



WEATHER WINNER

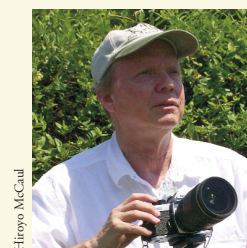
Great Plains Tornado, Hodges, Texas, USA

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Man's desire to accurately predict the formation, location, and direction of severe storms has led to increasingly sophisticated tools and methods. Post-World War II developments in aircraft, radar, and computer-based models have provided meteorologists with an increasing understanding of the internal forces, such as updrafts and downdrafts, and their association with observable storm regions. Organized efforts such as the Thunderstorm Project in the late 1940s and the Tornado Project in the early 1950s established the foundation for our current capabilities. A revolution in the 1970s saw great advancements in the performance and use of Doppler radar, numerical cloud models, and scientific storm chasing. The Tornado Intercept Project was developed in 1972 as a joint project between Oklahoma University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Severe Storm Laboratory. The legacy of this project led to the taking of this image.

"I was a meteorology graduate student at the University of Oklahoma at the time. On this day, our storm chase crew, led by Dr. Howard Bluestein, correctly anticipated the possibility of big storms over west Texas, and we were in the general area when the storms erupted. We were required to drive through the rain and hail core to obtain views of the updraft base, where the action is and where tornadoes sometimes form. We were able to do so without getting hit by a rain-wrapped tornado. I do not recommend this maneuver to the uninitiated, because it can be difficult and very dangerous to those who lack experience."



Hiroyo McCaul

Nikon FM2N; 28mm lens; settings not recorded; Kodachrome 64 film; hand-held.