Weather Inflation

by Dent Arthur Dent

October 4, 2022
This is part opinion, and part facts derived from sources available to the public.

Miles: On the same day I was sent this piece by a reader, Zerohedge republished an article from substack by Michael Schellenberger with a similar thrust. Schellenberger misdirects briefly in a couple of places (on Covid and climate change), but as a whole his article is a good companion to this one, since it proves the mainstream is simply lying about hurricanes. Schellenberger doesn't address *why* they would do that, though the implication is that someone is profiting from climate change hysteria and general fear creation. Dent just says it outright.

Added October 13: I have gotten a few positives and a few negatives on this one. Three strong negs to be exact, from those thinking we were downplaying or belittling Hurricane Ian. So I am changing the title, which I feel misrepresents the paper. It used to be The Great Hurricane Hoax, which implies we are claiming Ian was faked. Neither Dent nor I are implying that, as I think is clear. Dent's main thesis here is that the winds of these hurricanes are inflated, and that they—like all weather now—have been weaponized by the media as part of the 24/7 fear porn now driving all reportage. We saw more indication of that when Biden immediately claimed Ian was proof of global warming. There is no doubt Ian was a big storm and that it caused a lot of damage. But there is nothing new in that. The Gulf states and islands see big storms every season, so it is hard to understand why anyone is shocked by this. If you live on the coast there, these things happen, and they happened long before Greta Thunberg came along. Others like Mike Adams are claiming Ian was steered, and it may have been, but Dent didn't write about that. He wrote about something that interested him and that he had researched himself, and I don't steer my writers. I either publish or not, based on whether they have shown good evidence for their theory. I believe he did. If you think his data or his reading of that data is wrong, tell me why, but for now I am leaving the paper up. I have made a couple of other minor edits in response to reader feedback, which, as you know is very rare.

Like all news, they have been lying to us about hurricanes. This paper covers the practical gathering and processing of hurricane weather data, and looks for the point at which raw data is transformed into fear porn. It will show the actual raw data available to anyone with an internet connection and the brains to ask the right questions, and include some speculation on why we are lied to.

My background is a half century of being an aviation geek, having a Commercial and CFI Pilot Certificate and 800 hours of pilot time and having owned two airplanes over the years and partially building a third one. In fifth grade I built a plastic model (one of hundreds) of a Lockheed P-3 Navy anti-submarine aircraft. Not content to build the stock kit, I wanted to replicate one of the hurricane hunters that flew out of the local naval air station. My dad drove us all out to the base one day and for reasons no one will ever know, the gate guard just waved us through no questions asked (it was 1974, maybe he was high) and we parked next to “Becky,” a hurricane hunting P-3. She had a shorter tail boom than her military counterparts, and a large bulbous radome on the bottom of her fuselage just forward of her

wing, not unlike the chin sack a frog fills with air, or one of Dizzy Gillespie's cheeks. I did my ten year old best to replicate those features, and was happy with the results.

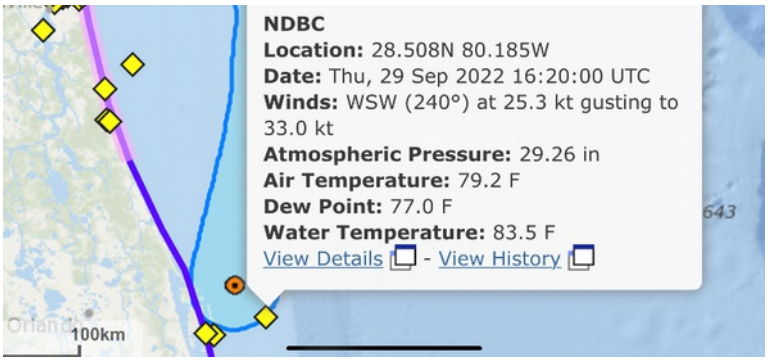
Fast forward a few decades, and as a pilot, the study and understanding of weather is mandatory. At the Commercial level we study it in more depth, and as an instructor we have to know it well enough to teach its basics. So chances are, we have more scientific understanding of meteorology than the average viewer of the Weather Channel. But there are only a few hundred thousand pilots in the US, so our knowledge base is an insignificant factor in the scheme of things, and such a small number of people (less than two tenths of one percent of the US population) pose little threat to those who control information so a.) they don't bother with us and b.) the vast majority of citizens think *we're* the crazy ones to dare question what the nice people in suits and ties tell us on the screen.

The idea for ferreting out the truth about hurricanes came from an online blogger of some questionable reputation, but he did get this one right. When I read his blog entry about hurricanes being nowhere near as strong as we're told, it clicked with what I had experienced living in a hurricane-prone state, namely that none of the recent hurricanes were as powerful as the news industrial complex makes them out to be. I'd lived through several, I saw the lies with my own eyes. But I couldn't articulate exactly where the disconnect was between reliable scientific observation and bobble heads selling fear porn making the peasants run around with their hair on fire.

The blogger gave a clue, that the Saffir-Simpson scale to rate hurricanes is based on wind speed at ground level, not the highest speed wherever they happen to find it in a storm's 40-50,000 feet of vertical development. Wikipedia confirms this, it's ten meters off the ground; close enough to "surface." Thirty-nine feet covers the vast majority of man-made objects with insurance value that a hurricane would affect, so any wind speed reading taken much higher than this is of practically no use in disaster preparation. Destruction at ground level is all that matters. So my hunch was that the hurricane hunters were taking wind speed measurements at lots of different altitudes to get a fuller picture of the storm, and that the highest wind speeds would be found way up in the air, never at ten meters up.

A little googling told me that the aircraft use dropsondes to gather the data. These are tubular instruments dropped from the aircraft that float down under a parachute, and as they descend they gather data on atmospheric pressure, temperature, dew point, and wind speed and direction. They measure it about twenty times on the way down, and send the data to the aircraft. Crew on board compile it, I presume, and transmit it to NOAA's National Hurricane Center for interpretation, or so I assume. NOAA publishes the readings on their website but they are nearly impossible to comprehend in their raw form.

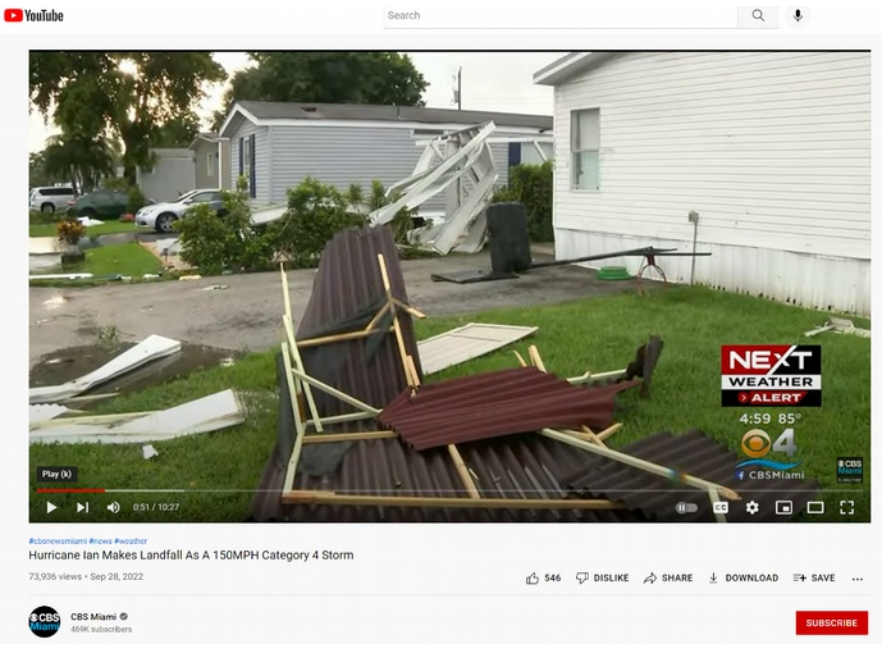
An easier to comprehend source of wind speed data at ground level are the NOAA (and other) weather buoys, whose raw data is also there on the NOAA website for all to see, though apparently no one looks at them except actual mariners and oceanographers, as their data alone shows how much of a lie hurricane coverage is. The locations of buoys is sporadic (they're where ships go, not where hurricanes go), so it's rare to have one in a hurricane's path, but they're close enough to tattle on the bobble heads. In three hurricane seasons I have yet to see buoy data that's anywhere close to what they claim is a hurricane's maximum sustained winds.



The orange and black dot is Ian's eye off Florida's Space Coast, after Ian trudged across the peninsula. You can see the scary catastrophic wind speed of 25.3 knots, or 27 mph read by the buoy at the yellow and black diamond symbol.

Getting back to dropsondes, the raw data published by NOAA is just groups of numbers that mean nothing without the ol' secret decoder ring. I tried to find a decoder online last hurricane season but gave up, then the season ended and I put it on the back burner.

The 2022 hurricane season was pretty dull till Ian started up, and I could see from the beginning that it was going to slip westward and into the Gulf of Mexico so I kept an eye on it. Then it did what I expected and turned toward billions of dollars of prime Florida real estate, and I started to see the word "catastrophic" in the few news websites I can stand to read. The news coverage grew more cringeworthy each day, and the opioids my wife falls prey to (TV) started to go 24/7 fear porn.



Does this look like damage from 150mph winds to you?

Catastrophic punishment, a hard punch

Thus motivated to root out the source of the lies, I followed every data source I had. Data buoys, Ventusky.com, and aviation weather reports. As Ian trudged its way into range of those data sensors, not a single one showed wind speeds above 74 mph, entry-level of hurricanedom. Most were 30 to 50 mph with gusts to as much as 60 to 80 or so. And these are all surface-level sources, the ones that actually count. I knew as the bobble heads were crowing about Ian becoming a Category 5 storm (157 mph sustained for at least one minute, so gusts don't count) it was eye-roll time. But I wanted to know if the wind speed we were told was a dropsonde reading at some higher and irrelevant altitude, or if they were just making it up. I needed to decode the dropsonde data.

I finally found the decoder in one of late searches. Copy the raw data, paste it in the text box, and go. Bada-bing, it was like finding the Rosetta Stone. The one data set I tested was taken near the eye wall when Ian as in the Gulf, and the maximum wind it found was 135 mph at a pressure of 928 mb. Pressure goes down as altitude goes up, and on average the pressure at the surface is about 1013 mb, going down with altitude at a predictable rate depending on the stability of the air. Converting 928 mb into an altitude above ground level was a math exercise I won't bore you with, but it's roughly 2,000 feet up. I really expected it to be higher, maybe 10,000 feet, but my hypothesis was correct that the maximum wind was indeed not at the surface, or even ten meters. The final dropsonde reading before it plunged into the churning sea to become ocean trash was a decidedly non-catastrophic 77mph. Barely hurricane force. Stick your hand out the window as you drive down the highway, there's Ian's surface winds when he was out to sea with no friction from land, trees, buildings and so on to slow it down. That's not to downplay 77 mph winds, as it will prune your trees and crumple up your badly made porch awnings. Buildings in Florida are designed to withstand wind speeds of 130 to 150 mph, so modern buildings that meet code will barely feel 77 mph winds.

4:48

Not Secure — tropicalatlantic.com

Part B: Data for Significant Levels...

Significant Temperature And Relative Humidity Levels

Level	Air Temperature	Dew Point
966mb (Surface)	25.4°C (77.7°F)	24.1°C (75°F)
873mb	20.2°C (68.4°F)	19.7°C (67°F)
864mb	21.8°C (71.2°F)	18.4°C (65°F)
850mb	21.6°C (70.9°F)	17.4°C (63°F)
836mb	22.2°C (72.0°F)	About 17°C (63°F)
779mb	18.0°C (64.4°F)	14.7°C (58°F)
726mb	18.2°C (64.8°F)	About 10°C (50°F)
705mb	16.0°C (60.8°F)	16.0°C (61°F)

Significant Wind Levels

Level	Wind Direction	Wind Speed
966mb (Surface)	260° (from the W)	67 knots (77 mph)
965mb	260° (from the W)	61 knots (70 mph)
964mb	255° (from the WSW)	79 knots (91 mph)
963mb	255° (from the WSW)	88 knots (101 mph)
959mb	260° (from the W)	101 knots (116 mph)
948mb	270° (from the W)	109 knots (125 mph)
935mb	275° (from the W)	111 knots (128 mph)
928mb	275° (from the W)	**117 knots (135 mph)**
922mb	275° (from the W)	111 knots (128 mph)
905mb	280° (from the W)	104 knots (120 mph)
898mb	280° (from the W)	104 knots (120 mph)
878mb	280° (from the W)	94 knots (108 mph)
870mb	275° (from the W)	95 knots (109 mph)
863mb	275° (from the W)	87 knots (100 mph)
854mb	275° (from the W)	99 knots (114 mph)
850mb	270° (from the W)	98 knots (113 mph)
829mb	265° (from the W)	81 knots (93 mph)
821mb	265° (from the W)	92 knots (106 mph)
783mb	255° (from the WSW)	85 knots (98 mph)
698mb	260° (from the W)	106 knots (122 mph)

Dropsonde Diagram

Our sonde diagram is in **alpha** testing.

Ian (09L)

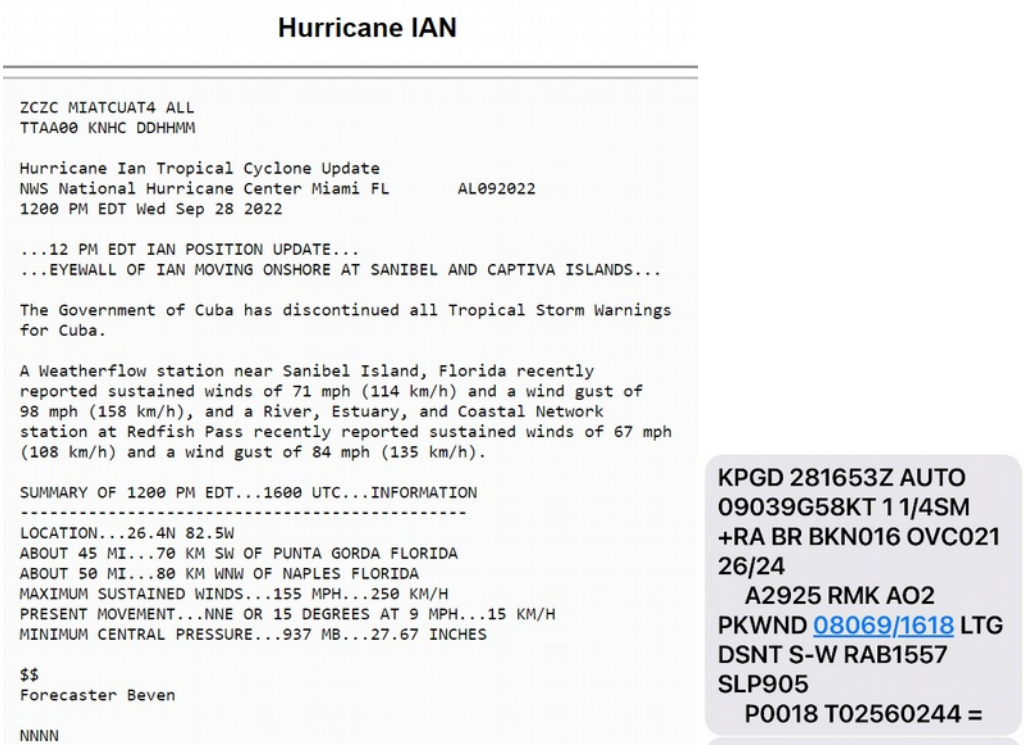
Mission 29 - AF307 [redacted] Time: 19:37Z on 28th day o

Observation Number: 20 Location: 26.43N

The decoded dropsonde readings. Dew point is important because when temperature and dew point are the same, moisture in the air condenses as rain. When they are within five degrees Fahrenheit of each other, the condensation usually begins.

Now armed with real data, I knew the disconnect between real science and fear porn lay somewhere between the hurricane hunter aircraft crew and the bobble heads on the news. Let's say the flight crew

are just number crunchers delivering data to a government agency, and let them off the hook. Maybe it's my aviation bias, but I don't think NOAA only hires professional propagandists to go up on hurricane missions. The Air Force also flies these missions, and Miles has told us what that can mean, but I have no data to support or disprove that Weatherbirds are USAF Intel flights designed to support the propaganda. Maybe they are; it's easier to order Airmen to keep quiet than GS level career employees.



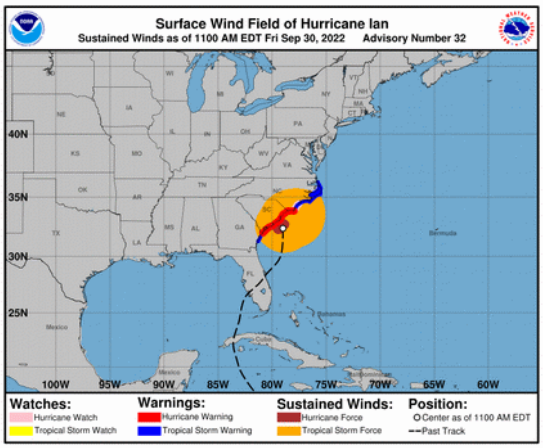
Hurricane IAN

```
ZCZC MIATCUAT4 ALL
TTAA00 KNHC DDHHMM

Hurricane Ian Tropical Cyclone Update
NWS National Hurricane Center Miami FL       AL092022
1200 PM EDT Wed Sep 28 2022

...12 PM EDT IAN POSITION UPDATE...
...EYEWALL OF IAN MOVING ONSHORE AT SANIBEL AND CAPTIVA ISLANDS...

The Government of Cuba has discontinued all Tropical Storm Warnings
for Cuba.

A Weatherflow station near Sanibel Island, Florida recently
reported sustained winds of 71 mph (114 km/h) and a wind gust of
98 mph (158 km/h), and a River, Estuary, and Coastal Network
station at Redfish Pass recently reported sustained winds of 67 mph
(108 km/h) and a wind gust of 84 mph (135 km/h).

SUMMARY OF 1200 PM EDT...1600 UTC...INFORMATION
-----------------------------------------------
LOCATION...26.4N 82.5W
ABOUT 45 MI...70 KM SW OF PUNTA GORDA FLORIDA
ABOUT 50 MI...80 KM WNW OF NAPLES FLORIDA
MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS...155 MPH...250 KM/H
PRESENT MOVEMENT...NNE OR 15 DEGREES AT 9 MPH...15 KM/H
MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE...937 MB...27.67 INCHES

$$
Forecaster Beven

NNNN
```

```
KPGD 281653Z AUTO
09039G58KT 1 1/4SM
+RA BR BKN016 OVC021
26/24
   A2925 RMK AO2
PKWND 08069/1618 LTG
DSNT S-W RAB1557
SLP905
   P0018 T02560244 =
```

On the left is a NOAA report from noon on September 28, as Ian approached the west coast of Florida near Ft. Meyers and Punta Gorda. On the right is an aviation weather report for Punta Gorda at 12:30pm on the 28th. The NOAA report describes 71 mph and 67 mph winds recorded by ground stations. The aviation report shows 45 mph winds at the airport. Not hurricane force at those locations.

A hint at where the disconnect happens is in the two screen captures below. NOAA's hurricane center claims there will be hurricane force winds (at least 74 mph) on the surface in South Carolina on the map below, yet their data buoy closest to the storm shows surface winds of 51 mph gusting to 67. I checked the other buoys close to the coast and their wind speeds were much lower.



Here is the Air Force dropsonde data, decoded, which was done just off the South Carolina Coast on the same day and time as NOAA predicts 74 mph winds:

Product: Air Force Temp Drop (Dropsonde) Message (UZNT13 KNHC)
Transmitted: 30th day of the month at 16:59Z
Agency: United States Air Force
Aircraft: Lockheed WC-130J Hercules with reg. number AF97-5304
Storm Name: Ian
Storm Number: 09 (flight in the North Atlantic basin)
Mission Number: 31
Observation Number: 26

Part A...

Date: Near the closest hour of 17Z on the 30th day of the month
Highest Mandatory Level For Which Wind Was Reported: 700mb
Coordinates: 32.9N 79.4W (View map)
Location: 35 statute miles (56 km) to the ENE (77°) from Charleston, SC, USA.
Marsden Square: 116 (About)

And the data:

Significant Temperature And Relative Humidity Levels		
Level	Air Temperature	Dew Point
982mb (Surface)	18.8°C (65.8°F)	17.3°C (63°F)
933mb	15.8°C (60.4°F)	15.3°C (60°F)
920mb	16.4°C (61.5°F)	15.6°C (60°F)
913mb	18.4°C (65.1°F)	17.2°C (63°F)
850mb	16.0°C (60.8°F)	16.0°C (61°F)
816mb	17.2°C (63.0°F)	17.1°C (63°F)
742mb	13.0°C (55.4°F)	13.0°C (55°F)
715mb	13.6°C (56.5°F)	10.8°C (51°F)
703mb	Unavailable	

Significant Wind Levels		
Level	Wind Direction	Wind Speed
982mb (Surface)	335° (from the NNW)	53 knots (61 mph)
975mb	325° (from the NW)	57 knots (66 mph)
969mb	330° (from the NNW)	72 knots (83 mph)
953mb	345° (from the NNW)	73 knots (84 mph)
940mb	345° (from the NNW)	**79 knots (91 mph)**
934mb	345° (from the NNW)	74 knots (85 mph)
919mb	355° (from the N)	76 knots (87 mph)
896mb	5° (from the N)	59 knots (68 mph)
889mb	15° (from the NNE)	67 knots (77 mph)
879mb	15° (from the NNE)	69 knots (79 mph)
866mb	20° (from the NNE)	60 knots (69 mph)
854mb	15° (from the NNE)	60 knots (69 mph)
850mb	15° (from the NNE)	56 knots (64 mph)
794mb	55° (from the NE)	25 knots (29 mph)
777mb	45° (from the NE)	20 knots (23 mph)
765mb	55° (from the NE)	19 knots (22 mph)
736mb	55° (from the NE)	13 knots (15 mph)
732mb	40° (from the NE)	10 knots (12 mph)

Dropsonde Data as Ian approached the South Carolina coast on September 30, 2022

As you can see, the surface wind was 61 mph, far short of the 74 needed to be hurricane force. Weather forecasting is about as dismal a science as economics, and we've all experienced weather forecasts that were way off, but the measured wind speed is 18% below what the map said, which is a significant percent to be off. What's a weatherman to do? Underpredict and get yelled at when the storm is worse than you said, or overpredict and everyone will be relieved that it's not as bad as they thought? The risk in the latter is you become the boy who cried wolf – fewer people will believe you next time. But that's not what happens, instead people agree with the overprediction instead of believing their own eyes. "That guy on TV said it was bad, I'll take his word for it." So the disconnect and transformation of accurate information into hysterical disinformation appears to be somewhere in NOAA, where they take actual measured data and put out maps and warnings that don't match it. But it's not just being a little over cautious. When you tell people the wind is 115 mph and it's actually 40, you look like a reckless fool, or a psychopath, and that really bothers me. You know what people will do, so why do you cause unnecessary panic on purpose? I guess since no one but a few of us crackpots notice such things, the risk to them is minimal.

There is one more data source that I didn't think of until after Ian had passed into history, the thousands of private weather stations that one can find on weather websites like Weather Underground or the soon-to-be absorbed into Apple Dark Sky app. Our next hurricane, I will check those for wind speed readings since they are at ground level where they count, though they are probably not "official" in that

they may not be scientifically calibrated to ideal accuracy, and may go offline if electricity or internet is lost. And the next time someone tells you, “The hurricane was Cat 5!” ask them where at the surface the 157 mph winds were detected. They will have no answer other than the TV told them so.

Aside from the normal stimulus of wild spending on plywood, sand bags, gasoline, bottled water, hand cranked radios, generators, liquor, and ammo, and feeling powerful like a kid burning ants with a magnifying glass, maybe the real money is in skimming the Insurance and FEMA disaster money. If you make everyone think there was a trillion dollars of damage, when it was only a billion or two, no one will question all that money flowing the same way they don’t question the exaggerated forecasts. In Ian’s aftermath we see video of flooded streets and beached boats, so we know there was a lot of serious damage, but most of it seems to have been from the water surge, not directly from wind. And there is talk of putting more emphasis on storm surge and flood predictions, so that may get exaggerated too. When the money starts flowing, some will get to those who need it, so that it looks well spent, but the rest can go right into the pockets of the usual suspects. And for controlled opposition’s sake, some will be lost to corruption and the corrupt officials will never face consequences because it was all scripted like a reality TV show. We only see the shiny object put there to distract us, while the PN rapes the treasury once more. I don’t think they do it to get richer, they do it because it’s the only form of entertainment in their empty soulless lives.