

George Sambataro

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To: George Sambataro

Daily Summary: 8/23/2002

- Gustav brushed the outer banks yesterday and is now heading northeastward towards the Canadian Maritimes. It has top winds speeds of 75 mph which makes it our first hurricane of the year... I don't know if this is the first time we had to wait to a G storm to be a season's first hurricane but I don't think it has happened very often. It should hit Nova Scotia with hurricane force winds tomorrow and brush Eastern Maine with some gusty winds later today. Afterward it becomes a strong extratropical system up north.

- As I have been mentioning... The Gulf of Mexico is the next area for possible development. There is a lot of stuff going on there. There appears to be a low level circulation in the Central Gulf with plentiful convection associated with it. The current strong upper level winds should relax some over the next 24 hours allowing something to get started there. The models disagree with this area.. some say nothing will form.. Others have it moving westward towards Texas again.. Others have it moving eastward towards Florida.. I favor the later solution with something forming in the next 24 hours and moving toward the east. The only fly in the ointment is the upper level SHEAR (again) which while relaxed by then.. is still a negative factor. Maybe another hybrid storm :-)

- Most of the tropical disturbance at 45 west has been pulled northward and is getting involved with a mid latitude trough. This should not become a factor.

- There are 2 other disturbances further east.. One is at 35W and has a nice circulation with it however limited convection. The other is just coming off of Africa and, as most of them do when they just move off, looks very impressive. The Atlantic pattern may be changing so that one of these may threaten to develop and make it across..

For now.. watch the GULF.



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