

# NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley In Your Neighborhood!

September-November 2013



## September

**September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30:** Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* joined the discussion on the weekly **Texas Drought Monitor Webinar** with John Nielson-Gammon the Texas State Climatologist, SRH, NOAA Southern Region Climate Services, and WFOs on the State of Texas.

**September 6:** Meteorologist-in-Charge *Steve Drillette* led a presentation at the Valley International Country club to 34 **Rotary Brownsville Sunrise** Rotary members on Texas Hurricane History focusing on impacts to Brownsville. He also updated the club on the outlook for the remainder of this hurricane season.

**September 7:** *Steve Drillette* and Data Program Manager *Jim Campbell* staffed a booth at the **Oceanarium at Gladys Porter Zoo**. Over 200 visitors passed by the booth.

**September 10:** Senior Forecaster *Joseph Tomaselli*, along with Forecasters *Kirk Caceres* and *Blair Scholl* went on a familiarization boat trip with Joe Hillard of the Texas General Land Office to the Laguna Madre. The trip covered part of the Brownsville ship

channel and the Laguna Madre between the ship channel entrance and the Arroyo Colorado exit.

- *Steve Drillette* attended a Marketing and Tradeshows presentation delivered by the Small Business Administration of UTPA. A precursor to the Chamber Business to Botana networking expo Sept 26, 2013.

**September 11:** Forecaster *Jason Straub* led a presentation at **the Brownsville Rotary Club** to 35 people on the latest Tropical Outlook.

**September 25:** *Eric Howieson* from **NWS Southern Region Headquarters** visited **NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley** and gave an overview of his specific program and the general status from other divisions in Southern Region.

- *Barry Goldsmith* gave a presentation on the 2013 Hurricane season and Drought conditions in the RGV to 30 members and guests of the **McAllen Rotary Club** at the Salvation Army.

**September 26:** *Steve Drillette* and *Jim Campbell* staffed a booth at the **Business to Botana event at the Brownsville Event Center**. They had an opportunity to network with other businesses around and the public. 150 people passed by the booth.

## October

**October 3:** *Steve Drillette*, Electronics Systems Analyst *Paul Schaafsma*, Senior Forecasters *Geoffrey Bogorad* and *Mike Castillo*, and Forecasters *Maria Torres* and *Blair Scholl* cooked **a large meal for 110 temporary residents of the Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville**. The group prepared a feast of spaghetti with meat sauce and salad with cucumbers, and provided one bottle of water for each person. There was enough food for many to have seconds: Below is the local and national article with more information:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/bro/outreach/2013/pdf/OctoberCommunityEvents.pdf>

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/arx/?n=2013nwsweekofservice#SRH>

**October 5:** *Barry Goldsmith* participated in **the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bi-National Beach Cleanup**, promoted by Keep Brownsville Beautiful. The cleanup included several locations on both sides of the border, including Isla Blanca Park and Boca Chica Beach stateside, and Playa Bagdad (Matamoros) and Playa Miramar (Tampico) in Mexico. (see links above for details).

**October 19:** *Barry Goldsmith* and Electronic/Computer Technician *Cesar Ochoa* (photo, above) staffed a booth at the **Urban Science Initiative's annual StormFury event** at Texas State Technical College's Cultural Arts Center in Harlingen. More than 500 youngsters and their parents from Harlingen and surrounding areas, including many from Dr. Rodriguez Elementary School in Harlingen, played in our tornado chamber, watched hazardous weather videos, and took home hundreds of preparedness guides.

Several of the children and a number of parents chatted about tornadoes and weather in general, and dozens of them played “What’s That Cloud?”, by taking sky watcher cloud charts outside and matching the observed clouds with examples on the chart.

**October 24:** Meteorologist *Erin Billings* staffed a booth at the **Annual Valley Environmental Summit in South Padre Island Convention Center**. Over 200 visitors attended the event.

**October 28:** *Steve Drillette* attended the **North Brownsville Rotary Club Special Meeting**. The guest speaker was State Rep Rene Oliveira. He spoke on the major state issues affecting the RGV, including the water ballot proposition, UTB med school, and SpaceX. MIC also invited him to take a tour of the NWS office.

## November

**November 2:** *Barry Goldsmith*, in partnership with Mission ISD, La Joya ISD, Sharyland ISD, Mission EDC and RGV LEAD participated at **the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade student and Family College/ Career Fair in Mission Veterans Memorial High School**. Around 300 students and teachers attended the fair; 150 stopped by the booth.

November 12: *Barry Goldsmith* attended **Ortiz Elementary School Career Day**. School set up a “speed career dating” in the school cafeteria where 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders were able to rotate to the different careers. Approximately 175 students attended; 25 students in seven 5-minute sessions.

November 13: *Barry Goldsmith* was interviewed by **Victoria Marshall from A Action News 4 (KGBT-TV) Sunrise Morning Show** for a Winter Weather Awareness Day/Week Promotion.

- *Maria M. Torres* participated in the inaugural **monthly interview with Radio Esperanza in Edinburg**. The hour long interview was focused on Winter Weather Awareness Day/Week for South Texas. Questions were welcome from listeners 20 minutes before the end of the show, and one was received and answered. A full summary of the broadcast and partnership with Radio Esperanza can be found [here](#).

**November 15:** *Barry Goldsmith* gave a talk that wrapped up the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season and previewed the upcoming winter forecast for the Rio Grande Valley at the **Lions Club of McAllen November meeting at the Salvation Army in McAllen**. 15 Lions attended.

**November 19:** *Steve Drillette* and *Paul Schaafsma* accompanied a survey team to the proposed **NWR Spanish transmitter tower sites**. The towers are managed by the DPS in Harlingen and City of Pharr. A post survey meeting was held following the surveys. The transmitters are ready to be installed over the next month or so, with test programming to begin in late Winter or early Spring, with a goal of full operations prior to June 1, 2014.

**November 19:** *Erin Billings* attended the **Cummings Middle School Career Day**. Approximately 100 to 150 students visited the booth to learn about career options in the National Weather Service, what a typical day is like in the office, and what education is needed.