

## How Do You Make Your Forecast?

Posted by jcpalmer - 2011/12/21 00:48

---

Since it's winter.. it's time for my yearly forecasting review time!

I thought it might be interesting to divulge how we pick a target area during a severe weather event!

I love tips and pointers. I'm still a novice at this, really....

First of all... I will admit it. I usually look at the SPC first and foremost when I wake up in the morning every day. Some people say they NEVER look at SPC. Well... if the resource is there, then why not use it!

From that point, I check the timing of the event in my potential chaseable (or armchair chaseable) territory. Generally, early in the day (before noon) convection isn't of interest to me, and will most likely go linear. However, I have MISSED one event because I thought it was going to start too early. Here in Dixie Alley, you really never ever know! We don't need a lot of daytime heating down here! Ideally, I pick events that will begin sometime afternoon. I do not (and will not) chase (especially down here) after dark. So, we have to make sure the action gets going before it gets too late to see anything!

Then, I check out the models and see if I can find the boundary characteristics on the temperature/DP maps (i.e. warm front, cold front, triple point). (I hope that makes sense) I sketch it out if I have to.

In order to find these boundaries, I look for the major change in temperature, changes in wind direction and to find the dry line, change in dewpoint values. I used to never sketch this stuff out, but not too long ago, I decided to print one out and sketch it for practice and it really helps you to visualize!

I will write some more later, because I'm not finished, but I hope this helps so far! If you have any questions, or if I said anything stupid, please let me know! :D

=====