

Using high-resolution SPoRT SST data and the NASA LIS to initialize the WRF EMS at NWS Houston/Galveston

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HGX Local WRF (2010, **Summer 2011**)

Workstation Cluster: Two Dell Precision 690 Workstations
Intel Quad Xeon Processor with four 2.33 GHz CPUs (8 CPUs)
RAM: 4 GB
OS: RHEL 5.4

Model: WRF EMS v.3.0.1 beta2 > **WRF EMS v.3.1.1.5.1**

Core: ARW

Dimension: 129 X 129 > **150 X 150**

Spacing: 4 KM

Levels: 35

Length: 30 HR > **36 HR**

Time step: 24 seconds

Boundary conditions: NAM 12 KM

*2 runs every 6 hours (00, 06, 12, 18 UTC) > **12 hours (00,12 UTC)***

*First run utilizes SPoRT SST & **NASA LIS***

*Second run utilizes RTG SST HR & **NAM PTILE***

Microphysics: Lin et al.

Planetary Boundary Layer: Yonsei University Scheme

Summer July-August 2011:

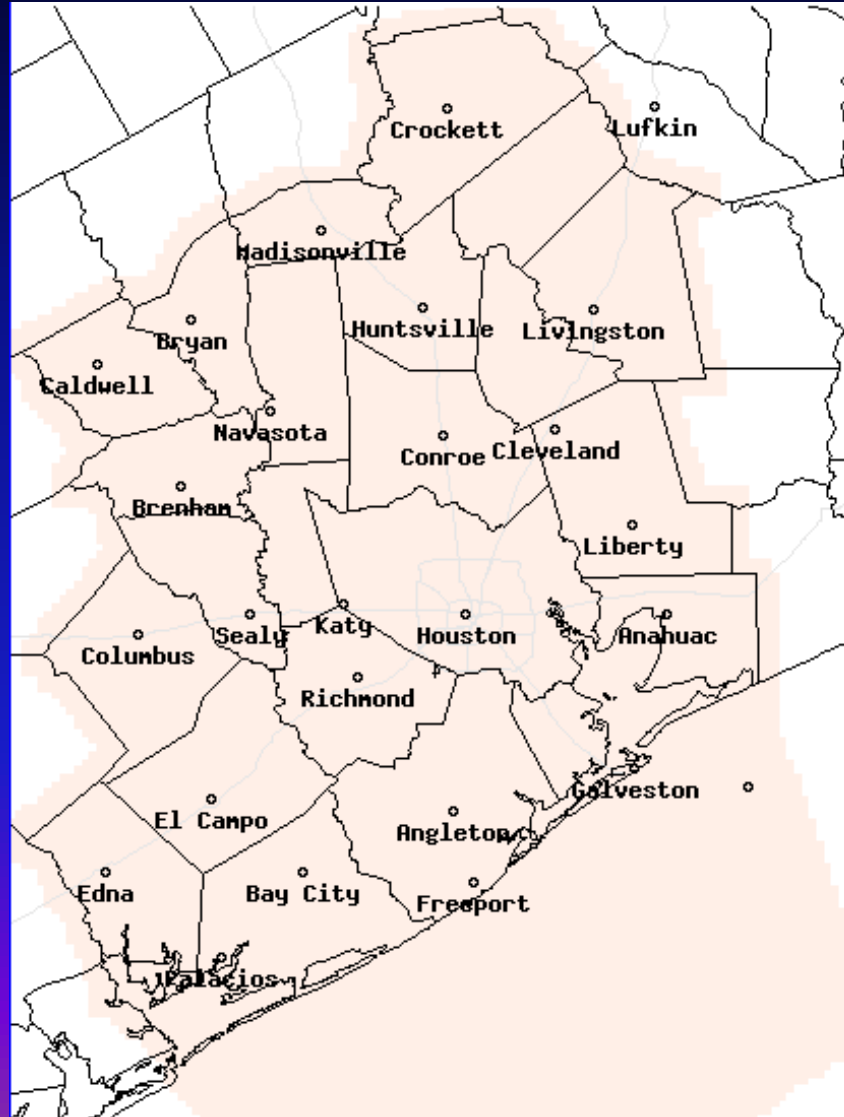
- Focused on the seabreeze and convection in general.
- Examined surface dew point temps, winds, and temps.
- Examined WRF forecast reflectivity and compared to the observed reflectivity.

Winter 2009-2010:

- Focused at different flow regimes (onshore - WAA, offshore- CAA, near coast surface low development).
- Examined surface temps and winds.

WFO Houston/Galveston Forecast Area

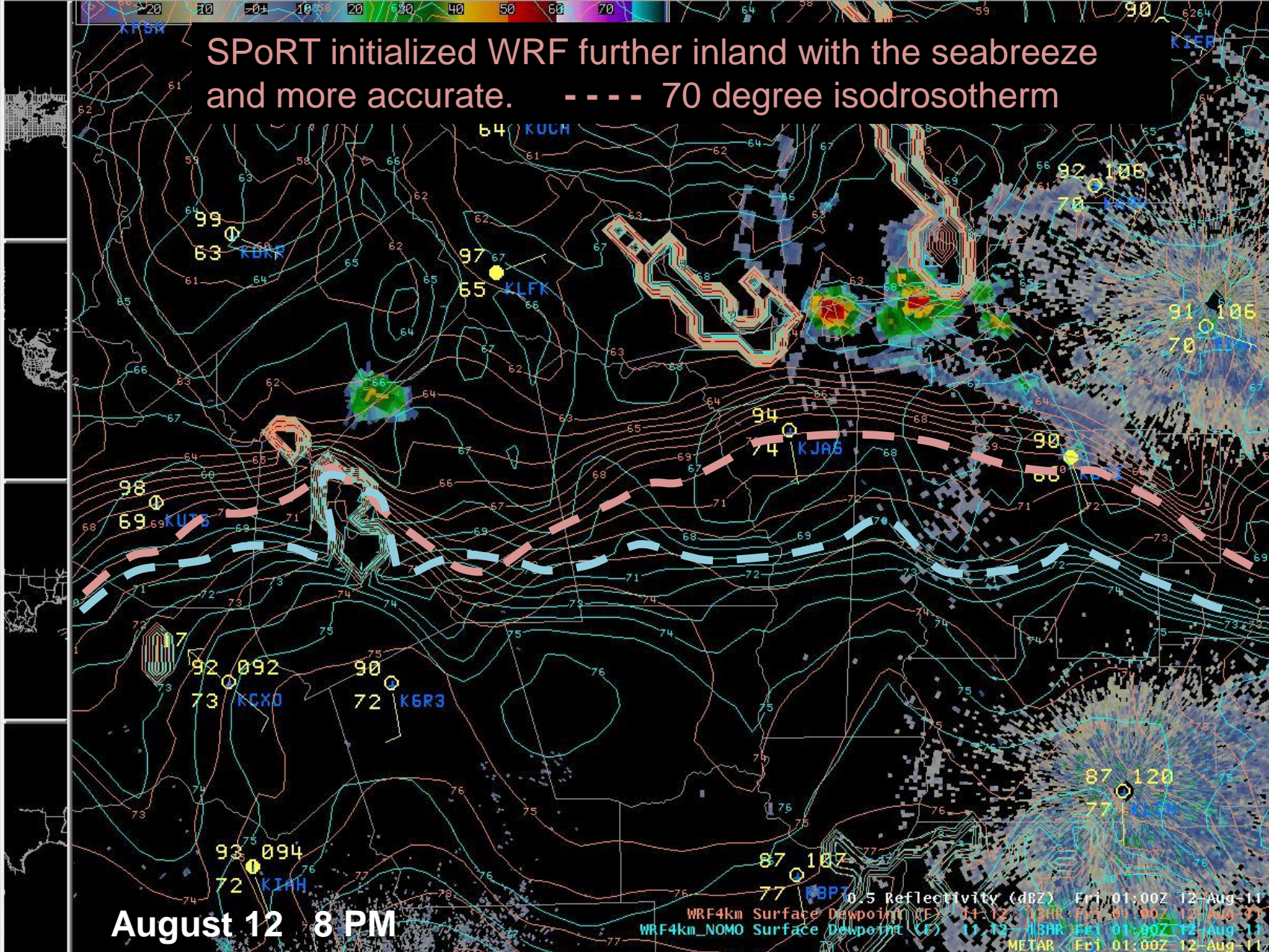
Most of Southeast Texas



Seabreeze

- **Orientation/timing similar across coastal zones.**
- **The SPoRT SST/LIS initialized WRF was at times slightly faster moving the boundary well inland, and appeared to be more accurate in these cases.**
- **Can have an affect on convection developing well inland in the vicinity of the northward advancing boundary.**

SPoRT initialized WRF further inland with the seabreeze and more accurate. - - - 70 degree isodrosotherm



August 12 8 PM

WRF4km Surface Dewpoint (F) 11:12 13RR F01:00Z 12-Aug-11
WRF4km_NOMO Surface Dewpoint (F) 11:55 13RR F01:00Z 12-Aug-11
METAR F01:00Z 12-Aug-11



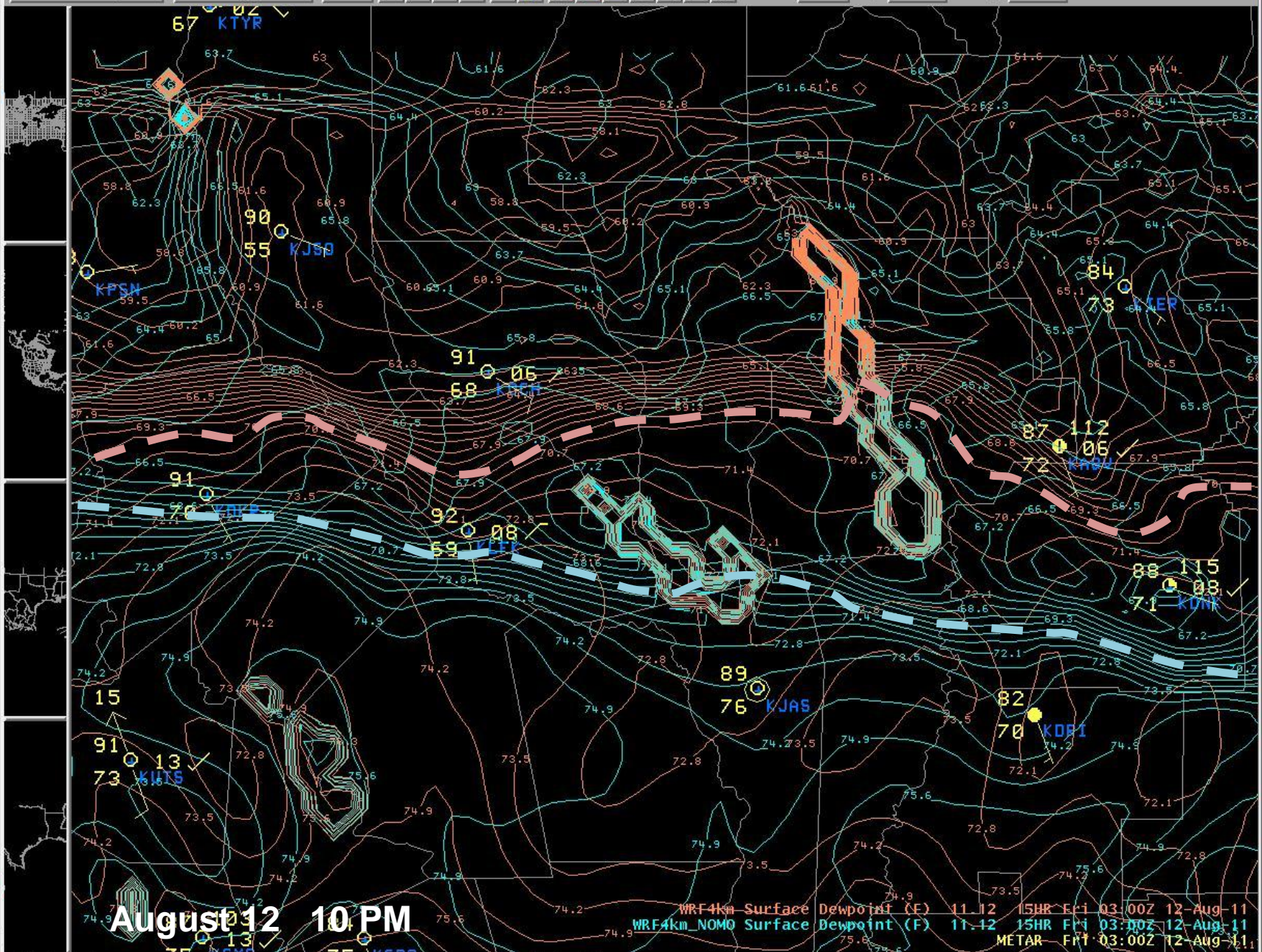
X Fore



04:2 08/12/11



X Fore



August 12 10 PM

WRF4km Surface Dewpoint (F) 11-12 15HR Fc1 03:00Z 12-Aug-11
 WRF4km_NOMO Surface Dewpoint (F) 11-12 15HR Fc1 03:00Z 12-Aug-11
 METAR Fc1 03:00Z 12-Aug-11

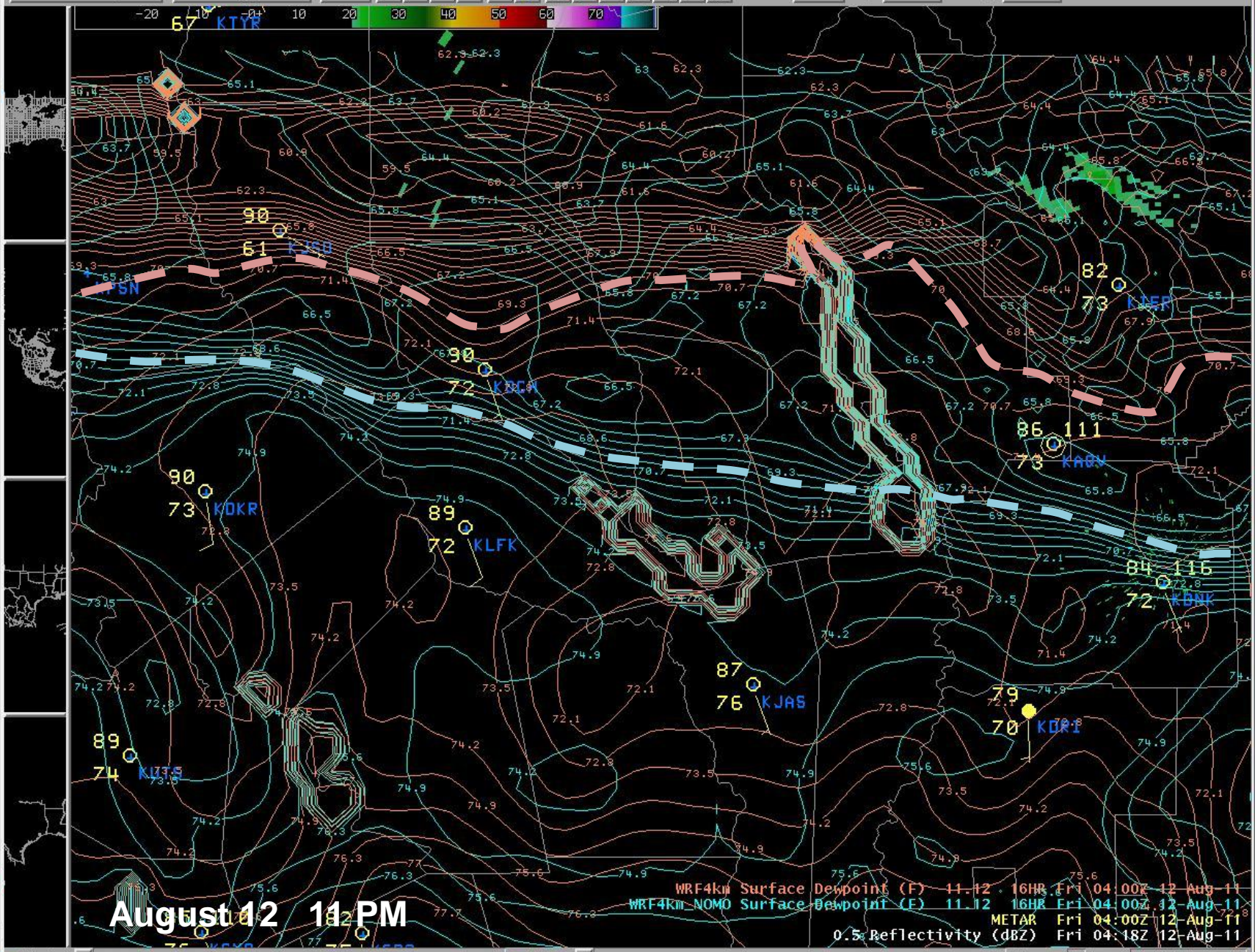
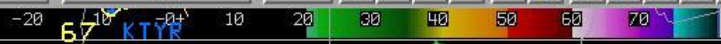
04:1

08/12/11

Status: []

Radar: []

Frames: 12 Time: 04:19 Z 12-Aug-11



August 12 11 PM

WRF4km Surface Dewpoint (F) 11.12 16HR F1 04:00Z 12 Aug 11
WRF4km NOMO Surface Dewpoint (F) 11.12 16HR F1 04:00Z 12 Aug 11
METAR Fri 04:00Z 12 Aug 11
0.5 Reflectivity (dBZ) Fri 04:18Z 12 Aug 11



X Fore



04:1

08/12/11

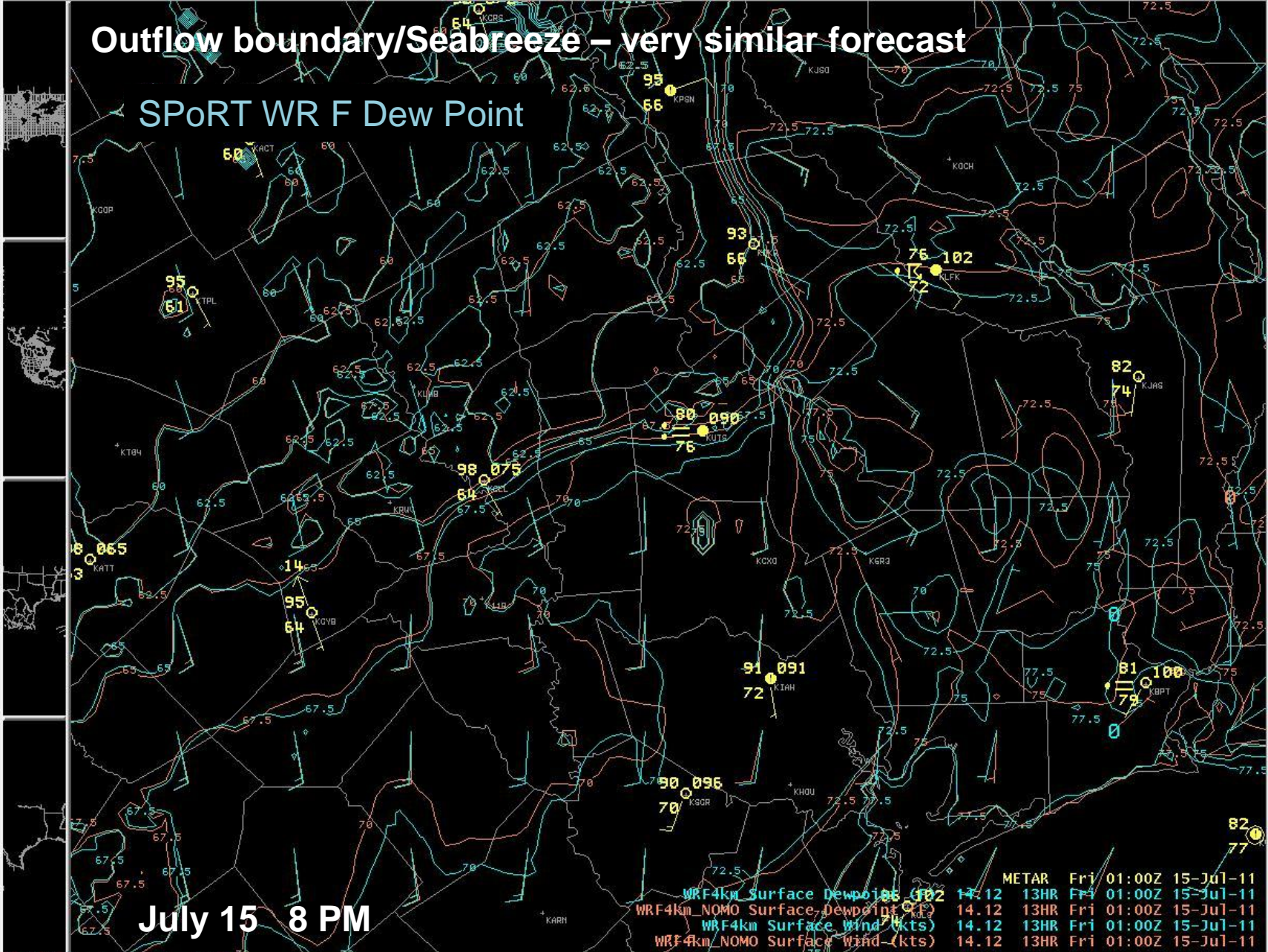
Status: []

Radar: []

Frames: 12 Time: 04:18 Z 12-Aug-11

Outflow boundary/Seabreeze – very similar forecast

SPoRT WR F Dew Point



July 15 8 PM

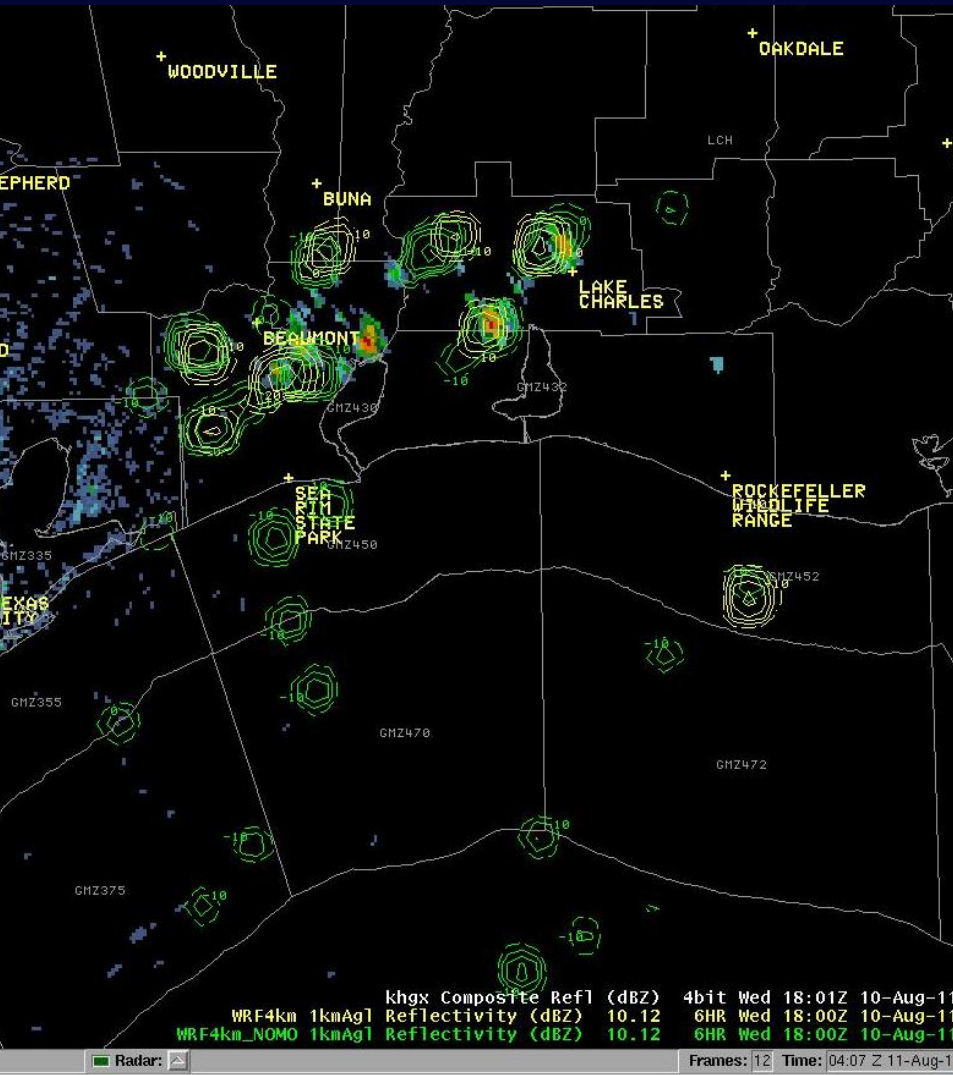
WRF4km Surface Dewpoint (F)	14.12	13HR	Fri	01:00Z	15-Jul-11
WRF4km NOMO Surface Dewpoint (F)	14.12	13HR	Fri	01:00Z	15-Jul-11
WRF4km Surface Wind (kts)	14.12	13HR	Fri	01:00Z	15-Jul-11
WRF4km NOMO Surface Wind (kts)	14.12	13HR	Fri	01:00Z	15-Jul-11

Convection

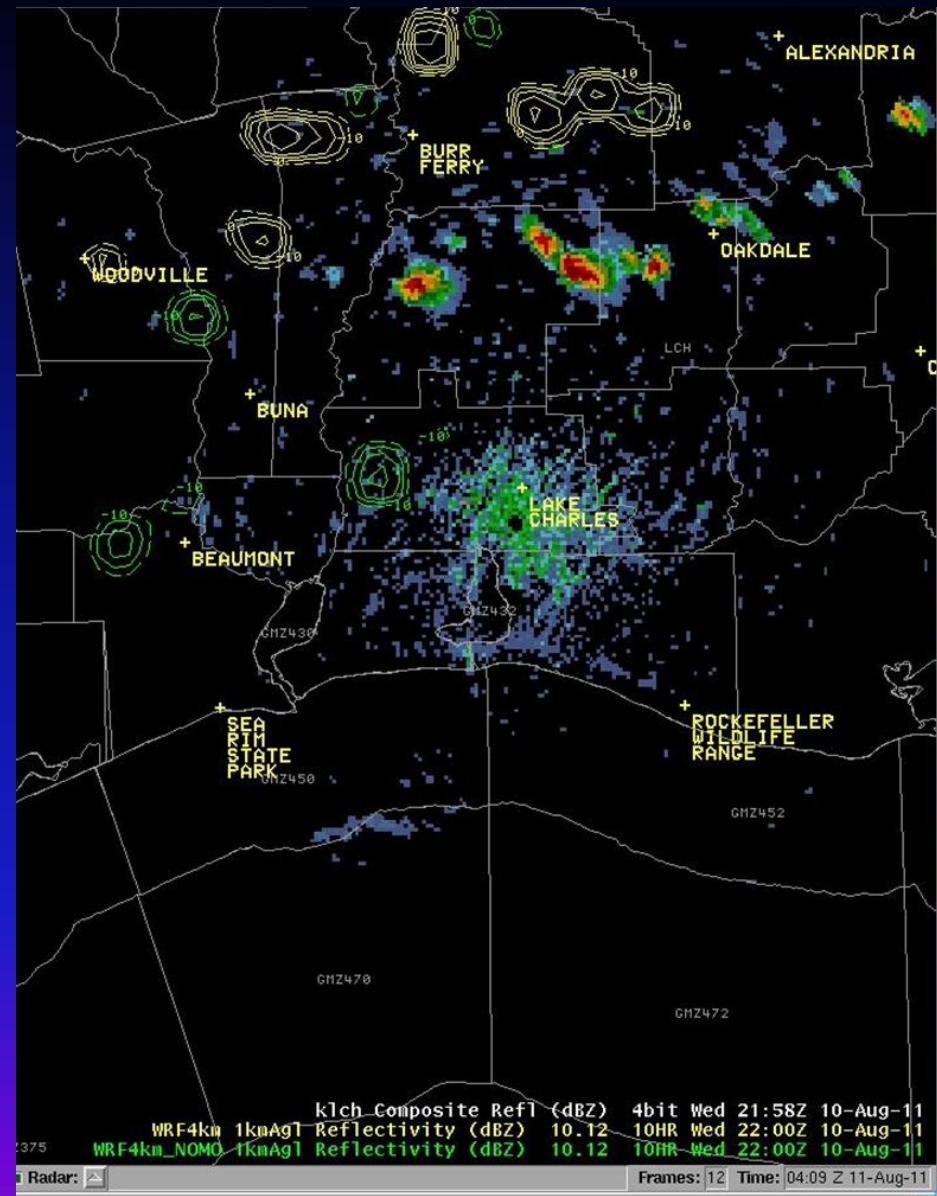
- In general, both versions of the WRF tended to over develop convection on non-active days, especially in west/southwest areas of SE Texas that were often strongly capped.
- Both versions had some timing issues, but in general, provide useful guidance to forecasters, particularly on the possible degree of coverage.
- The SPoRT SST/LIS initialized WRF reflectivity forecast was often better during convectively active afternoon/evenings.

Some convective examples....

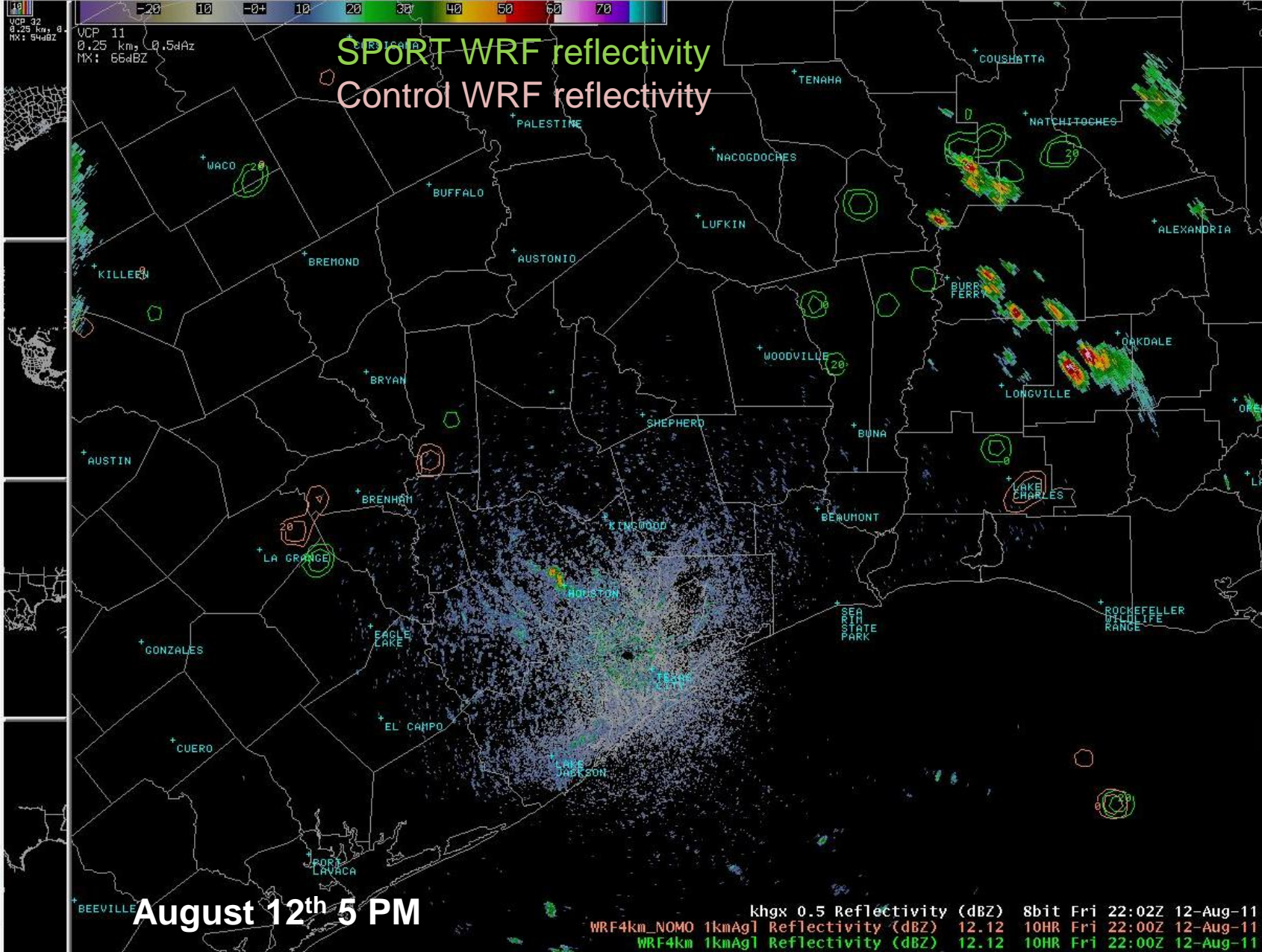
SPoRT WRF reflectivity
Control WRF reflectivity

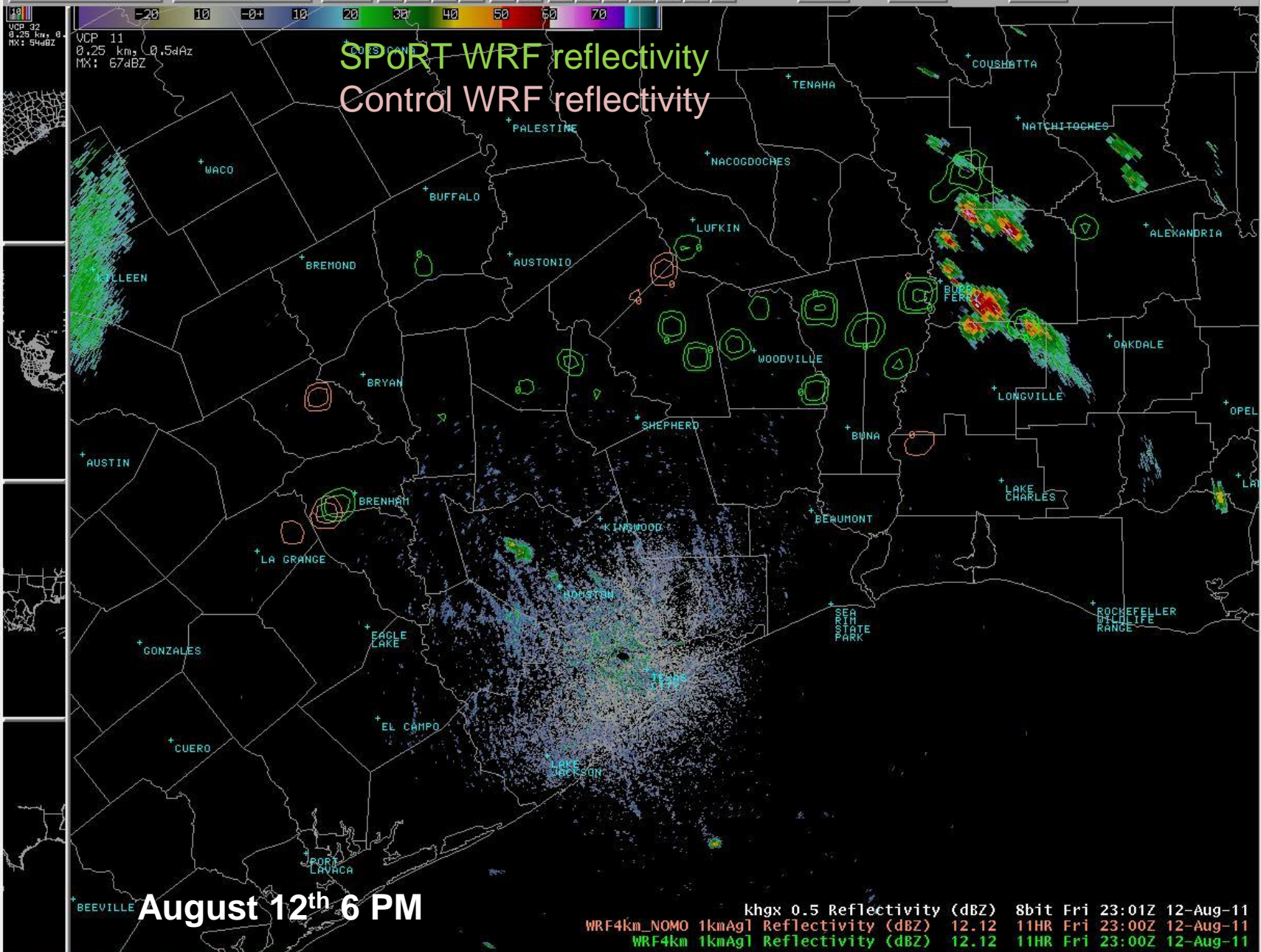


August 10th 1 PM



August 10th 5 PM

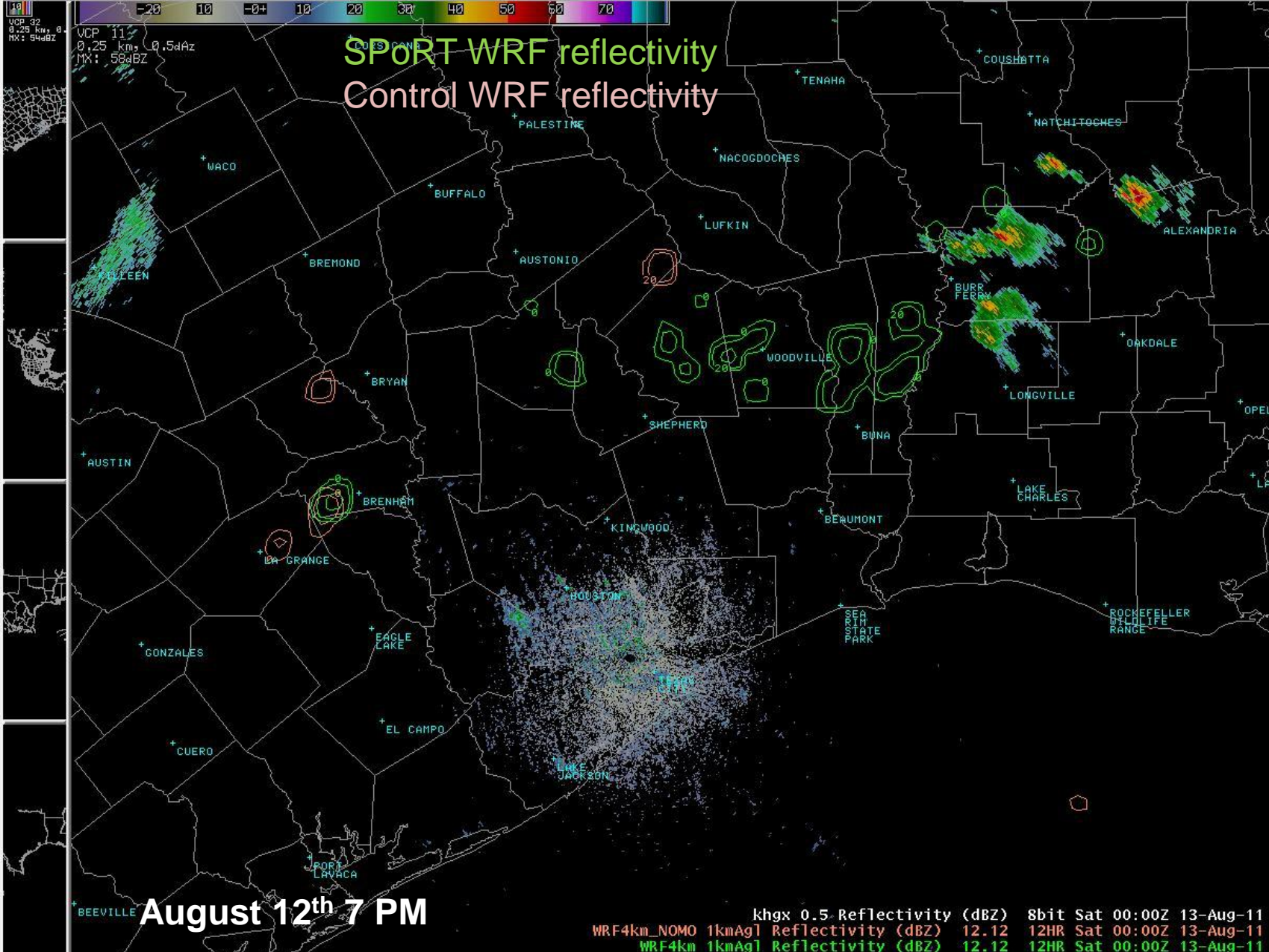


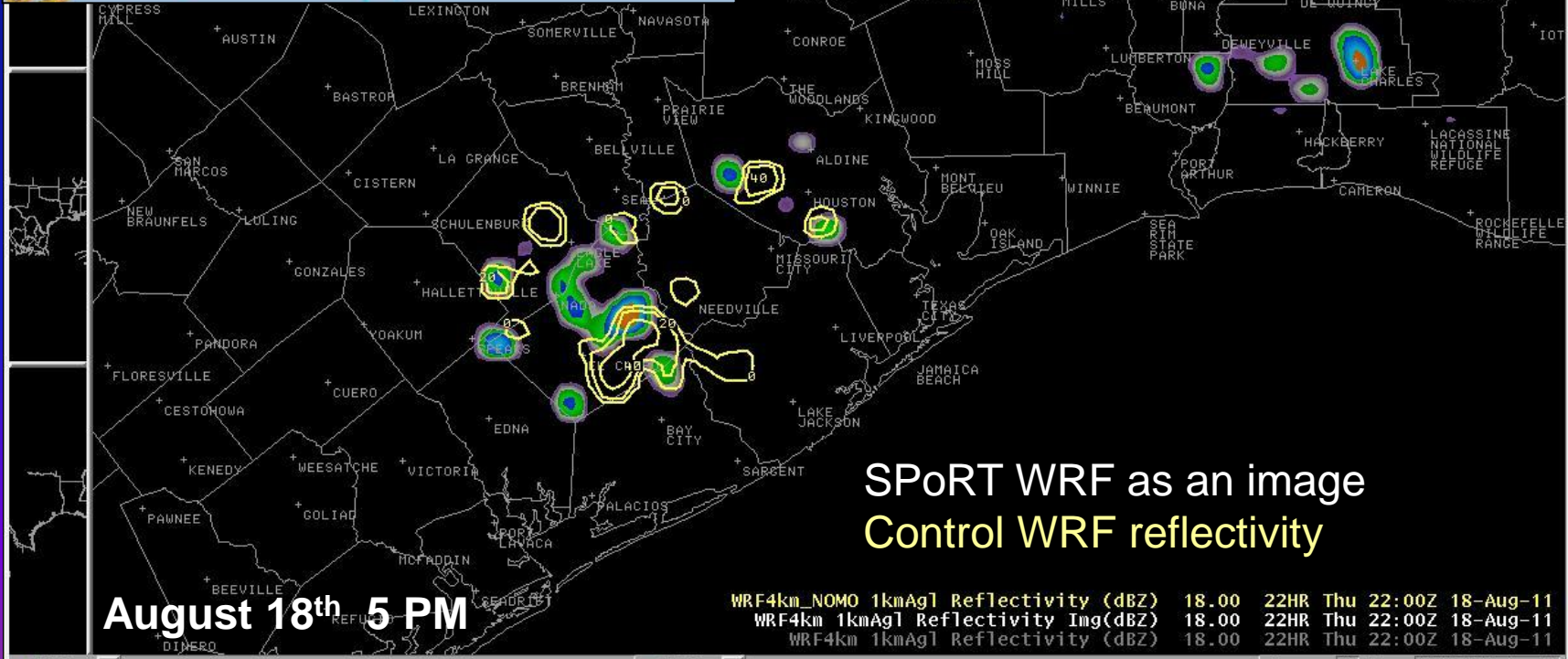
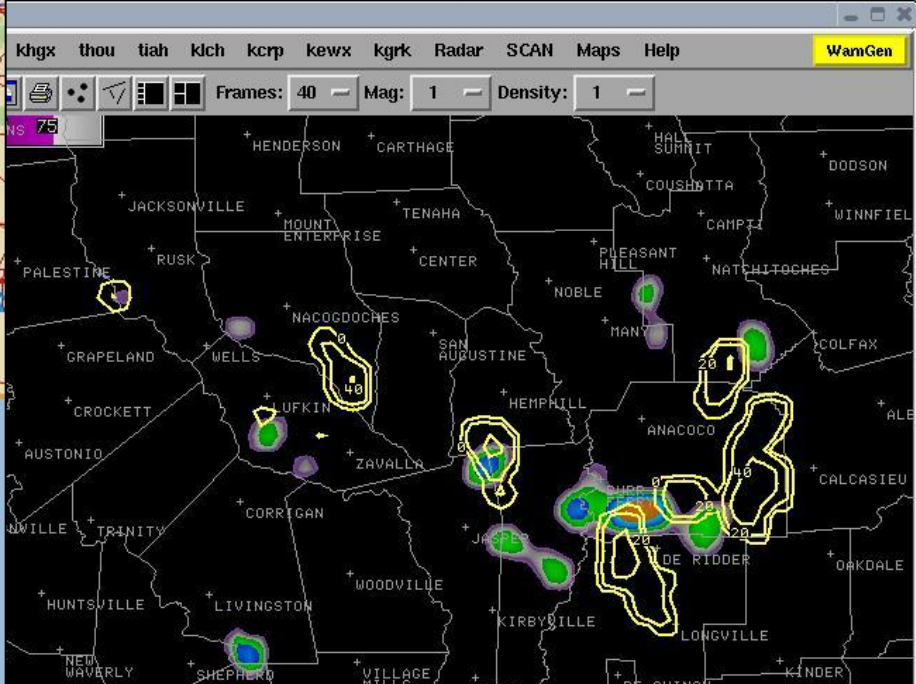
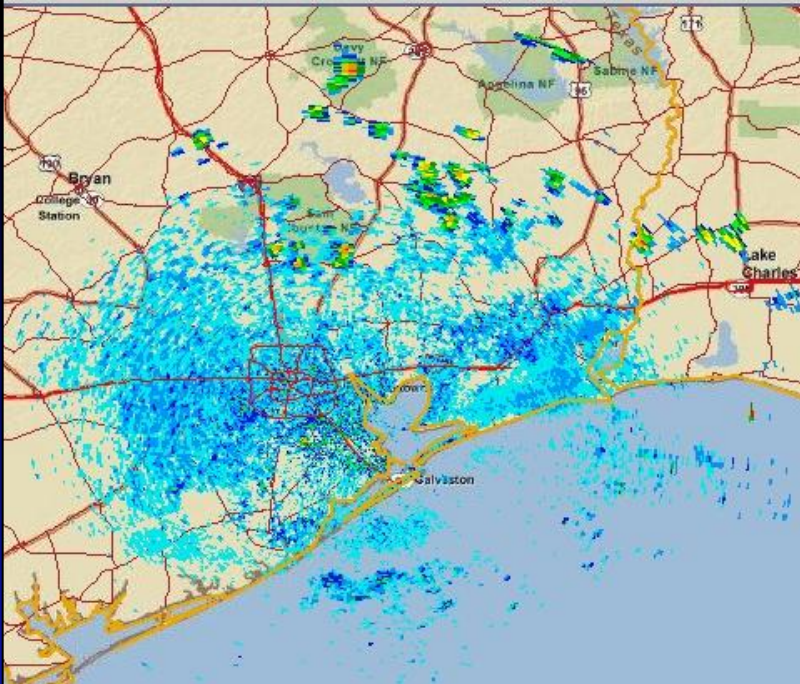


VCP 11
 0.25 km, 0.5dAz
 MX: 67dBZ

August 12th 6 PM

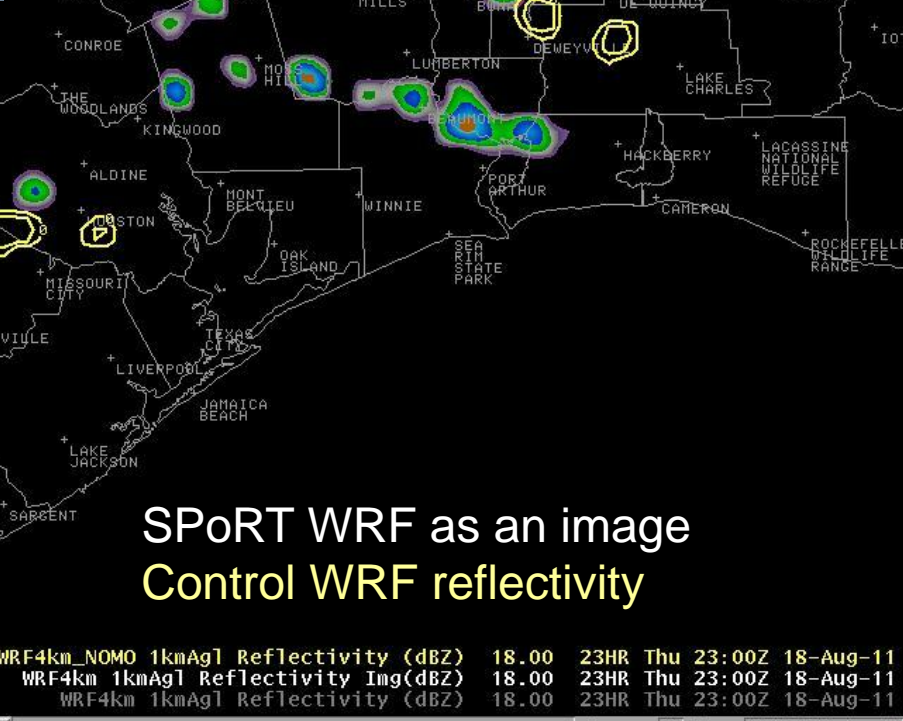
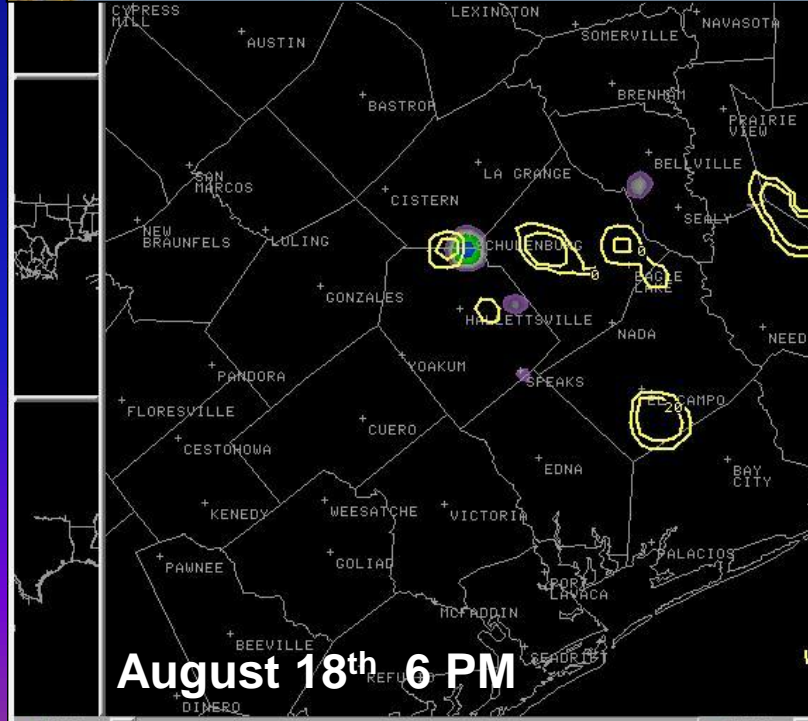
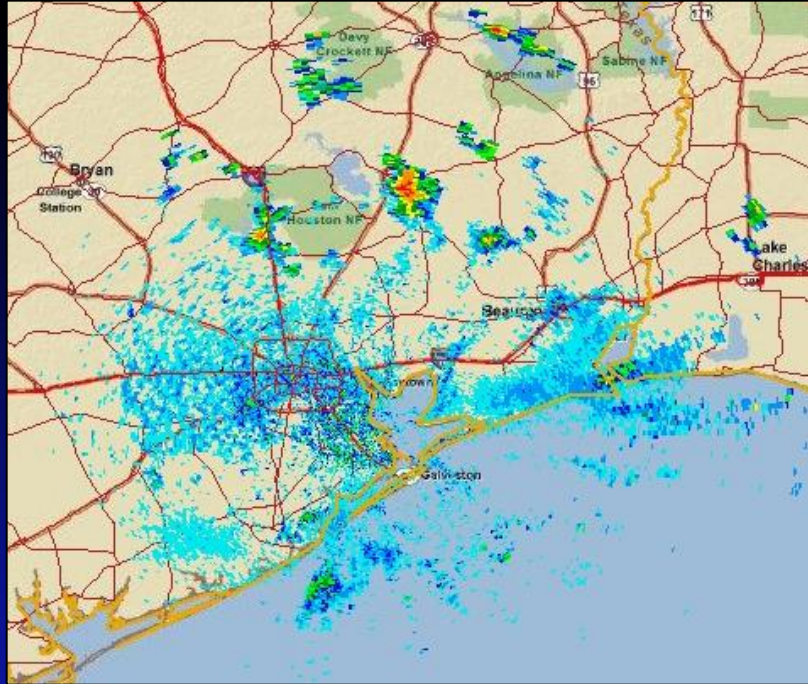
khgx 0.5 Reflectivity (dBZ)	8bit Fri 23:01Z 12-Aug-11
WRF4km_NOMO 1kmAgl Reflectivity (dBZ)	12.12 11HR Fri 23:00Z 12-Aug-11
WRF4km 1kmAgl Reflectivity (dBZ)	12.12 11HR Fri 23:00Z 12-Aug-11





SPoRT WRF as an image
Control WRF reflectivity

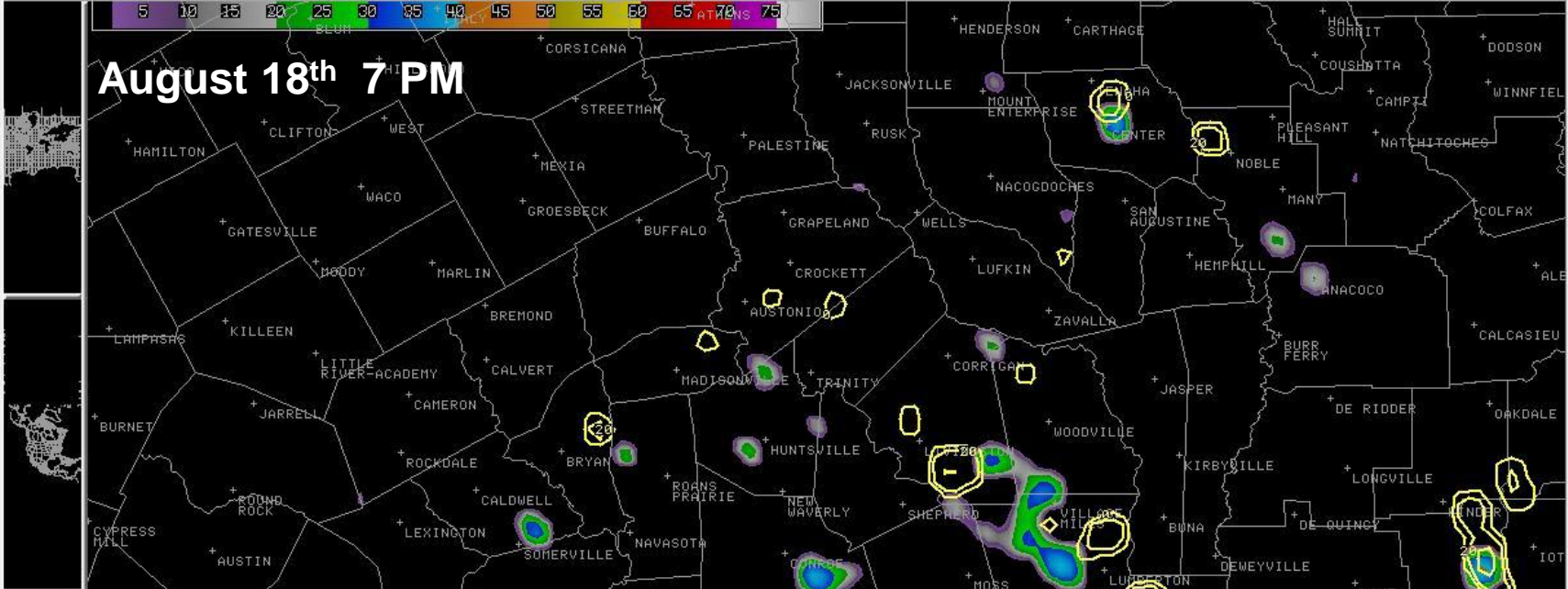
WRF4km_NOMO 1kmAg1 Reflectivity (dBZ)	18.00	22HR Thu 22:00Z	18-Aug-11
WRF4km 1kmAg1 Reflectivity Img(dBZ)	18.00	22HR Thu 22:00Z	18-Aug-11
WRF4km 1kmAg1 Reflectivity (dBZ)	18.00	22HR Thu 22:00Z	18-Aug-11



SPoRT WRF as an image
Control WRF reflectivity

August 18th 6 PM

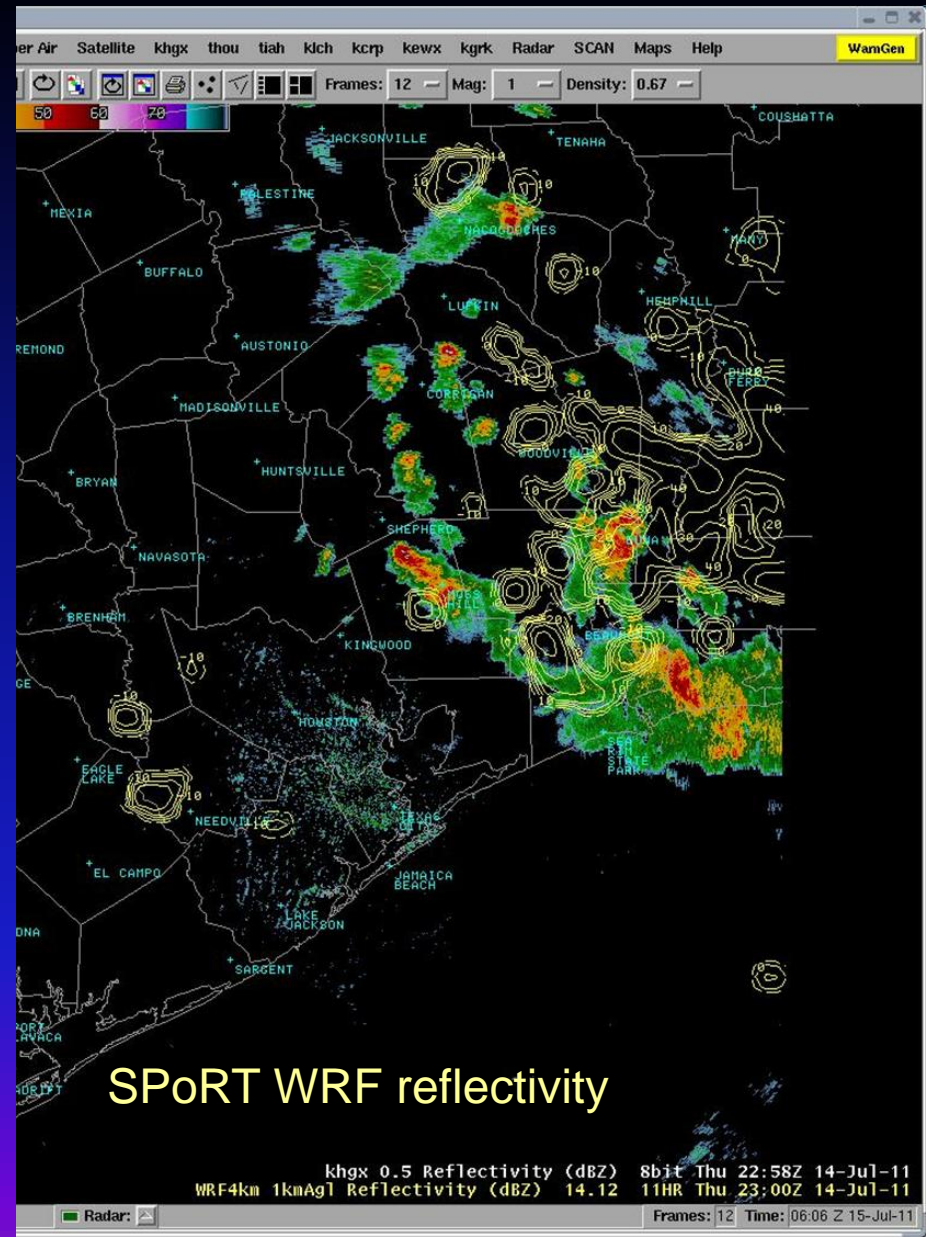
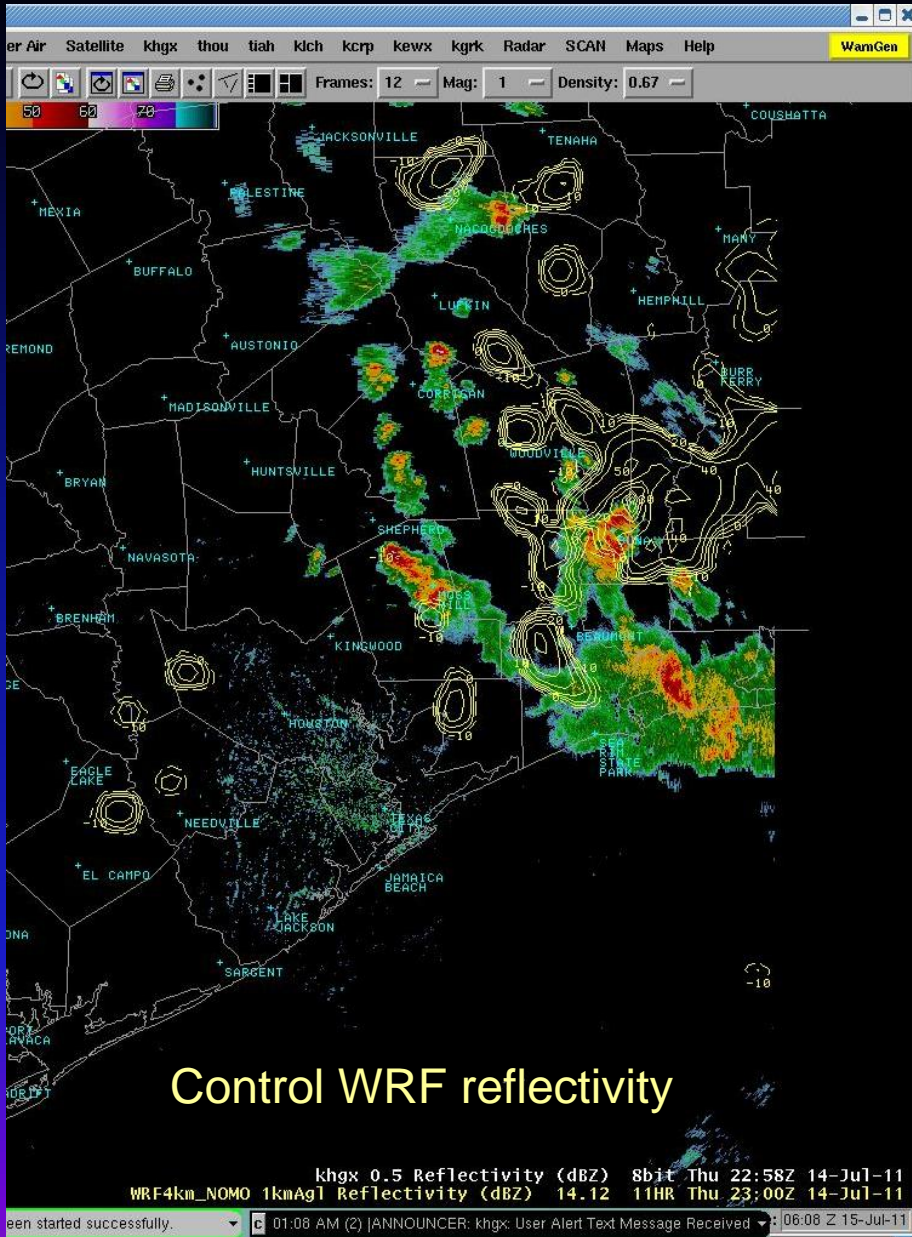
WRF4km_NOMO 1kmAg1 Reflectivity (dBZ)	18.00	23HR Thu	23:00Z	18-Aug-11
WRF4km 1kmAg1 Reflectivity Img(dBZ)	18.00	23HR Thu	23:00Z	18-Aug-11
WRF4km 1kmAg1 Reflectivity (dBZ)	18.00	23HR Thu	23:00Z	18-Aug-11



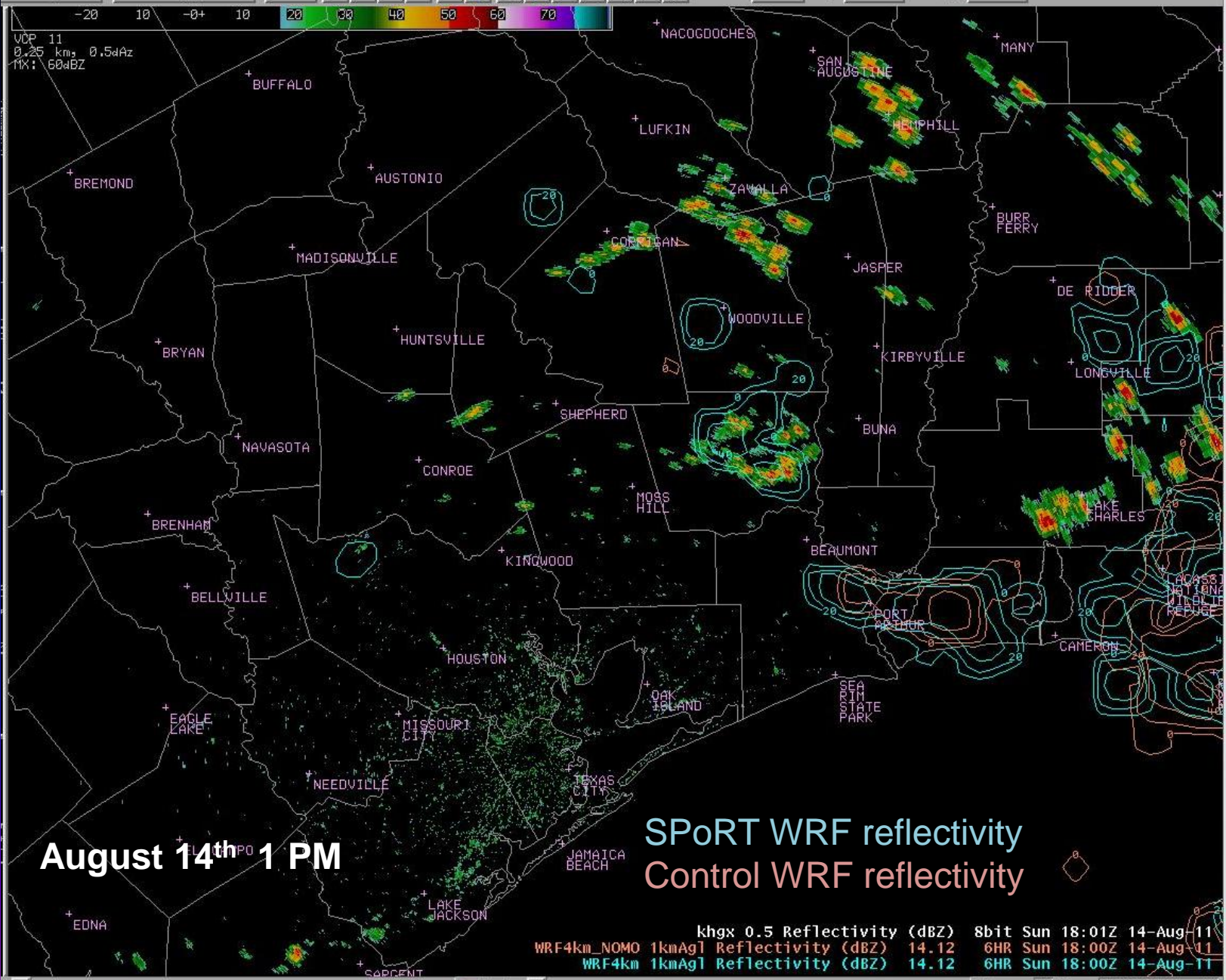
**SPoRT WRF as an image
Control WRF reflectivity**

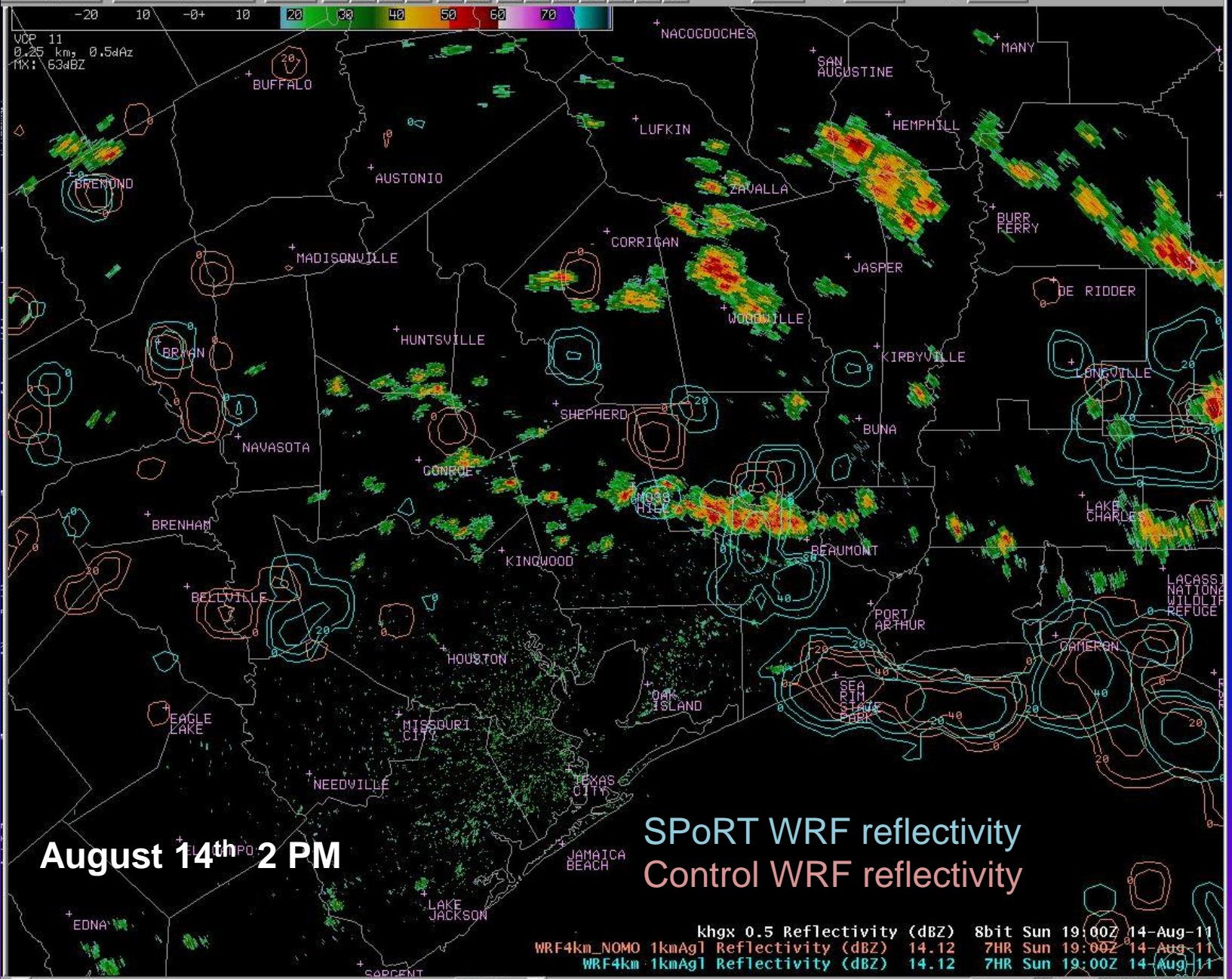
RF4km_NOMO 1kmAg1 Reflectivity (dBZ)	18.00	24HR	Fri	00:00Z	19-Aug-11
WRF4km 1kmAg1 Reflectivity Img(dBZ)	18.00	24HR	Fri	00:00Z	19-Aug-11
WRF4km 1kmAg1 Reflectivity (dBZ)	18.00	24HR	Fri	00:00Z	19-Aug-11

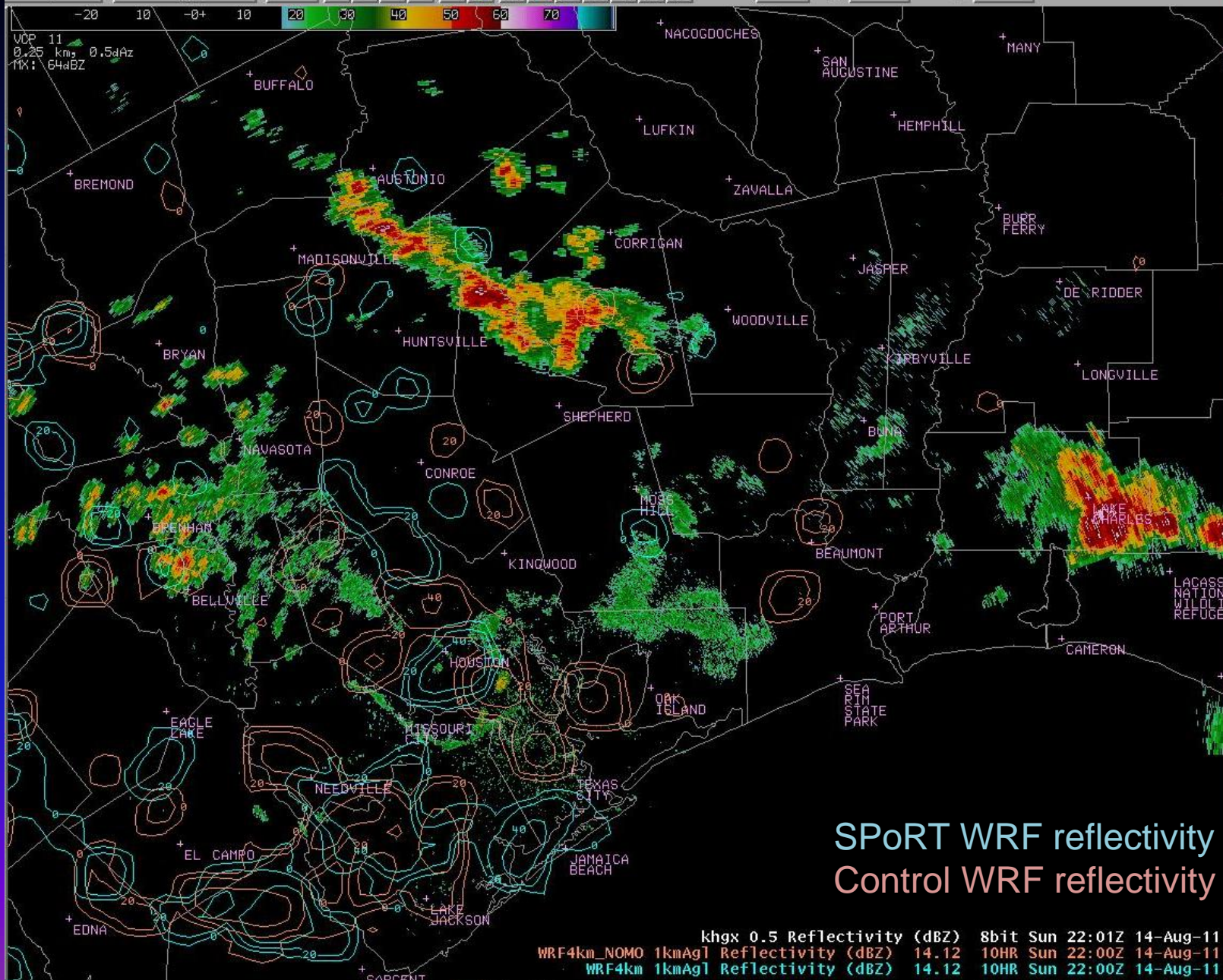
July 14th 2011 6 PM



Both versions provide useful guidance to forecaster, just a little slow with the broken line of thunderstorms moving southwest.

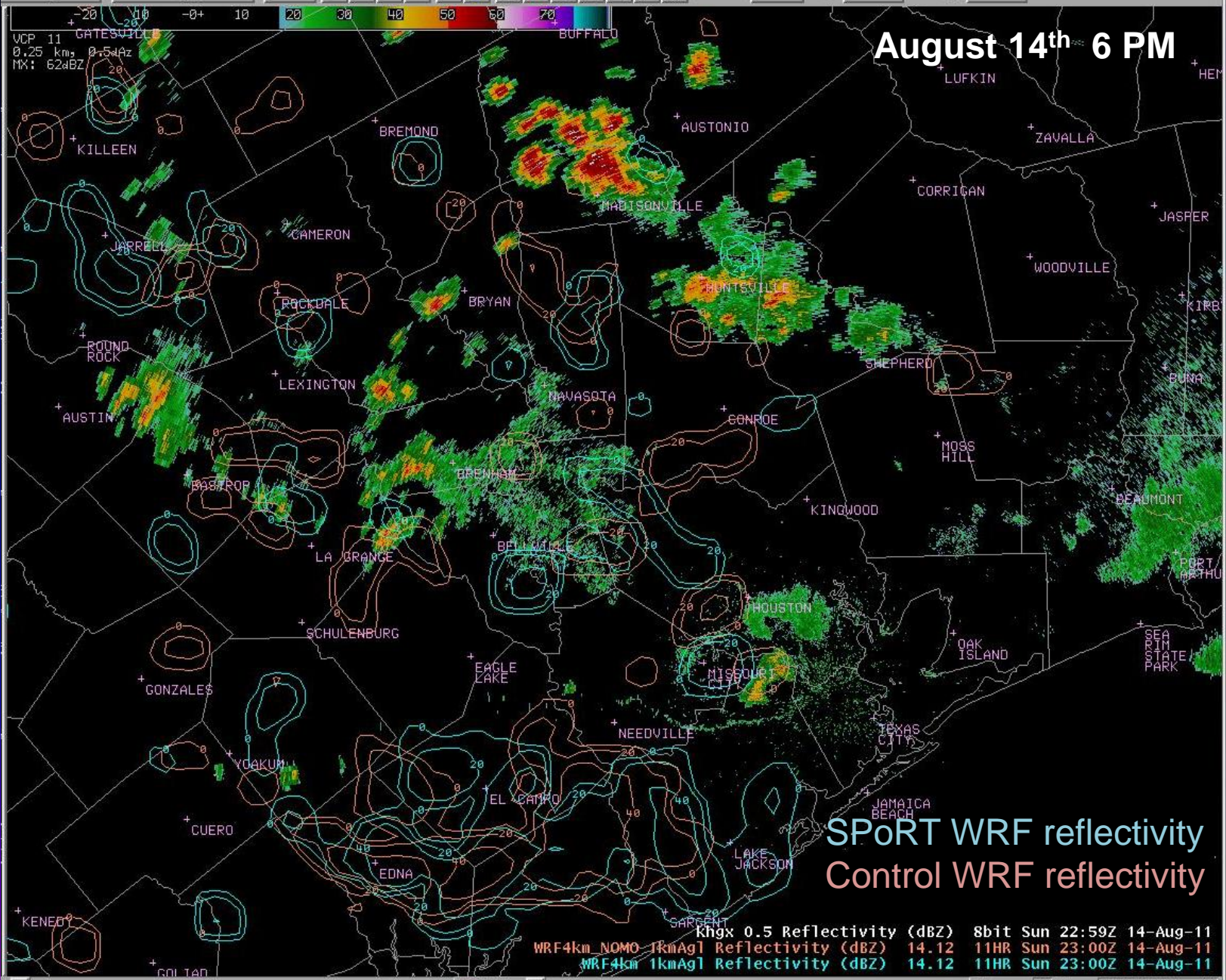


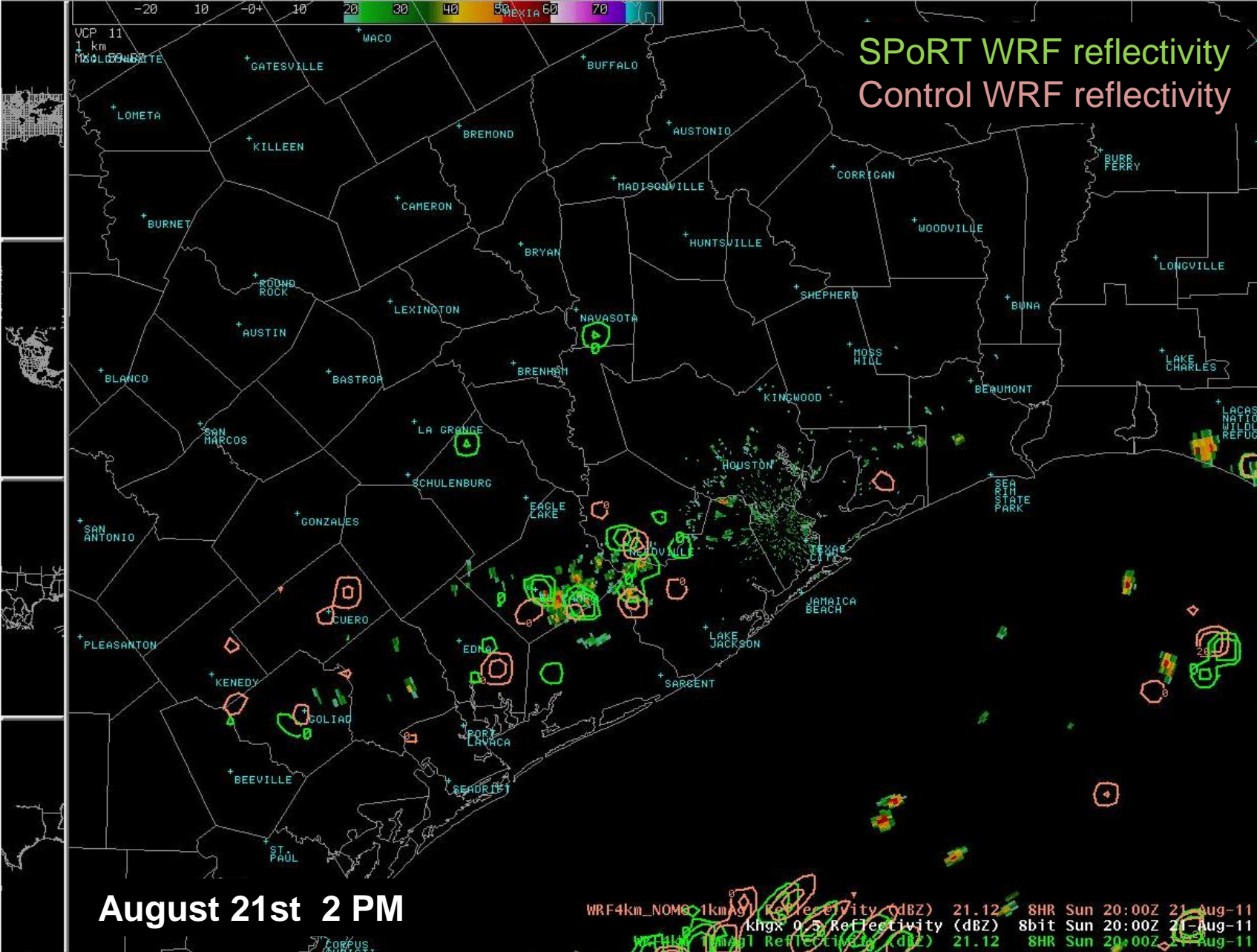


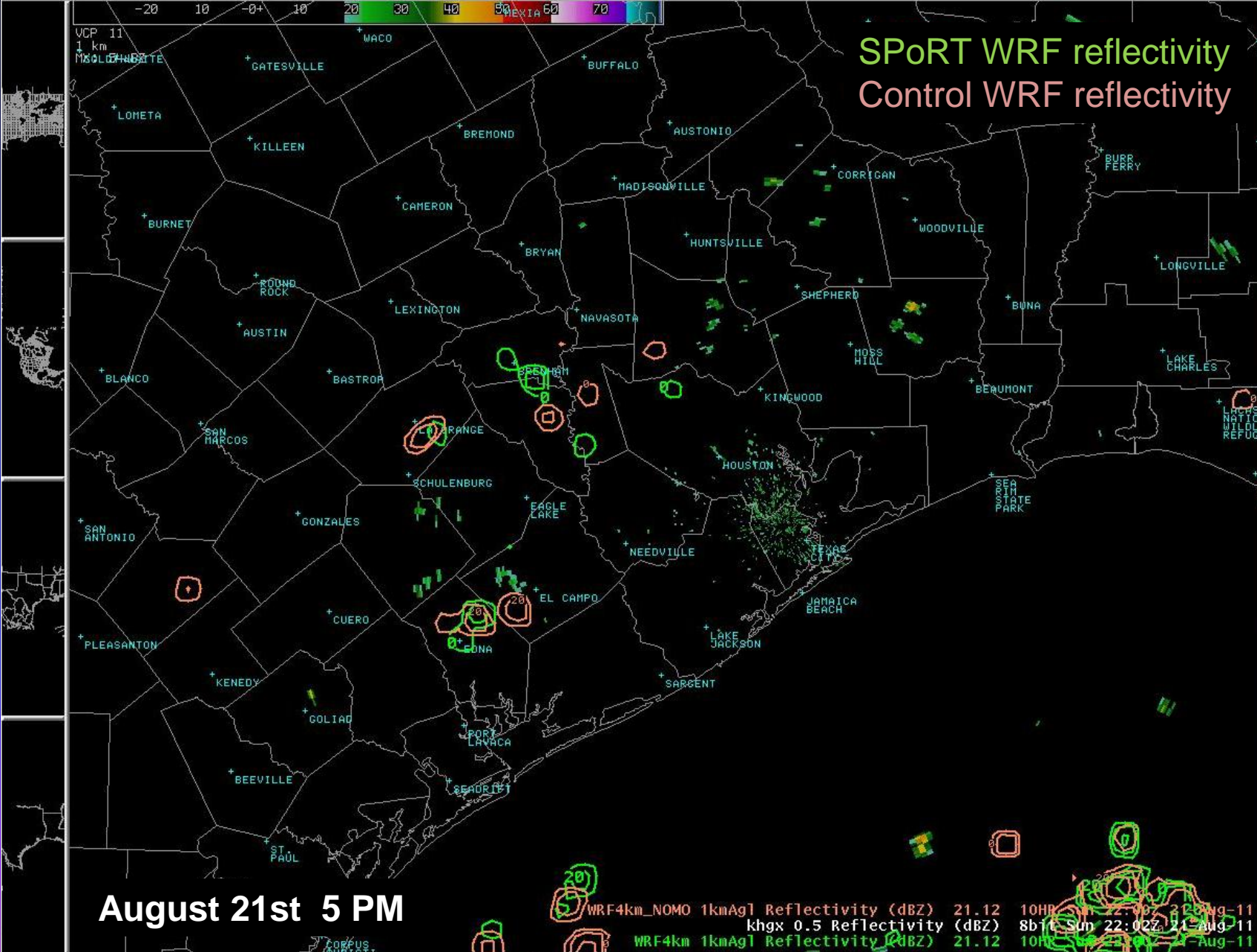


SPoRT WRF reflectivity
Control WRF reflectivity

khgx 0.5 Reflectivity (dBZ)	8bit Sun 22:01Z 14-Aug-11
WRF4km_NOMO 1kmAg1 Reflectivity (dBZ)	14.12 10HR Sun 22:00Z 14-Aug-11
WRF4km 1kmAg1 Reflectivity (dBZ)	14.12 10HR Sun 22:00Z 14-Aug-11



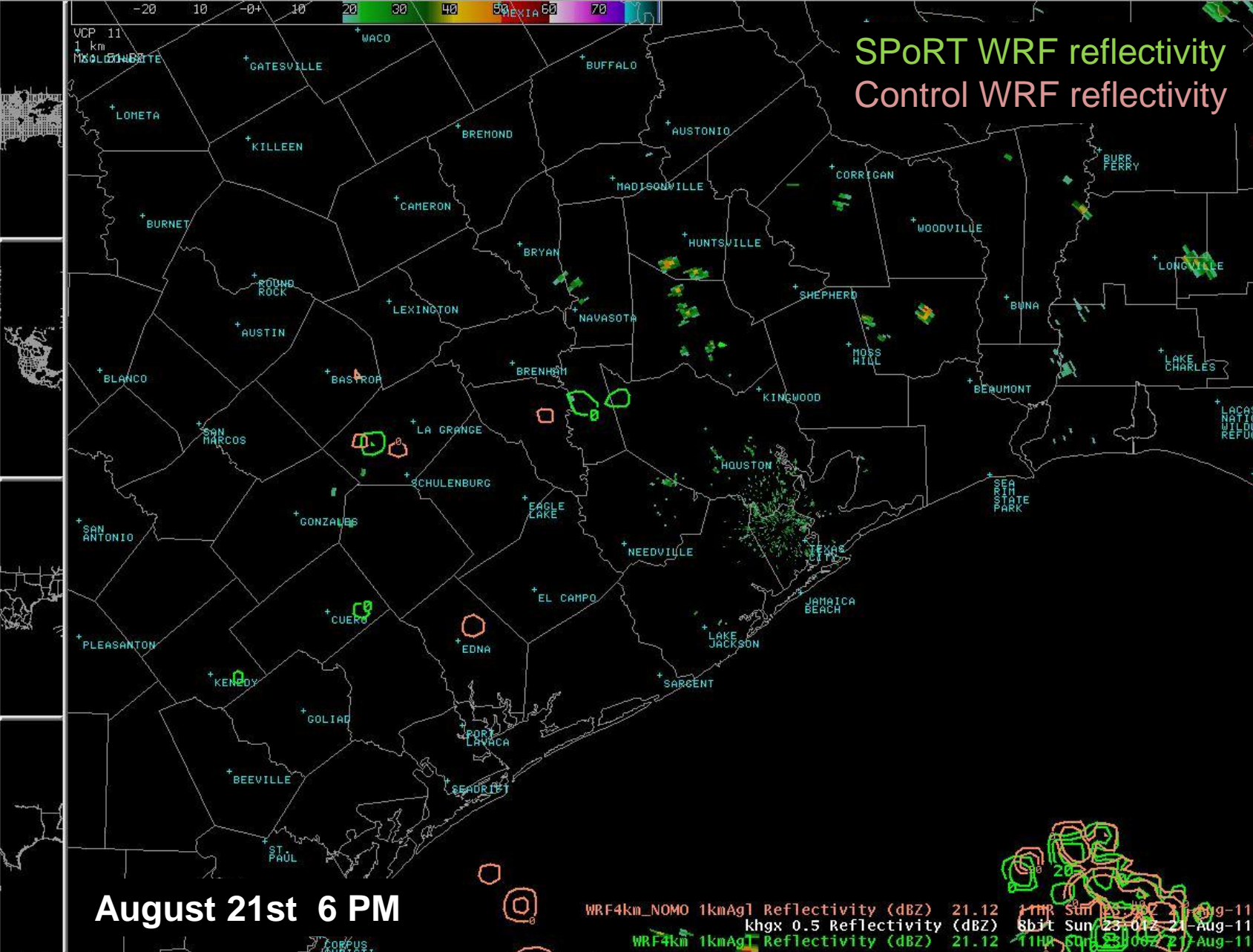


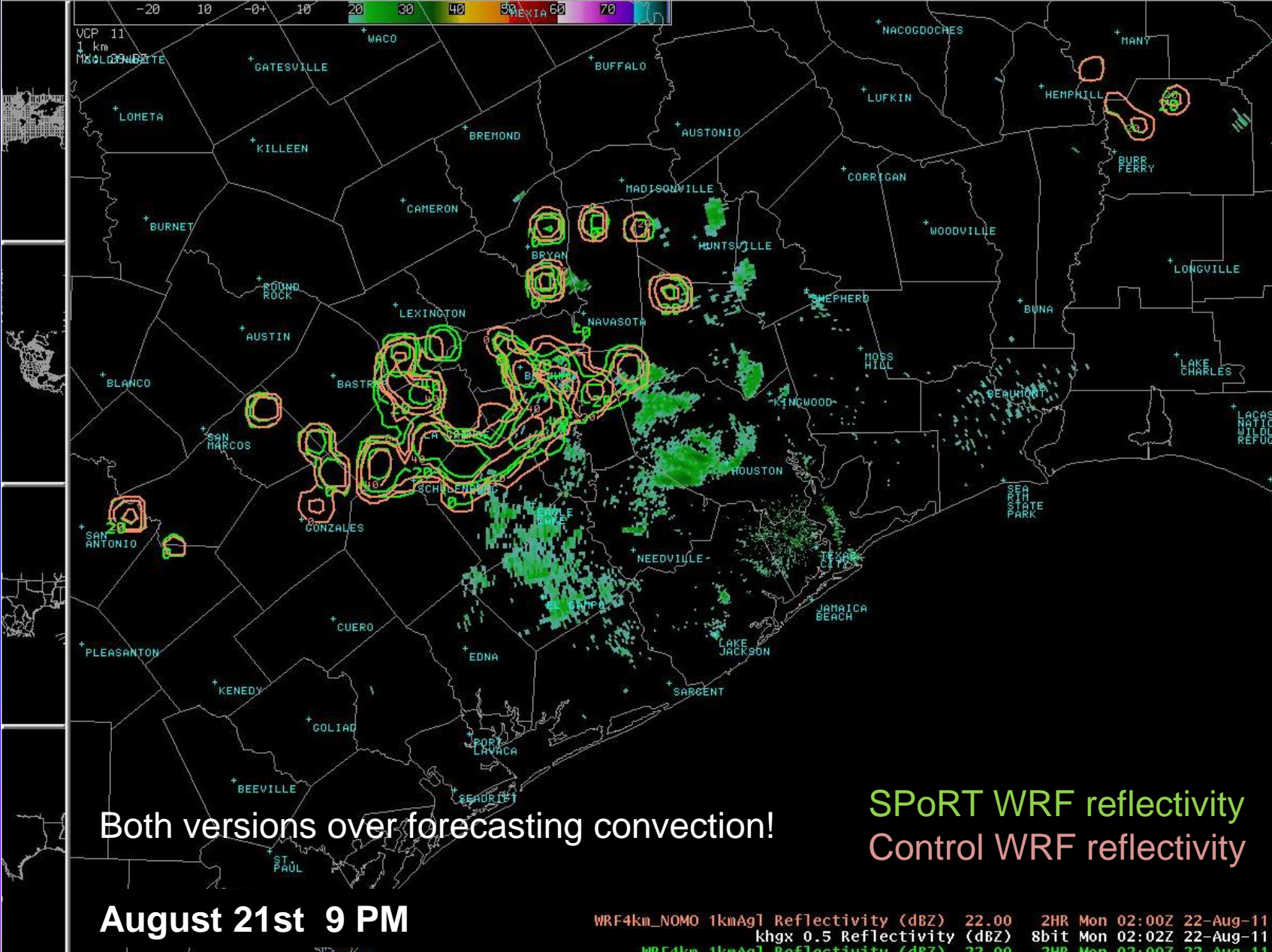


SPoRT WRF reflectivity
Control WRF reflectivity

August 21st 5 PM

WRF4km_NOMO 1kmAgl Reflectivity (dBZ)	21.12	10HR	22:00	21-Aug-11
khgx 0.5 Reflectivity (dBZ)	8b1c	Sun	22:02Z	21-Aug-11
WRF4km 1kmAgl Reflectivity (dBZ)	21.12	10HR	22:00	21-Aug-11





Both versions over forecasting convection!

SPoRT WRF reflectivity
Control WRF reflectivity

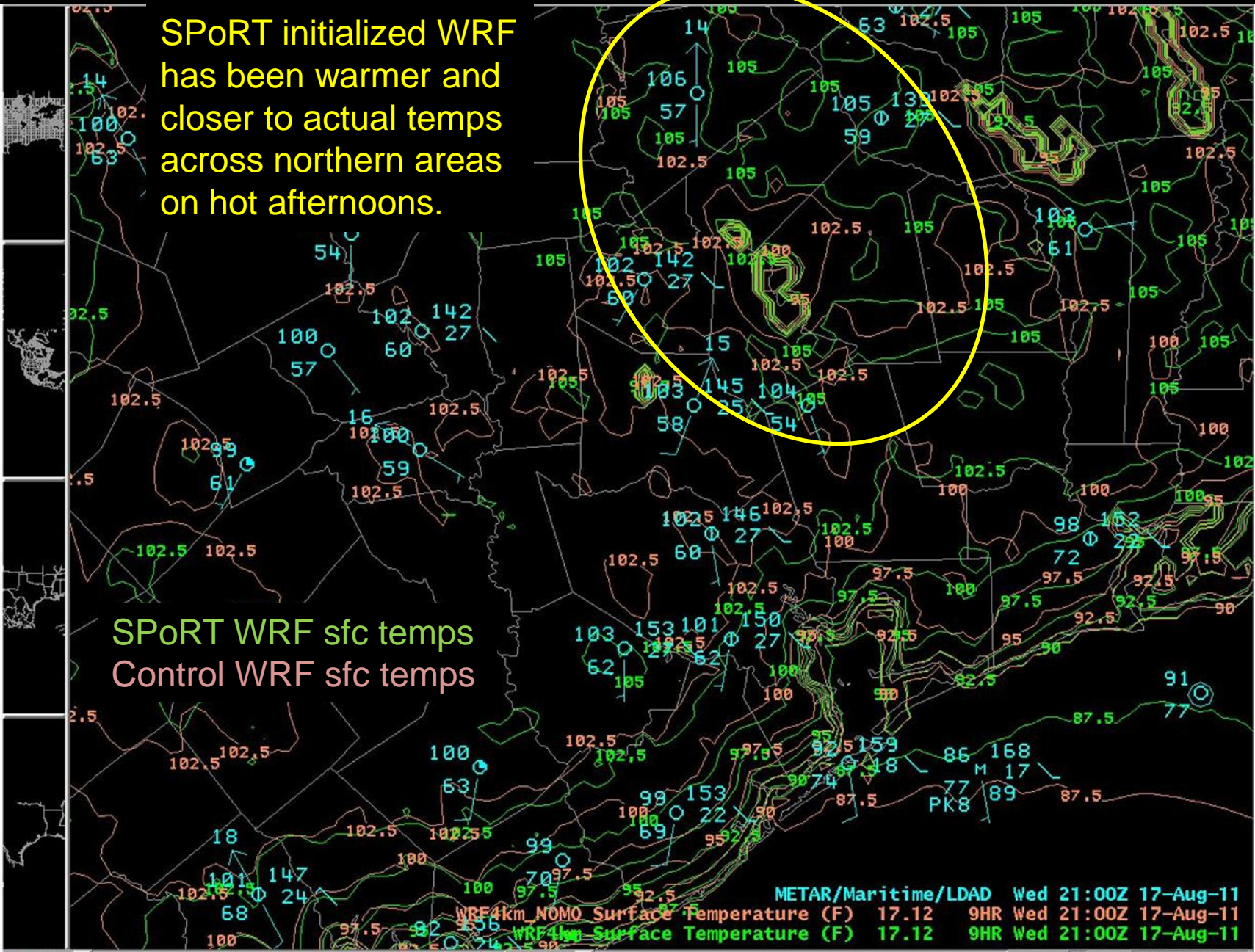
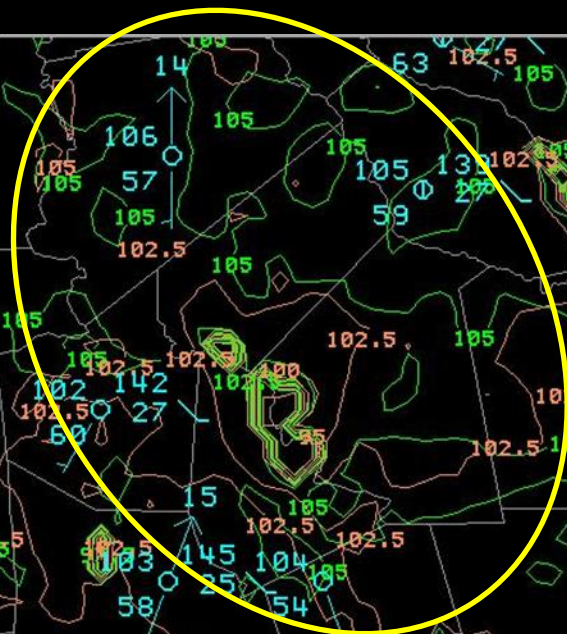
August 21st 9 PM

WRF4km_NOMO 1kmAgl Reflectivity (dBZ)	22.00	2HR Mon 02:00Z 22-Aug-11
khgx 0.5 Reflectivity (dBZ)	8bit Mon 02:02Z 22-Aug-11	
WRF4km 1kmAgl Reflectivity (dBZ)	22.00	2HR Mon 02:00Z 22-Aug-11

It has been HOT!!

SPoRT initialized WRF has been warmer and closer to actual temps across northern areas on hot afternoons.

SPoRT WRF sfc temps
Control WRF sfc temps



METAR/Maritime/LDAD Wed 21:00Z 17-Aug-11
WRF4km_NOMO Surface Temperature (F) 17.12 9HR Wed 21:00Z 17-Aug-11
WRF4km Surface Temperature (F) 17.12 9HR Wed 21:00Z 17-Aug-11

Going Forward

Objectively verify with MET (Model Evaluation Tools) package.

Experiment with different initialization methods (RUC, LAPS, etc.)

**Thanks for support from Mark Keehn (HGX ITO),
Scott Overpeck (HGX WRF focal point),
and Bob Rozumalski (NWS Nat'l SOO)**

Questions ????