

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



Above: Mid-summer 2014 saw NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley staff serve families and fishers alike! Meteorologist **Chris Birchfield** and **summer volunteer Patrick O'Quinn** are shown during a quiet moment at our booth at the 75th Anniversary Texas International Fishing Tournament at the South Padre Island Convention Center on July 30th.

July 2014

July 1: Senior Forecaster *Mike Castillo* conducted a live interview with **Radio Luz Station in Tampa, FL**. The interview focused on the latest conditions of Tropical Storm Arthur.

July 2: Forecaster *Maria Torres* conducted an interview with **Radio Luz Station in Tampa, FL**. The interview focused on the latest update of Tropical Storm Arthur.

July 7, 14, 21 and 28: WCM *Barry Goldsmith* participated by e-mail, phone, or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Telecon**.

July 9: *Barry Goldsmith* spoke to around 50 residents from Raymondville and nearby areas on the 2014 Atlantic Season, what to expect, and preparedness/awareness, at the **Raymondville/Willacy County Annual Hurricane Town Hall**.

July 9: *Maria Torres* conducted a live interview with **Radio Esperanza** about Lightning Safety. During the show the lines were open for phone calls from the audience and received a total of 5 people calling with personal stories and questions. Afterwards, Maria met with **Irma Garza from Edinburg Cable Network** and gave a TV interview in English and Spanish on the same topic.

July 26: *Mike Castillo* conducted an interview with **Brownsville Herald** regarding summer temperatures for the upcoming week.

July 30: *Barry Goldsmith*, Meteorologist *Chris Birchfield* and Summer Volunteer *Patrick O'Quinn* set up a booth at the **South Padre Island Convection Center for 75th Anniversary Texas International Fishing Tournament**. It was a slow day but people were thankful for being there; we served about 50 people with information and discussion.

July 31: *Chris Birchfield*, *Patrick O'Quinn* and Information Technology Officer *Pablo Gonzalez* staffed the booth at the **South Padre Island Center for the 75th Anniversary Texas International Fishing Tournament** from 8 AM to 8 PM. Dozens of visitors stopped by the booth to pick up information and ask questions about the fishing forecast; between 200 and 300 persons passed by.

August 2014

August 1: Meteorologist *Erin Billings* staffed a table at the **Stillman House Museum in Brownsville** and provided information about hurricane preparedness.

August 4, 11, 18 and 25: *Barry Goldsmith* participated and contributed suggestions by e-mail, phone/webinar, or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Telecon**.

August 6: *Barry Goldsmith* presented at the annual **McAllen Rotary Hurricane Luncheon**. Around 25 members of the club attended the luncheon, which was well received.

August 9: *Justin Gibbs*, *Maria Torres*, and *Chris Birchfield* staffed a booth at the **Su Clinica Brownsville "Wild About Healthcare" event**. Around 1000 people visited the booth during the annual health fair for local residents with limited insurance prior to the new school year.

August 16: Senior Forecaster *Geoffrey Bogorad*, *Chris Birchfield*, and *Barry Goldsmith* staffed a booth at the **Su Clinica Harlingen "Wild About Healthcare" event**. Around 1000 people visited the booth during the annual health fair for local residents with limited insurance prior to the new school year.

August 20: *Barry Goldsmith* provided a 30 minute talk to around fifty farmers and agri-business officials at the **Ag Water Issues Workshop in Weslaco** on the upcoming late summer/fall forecast, including tropical weather, drought, and El Nino update.

Barry Goldsmith spoke on hurricane preparedness for business and provided an update to the 2014 seasonal forecast at the **Mid Valley Business Preparedness Workshop at the Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Commission** in Edinburg. The meeting was attended by the ten members of the Board of Directors.

August 21: *Mike Castillo* provided a comprehensive interview to the **Brownsville Herald** regarding drought conditions and the outlook for rainfall.

August 22: *Maria Torres* and *Barry Goldsmith* provided fourteen separate interviews during the **9th Annual Insurance Council of Texas Road Show**. This media (print, web, TV, and radio) event reminded residents of insurance policies, etc., prior to the peak of the hurricane season. These interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish. Here is the link for additional information:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/bro/outreach/2014/pdf/ICTHurricanePreparednessRoadshow2014.pdf>

Meteorologist-in-Charge Steve Drillette attended a **Regional Texas Division of Emergency Management meeting in Weslaco**. State of Texas Emergency Management Director Nim Kidd conducted the hurricane preparedness meeting, which was also attended by City and County Emergency Management officials from across the Rio Grande Valley.

August 29: *Barry Goldsmith* gave a tour of the office to Mr. Kenneth Jones, Executive Director of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council.