

AOC dropped 14 new RD41 sondes during the season, 10 from the G-IV (Nate) and 4 from the P3 (non-storm). These were done in pairs with old RD94 sondes.

All sondes worked well: no failures of sensors, electronics, GPS, or parachutes.

No biases versus RD94 sondes were seen.

A new “regeneration” technique for the soundings successfully increased the range of the RH sensors.

Spurious wind measurements near the surface may have been eliminated.

Minor telemetry issue in the new sondes.

The telemetry issue has led NCAR to make minor engineering changes to the new sondes.

After this change is made, more tests will be done during the winter.

NCAR, AOC, HRD, NHC, and EMC will then decide whether the next sonde purchase will be the new sonde, or whether we will work with the older model for one more year.