



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
 Fort Worth, Texas**

January 2006

SOUTHERN TOPICS

Working Together To Save Lives

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CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER DIVISION

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH

Shreveport Boat Show. Staff from WFO Shreveport recently participated in the KTBS Boat Show at the new Shreveport Convention Center. The event was an opportunity for the National Weather Service to showcase boating safety and the marine weather products and services that are delivered to the public. The SRH touch screen kiosk was utilized to showcase the numerous types of information that are available on NWS websites. The staff partnered with the Caddo-Bossier Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to share the message of weather safety and preparedness. The response from the public ranged from “I use your web site everyday” to “I wish I had known about your website a long time ago - this information is great”. Great job, WFO Shreveport!

First Tsunami Operational Call a Success. The first Southern Region tsunami operational conference call was successfully held on December 7, 2005. Each coastal WFO was on the call, as well as SERFC, WGRFC, LMRFC, SRH, PWTC, WC/ATWC, ERH, and the NWSHQ Marine Branch. The agenda, complete minutes, and actions items are located on the SR Tsunami Intranet webpage:

<http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/srh/marine/tsunami.html>

ID Change for WFO Key West. WFO Key West is changing their ID from **EYW** to **KEY**. The Key West office moved from the airport to a new location back in 2005. As a result, their office location identifier - and all their product ID's - must change. After much behind the scenes work on AWIPS, the implementation date for their product IDs has been scheduled for May 2, 2006. Here is a link to the Service Change Notice:

http://www.weather.gov/om/notification/old/scn05-35aaa_keywest.txt

Southwest Representatives Visit Lubbock. Southwest Airlines employees Rick Curtis and Kimberley Parker recently visited WFO Lubbock as part of a local leadership and aviation training effort.



The visit was broken into two meetings. In the first meeting, held in conjunction with LUB's local BLAST program, Rick discussed the cultural and leadership practices of Southwest Airlines. He attributed the well known success at Southwest to the family atmosphere and the emphasis on positive relationships.

In the second meeting, Rick explained how Southwest Airlines gathers aviation weather information. He stated that unlike other carriers, Southwest uses the NWS TAF exclusively. He complimented the quality of aviation forecasts from the NWS, and said he occasionally calls to ask the forecaster about his or her confidence in restrictive weather conditions. Rick explained what visibilities and ceilings cause Southwest to delay launching aircraft, and how certain TAF forecasts can impact their operations.

Approximately 14 people were in attendance for both meetings, including 10 forecasters. This training was organized by the Local Aviation Team at WFO Lubbock, consisting of team members Jody James, Ken Widelski, and Gary Skwira. The training was unique in the sense that it was the first time that aviation training was conducted for forecasters at WFO Lubbock by outside aviation partners. Rick Curtis concluded by saying that he really enjoys building relationships with people in the NWS. He invited those in attendance to visit the Southwest Airlines Headquarters facility at Love Field in Dallas.

4th Quarter Aviation Award Nominations Due February 21st. Your 2005 4th Quarter Aviation Award Nomination are due 21 February 2006. Please submit your office nomination for the SR Aviation Services Excellence Award Trophy. Nomination instructions are available at the SR Aviation Web Page: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/cwwd/msd/sram/sr_aviation.pdf.

When preparing your nomination, keep in mind that **IMPACT QUOTES MAKE A DIFFERENCE**. These quotes represent customer feedback to your services. In addition, consider your Aviation Stats on Demand verification results for the quarter and/or other sustained period of time. Please mention all the folks whose individual contributions helped propel your program to aviation excellence.

The current holder of the 4th Quarter SR Team Trophy is WFO Corpus Christi. Will they be a repeat champion and keep the valued cup for another year? Or, will some other office be able to inscribe their name on the 4th Quarter SR Trophy and be its steward for a year? Please submit a nomination and take a shot!

For more information, contact your RAM, Paul Witsaman at 817.978.1100 x116 or at Paul.Witsaman@noaa.gov.

Southern Plains WFOs Provide Ongoing Fire Weather Support. The south central states remain in the grip of a major drought, coupled with unusually warm, dry and windy conditions. This combination has led to a prolonged and intense period of dangerous wildfire conditions across the area. From Christmas Day through the end of January, over 4,000 fires occurred in Texas and Oklahoma alone, scorching over 1,000,000 million acres. Several hundred thousand acres have also burned across portions of New Mexico and Arkansas. In Texas, 5 people lost their lives to separate wildfires around the start of the year, and hundreds of homes have been destroyed in Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.



The Southern Region WFOs throughout the area have been providing stellar support to emergency responders during this challenging time. WFOs San Angelo, Midland, El Paso, Fort Worth, Norman and Little Rock have dispatched forecasters to provide tactical weather support to command centers and on-scene incident commanders. Each of these offices, plus other WFOs in the heart of the Plains fire zone, notably Amarillo, Lubbock, Tulsa, Austin/San Antonio and Shreveport, have provided numerous briefings to their emergency management and fire mitigation partners.

Several Southern Region WFOs have been making extensive use of their web pages to convey valuable fire weather information to their users. In addition to an array of text-based fire weather products, several offices have been producing some nice grid-derived forecast products, fire-related Graphiccasts, and post-event summaries. Mark Fox of the SRH/Science & Technology Services Division has collected several fire-related graphics from WFO web sites and gathered them into a short Tech Memo, "*Graphical Depictions of an Active Fire Weather Season in the Western Portion of the Southern Region*", which can be found at the following address:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/topics/attach/pdf/ssd06-01.pdf>

While the fires have been tragic for many residents across the Southern Plains, they undoubtedly would have been worse if not for the efforts of the many NWS offices in the area. The timely fire weather-related warnings, forecasts and statements have heightened public awareness of dangerous fire conditions, and the specialized weather support to emergency responders has helped mitigate the fires that do form. **Great job, everyone**, for your tremendous efforts during this challenging fire weather season.

Albuquerque Hosts Fire Weather Customer Meeting. Last month, WFO Albuquerque joined forces with the local Geographical Area Coordination Center (GACC) to host the annual customer meeting in Albuquerque. ABQ IMET Brent Wachter and GACC meteorologist Chuck Maxwell gave presentations related to the future of fire weather services from the WFO and GACC. Albuquerque MIC Charlie Liles made a presentation on the dismal winter outlook, and predicted an early and more severe fire season in 2006. WCM Keith Hayes also helped lead customers in discussions on all issues relevant to the fire weather community. Most of the attendees were USFS customers, but the BLM, BIA, New Mexico State Forestry and New Mexico Smoke Management were also well represented.

WFO New Orleans Updates Media. WFO New Orleans SOO Mike Koziara was interviewed by the New Orleans CBS affiliate about the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina's storm surge and eye wall winds. This damage was most severe in the eastern part of the St Tammany Parish, and a small westward shift of Katrina's path would have brought even greater destruction to the remainder of the parish. Concerns were expressed over the impression some St Tammany residents have that they have been through the worst possible experience with Hurricane Katrina. In addition, many people will still be living in mobile homes during the 2006 Hurricane Season, and are now more exposed to tropical cyclone hazards.

Tennessee Valley WFOs Support Meth Lab Exercise. Huntsville WCM Tim Troutman and Nashville WCM Jerry Orchanian recently participated in a Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and tri-state sponsored meth lab exercise in Giles County, Tennessee. Tim provided a variety of weather planning products to TEMA area coordinator Steve Mayer for the



scenario, including the zone forecast, hazardous weather outlook, special wind forecasts, and a practice severe thunderstorm warning. Jerry attended the exercise and served as the official weather adviser to the emergency managers, interpreting model and forecast data, and providing guidance to the exercise participants throughout the seven hour exercise. This exercise showcased the ability of WFOs to provide special weather support consistent with Southern Region's impact-oriented WFO operations concept.

Winter Weather Media Workshop. WFO Corpus Christi hosted a Winter Weather Workshop for their local media partners in early December. Following introductions by new MIC Scott Cordero, SOO Ron Morales presented a case study of the Christmas Snow event of 2005, followed by an excellent demonstration on snowfall measurement by Met Intern Tony Merriman. WCM John Metz reviewed the history of winter weather in south Texas, and forecaster Jason Runyen concluded with a map discussion on the threat for winter weather for the upcoming week. The event was well attended and included participants from television stations in Corpus Christi and Victoria, including Univision. Copies of the WFO's new local products and services guide were distributed to each broadcast station.

Southeast Texas EMs Learn About Hysplit and HazCollect. The Coastal Bend Emergency Managers Association (CBEMA) held their quarterly meeting in Corpus Christi in early December. A dozen EMs from the Coastal Bend were in attendance. At the meeting, forecaster Jason Runyen demonstrated the functionality and benefits of the Hysplit model and the impact-related services that can be provided by a local WFO. In addition, WCM John Metz gave a presentation on HazCollect. Tsunami Brochures, Storm/TsunamiReady pamphlets, and HazCollect information were distributed to all attendees.

Miami Presents Hurricane Season 2005 Summary. WFO Miami MIC Rusty Pfof gave a summary presentation of the record hurricane season of 2005 at the Broward County EOC "Hurricane Wrap-Up" training sessions, held recently at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale. Broward County was hit especially hard by Hurricane Wilma on October 24. Over 500 persons responsible for emergency operations during tropical cyclone events in Broward County attended the training sessions, which were designed to improve county response for subsequent seasons. After the presentation, the public works director from Cooper City, a town of about 25,000 persons in south central Broward, asked Rusty to do the same thing for the Cooper City Commission. Rusty was happy to comply, and did an encore presentation for Cooper City later in December.

Southeast U.S. EMWIN Workshop. WFO Birmingham and the Montgomery, Alabama City/County EMA recently teamed up to produce the 2005 Southeast U.S. EMWIN Workshop, held in Montgomery. This well attended workshop brought together EMWIN enthusiasts from a range of public and private sectors. A number of EMWIN experts spoke during the event, including Danny Lloyd, Weather Message Software Developer, and Santos Rodriguez, NWSH's EMWIN Program Manager.

Birmingham Staffers Help Sop Syrup in Loachapoka. WFO Birmingham WCM Jason B. Wright and ASA Laura Sanchez recently participated in the 3rd annual Syrup Sopping Day in Loachapoka, Alabama. With a crowd starting to arrive at this event as early as 5:30 am, Jason and Laura staffed a booth and handed out multiple brochures, pamphlets, booklets, and other outreach materials. They also answered a multitude of weather questions and inquiries from the estimated 1,300 people who



stopped by through the event. Hopefully, Laura and Jason got a chance to sample some of the sweet stuff at some point during the day!

San Angelo Partners with Boy Scouts on Disaster Preparedness Outreach. WFO San Angelo is initiating a West Central Texas Disaster Preparedness Campaign, in partnership with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The campaign will announce its official kick-off during a press conference in Abilene in early February. The Texas Trails Council and the Concho Valley Council of the BSA are San Angelo's prime partners in this campaign.

The goal of the campaign is to increase citizen preparedness in the event of a disaster, natural or otherwise, occurring anywhere in West Central Texas. An important element will be the placement of the newest generation NOAA All-Hazards Radio in all schools, hospitals, and nursing homes in West Central Texas that do not already have one. A second goal will be to significantly increase the number of radios among all the citizens of West Central Texas. This effort will be accomplished through educational briefings to schools, hospitals, and civic organizations, as well as through extensive media promotions. Good luck, San Angelo, on this important initiative!

Little Rock WCM Participates in Internet Radio Interview. WFO Little Rock WCM John Robinson participated in a live, one-hour radio program on a Little Rock-based Internet radio station. The show's host, a long-time radio personality in the city, made favorable remarks about the WFO's web page. He was fascinated as John explained how the point forecasts on the web are derived from the digital database that the forecasters create. Other topics of discussion included the hurricane season, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, an upcoming round of wintry precipitation, the Arkansas tornado outbreak of November 27th, and John's childhood interest in meteorology. Great job, John, in participating in this unique form of outreach!

HYDROLOGIC SERVICES BRANCH

Huntsville and Nashville Offices Partner to Kick off TADD Project in Tennessee. WFO Huntsville WCM Tim Troutman, Forecaster Jason Elliott and WFO Nashville Service Hydrologist, Mike Murphy have been partnering with the Lincoln County, Tennessee, Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to spread the word about the "Turn Around, Don't Drown" campaign. Tim facilitated a partnership between State Farm Insurance Company and the Lincoln County EMA that resulted in the awarding of a regional State Farm "Safe Neighbor" grant for the county. This grant will enable the purchase of 40 TADD signs that will be placed at flood prone areas in Lincoln county. The EMA will also use this funding to advertise the TADD program and educate residents about the dangers of flash flooding. A full color brochure is being completed locally and will be distributed throughout Lincoln County.

Additional plans are underway for a large ceremony in Fayetteville, Tennessee that will coincide with 2006 National Flood Safety Awareness week. Dignitaries from federal, state and local county government along with broadcast media from Nashville, Tennessee and Huntsville, Alabama will participate in this public education event. Coordination is underway with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) to establish a state-wide TADD sign grant program from state disaster mitigation money. This effort will allow counties to apply for funding from TEMA to place TADD signs in counties throughout the state of Tennessee in flood prone areas.

River Forecast Service Transfer. On December 1st, four WFO Memphis river forecast points in the



Tombigbee River basin were officially transferred to WFO Jackson, MS. They included Tibbee Creek at Tibbee MS (TBBM6), Stennis Lock and Dam at Columbus MS (CBUM6), Luxapallila Creek at Columbus MS (CLUM6), Noxubee River at Macon MS (MCNM6).

San Juan Honors Cooperative Observers. WFO San Juan and the Puerto Rico Chapter of the American Meteorological Society co-sponsored a “Day of Appreciation” for cooperative observers in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Attendees from throughout Puerto Rico participated, including a representative from St. Croix, USVI. Featured speakers included NWS Southern Region Data Acquisition Program Manager Mike Asmus and Roberto Cortes from Telemundo, Channel 2.

Appreciation Day activities included videos, special presentations, tours of the Weather Forecast Office and a demonstration of a weather balloon launch. The main event was an Awards Ceremony during which Meteorologist-in-Charge Israel Matos presented Department of Commerce Certificates of Recognition to all the observers. A special thank you goes out to the staff of WFO San Juan and their family members who helped make the observers felt welcome and appreciated.

The NWS Cooperative Weather Observer Program has given scientists and researchers continuous observational data since the program’s inception more than a century ago. Today, some 11,700 volunteer observers participate in the program to provide daily reports on temperature, precipitation and other weather factors such as snow depth, river levels and soil temperature.

The first extensive network of cooperative stations was set up in the 1890s as a result of an 1890 act of Congress that established the U.S. Weather Bureau. Many of the observation stations have even longer histories. Some historic figures who have maintained weather records include: Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. In fact, Jefferson maintained an almost unbroken record of weather observations between 1776 and 1816.

Chinese Delegation Visits SERFC. A delegation from the China Yangtze Three Gorges Project Development Corporation visited the NWS Southeast River Forecast Center on December 13, 2005. The delegation included the Project Director, Chief Economist, several engineers, and even a leading official of the Chinese Ministry.

The Three Gorges Dam is a major flood control facility which has significantly increased the economic viability of the region. The Three Gorges Dam features the largest hydropower plant in the world. The dam modified the Three Gorges section of the Yangtze River, previously full of dangerous shoals and rapids, into a navigable waterway.

The Georgia Institute of Technology sponsored the delegation’s visit. Reggina Cabrera (Senior Hydrologist) coordinated the visit at the SERFC. Cabrera, along with Jeff Dobur (HAS Meteorologist), and John Feldt (Hydrologist in Charge), provided the visiting scientists with operational overview presentations.

Service Hydrologist Details Katrina’s Wrath. WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge Senior Service Hydrologist Patricia Brown was a guest speaker for the December luncheon of the Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Patricia’s presentation, entitled “Hurricane Katrina – Prelude, Impacts, and Aftermath”, covered the outreach effort, external coordination, and actual operational work done by the WFO prior to and during Hurricane Katrina. Data on the damages, levee failures, oil spills, flooding, and other impacts were presented to the enthralled audience.



WFO New Orleans Hydrometeorological Technician Francida Moore assisted Ms. Brown during the presentation, which was taped and broadcast in the Baton Rouge, LA metropolitan area on the local access station dedicated to governmental affairs. On a happy note: Patricia's relatives who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina and out of contact saw the broadcast and made contact with Patricia afterwards.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

ORDA ON THE WAY. The Open Radar Data Acquisition (ORDA) program continues to forge ahead with installs occurring throughout the region at a breakneck pace. The region's WSR-88D NexRad Group continues to work closely with the Radar Operations Center in Norman and with Weather Service Headquarters in getting this accomplished. As of February 1st, 2006 the new equipment had been installed at twenty forecast offices throughout the region. ORDA modification has also taken place at eleven DOD sites as well. Recent feedback from offices has been positive. ORDA eliminates many legacy components and increases stability and eases maintenance. The ROC ORDA website has recently been updated for the Firefox web browser. ORDA information and schedules can be found at the following: <http://www.orda.roc.noaa.gov/default.asp>

NWR IMPROVEMENT IN SAN ANTONIO. The NWR/CRS group is currently assisting with the relocation of the Austin/San Antonio transmitter. The equipment which is presently located atop the Medical Center near downtown San Antonio, is being relocated to the northern part of Bexar County. The new higher elevation will provide a significant better coverage area and more potential listeners. Completion of the relocation project is expected to be mid to late February.

OB6 STATUS. The OB6 installation process will consist of three phases. The first phase will be the relocation of the power vault mass storage device into the DX rack. Phase two will be the installation of the Red Hat Enterprise Linux on all Linux workstations/servers except the RFC Archiver. Finally, phase three will be the AWIPS OB6 software installation. All three phases will need to be scheduled in advance and completed in the proper sequence. National deployment should begin February 6th and run into the summer.

REDUNDENT AWIPS FIREWALL. Firewall deployment remains on hold pending release to the field by Raytheon. Once national deployment begins, this install will require scheduling as well.

ORPG Build 8 Testing. ORPG Build 8 is currently in Beta testing with the following WSR-88Ds participating in the test:

- Twin Lakes, OK (KTLX)
- Vance AFB, OK (KVNX)
- Morristown, TN (KMRX)
- Peachtree City, GA (KFFC)
- Maxwell AFB, AL (KMXX)
- Robbins AFB, GA (KJGX)

If all goes well, full deployment of ORPG Build 8 will begin in April. Two of the more significant changes with this build include automatic mode changing between clear-air and precipitation and



default VCP selection during automatic change-over.

ASOS NEWS. Several sites are having problems with the new 2.79B load. The issue is being worked on and further details are on the way. A new project is on the way, the need to move the ASOS Sensor group at Key West to the center field wind sock. Winds are no longer representative of the runway. Massive tree growth, a new hotel, and a new terminal being build force this move.

UPPER AIR NEWS. March 6 starts the install of the RRS system at Tallahassee, followed by Lake Charles, Shreveport, Midland and Amarillo.

In other news, during the last two weeks of March, SOD is looking to move the current ART-1 Legacy system from the airport to the new WFO at Key West. This will be a major project as the new dome must be raised and the ART1 placed inside. The old system must be used until a climate quality radiosonde is developed.

UPPER AIR TO GO. WSH is purchasing a combo office/storage trailer that SR will convert to a mobile ART-1 U/A platform for use during RRS install. This comes as a request from offices receiving RRS during severe weather season. This will eliminate down time at WFOs during severe weather season as mission critical upper air data will still be collected. Thanks goes to Jose Garcia for bringing this to our attention.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS			
<u>JANUARY 1 - 31, 2006</u>			
<u>Southern Region Losses</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>From (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>From Title</u>
John Elmore	WFO SHV	Retirement	Lead Forecaster, GS-13
James Noffsinger	WFO FFC	Retirement	Lead Forecaster, GS-13
Leonard Bucklin	WFO LIX	Retirement	Lead Forecaster, GS-13
Gilbert Barton	WFO LIX	Retirement	DAPM, GS-12
Albertha Mosley	WFO MFL	Retirement	HMT, GS-11
Emile Leche	RFC ORN	Retirement	Hydrologist, GS-12
Steven Griffin	WFO SHV	Retirement	HMT, GS-11
Serge Rivard, II	CWSU ABQ	Retirement	MIC, GS-13
John Hickman	WFO LUB	Transfer to CR	Elec Tech, GS-11
Matthew Zika	WFO HUN	Transfer to CR	Lead Forecaster, GS-13



Steven Ippoliti	WFO AMA	Transfer to WR	Met Intern, GS-7
Priscilla Bridenstine	WFO HUN	Transfer to ER	Forecaster, GS-12
Thomas Turnage	WFO TAE	Transfer to CR	Lead Forecaster, GS-13

<u>Southern Region Gains</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Shawn Rossi	WFO SJU	Reinstatement	Forecaster, GS-12

<u>Within Region Transfers/Actions</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
George Johnson	WFO AMA	Reassignment	Forecaster, GS-9
Danny Darbe	WFO FFC	Reassignment	Lead Forecaster, GS-13
Donald Shepherd	WFO MOB	Promotion on station	Lead Forecaster, GS-13
<u>Within Region Transfers/Actions</u>			
Patrick Gatlin	WFO HUN	Reassignment	Forecaster, GS-9
Jeffrey Fournier	WFO TAE	Promotion on station	Lead Forecaster, GS-13
James Vasilj	WFO LIX	Promotion	Lead Forecaster, GS-13

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

DIVERSITY/EEO AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Helping the Less Privileged in Huntsville. Several members of the WFO Huntsville staff were recently invited to a special breakfast at the Huntsville Downtown Rescue Mission. The breakfast and facility tour were in recognition of a food drive that the office held for the mission back in September. During December, the WFO held a drive to collect toys and gifts for the children at the mission. These gifts were delivered on the children on December 16th.

Nashville School Outreach. Staff members at WFO Nashville remain active on the outreach front, providing talks to school students throughout middle Tennessee. During the fall, Forecaster Mark A. Rose gave 3 talks on weather and geography to around 180 elementary and middle-school students in Nashville and Lebanon a talk on geography and weather to 125 students from five geography classes at La Vergne Middle School. Forecaster Sam Herron spoke to 85 3rd and 4th graders in Crossville. The children's main topic of conversation with Sam was hurricanes. The Nashville tornado machine was also a big hit with the kids.

MIC Larry Vannozzi gave a presentation on clouds and tornadoes to students at Hendersonville Elementary School, while WCM Jerry Orchanian spoke to 3rd graders at Madison Campus



Elementary School.

WFO Amarillo Works with Local High School Students on Rocket Project

Forecaster Jason Jordan, ESA Ken Hunter, and ET Dave Wilburn worked with 20 local high school students on a special project. The students, who attend the Amarillo Area Center for Advanced Learning (AACAL), were given a “budget” and specifications and tasked with building and launching a rocket as part of a six week project. Jason, Ken, and Dave assisted the students with the project and also launched their own homemade rocket. This is the second year that staff from WFO Amarillo has assisted with this project. Forecaster Jason Jordan also serves on the AACAL Board of Directors.



Tres Amigos: National Weather Service employees Dave Wilburn, from left, Ken Hunter and Jason Jordan show off a rocket they built during a lunch break recently. The men were at Amarillo Area Center for Advanced Learning helping engineering students launch rockets they made as a class project. Photo courtesy of the Amarillo Globe News.



Teamwork: AACAL engineering students Lucas Lonagan left, and Richie Solarski help National Weather Service Meteorologist Jason Jordan prepare their rocket for launching. The students were taking part in a class project employing real-life engineering principles. Photo courtesy of the Amarillo Globe News.

WFO San Angelo Hosts Student. A delightful high school student from Rotan High School visited WFO San Angelo as a shadow student in November. Rotan High School allows its senior students to visit employers in the student’s career field. The student is the granddaughter of one of the WFO’s cooperative observers. She spent the day with forecasters and had a great opportunity to learn more about the NWS.

Young Meteorologists. Buddy McIntyre visited three second grade classes at San Angelo’s Reagan Elementary School in January. His presentation was associated with an educational grant which the school has received designed to expose students at predominantly minority schools to various careers. Buddy explained that his interest in weather began when he was about their age in Fort Worth after watching local news reports of the 1957 Dallas tornado. Many of the students said they enjoy math and science.

ATOMS in Memphis. The Memphis ATOMS (Aviation Team of the Mid South) held a seminar for pilots on December 1, 2005, focusing on winter weather hazards. About 50 pilots were in attendance at the meeting hosted by FAA FSDO Safety Program Manager, Nadine Yeager. ATOMS members Doug Boyette, Anthony Cavallucci and Jim Duke split the presentation duties. The event was held in Memphis at the Pan Am Flight Training Academy.



Special Emphasis Program Managers Appointed. Southern Region has a newly appointed group of Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM). Our SEPMs need everyone's support, ideas and commitment to the EEO Program to enable the NWS to progress in all areas of diversity. The following individuals have been selected for the Southern Region Special Emphasis Program Managers: African American Employment Program Manager, Alana McCants, RFC Fort Worth; American Indian Employment Program Manager, Amanda Roberts, RFC Slidell; Federal Women's Employment Program Manager, Latrice Maxie, WFO Jackson; Asian/Pacific American Employment Program Manager, Gina Tillis-Nash, RFC Slidell; Persons with Disabilities Employment Program Manager, Ray Fagen, WFO Midland.

