

NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley In Your Neighborhood!



Above: *Left* – Forecaster Maria M. Torres Discusses Floods with John Wood, former Cameron County Commissioner, and the Rio Grande Valley Water Summit. *Right* – Warning Coordination Meteorologist Barry Goldsmith shows off NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley Outreach “goodies” with Meteorologist Samara Cokinos of KRGV-TV-5 at the National Tropical Weather Conference on South Padre Island.

February-April 2014

February

February 1st: MIC *Steve Drillette* and SOO *Doug Butts* provided weather support and rainfall observations for the **Los Fresnos Rodeo**.

February 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th: WCM *Barry Goldsmith* participated and contributed valuable information to the weekly **Texas Drought Monitor Teleconference**.

February 3rd: SOO *Doug Butts* provided a weather presentation for 8th graders at **Liberty Memorial Middle School in Los Fresnos**.

February 3rd: Sr. Forecaster *Mike Castillo*, Forecaster *Blair Scholl*, and Hydrometeorological Technician *Sam Martinez* led an **office tour and a balloon launch** for a group of 37 Winter Texans from Paul’s RV Park.

February 5th: *Steve Drillette, Doug Butts, and Forecaster Maria Torres* attended the **Texas Flash Flood Coalition Workshop in San Antonio**.

February 6th : *Steve Drillette* attended and contributed a status report to the **Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's Homeland Security Advisory Committee Meeting (LRGVDC HSAC)** in Weslaco.

February 7th: *Doug Butts* led a **tour of the office for a group of Boy Scouts**.

February 12th: *Maria Torres* was interviewed live for one hour for **Radio Esperanza, "Hora Comunitaria", in Edinburg**. Maria gave tips on how to stay safe during the winter weather season and promoted NWS Brownsville/RGV.

- *Barry Goldsmith and Maria Torres* attended the **IBWC Public Meeting in Mercedes**.

February 13th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd: *Blair Scholl* **provided weather briefings** regarding the best time frames for conducting an airfield burn for pyrotechnics and the fire department, as well as for the **Air Fiesta** and activities before, during, and after the show.

February 14th: *Barry Goldsmith* was interviewed live for four "cut ins" during the **KMBH Promotional/Fundraiser, "Love for Public Radio", in Harlingen**. Barry promoted NWS Brownsville/RGV, our website and social media pages, upcoming storm spotter training, our staff, and our support of and partnership with KMBH (Rio Grande Valley Radio 88.1 FM) over the years.

February 18th: *Barry Goldsmith* provided an overview of the NWS, Weather Ready Nation, NWS Brownsville/RGV, and briefly discussed the reasons for the roller coaster/cold winter to 75 Canadian Winter Texans at a **Saskatchewan Winter Texan Luncheon at the Valley International Country Club in Brownsville**.

- *Barry Goldsmith* provided 45 minutes of a **taped interview for a future program on Texas drought and climate change to air on Texas Tribune Radio** later this spring. Topics included potential temperature rises and more frequent droughts across Texas, particularly the RGV, as the 21st century progresses, how the region's population and agribusiness will need to adapt, and the meaning of the current long term (39 month) rainfall shortage. The interviewer was Neena Satija and a brief tour was provided of the office.

February 21st: *Barry Goldsmith* spoke at the **Subtropical Agriculture/Environment Meeting at the South Texas College Mid Valley Campus in Weslaco**. Barry spoke on the Spring 2014 Forecast to an audience of comprised of individuals with agricultural interests, students, and educators.

February 21st, 22nd, 23rd: – *Blair Scholl, Erin Billings, and Sr. Forecaster Tim Speece* took the supplies over to the airport hangar and setup the booth for the **Air Fiesta** on Friday, February 21st. *Blair, Forecaster Jason Straub, and Maria Torres* staffed the booth at the Air Fiesta on Saturday, February 22nd and *Blair, Erin, Sam Martinez, and Data Acquisition Program Manager Jim Campbell* staffed the booth at the Air Fiesta on Sunday, February 23rd.

February 24th: WCM *Barry Goldsmith* provided a 30 to 40 minute talk to a **Horticulture Club in Port Isabel** regarding RGV climate, droughts, and floods.

February 28th: WCM Barry Goldsmith provided **DSS support via email** for the **Mission Tornado Exercise**. Barry provided emails (with graphics) at 3 pm and 11 pm for “mock” DSS for a devastating tornado event to ARC, HAM radio, and Mission Fire/Police. The 3 pm issuance was an outlook with graphics (risk/threat areas). Barry also pre-sent the test tornado warning with “tornado emergency” wording to be released in real time at 3330 am on March 1st.

March

March 1st : *Barry Goldsmith* continued to provide information for a **Tornado Exercise for the City of Mission**. Decision support email, with graphics, was sent to the American Red Cross, HAM radio, and the City of Mission Fire/Police Department at 8 AM with a weather update for recovery operations during the mock devastating tornado exercise.

- *Jason Straub* provided a tour of the office to the **Master Naturalists** group. Jason gave a presentation and was able to show the balloon release to the group. A total of 16 people attended.

March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31: *Barry Goldsmith* participated in and contributed data to the **monthly Texas Drought Monitor Teleconference**.

March 5th : *Barry Goldsmith and the NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley staff* participated and contributed valuable information to the **Annual Tornado Drill for the Rio Grande Valley**. The drill replaced the weekly RWT with Tornado wording. Announcements of this drill were mentioned through the Severe Awareness Guide, press release, web link and social media.

March 6th : *Erin Billings* attended **Jo Nelson Middle School Career Day in Santa Rosa, TX**. Approximately 150 to 200 students stop by the booth.

- *Barry Goldsmith* did an interview in Harlingen with **Victoria Marshall from Sunrise Action 4 News on Severe Weather Awareness Week**.

- *Barry Goldsmith* participated in and contributed a status report to the **Monthly LRGVDC HSAC at the LRGVDC** Rio Metro Transportation site in Weslaco.

March 7th : *Barry Goldsmith and Maria M. Torres* attended and set up a booth at the **2014 RGRWA Rio Grande Water Summit in McAllen**. An estimate of 20 to 30 people visited the booth; the Summit was attended by more than 150 people, from elected officials to local students.

March 10th : *Barry Goldsmith* taught a **Skywarn Class** to more than 20 students at the Mission Fire Department.

March 10-15th : *Barry Goldsmith* gave valuable information to the **RGV Health and Medical Preparedness Coalition for South Padre Island 2014 Spring Break**. He provided five minute weather briefings each day.

March 12th : *Maria Torres* gave an interview at **Radio Esperanza in Edinburg focusing on 2014 Flood Safety Awareness Week**.

March 13th : *Steve Drillette, Barry Goldsmith, and Maria Torres* attended the **CFC Annual Awards Luncheon in US Border Patrol Station in Harlingen**. Steve, Maria, and *Geoff Bogorad* received Eagle Award Recognition; Barry received a Rising Eagle Award for the seventh year in a row.

March 14th : Barry Goldsmith gave a **taped television interview to UTPA Bronc TV about the McAllen Hailstorm.** He gave a tour to Sergio Puento of UTPA and Surge Weather.

-Mike Castillo gave an feature article **interview regarding Spring Outlook for RGV to the Brownsville Herald.**

March 19th : Barry Goldsmith gave three **Spotter training classes to PUB and City of Brownsville staff at the Central Public Library in Brownsville.**

March 20th : Blair Scholl and Barry Goldsmith **taught a Spotter Training Class in San Benito for Cameron Co. Health staff.**

March 26th : Blair Scholl **taught a Skywarn Class in Pharr.** The presentation was broadcast (“streamed”) live to 125+ viewers and 5 people attended in person.

March 31st : Blair Scholl **presented a Skywarn Class in South Padre Island.** A total of 11 people attended.

April

April 3rd : Barry Goldsmith participated in and provided a status report to the **monthly LRGVDC HSAC** at the LRGVDC Rio Metro Transportation site in Weslaco.

April 7, 14, and 28: Barry Goldsmith participated in and contributed data to the **weekly Texas Drought Monitor Telecon.**

April 8: Blair Scholl and Geoffrey Bogorad participated in the **Brownsville/SPI Airport Triennial (DSS) Pre-Exercise Meeting.**

- Chief Meteorologist Robert Bettles of KVEO News Center 23 in Brownsville visited the office. Barry Goldsmith provided a **full tour, discussed WRN concepts, the NWS BRO/RGV overall, and recorded two “teaser” spots advertising NWS/KVEO’s partnership.**

April 9: Forecaster Maria Torres gave a **presentation on Hurricane Preparedness at the Rio Grande Headstart in Brownsville.**

April 9 – 11: Steve Drillette, Barry Goldsmith, and Maria Torres attended the **National Tropical Weather Conference on South Padre Island.** Barry **presented on Texas Floods,** focusing on RGV events (Hurricanes Beulah, Dolly, and Alex) **and staffed a booth,** where approximately 100 visitors stopped by. Maria did pre-season **interviews** with **El Expreso Matamoros Newspaper, Telemundo, and Televisa.**

April 14 – 18: Steve Drillette attended the **National Hurricane Conference in Orlando.**

April 16: Blair Scholl and Geoffrey Bogorad participated in the **Brownsville/SPI Airport Triennial (DSS) Full Scale Exercise and provided weather DSS.**

- Maria Torres gave an interview at **Radio Esperanza focusing on safety and preparedness during severe weather.**

April 29: *Barry Goldsmith* gave a **presentation titled “El Nino or La Nada: Will Drought Return in Summer 2014?”** and discussed the current and future drought situation to the **Conservation Farming/Financial Assistance Conference in Weslaco**. Approximately 40 individuals attended, including farmers, agents, horticulturalists, and more.

- *Barry Goldsmith* **toured the home of a KRGV-TV-5 news producer with Meteorologist Alan Shoemaker**, and found more than a dozen areas where improvements or repairs were necessary to ensure the home would be safe from hurricane winds, wind-driven rain, and minor flooding. The **video** was scheduled to be included in a **KRGV-TV-5 special at the end of May on the 2014 Hurricane Season**.

April 30: *Barry Goldsmith* assisted Chris Moore of TDEM in **teaching and assisting with hands on exercises during a Hurrevac 101 training class in Brownsville**. Hurrevac Version 1.3.3 was used. 20 individuals were in attendance.