



# The Salvation Army SATERN of Palm Beach



*An Emergency Communicator Team...  
Doing the Most Good*

Friday – 4 September 2015

## September 19<sup>th</sup> Workshop: Covering Florida Using HF NVIS – 9am to Noon

When any part of Florida becomes isolated and there is a need to connect to the outside world, Near Vertical Incident Skywave propagation becomes a priority. It's a technique for optimizing your signal strength to cover 50 to 400 miles or so. First a PowerPoint presentation followed by a hands-on setup and operation of our NVIS station.

**PLUS**

## September 19<sup>th</sup>: Statewide NVIS Test on 40 Meters – 1pm to 4pm

Stations from throughout Florida are invited to a daytime test of their ability to cover the state. Get reports from all over the Florida. Test different antennas, the same antenna at different heights, power levels, etc. Details to follow.



## Heads-Up Florida...

### Our Strong El Niño Will Very Likely Generate Tornadoes!

News and government reports indicate that the current El Niño is intensifying and may become a record breaking event. Moreover, there is an 85% chance it will remain with us through early spring. Many meteorologists believe the recent, unusually large number of very strong Pacific hurricanes is related to this very strong El Niño.

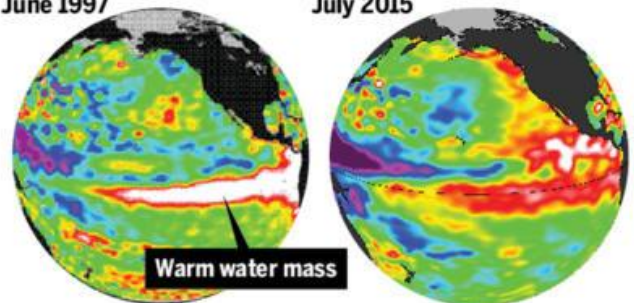
The last strong El Niño occurred in 1997-98. In that period there were 43 Central and South Florida tornados with seven being F3+. Later research showed that about three times more tornados struck under a "Strong El Niño" than during "Neutral" or "La Niña" years. See the data below and at [El Niño and its Effect on the Southeast U.S.](#)

## El Niño growing

Although the trend could change in coming months, warming waters in the Pacific Ocean could bring soaking winter storms – as they did during the 1997-98 rainy season. Forecasters predict there is a greater than 90 percent chance that El Niño will continue in the Northern Hemisphere this winter.

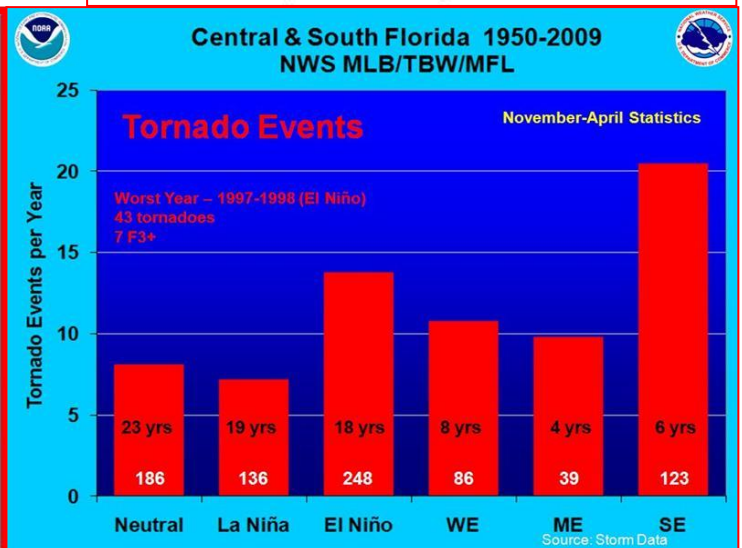
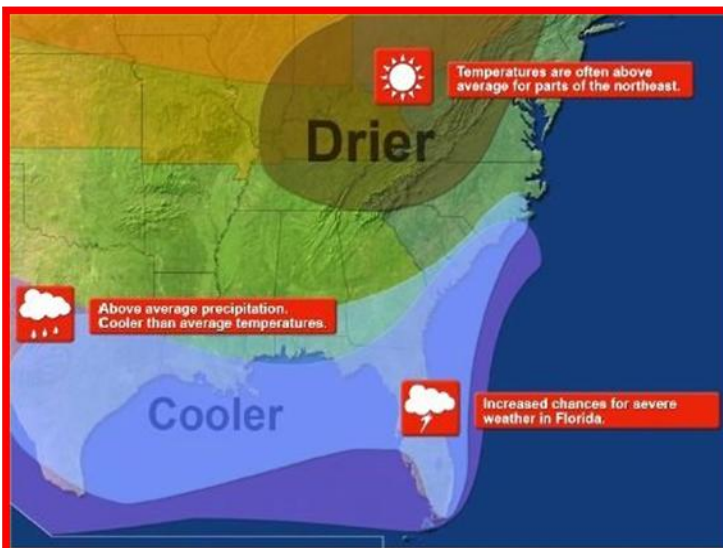
June 1997

July 2015



Source: NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

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Data from a NOAA website: Weak El Niño=WE, Moderate=ME, and Strong El Niño=SE. Under a strong El Niño year, the average is 20 tornado events per year. Note, if there were 5 tornadoes reported in a county on a particular day, it was recorded as one event.

## When ERIKA Headed Straight Towards Florida... The SoPB Communications Canteen Was Readied

Not knowing if Erika was to re-develop to Hurricane strength or degenerate into a "rain event", plans were made to position the Palm Beach Area Command's only emergency communications asset just outside its Command Post.

Radio Conditions on 40 and 20 meters were horrible during the previous three or four weeks. Because communications were expected to be difficult, a portable, yagi antenna was strung from the facility's 35 foot flagpole sloping down to a 20 foot tree. BTW, the directional antenna, made of wire, rolls up nicely for compact storage under the vehicle's bench seat!



When ERIKA did become a rain event, Jim KC8NAL, the SATERN ICS Commander, took advantage of some quiet time to show the reach of the Canteen station to Major Pierre Smith, Palm Beach Area Commander. During Monday's SATERN International Net on 14.265 KHz, solid 59+ contacts were made with CA, AZ, TN and CO... any of which could have relayed requests and reports from the Palm Beach Area Command Post to or from Divisional or Territorial Headquarters.



Zoom in to see details of the tri-band, wire beam above the Canteen! Jim KC8NAL at the mic was delighted by the return of good conditions on 20 meters. The wire beam worked like a charm! Major Pierre Smith, right, already has his own Tech License study guide!

## OCTOBER HAPPENINGS!!!

**October 17<sup>th</sup> Joint Club Workshops... RSVP to [larry33414@aol.com](mailto:larry33414@aol.com)**

**9am to Noon – BASIC NBEMS – RSVP Required**

Sending and receiving complex documents such as FEMA, Red Cross, Salvation Army forms and spreadsheets with just a radio and computer. For the new user or as a refresher.

Preference given to new users and NBEMS users without prior workshop training.

**1PM to 3PM<sup>+/-</sup> – INTERMEDIATE NBEMS FOR THE HF USER – RSVP Required**

Configuring your BASIC NBEMS setup to check into HF digital/NBEMS nets and using FLAMP and FLARQ for packet recovery and error free HF traffic.

Preference given to NBEMS Net participants and HF users.

**Simulated Emergency Tests – SETs – ARRL October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The SATERN of Palm Beach Multi-Mode Set date will be announced soon.

Included are VHF as well as SATERN regional & national HF net participation

**For information contact: [jim.spencer@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:jim.spencer@uss.salvationarmy.org) or SATERN PIO [larry33414@aol.com](mailto:larry33414@aol.com)**