

# NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley In Your Neighborhood...and Beyond!



Forecaster Blair Scholl plays "Weather Jeopardy" with visitors at the 2015 Winter Texan Expo in McAllen.

## January 2015

January 2: Meteorologist *Chris Birchfield* gave an interview to the **Valley Morning Star** on climate information, the current weather pattern and the outlook for 2015.

January 5, 12, 19, and 26: Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* and Meteorologist *Erin Billings* participated by e-mail, phone, or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Telecon.**

January 13: Forecaster *Blair Scholl*, Senior Forecaster *Geoff Bogorad*, and Science and Operations Officer *Doug Butts* met with the airport director and tower manager at the **Brownsville/SPI International Airport** to discuss changes in issuance of Airport Weather Warning (AWW) for dense fog and increased coordination during changing weather conditions.

January 14: *Blair Scholl, Geoff Bogorad, and Doug Butts* met with the airport director and tower manager at the **Rio Grande Valley International** Airport in Harlingen to discuss a possible AWW for the airport and increased coordination during changing weather conditions.

January 20: Senior Forecaster *Mike Castillo* attended the **Cromack Elementary School Career Day in Brownsville**, where he spoke to ninety 5<sup>th</sup> grade students about careers in meteorology and the National Weather Service.

January 20 and 21: *Blair Scholl and Barry Goldsmith* staffed a booth at the **Annual Winter Texan Expo** in McAllen, an event that drew around 8,000 people from the Great Plains, Midwest, and southern Canada over two days. Several thousand visitors stopped by the NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley booth to discuss Valley weather and weather back home, play Weather Jeopardy, inquire about Weather Apps and NOAA Weather Radio, and pick up brochures and promotional materials.

January 24: *Barry Goldsmith* provided a presentation and office tour to approximately 25 Cub Scouts and parents from the **Brownsville Webelos Cub Scout Troop**.

January 25: *Barry Goldsmith and Doug Butts* provided an **office tour** and visited with the new weekend meteorologist, Josh Johns, from **KRGV Channel 5**.



Forecaster and Aviation Program Leader Blair Scholl provides a weather briefing prior to the 2015 Rio Grande Valley Air Fiesta in February.

## February 2015

February 2, 9, 16, and 23: *Barry Goldsmith* and *Erin Billings* participated by e-mail, phone, or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Teleconference**.

February 3: *Blair Scholl* and *Geoff Bogorad* briefed weather information to the **Rio Grande Valley Air Fiesta Airshow** planning group.

February 5: Forecaster *Maria Torres* and *Barry Goldsmith* met with the **City of Brownsville** to discuss planning for the upcoming 2015 Rio Grande Valley Weather Festival.

February 6: *Barry Goldsmith* and *Maria Torres* attended the **69<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society in Weslaco**. *Barry* spoke to more than 100 attendees on the latest soil and drought conditions and the forecast for the spring 2015 growing season.

*Doug Butts* attended the **Valley Study Area Hurricane Evacuation Study: Evacuation Zone Development, Vulnerability and Transportation Analysis meeting** in Brownsville.

February 7: Information Technology Officer *Pablo Gonzalez*, *Doug Butts*, and *Erin Billings* provided **onsite Decision Support Services (DSS) at the Los Fresnos Rodeo**.

February 10: *Doug Butts* spoke about weather and NWS careers to several groups of 8<sup>th</sup> graders at **Liberty Memorial Middle School in Los Fresnos**.

*Pablo Gonzales* and WCM *Barry Goldsmith* met with Victor Morales, Procurement Office of the **Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) 9-1-1 center to formally sign a Memorandum of Agreement** authorizing NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley to deploy to the 9-1-1 center for impact-based decision support services in case the office is inoperable due to a non-hurricane natural or man-made disaster at the office site.

*Blair Scholl* **briefed weather and potential impacts to Air Fiesta Airshow** and the week leading up to the event and also provided **DSS** forecast for an **airfield burn**.

February 12: *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **LRGVDC Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Monthly Meeting** in Weslaco and provided a status report from NWS Brownsville/RGV on upcoming Skywarn storm spotter training classes, severe weather awareness week, Storm Ready, and Weather Festival 2015.

*Blair Scholl* **briefed weather impacts to flying and ground crews** for the week leading up to and including the **Air Fiesta Airshow** and also provided **DSS** for the **airfield burn operations** through 19<sup>th</sup> of February.

February 13: *Chris Birchfield* and *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **R.L. Martin Elementary Career Day** in Brownsville. More than 100 students, in grades 3 to 5, learned about careers in meteorology, physical science, computer science, and mathematics.

February 16: *Barry Goldsmith* spoke to twenty members of the **Driftwood Garden Club of Port Isabel** on Lower RGV Weather Climate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

February 17: *Barry Goldsmith* presented “Wonder of Weather” to more than 150 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at **Lloyd and Lucy Bentsen Elementary** and demonstrated how waterspouts and landspouts form.

*Blair Scholl* **briefed weather impacts to flying and ground crews** for the remainder of the week leading up to and including the **Air Fiesta Airshow** and also provided **DSS** for the **airfield burn operations** through 19<sup>th</sup> of February.

February 19: *Pablo Gonzalez* and *Barry Goldsmith* led a signing ceremony with Commander Jose Rodriguez III and staff of **Texas DPS Region 3** for the **Memorandum of Agreement** allowing NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley to embed with the **Disaster District Committee (DDC)** and work on-site to provide Impact-based DSS if the weather office is under direct threat for a catastrophic hurricane or such a hurricane cripples the office’s ability to function.

February 20: *Barry Goldsmith* was a **guest on the Rio Grande Valley Public Radio 88 FM (KMBH)** during morning programming to assist with their pledge drive and promote NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, including Weather Festival 2015. *Barry* also taped two Public Service Announcements: one for Severe Weather Awareness Week/Spring Preparedness Season and one for Weather Festival 2015.

*Blair Scholl* **briefed weather** for the **VIP airshow** and for the **Air Fiesta Airshow** weekend festivities.

February 21: *Blair Scholl*, *Maria Torres*, *Mike Castillo*, and *Erin Billings* staffed a booth at the **Air Fiesta Airshow**. More than a thousand visitors stopped by the booth to discuss weather and pick up brochures and promotional materials on their way out to the air field.

*Blair Scholl* briefed **weather impacts to flying and ground crew** for Saturday (21<sup>st</sup>) and Sunday (22<sup>nd</sup>) for the **Air Fiesta Airshow**.

*Kirk Caceres* and *Pablo Gonzalez* judged projects at the **Rio Grande Valley Science Fair** at University of Texas at Brownsville.

February 22: *Blair Scholl*, *Chris Birchfield*, *Barry Goldsmith*, and volunteer *Bianca Villanueva* staffed a booth at the **Air Fiesta Airshow**.

*Blair Scholl* briefed **weather impacts to flying and ground crew** for the final day of the **Air Fiesta Airshow**.

February 23: *Maria Torres* recorded a **live interview** on **Univision Radio** for Severe Weather Awareness week, and a couple of “teasers” for the 2015 Rio Grande Valley Weather Festival to air routinely through March 28.

February 24: *Barry Goldsmith* taught **two basic Skywarn classes** in Brownsville to approximately 65 students, who were mostly Cameron County public employees.

February 25: *Barry Goldsmith* taught a **basic Skywarn class** to more than 25 first responders, city employees, and local residents of the City of McAllen.

February 28: Forecaster *Jason Straub* hosted a **tour and training for the RGV Master Naturalists**.