

# 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 1<sup>st</sup>:** MIC *Steve Drillette* and SOO *Doug Butts* provided weather support and rainfall observations for the **Los Fresnos Rodeo**.

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

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

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>:** 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 5<sup>th</sup>:** *Steve Drillette, Doug Butts, and Forecaster Maria Torres* attended the **Texas Flash Flood Coalition Workshop in San Antonio**.

**February 6<sup>th</sup> :** *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 7<sup>th</sup>:** *Doug Butts* led a **tour of the office for a group of Boy Scouts**.

**February 12<sup>th</sup>:** *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 13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>:** *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 14<sup>th</sup>:** *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 18<sup>th</sup>:** *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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>:** *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 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>:** – *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 22<sup>nd</sup> and *Blair, Erin, Sam Martinez, and Data Acquisition Program Manager Jim Campbell* staffed the booth at the Air Fiesta on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

**February 28<sup>th</sup>**: 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

## March

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** : *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 5<sup>th</sup>** : *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 6<sup>th</sup>** : *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 7<sup>th</sup>** : *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 10<sup>th</sup>** : *Barry Goldsmith* taught a **Skywarn Class** to more than 20 students at the Mission Fire Department.

**March 10-15<sup>th</sup>** : *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 12<sup>th</sup>** : *Maria Torres* gave an interview at **Radio Esperanza in Edinburg focusing on 2014 Flood Safety Awareness Week**.

**March 13<sup>th</sup>** : *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 14<sup>th</sup>** : 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 19<sup>th</sup>** : Barry Goldsmith gave three **Spotter training classes to PUB and City of Brownsville staff at the Central Public Library in Brownsville.**

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

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

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

## April

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>** : 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.