



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

September/October 2005

SOUTHERN TOPICS

Working Together To Save Lives

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CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER DIVISION

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH

StormReady® Update for FY05. Southern Region designated 60 StormReady Communities/Counties” during the 2005 fiscal year, and an additional 6 StormReady “Supporters”.

Coastal Zone Changes for WFO LCH and WFO BRO. See the Service Change Notices below to find out how the marine zones are changing for these two WFOs. Do you want to reconfigure your zones to better meet the needs of your customers? Contact Marine Program Manager Melinda Hinojosa for details.

WFO LCH marine zone changes effective Dec 1, 2005:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/scn05-31_lch_marine_zns.txt

WFO BRO marine zone changes effective Jan 22, 2006:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/scn05-36brownsville_zn_chg.txt

Are You Ready? On Sept 24th at 0124 UTC, a 5.0 earthquake occurred 530 miles south of Brownsville, TX. In response, an EQIAT1 product was issued from the West Coast / Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (WC/ATWC). A Tsunami Watch or Warning was not issued because the threshold was not met for either product. If the magnitude was higher and met one of the thresholds, would you know the procedures to notify your customers? If you're not a Coastal WFO, do you want to know the procedures? What are the thresholds? All of these answers can be found in this draft memo currently under review:

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



WFO Tallahassee Earns 2005 2nd Quarter Southern Region Aviation Award. WFO Tallahassee earned the Southern Region's Aviation Services Excellence Award for the 2nd quarter of 2005. The TAE aviation team, led by Aviation Program Leader Jennifer McNatt, improved customer service by implementing an aviation section to their AFD product, reestablishing 24 hour TAF service at Panama City, FL airport, and participating in several aviation outreach events. WFO Tallahassee will receive the SR Aviation Services Excellence Award 2nd Quarter Trophy and serve as its caretaker for 1 year. Congratulations, WFO Tallahassee, for your outstanding aviation service!

Just as a reminder, nominations for the 2005 3rd Quarter Aviation Award are due 3 November 2005. Nomination instructions are available at the SR Aviation Web Page: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/cwwd/msd/sram/sr_aviation.pdf. The winner will receive the SR Aviation Services Excellence Award Trophy. The current holder of the 3rd Quarter SR Team Trophy is WFO Little Rock. Will they be a repeat champion and keep the valued cup for another year? Will some other office be able to inscribe their name the 3rd Quarter SR Trophy and be its steward for a year? If your office has performed any kind of special aviation-related service, let your pride show by submitting a nomination.

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

REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER (ROC)

Tropical Season 2005: Between a ROC and a Hard Place. To say that the 2005 Tropical Season has been active would be the understatement of the decade. From mid August to mid October alone, the ROC spun up to Level 4 (24-hour staffing) 4 times in support of Hurricanes Katrina, Ophelia, Rita and Tammy. Approximately 930 staff hours were expended in the ROC during this time period, including 630 hours in support of Katrina alone. The ROC primarily served as an information exchange center between the Southern Region field offices, Southern Region Headquarters, SR's emergency response partners, the media, NWS and NOAA Headquarters, and the Homeland Security Operations Center.

The ROC could not have sustained its high level of operations during Katrina and Rita without the help of 5 field members who volunteered their time and energies. The following individuals are recognized for their stellar contributions to the ROC and to Southern Region during this time period:

Hurricane Katrina

Jeff Cupo (SOO, WFO Midland), Scott Curl (Forecaster, WFO Norman) and David Hotz (SOO, WFO Morristown).

Hurricane Rita

Brian LaMarre (WCM, WFO Lubbock) and Rick Smith (WCM, WFO Norman).



ROC FAQs. Speaking of the Regional Operations Center, do you know the 5 Levels of the ROC? Do know about the ROC Duty Officer Program? Do you know when (and how) to report significant events? To find out more about the ROC (and the answers to these questions), visit these links:

About the ROC: <http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/srh/roc/about.html>

Significant Event Reporting: <http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/srh/roc/sigreport.html>

5 Levels: <http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/srh/roc/levels.html>

ROC Duty Officer Program: <http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/srh/roc/about.html>

DIGITAL SERVICES

The Federal Government has begun the process to integrate Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) into our information technology systems. Today's Internet, commonly called Internet 1 or Commodity Internet, typically utilizes Internet Protocol Version 4. IPv4 uses the familiar xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx (Example 10.217.22.66) notation. We have begun the process of identifying systems that are IPv6 capable and those that will require modification of either hardware or software to make them compliant.

DOC, NOAA, and NWS are initially examining certain hardware for IPv6 capability. Your office will have been, or shortly will be, asked to identify items for their IPv6 capabilities.

NWS Southern Region has taken the first step down the road toward utilization of IPv6. Our Internet 2 connection to the North Texas GigaPOP is now running both IPv4 and IPv6 natively. We are the first region to peer with their local GigaPOP utilizing IPv6.

More on the IPv6 transition will be forthcoming in the next few months. Questions about the transition should be directed to Bruce Marshak and Jeff Williams.

HYDROLOGIC SERVICES BRANCH

New Members of our Hydrology Program Family. LMRFC recently hired two new HAS forecasters: Jason Caldwell and Joshua Palmer. Let's learn a little more about each new member of the RFC team...

Jason Caldwell has a Bachelor's Degree in Atmospheric Sciences from Northeastern Louisiana University and will receive his Masters Degree in Atmospheric Science at North Carolina State University in December. For the past two years, Jason has been the Severe Weather Liaison for the State Climatologist's Office in South Carolina where he has been involved in providing weather services including information, and forecasts, and outreach to the emergency management community. Jason received a plaque for dedication and service to the State of South Carolina from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Director and Board for his liaison activities during the busy 2004 tropical season.



Due to the impacts of Hurricane Katrina on facilities/homes, Jason reported to WGRFC to begin his NWS tour of duty on September 6. He began working at LMRFC on September 26.

Joshua Palmer has a Bachelor's Degree in Meteorology from the University of Oklahoma (OU) with honors and will complete the requirements for a Masters Degree in Atmospheric Science from North Carolina State University this Fall. Joshua was one of the leaders in establishing the Oklahoma Weather Lab at OU. He also worked for the Cooperative Institutes for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies performing database management tasks on radar data, and is currently conducting research into different techniques for estimating areal precipitation from ground observations. Joshua started working for the NWS on September 19 at the SERFC. Like Jason, Joshua had to begin his tour duty elsewhere due to the impacts of Hurricane Katrina. Joshua starts working at LMRFC on October 18, 2005. Welcome aboard, Jason and Joshua!!

Hurricane Rita rains beneficial to Arkansas. Hydrologic impacts from the remnants of Hurricane Rita would best be described as beneficial for the WFO Little Rock Hydrologic Service Area. Rainfall amounts of 1 to 4 inches were common in the state with up to 6 inches in northern Lonoke and Pulaski Counties. A broad band of 3 to 5 inches was common across the southern counties of Arkansas where the drought impacts have recently been outlined as severe to extreme. The rainfall intensity was also a great benefit to the drought parched state. Rain fell at rates of a quarter to half an inch an hour over the 12 to 18 hour event. Radar estimates of rainfall may have been slightly less than gage measured amounts, especially close to the radar site in central Arkansas.

Hydrology Program Media workshop. Representatives of the local TV/radio media from Atlanta, GA participated in a hydrology program media workshop hosted by WFO Atlanta. The media workshop was held on two separate days in September. The goal of the workshop was to help the media gain a better understanding of how the NWS operates when issuing flood and flash flood products. Kent Frantz and Tish Atwell from WFO Atlanta and Jack Bushong and Mark Fuchs from SERFC participated in the workshop. Kent and Tish gave presentations about WFO hydrologic products and services. Mark gave a presentation on RFC hydrologic forecast operations and Jack provided a demonstration of hydrologic information on the web.

Coastal Storms Program Meeting. Reginna Cabrera, senior hydrologic forecaster at SERFC, attended a two-day meeting at NWSH to review the progress to date with various collaborative academic/government research efforts to link tide model information with hydraulic models and hydraulic model information with estuary models.

On September 29, Reggina Cabrera met at the Office of Hydrologic Development (OHD) with staff from the Hydrologic Modeling and Science Branch to discuss the St. Johns River modeling project. This modeling project is a joint project between the NWS and NOS which has been funded by the NOAA Coastal Storms Program (CSP). OHD has developed and is



calibrating the FLDWAV hydraulic model for the St. Johns River. The SERFC, with contractor assistance, calibrated and implemented the hydrologic model for the St. Johns River. The output from the hydrologic model will be used as a boundary condition for the FLWAV model in this project. The ultimate goal of these collaborative projects is to (1) couple tide/hydraulic models for more accurate river forecasting in coastal areas and (2) couple hydraulic/estuary models to support ecosystem management.

On September 30, Reginna attended a meeting with Prof. Scott Hagen to discuss the data exchange between the SERFC and University of Central Florida (UCF) for the St. Johns River Project. Dr. Hagen is working on a real time continuous tide model. Through an AHPS grant, OHD is working with the UCF to evaluate the performance of the UCF tide model for the lower end of the St. Johns River.

Reginna also attended several seminars that were hosted by OHD. The first seminar, "Tides & Waves for the National Weather Service River Forecast System: St. Johns River," was presented by Mr. Yuji Funakoshi of the University of Central Florida (UCF). Mr. Funakoshi is a doctoral candidate at UCF working under the supervision of Prof. Scott C. Hagen. The second seminar was entitled "A Real-Time Forecasting System for Winds, Waves, & Storm Tides from Tropical Cyclones". This seminar was presented by Prof. Hans Graber, University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, and by Prof. Scott C. Hagen, UCF.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SERVICES

ASOS Commissioning at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Southern Region commissioned its 213th ASOS on October 19th, 2005. As part of the DOD Base Relocation and Closure (BRAC) program, the Naval Base at Roosevelt Roads, PR was closed and turned over to local authorities. The property included a DOD owned ASOS. Thru collaboration with WFO SJU, SRH CWWD, NWSH, and the DOD, the ASOS was transferred to the property rolls of the NWS. WFO SJU electronics technicians have ensured that the ASOS has all current software and hardware installed, and the required data accuracy and reliability standards have been met. On October 19th, hourly METAR and SHEF data from this location will be available via the appropriate PILs (SJUMTRJNR...SJURR7JNR).

Record Heat Plagues Louisiana during September. As if the impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were not enough, preliminary data from NCDC suggests that in September 2005, the state of Louisiana recorded its warmest September on record in 111 years, dating back to 1895. The average temperature in September 2005 was 81.7 F. This was 4.5 F warmer than the 1895-2005 average. NWS WFOs in Louisiana and Incident Meteorologists deployed in Baton Rouge, LA and elsewhere across the state provided daily briefings and forecasts to local, state, and federal response and recovery teams during this record heat. Despite being ravaged by two significant hurricanes, WFOs continued to provide daily climate data and products to NWS customers.



SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Lubbock Seminar with Texas Tech. On September 19th, WFO Lubbock Science and Operations Officer, Steven Cobb spoke to 26 atmospheric and geoscience graduate students and professors during a weekly seminar at Texas Tech University. The talk was titled “Meteorological Research – An Operational Perspective of Current and Future Concerns” and was aimed at presenting some challenges operational meteorologists face and how the academic community could help answer those challenges with focused research. The presentation was well received and prompted many comments from researchers with a wide range of interests including convective initiation, primarily related to the southern Plains dryline, numerical weather prediction, mesoscale high wind phenomena and climate analysis. WFO Lubbock has a rich history of collaborative research with faculty and students at Texas Tech and this seminar was one of many efforts being promoted by the WFO staff to ensure that local relationship continues.

Scientific Services Participates in 1st Annual Homeland Security GIS Summit. Jack Settelmaier of Southern Region Scientific Services Division attended the first annual Homeland Security GIS summit hosted in Denver, CO, September 12-14. This event emphasized the importance of having a GIS-enabled IT infrastructure at the heart of nearly every successful Homeland Security undertaking; from table-top exercises to real-time events. Jack gave a presentation in the Collaboration session that summarized a) the NWS organizational structure, b) NWS ties to Homeland Security, and c) numerous collaborative GIS efforts with local, state, and federal entities helping to grow NWS GIS efforts.

WFO Tampa SOO Visits Czech Republic, Photographs Funnel Cloud. Charlie Paxton recently visited the Czech Republic with his family. Charlie's oldest daughter Leilani will be attending graduate school at Univerzita Karlova (Charles University) in Prague. Prague is a central European city with beautiful architecture, and friendly people. Charlie visited the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (CHMI) and compared forecasting notes with their Deputy Director for Meteorology and Climatology, Radim Tolasz. CHMI responsibilities fall into three areas, 1) meteorology and climatology, 2) hydrology, and 3) air quality. Their biggest concerns are mountainous terrain and summer rains creating flash flooding and river flooding. Major flooding caused considerable damage along the Vlatava River through Prague during August of 2002. Winter road conditions and air pollution forecasting in industrialized areas are other areas of concern for the institute. The first documented tornado in the Czech area dates back to 30 July 1119. Minutes from boarding his flight back to the United States, Charlie spotted a rare funnel cloud toward the approach area and shot video and several pictures. Charlie sent the photos to CHMI and they are posted on this page:

<http://www.chmi.cz/torn/cases/20050912/20050912.html>



ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2005			
<u>Southern Region Losses</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>From (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>From Title</u>
Andrew Stasiowski	WFO MOB	Retirement	HMT, GS-11
Roger Backer	WFO SJT	Retirement	HMT, GS-11
Forrest Johns	WSO FSM	Retirement	OIC, GS-12
James Lushine	WFO MFL	Retirement	WCM, GS-14
Larry Boatman	CWSU ZME	Retirement	Meteorologist, GS-12

<u>Southern Region Gains SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2005</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
R. Jason Caldwell	RFC ORN	New hire from outside	HAS, GS-9
Joshua M. Palmer	RFC ORN	New hire from outside	HAS, GS-9
Jennifer L. Dunn	WFO FWD	New hire from SCEP	Met Intern, GS-7
Robert Molleda	WFO MFL	Promotion from TPC	WCM, GS-14
Julie A. States	WFO SJT	New hire from SCEP	Met Intern, GS-9
Cesar A. Ochoa	WFO BRO	New hire from outside	Elec Tech, GS-10
Cammye R. Sims	WFO EWX	Reassign from WR	Meteorologist, GS-11

<u>Within Region Transfers/Actions SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2005</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Alan Del Castillo	WFO CRP	Reassignment	ESA, GS-12
Armando L. Garza	WFO SHV	Promotion from WFO CRP	MIC, GS-15
Douglas G. Schneider	WFO MRX	Promotion from ER	Meteorologist, GS-13
Timothy E. Sedlock	WFO MLB	Reassign from CR	Forecaster, GS-12
Patrick C. Burke	WFO OUN	Reassign from CR	Forecaster, GS-9
Scott Cordero	WFO CRP	Reassign from WFO MEG	MIC, GS-14
John V. Werner	WFO MOB	Reassign from WR	HMT, GS-11
Thomas T. Lindley	WFO LUB	Promotion from WFO MAF	Meteorologist, GS-13
James Lee	WFO EYW	Promotion from WFO EYW	Forecaster, GS-12



DIVERSITY

WFO Brownsville hosted its first-ever Spanish-language workshop in McAllen, TX in August. The workshop provided tropical weather training to Spanish language media from both the US and Mexico.

Spanish language outreach efforts have long been a focus of the NWS in Brownsville due to the demographic breakdown of the region it serves. Approximately 90% of the population of Deep South Texas on the US side of the border is of Mexican descent. At least 50% speak Spanish exclusively at home, therefore, the NWS staff have proactively engaged in outreach events that serve this large demographic. A Spanish language hurricane workshop seemed like a natural progression, given the recent work of the Weather Forecast Office.

The attendees included Spanish language media from American affiliates such as Univision and Telemundo from McAllen. Additionally, media from two Mexican newspapers in Reynosa, Mexico and network affiliates such as Televisa and Canal De Las Estrellas from Matamoros, Mexico were in attendance.

The speakers included WFO Brownsville WCM Jesus Haro, HMT Alfredo Vega, Armando Garza, MIC WFO Corpus Christi at the time of the workshop. WFO Brownsville MIC Andy Patrick, SOO Kurt Vanspeybroeck, and DAPM Jim Campbell provided important logistical support. The workshop was conducted exclusively in Spanish and covered topics such as tropical meteorology, tropical cyclone climatology over south Texas, and NWS Tropical Cyclone-related products.

These outreach efforts and corresponding strong professional friendships that have formed paid handsome dividends during the recent landfall of Hurricane Emily over Tamaulipas, Mexico, with effects over south Texas. Spanish language television and radio affiliates aggressively tapped WFO Brownsville staff to handle live and taped Spanish interviews. All of the interviews conducted by the Televisa network were broadcast either regionally or nationally in Mexico to a potential audience numbering in the millions, in addition to the substantial audience served by these affiliates on the American side of the border.

The workshop was proclaimed a great success by the attendees with WFO Brownsville staff receiving tremendous positive feedback.

In September WFO Brownsville staff provided the primary support to a hurricane preparedness workshop held in Matamoros, Tamaulipas Mexico. The workshop was hosted by the Televisa network affiliate in Matamoros and was designed to provide hurricane preparedness training with an emphasis on cross-border issues. Televisa is the dominant television network in Mexico.

The entire conference was broadcast live via closed circuit television and watched by Televisa staffs at affiliate locations in Tampico Tamaulipas, Ciudad Victoria Tamaulipas,



Veracruz Veracruz, Saltillo Coahuila, Monterrey Nuevo Leon, and Nuevo Laredo Tamaulipas. Attendees included weathercasters from Televisa affiliates in Matamoros, Tampico, Ciudad Victoria, and Saltillo.

Locally it was attended by the Televisa General Manager, News Director, and main news anchors. Also, two Mexican newspapers and representatives from two Matamoros radio stations were in attendance. Emergency Management coordinators from the City of Matamoros, the primary emergency management coordinator for the Maquiladoras in Matamoros, and the Mexican Red Cross were also in attendance. Two representatives from the office of the Mayor of Matamoros attended the workshop also.

WFO El Paso/Santa Teresa Area Weather Forecast Office, participated in a blowing dust symposium during the last week in September, with representatives from the University of Texas-El Paso (UTEP) and New Mexico State University (NMSU), both minority serving institutions. From UTEP's Department of Environmental Sciences, Dr. Thomas Gill and graduate student Ms. Nancy Rivera were present. From UTEP's Department of Physics, Dr. Rosa Fitzgerald was present, and from NMSU Department of Plant Sciences, Drs. Maxwell Bleiweiss and Robert Sanderson accompanied the new New Mexico Assistant State Climatologist, Dr. Deborah Bathke. Six journey and lead forecasters, the SOO, WCM and MIC from the WFO participated.

Ms. Rivera discussed her graduate work on blowing dust source regions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Dr. Fitzgerald briefly discussed possible applications of UTEP's MM5 and WRF atmospheric models to WFO operations, including establishing a blowing dust climatology for the region. Collaboratively, the assembled group brainstormed possible methods of interacting, including using MM5 and WRF to post-stratify antecedent blowing dust events and identify ideal synoptic and mesoscale settings for blowing dust. The group also discussed additional academic development at UTEP's Department of Environmental Sciences, including introducing undergraduate coursework on fundamentals of meteorology, instrumentation, and applied operational meteorology. The WFO will provide guest lecturing this fall for at least one graduate course at UTEP, and more are planned for the Spring of 2006.

WFO Brownsville Lead Forecaster Timothy Speece, Forecaster Joseph Tomaselli and SOO Kurt Van Speybroeck manned a booth during the annual Hispanic Engineering Science and Technology (HESTEC) career opportunities and information fair held at the University of Texas Pan-American in Edinburg. They presented NWS career opportunities, educational materials, and hazardous weather information to approximately 5000 mostly Hispanic parents, children and teachers.

The five hour event was a success by all accounts. Many students expressed an interest in learning more about meteorology and geography. Several students also expressed interest in studying meteorology or mathematics at the university level.



San Juan Summer Student Internship with University of Puerto Rico.

WFO San Juan just completed the second year of the student internship program at the NWS which is a collaborative effort between the SOO, Rachel Gross Zouzias and Dr. Carlos Pabon at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus. The undergraduate student interns were selected through the Department of Physics. The internship covered an eight week period through June and July whereby 3 students worked 3 eight hour shifts each week shadowing the HMT's and forecasters on duty. Their schedules covered all aspects of our operations from AWIPS to Upper Air. They were also responsible for a small project guided by the SOO, and they presented the final results of their projects at the University.

WFO San Juan MIC Israel Matos participated in a career day at Colegio San Jose in Caguas City. Approximately 64 junior and senior students participated in two 50 minute presentations of which Israel discussed meteorology as a career.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

WFO Morristown conducts AHPS outreach activities. Brian Boyd, Senior Service Hydrologist at WFO Morristown, TN, traveled to three media markets in Chattanooga, Knoxville, TN and Tri-Cities, TN/VA, to educate TV meteorologists and emergency managers about the new AHPS web-based products. The media personalities were most interested in using the current and forecast hydrographs in conjunction with impact statements. Emergency managers, who already had experience with the hydrographs, were most impressed by the chance of exceedance graphics for long term planning. Taking advantage of the opportunity to conduct outreach, Brian also visited local fire stations, and businesses and residences in the flood plains, and made arrangements to determine flood stages on tributaries to rivers that have implemented AHPS.

The office is also using the new hydrograph generation software (HYDROGEN) in conjunction with AWIPS Build OB6 beta testing, and has already received positive feedback from savvy customers along the Pigeon River near Newport, TN.

WFO El Paso/Santa Teresa Area Weather Forecast Office participated in the Annual Amigo Air Show during the second weekend in October. Despite windy conditions on Saturday and stormy weather on Sunday, nearly 30,000 people attended the air show. The WFO staffed a booth along the main entrance to the air show, and well over 2,000 people stopped to spend time with forecasters. In fact, the WFO ran out of hazardous weather awareness pamphlets. While many people asked what television station we worked for, some of the more knowledgeable guests, including weather enthusiasts and pilots, desired more specific information including additional aviation forecast points (TAFs) in New Mexico. The WFO's forecasters performed tirelessly, and enthusiastically answered questions about severe weather preparedness and response, climate, hurricanes -- even earthquakes and tsunamis.



RFC Fort Worth. Hydrologist Mike Shultz served as a volunteer at the 2005 National Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia. Mike, who is an Eagle Scout, was an instructor for the Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge. He taught scouts, adult leaders and visitors from all over the country the impact soil has on the hydrology of our nation's watersheds. Mike discussed the implications this has on the river and flood program of the National Weather Service.

WFO Albuquerque participated in the 7th Annual Santa Ana Pueblo Environmental Fair on September 22. Approximately 90 upper elementary students from the Pueblo of San Felipe and Santa Ana attended the one-day event. The fair featured exhibitors from various local, state, and federal agencies, as well as, the Pueblo of Santa Ana's Department of Natural Resources and several private companies whose businesses focus on water and water conservation. WFO Albuquerque's booth provided students a unique hands-on weather experience that included clouds-in-a-jar, demonstrating convection with hand-held bubblers, and simulating runoff from a thunderstorm using a terrain model.

October 13 and 14 WFO Albuquerque again participated in the Middle Rio Grande Children's Water Festival where approximately 4000 4th grade students attended the event. The WFO presented "Weather or Not", a hands-on activity that demonstrates how precipitation is produced in the atmosphere and how heavy precipitation can lead to flash flooding. Students also learned about the dangers of flash flooding and had a review of safety rules.

WFO Tallahassee provided 7 office tours with weather safety presentations for a total of 208 elementary school students, home school students and girl scouts. WCM Bob Goree provided spotter training for a total of 15 volunteers from Grady County, Georgia. MIC Paul Duval and WCM Bob Goree provided the programs for three civic and amateur radio organization meetings with a combined total of 118 participants. Topics included the programs and responsibilities of the WFO and an overview of the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons.

WFO San Angelo staff set up a booth at the annual Abilene Fair and Rodeo during the week of September 9-17. A new tornado machine was a big hit with the kids. Up-to-date weather forecasts were provided via internet, and the WFO staff passed out plenty of weather safety material which included highly requested refrigerator magnets that display a map of the CWA, the WFO's website address and safety information.

During September the WFO San Angelo staff provided a tour to 40 home schooled children. Forecaster Scott Overpeck and Seth Nagle, Intern Derek Derouche, and WCM Hector Guerrero gave the children a safety presentation and demonstrated the tornado machine. In October, WCM Hector Guerrero provided a presentation to 25 student members of a Science Club at Cisco Junior College in Abilene, TX. Hector presented the various types of extreme weather that can be experienced in Abilene.



WFO Austin/San Antonio MIC Joe Arellano was involved in several interviews and office tours. Joe gave a tour of the office to Rebecca Froboese from the Alamo Federal Executive Board on September 1. On September 19 Joe was interviewed in Spanish on KWEX-TV (Univision). He spoke about the threat of Hurricane Rita and NOAA Weather Radio and its value in providing quick warnings. That same day, Joe was photographed by a photo researcher as part of a project for a future Texas edition of a Middle School Math textbook for Holt, Rinehart and Winston in Austin, TX. The Chapter Opener of the textbooks will feature Texas occupations, and a Meteorologist was needed as an occupation for the Grade 6, Chapter 6 text. In particular, a Hispanic Meteorologist was to be featured in this chapter of the textbook.

During the month Joe provided “live” interviews for radio station KAHL-1310 in San Antonio regarding Hurricane Rita and the various threats and safety precautions required as the dangerous hurricane threatened the Texas coast. Joe also taught a three hour Basic Skywarn Training Class in Spanish to volunteers of the Austin Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). This group is one of the first Spanish-speaking CERT teams organized in the U. S.

During September WCM Larry Eblen, WFO Austin/San Antonio, addressed the Travis Country Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Annual Safety Conference on the topic of “Weather for Business”. Larry also taught a class on Public Weather Safety to the Hill Country Master Naturalists. This group from across the Texas Hill Country is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the natural environment.

WFO Shreveport Forecaster Bill Parker visited Queensborough Elementary School in Shreveport, LA at the request of teacher, Tina Adams. Bill reports this was one of the most rewarding visits that he had experienced. There was no slide or formal presentation, but a sit down heart to heart discussion on how weather affects our lives with special students from New Orleans affected by Hurricane Katrina. They had a round table discussion and talked about how hurricanes form, what made Katrina so powerful, why New Orleans below sea level, what types of severe or weather hazards can they expect during their time in the Arklatex and Meteorology as a career field, and a host of other topics surrounding weather. Bill encouraged the children to keep their heads up and persevere through this trying time, using this experience as a stepping stone in their lives. Bill shared with them if it had not been for experiencing hurricanes and other hazardous weather growing up in New Orleans, he would not have pursued the field of Meteorology.

WFO Mobile Reviews Hurricane Threat with Alabama Governor. Alabama Governor Bob Riley paid a recent visit to WFO Mobile to discuss hurricane preparedness. With the emergency management directors for Mobile and Baldwin Counties in attendance, the Governor viewed a presentation detailing potential storm surge and wind effects from a Category 5 hurricane. Discussions covered evacuation decisions and associated problems, sheltering, and the need for better education on the public's vulnerability to storm surge and flooding. While there, Governor Riley also received a tour of the operations area, and



received a demonstration of AWIPS capability. Mobile MIC Randall McKee attributed correct forecasts of the record storm surge in Mobile Bay during Katrina to the local expertise and experience of the WFO staff. The governor indicated his primary goal is to make sure Alabama's citizens fully understand the threat and the critical importance of responding quickly when emergency managers call for evacuations.

Fort Worth Expo Proves Timely with Approach of Hurricane Rita. A Partners Expo, hosted by WFO Fort Worth and the West Gulf River Forecast Center, proved timely for visitors to the facility. As Hurricane Rita was making its way toward the Texas Coast, approximately 120 emergency managers, spotter group leaders, members of the media, and congressional staff were on hand for the event.

The WFO and WGRFC staff provided tours of both operations areas and demonstrations of their forecast and warning technology. New technology, including the thunderstorm forecasting tool and the total lightning mapping system, were featured during the tours. Members of the North Texas Skywarn Team were also present to discuss the role of amateur radio and to demonstrate their equipment. The staff presented hourly seminars discussing WFO services, the duties and responsibilities of the RFC, and outreach initiatives for 2006. With Rita's landfall only two days away, the staff answered numerous questions about the hurricane's forecast track and potential impacts on north Texas. The Expo provided an additional opportunity to explain the new inland tropical cyclone products the WFO would issue.

DHS Secretary Visits National Weather Service Offices in Miami. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff paid a recent visit to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and WFO Miami. NWS Director David Johnson, Southern Region Director Bill Proenza and NHC Director Max Mayfield were on hand to greet the Secretary and give him a personal briefing on the operations of the National Weather Service.

Following a tour of the NHC, led by Max Mayfield, Secretary Chertoff moved on to the WFO, where Southern Region Director Proenza and MIC Rusty Pfof briefed him on the wide range of weather forecast and warning services provided by the WFO to south Florida and to the nation by the NWS network of 122 WFOs, 13 River Forecast Centers and 21 Center Weather Service Units. Bill Proenza emphasized the critical role of National Weather Service WFOs during natural events, including hurricanes, tornadoes, flash floods and winter storms. He noted these local offices provide a wide range of forecast and warning products and services for a nation that experiences the most severe weather on Earth. He also said the NWS is always ready to provide up-to-the-minute weather support and critical value added local forecast office expertise to DHS and the nation.

Amarillo Hosts 5th Annual Appreciation Picnic. WFO Amarillo held its 5th annual Appreciation Picnic on August 13, 2005. A record number of over 150 Skywarn Spotters, Cooperative Observers, Emergency Managers, other local partners, and NWS staff attended the picnic, which was again sponsored by the three Wal-Mart stores in Amarillo. These



stores provided all the food, beverage, and door prizes for the event, while members of the AMA staff gave tours of the office and hosted games for their guests.

Middle Tennessee Outreach. Michael Davis, ITO of WFO Nashville recently partnered with the Nashville Office of Emergency Management to participate in the sixth annual Mayor's First Day at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in downtown Nashville. The event is hosted by the Mayor of Nashville on the day before students return to school. An estimated crowd of 12,000 toured the Center, as a number of local organizations set up educational displays and distributed free items to the public. This was WFO Nashville's second largest outreach event, and was highlighted by the public's interest in the office's tornado machine.

Mike Davis and WCM Jerry Orchanian also participated in the national "Nights Out" campaign in Lavergne, Tennessee. Fifty people stopped by the OHX booth to pick up brochures and learn about the NWS. While staffing the booth, Mike and Jerry heard from a Life-Flight pilot from Vanderbilt University, who commended the NWS for its quality wind forecasts and useful TAFS. The Life-Flight will cover an area about 120 nautical miles from Nashville.

Forecaster Mark A. Rose gave a talk on Extreme Weather in Middle Tennessee to 300 people at the annual Jackson County Farm Bureau dinner in Gainesboro, Tennessee. Several people who remembered the Red Boiling Springs Flood of June 23, 1969, which was part of the talk, came up to Mark and gave their recollection of the event. Mark also participated in the 13th annual "Ag-in-the-Classroom" at the Crossville Experiment Station. He was one of 16 speakers to give a series of 12-minute presentations to several groups of third-graders. Overall, 560 school children from around Cumberland County attended the event. This was the largest number of people ever to be an audience for a NWS outreach event by the Nashville Weather Service Office. Mark showed the kids the office tornado machine, and explained weather balloons and the effect of weather on agriculture.

Crimson Tide Coach talks Lightning. Huntsville WCM Tim Troutman, Birmingham WCM Jason Wright, and Huntsville Senior Forecaster Andy Kula partnered to compose a lightning safety Public Service Announcement (PSA). Mentioning that Alabama ranks 7th in the nation in terms of recorded lightning fatalities, the PSA reminded people of the dangers of lightning, and referenced the national lightning safety web, www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov. University of Alabama Head Football Coach Mike Shula recorded this PSA, which is presently being distributed to radio stations throughout the state. The audio is also being converted to a wav file that can be played on NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio.

Annual Mississippi State Broadcasters Symposium. The annual Mississippi State Broadcasters Symposium was held in downtown Birmingham, Alabama during the first week of August. The NWS was again well represented, with a full day set aside for presentations by local WFOs. Presenters from WFO Birmingham included MIC Jim Stefkovich and forecasters Jim Westland, John De Block, Faith Borden, John Sirmon,



Michael Scotten, and Kristin Hurley. From WFO Huntsville, MIC Mike Coyne and forecaster Andy Kula were in attendance, and from WFO Jackson, Jim Butch, WCM, Jeff Craven, SOO, and Alan Gerard, MIC. An old Southern Region alumnus, John Gordon (now the MIC at WFO Louisville, KY), was also on hand. Presentations ranged from “Interesting/Atypical Severe Weather Case Studies” (Andy Kula-Huntsville) to “Get to Know Your National Weather Service” (John Sirmon-Birmingham). All presentations can be found on the Southern Region Intranet.

The audience consisted of approximately 65 distance learning students currently working as broadcast meteorologists from across the country. All of these students were working to attain their certificate in Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi University. Several presentations highlighted the symbiotic relationship enjoyed between local NWS offices and their media partners. Instant Messaging (IM), in particular was a hot topic. Nearly all of the broadcasters who participate in IM praised the practice, and those unfamiliar with this interaction between the NWS and the media were eager to participate.

State Senator Hank Erwin Visits NWS Birmingham Office. State Senator Hank Erwin (R), 14th district of Alabama, serving Jefferson, Shelby, Bibb, and Chilton Counties, visited WFO Birmingham on August 24th. The state senator was given a tour of office operations, including a weather map briefing, and interacted with NWS Birmingham staff.

San Juan Conducts Weather Resources Training for Science and Math Teachers. On August 13, WFO San Juan WCM Rafael Mojica conducted a three hour training session for ten Science and Math Teachers of the University of Puerto Rico Science and Engineering Center on basic weather activities for K-12. The NASA Globe program and NWS Weather Educator page was presented as guidance on weather activities that could be conducted with students. The teachers in attendance were focused on cloud observation and identification as an initial starting point.

Lubbock “Rises” in Support of Customer Service. On September 10th and 11th, Lubbock WCM Brian LaMarre led a pre-dawn weather and safety briefing to approximately 50 hot air balloon pilots before an eagerly awaiting crowd estimated near 20,000. The briefs were part of the 2005 South Plains Balloon Roundup held in Wolfforth, TX. Due to a strong low-level jet of 30-35 knots around 2,000 feet, the balloon pilots were forced to be rather brief in their flights and spectators witnessed a few interesting – but hard – landings! Thanks to Lubbock Forecaster Ken Widelski, who was on the midnight shift, Brian was able to get a real-time update on the inversion and VAD wind profile moments before balloon launch. The balloon pilots not only linked the WFO Lubbock website to their main page, but also presented Brian with an honorary lapel pin for providing detailed information to ensure the safety of the pilots and their prized balloons.

Wings & Wheels Open House 2005. WFO Birmingham held its third annual open house in conjunction with the 2005 Wings & Wheels Air and Car Show held at the Shelby County Airport. The show was an overwhelming success with record breaking crowds. Over the



two day period, the Birmingham office had over 550 people learn about the National Weather Service and see what we do on a daily basis. A number of BHM staff members were involved in coordinating the event, including ESA John Peruzzo, forecasters Mark Rose, Jim Westland (and his wife, Andi), John Sirmon, and Faith Borden, HMTs Don Smith and Rocky Baer, and MIC Jim Stefkovich. Visitors were treated to a variety of pamphlets and hands-on activities, a peek at the office's "pet tornado" tornado simulator, and a special upper air release.

Lead Forecaster Faith Borden, with additional volunteer help from friends of John Peruzzo, led the efforts for a charity bake sale which was held during the open house. Baked goods, snow cones, and lemonade were sold. Six hundred dollars were raised for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. The monies will be donated through an office CFC contribution. Many thanks go to the whole Birmingham Team for providing such delicious items and for making this year's open house another success.

Congressman Mike Conaway Visits WFO Midland Office. WFO Midland hosted a visit from U.S. Congressman Mike Conaway from the 11th Congressional District of Texas on October 3rd. The visit began with an office briefing by WCM Pat Vesper which detailed recent weather events that have impacted west Texas and southeast New Mexico. Pat focused on the relationships WFO Midland has nurtured with the emergency management community, the media, and its other partners in the area.

Congressman Conaway toured the office, met with staff members, and learned about the innovative technology WFO Midland is using to provide enhanced local service and communication for its customers and partners. Local computer programs developed by ITO Greg Jackson were highlighted, including the daily Emergency Management/Spotter Briefing which is viewable on the WFO Midland homepage and also in text message format, and the office contact database which allows for watch, warning, newsletter, and fire weather information to be sent and received in real-time to cell phones, pagers, personal computers, and other communication devices. The Congressman asked many different questions during the briefing and tour as he learned about the varied services provided by WFO Midland.

2005 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FLY-IN (SERFI). WFO Mobile Forecaster Joe Maniscalco staffed a National Weather Service display at the SERFI, held in Evergreen Alabama on October 7-8th. The SERFI showcased between 70 and 80 general aviation aircraft to the public. At the display, Joe set up a Powerpoint-based thunderstorm presentation tailored to the pilot and the aviation community as a whole. Included in the presentation was wind shear and microbursts. A Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) NOAA weather radio was also provided for viewing and discussion. Joe also handed out several pamphlets on severe weather awareness, TAFs, METARs, websites for gathering weather data, and cloud charts, all of which were of utmost interest to those visiting the display.



WFO Midland Regional Conference Presentation. Pat Vesper, WFO Midland WCM, recently presented an Oil Rig Safety Weather Talk at the Regional Conference of the Professional Society of Safety Engineers in Odessa. The talk focused on the types of weather that can impact those working on or near onshore type oil rigs. The talk was very well received, and heightened the attendees' awareness of the National Weather Service.

Lubbock SOO Goes "Back To School". Steve Cobb, WFO Lubbock SOO, provided an interactive presentation to the entire Kindergarten class, 120 children, of Bayless Elementary School on September 21st. Steve confronted the exciting challenge with a modified version of the "Weather Woodles" presentation and included two hands-on group demonstrations. When the animated Woodles characters depicted weather balloons and weather radar, Steve called upon a group of enthusiastic children to form a circle and hold and stretch a weather balloon. To add to the interactive excitement, Steve formed a second group to simulate weather radar with one child serving as the RDA, rotating around in circles, while another child walked back and forth and bounced off his classmates from various "AZRAN's". The following day, one of WFO Lubbock's Skywarn coordinators (also the father of one of Bayless' kindergarten teachers) paid a visit to the WFO and presented Steve with a collection of colorful thank you drawings – and most of them had illustrations of the friendly Woodles characters!

