



FORENSIC WEATHER CONSULTANTS P.O. BOX 13353 ALBANY, NEW YORK 12212 (518) 229-8846

# **THE FORENSIC FRONT**

## **Forensic Weather Consultants**

[Www.WeatherConsultants.Com](http://www.weatherconsultants.com)

### **A Message From Meteorologist Howard Altschule**

Now that 2006 has ended, I, once again, would like to thank you for sending us your business. Some new cases we became involved in this year were those involving Hurricane Katrina. We visited the Biloxi/Gulfport, MS area to view the damage firsthand and were interviewed for a TV News Special regarding the "Wind versus Water" debate. The Doppler Radar images we used in these cases were extremely helpful in showing the presence of tornadoes and wind damage. This year, our Doppler Radar Images have also proven to be very helpful on slip/fall and flooding cases since we are able to zoom right in on the incident location. We hope that these detailed weather records will help you on future cases you may have also. Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season. *-Howard Altschule*

Winter 2006



*Howard Altschule*  
President  
Consulting Meteorologist

### **Long Term Weather Outlook !!**

The autumn season started out on an unseasonably mild and snow-free note for many of us. The weather pattern in Canada has kept the cold arctic air locked up to the north of the lower 48 states and this has meant near normal or above normal temperatures for much of the United States with below normal snowfall.

There is a better chance that a pattern shift will occur by early February 2007. This shift would bring colder air into the United States and create a more favorable setup for Coastal Nor-Easter's and snowfall. Despite a warm and snow-less fall, I expect a return to near-normal conditions by the second half of winter. This means that February and March 2007 should see several major snowstorms that will produce significant snows across many of the East Coast cities along with very cold temps.

- ◆ WEATHER RECORDS
- ◆ WRITTEN REPORTS
- ◆ EXPERT TESTIMONY
- ◆ ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES
- ◆ FAST TURNAROUND
- ◆ REASONABLE PRICES
- ◆ WELL RESPECTED NATIONWIDE

**\*ACTIVE CASE? PLEASE SEE REQUEST FORM ON BACK COVER\***



Cloud to Ground Lightning Strikes Albany, New York  
June 2006



Pea Sized Hail falls from a Severe Thunderstorm in Rotterdam, NY while a Double-Rainbow shines  
June 2006



This Mini-Supercell moved across Ballston Spa, New York with 60mph winds and Pea Sized Hail!!

## **Vice President of Business Development & Planning**

By: Howard Altschule

With the rapid growth and development of Forensic Weather Consultants, I recently added a new management level position to my company. This person will be the Vice President of Business Development and Planning. An official picture of this latest hire is attached.

This person's job responsibility in another 10 years will include taking out the garbage and helping with other chores

around the office. Our son Andrew Michael Altschule was born on April 18, 2006.



## **EL NIÑO YIELDS NEAR NORMAL 2006 HURRICANE SEASON**

By: NOAA

Seasonal activity for the 2006 Hurricane Season was lower than expected due to the rapid development of El Niño—a periodic warming of the ocean waters in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific, which influences pressure and wind patterns across the tropical Atlantic. The 2006 Atlantic hurricane season produced near normal activity with a total of nine named storms, including five hurricanes, two of which became major hurricanes of Category 3 strength or higher. An average Atlantic hurricane season has 11 named storms, with six becoming hurricanes and two becoming major hurricanes. Unlike the past three seasons, the stronger hurricanes stayed well out at sea, sparing

the Americas and the Caribbean islands from major hurricane damage this season. “The development of El Niño conditions by September helps explain why this Atlantic hurricane season was less active than predicted,” said Gerry Bell, NOAA’s lead forecaster on the Atlantic hurricane seasonal outlook team. “El Niño developed quickly and the atmosphere responded rapidly, reducing hurricane activity during an otherwise active era that began in 1995.” Analysis by NOAA scientists has linked El Niño’s rapid development and intensification to a series of large subsurface ocean waves that affect ocean temps., which began in June. These waves produced a progressive warming of the tropical Pacific Ocean during the summer months.



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*"The Weather Experts  
You Know and Trust!"*



### **U.S. COOLER AND WETTER THAN AVERAGE; OCTOBER GLOBAL TEMP. 4TH WARMEST ON RECORD**

By The Associated Press

For the second consecutive month, temperatures across the U.S. were cooler-than-average, according to NOAA scientists. Drought conditions improved in some areas, but large parts of the U.S. remained in moderate to extreme drought. October ranked as the 12th wettest October when compared with historical precipitation records for the month. Meanwhile, the global temperature remained well above average for October. The October 2006 tempera-

ture for the contiguous United States was 0.9°F below the 20th century average of 54.8°F (12.7°C). After a record warm January through August period, this was the second consecutive month of below average temperatures. The combination of a cooler-than-average September and October dropped the year-to-date national temperature from record warmest to third warmest for the January through October 2006 period. The record warmest January through

### **Interesting Cases From The Forensic Weather Files**

By Howard Altschule

Recently, the number of Hurricane Katrina cases along the Gulf Coast has skyrocketed. One specific case involves an insurance company that stated no wind damage or tornadoes occurred at our clients' residence and instead claims that the damage was all due to storm surge flooding. After studying the

Doppler Radars and NWS Warnings/ Statements we obtained, we were able to show a tornado on the radar passing over our clients residence. This, combined with the tornado reports and witness accounts, will prove to be very powerful in arguing our claim that a tornado did indeed occur and that it was not only flood damage.

### **Forensic Factoid**

By Howard Altschule

During the winter, Lake Effect and Ocean Effect Snow Squalls frequently develop following departing storm systems. While the basic records that many attorneys get (Local Climatological Data) show the general weather for that airport location, other weather records we have and our Doppler Radar images pinpoint exactly where snow was falling, where it was not and when. The images are normally taken every 5 minutes and are included with the weather records we supply. Doppler Radar images have become one of the most useful weather records available. When it comes to localized snow squalls, it can snow 5" in one place while the next town over stays sunny and dry!!!