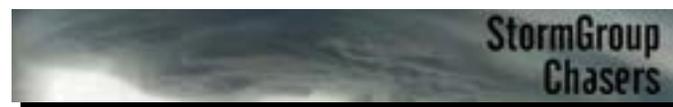
... 6:48 pm CDT – line of late day storms as we head to Springfield, MO ...



... 7:57 pm CDT – backside of storms to our SE in Springfield, MO ...



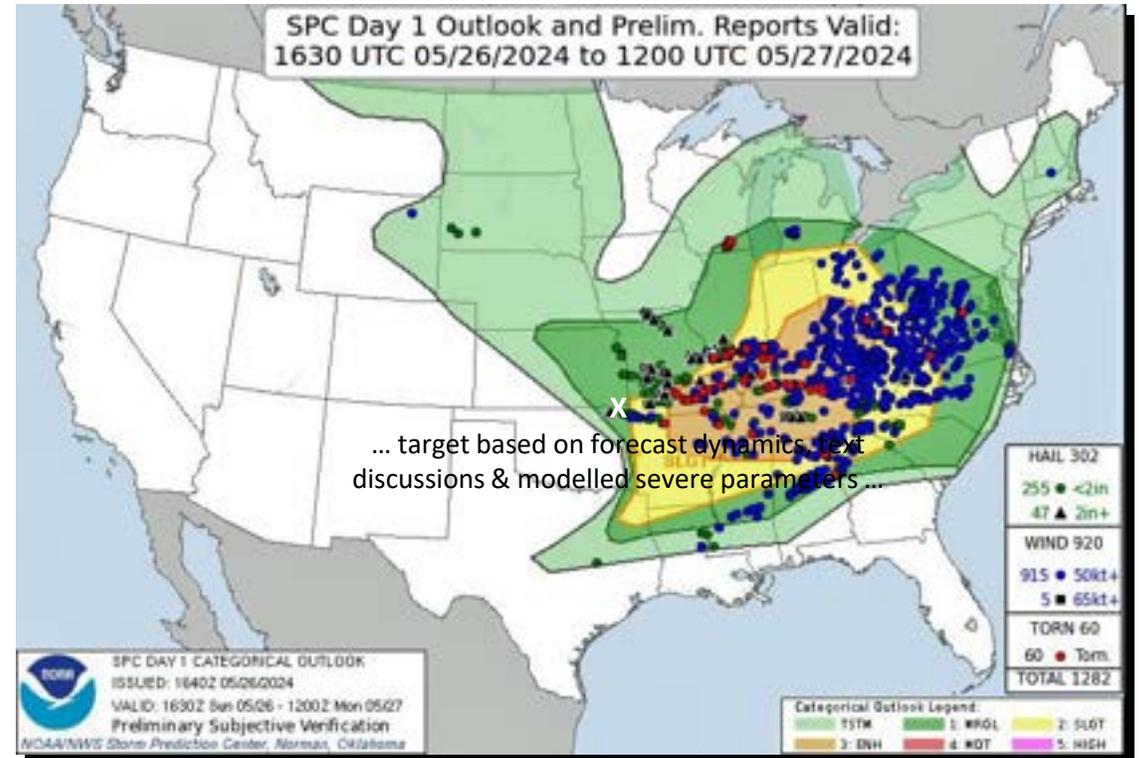
... 7:58 pm CDT – heading into dinner ...



The chase day in maps ... Day 2, May 26th



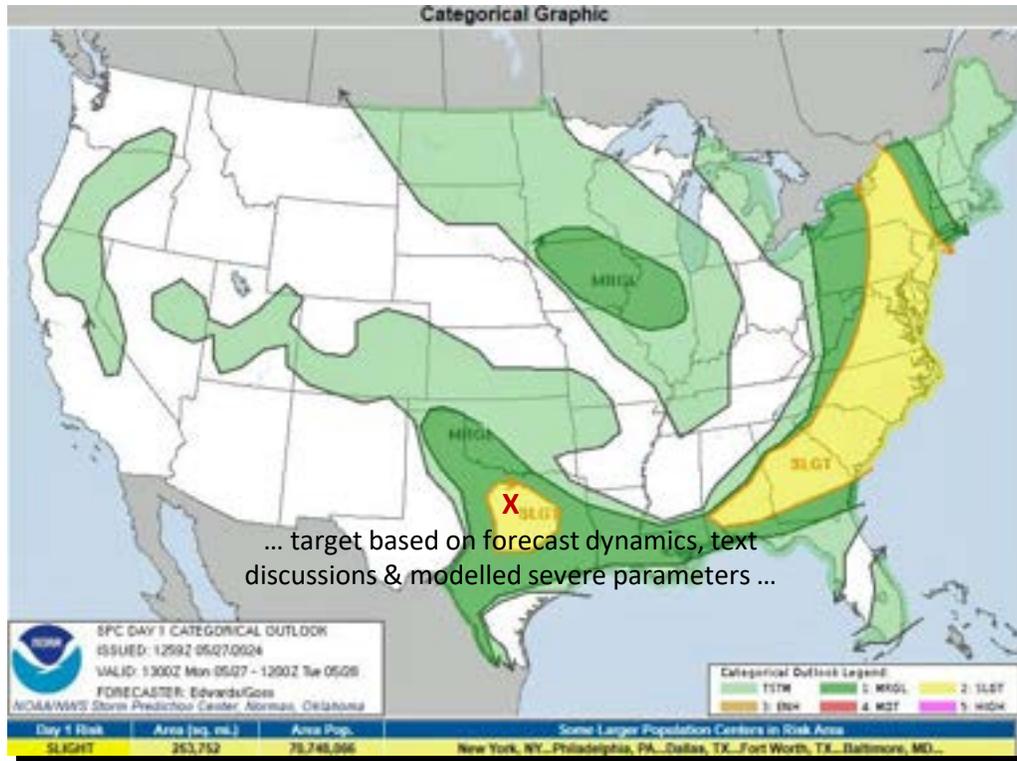
... where we drove on the day – 405 miles from Wichita, KS to Springfield, MO via Vinita, OK ...



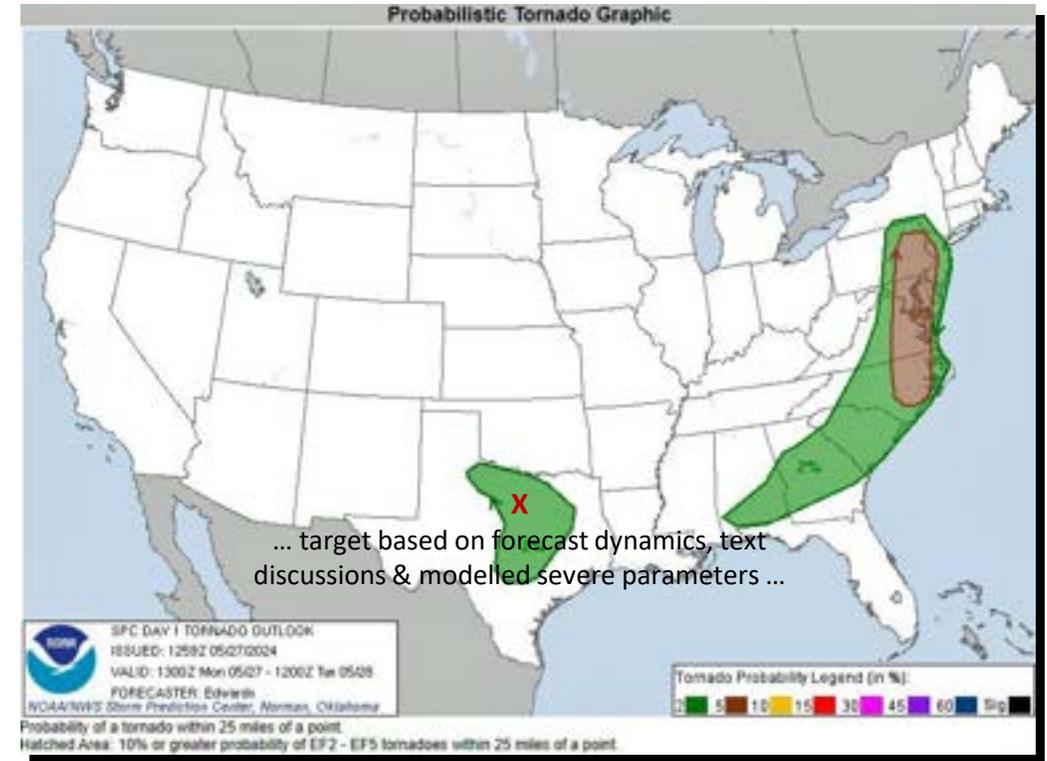
... where the storm reports were on the day, mapped on the updated SPC Outlook from 11:30 am CDT ...

The SPC forecast at 8am CDT... Day 3, May 27th

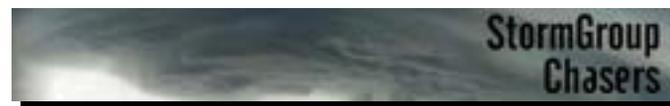
Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook

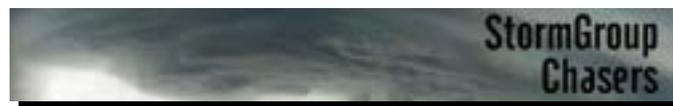


... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – chasing guidance only for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...
<refer chase account for specific targeting analysis and tactics for the day>



The chase day in words ... Day 3, May 27th

... drove 696 miles from Springfield, MO to Stephenville, TX via Cisco & Hamilton, TX ... the big issue today was whether there would be any convective initiation at all - the CAMs were all over the place this morning, with the HRRR showing nothing - the day could be a “big fat nothing” after an 8hr drive 😬 at the least the drive would get us southwest for our target area tomorrow 😊... selected Breckenridge, TX as a working target based on intersection of dryline & cold boundaries, a low to the west deepening with heating west of the dry line during the day, providing more SEly winds in that area, thus improving convergence & low-level shear, and soundings with forecast TOR outcomes - capping appeared to erode during the late afternoon ... off southwest from Springfield on I44 about 7:30 am CDT, McDs breakfast in hand, under clear blue skies ... the SPC in their 8 am update helpfully raised the risk to a Slight Risk, with a 15% hatched hail bordering on our target area, but the 2% tornado risk extended to the NW while still over our target area - surface CAPE up to 5,500 by late afternoon - but without initiation, all this could mean nothing ... arrived in Breckenridge about 3 pm CDT after having driven about 550 miles, some early convective towers going up just to our SW, with temps hitting 101F 🔥 with a dewpoint of 66F just to our south, and dewpoints in the low 40s F just to our west ... severe thunderstorm watch issued at 3:50 pm CDT just to our SE, as we were dropping down to Cisco, TX with towers to our west going up & down as it was still capped ... after several attempts at getting going, the promising convection finally fizzled out - the atmosphere too capped in this area ... spied another storm about an hour to the south, severe-warned with a visually impressive updraft & anvil, so headed south to Goldthwaite, TX to investigate ... readjusted our destination to Evant, TX to intercept, but unfortunately the storm fell apart as capping choked off the moisture to the updraft once again today ... stopped just south of Hamilton to “wave goodbye”, then headed up to Stephenville for dinner at Peacock’s Restaurant & our hotel ... on the way up, there was an intense storm over the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex with baseball hail - causing damage & closing down the Interstate - not a place to be chasing!! on a sunny day, traffic there is chaotic, let alone during a severe-warned thunderstorm ... as we progressed northwards near Olin, TX new updrafts just exploded upwards “like an atom bomb” - a spectacular sight from 75 miles away in the setting sun 😎 ... by 8:30 pm CDT, the storm over Dallas/Fort Worth had faded as it too was choked off by capping ... into our hotel by about 9:30 pm after a VERY long day driving, only to have object lessons on the destructive effects of capping on thunderstorm updrafts 🌀 - rather than the advertised severe thunderstorms in our target area - ah well, we’re much closer to tomorrow’s Enhanced Risk setup, where supercells look to initiate in the Texas Panhandle by 3 pm CDT 😎 ...



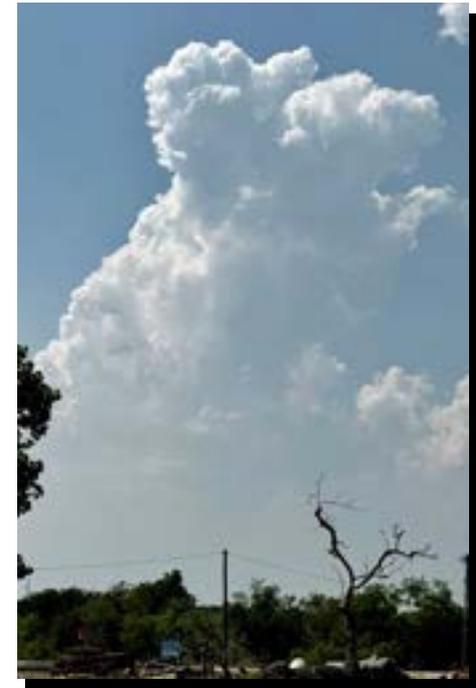
During the chase ... Day 3, May 27th



... 3:09 pm CDT – initial convection going up near Breckenridge, TX ...



... 3:50 pm CDT – Severe Thunderstorm Watch issued just to our east



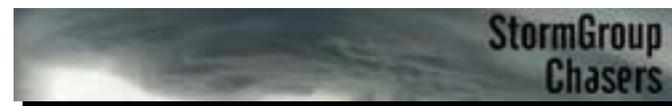
... 4:05 pm CDT – more substantial convective towers west of Breckenridge, TX ...



... 4:57 pm CDT – looking more promising near Merton, TX ...

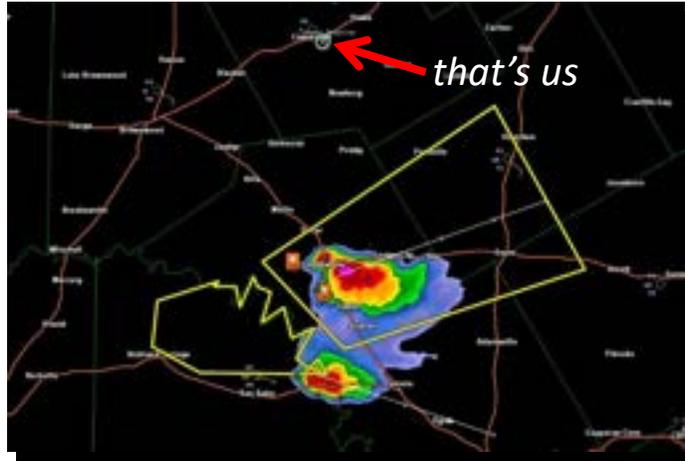


... 6:26 pm CDT – original convection fizzled, new severe-warned about an hour south ...



... 6:48 pm CDT – looking pretty good as we headed south ...

During the chase ... Day 3, May 27th



... 6:51 pm CDT – heading south on intercept course with severe-warned left-splitting storm ...



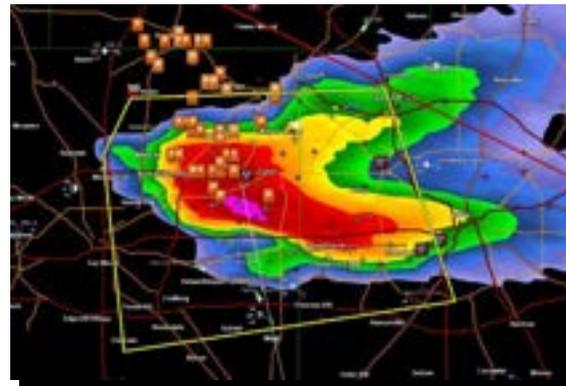
... 6:56 pm CDT – updraft to our south still looking pretty solid ...



... 7:10 pm CDT – and, just like that the storm fizzled 😞 ...



... 7:19 pm CDT – view south from near Hamilton, TX – you can see distant updrafts under the base, as it evaporates upwards as capping chokes off the moisture ...



... 7:19 pm CDT – classic "flying eagle" radar over Dallas/Fort Worth – many large hail reports ...

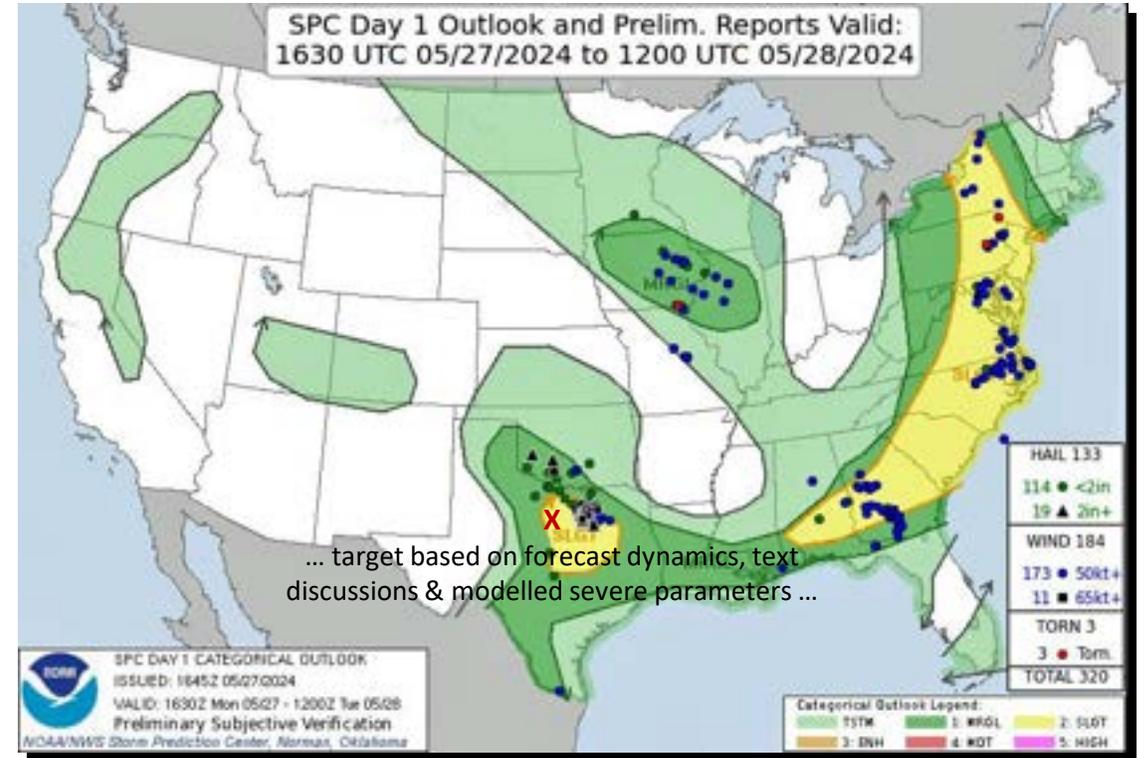


... 7:52 pm CDT – massive exploding updraft over Dallas/Fort Worth – 75 miles away "as the crow flies" – not a place for chasing in large hail & heavy traffic blocking underpasses ...

The chase day in maps ... Day 3, May 27th



... where we drove on the day – 696 miles
from Springfield, MO to Stephenville, TX via
Cisco & Hamilton, TX ...

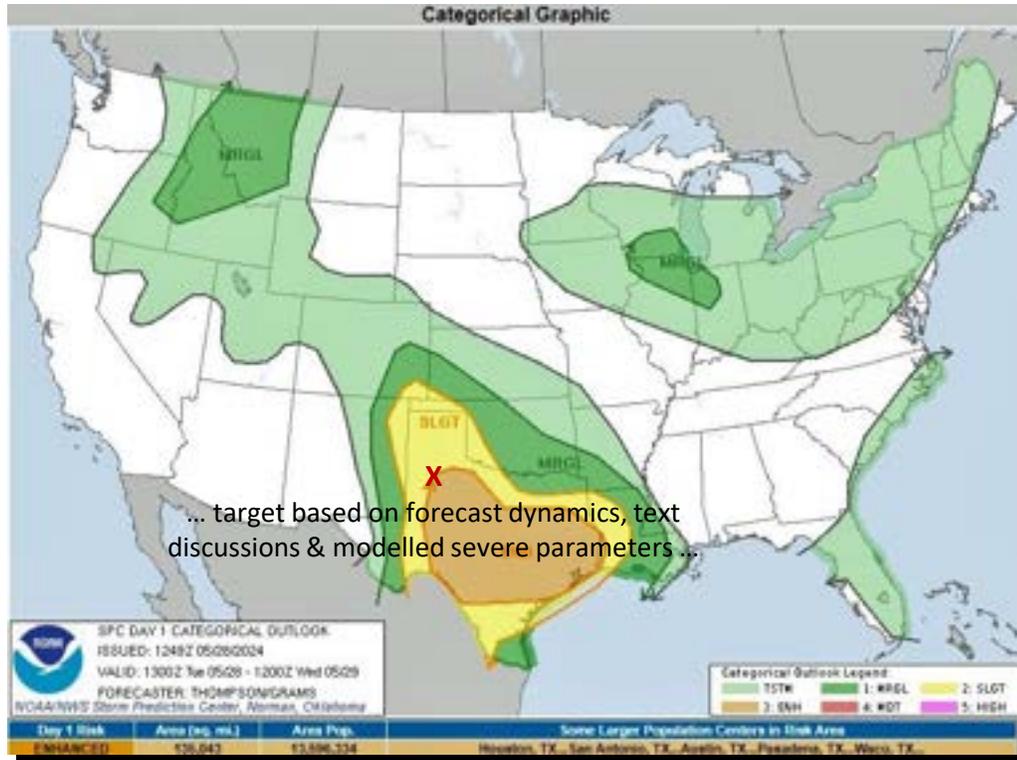


... target based on forecast dynamics, text
discussions & modelled severe parameters ...

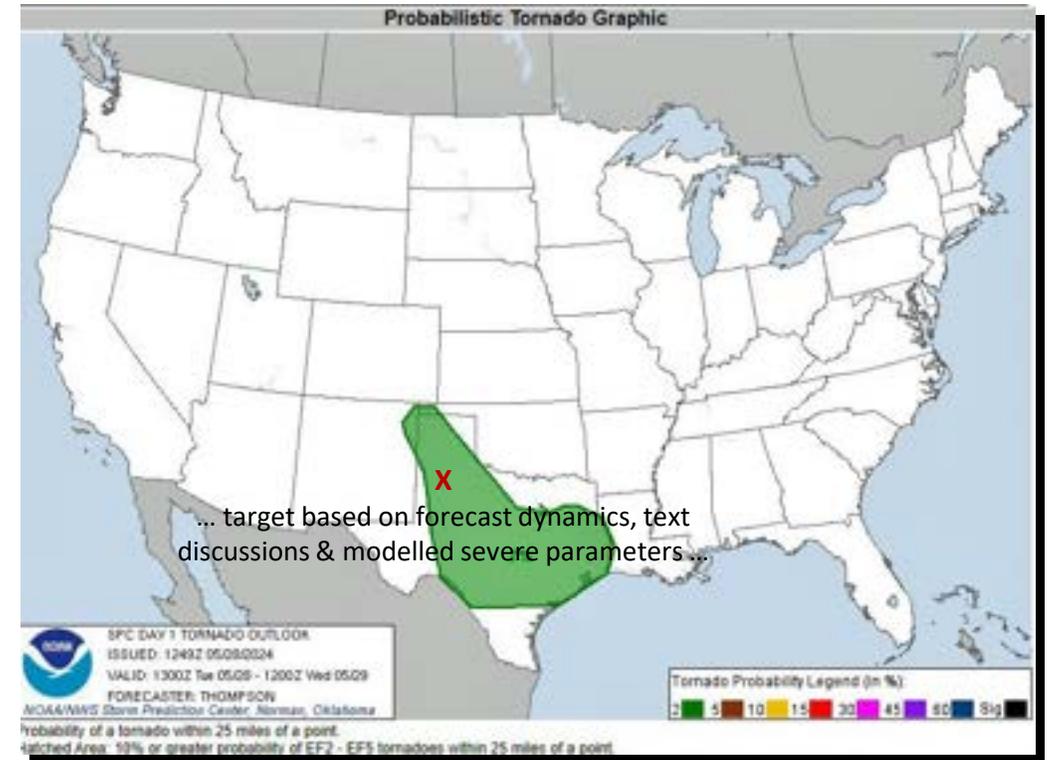
... where the storm reports were on the day, mapped on
the updated SPC Outlook from 11:30 am CDT ...
<main action was over the Fort Worth/Dallas metroplex>

The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 4, May 28th

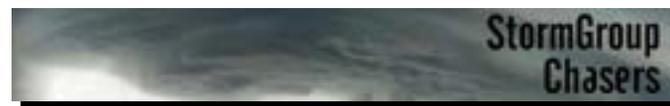
Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – chasing guidance only for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...
<refer chase account for specific targeting analysis and tactics for the day>



The chase day in words ... Day 4, May 28th

... a fabulous chasing day!! 😎 ... drove 473 miles today from Stephenville, TX to Lubbock, TX via Sudan, TX ... major effect today on the forecast models with a massive storm complex in Oklahoma overnight & this morning throwing out a huge outflow boundary westwards & southwestwards across the Texas Panhandle, the Big Country & towards West Texas ... had originally thought to target Lubbock, TX near a dryline/boundary intersection, and kept this as a working target while the impact of the outflow boundary became clearer ... very warm & muggy this morning, until a cold boundary blew through Stephenville about 8:30 am, followed by heavy rain as we were having breakfast at the Triple G Cafe <delicious by the way 😊 & the toast was actually toasted & crispy 🍞 > ... west from Stephenville about 9:30 am CDT into clearing skies as we cleared the moisture lifting above the outflow, but still strong easterly winds even in Abilene, TX ... SPC update at 11:34 am CDT upgraded the tornado risk to 5% in a narrow corridor east of the forecast position of the dry line, with Lubbock in the northern 1/3rd ... parameters on the HRRR & SPC mesoanalysis page showed a “bullseye” just NW of Lubbock, a sounding showing TOR, along with an outbreak of tracked supercells by 5 pm CDT ... a gravity wave moving westwards triggered some high-based convection to the west as we were heading north from I20 about 12:15 pm CDT ... as we approached Lubbock about 1:30 pm CDT, storms started firing to the NW of Littlefield, TX ... a tornado watch was issued over us at 1:45 pm CDT ... up to Sudan, TX then west towards Needmore, TX where we saw some spectacular structure on the first storm we targeted, which was now severe-warned ... dropped south past Pep, TX about 3:45 pm to cut in front of a new severe-warned storm as it developed rotation, a TVS5 marker & a 3” hail marker ... stopped southwest of Pep about 4:15 pm to watch the storm go by, as a new severe-warned storm to the NW developed ... decided to break away to the new storm, which quickly developed a pronounced hook echo & rotation ... intense inflow winds soon developed, dust streaming across the landscape and being lifted into the updraft, obscuring visibility under the base ... winds were at least 50 mph, screaming through the power lines overhead, with the base rotating right in front of us - seemed there MUST be a tornado buried in there with all that inflow and rotating clouds above ... eventually the storm crossed over the road behind us moving SE over Levelland, TX - 5” hail reported on the ground 😬 ... dropped down to Whiteface, TX for gas & a break, then after a brief look at a new high-based rotating storm to the NW, we drove back through the northern edge of the intense VIL core that had just passed through Levelland ... 1/4” to 1/2” hard hail pelted our vehicle making quite the racket, accompanied by heavy rain & occasional CGs ... into Lubbock for dinner about 7:45 pm CDT in heavy rain, then the updraft & anvil of the retreating storm to the SE lit up by the setting sun ... finally into our hotel at about 9:30 pm CDT ... an eventful & photogenic chasing day, very enjoyable 😎 ...



During the chase ... Day 4, May 28th



... 1:35 pm CDT – first cells firing NW of Lubbock, TX on a complex mix of gravity waves & outflow boundaries ...



... 1:45 pm CDT – Tornado Watch issued over us ...



... 2:46 pm CDT – heading NW to get under severe-warned storm with 2" hail marker ...



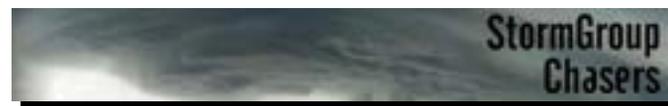
... 3:18 pm CDT – fabulous view under anvil west of Sudan, TX ...



... 3:24 pm CDT – west of Sudan, TX ...



... 4:07 pm CDT – time lapse video by Alex – NE of Morton, TX having just cut through from the north from Sudan TX ...



During the chase ... Day 4, May 28th



... 4:14 pm CDT – strongly rotating storm NE of Morton, TX – TVS5 marker with 3" hail ...



... 4:15 pm CDT – some serious 3" hail just to our north in an intense VIL core ...



... 4:17 pm CDT – gorgeous structure rotating right in front of us ...



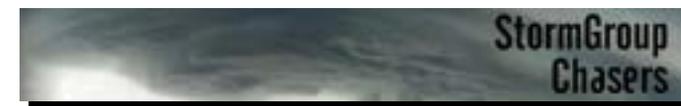
... 4:20 pm CDT – curved mesocyclone structure ...



... 4:22 pm CDT – NE of Morton, TX ...



... 4:51 pm CDT – original storm has put out an outflow boundary <blue line> - about to head WNW to target rapidly developing new storm ...



During the chase ... Day 4, May 28th



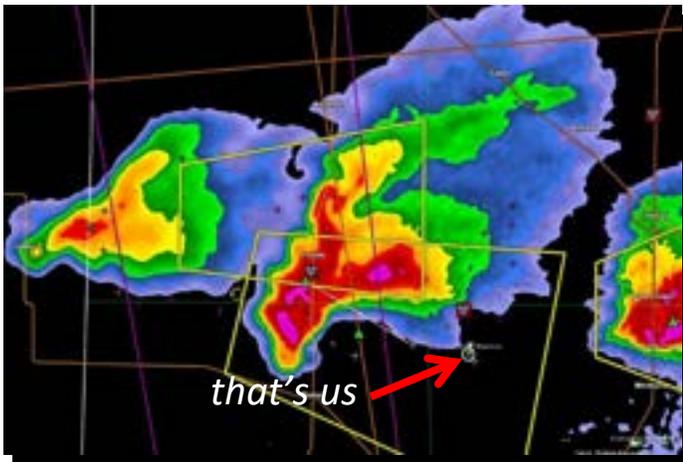
... 5:09 pm CDT – looking NW at new storm structure near Pep, TX ...



... 5:10 pm CDT – explosive updrafts ...



... 5:12 pm CDT – time lapse video by Alex ...



... 5:26 pm CDT – new storm really starting to wrap up with a distinct hook echo – inflow ramping up as well ...



... 5:42 pm CDT – inflow band along cold outflow boundary from previous storm ...



... 5:45 pm CDT – updraft booming upwards, dust streaming into the base, strong inflow winds at our back ...



During the chase ... Day 4, May 28th



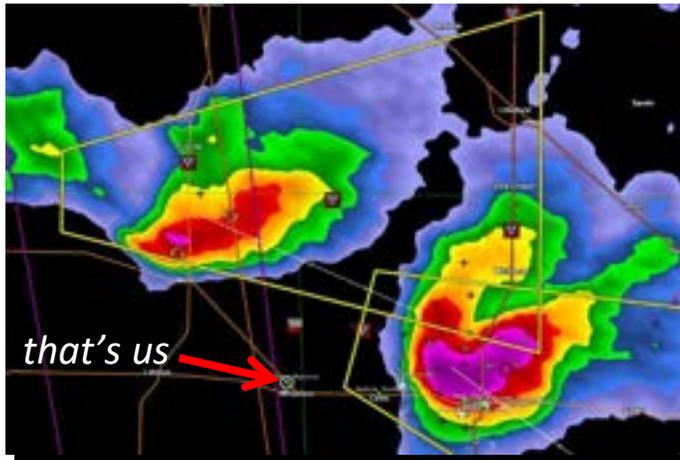
... 5:55 pm CDT – wall cloud reported – inflow winds screaming through overhead powerlines, no visibility under the base ...



... 5:59 pm CDT – rotating wall cloud, SHOULD be a dust-obscured tornado in there



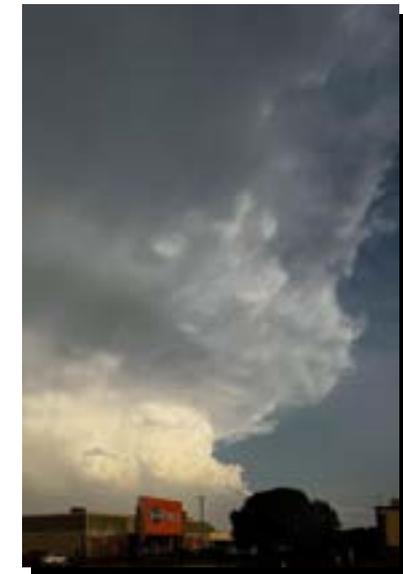
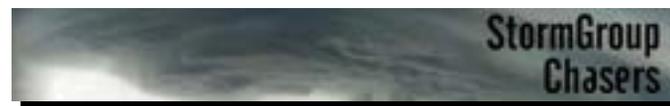
... 6:01 pm CDT – is that a dark lowering behind the dust being sucked up into the updraft? ...



... 6:38 pm CDT – storm now tracking ESE over Levelland, TX – 5" hail reports coming in ...

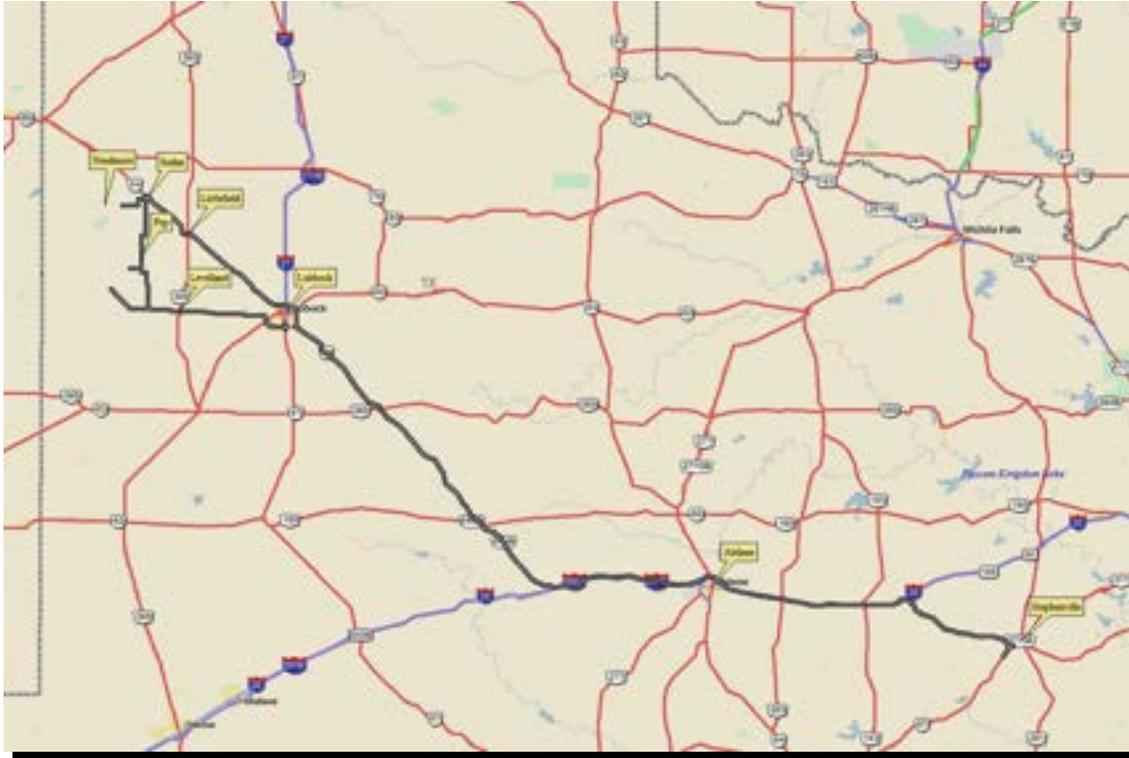


... 7:33 pm CDT – driving through north edge of VIL core – ¼ to ½" hail making a hell of a racket on the roof ...

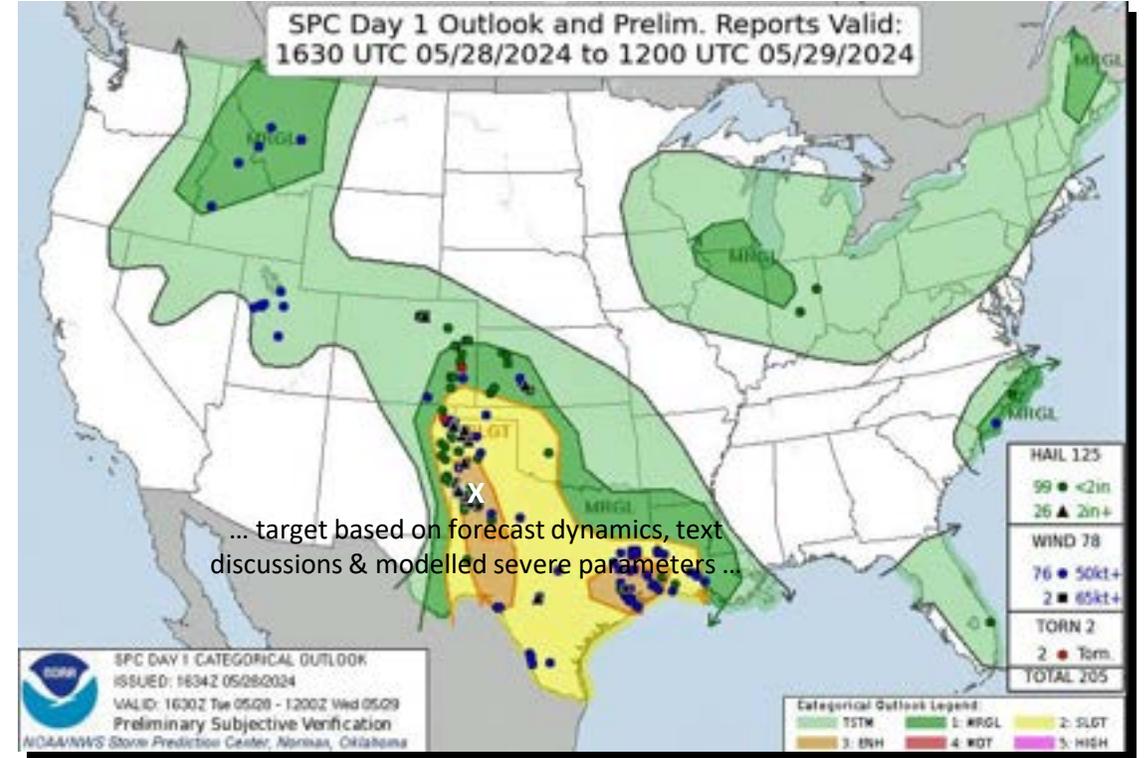


... 8:09 pm updraft & anvil at sunset on retreating storm, to our SE in Lubbock, TX ...

The chase day in maps ... Day 4, May 28th



... where we drove on the day – 473 miles from Stephenville, TX to Lubbock, TX via Sudan, TX ...

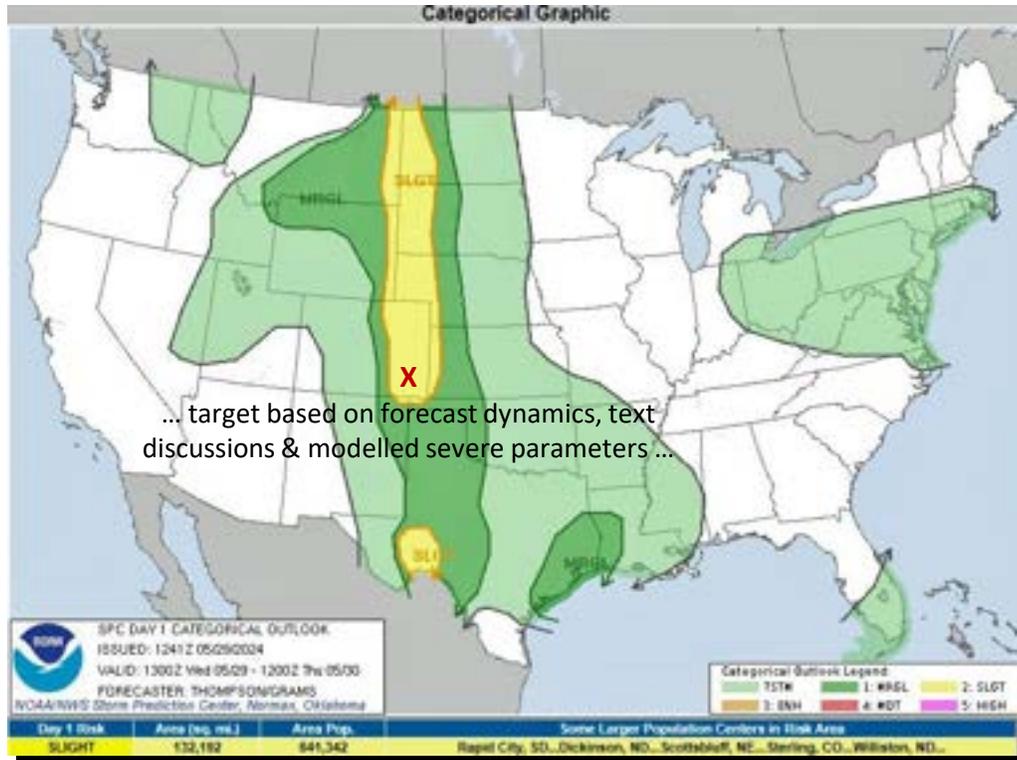


... target based on forecast dynamics, text discussions & modelled severe parameters ...

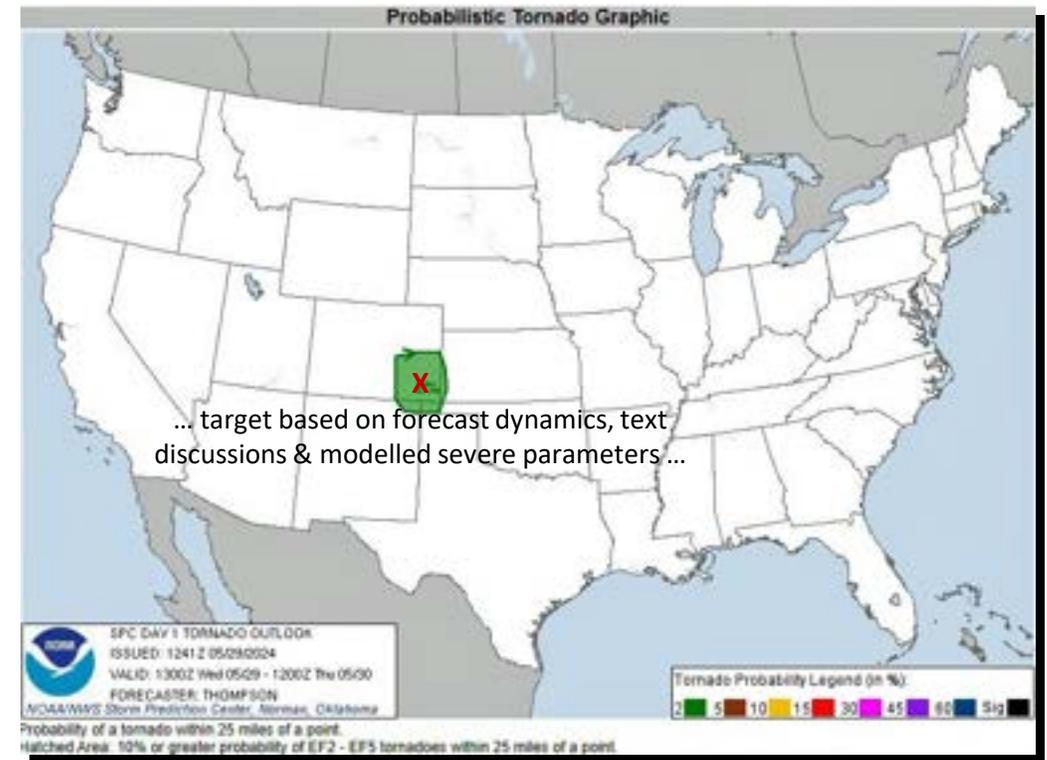
... where the storm reports were on the day, mapped on the updated SPC Outlook from 11:30 am CDT ...

The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 5, May 29th

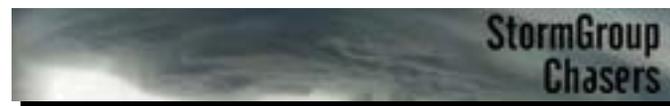
Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – chasing guidance only for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...
<refer chase account for specific targeting analysis and tactics for the day>



The chase day in words ... Day 5, May 29th

... another fabulous day chasing 😎 ... drove 557 miles today from Lubbock, TX to Liberal, KS via Lamar, CO ... while not forecasted as severe a day as yesterday, SPC had a small area of 2% tornado risk in SE Colorado, so in respect to the Campo tornado in 2010 on a similar setup, decided to target this area after assessing parameters & CAMs for the area - best conditions appeared to be the 6-8 pm CDT timeframe for possible tornadoes, based on soundings in the area ... away from Lubbock after a good breakfast at The Lubbock Breakfast & Grill ... side visit into Ransom Canyon, TX to see the Robert Bruno Steel House, and enjoy the view over Ransom Lake in the morning sunshine - away north about 10 am CDT ... the SPC in their late morning update extended the 2% tornado risk corridor further north in Colorado ... stopped for a picnic lunch in Stratford, TX only to find the picnic tables missing from Pendleton Park ... arrived in Springfield, CO, gassed up, & picked up Subway for “on the road” dinner needs, then set off north about 3:30 pm MDT to Lamar, CO to target the first storms of the day ... we then ended up chasing a series of severe-warned & tornado-warned storms in & around Lamar, CO, as they fired up on a boundary, and then moved NE, weakening & then merging with a new storm from the SW - the “virtual complex” basically occupied the same area for 4 hours - during that time we had dramatic dry downbursts, impressive storm structure, multiple radar rotations, intense barrages of CGs, storms tornado-warned several times, lots of very promising lowerings rotating under the bases, and also sighted a brief white funnel - topped off by a dramatic sunset shot as crepuscular rays shone under a turbulent base ... finally broke away by about 7:30 pm MDT for the 2 1/2 hour drive to our hotel, booked in anticipation of chasing storms SE to Kansas as per the HRRR models ... as we drove east into Kansas, it got darker so there was a great lightning display to our north & northwest as we drove along ... stopped east of Johnson City, KS in a dark area to get our and watch the lightning 😎⚡⚡⚡ ... finally into our hotel by about 11:20 pm CDT ... it was a day that outperformed expectations - so close to dropping a tornado 🌩️😎 ... and our late drive tonight has positioned us well for tomorrow’s desired setup target in the southern Texas Panhandle ...



During the chase ... Day 5, May 29th



... 3:48 pm MDT – heading north from Springfield, CO to target first storms ...



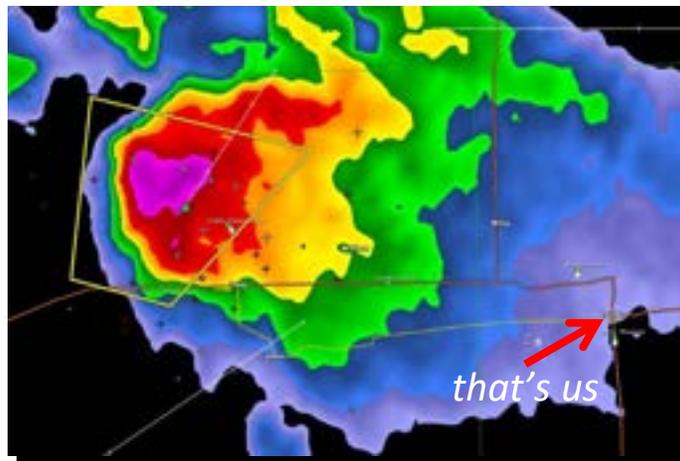
... 4:08 MDT – dry downburst south of Lamar, CO ...



... 4:10 pm MDT – watching storm develop ...



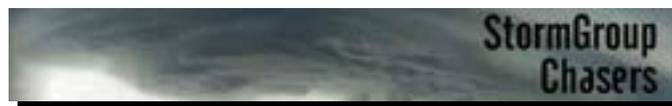
... 4:19 pm MDT – mammatus under anvil streaming downwind ...



... 4:43 pm MDT – heading north to get under intensifying severe-warned storm west of Wiley, CO ...



... 5:38 pm MDT – storms merging – yet another new one to the SW ...



During the chase ... Day 5, May 29th



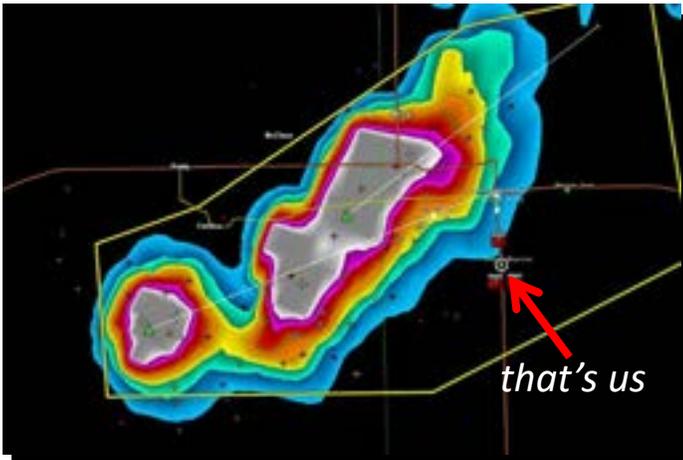
... 5:57pm MDT – video of CG lightning ...



... 5:59 MDT – storms merging again – we're dropping south from Lamar, CO ...



... 6:04 pm MDT – tornado-warned to our NW ...



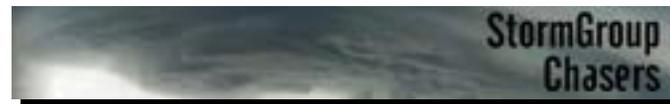
... 6:21 MDT – reported a brief white funnel cloud – confirmed by 2 other chasers ...



... 6:23 pm MDT – not quick enough with camera to capture the white funnel, base still rotating ...



... 6:23 pm MDT – new circular base forming on storm to the SW south of Lamar, CO ...



During the chase ... Day 5, May 29th



... 6:38 pm MDT storms merging once again SW of Lamar, CO ...



... 6:41 MDT – new rotating base ...



... 6:54 pm MDT – trying hard to form a funnel ...



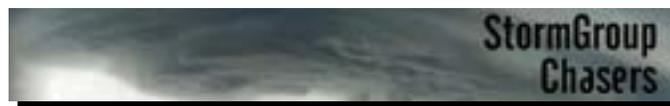
... 6:58 pm MDT – tornado-warned right in front of our position ...



... 6:58 pm MDT – hook echo forming ...



... 7:07 pm MDT – almost, but not quite a tornado – would have been an ideal vantage point this close ...



During the chase ... Day 5, May 29th



... 7:09 pm MDT – base still rotating strongly ...



... 7:21 MDT – crepuscular rays ...



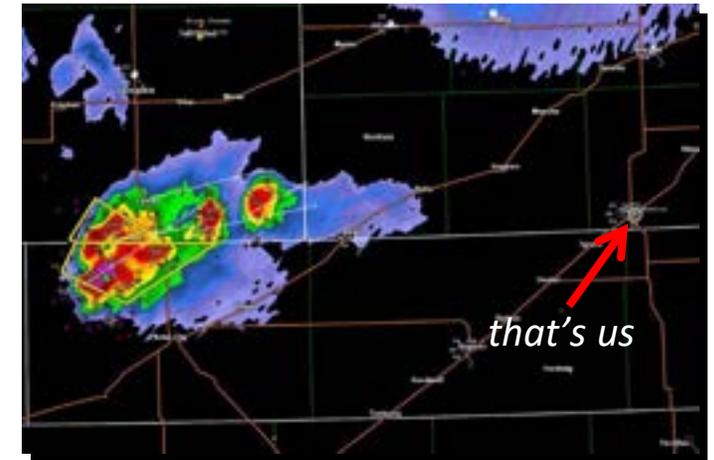
... 7:42 pm MDT – heading south, finally breaking off the chase - storm still rotating, ever the “tease” ...



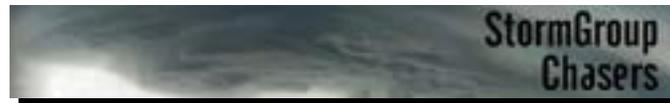
... 9:21 pm MDT – back in Kansas – cool lightning show to the north & northwest under the anvil ...



... 9:44 pm MDT – roadside video of lightning ...



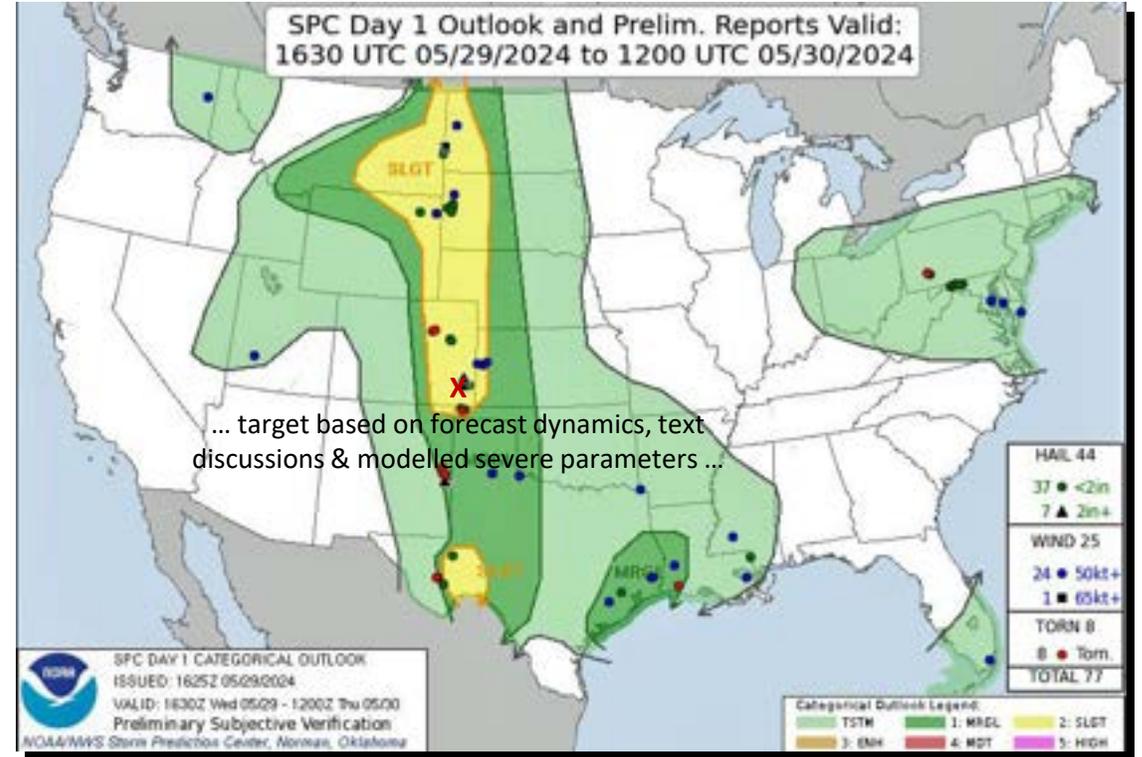
... 11:51 pm CDT – new storm complex heading for our hotel in Liberal, KS ...



The chase day in maps ... Day 5, May 29th



... where we drove on the day – 557 miles from Lubbock, TX to Liberal, KS via Lamar, CO ...

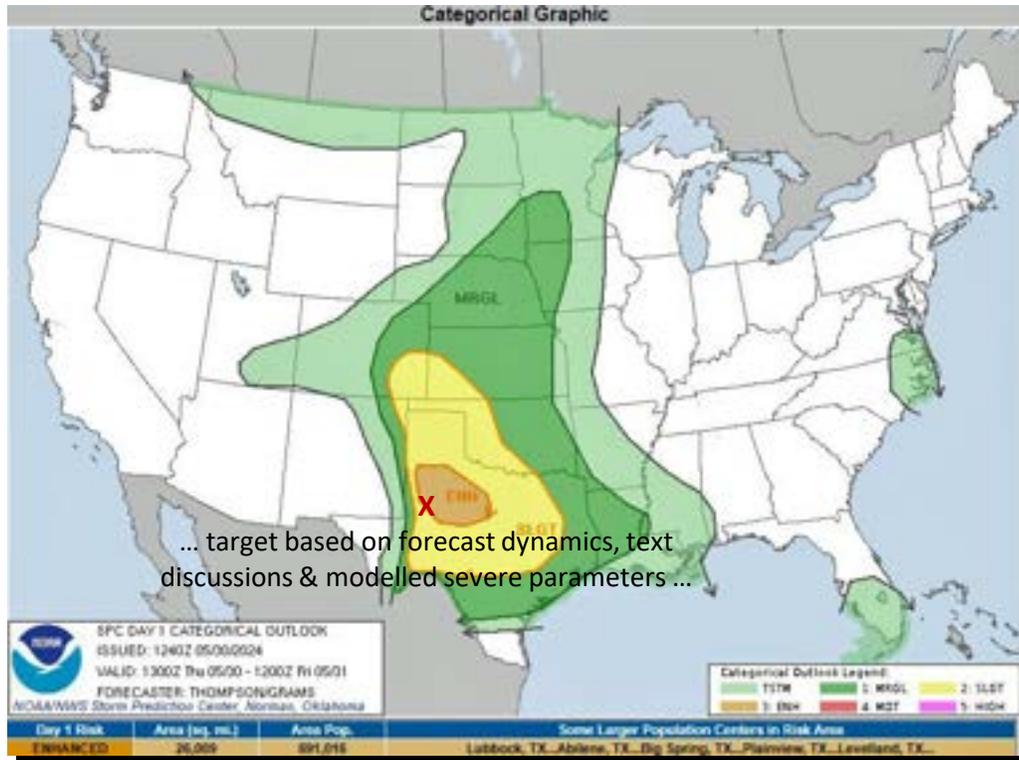


... target based on forecast dynamics, text discussions & modelled severe parameters ...

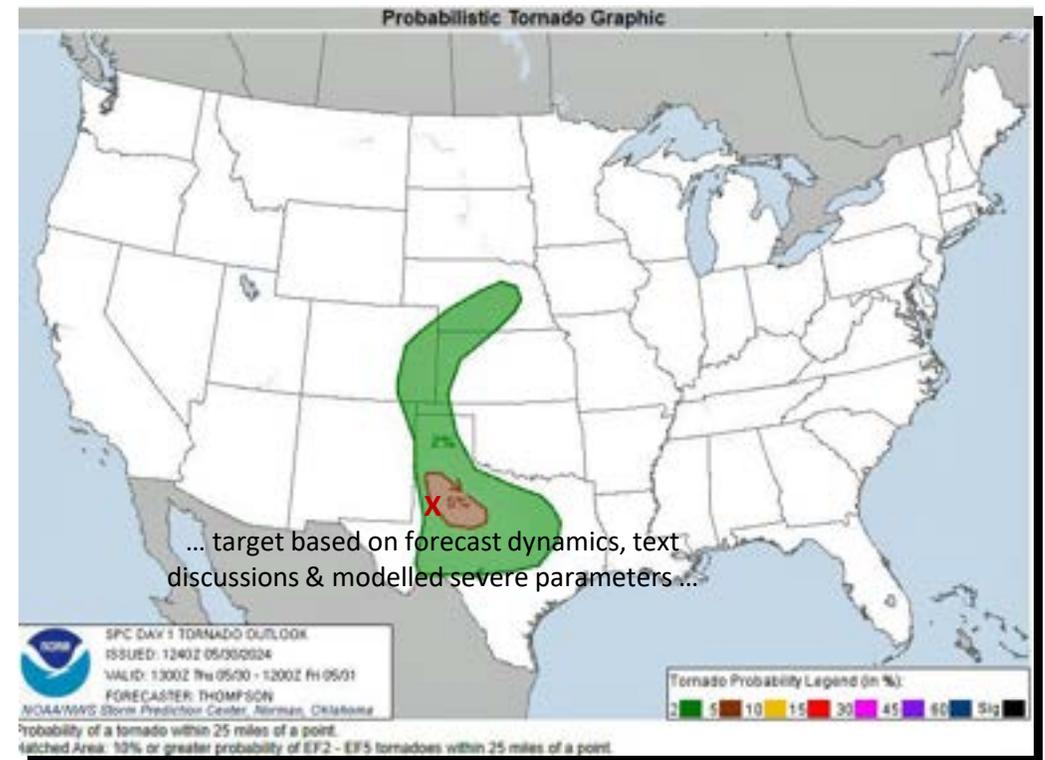
... where the storm reports were on the day, mapped on the updated SPC Outlook from 11:30 am CDT ...

The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 6, May 30th

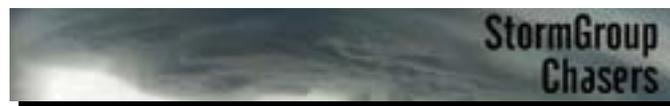
Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – chasing guidance only for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...
<refer chase account for specific targeting analysis and tactics for the day>



The chase day in words ... Day 6, May 30th

... some jaw-dropping sights today!! 😎 ... drove 610 miles today from Liberal, KS to San Angelo, TX via Rankin, TX ... targeted an area southwest of Lubbock, TX - the primary variable today was the location on an outflow boundary from overnight & morning storms in the Texas Panhandle - the eventual location of this boundary in conjunction with a sharpening dry line moving eastwards would be the favoured locus for initiation, and possibly tornadic storms as they moved along this boundary ingesting vorticity - the HREF/SREF showed a high probability of tornadoes in the 4 hr time period to 10 pm CDT - so maybe some after-dark chasing ... after a delay getting away from the hotel, finally away from Liberal about 10:45 am after a good breakfast at The Pancake House ... cloudy skies heading south with all the convective debris from overnight/morning storms ... through Perryton, TX about 11:30 am CDT where much demolition was underway of the damaged buildings in the north end of town from last year's deadly tornado ... into Amarillo, TX about 1:45 pm CDT with it becoming evident that the outflow boundary was surging much further south & southwest from its forecasted position of a Tulia to Matador, TX line ... in fact by the time we arrived at Lubbock, TX about 3:30 pm CDT, the boundary had surged near to Midland, TX in an arc curving back to just north of the SE end of New Mexico ... our original target of Seminole, TX was well behind the boundary now ... a Tornado Watch was issued mostly to the south of our target area at 3:30 pm CDT ... stopped about 4:00 pm CDT in Brownfield, TX to reassess, most of the updrafts arriving from New Mexico were evaporating from their bases, leaving a lot of orphan anvils drifting by ... Rick convinced me into taking our chase SE to Big Spring, TX to target a promising storm near Midland, TX which was riding the boundary ... this shift southwards in the forecasted boundary would add over 2 hrs to our drive time to target this storm, putting us somewhat on the back foot ... however, HRRR still forecast a couple of tracked supercells from this area, and the STP & VTP parameters showed a bullseye co-located with this convection, along with forecast soundings showing TOR values ... as we dropped SE to Big Spring, the storm was progressively severe-warned, then tornado-warned, then tornado on the ground, then tornado emergency - in very short order - hitting a 64,000 ft echo top as we turned west under the storm from south of Garden City, TX ... from there we stopped numerous times to gape at the amazing structure on this storm, only getting chased away by 1/2" hail falling on us ... we came close to sighting a tornado, a black mass behind rain curtains, but can't really take visual credit - however it does line up with rotation data & spotter reports ... however, the main show was the stupendous structure, especially towards the end of its life cycle as it morphed into a classic barber pole updraft - boiling upwards into the anvil, while corkscrewing visibly in front of us ... finally a dramatic view in the setting sun from Rankin, TX ... what a day!! 😎



During the chase ... Day 6, May 30th



... 4:58 pm CDT – dropping south towards severe-
warned storm near Midland/Odessa, TX ...



... 5:06 pm CDT – storm tornado-warned as
it heads towards Midland/Odessa, TX ...



... 5:16 pm CDT – “tornado on the ground” near
Midland/Odessa, TX – echo top over 60,000ft ...



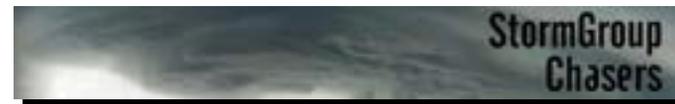
... 5:20 pm CDT – strong hook echo ...



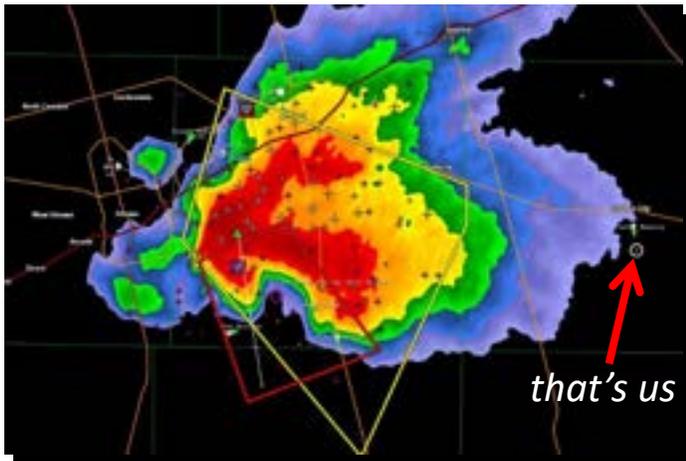
... 5:26 pm CDT – second “tornado on
the ground” warning ...



... 5:35 pm CDT – “Tornado Emergency” declared
as storm moves through Midland/Odessa, TX ...



During the chase ... Day 6, May 30th



... 6:02 pm CDT – tornado-warned again as we get closer to intercept ...



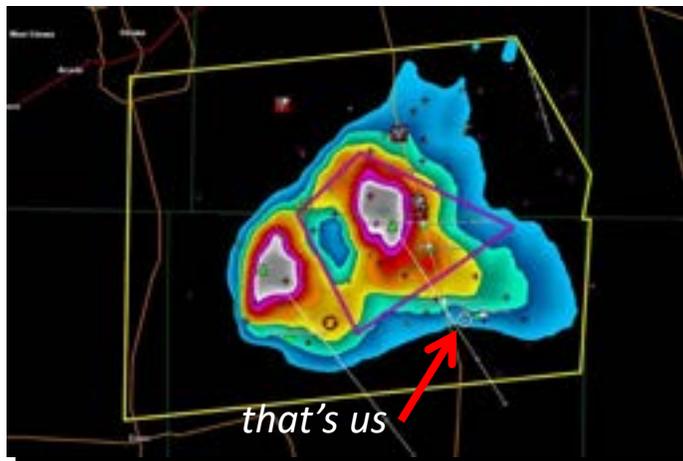
... 6:36 pm CDT – stunning structure as we get our first visibility under the base ...



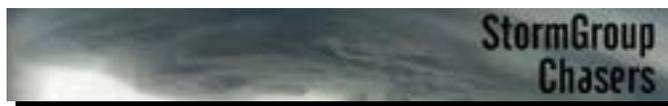
... 6:46 pm CDT – “tornado on the ground” warning once again as we get closer visibility ...



... 6:58 pm CDT – stunning pedestal base under the storm structure ...



... 7:06 pm CDT – tucked right up to the VIL core – getting pelted by ½” hail forced several staged retreats ...



... 7:09 pm CDT – massive updraft column exploding upwards, inflow dust being sucked in from the left ...

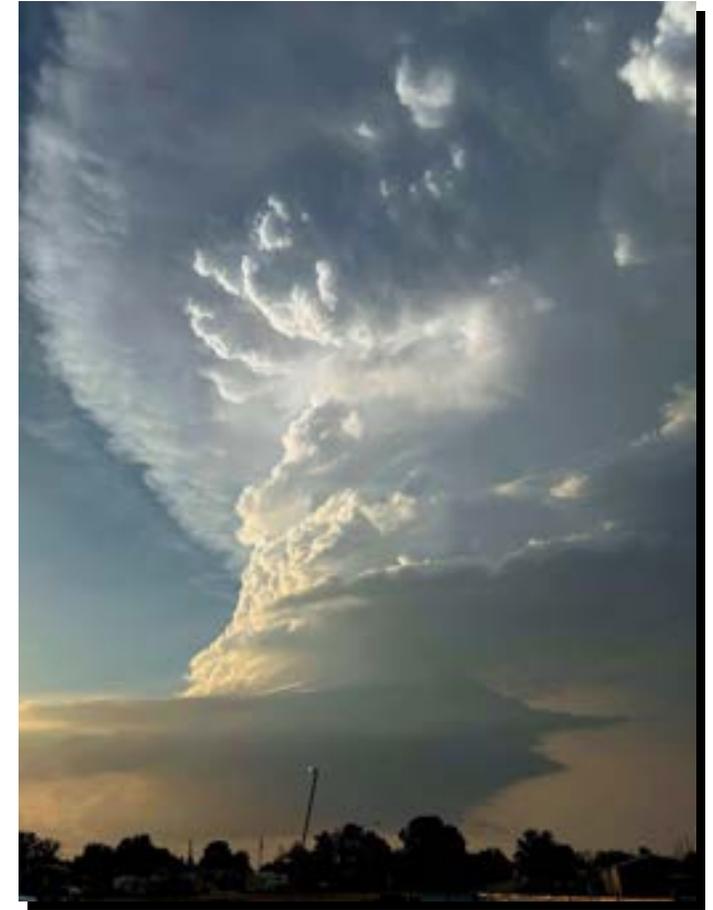
During the chase ... Day 6, May 30th



... 7:31 pm CDT – capping increasing enhancing sculpting of the structure ...



... 7:41 pm CDT – updraft still just booming upwards into the anvil ...

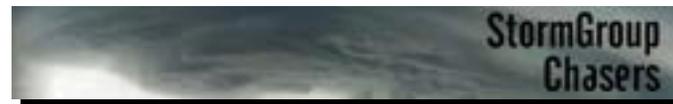


... 8:12 pm CDT – last view from Rankin, TX of a classic “barber pole” structure illuminated by the setting sun ...

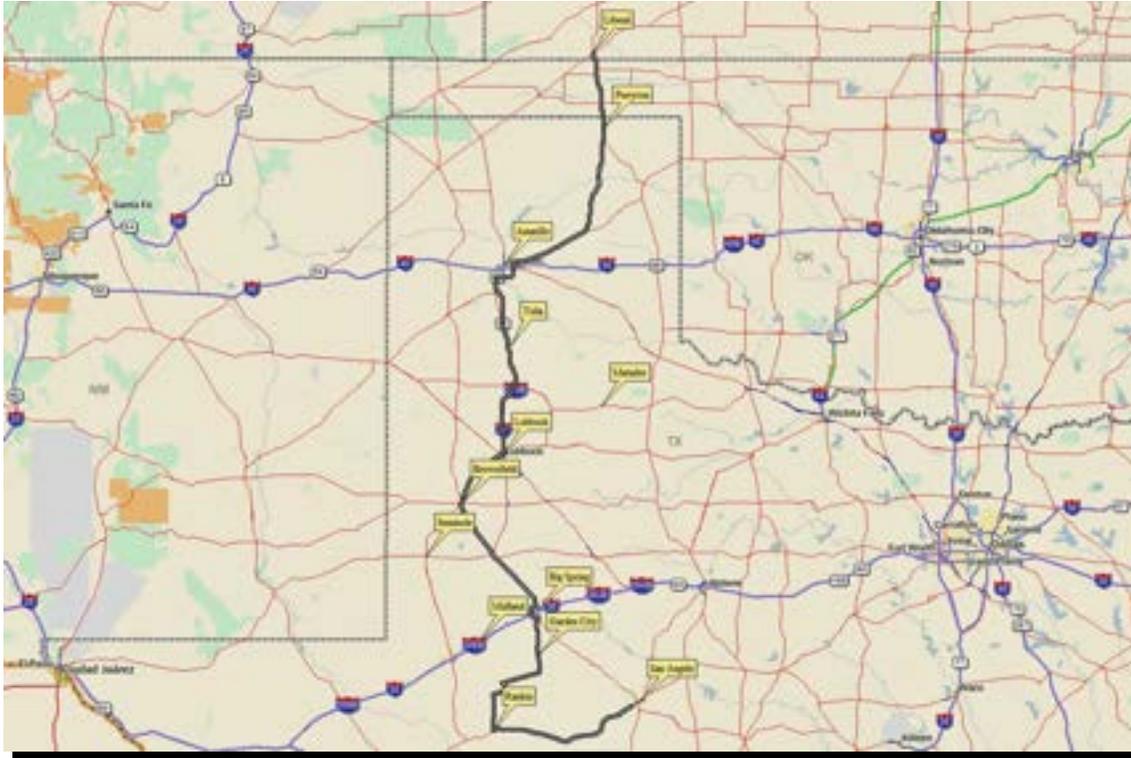
During the chase ... Day 6, May 30th



... ~ 7:26pm CDT - stunning time lapse video by Alex –
roadside stop between Midkiff & Rankin, TX ...



The chase day in maps ... Day 6, May 30th



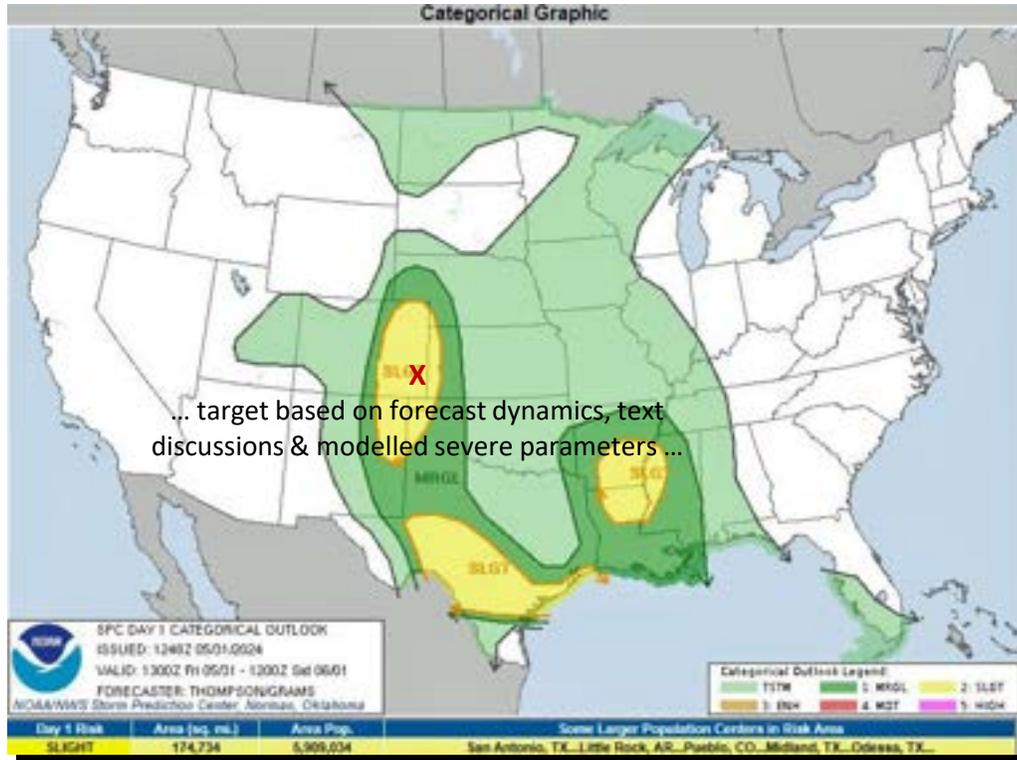
... where we drove on the day – 610 miles from Liberal, KS to San Angelo, TX via Rankin, TX ...



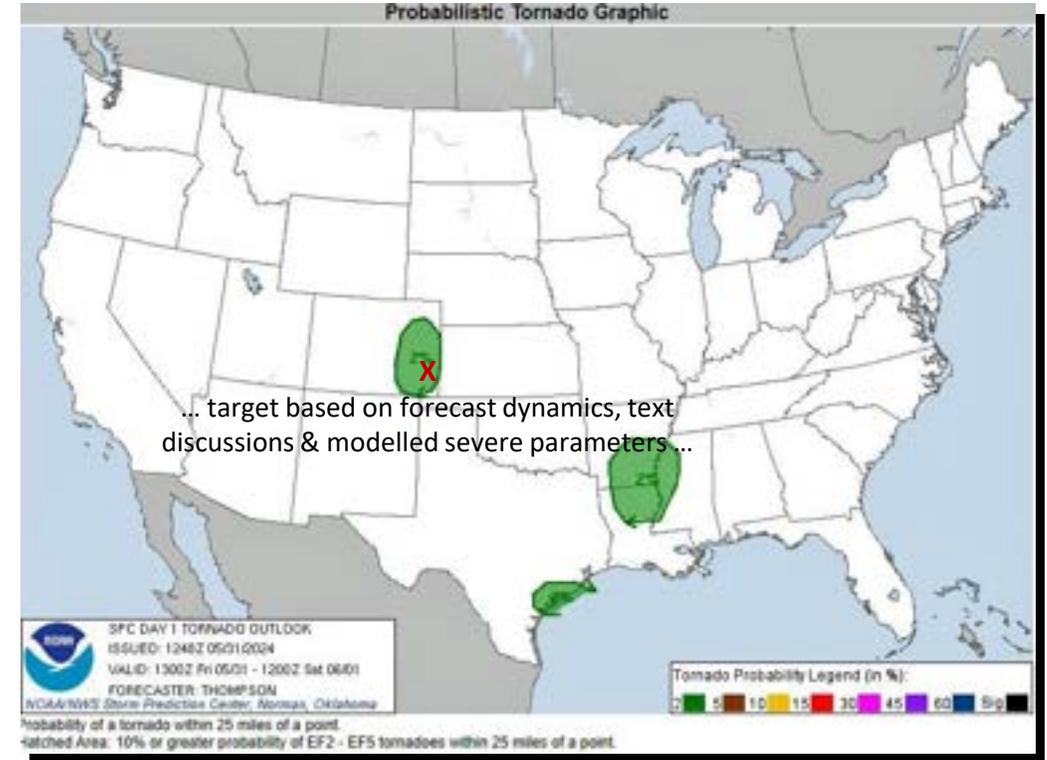
... where the storm reports were on the day, mapped on the updated SPC Outlook from 11:30 am CDT ...

The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 7, May 31st

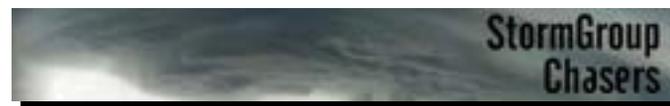
Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – chasing guidance only for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...
<refer chase account for specific targeting analysis and tactics for the day>



The chase day in words ... Day 7, May 31st

... drove 712 miles today from San Angelo, TX to Lamar, CO via Aroya, CO ... away early this morning from the hotel at about 7 am for the long drive up to Colorado ... target looking like Lamar, CO and points west on US50 ... SPC had a large Slight Risk area, with a corridor of 2% tornado risk in eastern Colorado - the Pueblo local forecaster suggested shear & helicity values would be maximised along & north of US50, and looking at models there did seem to be convergence & backing of surface winds in this area, however the CAMs seemed to be suggesting northeast New Mexico/western Oklahoma Panhandle for storms - dialled in Lamar, CO as a target pending midday updates ... away from San Angelo, with McDs breakfast in hand, under cloudy skies & some heavy showers lingering from overnight storms, clearing skies by the time we reached Snyder, TX about 9:00 am CDT ... into Lubbock, TX about 10:15 am CDT under calm clear blue skies ... into Amarillo, TX for lunch supplies at Walmart about 12:15 pm CDT, then up to Dalhart, TX for a picnic lunch in Rita Blanca Park in the sunshine <turns out frisbee is a dangerous sport, eh Adam!! 🤦> ... chance to reassess the afternoon/evening target for storms - CAMs looking better for this evening near Lamar, better organised storms in higher dewpoints ... continued heading up to Lamar after lunch, into Springfield, CO about 3:30 pm MDT, with a messy complex of storms to the southwest <this was to be the bane of our setup further north> ... Severe Thunderstorm Watch issued over our target area at 3:45 pm CDT ... arrived in Lamar about 5:30 pm MDT, checked into our hotel, then had a delicious dinner at Tavern 1301 across the road, while we waited for storms to initiate - meso discussion issued saying severe storms would initiate in the next couple of hours ... headed north to Kit Carson, CO about 6:30 pm MDT to intercept severe-warned storm moving SE from Limon, CO ... as we're driving west from Aroya, CO on SR94, a solid wall cloud developed, with a distinct lowering, rising scud, and the first shaping of what looked like a conical funnel at about 45 degrees to the wall cloud ... just then the outflow boundary from the earlier storms to the south arrived, triggered a new updraft, which then collided with the main storm & disrupted the circulation - so no tornado 😞 ... however, we were treated to a great after dark lightning show on the way back to Lamar, stopping several times to watch - a lot of driving for a modest outcome, but then any day with a storm is a good day, eh? "never stop chasing" 🤦😎 ...



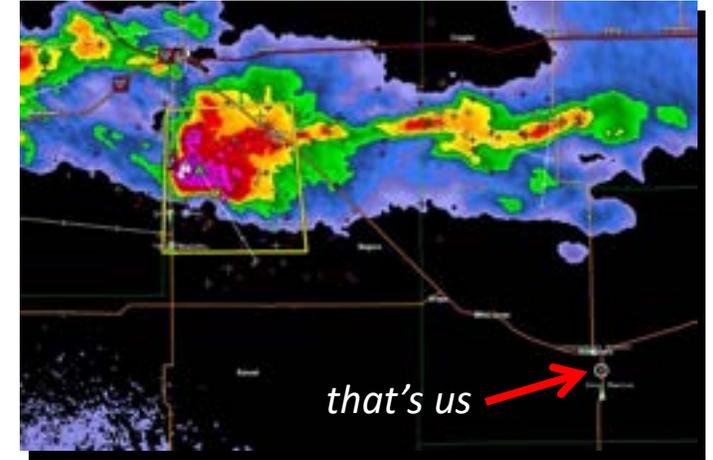
During the chase ... Day 7, May 31st



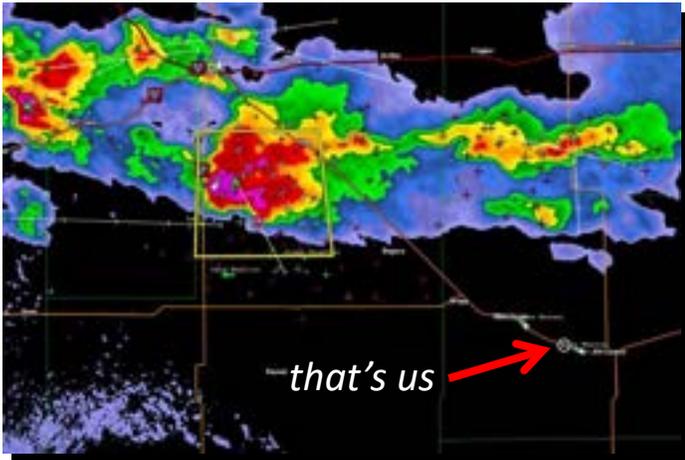
... 3:44 pm MDT – view southwest from Springfield, CO - early complex of storms not in target area ...



... 6:28 pm MDT – heading north from Lamar, CO to target severe-warned storm – note outflow boundary to our west from earlier storms ...



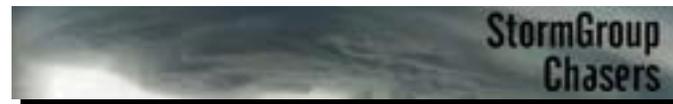
... 7:07 pm MDT – about to turn from Kit Carson, CO towards severe-warned storm – TVS7 marker ...



... 7:15 pm MDT – heading WNW – TVS marker up to 8 – looking good for tornadoes ...



... 7:29 pm MDT – sighted a fat funnel forming, at a 45° angle to the south – tried to get closer to imminent tornado ...



... 7:36 pm MDT – view looking west from near Aroya, CO – incipient funnel/tornado has dissipated due to interference from outflow boundary surging north ...

During the chase ... Day 7, May 31st



... 7:38 pm MDT – storm triggered by outflow boundary merging with our storm – TVS marker now 4 ...



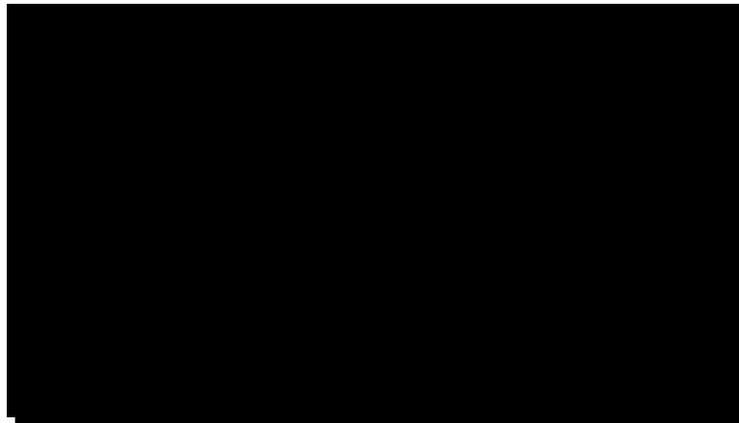
... 7:42 pm MDT – lightning video from near Aroya, CO ...



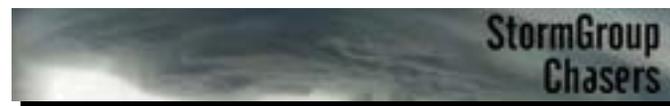
... 7:52 pm MDT – grainy photo taken while driving of dark lowering under the base, unsure if rotating ...



... 8:04 pm MDT – becoming a linear, lightning-filled “rainy mess” as outflow boundary undercuts the storms – tornado threat over ...



... 9:09 pm MDT – video of lightning on the line of storms ...

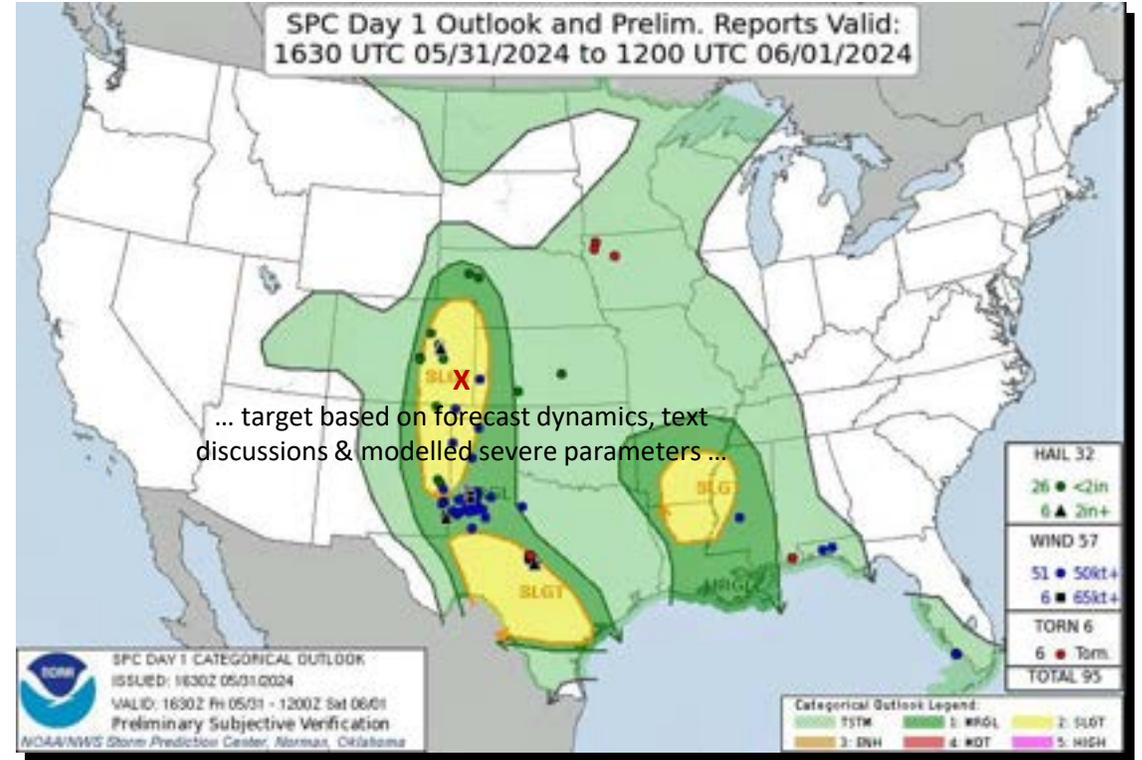


... 10:02 pm MDT – back in our hotel in Lamar. CO – rapidly weakening line of storms just to our north with some dramatic CGs under the outflow shelf cloud ...

The chase day in maps ... Day 7, May 31st



... where we drove on the day – 712 miles from San Angelo, TX to Lamar, CO via Aroya, CO ...

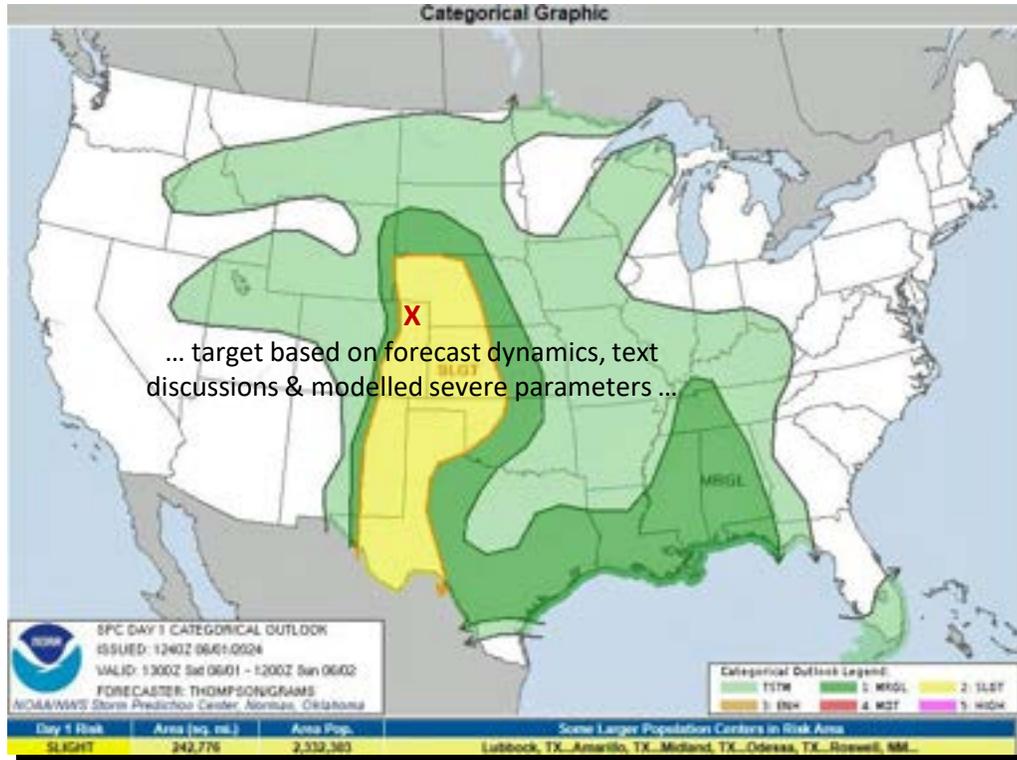


... target based on forecast dynamics, text discussions & modelled severe parameters ...

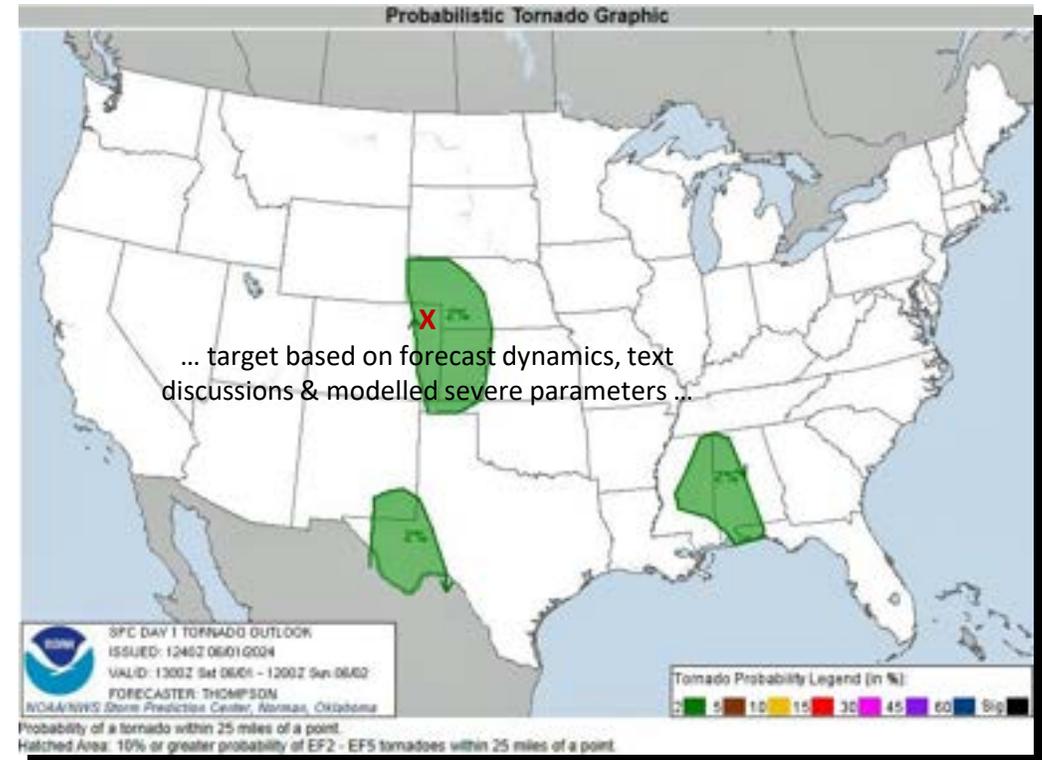
... where the storm reports were on the day, mapped on the updated SPC Outlook from 11:30 am CDT ...

The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 8, June 1st

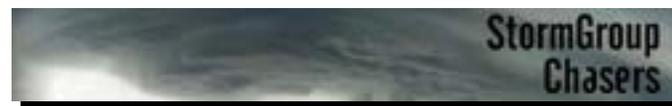
Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – chasing guidance only for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...
<refer chase account for specific targeting analysis and tactics for the day>



The chase day in words ... Day 8, June 1st

... drove 496 miles today from Lamar, CO to North Platte, NE via Fort Morgan, CO ... targeted Sterling, CO in NE Colorado - plan was to pick up early storms here, track them eastwards as they intensified moving into better dewpoints, then realised their tornadic potential in SW Nebraska in the early evening as the low level jet picked up - parameters improving over the day from the early morning analysis ... away from Lamar about after breakfast at Becky's Restaurant ... into Fort Morgan about 1:30 pm MDT for a picnic lunch in Riverside Park - convection initiating already just over the Wyoming border ... into Sterling, CO about 3:00 pm MDT then headed a short distance west to observe a developing severe-warned storm, still early ... returned to Sterling as a new storm initiated almost overhead - quickly was severe-warned with rotation - headed east from Sterling to stop & observe - 5 miles west of Fleming, CO decided to drop south on dirt country roads to get in front of the storm for better visibility - moving very slowly, less than 15 kts mostly, the storm developed a superb structure, with some interesting lowerings under a rotating base - almost a tornado? ... once again, a storm roared up from the SW at over 30 kts <what weather physics drives these deviant storms??> and moved across the path of our storm, leaving a cold pool in its wake ... remarkably quickly, as our storm ran into this cold air, the updraft base evaporated, and the mesocyclone structure dissipated ... looking at the dewpoint map on GRLevel3, it was apparent that this storm was moving into cold, lower dewpoints inflow air ... decided to abandon and head northeast towards Holyoke, CO towards other storms moving into warmer air with much higher dewpoints ... unfortunately, the huge anvils spreading to the east dropped cool air over the inflow regions, and these storms started weakening - decided to head north to I76 and then east to North Platte - driving north hit some heavy rain, some bits of hail & bright CGs out both sides of the vehicle ... stopped in Julesburg, CO for a bite to eat at the Julesburg Tavern - deserted except for us and the one person bar/waitress/cook - few games of 8 ball while waiting for dinner - Alex won all three against different challengers 🏆 ... driving east a storm had re-invigorated south of North Platte, so we were treated to a busy lightning display to our right - lightning flickering mysteriously along the horizon, illuminating all sorts of fantastical shapes under the cloud bases, with the occasional brilliant CG ⚡😎 ... into our hotel about 11:00 pm CDT after an enjoyable day chasing, albeit our tornado hunt was once again sabotaged by Mother Nature, despite being positioned on the right storm 😊 ...



... dinner in Julesburg, CO ...



During the chase ... Day 8, June 1st



... 3:21 pm MDT – heading west from Sterling, CO towards severe-warned storm ...



... 3:35 pm MDT – watching storm to our north, convective cumulus starting to fill in overhead ...



... 3:36 pm MDT – looking north from near Stoneham, CO ...



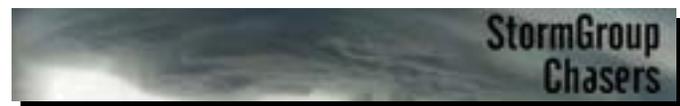
... 3:42 pm MDT – looking west under base as storm gets severe-warned ...



... 4:15 pm MDT – back in Sterling, CO – storms initiating overhead with lightning/thunder ...



... 4:58 pm MDT – watching from east of Sterling, CO as storm intensifies & is severe-warned ...



During the chase ... Day 8, June 1st



... 5:11 pm MDT – clear rotation on lowering under wall cloud, rising scud ...



... 5:12 pm MDT – heading south on dirt road ahead of severe-warned storm, hook echo forming, rotation marker ...



... 5:18 pm MDT – interesting curling, twisting shape around rotation under the base ...



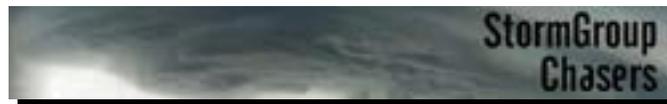
... 5:22 pm MDT – pronounced rotating lowering, looking promising ...



... 5:29 pm MDT – dropping further south, wall cloud reported ...



... 5:38 pm MDT – lowering has dissipated ...



During the chase ... Day 8, June 1st



... 5:42 pm MDT – hook echo weakening ...



... 5:45 pm MDT – base starting to lift/dissipate – mesocyclone structure getting sculpted ...



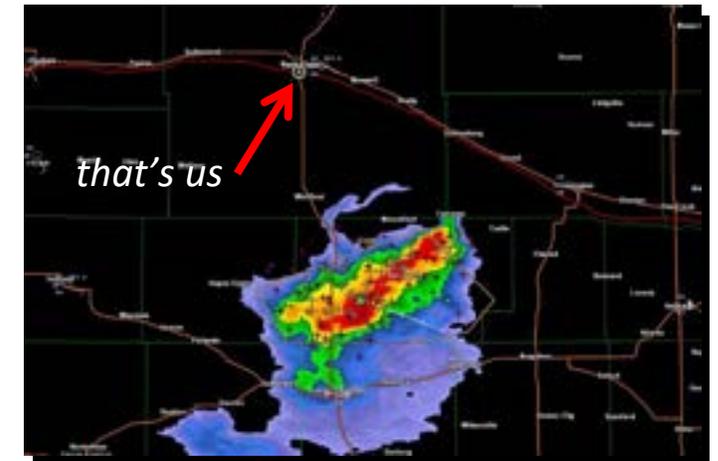
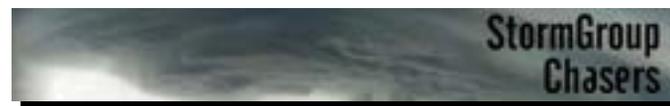
... 5:50 pm MDT – cold outflow arrived from deviant storm heading NE – in 10-15 mins this structure evaporated ...



... 7:20 pm MDT – anvil shield streaming eastwards, dropping cold air into inflow winds undermining any new updrafts ...



... 7:30 pm MDT – looking east, heading to Julesburg, CO – a chase day is complete with a rainbow 😊 ...

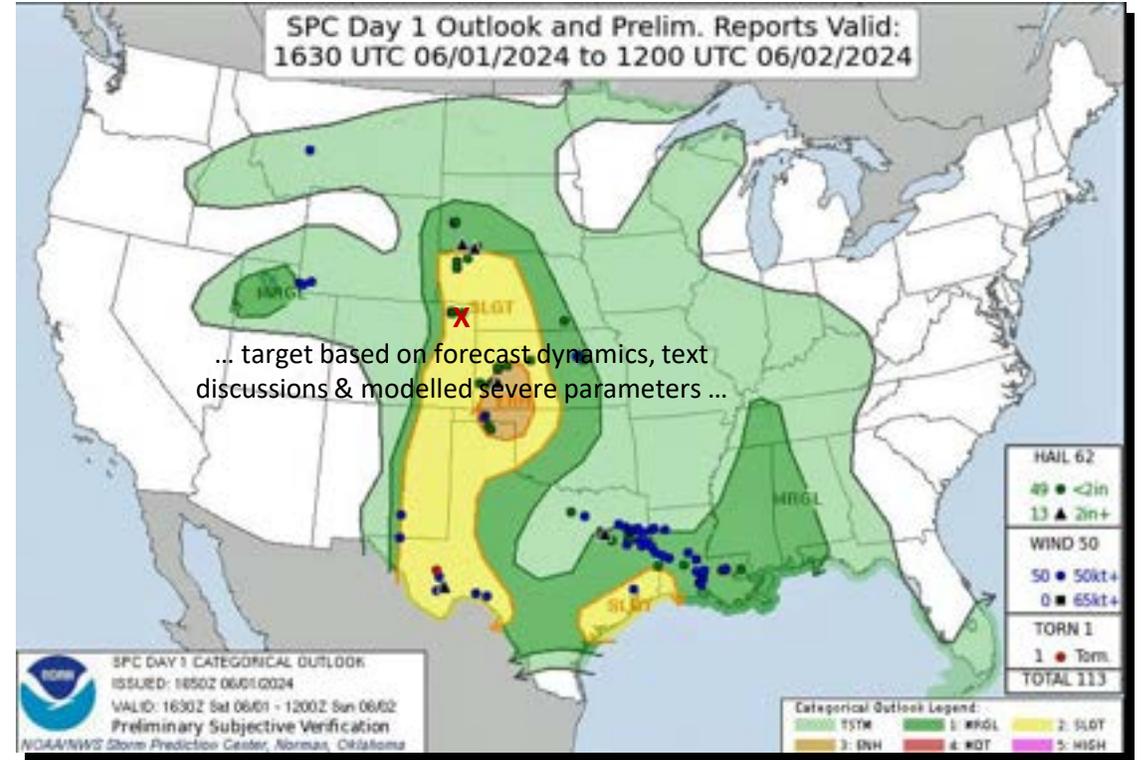


... 10:53 pm CDT – active storm south of North Platte giving us a great lightning show as we head east on I80 ...

The chase day in maps ... Day 8, June 1st



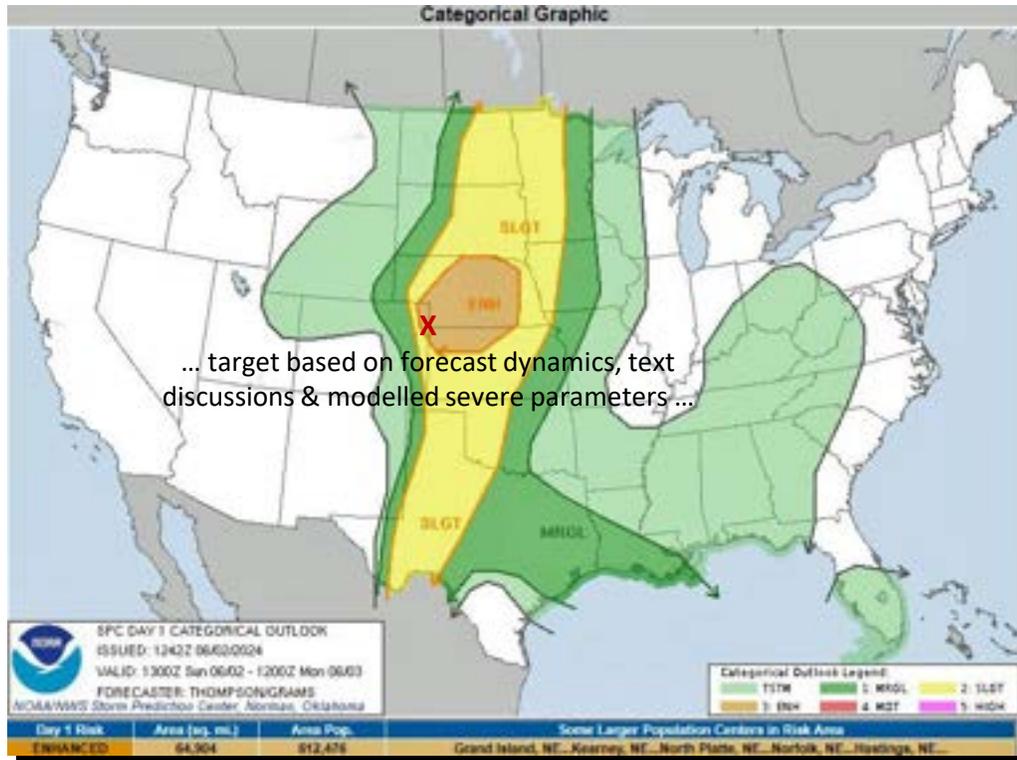
... where we drove on the day – 496 miles from Lamar, CO to North Platte, NE via Fort Morgan, CO ...



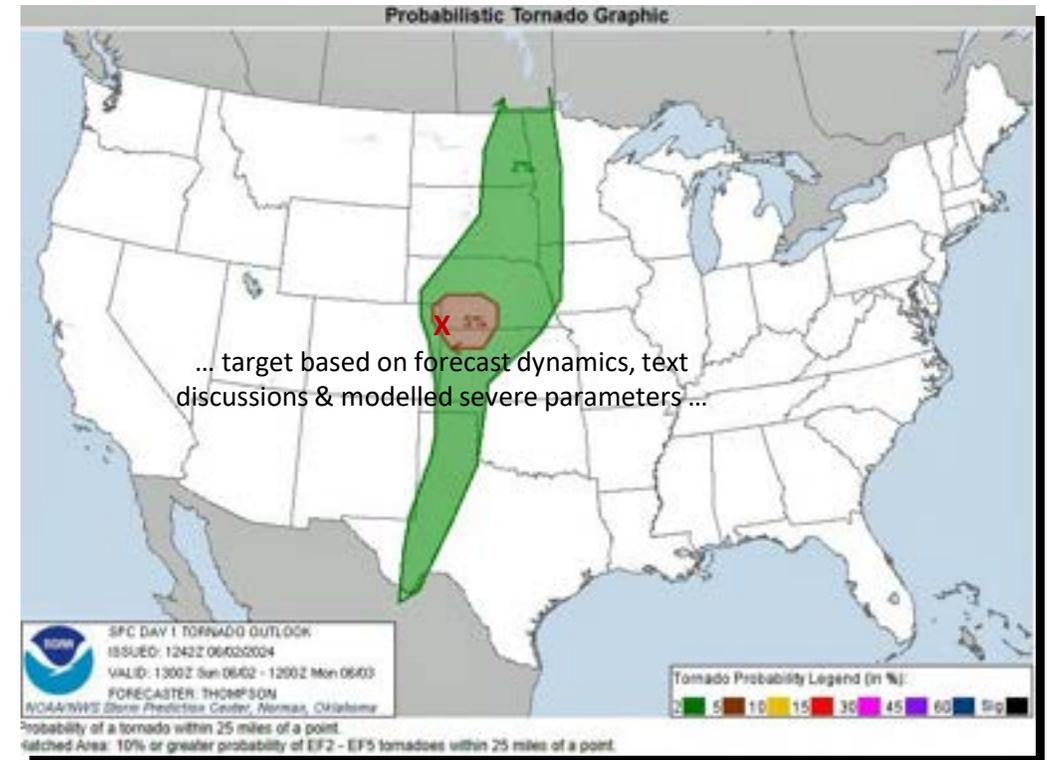
... where the storm reports were on the day, mapped on the updated SPC Outlook from 11:30 am CDT ...

The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 9, June 2nd

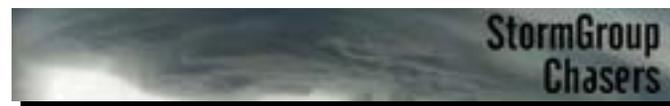
Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook

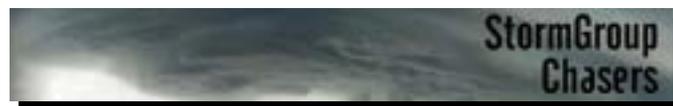


... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – chasing guidance only for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...
<refer chase account for specific targeting analysis and tactics for the day>



The chase day in words ... Day 9, June 2nd

... another great chase day!! 😎 ... drove 385 miles today from North Platte, NE to Goodland, KS via Holyoke, CO ... originally thought to target again near Sterling, CO, but thinking evolved during the morning to more along the NW Kansas/Nebraska borders, just north of a forecasted dry line bulge & backed surface winds ... CAMs supported a target in this area, but also further north on a “tail end Charlie” storm on a line of storms northwards ... considerable uncertainty from the various forecasters & models as the day progressed, one that made a decision necessary one way or the other by mid-afternoon, with a likely initiation underway by 5 pm CDT ... breakfast at Perkins Restaurant, then a visit to the Golden Spike Tower/Bailey Yard <the world’s largest railroad sorting yard>, then a visit to the Buffalo Bill Ranch Museum just north of town, then away from North Platte by about 1:45 pm CDT, Starbucks coffee in hand, heading towards SW Nebraska ... reached Trenton, NE about 3 pm CDT, picked up some “lunch” to go, then decided to head for Wray, CO giving us north/south options, as the CAMs were still having a “bob each way” on north/south targets as to the “best storms” later this afternoon/evening ... reached Wray, CO about about 3:25 pm MDT - looked at radar and decided to head north towards Holyoke to a pair of severe-warned storms diving SE into high 50s dewpoints, vs a storm NE of Limon, CO in mid 40s dewpoints, which we could always intercept later as we stopped south again to Goodland ... headed west from Holyoke, CO to observe the southernmost storm, and while it briefly had an interesting lowering, decided to head back east to track the most severe storm of the pair ... as we headed east from Holyoke, the storm turned violently outflow-dominant, with cold outflow winds up to 110 kts with a dramatic dusty gust front - many of the TVS markers were now indicative of severe outflow winds - quickly moving into “storm fleeing” mode we fled east to Enders, NE stopping several times on the way for quick photos, then time to take escape route south ... just south of Enders, tumbleweeds were streaming across the road from the top of a small hill to the right - as we fled south through the dusty gust front, winds were screaming across the road from our NW buffeting the vehicle ... in & out of the gust front, temps fluctuated between low 70s F & low 80s F ... barely gaining on the dusty gust front at ~ 70 mph, we finally emerged into the clear with temps at 83F & dead calm about 6 miles north of Benkelman, NE ... lots of brilliant CGs to our south as we approached Benkelman about 6:00 pm MDT ... south of Benkelman, an intense VIL core blocked our way, with a 3 1/2” hail marker, and reported golf ball hail on the ground just south of us ... some spectacular CGs as we waited on a hill just south of town - then the gust front from the northwest caught up, and the storms started to intensify further, closing in around us - rain curtains moving from left to right in front of us alerted us to rotation, and this was confirmed by the base velocity scan showing 68 kts of rotation, and a TVS 6 marker showed up just to our SE ... time for discretion over valour, so decided to head west to Haigler, NE and find an alternate route to Goodland ... dropping south to Goodland, from Saint Francis, KS we drove through a small cell with heavy rain and up to 1/2” hail - noisy, but so much less than what we would have encountered south of Benkelman ... into Goodland about 7:45 pm MDT for a McDs dinner, then into our hotel for the night about 8:30 pm MDT ... a very entertaining chase day with some VERY dramatic sights 😎 ...



During the chase ... Day 9, June 2nd



... 3:43 pm MDT – heading north from Wray, CO to target two severe-warned storms from Wyoming ...



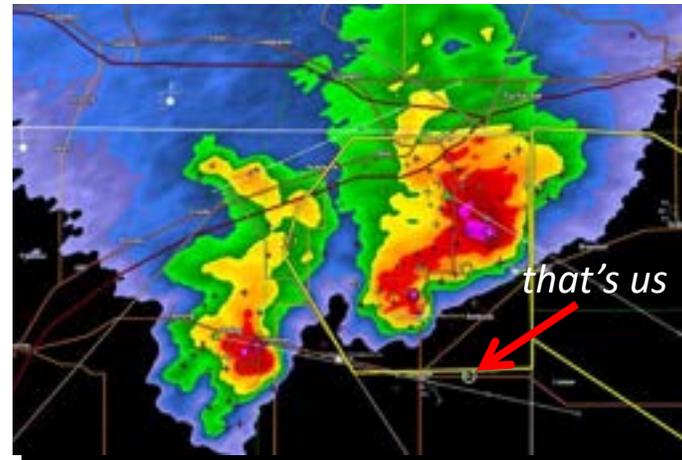
... 4:09 pm MDT – about to head west from Holyoake, CO for southern storm with a rotation marker ...



... 4:34 pm MDT – looking north to the most severe storm ...



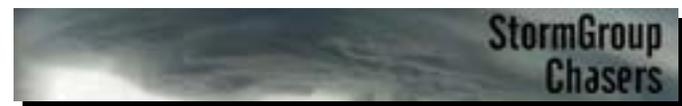
... 4:35 pm MDT – looking west to southern storm, some brief lowerings, soon dissipated - decided to break away to the northern storm ...



... 4:36 pm MDT – just east of Holyoke, CO - storms showing rotation ...



... 4:36 pm MDT – storm looking like it's about to go seriously outflow-dominant ...



During the chase ... Day 9, June 2nd



... 4:47 pm MDT – northern severe-warned storm developing shelf cloud as it goes outflow ...



... 4:48 pm MDT – wall of outflow dust developing to our north & northwest – just east of Holyoke, CO ...



... 4:51 pm MDT – about to shift into “storm fleeing” mode as storm roars SE ...



... 4:58 pm MDT – near Lamar, CO ...



... 5:03 pm MDT – numerous rotation markers for severe outflow – secondary target developing to our SW ...



... 5:17 pm MDT – wall of dust roaring into Imperial, NE – quick photo before fleeing east then south ahead of outflow gust front ...

During the chase ... Day 9, June 2nd



... 5:19 pm MDT – radar view of the bow echo driving the outflow and dust up to 110 kts into Imperial, NE ...



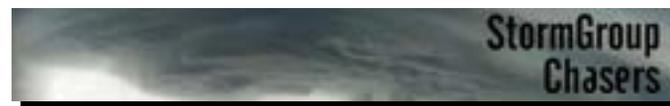
... 5:48 pm MDT – roadside stop, dusty gust front still racing towards us – temps back up to 83F and dead calm, briefly ...



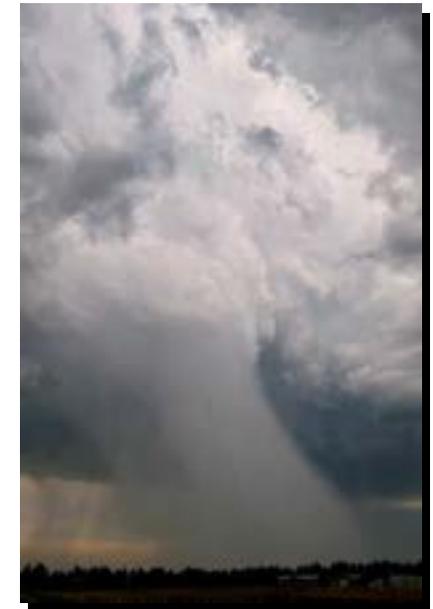
... 5:29 pm MDT – about to escape south from Enders, NE ...



... 5:56 pm MDT – let's wait here, let the VIL core to our south move east, then drop through the line – yeah, right!! 😊...



... 5:35 pm MDT – racing south at 70 mph – barely catching up with dusty gust front ...



... 6:03 pm MDT – hail shaft containing up to golf ball hail – just to our south – can't go that way ...

During the chase ... Day 9, June 2nd



... 6:16 pm MDT – outflow gust front from the north merging with storms from the south – time to exit ...



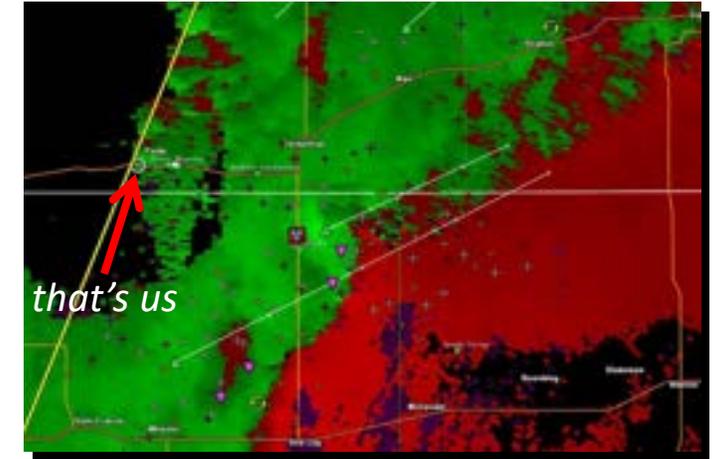
... 6:27 pm MDT – looking east towards storm that had been just to our south near Benkelman, NE ...



... 6:19 pm MDT – hail core just to our SE now has a 3 ½" hail marker & golf ball hail reported on the road south ...



... 6:27 pm MDT – looking west, mammatus under the anvils from storms just to our south ...

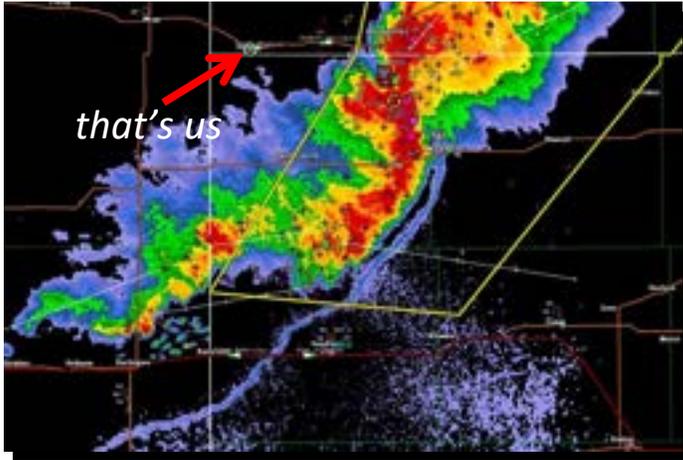


... 6:25 pm MDT – rain curtains moving left to right where we were – rotation confirmed on base velocity radar ...



... 6:28 pm MDT – looking eastwards from where we just exited west ...

During the chase ... Day 9, June 2nd



... 6:40 pm MDT – dramatic outflow boundary <blue line> racing towards Goodland, KS ...



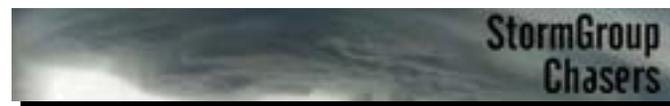
... 7:21 pm MDT – about to drive south through weakening line of storms, one remnant VIL core producing a noisy barrage of 1/2" hail on the roof as we drove through – heavy rain & lots of lightning/CGs still ...



... 7:49 pm MDT – when nothing else is open on a Sunday evening in Goodland, KS – dinner time, after an entertaining chase day ...



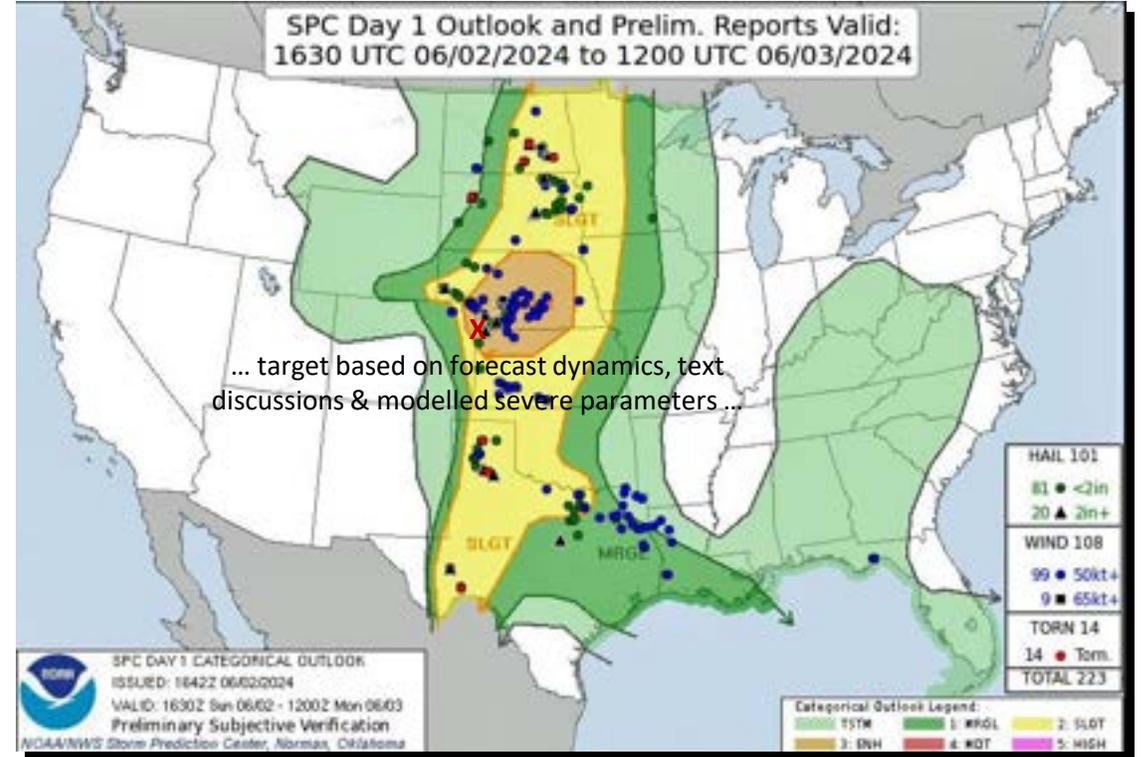
... 8:15 pm MDT – looking eastwards from Goodland, KS under the retreating storm bases/anvils ...



The chase day in maps ... Day 9, June 2nd



... where we drove on the day – 385 miles from North Platte, NE to Goodland, KS via Holyoke, CO ...

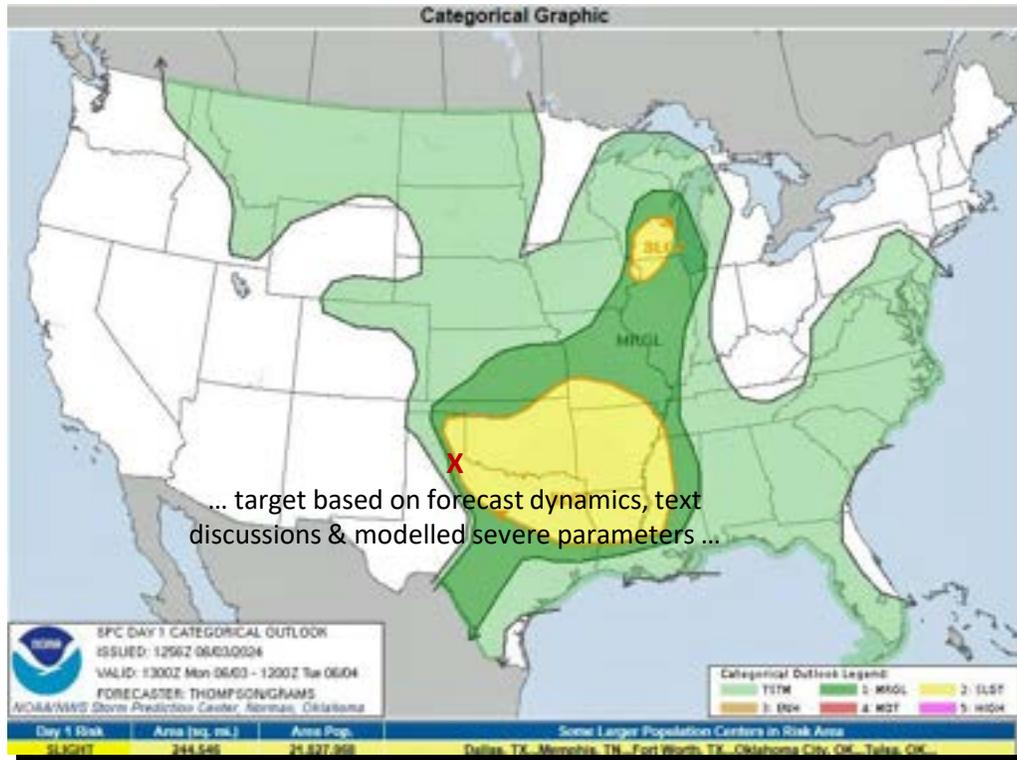


... target based on forecast dynamics, text discussions & modelled severe parameters ...

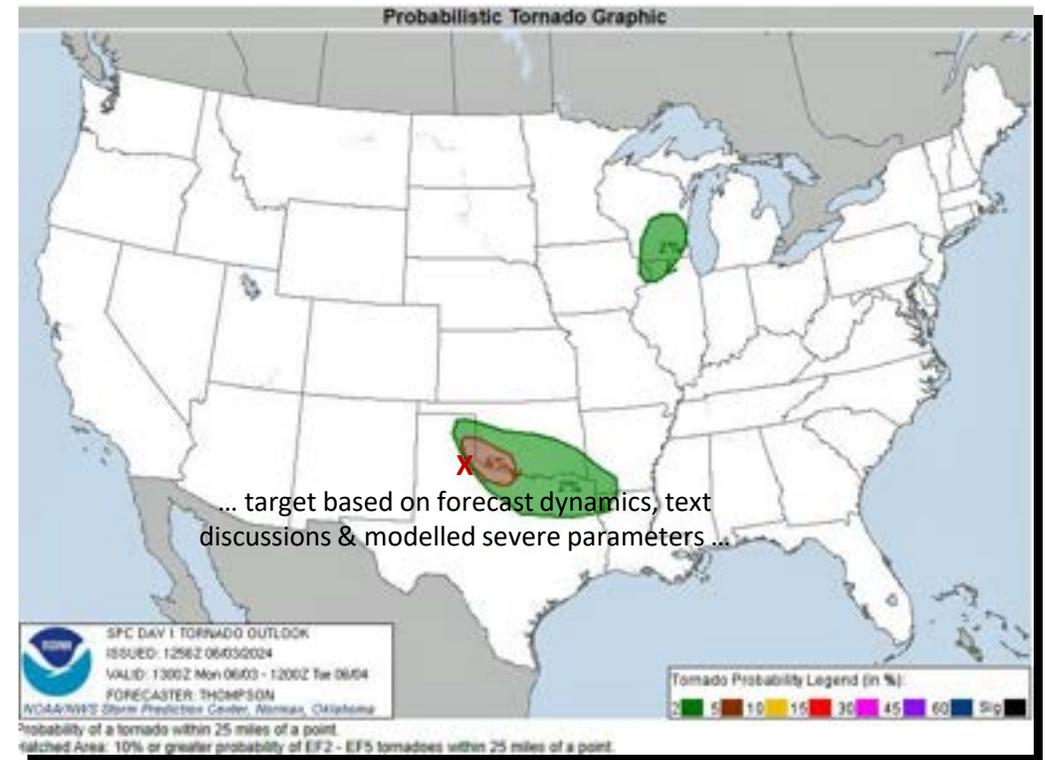
... where the storm reports were on the day, mapped on the updated SPC Outlook from 11:30 am CDT ...

The SPC forecast at 1300 UTC ... Day 10, June 3rd

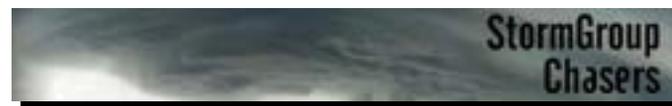
Convective Outlook



Tornado Outlook



... SPC focuses on wider areal coverage – chasing guidance only for storm coverage & intensity – need to analyse other models/forecasts for chase targets ...
<refer chase account for specific targeting analysis and tactics for the day>



The chase day in words ... Day 10, June 3rd

... a somewhat anti-climactic day after 9 straight days of severe storms ... drove 609 miles today from Goodland, KS to Oklahoma City via Childress, TX to conclude Tour 3 of the SGC 2024 season ... woke up this morning surprised that the overnight MCS in Kansas & Oklahoma from yesterday's storms that we had chased, hadn't completely cleared Oklahoma this morning, and was now forecast to plant an outflow boundary near the Red River in SW Oklahoma curving up the Texas Panhandle border with Oklahoma ... SPC had accordingly issued a small 5% Tornado Watch over this area ... parameter analysis suggested top end numbers for tornadoes, IF convection could get going along this boundary - dewpoints to its south in the high 70s ... away from Goodland about 8 am MDT, McDs breakfast in hand once again ... into Perryton, TX about 12:15 pm CDT to pick up takeaway Subway lunch ... stopped in Shamrock, TX for the group photo in front of the Conoco Art Deco Gas Station ... into Wellington, TX about 3:15 pm CDT as a first staging point for today's target, lots of chasers about, saw Pecos Hank in the gas station 😎 ... decided to drop down to Childress as the cumulus looked a little more convective, and convergence was maximised where the outflow boundary intersected a diffuse dry line ... a Severe Thunderstorm Watch was issued over us at 4:45 pm CDT - "a couple of tornadoes possible" - into Childress, TX just before 5:00 pm CDT with initial convective towers going up with temps of 100F, but still capped so they just evaporated again as we watched ... about 6 pm CDT, a few more substantial towers went up, then one with a radar signature showing brief lightning & then hail ... an explosive tornadic environment, just no sustained convection to take advantage of all the "fuel", so decided to head for a steak dinner at the Texas Roadhouse in Lawton, OK and track these weak storms eastwards from Hollis, OK just in case they did anything - but they soon faded out at temps declined to 90F ... into Lawton about 8:15 pm CDT for dinner, and then back to the Wyndham about 10:30 pm CDT ... a very enjoyable active tour with a great group ... many thanks to Rick for all his help with co-driving & co-forecasting 🙌😎 ...



During the chase ... Day 10, June 3rd



... 3:23 pm CDT – trying to get the group organised for the team photo 🤦...



... 6:11 pm CDT – we have lightning ...



... 10:35 pm CDT – Severe Thunderstorm Watch issued over OK City ...



... 6:09 pm CDT – promising updraft in an explosive tornadic setup – IF storms get going ...



... 6:35 pm CDT – about the strongest radar signature we'd get ...

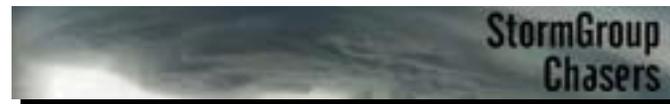


... 6:42 pm CDT – evaporating – too capped ...

... 6:45 pm CDT – fading away on radar ...



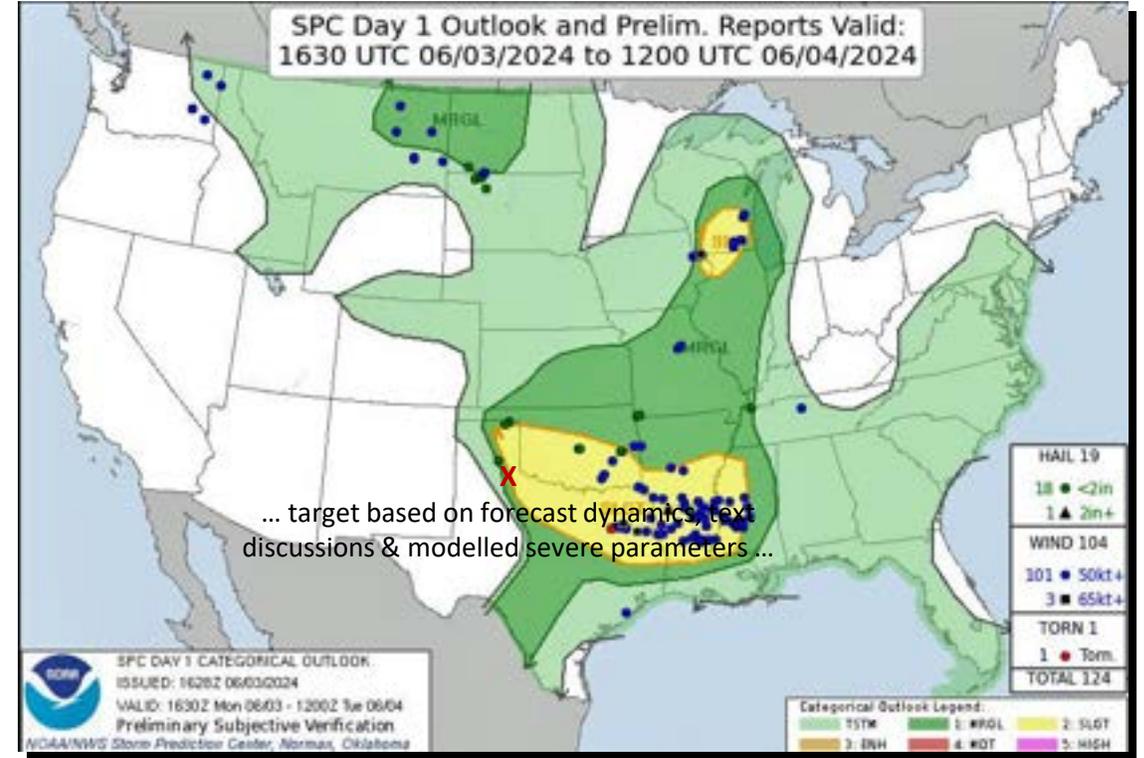
... 11:59 pm CDT – strong storm approaching OK City ...



The chase day in maps ... Day 10, June 3rd



... where we drove on the day – 609 miles from Goodland, KS to Oklahoma City, OK via Childress, TX ...



... where the storm reports were on the day, mapped on the updated SPC Outlook from 11:30 am CDT ...

Chaser “refueling” stops ...

Hotels:

24-May Wyndham Garden - OK City
25-May Hawthorne Suites - Wichita East, KS
26-May La Quinta - Springfield, MO
27-May La Quinta - Stephenville, TX
28-May La Quinta - Lubbock, TX
29-May Super 8 - Liberal, KS
30-May Hawthorne Suites - San Angelo, TX
31-May Days Inn - Lamar, CO
1-Jun Super 8 - North Platte, NE
2-Jun Super 8 - Goodland, KS
3-Jun Wyndham Garden - OK City

Picnic Sites:

29-May Pendleton Park - Stratford, TX
31-May Rita Blanca Park - Dalhart, TX
1-Jun Riverside Park - Fort Morgan, CO

Other Stops:

31 stops at gas stations, convenience stores and supermarkets,
including 3 Walmarts, 3 Starbucks & 5 McDonald’s

Restaurant meals:

25-May Napoli's Italian Restaurant - Enid, OK
26-May Doo Dah Diner - Wichita, KS
26-May Uncle Jack's Bar & Grill - Independence, KS
26-May Texas Roadhouse - Springfield, MO
27-May Peacock's Restaurant - Stephenville, TX
28-May Triple G Cafe - Stephenville, TX
28-May Texas Roadhouse - Lubbock, TX
29-May Lubbock Breakfast House - Lubbock, TX
30-May The Pancake House - Liberal, KS
31-May Tavern 1301 - Lamar, CO
1-Jun Becky's Restaurant - Lamar, CO
1-Jun Julesburg Tavern - Julesburg, CO
2-Jun Perkins Restaurant - North Platte, NE
3-Jun Texas Roadhouse - Lawton, OK



Being a tourist ...



... *“while waiting for storms, there’s always something interesting to do”* – SGC motto ...

Sights:

29-May

Steel House & Rock House - Ransom Canyon, TX

2-Jun

Union Pacific Bailey Yard - North Platte, NE

2-Jun

Buffalo Bill Ranch Museum - North Platte, NE

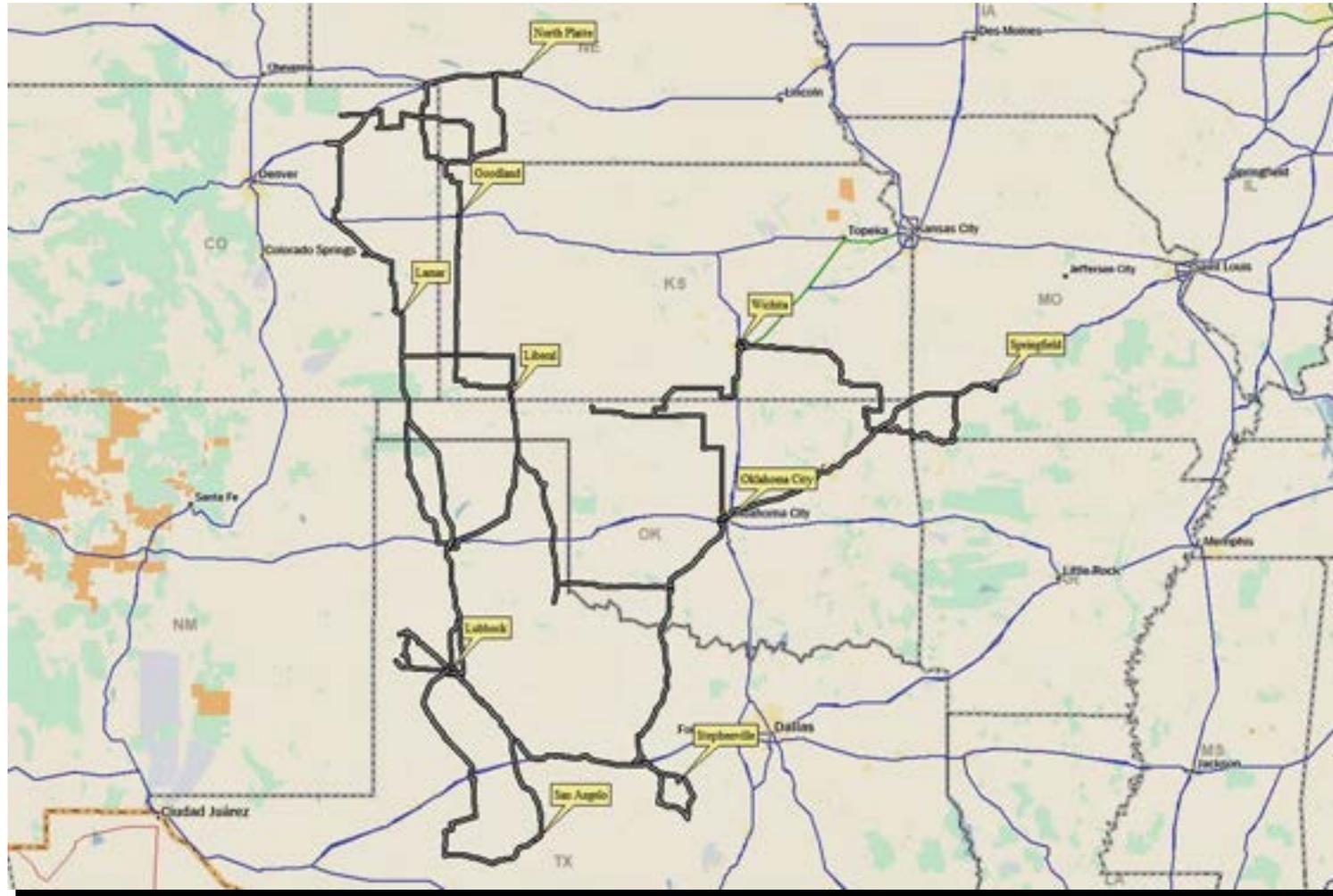
3-Jun

Conoco Art Deco Gas Station - Shamrock, TX



StormGroup
Chasers

The complete journey for Tour 3, 2024... 5,379 miles



... why we chase ... some highlights from 2024 ...



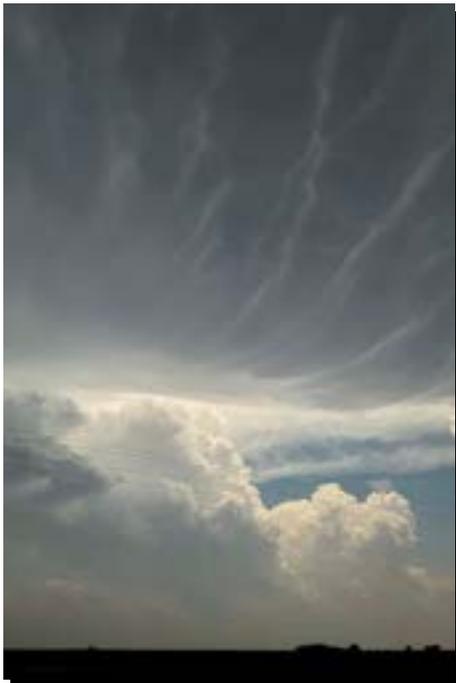
... May 14th – Leoti, KS ...



... May 19th – Ellsworth, KS ...



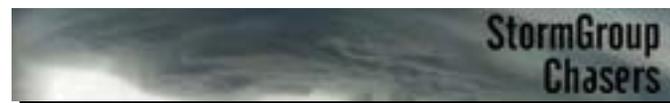
... May 25th – Anthony, KS ...



... May 28th – Sudan, TX ...



... May 29th – Lamar, CO ...



... May 30th – Rankin, TX ...

... why we chase ... some highlights from 2024 ...



... May 30th – Rankin, TX ...



... June 1st – Sterling, CO ...



... June 2nd – Holyoake, CO ...



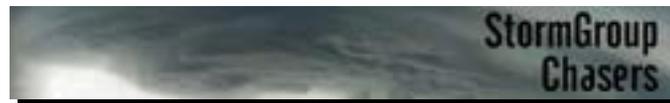
... June 7th – Merna, NE ...



... June 7th – Mason City, NE ...



... June 8th – Seibert, CO ...



... but then, it's really just the sheer spectacle ...



... May 28th – time lapse video by Alex – NE of Morton, TX ...



... May 30th – time lapse video by Alex – roadside stop
between Midkiff & Rankin, TX ...

... but then, it's really just the sheer spectacle ...



... June 7th – time lapse video near Merna, NE ...



... June 7th – time lapse video near Merna, NE ...

... 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.



StormGroup
Chasers

... bring on 2025 ...



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

