



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

November/December 2005

SOUTHERN TOPICS

Working Together To Save Lives

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Congratulations to the following Southern Region Offices which recently were awarded the Department of Commerce Gold Medal, the Department's highest award. WFOs Atlanta, Key West, Jacksonville, Melbourne, Miami, Tallahassee, and Tampa Bay, and the Southeast River Forecast Center were awarded the medal. The award was presented in recognition of offices' outstanding life saving services rendered during a record number of hurricanes impacting Florida and Georgia between August 12 and September 27, 2004.

During that period, Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Gaston, Ivan and Jeanne took their toll on Florida and Georgia with hurricane force winds, storm surges, flooding rains and tornadoes. Managers, forecasters and support staff worked long, stressful hours while they and their families were in harm's way. The high level of service provided by RFC and the WFOs received high praise from the media, emergency management community and the public.

Congratulations also go WFO Austin/San Antonio which received the Department of Commerce Silver Medal in recognition of life-saving services provided during devastating floods and tornadoes in South Central Texas during an extended rain event in mid-November of 2004. Between November 16 and 23 the highly populated corridor from Austin to San Antonio had 10 to 15 inches of rain, while the Texas Hill Country had six to 10 inches. During this period, rainfall exceeded 400 percent of normal.

Finally, congratulations to Jim Lushine (recently retired WCM from WFO Miami) and Randy Lascody, senior forecaster for the WFO in Melbourne, Fla., who recently received the Department Of Commerce Silver Medal for their pioneering work in developing a rip current awareness and forecast program for the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the United States. Lushine originally conceived the rip current program and joined forces with Lascody to conduct the research and development, resulting in a national program that has already saved lives and is expected to save many more in the future.

The awards were presented at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in early December.



CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER DIVISION

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH

Tsunami Policy

A Southern Region Tsunami Operational Policy Memo has been issued and signed by Southern Region Director Bill Proenza. The policy document has been posted to the SR Intranet for SDM reference:

<http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/srh/marine/tsunamiSRpolicy111805.pdf>

San Juan Participates in HazCollect Operational Acceptance Test (OAT). WFO San Juan, Puerto Rico will be the sole Southern Region representative in the upcoming HazCollect OAT test scheduled to begin January 17-19, 2006. San Juan was chosen to test the HazCollect Spanish capability, and will be participating in an upcoming FEMA Disaster Management Interoperability Services (DMIS) Toolkit training session scheduled for December 16, 2005.

Coastal WFOs Support “NOAA in your Neighborhood Initiative.” In support of the NOAA mission, and as part of the “NOAA in Your Neighborhood” initiative, all Southern Region Gulf Coast WFOs have recently been broadcasting a message for the National Association of Charterboat Operators and the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council on NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) All Hazards. This was in accordance with NWSI 10-1710, NOAA Weather Radio Dissemination, Section 5.4 and in support of upcoming meetings with Charterboat Operators along the Gulf coast to assess the economic impact to the sport fishing fleets from Hurricane Katrina, Rita, and Wilma.

Raising Awareness Through NOAA Public Alert Radios. Life-saving NOAA Public Alert Radios are being distributed to all public schools in major metropolitan areas including Atlanta, Dallas, and Houston through a program launched by the Departments of Homeland Security, Commerce and Education. Over 16,000 radios have been sent to all participating public schools in more than a dozen major metropolitan areas located nationwide. This action will go along way to ensure children’s safety while in school, and will continue the effort to make NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards as common as smoke detectors. Both the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Consumer Electronics Association contributed to this successful campaign.

Midland Cooks For Their Aviation Community. WFO Midland recently sponsored an Aviation Services and Spotlight Cookout for members of the aviation community. In attendance were representatives from Lockheed Martin, Southwest Airlines, Continental Express Jet, Midland Airport Operations, the Marfa Aerostat site, and the regional Liaison Officer for Region 4A of the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

As guests arrived, they were greeted by members of the WFO Midland staff and were treated to office tours by WCM Pat Vesper and senior forecaster Doug Cain. After lunch, SOO Jeff Cupo served as official spokesperson for the event, formally welcoming guests and introducing the day’s speakers. Doug Cain, aviation focal point and event organizer, along with forecaster Cody Lindsey provided excellent presentations to the group discussing WFO Midland aviation services and the WSR-88D.



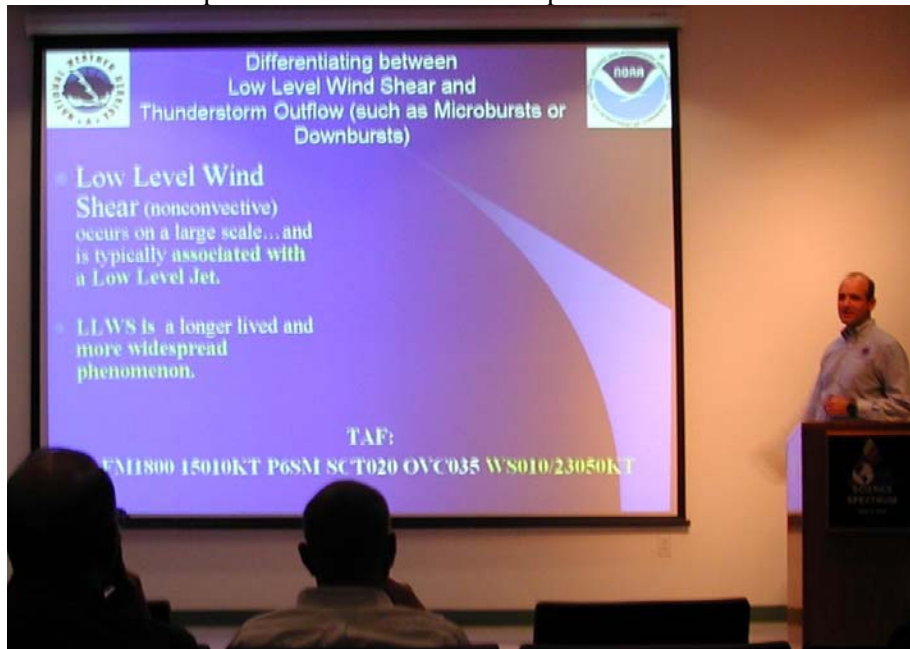
The event concluded with a 30 minute roundtable discussion during which the aviation guests provided feedback to WFO Midland on ways of improve their local aviation services. The event was extremely well received from start to finish, and directly led to changes in the process by which Airport Weather Warning information is communicated to Midland's customers. Great job, guys!

Lubbock Plays Host to Aviation Partners. As part of the ongoing effort to work with local aviation partners, the aviation team at WFO Lubbock hosted a two hour aviation workshop for local pilots on the evening of October 11th. For the first time, the training was conducted in the Science Spectrum, the same building which houses the WFO. Topics covered at the workshop included a brief overview of the National Weather Service by MIC **Justin Weaver**, Low Clouds and IFR by Journeyman Forecaster **Ken Widelski**, and Thunderstorms and Flight Planning by **Jody James**, Senior Forecaster and Private Pilot/FAA Volunteer Aviation Safety Counselor. The workshop was very well received by the 12 pilots in attendance, and most mentioned their appreciation for the effort WFO Lubbock made to reach out to local pilots. Here is a sampling of comments about this workshop:

“What a pleasant surprise yesterday evening was! You guys were great! As a farm boy from West Texas (Clarendon), I always knew that weather was interesting and exciting. You and your associates reminded me of just how much I'm fascinated by the subject. I'm going to dig out some of the old books and will attend another session if you do it again. Thanks!”

“Everyone at the Weather Service seemed to be extremely helpful and willing to work with pilots. The general attitude was very refreshing.”

Below are some pictures taken at the workshop:



Jody James, talks to local pilots about low level wind shear.





Meteorologist-in-Charge Justin Weaver explains how the NWS fits into the aviation weather picture.

Tampa and Miami get some “Luv” for their Wilma Efforts. Southwest Airlines Weather Operations Manager Rick Curtis recently passed on kudos to the WFO Miami and WFO Tampa Bay staffs for their exemplary aviation support during Hurricane Wilma. The following is a short note that Rick passed on to MFL MIC Rusty Pfof and TBW MIC Shawn Bennett in appreciation of their staffs’ fine efforts:

Rusty and Shawn,

Please pass along my sincere thanks to the folks at the Miami and Tampa WFOs for their excellent work during Wilma. In addition to all of the products you put out, I called down to your offices a couple of times and spoke with a few members of your staff. They did an excellent job - I only wish I remember their names....

In any case, thanks from Southwest Airlines for a job well done!

Rick

Singificant Event Reporting. ROML S-01-01, “Notifying Southern Region Headquarters of Significant Events,” has been converted to a Supplement and can now be found online at the following link on the NDS website under Directive 10-1603:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01016003s072005curr.pdf>

In addition, the Supplement refers to Significant Event Reporting information on our SR Intranet: <http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/srh/roc/sigreport.html>



What is ERMET? For many years, the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Fort Worth has been a center of hazardous weather expertise in north Texas. In partnership with emergency managers, storm spotters, and media outlets, WFO Fort Worth has helped forge an excellent hazardous weather education and warning system. The events of 9/11 and subsequent events in the U.S. and abroad have made all of us rethink our relationship with emergency managers at the city and county level. It should be apparent by now that a majority of emergency responses may require at least a minimal level of weather input and support.

With this in mind, WFO Fort Worth has developed the Emergency Response Meteorologist (ERMET) program. ERMETs are forecasters who can provide hydrometeorological expertise to emergency managers and first responders in the event of a significant emergency situation. With their knowledge of local meteorology and their training in other aspects of emergency response, these individuals are in a position to provide special support to our emergency management partners.

Currently, two Fort Worth forecasters have completed the pilot version of ERMET training. The pilot training program included an overview of the Incident Command System, meteorological information needs of first responders, preparation of briefings and media interviews, plume dispersion forecasting, and the use of the CAMEO emergency management and ALOHA plume modeling programs. Additional training will be provided to the remainder of the forecast staff later this summer.

Members of the Fort Worth staff have participated in several tabletop disaster exercises, and have discussed the services the ERMETs can provide. Given the program's infancy, the WFO is eager to participate in as many exercises, both tabletop and full-scale, as possible. This will allow them to refine the program and maximize the quality of service.

Late this past summer, a chemicals and solvents facility exploded in north Fort Worth. The resulting fire and response was the first live test of the ERMET program. The WFO provided high-resolution wind data from the surface to 4,000 feet AGL, as well as updates on precipitation near the fire site to the Fort Worth Emergency Management staff. This support was provided remotely from the WFO, as will likely be the case for the near future. However, Fort Worth is also looking into developing a "go kit", including a laptop PC, communications devices, and possibly some local weather monitoring equipment. This could enable them to provide direct on-site support during a major or widespread event.

StormReady® Update. Southern Region designated four (4) new StormReady "Communities/Counties" for the 2006 fiscal year. WFO Peachtree City recognized the counties of Newton, Thomas and Haralson counties in Georgia as StormReady.

Number 1000. WFO Tulsa, which initiated StormReady as a local, home grown awareness and preparedness program, recognized Benton County, Arkansas as the 1,000th StormReady Community in the nation. A major publicity event is planned for the formal recognition ceremony after the 1st of the year.

Huntsville adds two important StormReady Supporters! WFO Huntsville MIC Mike Coyne and WCM Tim Troutman completed the designation of Redstone Arsenal and Marshall Space Flight Center as StormReady Supporters on October 24th in Huntsville, Alabama. Representatives from Redstone Arsenal, Marshall Space Flight Center, Madison County Emergency Management,



Huntsville mayor Loretta Spencer, and local media participated in the outreach event to recognize these important local government facilities.

DIGITAL SERVICES

The National Weather Service Corporate Board has tasked several people within Southern Region to work on some initiatives for change within the NWS, such as the concept of NWS operations, the concept of Aviation Weather Services, and delivery of Information Services within the NWS. Some of the impetus for change is technology based, and some is fiscally based.

Bruce Marshak was nominated to be a member of the network team that is reviewing the way we utilize networking within the NWS. Bruce attended a meeting of all the Information Technology Team Leaders (Networking, Network Management, Desktop Support, IT Procurement, and Web Services) and the subsequent network team meeting in Kansas City, MO the week of November 14, 2005. During the meeting, many scenarios were discussed and spirited discussions ensued on potential ways of changing our methods of viewing delivering, and utilizing IT services within the NWS. As part of this process, business cases are being developed to support any suggested changes. As an example, part of one of the initiatives examines potential changes in the procurement process utilized to obtain IT resources. Paul Chan, the NWS CIO, and Dean Gulezian, Director, NWS Eastern Region, also attended the meeting.

At this time, all the groups are tentatively scheduled to submit proposals and supporting documentation to the NWS Corporate Board for review some time in mid-December. Once the review process has been completed, a decision will be made regarding possible implementation. We will keep you abreast of any progress in this process.

HYDROLOGIC SERVICES BRANCH

Experimental Precipitation Information Service. A national service change notice was disseminated recently about a new experimental information service. This new experimental information service is available at the following web address:

**/http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis_new.php
(spaces between the words precip, analysis, and new are underscore characters)/**

This new experimental service provides a national map of River Forecast Center multisensor precipitation estimates and precipitation analyses (e.g., departure from normal precipitation, percent of normal precipitation, and normal precipitation) for various time durations. This experimental information service builds upon the current SR RFC precipitation analysis web page that was developed by the SR RFC web presence team led by Dave Reed from the LMRFC. It has been operational since 2003 and has been used widely by many partners and customers, including the media, Drought Monitor, climatologists, logging industry, construction industry, etc. It is available at the following web address:

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfcshare/precip_analysis.php
(space between the words precip and analysis is an underscore character)



The main differences include the areal coverage of the map (CONUS versus SR), a different graphical user interface, the ability to add additional GIS layers (similar to the RIDGE look and feel), and more detailed information about the product. Ken Pavelle from the Arkansas Red Basin River Forecast Center was the leader of this project, with assistance from a technical sub-team that included Frank Bell and Greg Shelton from WGRFC, the CONUS regions and RFCs, NCEP, and NWSH. Ken also received technical assistance from Paul Kirkwood and Keith Stellman to incorporate the RIDGE GIS design into this web page. Ken led the team efforts and developed the experimental web page based on the requirements and inputs he received from the organization.

We encourage you to notify your partners and customers about this new experimental information service via your homepage and other dissemination techniques (e.g., email). Feel free to take the service change notice and send it to your partners/customers. Please encourage them to provide feedback on this new experimental information service using the survey/feedback tab above the map. We also encourage you to provide feedback on this experimental information service. The feedback period is from November 17, 2005 through June 30, 2006. This experimental information service will be considered for operational implementation after a national assessment of the feedback is completed. Once operational, the page will be upgraded in the future based on the service requirements submitted from both internal and external customers. The web page enhancements will follow the same framework used to enhance the AHPS web pages.

FY2006 Federal Executive Board's Leadership Government Program. Judi Bradberry, Senior HAS forecaster at the SERFC, has been selected for this program in the Atlanta area. The Leadership Government Program will focus on developing the participants' leadership skills and knowledge concerning the issues that will impact government over the next few years. These issues will include emergency preparedness, recruitment and retention of the best and brightest, conflict resolution, communication, community involvement, and the President's Management Agenda. The program is a year long and will consist of 22 half- or full-day sessions.

SR RFC Backup System Update. A test of the RFC operational backup capabilities was performed during September 2005 on the PostgreSQL development PC, which is doubling as the primary development machine for an updated RFC backup system based on PostgreSQL, AWIPS OB6 software, and the Red Hat Linux Enterprise 3 Operating System. The test was an overall success, with only a few minor problems noted and subsequently corrected. ABRFC completed the process of porting numerous database and non-database applications to this PC prior to the operational backup test. Included in the latest round of software updates were processes ported from AWIPS that support the creation of products for the website during backup operations. Work was begun to enable the product gathering routine to retrieve more products during a given period of time and to add a self-recovery capability to the software. A new version of the RFC backup software will be distributed to the SR RFCs in the future.

Rolling on the River. During the week of September 15, SERFC Senior Hydrologists Jonathan Atwell and Todd Hamill traveled to the Tallapoosa River basin to meet with Roger McNeil (Service Hydrologist, WFO Birmingham) and to conduct an in-depth assessment of their customers' needs. Their goal was to meet with a wide assortment of people who have interests along the river, especially non-traditional users of hydrologic information, to assess their needs regarding NWS information.

The team visited several county, state and federal officials and emergency managers, as well as a



number of Alabama Power Company personnel. One interesting tidbit found by the group was that a long-established cotton gin along the river uses SERFC forecasts on a daily basis, obtaining data from their web page and relaying this information to their local agricultural community. The SERFC plans to conduct at least one of these river reviews each year.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SERVICES

National Drought Monitor Forum Presentation. The National Drought Monitor Forum held their yearly Users Conference in late October. The event was organized by the USDA Office of the Chief Economist, and the Climate Prediction Center. Paul Iniguez, the Climate Service Focal Point at WFO Little Rock attended and gave an outstanding presentation entitled “The Local WFO Response to Drought”, in which Paul chronicled the unique role of the local WFO in adding focus and knowledge of the local area to national products as well as the opportunities for increased interaction and collaboration between the local WFO and their customers. WFO LZK has used this as a special opportunity to increase the visibility of the WFO with local and state decision makers. As an example of this, Paul led a group of WFO LZK employees who briefed the Arkansas Governor’s Water Resources Task Force on Drought. Attendees included the Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas.

Threadex Survey. The Northeast Regional Climate Center, in consultation with NWS and NCDC, is working on a project to thread together records for published Local Climatological Data (LCD) sites around the country. The purpose of the project, called ThreadEX, is to build a long time series of climatological observations for the purpose of calculating daily extremes of temperature and precipitation. Observations for various weather stations in an area will be combined to extend the period of record back in time as far as possible, regardless of the compatibility of the stations. The resultant threaded records will be available in xmACIS and will be used to create a new dataset of daily temperature and precipitation extremes. This new dataset will be the official daily extreme record and will be available via the web to the media and general public. WFOs will be asked to go to the ThreadEx Survey web page and review and comment on the proposed thread for all published LCD sites in their CWA. If WFOs have local records that can be contributed to extend the period of record further back in time, this will be a means for doing so.

Drought Monitor Mailing List. The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Department of Commerce, various NOAA/NWS organizations, including the Climate Prediction Center, the National Climatic Data Center, and the National Drought Mitigation Center. It provides a national assessment of drought conditions by integrating numerous drought indices and input from local experts, including NWS field offices, into a single depiction. It is intended to provide an objective measure of dryness and drought using a suite of indicators.

The WFO Climate Service Focal Points (CSFP) and WFO Service Hydrologists or Hydrology Focal Points are encouraged to sign up with the Drought Monitor list server.

This will allow local WFOs to provide weekly feedback on the product and to provide information about drought conditions in your CWA. You can subscribe to the USDM list server by filling out the “Subscribing to Drought” section at the following web address:

<http://drought.unl.edu/mailman/listinfo/drought>

You will receive a confirmation email from the USDM once you have been officially added to the



USDM list server.

Drought Conditions Worsen Across Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Drought conditions continue to worsen in these areas, with 28 (mainly northern and eastern) Texas counties now in the process of being declared disaster areas. WFOs in the affected areas have begun highlighting the dry conditions on their local homepages with specially crafted products detailing the dry conditions and their impacts. Many other WFOs have begun issuing Hydrologic Outlook (ESF) products and Public Information Statements (PNS) to highlight the event and its impacts. The Texas Cooperative Extension estimates that damage to the livestock sector could reach \$1 billion by next spring.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Japan Meteorological Agency Visits Slidell. Mr Kazuhide Akaishi, Chief of Disaster Planning Division, Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and Hiroaki Nakaya, a JMA consultant, interviewed Mike Koziara (SOO), Frank Revitte (WCM), and Paul Trotter (MIC) of WFO New Orleans about pre- and post-Hurricane Katrina coordination between the WFO and National Hurricane Center. Given Japan's history with flash floods, typhoons and earthquakes, JMA was very interested in best practices and lessons learned during Hurricane Katrina.

Discussion items included the WFO Tropical Cyclone Response Plan, pre and post hurricane support and supply issues, the prolonged communication outage and backup service for Gulf coast WFOs, and the WFO's interaction with state and local emergency management officials.

SSD and MSB Team-Up to Visit WFO Tulsa. Southern Region Training Officer Mark Fox and Meteorological Services Branch Chief Tom Bradshaw recently paid a visit to WFO Tulsa to discuss verification and grid preparation strategies and techniques in use at Tulsa. Mark and Tom had the opportunity to observe a new GFE gridded forecast verification interface developed by ITO Jamie Frederick, as well as the latest version of SOOVER, Jamie's venerable point verification tool. Tulsa SOO Steve Amburn described the role verification plays in shaping the performance and priorities of the office team. He stressed the importance in maintaining consistency between the elements in an office that are valued, measured, recognized and rewarded.

Another objective of Mark's and Tom's trip was to observe the short term grid preparation methodologies being employed by the forecast staff. WFO Tulsa is leveraging a small number of "base" (e.g., temperature, dewpoint, wind, PoP) grids for the production of a much larger array of derived hazardous weather, or "impact" grids. Once any kind of substantial change is made to a base grid, the derived impact grid is automatically adjusted, and the resultant grid image is posted on Tulsa's Decision Support Web Page (located at the following URL):

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/cgi-bin/decisionmaker.php>

According to Tulsa WCM Ed Calianese and MIC Steve Piltz, initial user response to these products has been positive. Mark and Tom appreciated the chance to visit with the Tulsa staff, and observe some of operational strategies being applied there for the provision of impact services. Thanks, WFO Tulsa, for the hospitality!



Climate Change Science Program Workshop. Bernard Meisner (SSD), Charlie Liles (MIC WFO Albuquerque) and Bart Hagemeyer (MIC WFO Melbourne) participated in the U.S. Climate Change Science Program Workshop in Arlington, Va., November 14-16. One of the primary goals of the workshop was to bring together scientists and decision makers to discuss the climate change and variability Synthesis and Assessment Products being prepared by the Climate Change Science Program. The common themes reported from the various breakout sessions were the need for assessments at the regional and local scales, and the importance of involving the decision makers at all stages of the process. Clearly the NWS field offices can play an important role in establishing and maintaining trusted relationships with the decision makers, interpreting and providing advice concerning expected climate change and variability.

Southern Region on National NWS IWT for GIS. Keith Stellman was selected to represent Southern Region on an Integrated Work Team tasked with evaluating the need for, and feasibility of, developing an NWS-wide GIS enterprise architecture for insertion into the Operations and Services Improvement Process (OSIP). The team's first conference call was held, Thursday November 10. As a first task, each team member was asked to produce a document of what she/he perceived was the need for GIS/GIS tools, etc. by users. This list will be assembled, discussed, and prioritized on the next conference call as a first attempt to establish the content for a Statement of Need (part of the OSIP process).

GIS Federal Workshop at Southern Region HQ. On November 2, 2005, the Texas Federal Geographic Information Workshop was held at Southern Region Headquarters. This workgroup represented an effort by local, state, and federal partners as well as universities to combine and collaborate efforts in GIS related activities and datums. The list of agencies represented at this meeting included the National Weather Service (host), United States Geological Survey, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, US Army Corp of Engineers, US Department of Agriculture, Texas Natural Resources Information System, North Texas Council of Governments, Stephen F. Austin University, and Texas A&M University.

The morning session featured presentations on LIDAR and elevation datasets available for the state of Texas, the new NWS GIS ready radar displays, and where to access NWS weather information in GIS supported formats. The afternoon session featured discussions on the federal response for GIS support of hurricane Katrina and Rita.

GIS Day in San Antonio. WFO Austin/San Antonio and SRH CWWD Techniques Development Meteorologist Keith Stellman teamed up for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training and outreach on November 15th and 16th. Keith provided a one day workshop at the WFO on the 15th, highlighting the new region-wide, concurrent ESRI licenses, showing how to acquire and manipulate radar and model data files, and demonstrating grid verification and isohyetal analysis procedures.

Keith followed up the WFO Workshop with a presentation on the RIDGE radar project at San Antonio GIS Day, held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center on the 16th. Keith, SOO Jon Zeitler, Senior Forecaster Clay Anderson, and General Forecasters Monte Oaks and Cammye Sims staffed a booth with further demonstrations of NWS GIS and Digital Services capabilities. GIS Day is held each year on the Wednesday of the National Geographic Society's Geography Awareness Week. Approximately 200 GIS professionals and students visited the NWS Booth.



ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

DIVERSITY

San Juan Outreach Efforts. WFO San Juan HMTs Tony Estrada and Ben Aponte recently conducted an office tour to 30 junior high school students from DOD Ramey School in Aguadilla. Tony briefed the students on CRS and upper air procedures and Ben in CPM duties. Other staff members discussed operations and careers.

Meteorologist Intern Jesus Figueroa was the guest speaker at Inter-American University in Aguadilla, as part of the Upward Bound Program. The program provides academic and personal support designed to motivate and prepare students for college who may be the first in their family to consider going to college. Jesus presented information on hurricanes, tsunamis and NWS career opportunities to the group of 100 students.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Outreach through Volunteerism. Outreach to the schools in our communities has been a traditional hallmark of our local NWS offices, and few have done it better than WFO Midland. Recently, that office formed a team to promote educational outreach through the practice of individual volunteerism. The members of that team included Todd Lindley, Doug Cain, Jeffrey Cupo, Rebecca Gould, Cody Lindsey, Seth Nagle, Wayne Patterson, and Pat Vesper. Their story is the subject of our latest SR Meteorological Services Branch Technical Attachment, which can be found on the SRH Technical Attachment Page at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/topics/attach/pdf/msb05-03.pdf>

WFO Little Rock takes part in “Kidsfest”. WCM John Robinson participated in the annual Kidsfest Safety Fair in Clarksville, Arkansas. A tabletop display featured sections on tornadoes, flooding, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, and the WFO’s Web site. Brochures on severe weather and tornado safety were handed out. Also participating in the safety fair were all of the county’s fire departments, the U.S. Forest Service, Arkansas Forestry Commission, area police departments, a medical helicopter company, the Arkansas Department of Health, and the Arkansas Attorney General’s Office. Approximately 600 children and adults attended the safety fair.

John also recently participated in a multi-county emergency management exercise at DeGray Lake Resort State Park in southwest Arkansas. The scenario dealt with a commercial airliner that had crashed into DeGray Lake. Dozens of high school students were brought in to play the victims. John helped with some of the logistics in setting up the drill, then served as a controller and photographer during the exercise. Photos were provided to the emergency managers and the state park.

Alabama’s 2005 Fall Severe Weather Awareness Day a Success. WFOs across northern and



central Alabama participated in the annual fall severe weather awareness day on October 19th. Staff from WFOs Huntsville and Birmingham completed over 35 radio, and television and newspaper interviews concerning Alabama's secondary severe weather season. The increased amount of publicity related to fall severe weather awareness day helped prepare residents in the state for the severe weather threat that typically occurs during the month of November.

San Juan Participates in NOAA Weather Radio Campaign. For the first time, an island-wide NWR campaign took place during the month of October. WOSO Radio and WAPA TV joined Midland Radio and Walgreens to conduct an island-wide campaign promoting the purchase of a NOAA Weather Radio. Radio WOSO, Puerto Rico's most popular English only broadcast station invited WCM Rafael Mojica to discuss hurricanes and NOAA Weather Radio during one of their morning shows. Also, their news director visited the WFO twice during the month to interview the staff on hurricanes and NWS operations.

Lubbock Focuses on Local Leadership. WFO Lubbock recently met with "Focus Lubbock" – a program sponsored by the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce and the Division of Student Affairs at Texas Tech University. MIC Justin Weaver, SOO Steve Cobb and WCM Brian LaMarre welcomed the group of 30 motivated students to the WFO, then divided them into two groups in an effort to foster interactive discussions. While Steve provided a detailed tour of WFO Lubbock operations and the various leadership roles governing routine and non-routine events, Brian presented background material on the NWS and the role its local offices play in the community. After each session, each group rotated through the remaining activity.

Similar to the Southern Region BLAST program, Focus Lubbock promotes leadership. Students from Texas Tech University, South Plains College, Lubbock Christian University, and Wayland Baptist University join together in this program to learn about Lubbock. The goal of Focus Lubbock is to develop a cohesive group of leaders with diverse backgrounds and strengths who are committed to servant leadership and service which positively shapes the future of Lubbock. In appreciation of the event, WFO Lubbock received a signed group photograph of the Focus Lubbock participants. Even further, one student wrote a personal letter stating how honored she was *to learn how important and deeply committed the NWS office in Lubbock was to leadership, service and the well-being of the local and surrounding community!*

Weather Safety Meets Local Science Fair. Bill Hopkins, Forecaster at WFO Lubbock, presented weather safety to two 4th grade classes at Harwell Elementary School's Science Fair in Lubbock County on November 11th. Bill discussed various topics of weather safety, as well as the importance of an education and the general requirements to be a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. The big hit of the presentation was a demonstration of air pressure – Bill dazzled the students by crushing a tin can using a hot plate and ice water. Upon returning from the event, Bill was amazed that not a single student asked if he worked for a local television station!

Alabama Mall Hosts Severe Weather Awareness Day. On Wednesday, September 28th the National Weather Service in Birmingham and the Management Staff of Quintard Mall in Oxford Alabama hosted a Severe Weather Awareness Day. This event was a culmination of the mall achieving StormReady Supporter status, and provided an excellent opportunity to discuss severe weather and preparedness plans for the upcoming fall severe weather season. Over 30 vendors participated, along with local television affiliates from ABC, NBC and CBS. A highlight of the day was a tornado simulator provided by a local fire department in which visitors experienced a very



realistic severe weather episode. In addition, a poster contest was held involving 250 entries from elementary schools across the area. Members of the Birmingham staff participating in the event included: MIC Jim Stefkovich, SOO Kevin Pence, ESA John Peruzzo and Lead Forecaster Ken Lorek.

