

DISCOVER-AQ OUTLOOK -- September 23, 2013

An attempt was made to get flights in today, but these plans were scrubbed due to the persistent low clouds from the near stationary low pressure system sitting offshore. Conditions were generally either broken or overcast at around 4500 ft, which precluded doing ascending or descending spirals. TCEQ forecast Code Yellow ozone for today to the S and SW of Houston.

We will likely have cloud issues again on Tuesday morning as the low pressure area still lurks offshore. The models suggest that the low will begin to move off to the northeast during the day tomorrow, taking much of the cloudiness with it. Conditions could be much better in the afternoon tomorrow than in the morning. We recommend attempting flights again tomorrow.

Wednesday looks like an excellent day to fly with the dominance of a ridge of high pressure and dry conditions. With light northerly winds carrying Houston emissions out over the Gulf in the AM, a sea breeze will likely recirculate these emissions back over Houston in the afternoon, leading to a convergence zone containing large amounts of pollutants. TCEQ is forecast a Code Orange ozone day on Wednesday. Thursday will see continuing good flying conditions in general, but the winds will turn to more southerly during the day, bringing more moisture into our region and possible more clouds. TCEQ continues the Code Orange ozone for Thursday. Possibly, more chance of clouds and showers on Friday, but we may be able to squeeze in another flight day.