The Great Global Warming Hiatus con

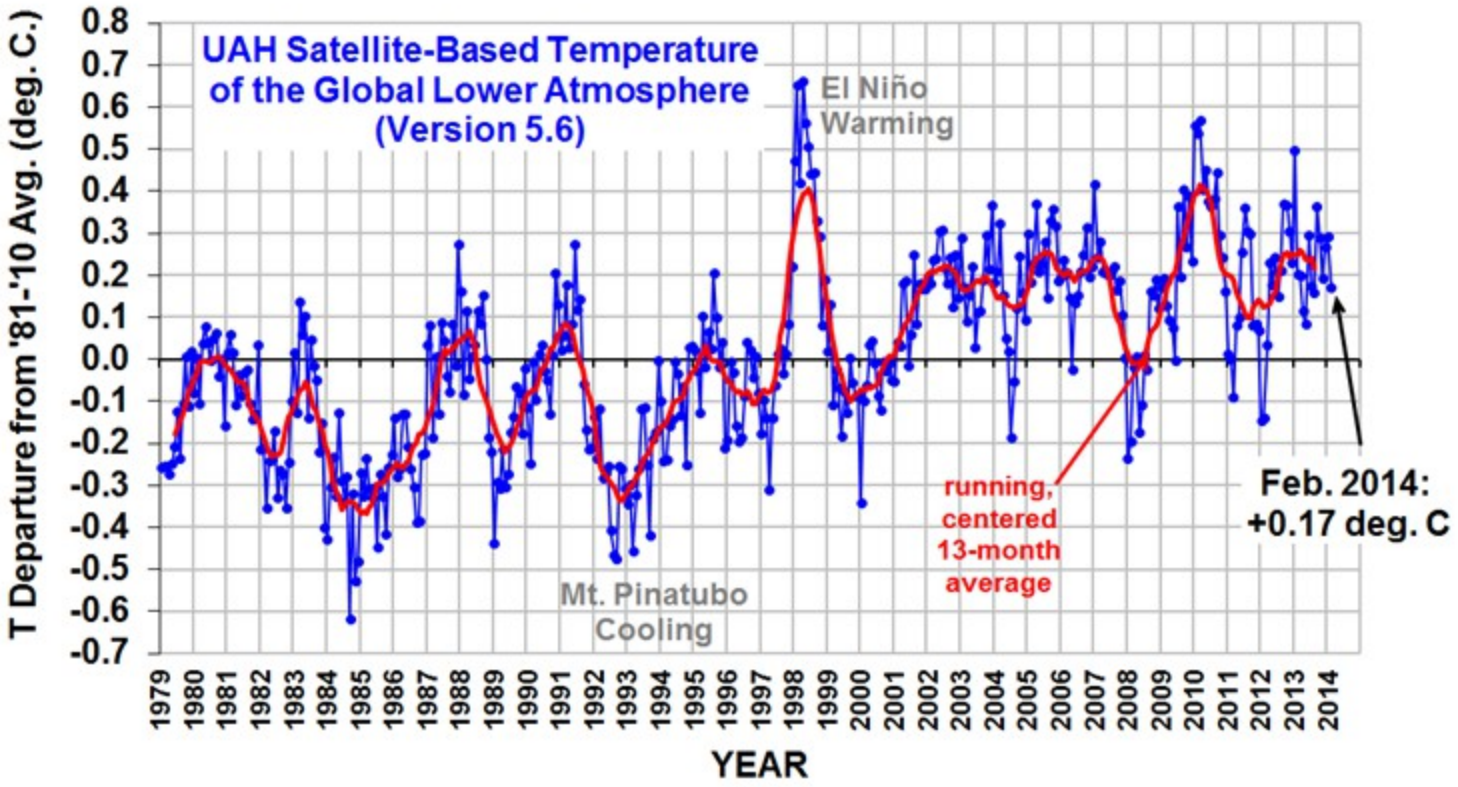
Or How you can prove anything with a few graphs!

A Denier comes to town

- Mr Climate Change Denier comes to you and says he can prove that there has been no global warming since 1998

- He brings you the surface temperature data:

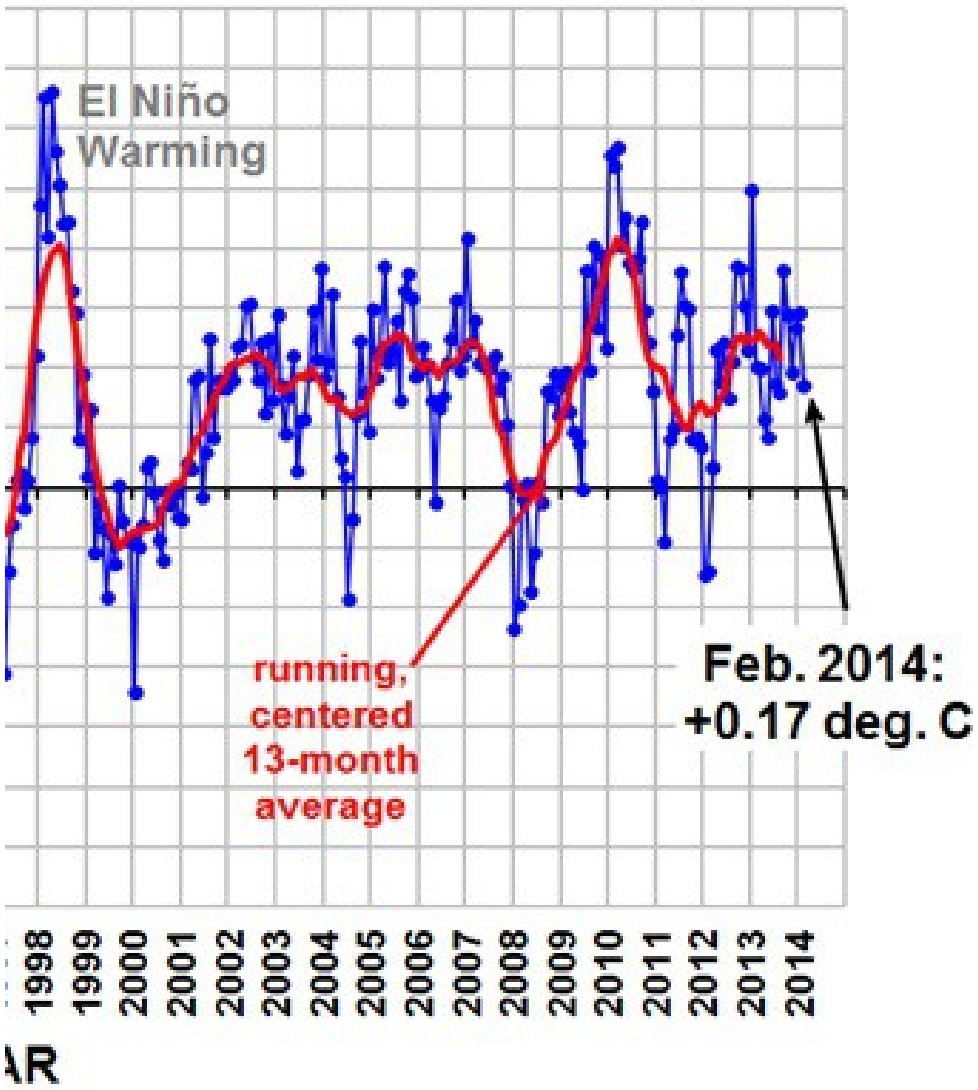
The full data set since 1979



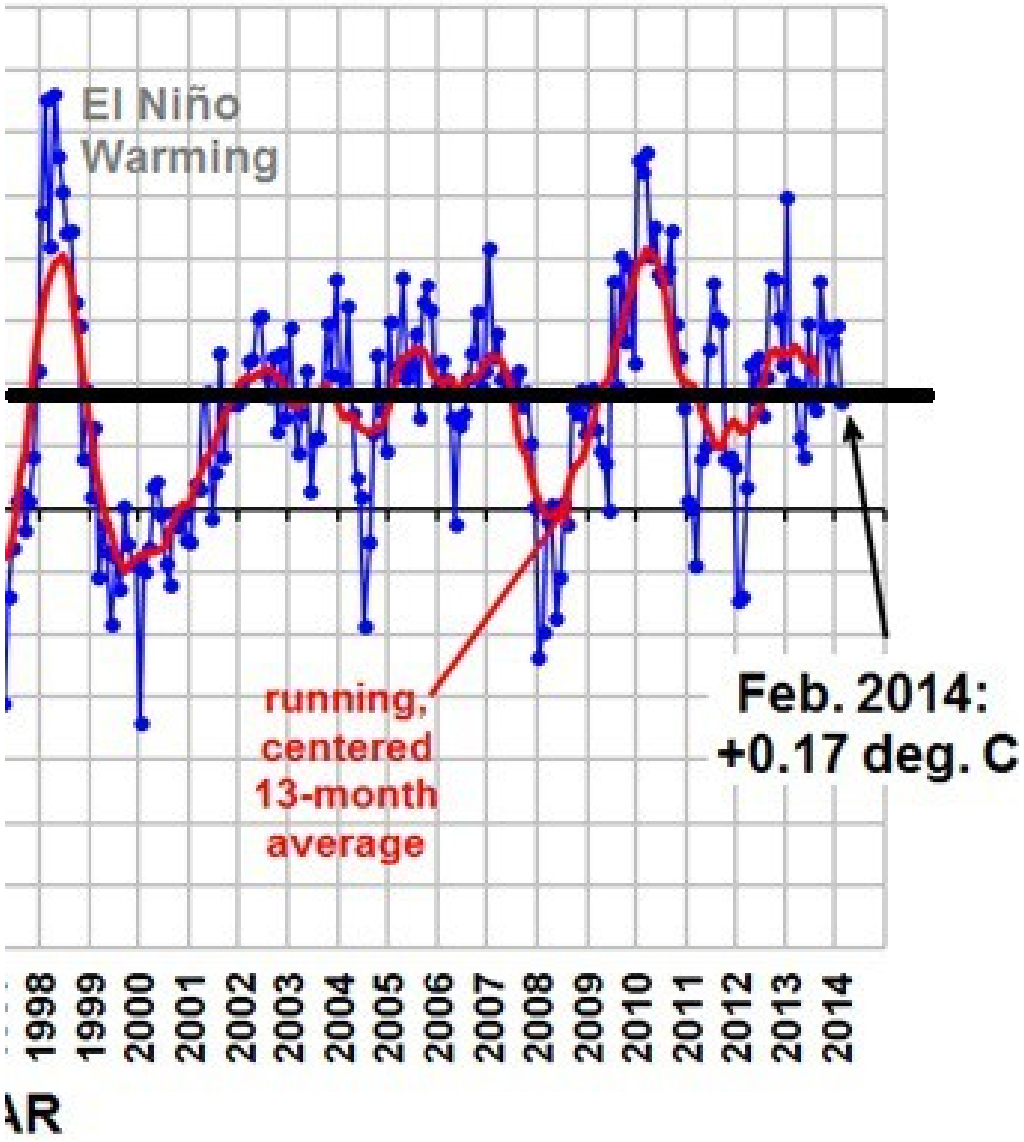
The slight of hand

- He tells you that we are only looking to prove that there has been no global warming since 1998 so he crops the data accordingly.

Data since 1998



He adds a best fit straight line



The Sting!

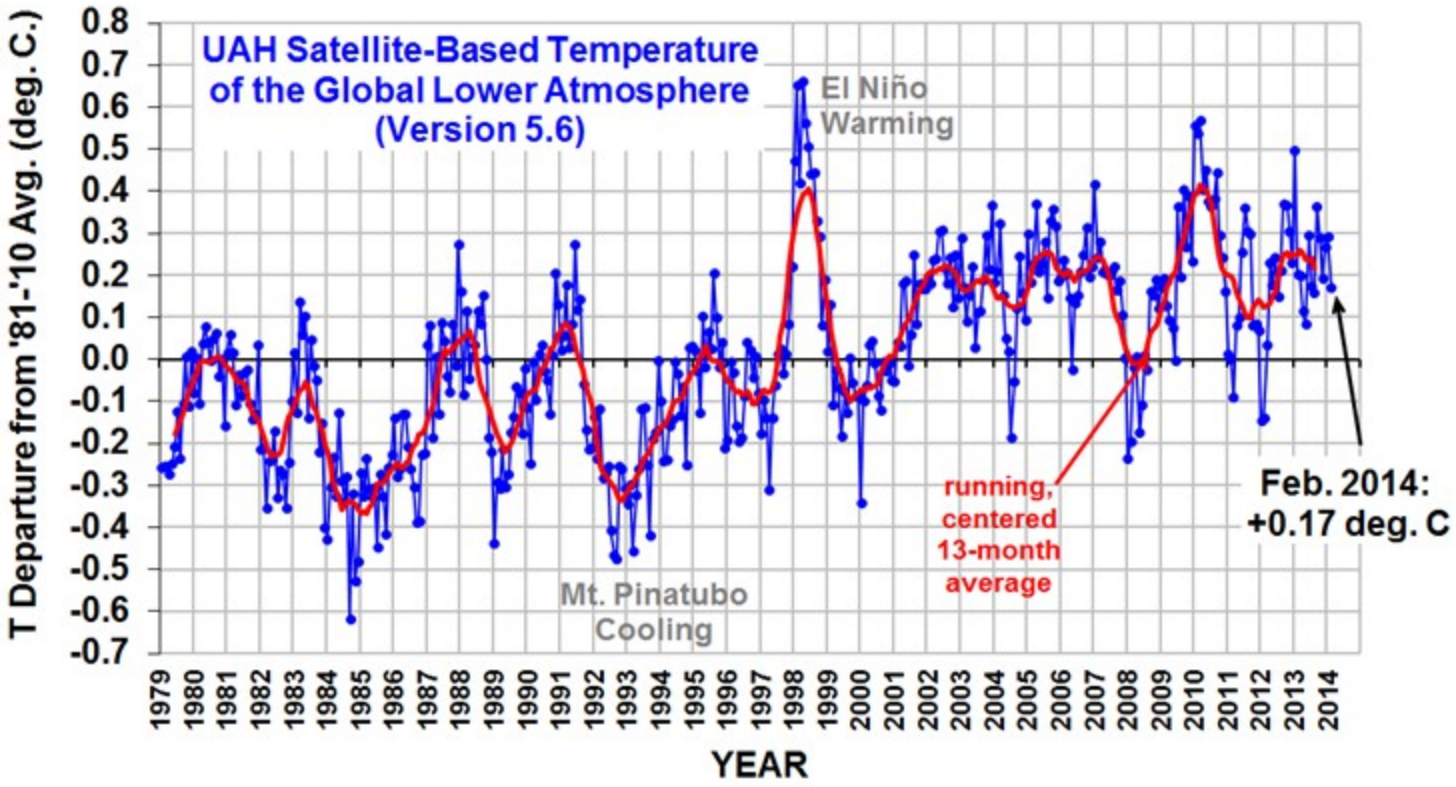
- Hey Presto – flat line – no Warming - case proved!

Let me have a go at that!

- Along I come as Mr Climate Change Believer

- I say “OK fair enough do you mind if I try that?”

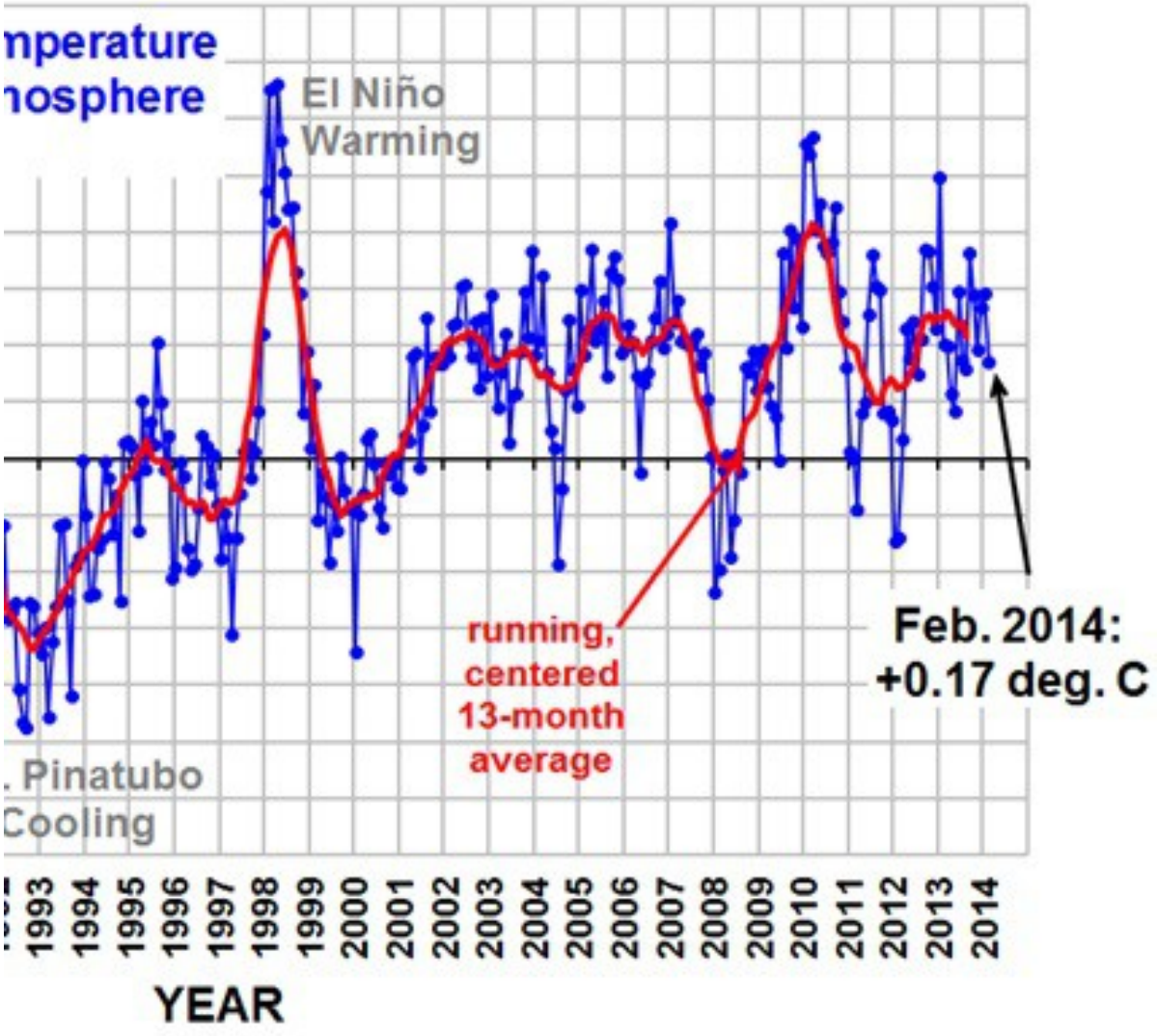
Here's my Raw data - same



My Assertion

- I’m going to ‘prove’ that Global warming has been powering ahead since 1993
- I make the equivalent crop as Mr Denier throwing away everything prior to the date I am interested in

My data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El Niño
Warming
running,
centered
13-month
average
Feb. 2014:
+0.17 deg. C
. Pinatubo
Cooling
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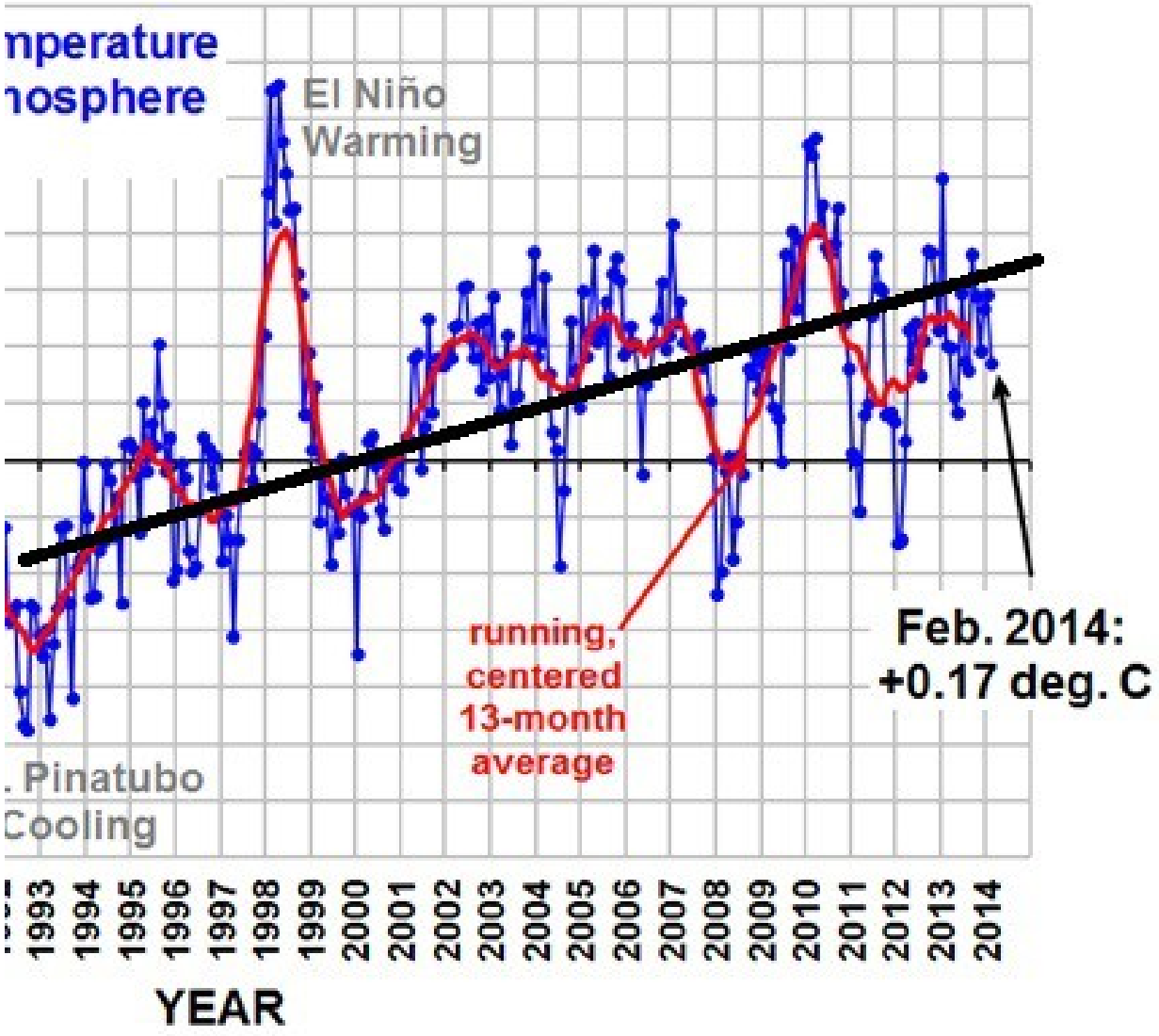
YEAR

A bit of extra fluff

- Already it's looking good for me. After all everyone knows that the bigger the data set the less chance for error so my addition of a bit more data makes mine more reliable than Mr Denier's.
- Now let's add the best fit straight line again

My Sting!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Job Done!

- There you go – a steeply rising line – lots of Global Warming! Case Proven!

- Q. Which argument is true?
- A. Neither of them – They're both BULLSHIT!

- WHY?

The Explanation

- Both cases trick you into thinking that it is OK to select a very limited run of data and to select your cut off point to suit your argument.
- The selection of either a significant peak in the data or a significant trough as your starting point means that it takes a lot of data points following the start above or below the average for the period to straighten out the best fit line. Ironically the ‘proof’ for a hiatus requires you to find an exceptionally warm year and the ‘proof’ for a surge requires an exceptionally cool year
- The data for surface temperatures is very variable allowing lots of opportunities for this trick
- This variability is due not only to experimental error and statistical variation but also to the fact that there is much more to Global Warming than just increases in surface temperature. Deep ocean currents and wind patterns move heat both away from the surface and to the surface at different times. It is this what the El nino effect is that led to the 1998 peak.

The Conclusion

- Global Warming did not stop precicesly 17 years x months ago as if God turned off the heater. This precision in some Denial claims was one of the things that first made me suspicious http://www.climatedepot.com/2014/09/07/globa
- Here's their equivalent graph to mine


RSS global mean temperature change: 315 months October 1996 to August 2014
No global warming for 17 years 11 months

More Conclusions

- Surface temperatures are an important part of the Global Warming story but not the whole story. Look at the shrinking Glaciers, the shifting seasons, the measurement of heat in the deep oceans and the high atmosphere before you accept any claim that it has stopped
- Ask yourself “ Do you really trust anything people say who would stoop to such a crude con as the no Global Warming for 17 years