



Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

October 2009

“Ike Dike” – presented by Bill King and Jim Blackburn

Tuesday, October 20th

Dinner – 6:00pm / Meeting – 7:00pm

Chabuca’s International Grill

316 West NASA Parkway, Webster, TX 77598

Bill King will discuss the related testimony heard by the Ike Commission regarding the severity of the damages and causes; discuss possible mitigation strategies; and describe the status of current mitigation efforts as they relate to the possible formation of local government corporation.

This will be supplemented with Jim Blackburn’s discussion about the risks posed to the Houston-Galveston area by hurricane surge similar to that experienced in Ike and a range of alternative solutions to that problem, both structural and non-structural and hybrids.

Bill King is a life-long resident of the Houston area. He was born and raised in Kemah. He earned an undergraduate and law degree from the University of

[Read more on page 2](#)

Notes from the President –

Greetings! -- We are excited to have two excellent presenters this month. Both Mr. King and Mr. Blackburn are much respected for their viewpoints on many topics and this topic is one that is bringing out huge crowds of interested citizens and decision makers to listen and learn their thoughts.

This is a new meeting place for our group. Chabuca’s will be serving a Ribs to Redfish buffet. The cost of our meals will be \$14.95 per person for the buffet, drinks are an additional \$1.95 and with tax and gratuity (18%) that brings the price per person to \$21.59. There will be a large variety of selections including ribs, crab balls, coconut shrimp, burgundy beef tips, chicken fajitas, fried Cajun redfish, shrimp etouffe, 16 wonderful salads and more.

Next month will be just as interesting. Dr. Gerald North, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Sciences and Oceanography, and Holder of the Harold J. Haynes Endowed Chair in Geosciences from Texas A&M University, will be discussing the latest on climate change. This meeting has been arranged with the British Consulate and will be held at the Canyon Cafe on Post Oak, just north of Westheimer.

Based on the new calendar year of the chapter, November will also be our Chapter Officer Election. If you are interested in running for office or would like to know more about what the officers do, please contact any current officer.

Best regards,

Lew Fincher

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CHAPTER WEBSITE
www.amshouston.net

NATIONAL WEBSITE
www.ametsoc.org

Speaker Information continued...

Houston. He has enjoyed an active career as an attorney and businessman and has been extensively involved in numerous civic activities and public service including the Fire Fighters Foundation of Houston, Interfaith Ministries of Houston, the Galveston Bay Foundation and Crime Stoppers to name a few.

From 1996-2005, Bill served three terms on the Kemah City Council and followed by two terms as mayor. While mayor he was one of the first to raise the warning that the Houston region was not prepared for a large scale evacuation. When his predictions came true in Hurricane Rita he chaired both state and local task forces to develop new evacuation plans. In 2006, the National Hurricane Conference gave Mr. King its Outstanding Achievement Award for his work on hurricane evacuation.

After Hurricane Ike, Governor Perry appointed Mr. King to serve on the Ike Recovery and Mitigation Commission. In that role he has been one of the leading voices for mitigation planning.

Jim was born in Alexandria, Louisiana. He was admitted to the Bar in 1972, after graduating with this J.D. from the Law School at the University of Texas, Austin. Prior to this, he obtained a B.A. in History also from the University of Texas, and an M.Sc. in Environmental Science from Rice University.

In 1998, he was the recipient of the Bob Eckhardt Lifetime Achievement Award for Coastal Preservation Efforts from the General Land Office of the State of Texas, and in 2001 he received a National Conservation Achievement Award from the National Wildlife Federation.

He was granted Honorary Membership in the American Institute of Architects in 2003, in recognition of his legal work associated with urban quality of life issues.

In 2004, Texas A&M Press published [The Book of Texas Bays](#) written by Jim, with photos by renowned Houston photographer Jim Olive.

He is an Adjunct Professor and Lecturer in Environmental Law, in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Rice University.

In 2004, he was named "[Best Environmental Attorney](#)" by the Houston Press.

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Contact an officer to see how your company can support the local chapter.

Maps & Directions

Chabuca's International Grill
316 West NASA Parkway, Webster, TX 77598
281-554-8000



Ike Dike Images



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Houston Chapter boasts of one of the most diverse memberships in the country. Due to our location we have meteorologists and scientists working for many different types of industry, government, private and media. These people are involved in forecasting and monitoring weather world-wide, right from Houston.

In addition, we welcome everyone and anyone who is interested in weather and weather-related topics.

Our dues are only \$10 per year. Funds are used to pay for dinner and thank you gifts for our speakers, and provide awards for the winners of the Houston AMS Special Awards at the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston held each spring.

If you'd like to become a member, please fill out the form below with your most recent information, include \$10 cash or check and turn it into any officer. If you prefer, you can mail the form and money to our Treasurer. Please see the address below. Checks should be made out to: *Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society*

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Work or Home? (please circle one)

Email Address _____

Home phone number _____

Work _____

Mail to:

Brian Planz

c/o Wilkens Weather Technologies, Inc.

2925 Briar Park Drive, 7th Floor

Houston, TX 77042

Send my newsletter by: ___ mail/___ email.

This is for: ___ Dues/___ Address change.

Feel free to contact any of the officers for comments, questions, suggestions or even additions to the newsletter. We would appreciate hearing from you.

Contact Information

President – Lew Fincher

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

34TH NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

LOCATION: NORFOLK, VA – DATES: 17-22 OCTOBER

THE FIFTH EDUCATION AND SCIENCE FORUM

LOCATION: WASHINGTON D. C. – DATES: 12-14 NOVEMBER