

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



Barry Goldsmith promotes the upcoming RGV Emergency Management Partners Hurricane Workshop at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual South Texas Hurricane/All Hazards Conference in McAllen on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2016.

## March 2016

**March 1:** Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* conducted a **Skywarn** training class with the **City of Pharr**.

--*Barry Goldsmith* spoke at the **Master Naturalists Climate Course** in Edinburg on local and national climate and weather connections.

**March 5:** *Barry Goldsmith* conducted a **Skywarn** training class for the **RGV HAMS** field day in Harlingen.

**March 7, 14, 21, 28:** *Barry Goldsmith* and Observation Program Leader/Meteorologist *Erin Billings* participated by email, phone or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Telecon**.

**March 14-19:** *Barry Goldsmith* provided a daily weather briefing and related decision support services for the **SPI Spring Break Texas Week Health Consortium**. DSS became critical toward the weekend, when a strong cold front arrived during the peak concert events during Texas Week.

**March 22:** *Barry Goldsmith* participated in the **Rio Grande Valley Hurricane Evacuation Tabletop exercise** in Harlingen, led by the Texas Division of Emergency management.

Information Technology Officer *Pablo Gonzalez* gave an **office tour** to officials from the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife** service and members of his family.

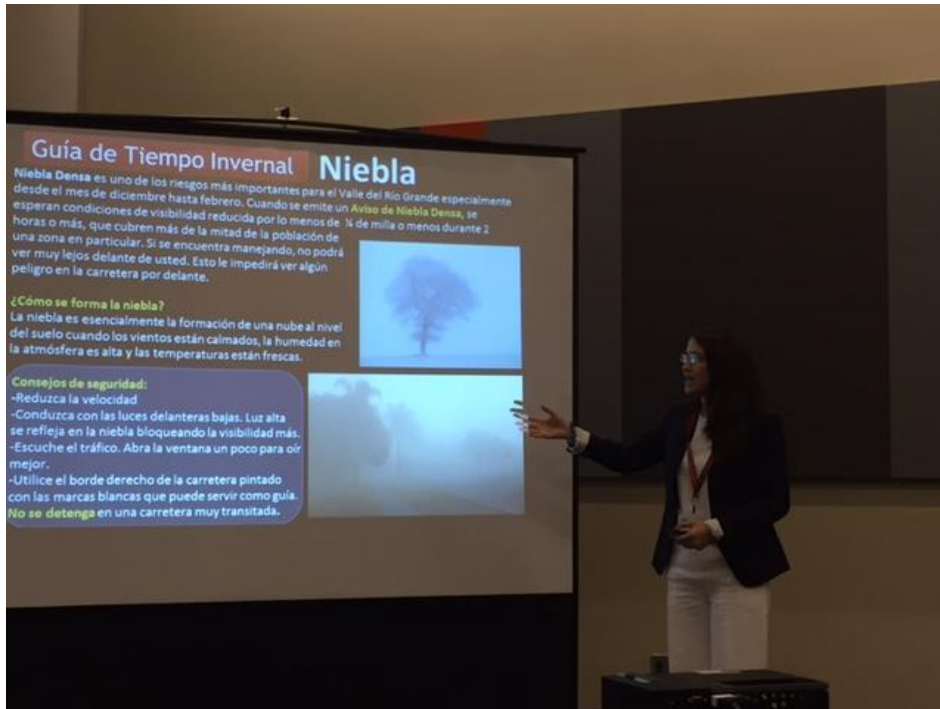
**March 23-24:** Meteorologists *Maria Torres* and *Chris Birchfield*, and *Barry Goldsmith* attended the fourth annual **South Texas All-Hazards and Hurricane (EM) Conference** in McAllen. Maria and Barry presented “Let’s “Go To Church”! How the NWS Forms Partnerships with RGV Religious Leaders to Improve Community Response to Dangerous Weather” on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Maria, Chris, and Barry staffed the booth on both days, where nearly 600 people passed by.

Senior Meteorologist *Joseph Tomaselli* gave a **presentation and office tour** to two groups of aviation honors ground school students from **Rio Hondo High School**.

**March 29:** Meteorologist *Blair Scholl* and *Barry Goldsmith* each conducted a **Skywarn** training class in **Brownsville**.

**March 30:** Senior Meteorologist *Mike Castillo*, *Blair Scholl*, and *Barry Goldsmith* each conducted a **Skywarn** training class in **Brownsville**

**March 31:** *Chris Birchfield* and Meteorologist *Jason Straub*, along with *Joseph Tomaselli* , provided an **office tour** a group of 5 winter Texans.



Above: Clockwise, from top: Maria Torres gives presentation to Texas Department of Emergency Management Conference on “Hablamos Tiempo en Español, Texas?”, on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Barry Goldsmith opens the National Tropical Weather Conference on April 14<sup>th</sup> with a presentation on tropical and non-tropical related flooding in the Rio Grande Valley in 2015; Goldsmith with KGBT CBS-4 Meteorologist Bryan Hale for an interview on social media efforts during hurricanes on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

## April 2016

**April 2:** *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **Los Fresnos Safe Room/Community Center** ribbon cutting and grand opening. Barry visited the site and toured the facility, including the safe room.

**April 2-3:** *Barry Goldsmith* staffed a booth at the **RGV Home and Garden Show** in McAllen and spoke to 400 to 500 individuals who passed by the booth. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Barry also presented “The Four Seasons of Rio Grande Valley Weather” to around 15 people.

**April 4, 11, 18, and 25:** *Barry Goldsmith* and *Erin Billings* participated by email, phone or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Telecon**.

**April 5 – 7:** Meteorologist *Maria Torres* and *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **2016 Texas Emergency Management Conference** in Austin. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Barry presented a reprise of “Becoming EF Hutton: How NWS Partnerships Texas NWS Offices and Emergency Managers Prepared Communities Prior to 2015 Flooding.”, to around 65 attendees. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, *Maria Torres* presented “Hablamos Tiempo en Español, Texas?” which described communication and outreach efforts in Spanish to provide DSS through traditional and social media, to around 20 attendees.

**April 11-12:** *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **FEMA L-320 Hurricane Preparedness Course** in Corpus Christi. Barry taught a session on impacts from tropical cyclone flooding and tornadoes on April to 50 emergency managers from the Houston/Galveston region to the Coastal Bend.

**April 14-15:** Meteorologist-in-Charge *James Reynolds*, *Barry Goldsmith*, and *Maria Torres* attended the **2016 National Tropical Weather Conference** on South Padre Island. Barry spoke to more than 50 attendees on “It Doesn’t Take a Hurricane to Know Which Way the Water Flows,” which detailed tropical-related flood events with no named storms in 2015 for portions of the RGV.

**April 19:** *Barry Goldsmith* conducted a **Skywarn** training class in McAllen. Fifteen new/recertified spotters were trained.

**April 21:** *Barry Goldsmith* gave a **structural resilience interview** at his home for a feature story on **KVEO Channel 23**.

*Barry Goldsmith* provided an **interview** to Bryan Hale from **KGBT Channel 4**, on NWS and social media, to be used on the station’s annual hurricane season special in May.

**April 23:** *Maria Torres* participated and spoke on Spanish Language products, services, and social media in the Rio Grande Valley at the **Univision Weather Workshop** for all Univision stations in Texas, in Austin.

**April 24:** Meteorologist *Chris Birchfield* and *Barry Goldsmith* staffed a booth at **StormFury 2016 at the Pharr Events Center**. Around 100 visitors stopped by the booth to visit and pick up informational brochures.

**April 26:** **CoCoRaHS National Coordinator Henry Reges and State Coordinator Bill Runyon** visited the office a provided a presentation, which was attended by five office members, three local observers, and **KVEO Channel 23**, who did a story on the visit.

**April 27:** *Barry Goldsmith* provided a **“Hurricane Strong: Readiness Interview”** at a property in Los Fresnos to **KVEO Channel 23**. Barry visited and surveyed the site for items to

fix/strengthen prior to the 2016 hurricane season, and the resident was interviewed to discuss what the owner will do to become #HurricaneStrong. The interview was the second of a two-part series on building resilience prior to the season.