SUMMARY

Today

This morning low-level cloudiness is spreading southward across the Gulf in cool northerly continental outflow. Broken cloudiness should underlie the flight track over the Gulf. The jet streak is moving in from the west and some wisps of upper tropospheric cloudiness may present themselves over the Gulf as well.

Excellent flying conditions.

Sunday

The NCEP cloud fraction plots for Sunday evening (point your browser to the Day 2 plots at http://bocachica.arc.nasa.gov/AVE/rh_omega_plots.html) indicate that middle and upper-level cloudiness will be approaching the continental portions of the AURA track over the upper level ridge in front of the cutoff low over California. Forecast descent at upper levels continues throughout the weekend across the general AVE theatre of operations, although we note again the wisps of lifted tropical moisture entering the Gulf from Mexico evident in this morning’s satellite loop [http://bocachica.arc.nasa.gov/AVE/central/png/index.html]. So don’t expect Sunday to be as clear upstairs as today certainly.

Below are the current NWS forecasts:

Southeast Texas Zone Forecast
National Weather Service Houston/Galveston TX
430 AM CST Thu Nov 5 2004

(http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx/productview.php?pil=HGXFPHGX&version=0)

Today              Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s.  N winds 5 to 10 mph.
Tonight            Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s.  NW winds ~ 5 mph.
Saturday           Mostly sunny.  Highs in the mid 70s.  W winds 5-10 mph.
Saturday night     Mostly sunny.  Lows in the upper 40s.  SW winds ~5 mph.
Sunday             Partly cloudy.  Highs in the upper 70s.  W winds 5-10 mph.
Sunday night–Tuesday Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Highs in the upper 70s.
Tuesday night      Partly cloudy.  Lows in the upper 50s.
Wednesday          Partly cloudy with a 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s.
Wednesday night   Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s.
Veterans day      Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s.
High pressure will dominate area weather thru the weekend. Mostly sunny skies and 25-30 degree diurnal temperature spread should be the rule. Expect onshore winds to resume late Monday or Tuesday as the Hi moves off to the east and next lee side system (associated with H5 low currently over California) gets going. Medium range models in pretty good agreement bringing next front into the region next Wednesday night or Thursday. Will maintain low chc pops already in the forecast for now & adjust as necessary with time. Both ECMWF & GFS models showing another cutoff low near Baja late in the week so confidence in clearing cloud cover/POPs post-frontal passage is currently on the low side given progged SW flow aloft.

Aviation...

Great flying conditions through the forecast period: VFR at all sites with light winds. Did mention some light ground fog at KLBX after 08Z Saturday morning.

Marine...

Reinforcing surge of cool air has moved across the waters. Pressure gradient will relax by afternoon. Winds are at their strongest now and will diminish through the morning. Will keep caution up for 20 to 60 nm waters but should be able to drop this by 18Z at the latest. Excellent boating conditions this weekend with very light winds/seas.

Ellington Forecast from the Weather Underground

[This graphic pasted from http://www.wunderground.com/MOS/DisplayMOS.asp?AirportCode=KEFD&SafeCityName=Ellington&StateCode=TX]