

Memories – Tour 3

May 14th to May 20th, 2017

StormGroup Chasers

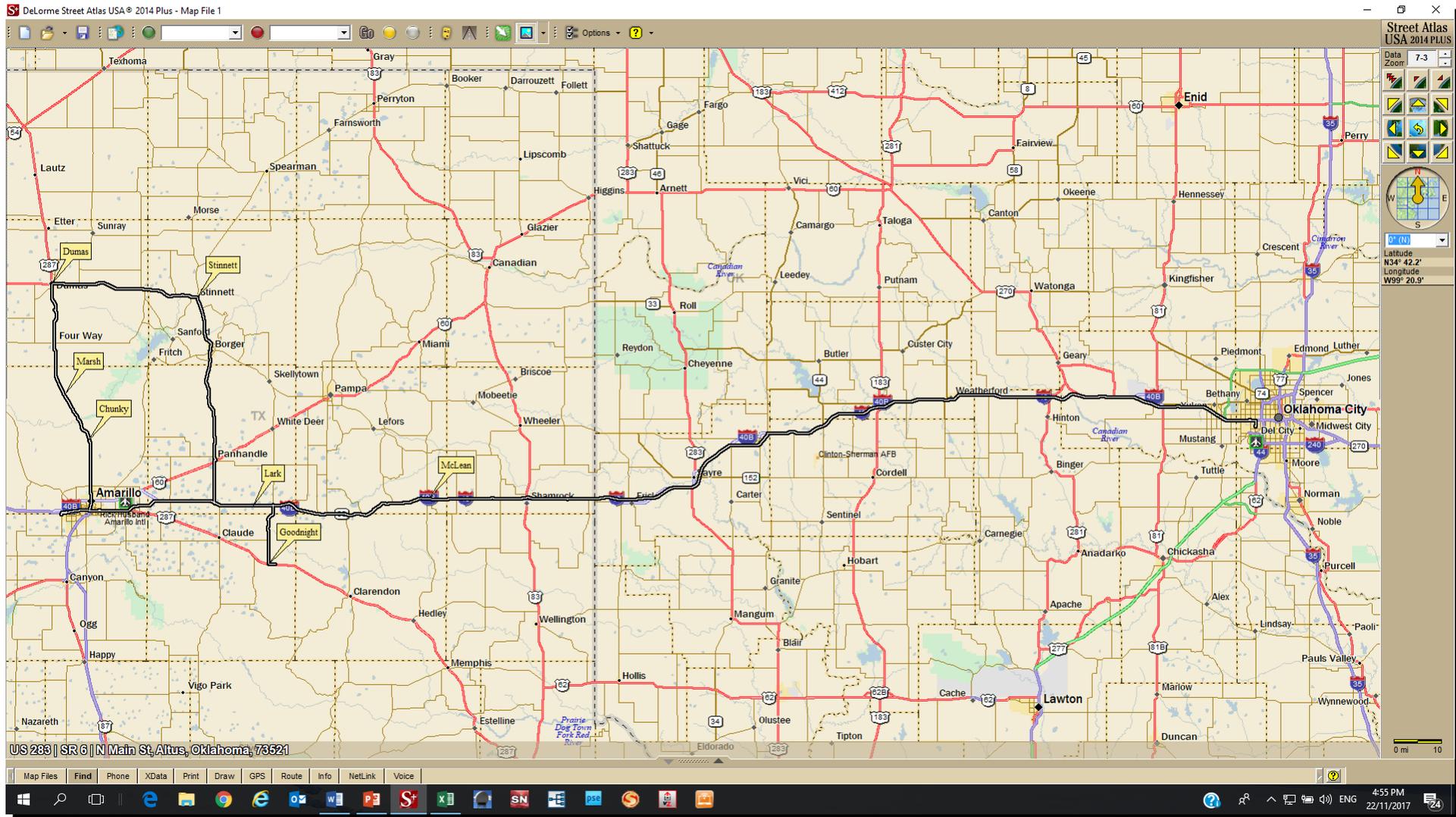
*Sharing a passion for weather
and a love of photography*



The team ...

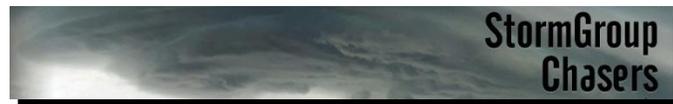


The road taken ... Day 1, May 14th, 468 miles



The chase ... Day 1, May 14th

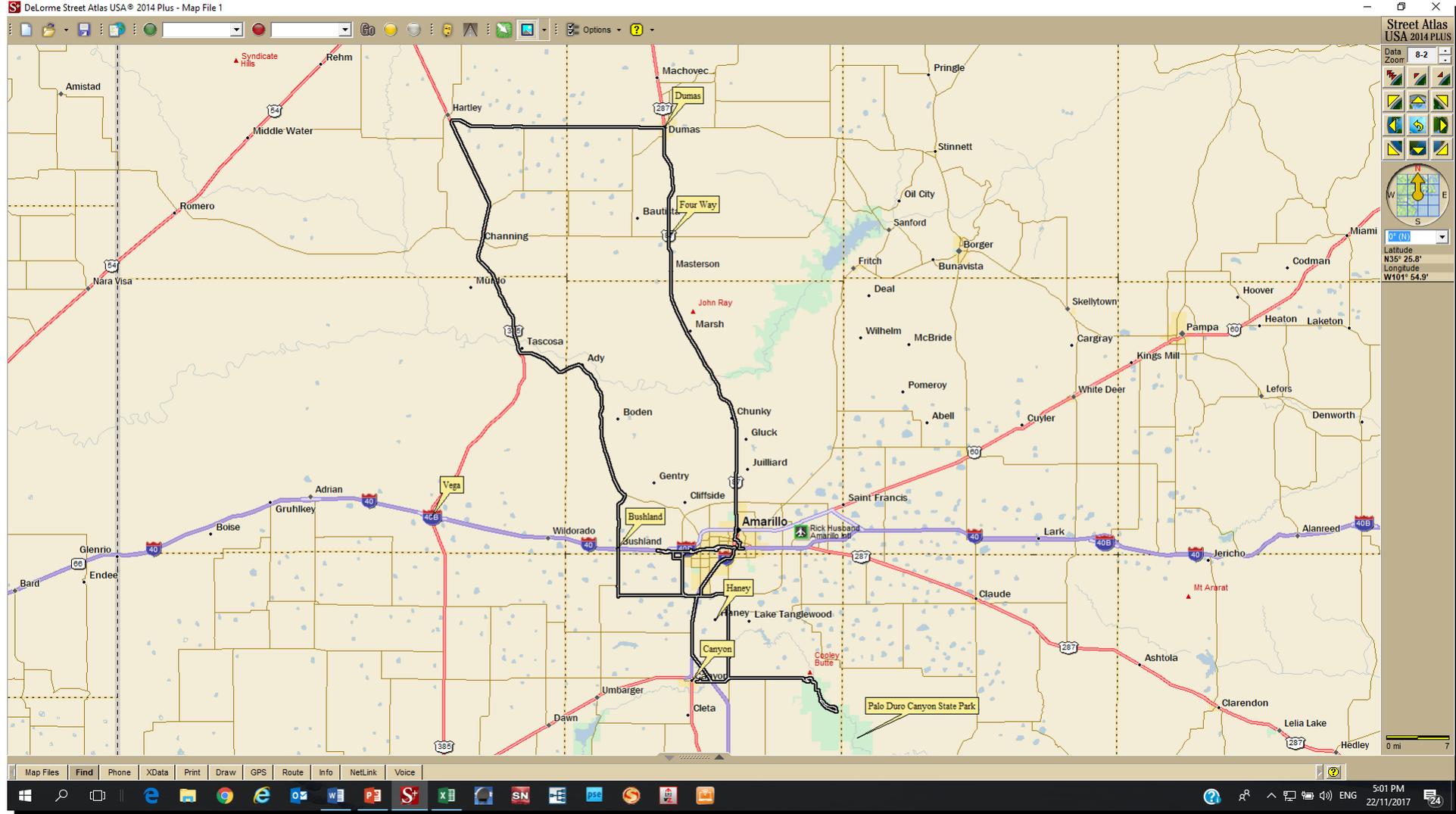
Start of Tour 3 today, drove 468 miles from Oklahoma City to Amarillo, TX ... targeted a marginal severe risk area roughly centered on Amarillo, only scattered storms expected, with storms fading towards sunset ... as storms were to be high-based due to marginal dew points, tornadic potential was essentially nil, but thought we might see some downburst-type storms and some virga - day turned out much better than expected, with some very attractive storms ... started the day with a short briefing, then a visit to Walmart for lunch supplies, then the ceremonial Starbucks coffee to launch on the road west about 11am CDT ... clear sunny day as we headed west ... pulled into the Gray County Rest Stop west of McLean, TX about 2pm CDT for lunch ... first signs of convection on the western horizon ... as we headed for Amarillo after lunch about 2:45pm CDT, the first storm appeared on the visible satellite and the radar, WSW of Amarillo, tracking NE ... turned up US87 from Amarillo to track the storm as it developed ... stopped near Chunky, TX to watch for a while, then north again on US87 - stopped again near Marsh, TX, first lightning & thunder for Tour 3 ... then pulled off the main highway onto a semi-paved road to Beauchamp Airstrip - four horses wandered over to investigate these "strangers" on their land ... watched the storm move overhead, then strong dusty outflow from some initial dry microbursts hit us, blowing dust over us, forcing a retreat to the vehicle ... up towards Dumas, TX - lots of dust being kicked up now ... punched through the storm driving east from Dumas - heavy rain, some small hail, then emerged onto the eastern side of the storm from the rain into strong crosswinds - 70-80 mph winds battering the vehicle, debris being blown across the road, reduced visibility in blowing dust, high-sided trucks coming the other way having difficulty - and a turbulent dusty outflow front just to our north blowing spirals of dust up into the air, with a pronounced dusty spinup just to our SW - very dramatic ... coming into Stinnett, TX, the storm weakened, so decided to head south on SR207 towards some new really stout updrafts to the SE of Amarillo ... headed east on I40, drove into the back side of the new storm, heavy rain/some hail ... then got off I40 and stopped under a high overpass on the old Route66 road running along I40 near Lark, TX and waited for the storm to move NE, and the precipitation to clear ... then we were treated to some fabulous sights to the east - rainbows, hail shafts, mammatus lit up by the setting sun, dramatic turbulent anvil & boiling updrafts ... we then dropped down F-M 294 to Goodnight, TX to get on the next storm coming up from the SW ... the photographers all wandered off into a field to get some beautiful shots of the back side of the storm lit up by the setting sun decided to break off as storms within range were all weakening with sunset, and head to Amarillo for dinner at Applebee's and a reasonably early night at our hotel ... the question now for tomorrow is whether our target area for the forecasted slight risk is Amarillo, TX again, or up north to Leoti, KS ... overnight developments will be reviewed in the morning with interest.



The chase ... Day 1, May 14th

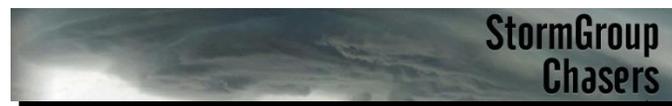


The road taken ... Day 2, May 15th, 253 miles

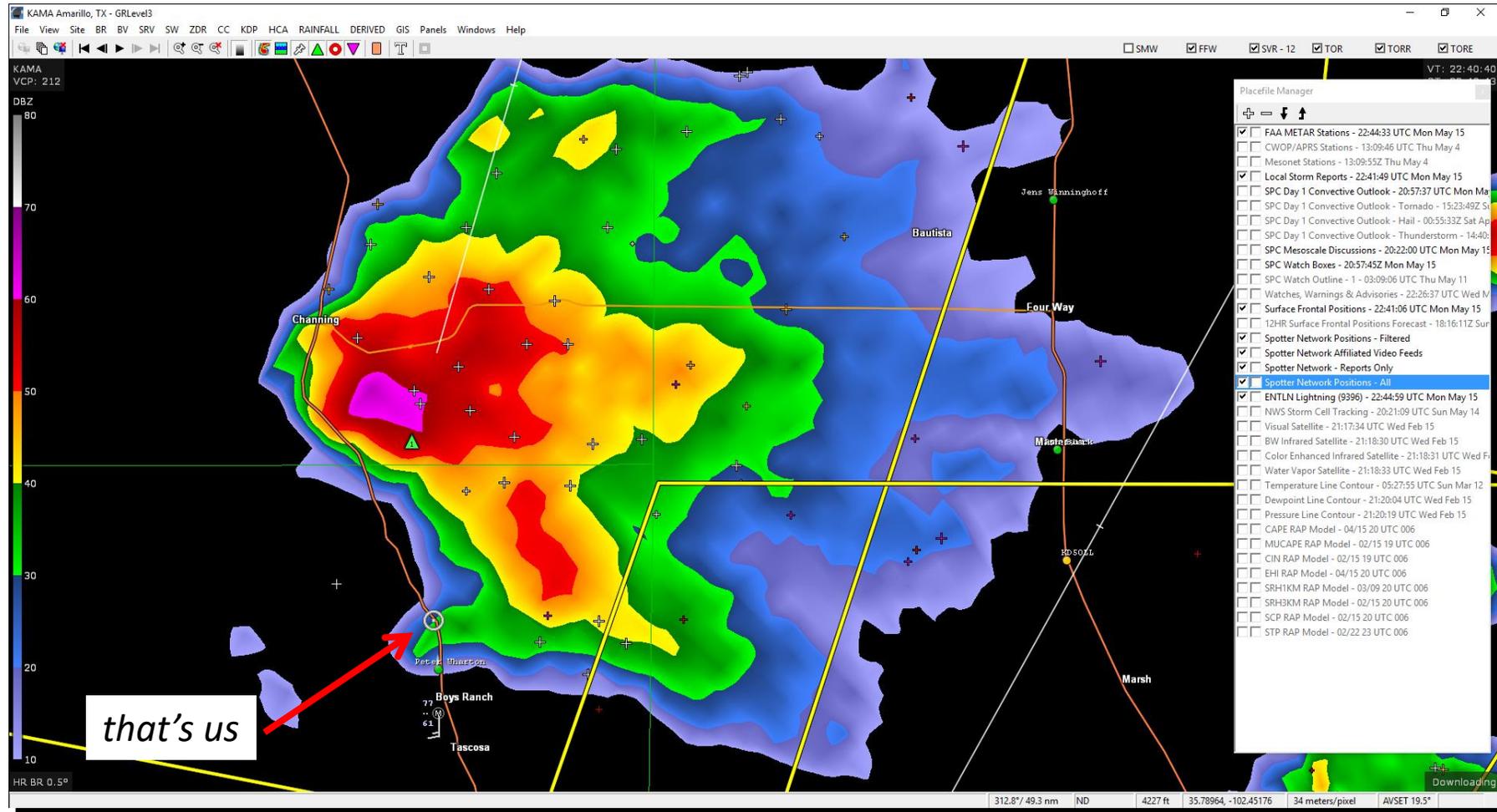


The chase ... Day 2, May 15th

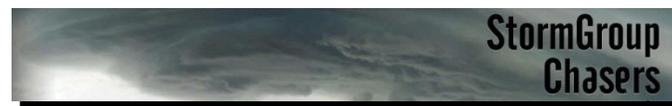
Drove a short 253 miles today in a big circle tour from Amarillo, TX back to Amarillo <different hotel> ... targeted a slight risk area in the northern Texas Panhandle, supposedly a better setup than yesterday - higher dewpoints, sharper dryline & somewhat better upper air support, giving the possibility of some rotating supercells - a late afternoon initiation was likely, so needed to occupy some time in & around Amarillo today ... started the day with a good breakfast as usual at Ye Olde Pancake Station, home of the "world's best pancakes" ... after breakfast visited Cadillac Ranch, and the Cadillac RV gift shop, no purchases by the group ... then on to the Sisemore RV Museum to look at some vintage RVs & travel trailers/caravans - some quite neat restored items, as well as originals in good condition, worth a visit, free as it's part of the Traveland RV retail operating site ... on to House of Target for lunch supplies, going to have to give up on Target as the options are too limited, Walmart for all its socioeconomic/political issues just has the variety for what our crew needs ... south to Palo Duro Canyon for a picnic lunch - scenery is always gorgeous, and our picnic spot under some trees was a nice peaceful setting - short drive around the park, then back up on to the Caprock to find that some cumulus were starting to form in the SEly flow ... stopped in Canyon to wait/watch ... headed up to near Haney, TX where the cumulus were pooling and getting agitated ... watched there as we were located right under the convergence on the dryline, cumulus towers bubbling up & down as they tried to break the cap ... finally some storms initiated a little further to the west, in a line south of Vega, TX ... drove west, then north up to & through Bushland, TX to target the strongest cell, now moving quite quickly to the NNE ... storm now looking quite good on radar, then severe-warned for 1" hail ... decided to try and drive up the backside of the storm along US385, and into the sunshine on the other side of the dryline, to get some vantage points for photography - pretty murky to the east now ... despite driving north at 75mph, we barely passed the storm, before we turned east to Dumas, TX - decided to drive through the storm - few CGs in front of us, and some white hail shafts ahead of us, but the storm cleared the road before we really got under it ... turned south at Dumas to intercept a much stronger severe-warned storm heading NNE towards Four Way, TX ... ran into some heavy rain, then 3/4" hail, a bit noisy on the roof of the vehicle at times, some good CGs on both sides of the road in front of us ... the local forecaster had announced just a little earlier, that the setup wasn't as potent as thought 24hrs earlier - primarily because the dryline didn't sharpen up as much as forecasted, therefore leaving a more diffuse boundary minimising lift to the storms ... the forecast for tomorrow is much more severe, so decided to call it a day, head south for Italian dinner at Eddie's Napoli's, then to an early bed for some much needed rest for the team ... a somewhat disappointing day given the prospects - just some hail & lightning, and a few pretty updrafts/anvils - but we were at the initiation point, and didn't miss much other than other hail reports.



The chase ... Day 2, May 15th



... tracking a storm north of Boys Ranch, TX at 5:40pm CDT ...



The chase ... Day 2, May 15th

1941 Westcraft Trailer

Westcraft was a Los Angeles based company that manufactured top of the line trailers in the 1940's - 1950's.

This particular trailer was owned by a defense worker in World War II. It was located in a special workers camp in the western United States. The camp had a central wash-room and bath since few, if any, trailers had bathrooms built into the unit.

The owner, Mr. Rogge, lived in the trailer until the end of the war. Then relocated to Arizona in approx. 1953. Later, he bought a farm by Palo Duro Canyon and parked the trailer.

It was sold to Pat Newell who then did the majority of the restoration before we finished it.

This is a very rare Trolley Roof model. Very few are known to exist.



1975 Itasca

This was the 1st Itasca Motorhome ever built. Serial # 1.

It was the prototype for Itasca.

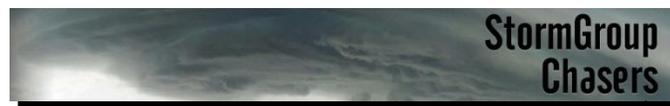
It was in Winnebago's Welcome Center for over 20 years.

It has 6,000 original miles and is in brand new condition.



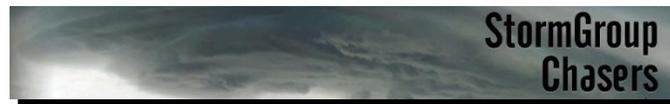
The chase ... Day 3, May 16th

A classic chasing day where we chased the same supercell for over 5 hours, from its initiation as a small fluffy cloud just north of Turkey, TX to the storm finally weakening north of Weatherford, OK - over 150 miles "as the crow flies" ... unfortunately the day was marred by a fatality & major destruction in Elk City, OK as the storm dropped a major tornado that cut a 25 mile damage path from near Sayre, OK to Elk City, OK ... a day when multiple warnings from the Spotter Network and the National Weather Service couldn't prevent this tragic outcome from Mother Nature's fury ... we drove 493 miles today from Amarillo, TX to Oklahoma City, OK ... targeted an area east of Plainview, TX to Childress, TX ... morning analysis of models, parameters & soundings, combined with the Lubbock local forecaster comments, indicated the potential for significant tornadoes in the target area ... the SPC convective outlook at 7:57 CDT had some of the most detailed commentary I've seen, with a 10% hatched tornado risk from Kansas down to our target area ... started the day with a good breakfast at Calico County Restaurant at the relaxed time of 9:30am, then Walmart for supplies, then on the road south to Plainview, TX about 11am ... mostly sunny, but numerous cumulus indicated moisture streaming north ... relaxed in a city park in Plainview, dryline moving over us, lots of cumulus around testing the cap, SPC had now upgraded their risk to Moderate with a 15% hatched tornado risk, this risk area had been extended a little south since this morning, now well over our target area ... headed east about 1:30pm to target east of the convergence setting up, PDS tornado watch issued over our area ... stopped in Matador, TX, then moved north to Turkey, TX towards an area of more congested cumulus ... a couple of storms initiated much further to the north, stopped just north of Turkey, TX to wait for developments ... an initial small cloud to our SW popped up, moved overhead, strengthening with each radar scan, anvil forming, and big rain drops falling ... headed NE to Tampico, TX to track the storm ... initially just a small blue dot on radar, within just a few scans the storm exploded upwards to a 41,000ft echo top ... we're the only chaser on this storm at this point ... stopped west of Parnell, TX to watch this now impressive storm, strong inflow winds moaning in the power lines overhead, dust blowing off the fields around us ... stopped on US387 just south of Memphis, TX, storm now getting really intense, rotation on the radar, wall clouds forming, dust really starting to obscure our view of the storm ... storm became tornado-warned ... as we watched, inflow winds really ramped up, and a strongly rotating dusty wall cloud crossed the road just north of Memphis, very impressive sight ... **continued on next page**

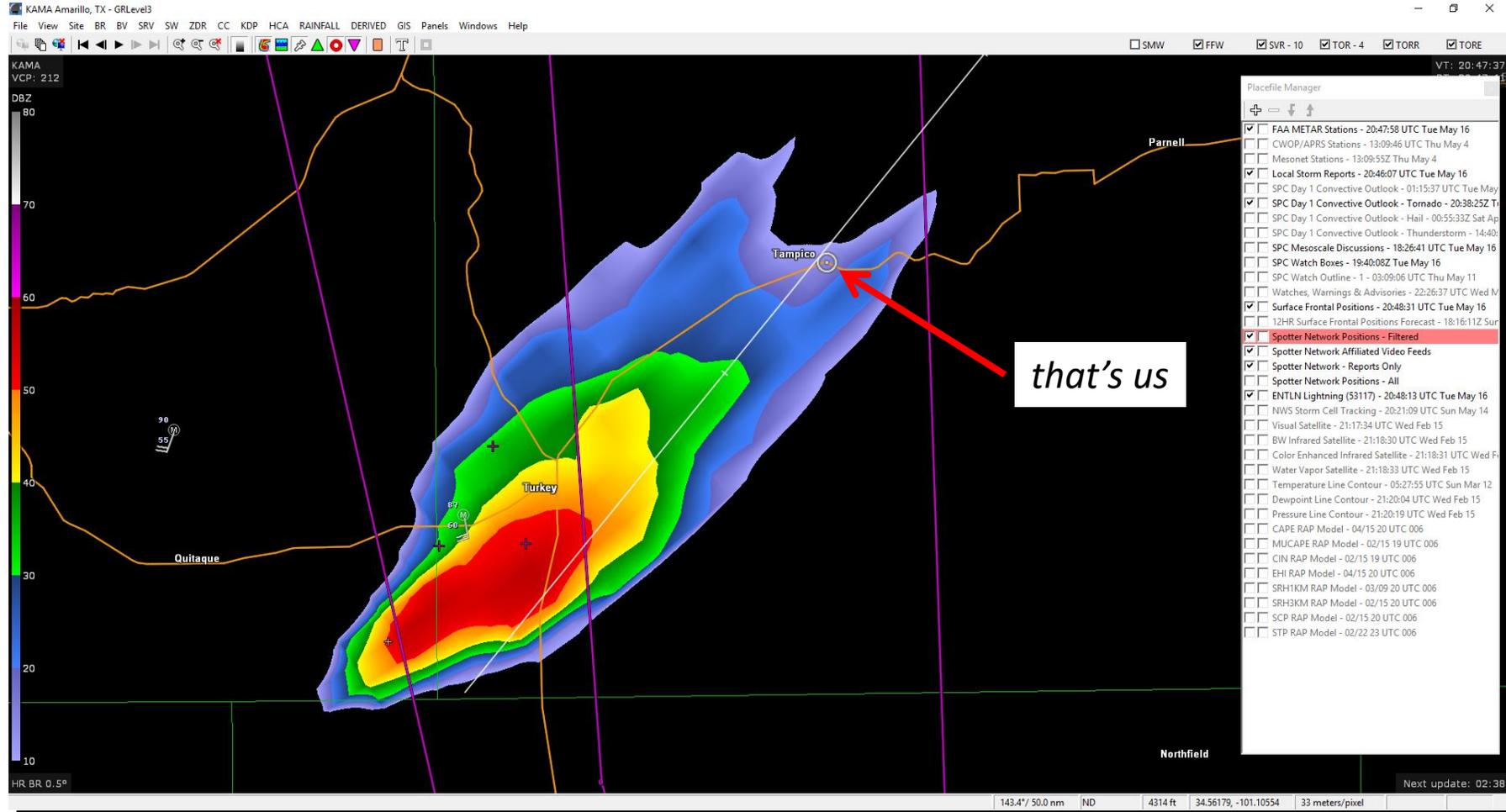


The chase ... Day 3, May 16th – cont'd

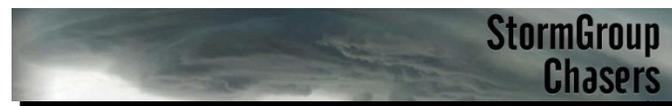
... more chasers starting to show up now ... now started a process of "stair-stepping" up the map, as we continued to chase the storm, east then north then east again - filing multiple warning reports on Spotter Network <I'm now "official" for the 2017 season having filed five valid reports> ... stopped west of Wellington, TX - inflow winds pounding the vehicle, getting concerned about inflow jet dangers ... could see lots of rotating rain curtains, inflow clouds screaming across our view into the circulation, but no visibility of a tornado ... north to the Interstate near Erick, OK ... traffic slowing down as we hit heavy rain ... filled up with gas in Sayre, OK - gas station shut due to tornado warning, but pumps on automatic ... big hail on the ground around the gas station .. ran east from Sayre, OK along SR152, crossed some minor tornado damage ... incredibly black mass to our north, more rotating rain curtains <in retrospect we were looking at the tornado cutting its 25 mile damage path towards Elk City, OK - but couldn't see it as it was apparently fully rain-wrapped for most of its life - a spotter much closer than us to the NE reported a multi-vortex tornado to his west SW of Elk City - later TV footage shows these vortices, barely visible, with rain curtains wrapping around> ... headed east on SR152 trying to get ahead of the storm, then north through Burns Flat, OK in SR44 ... underneath of storm still very black, all sorts of rotation structures, but no visible tornado, intense radar couplets ... back up to the Interstate, then east to Clinton, OK - storm starting to weaken now, but still tornado-warned ... up north, then east to SR154 north of Weatherford, OK in chaser convoys now ... decided to break off weakening storm, and head south to target a newly developing storm for a night-time lightning show ... quick pit stop & gas station food at Love's just south of Hinton, OK then south towards very frequent lightning ... through some rain on the north flank of the storm, then stopped just east of Binger, OK to watch the lightning ... some gorgeous bolts, flashes and CGs under the storm, a safe distance away - then BOOM!! ... a CG struck just across the road from us, almost immediate cannon shot of thunder after ... next set of pictures are a burst mode set of the doors opening, as the crew completed a van reload in record time!! ... two of us captured the strike with Lightning Cam on our phones ... almost "the one that got us" ... there's video as well ... drove back up to the Interstate through the storm for some more night-time "excitement" - CG lightning bracketing our vehicle, blinding rain, finally out of it heading east on I40 to our hotel ... in at 11pm after an incredible day.



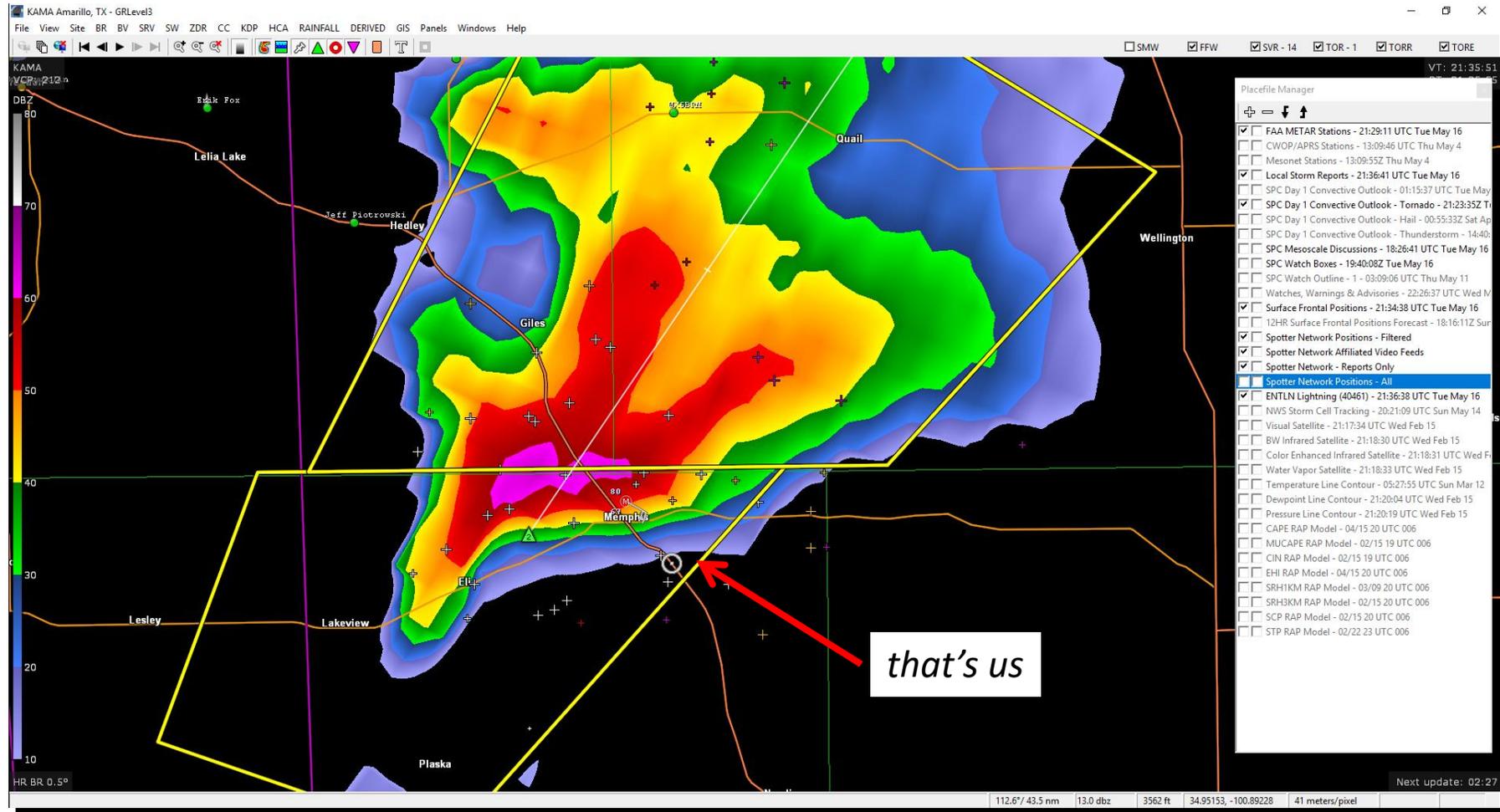
The chase ... Day 3, May 16th



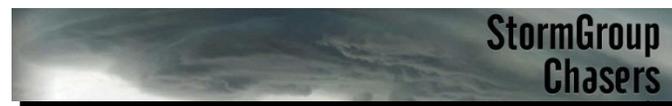
... the supercell we'd chase for 5 hours, shortly after initiation, at 3:47pm CDT ...



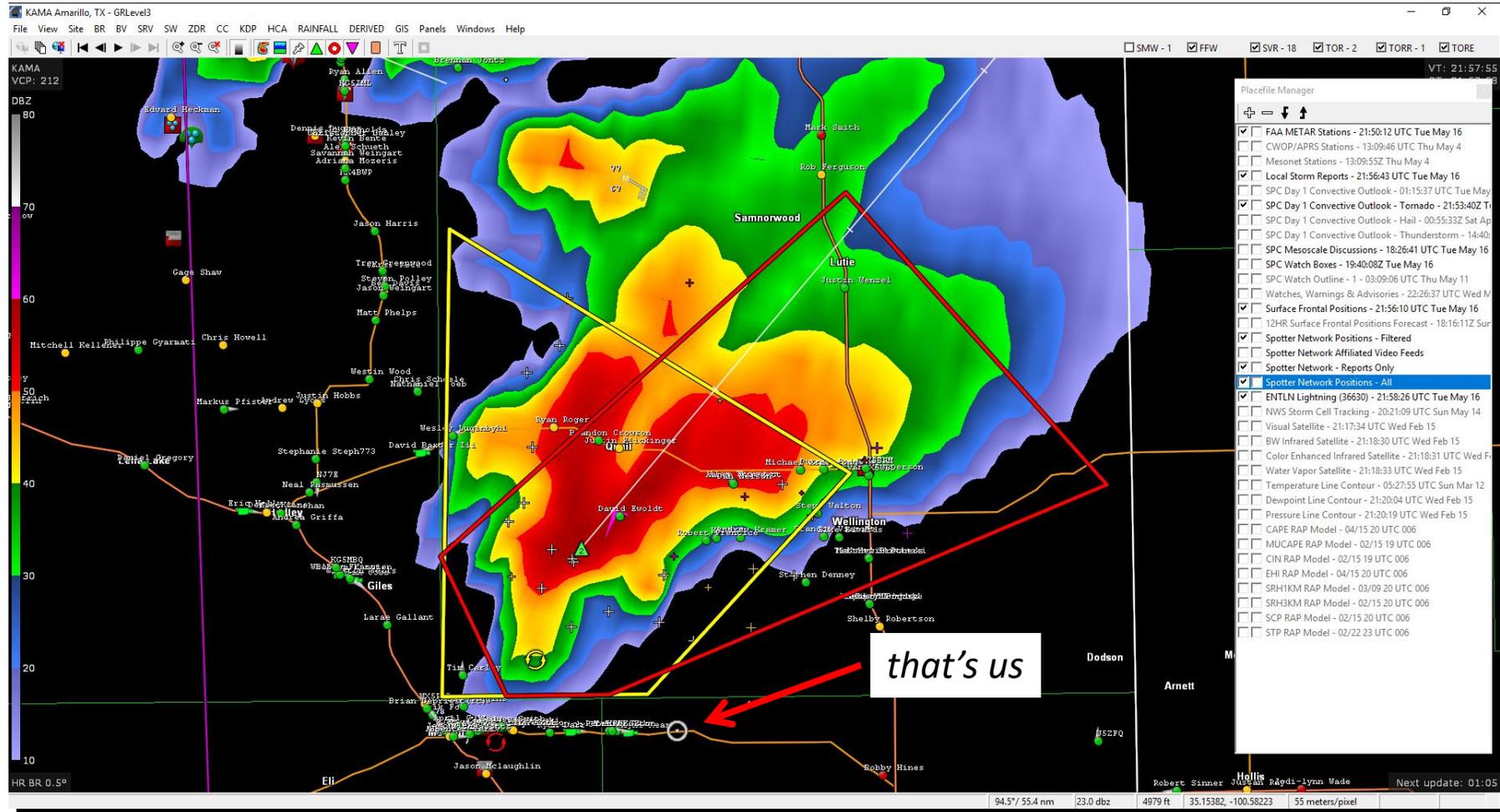
The chase ... Day 3, May 16th



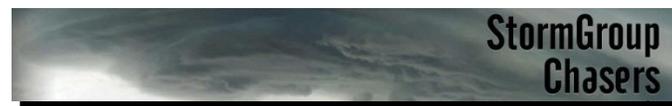
... now severe-warned, with an impressive wall cloud about to cross in front of us at 4:35pm CDT ...



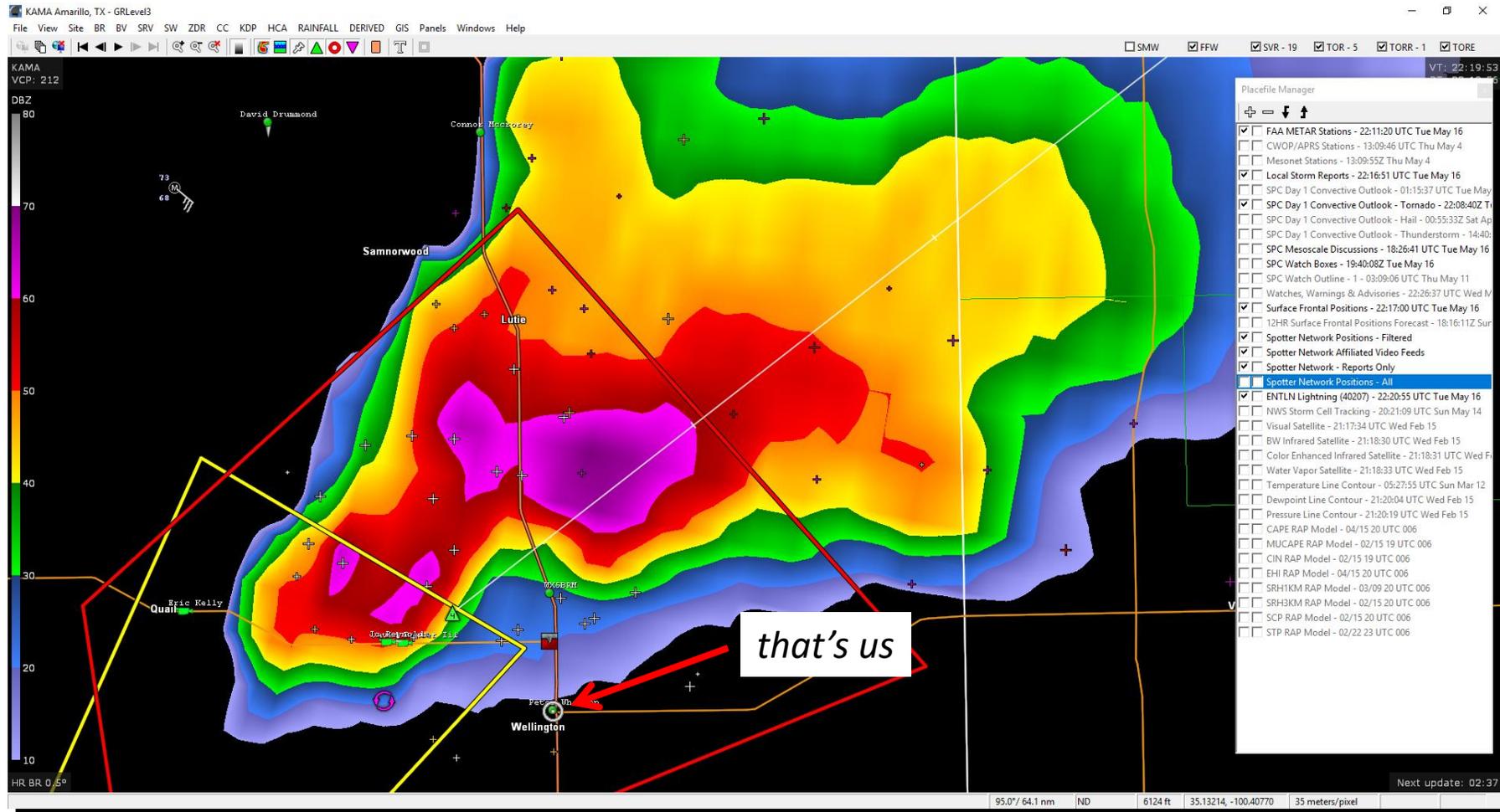
The chase ... Day 3, May 16th – cont'd



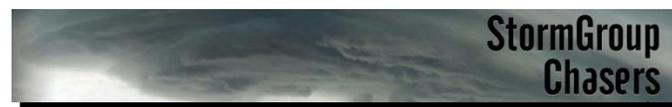
... now tornado-warned, tracking with the storm east from Memphis, TX at 4:57pm CDT ...



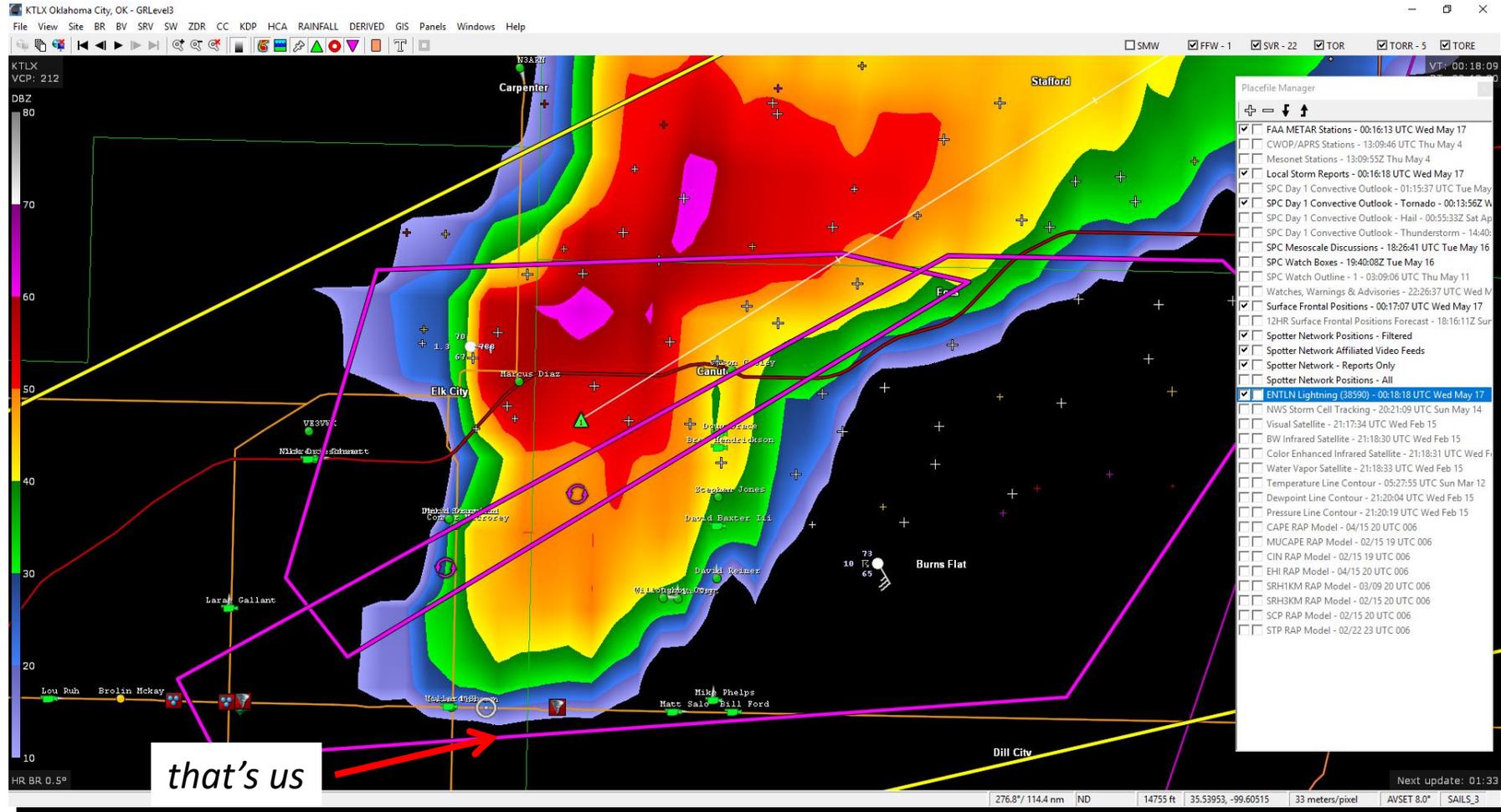
The chase ... Day 3, May 16th



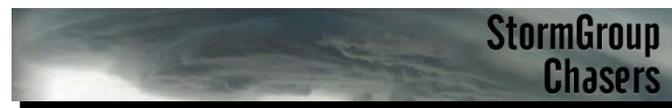
... continuing to track the tornado-warned storm, just north of Wellington, TX at 5:20pm CDT ...



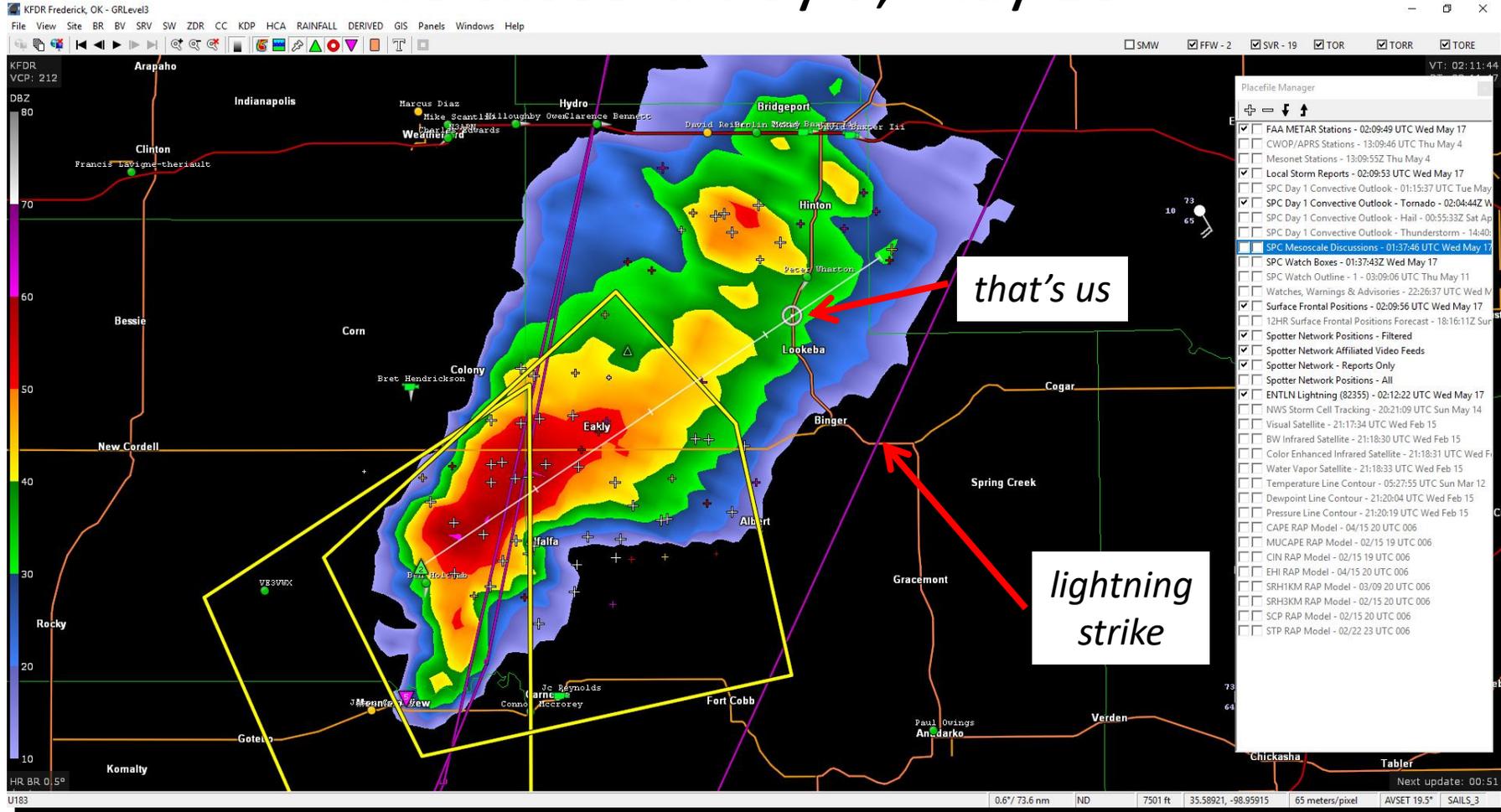
The chase ... Day 3, May 16th



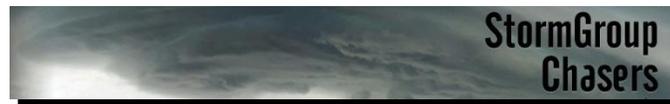
... tornado emergency at 7:19pm CDT, tornado has just swept through south of Elk City causing extensive damage and one death ... finally broke away from this storm as it weakened at 8:24pm CDT...



The chase ... Day 3, May 16th



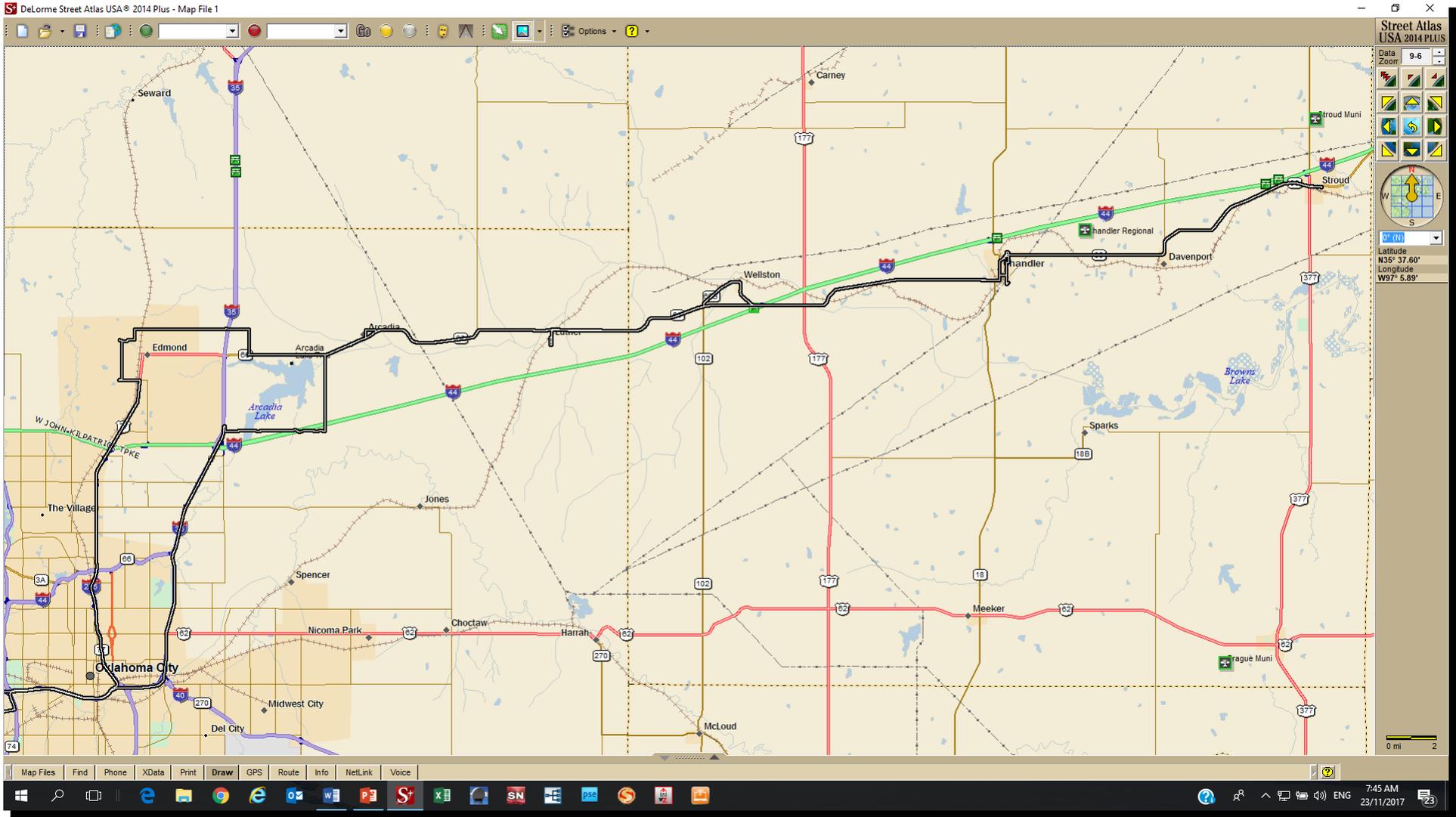
... new severe-warned storm, at 9:12pm CDT we're heading south to Binger, OK, then east ... at 9:45pm, very nearly hit by CG lightning bolt on the side of the road across from us ...



The chase ... Day 3, May 16th



The road taken ... Day 4, May 17th - 168 miles

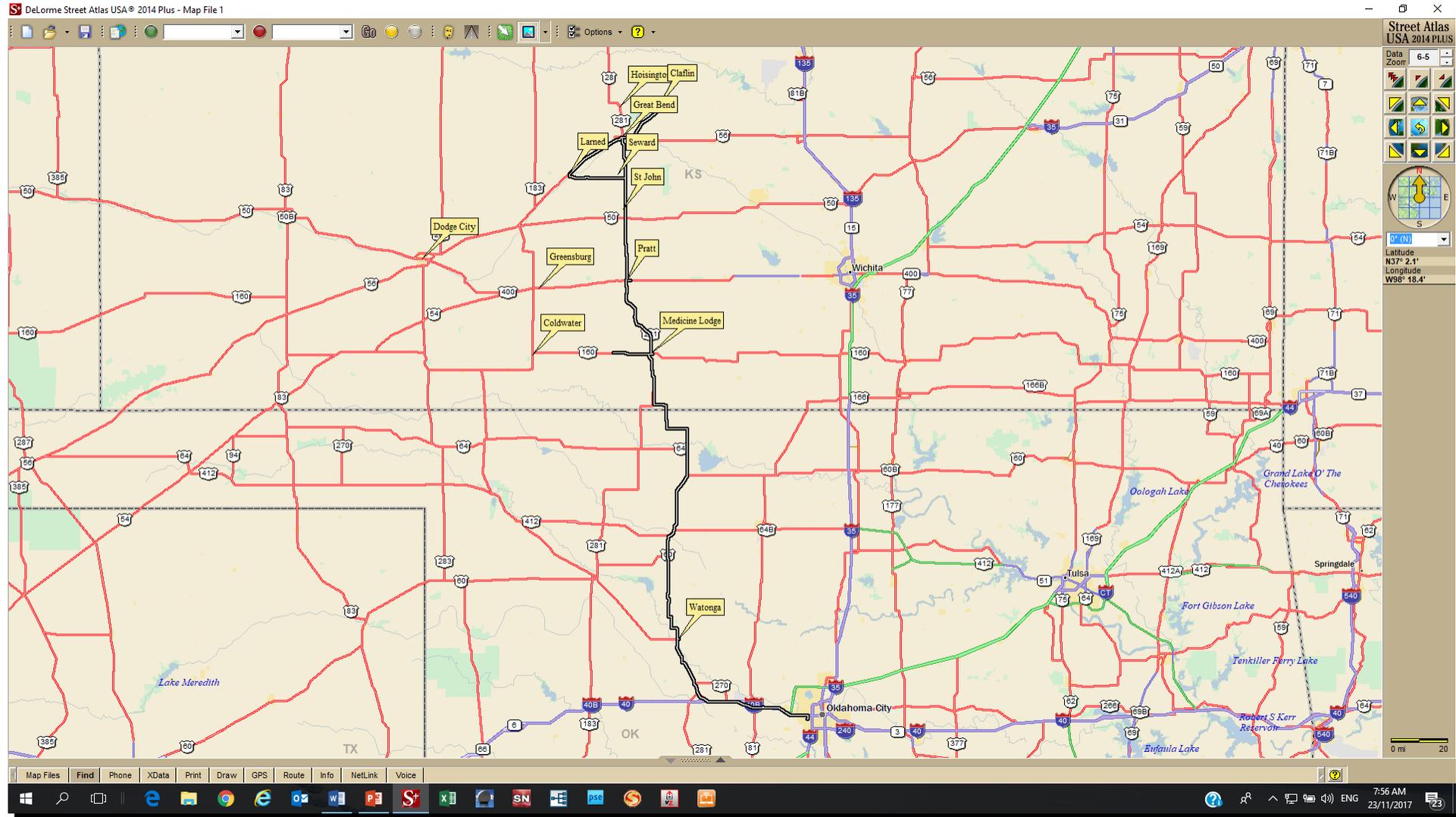


The chase ... Day 4, May 17th

Significant severe chaseable weather was just too far NE today to be able to drive there before initiation, and a significant severe weather event is forecast for NW Oklahoma/SW Kansas tomorrow - so, along with other chaser groups, we sensibly decided to stay another night at the Wyndham in OK City, and essentially have a "day off" from chasing ... Silver Lining Tours was also here, all of their 3 vans battle-scarred from yesterday's chasing, all of their windshields broken from large hail, all fixed and ready for tomorrow by later in the day ... around 11:30am we embarked on a sightseeing road trip up Route66 to Stroud, OK - after all these years there is little left of the Route66 artefacts, but it is a beautiful countryside drive ... drove 168 miles today - visited Pops, a soda shop with every flavour known to man, the Arcadia Round Barn, poked around a couple of small towns along the way, had a picnic lunch in a city park in Chandler, OK, had a coffee at the iconic Rock Cafe in Stroud, OK, then drove back along the same route in the late afternoon sun to Edmonds, OK looking for Gandini's Circus ruins < idea from Atlas Obscura> which was unsuccessful, and as we later found out is pretty much inaccessible ... back to the hotel, then downtown at 6:30pm for a wander around Bricktown, then dinner at Toby Keith's I Love That Bar And Grill restaurant ... back to the hotel just after 9pm for a early night & a good sleep for what looks like an intense day chasing tomorrow.

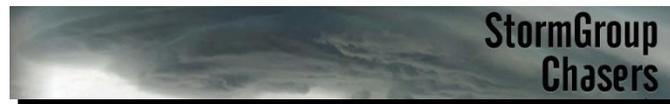


The road taken ... Day 5, May 18th – 430 miles



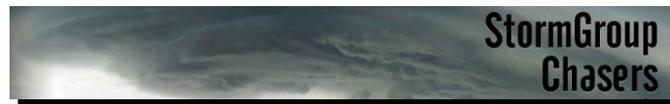
The chase ... Day 5, May 18th

Drove 430 miles today from Oklahoma City, OK to Pratt, KS targeting a 30% hatched tornado risk, high risk of severe weather forecasted by the SPC ... the trouble with these high risk days, touted as a "likely historic outbreak for Oklahoma & Kansas" is that they often fail to live up to their billing ... in this case early convection in SW Oklahoma threatened to be the complicating factor and that proved to be the case ... started the day with a visit to Walmart for lunch supplies, then Starbucks, then on the road west on I40 about 10am - at Watonga, OK reviewed the forecasts, and current conditions/visible satellite - the forecasted lifting north of the warm front into Kansas was starting to take place - and decided to head straight north into an ideal target zone in the triple point between a warm front, dryline & a mesolow circulation enhancing turning in the lower levels ... clearing to the north from us promised better heating ... a brief tour of historic Watonga, and we were off north to Medicine Lodge, KS on SR51A about 11:30am - still quiet in SW Oklahoma, but warm advection was increasing cloud cover there ... crossed the border into Kansas, warm front had lifted further north, but multiple storms had initiated in SW Oklahoma, moving NNE ... had a picnic lunch in Memorial Peace Park in Medicine Lodge, cumulus towers around us bubbling up and testing the cap ... unfortunately anvils from the storms to the SW were starting to spread NNE, and overspreading the sky above us, cutting off heating & thus reducing instability ... briefly thought about going west to Coldwater, KS then north to Greensburg, KS, but reversed course to head north from Medicine Lodge towards some more congested cumulus/incipient initiation of storms in the sunny air to the north of the anvils overspreading us ... up through Pratt, KS then St John, KS anvils still overtaking us, but a severe/warned storm had gone up in front of our path, very black on the horizon to the north ... several storms now went severe in a line in front of us ... strong inflow from the right hand side along the boundary in front of us, and as we drove towards Seward, KS a funnel formed along the boundary, moving westwards ... couldn't see whether it made contact with the ground <bottom tip was behind trees>, but another spotter to the NW, reported a tornado at the same time ... stopped north of Seward to watch the storm for further activity, then a storm strengthened to our west, and became tornado-warned, a good radar couplet on the base velocity scan ... decided to break off the first storm which didn't seem to be doing anything more, and head west towards Larned, KS ... storm very ominous looking as we drove towards Larned, and soon two tornado reports were filed ... **continued on next page**

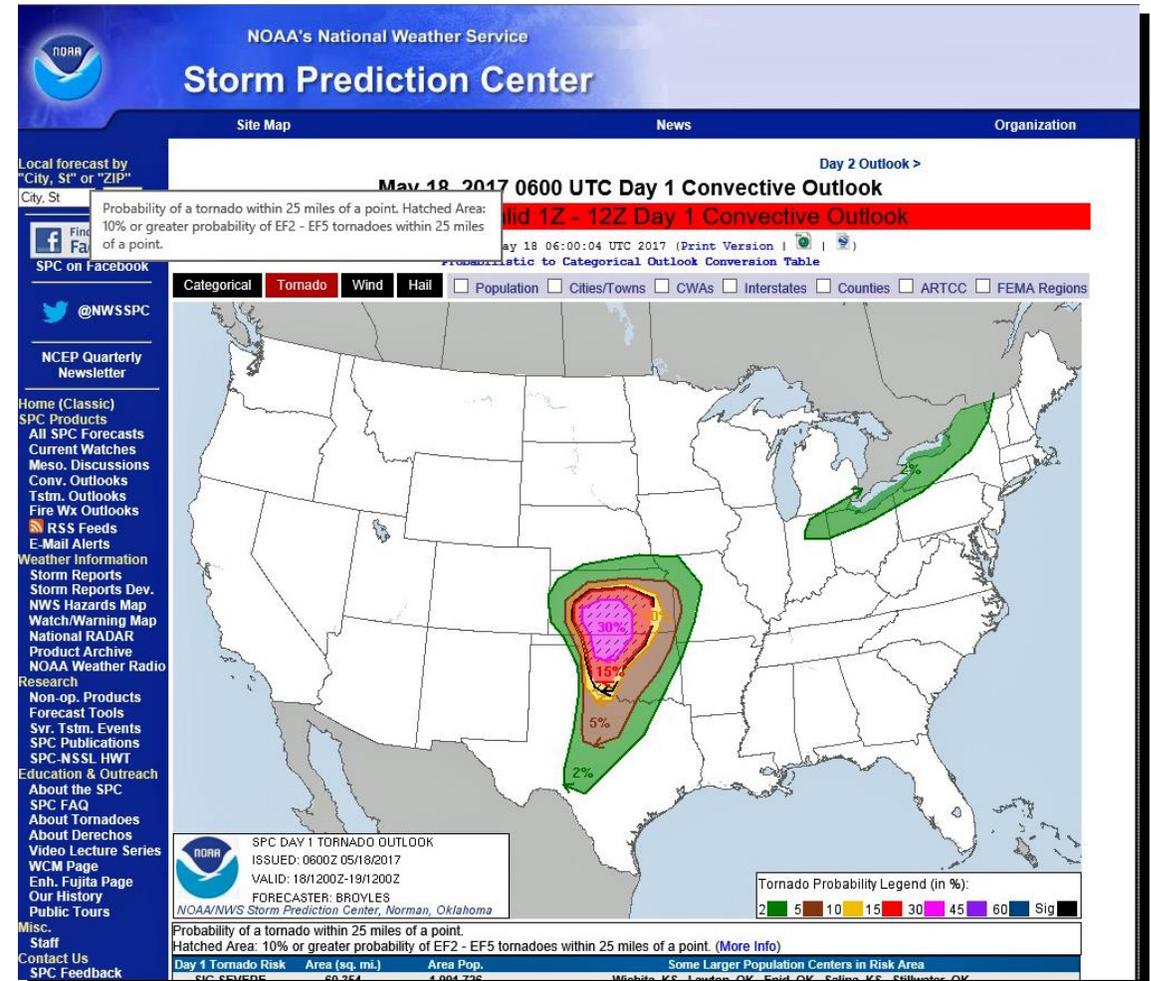
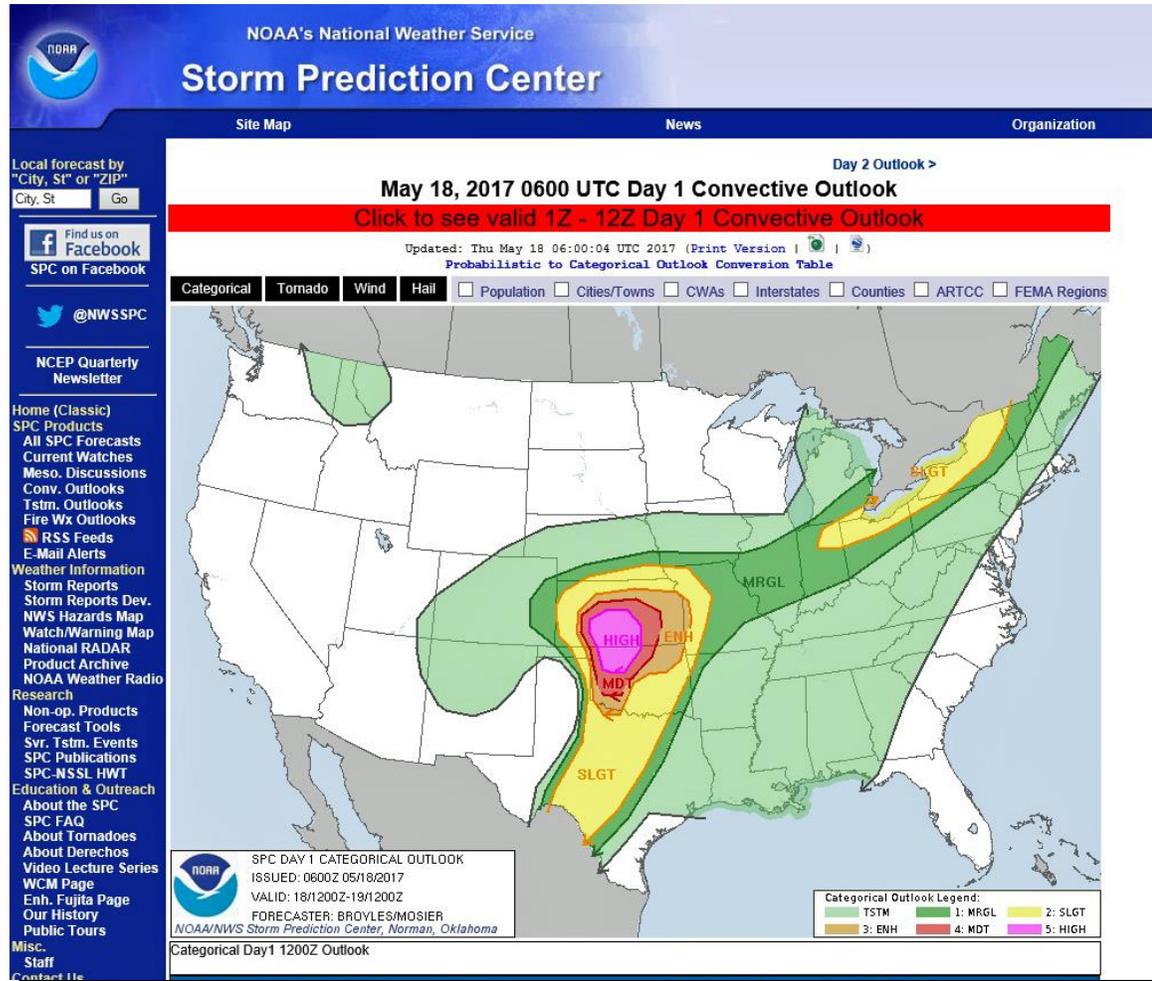


The chase ... Day 5, May 18th – cont'd

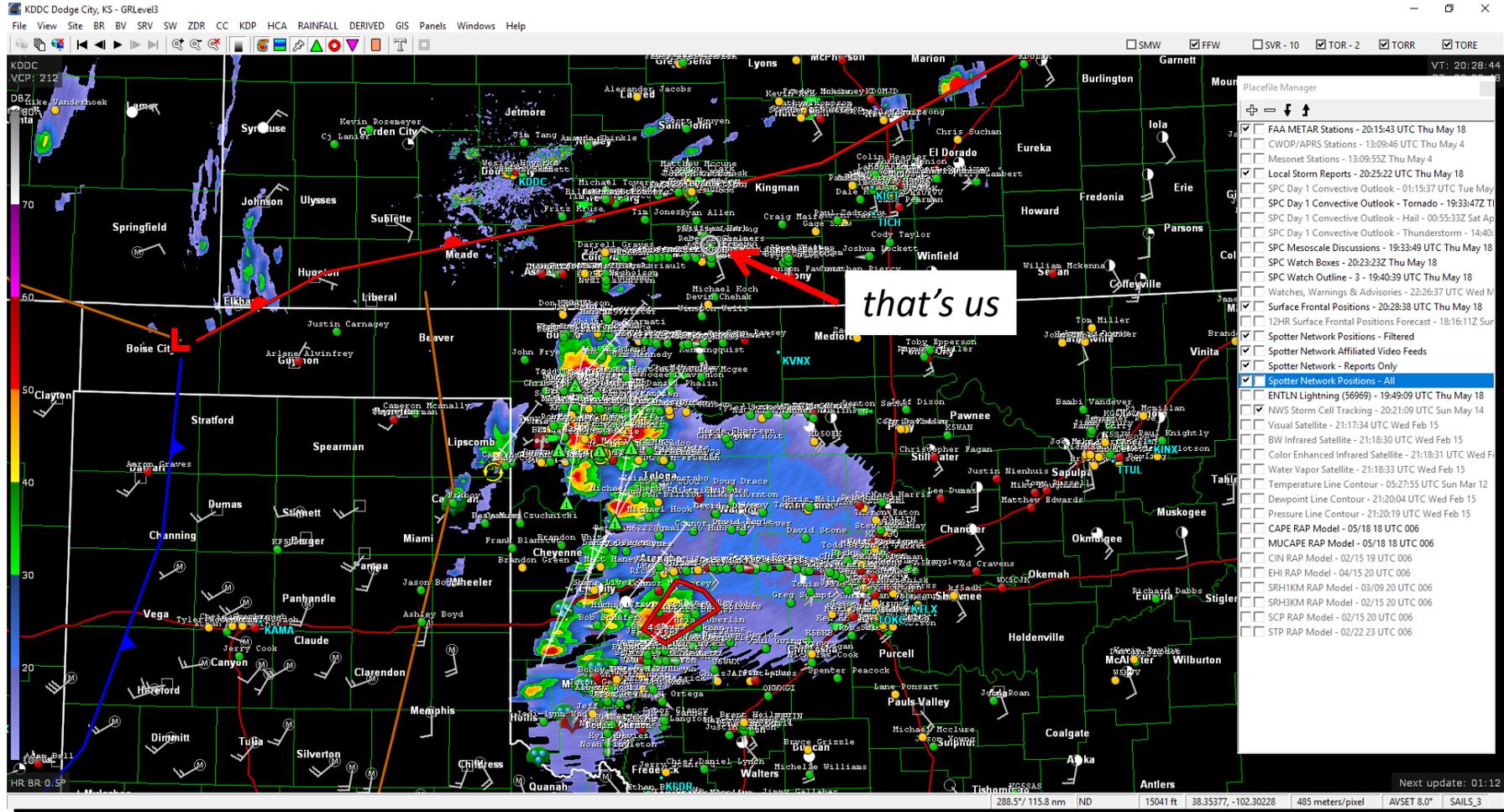
... tracked the storm NE from Larned, cutting quite close to the base, and well inside a shelf cloud that had formed ... outside temps now very cool at less than 70 degrees, we were well north of the warm front, as the various storms dumped cold air ... storms from the SW were now closing in from behind us, except for an escape route east through Great Bend, KS we were pretty much surrounded by tornado-warned storms ... still couldn't make anything out under the black mass to our west/northwest ... original storms to our east were now regenerating, and we needed to exercise prudence, so headed east again through some road flooding in Great Bend, to re-target those eastern storms ... of course, as soon as we abandoned the storm west of Great Bend, a spotter who had gone west into that storm, reported a multi-vortex tornado from close range ... the storms to the east yielded nothing, so after running NE up to Claflin, KS tried once again to target the intense storm to the west, now over Hoisington, KS ... pulled into a viewpoint to watch it approach us, very interesting lowerings, then some maniac drove into the ditch right beside us, trying to cut into the viewpoint on the wrong side of the road, then gunned back & forth, damaging his vehicle on a concrete culvert he was hung up on, then finally roared into the viewpoint ... decided to exit smartly, in case of further maniac behaviour ... stopped east of there, and finally deduced that with all the cold air, and the storms riding off the warm front into the cold air, no further tornadoes were likely ... drove through some heavy rain, into the light, as we headed SW to Great Bend again ... the storms all around us now weakening, and turning into a "big rainy mess" ... one last chance, a line of storms south of Dodge City, KS, beckoned, so headed back down to Pratt, to intercept near Greensburg ... as we drove towards Pratt, that line weakened as well, so decided to book a relatively early night in Pratt ... dinner at Club D'Est in Pratt, saw a few minimal tornadoes from SW Oklahoma, no severe long-track tornadoes as advertised ... but a large one <not sure if duration> appears to have been near Salina, KS ... a disappointing day, given the hype, but how often do high risk days disappoint - hardly a "historic outbreak", at least in western Kansas/western Oklahoma ... another enhanced risk tomorrow south of here in Oklahoma/Texas, with a highlighted risk for tornadoes along the Red River ... similar complicating factors, with very early morning convection possible again in SW Oklahoma.



SPC's version of "Armageddon" – except that it didn't happen ...



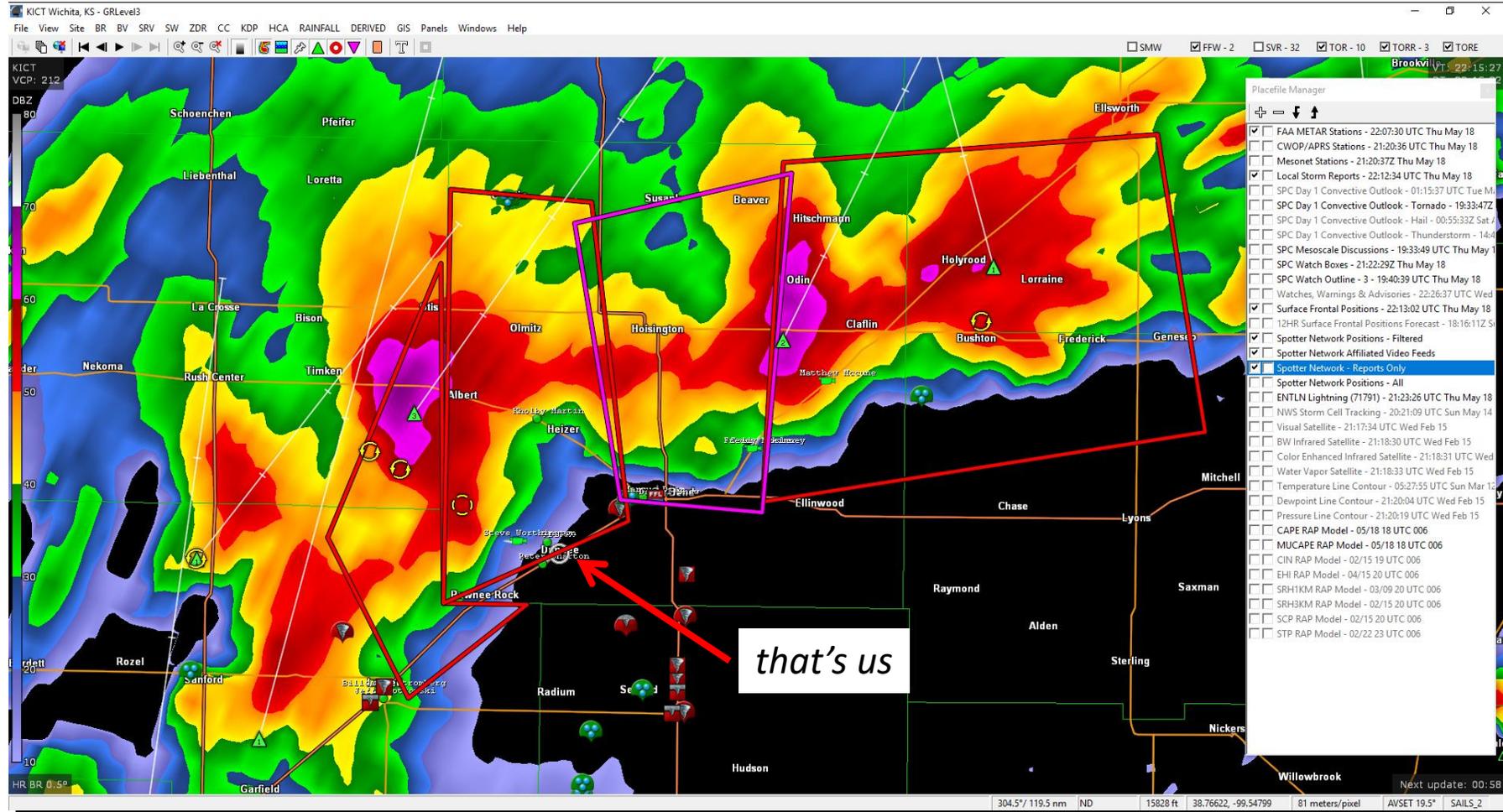
The chase ... Day 5, May 18th



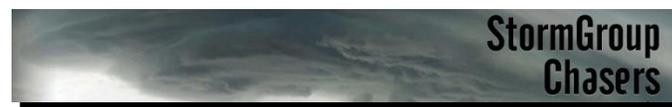
... "chaser madness" on a forecasted big high risk day, storms breaking out early in Oklahoma at 3:29pm CDT, eventually somewhat "spoiling the party" ...



The chase ... Day 5, May 18th



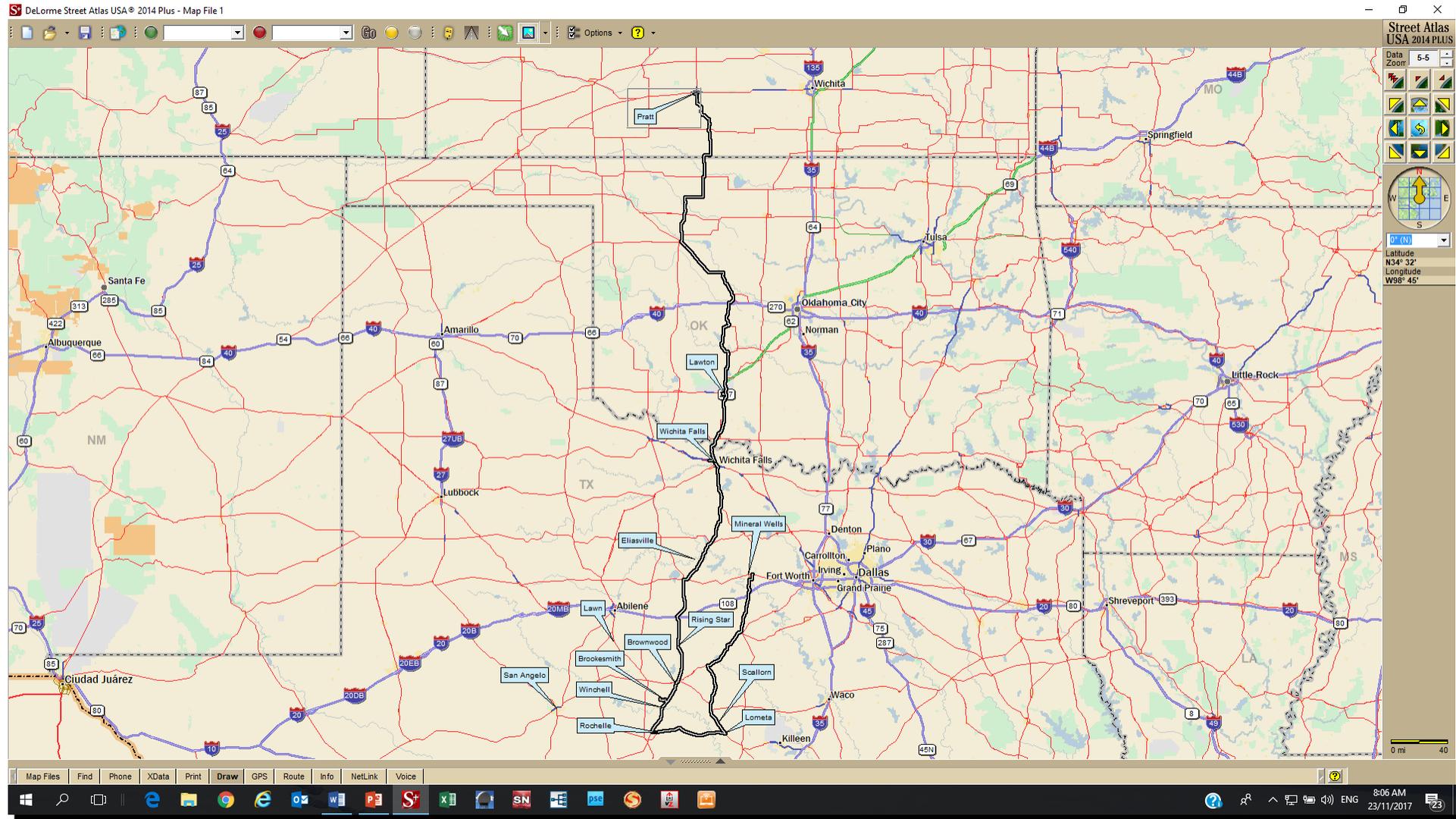
... tornado-warned storm at 5:15pm CDT, along a warm front boundary on which we had earlier sighted a short-lived tornado moving westwards, just north of Seward, KS ...



The chase ... Day 5, May 18th

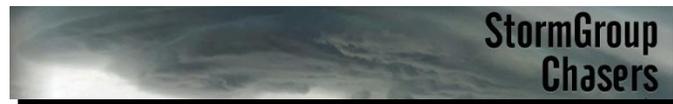


The road taken ... Day 6, May 19th – 791 miles



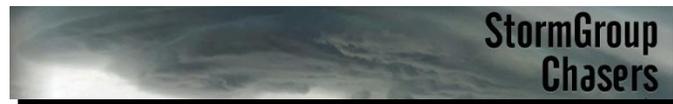
The chase ... Day 6, May 19th

A fabulous chasing day!! ... drove 791 miles from Pratt, KS to Mineral Wells, TX ... targeted a general area generally SW of Wichita, Falls where boundary layer moisture, upper level winds, and a slowly advancing cold front offered the possibility of late afternoon/evening storms ... while SPC had issued a broad area of slight risk, including an area of enhanced risk and 5% tornado risk, only a small part of which was this target area, their forecast language was so conditional and iffy that not much reliance could be placed on any specific target ... the models seemed to suggest some supercell chance SW of Wichita Falls later in the day after the early convection had cleared, so it was worth a punt ... started the day with breakfast at Rick's Cafe west of Pratt - standard good fare, but the premises are getting run down, and really need a "clean out" of decades of accumulated cooking smells ... off down US281 about 9am, after a small section of dirt road <thanks, Google> ... a day of driving and "on the go" ahead of us to reach the target area in time for initiation ... widespread early convection in SW Oklahoma on the nose of the LLJ was one of the complicating factors, ran into it across the border in Oklahoma - some brief rain & one flash of lightning - fading with the daytime heating - very cool temps outside ... into Lawton, OK about 2:15pm for an oil change at Express Oil - very efficient, friendly service ... storms had fired just SW of Wichita Falls, TX, and a tornado watch had been issued the southern part of our target all the way south to San Angelo, TX ... some gorgeous mammatus clouds from the storms to the south as we waited in Lawton ... as we drove through Wichita Falls, moisture started gathering, being lifted over cool air at the surface, some dramatic sculpted cloud forms, ran west briefly, storm went outflow throwing a turbulent shelf cloud over us, retreated southwards, stopped again to see a dramatic roll cloud/arcus cloud racing out of the storm towards us ... visibility now quite poor, so headed south to position on an outflow boundary described as part of two tornado watches now issued by SPC ... another line of severe storms had fired further to the SW, so decided to drop down in front & target these storms ... as we drove through Eliasville, storm SE of Lawn, TX was tornado-warned, so plotted a path to Rising Star, TX, then Brownwood, TX to intercept the storm's path ... **continued on next page**

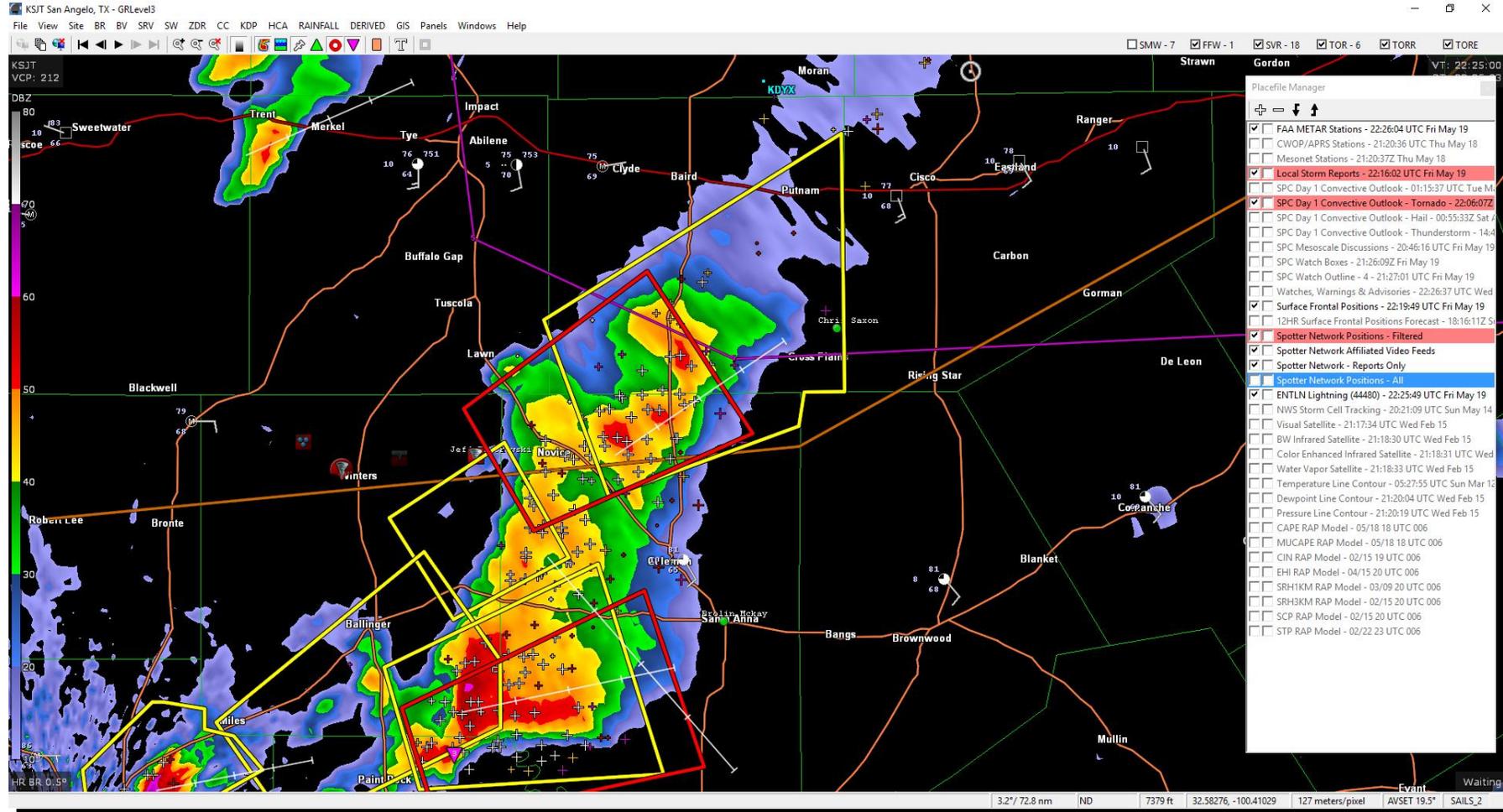


The chase ... Day 6, May 19th – cont'd

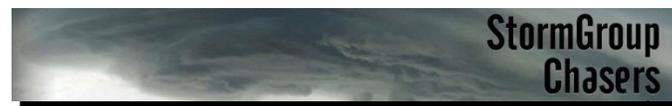
... as we drove south, we crossed the outflow boundary, temps rose into the low 80s F, visibility improved and we were under a huge anvil stretching across our whole field of view - a big 'ol Texas supercell ... as we drove into Brownwood, TX for gas & a pit stop, some spectacular mammatus were hanging overhead ... storm was now just severe-warned, but still showing some hook structures on radar, and distinct radar couplets on base velocity ... headed south to Brookesmith, TX then into the countryside on F-M 586 to get a closer view of the again tornado-warned storm - stopped WNW of Brookesmith - impressive meso structure, storm really winding up now, gorgeous sight advancing rapidly towards our position ... being trapped on a small country road with local traffic and a tornado coming didn't appeal, so repositioned back to the highway for an escape route south ... passed a school in Brookesmith with dozens of parked vehicles, possibly a school graduation? ... hoped they were taking the tornado warning seriously <everyone gets cellphone alerts here> ... dropped south for a safe margin to assess storm motion/behaviour, then drove back north towards the base/circulation ... very turbulent clouds above us, and a tornado reported in the countryside area just to our NW, not visible to us in the black mass to the NW ... stopped and watched for quite a while in Winchell, TX - very dramatic views of the storm & vivid, frequent lightning ... dropped south to Rochelle, TX then east along US190 to Lometa, TX to track what was now a line of storms, fabulous lightning show to our left as we drove east ... stopped in Lometa for a pit stop & some gas station food, then north on US183 to just west of Scallorn, TX - soon became evident that storm was intensifying, and we couldn't safely make it up the highway, so retreated to Lometa and waited for the first storm to pass, so we could get north in a relative gap in the line of storms ... about 10pm finally got the chance to "drive through the gap" - some heavy rain, but not too bad, but the lightning display was superb ... basically we had an awe inspiring display of every form of lightning for the whole 2 1/2 hr drive to our hotel in Mineral Wells, TX - anvil crawlers, CGs, long looping horizontal bolts, starbursts, spider lightning, flashes that almost produced daytime conditions, albeit briefly ... a superb conclusion to a long chasing day ... then settled in to my very favourite chasing hotel, the Days Inn in Mineral Wells, for a well-deserved sleep.



The chase ... Day 6, May 19th



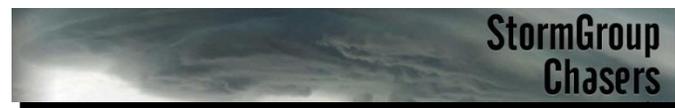
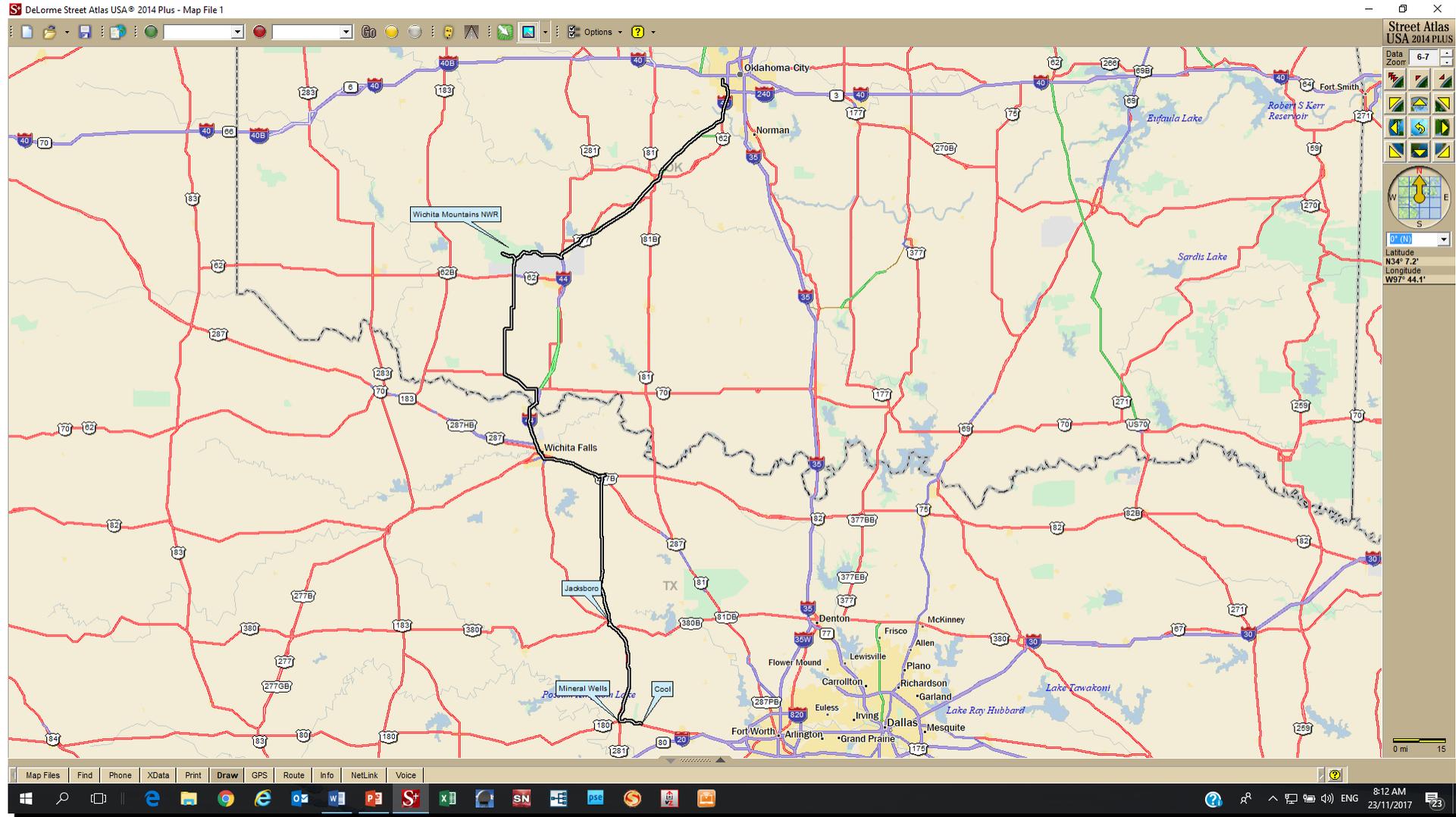
... heading south to intercept 2 tornado-warned storms, tracking towards Rising Star, TX and Brownwood, TX at 5:25pm CDT ...



The chase ... Day 6, May 19th



The road taken ... Day 7, May 20th – 286 miles



The chase ... Day 7, May 20th

A quiet weather day today, at least within sane chaseable distances, so a relaxed start at 10am and a short drive of 286 miles back to Oklahoma City, OK from Mineral Wells, TX to conclude Tour 3 ... started the day with breakfast at the Switch Cafe in Cool, TX - good as always, and very friendly service - and the place has character ... Walmart for lunch supplies, then a visit to the Baker Hotel, then up US281 about noon for the trip back to home base ... stopped at Fort Richardson Historic Site near Jacksboro, TX - now clear & sunny, had a nice walk in the fresh air walking around the various old military buildings on the site ... then off to the City Park in Henrietta, TX for a picnic lunch ... wet & muddy in places from yesterday's heavy rains ... through Wichita Falls, TX about 3:30pm, then north to Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge to see the bison, longhorns and prairie dogs - gorgeous sparkly blue day by now, not a cloud in the sky, and the park very pretty carpeted with spring flowers ... onto I44 about 5:30, and back to the Wyndham about 6:40pm to welcome Jody back onto the tour <she's feeling much better> ... team photo next to the portico at the Wyndham, then out for a celebration dinner at Saltgrass ... very enjoyable week with some great chasing, always a pleasure to share this "road trip" with such great people ... thanks again, Jan, for all your help & co-driving these past two weeks.



The logistics and chaser food ...

Gas Stations:

14-May Love's - Elk City, OK
15-May Love's - Amarillo, TX
16-May Cefco 2070 - Plainview, TX
18-May Cenex - Sayre, OK
18-May Domino - Watonga, OK
19-May Domino - Seiling, OK
19-May Cefco 2071 - Early, TX
20-May Allsup's - Henrietta, TX

Hotels on the Road:

14-May Days Inn Medical Center - Amarillo, TX
15-May Baymont Inn & Suites East - Amarillo, TX
16-May Wyndham Garden Hotel - Oklahoma City, OK
17-May Wyndham Garden Hotel - Oklahoma City, OK
18-May Super 8 - Pratt, KS
19-May Days Inn & Suites - Mineral Wells, TX

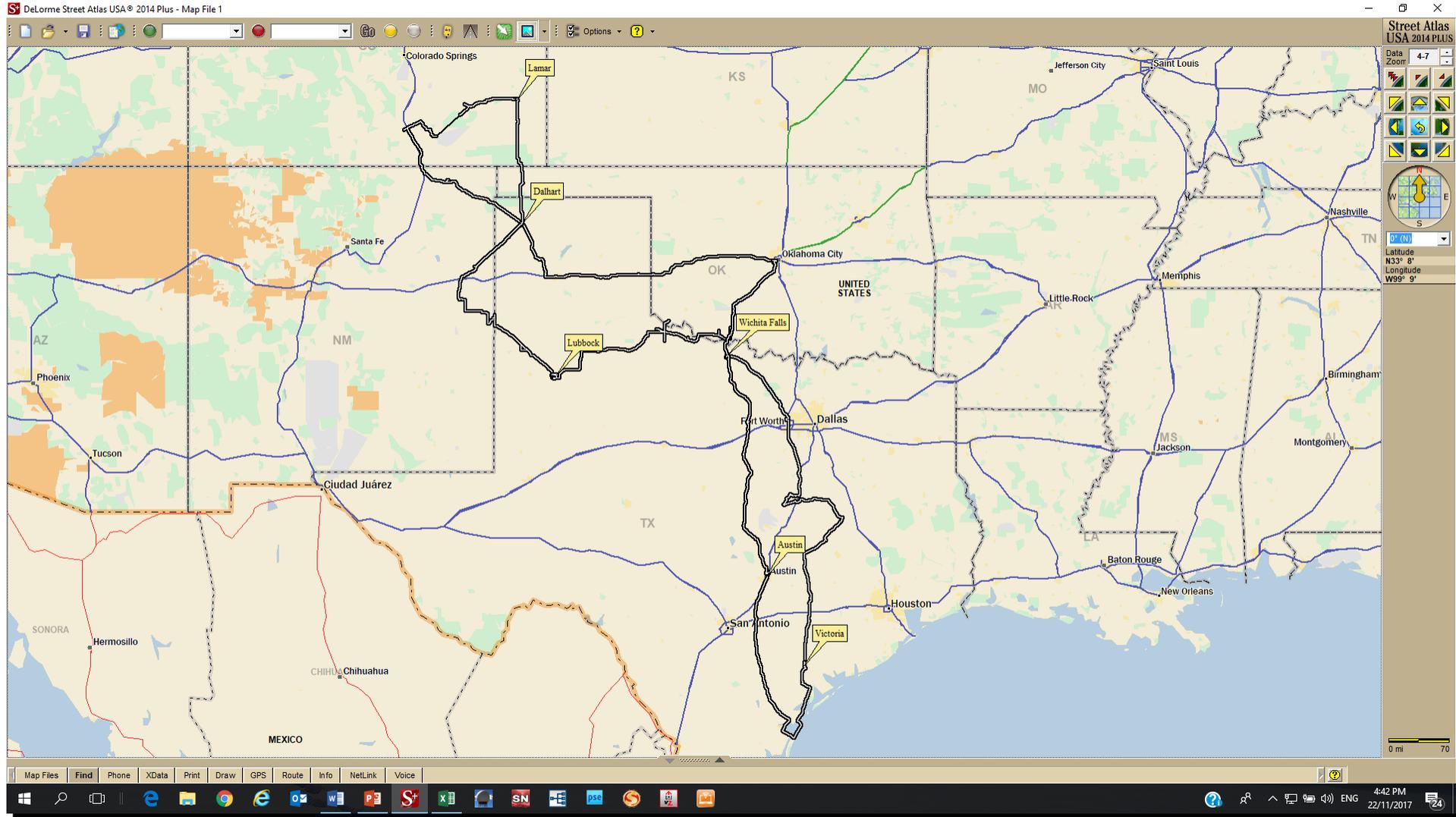
Restaurants:

14-May Applebee's - Amarillo, TX
15-May Ye Olde Pancake Station - Amarillo, TX
15-May Eddie's Napoli's Restaurant - Amarillo, TX
16-May Calico County Kitchen - Amarillo, TX
16-May Love's - Hinton, OK
17-May Toby Keith's - Oklahoma City, OK
18-May Club D'Est - Pratt, KS
19-May Rick's Café - Pratt, KS
20-May Switch Café - Cool, TX
20-May Saltgrass Restaurant - Oklahoma City, OK

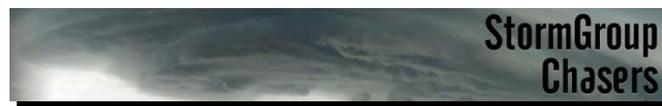
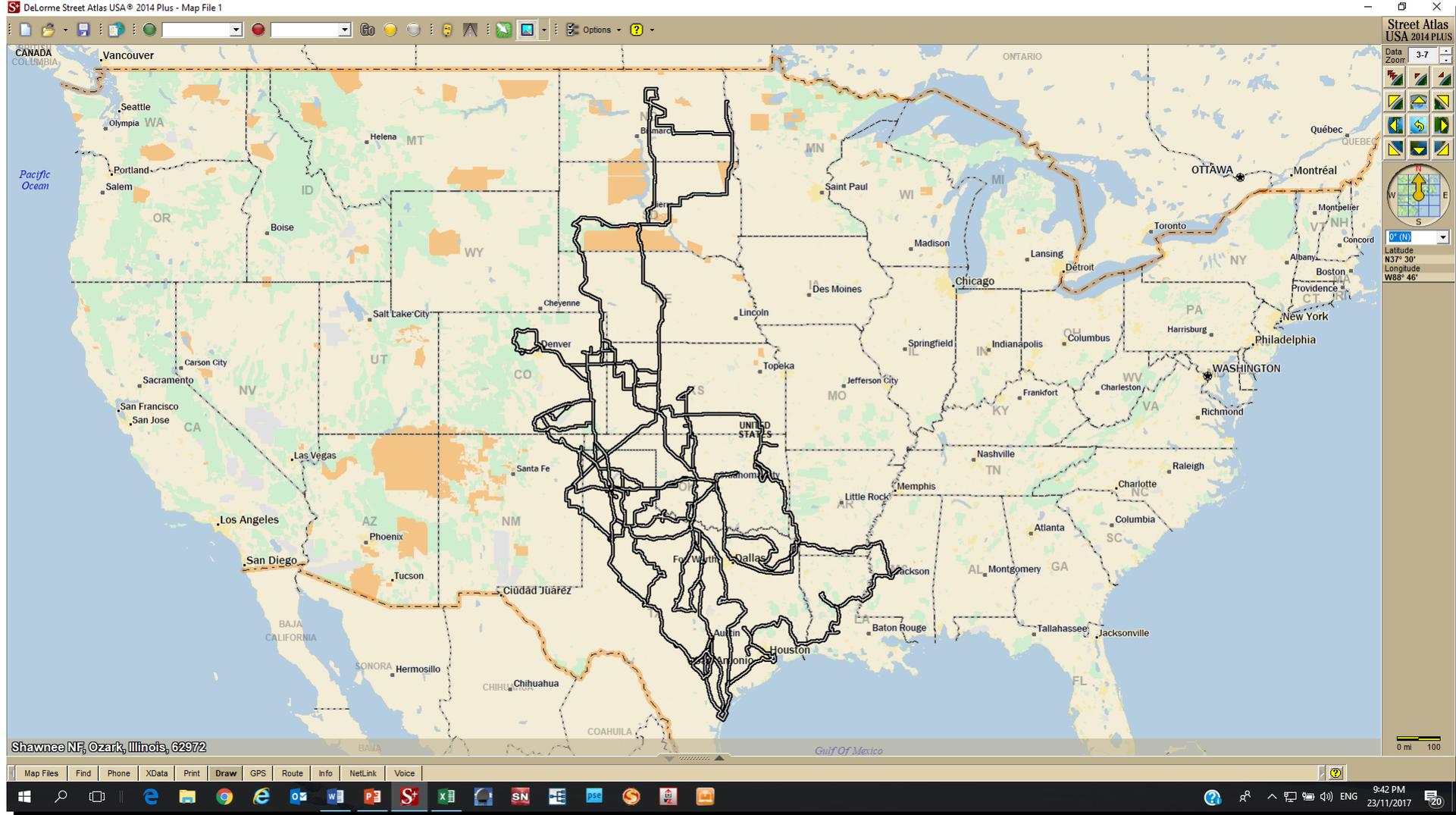
Picnic Lunches:

14-May Gray County Rest Stop west of McLean, TX
15-May Palo Duro Canyon - south of Amarillo, TX
16-May City Park - Plainview, TX
17-May City Park - Chandler, OK
18-May Memorial Peace Park - Medicine Lodge, KS

The complete journey for Tour 2 ... 2,973 miles



The SGC 2017 season ... 20,103 miles



You are part of an exclusive fraternity...

You Might be a Storm Chaser if..

1. You spend more time looking at the sky than the road when driving.
2. You've sprinted in and out of a gas station.
3. You have more power cords in your car than any of the rooms in your house.
4. You've ever pulled over at a restaurant to upload a video on their Wi-Fi.
5. Your favorite months are April, May and June.
6. You've said to yourself "Should I drive on that muddy dirt road or not?"
7. You've gone through 8 gigabytes worth of photos in 30 minutes.
8. You've laughed when your worried spouse said they think a cloud is a tornado.
9. You know what gray soup is.
10. You've changed the direction of your parked car every 4 minutes.
11. You've put Rain-X on a camera lens.
12. You've driven over 20 hours in a single day without having a destination.
13. Your favorite sound is a Tornado Siren.
14. Your car looks like a golf ball.
15. You have 3 or more weather apps on your phone.



... really why we chase ... it's not all about the tornadoes...



... near Burlington, Colorado – May 26th, 2017 @ 7:43pm CDT ...

