



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

**April 2004**

## **SOUTHERN TOPICS**

*Working Together To Save Lives*

[Southern Region Home Page](#)

[Previous Topics](#)

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### **REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

I am very pleased to report that, at the National Hurricane Conference this month in Orlando, I will be presented with the Outstanding Achievement Award in Public Awareness. I will be accepting the award not for myself, but in recognition of the remarkable and dedicated accomplishments of all Southern Region employees who work tirelessly to ensure every office provides the highest possible level of public service. You don't have to work in a hurricane prone area to be directly involved when storms threaten. Each year we call on our resources region-wide to assist their sister offices when and however necessary, and to provide staff support to the National Hurricane Center as part of the Hurricane Liaison Team. I congratulate each and every one of you on receiving this distinguished recognition for your efforts.

**NEW CWWD CHIEF.** I am also pleased to announce the selection of Judson Ladd as Chief of the Climate, Weather and Water Division at SRH. Jud steps in behind Steven Cooper, who recently assumed the Deputy RD job. During the past 24 years Jud has worked in environmental research in the private sector, at NCDC in Asheville, and as a journeyman, then lead forecaster, at WSO Brownsville and WFO San Antonio. He joined the SRH team in 1993 as Regional Aviation Meteorologist, and was promoted to Chief of the Met Services Branch in 2000. Jud's broad background has resulted in expertise and numerous awards for his work in a wide variety of weather-related programs, including aviation forecasting, fire weather, winter storms, thunderstorms, tornadoes, flash flooding and hurricanes. Most recently he served as the national aviation team leader for the group assigned to develop a new CWSU operational concept.



I am also pleased to note the following Southern Region employees who have been honored with recent awards:

The **Max A. Kohler Award** will be presented to **Bobby Stucky**, DOH and 28-year veteran hydrologist at the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center in recognition of his superior performance and distinguished accomplishments in support of the NWS hydrology program. This prestigious award is named after Max Kohler, an internationally renowned hydrologist and former director of the NWS Office of Hydrology.

The **National Hurricane Conference** has honored WFO Houston MIC **Bill Read** with its 2004 Special Award for Public Education. The award recognizes Bill for his outstanding leadership over the past decade in developing a public education program on hurricane preparedness that is unsurpassed in the nation.

### IFPS

**CLIMATE AND IFPS.** During a recent visit to SRH John Gagan (forecaster, WFO Jackson) gave a presentation entitled: "The Multiple Uses of a Comprehensive Climatology Database." (<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/cwwd/msd/Climo.ppt>). With the support of SSD and CWWD John and some of the staff at WFO Jackson have been collecting and reformatting data and documenting how to include climatological guidance into the IFPS/GFE (See, for example, slide 32 in the presentation.). We anticipate the first phase of this project will be ready for our offices in June.

**SOUTHERN REGION INTRASITE COORDINATION POLICY AND TIPS.** Matt Foster (WFO Shreveport) led a discussion on the IFPS March conference call on the need for SR to come to agreement on an ISC shipment policy for all sites. The agreed upon procedure is: At a minimum, 1) turn off "Send ISC on Publish," 2) turn on "Send ISC on Save," 3) only send the SR minimum number of grids (and no derived grids), and 4) consider adjusting "neverSend" and "noReceive" in your GFE local config files. Brian Curran sent a configuration file [http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/cwwd/msd/MAF\\_gfeConfig\\_GFECONFIG.py](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/cwwd/msd/MAF_gfeConfig_GFECONFIG.py). From Brian, "The block is in the parameter ISC\_neverSendParms. You may want to look at how we defined the Wx\_commonValues. The cascading menu does save our forecasters a lot of work."

**NDFD STATISTICS NOW AVAILABLE AWAY FROM AWIPS.** In order to support those of you who want to see NDFD statistics each and every day--while at home, in the office, or on travel, MDL has created a password protected Web site. Use your email username and password for access. <https://apps.weather.gov/ndfd-stats/> These pages contain the daily, weekly and monthly summary tables previously only available on the AWIPS WAN. They are updated at 0100 UTC each day.

# CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER DIVISION

## METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH

### **MARINE**

**SR Marine Forecast Workshop.** This annual three day Marine Workshop was held at the Miami Forecast Office/National Hurricane Center on March 16-18. Each coastal WFO sent a marine forecaster to represent their office. Presentations ranged from modeling to IFPS to tropical forecasting to customer surveys to verification to wave forecasting from Steve Lyons of The Weather Channel. Great interactive discussions were held each day and many ideas were shared about improving services to our customers.

### **PUBLIC**

**RECORD DRYNESS PLAGUES MUCH OF THE SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES.** March saw record low precipitation amounts across much of southern Alabama, the southern two-thirds of Georgia, interior sections of extreme north Florida, the Florida Panhandle, and extreme southeast Louisiana. In general, the area within an Atlanta to Athens, Georgia, to Charleston, South Carolina to Tallahassee to New Orleans to Montgomery to Atlanta line experienced 20% or less of their normal March precipitation. Normally, March is one of the two or three wettest months of the year in these areas.

Some long standing records that were broken included the following:

Mobile, Alabama; Alma and Columbus, Georgia; and Apalachicola, Florida set records for lowest March rainfalls.

Savannah, Georgia; Montgomery, Alabama and Athens, Georgia had their second driest March ever.

Year-to-date, all of Georgia, all of extreme north Florida (including the panhandle), and the southeast one-half of Alabama have only received 30%-60% of their normal rainfall.

Southern Region WFOs and RFCs have issued numerous Public Information Statements and Special Weather Statements on these record conditions, and have added relevant facts, figures, and images to their Web sites. The service hydrologist at WFO Atlanta was interviewed by The Weather Channel about the ongoing event.

## NOAA WEATHER RADIO

**WFO Memphis Dedicates New Weather Radio Transmitter in East Arkansas.** MIC Jim Duke and WCM Scott Cordero of WFO Memphis dedicated a new National Weather Service Radio Transmitter in Marvell, Arkansas that serves the residents of Phillips, Monroe and Lee counties in East Arkansas. Historically, that part of Arkansas has not had weather radio information - this is no longer. The new broadcast service includes up-to-date climate information, the seven day forecast, existing and forecast conditions along the Mississippi, the L'Anguille, and the St. Francis rivers; the latest temperature and weather around the region; and historical weather information. The National Weather Service, in partnership with members of local Kawanis Club and Rotary Club, and the counties of Phillips, Monroe, and Lee worked together through the USDA grant proposal which resulted in this new weather radio transmitter. Working together to save lives with local governments and professional societies has brought the residents in East Arkansas critical weather warnings and advisories when deadly weather threatens.

**WFO Santa Teresa Habla Espanol on NWR Transmitter.** Residents of El Paso are now within range of a new "Spanish Only" NWR transmitter. Station WNG652 broadcasts a variety of NWS products. The products are also available on the WFO El Paso Web pages <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/elp>.

Transmission of NWR products in Spanish requires the translation of English products into Spanish by Spanish literate personnel or by automated translation. AWIPS produces the necessary products formatted for CRS in English. The automated process Rod uses requires the CRS formatted products to be transferred to a computer for translation to Spanish and then transferred to the CRS system. Truly an awesome job performed by Rod Heckel (ITO) and MIC Bill Alexander's staff to provide this service to an area where over 80 percent of the listening audience is bi-lingual.

**What's on the Air.** Southern Region was at various stages of NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) installations during the late winter and early spring. Station WNG-692 went on-air at Carrizo Springs, Texas. MIC Joe Arellano is confident that this 1000 watt transmitter will support WFO Austin/San Antonio's south Texas warning area located between Eagle Pass, Laredo and San Antonio. This site culminates the USDA-Rural Utilities Service grant awarded to the Rio Grande Electric Cooperative located in Brackettville, Texas. A second south Texas NWR station was brought on-air at George West, Texas. The site of station WNG-696 is located near Three Rivers, Texas where the Nueces, Frio, and Atascosa rivers converge. MIC Armando Garza and WCM John Metz have reiterated WFO Corpus Christi's appreciation to the Live Oak County Office of Emergency Management and James Jungman for making this 1000 watt NWR station possible.

**Central Alabama Aviation Workshop.** On February 20, WFO Birmingham, the Central Alabama Chapter of the NWA, Maxwell AFB Weather Operations, and the Alabama Air National Guard hosted the Central Alabama Aviation Workshop at the Alabama Air National Guard Facility in Montgomery, Alabama. This workshop brought together interests from general, commercial, and military aviation communities, discussing a variety of aviation weather topics. This workshop was co-developed by WFO Birmingham WCM Jason B. Wright and Maxwell AFB Weather Operations lead forecaster Earl (Russ) Harding. Over 60 people attended. Others at WFO Birmingham who worked toward making this a successful event were MIC Kenneth Graham, ASA Laura Sanchez, SOO Kevin Pence, ESA John Peruzzo, DAPM David Wilfing, senior forecaster Faith Borden, and forecasters Michael Garrison, Michael Scotten, Jim Westland, and Darone Jones.

**NWR/CRS.** New NWR site installations currently in the works and expected to be on the air in the very near future are: Harrison, Arkansas; Stillwater, Oklahoma; Coleman, Texas; Lake City, Florida; and Springdale, Arkansas. NWR sites that are currently being relocated are Chattanooga, Tennessee; Birmingham, Alabama and Shreveport, Louisiana.

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR ATTENDS CLIMATE PREDICTIONS AND APPLICATIONS SCIENCE WORKSHOP.** The NOAA Office of Global Programs, in conjunction with the National Weather Service Climate Service Division, the Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Predictions Studies (COAPS), and the Florida Climate Center, hosted the Climate Predictions and Applications Science Workshop in early March on the campus of Florida State University.

Regional Director Bill Proenza attended the conference, and gave a keynote presentation. The presentation can be viewed on the SR Web site at:

[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/cwwd/presentations/climate\\_files/frame.html](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/cwwd/presentations/climate_files/frame.html)

The goal of the meeting was to identify new climate prediction applications research; promote interactions between climate-sensitive integrated research and service communities; and assess the impacts of climate forecasts on environmental-social interactions. Southern Region Headquarters personnel and employees of SR WFOs also gave presentations at the workshop.

## **SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS & OUTREACH**

**WFO Huntsville Tornado Machine is a Hit at Kid's Count Expo.** WFO Huntsville once again participated in the annual Kid's Count Expo held at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville. The office unveiled its newest addition, "The F5," at the expo. The tornado machine was a big hit with kids and their parents and was one of the more popular exhibits at the event. Over 10,000 people attend the show each year and it is the largest event for parents and children in the Tennessee Valley. MIC John Gordon, WCM Tim Troutman, ESA Brian Burgess, lead forecasters Robert Boyd and Matt Zika and forecaster Priscilla Bridenstine helped staff the booth at the Expo and interacted with families throughout the Valley.

**WFO El Paso Participates in Water Festival.** WCM John Fausett gave presentations to nine fourth grade classes (about 135 kids) at the first annual *Gila Water Festival* in Silver City, New Mexico. Sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, the theme revolved around the many impacts of water as a resource. John focused on weather - the effects of too much and too little water. The festival was the perfect vehicle to communicate the threats of drought (wildfires and low threshold for dust storms) and flash flooding, events that are well known by area residents. John also took the opportunity to plug the *Turn Around, Don't Drown* Web site.

**WFO Miami Leads Other NOAA Components at the 2004 Miami International Boat Show.** A booth at the annual Miami International Boat Show, one of the largest in the United States with an estimated attendance of 138,000, was staffed by NWS meteorologists from the Miami Weather Forecast Office and the Tropical Prediction Center. The NWS exhibit was a combined effort of the local Weather Forecast Office in Miami and four other NOAA agencies.

**WFO Tampa Bay Floats Across the Country at FAA Balloonist Seminar.** WCM Daniel Noah was one of five speakers at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Balloon Safety Seminar that was transmitted on a special television signal to 45 states. Dan's multimedia training ranged from observing the weather with ASOS, radiosondes, and Doppler radar, to understanding atmospheric processes such as instability and frontal systems.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATION**

**Albany, Georgia - SKYWARN Workshop.** WFO Tallahassee WCM Bob Goree participated in a special, expanded SKYWARN spotter workshop. The three hour workshop included presentations by the WCM and also by Kent Williams and Rob Hatchell, broadcast meteorologists from the two competing Albany TV stations, WALB News10 and WFXL Fox31. WALB chief meteorologist Yolanda Amadeo also attended between her evening broadcasts.

Bob provided the 50 plus attendees SKYWARN spotter training which included members of the Albany Amateur Radio Club, Dougherty County 911 dispatchers and supervisors, American Red Cross officials and other members of the public. Having competing broadcast meteorologists sharing the event helped promote the theme that cooperation is the key to effective severe weather and water warning services.

## **MEDIA/PUBLIC EXTERNAL SUPPORT**

**Local Television Station Partners with WFO Amarillo by Sharing School Mesonet Data.** Local television station KVII-TV has partnered with WFO Amarillo by sharing its school mesonet data. The increased density of observations provides NWS meteorologists with additional data used in short term forecasts and has proved valuable in severe weather. NWS forecaster Albert Pietrycha worked with KVII chief meteorologist Steve Kersh on establishing the partnership and getting the school net data at WFO Amarillo. Albert has also volunteered his time to assist KVII in getting new schools on-line with the mesonet. The KVII school net continuously monitors observations from approximately 70 schools across the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles and eastern New Mexico. These observations are integrated into the NWS data network every 15 minutes, where the observations are displayed and used operationally by NWS forecasters.

**WFO San Juan Participates in Multi-agency Collaboration Project.** Forecasters Ed Tirado, Ernesto Morales, Gladys Rubio and Rafael Mojica visited the NASA Lear Jet at the Muñiz Air National Guard Base. The Lear 23 was part of the Atlas Mission, a NASA-EPSCOR-NOAA-CREST project to investigate a major tropical urban center like the San Juan metropolitan area, and study the urban heat island effect. This project was coordinated by WFO MIC Israel Matos, and involved WFO weather briefings for the NASA pilots during mission days, releasing six radiosondes, and participating in pre-mission coordination calls and meetings with the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus, Engineering and Science departments.

**WFO Miami and Southeast RFC Collaborate with Multi-Agencies.** Southeast RFC HIC John Feldt and WFO Miami MIC Rusty Pfof visited the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in West Palm Beach to share information concerning NWS, SFWMD, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers efforts to model Lake Okeechobee. The big lake is a vital water resource for almost six million people in South Florida for water supply, agriculture, recreation, and flood control. An important by-product of the meeting was an agreement between SFWMD and the NWS to share real-time mesoscale meteorological and hydrological data, including Lake Okeechobee data platforms. This information will be available to WFO Miami (and hence to all Florida WFOs through AWIPS) in 15 minute increments, which should benefit real-time mesoscale analysis routines. Future liaison between SFWMD and the NWS, especially SFWMD modelers and SERFC, is planned for the near future.

### **HYDROLOGIC SERVICES BRANCH**

**OFFICE VISIT.** HSB chief Ben Weiger and SERFC senior hydrologic forecaster Jonathan Atwell met with the staff at WFO San Juan last month to review the hydrology program, discuss collaborative activities between WFO SJU and SERFC, and visit major water resource partners in the Commonwealth who have a keen interest in the flood monitoring and warning system in Puerto Rico. This included the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency (PREMA), the U.S. Geologic Survey, the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA), and the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA). PREMA owns and operates an ALERT network in the Commonwealth, PRASA is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water supply system, and PREPA operates and maintains the reservoir system in the Commonwealth. Ben and Jonathan had a good discussion with the PREPA folks about including the NWS in the notification charts of dam emergency action plans and coordinating with the NWS about dambreak table top exercises. The people attending the meeting and some of the external partners also visited one of the major dams in the Loiza Basin (Carraizo Dam) and a stream gauging station in the same basin.

Ben and Jonathan learned that 40% of the potable water in the Commonwealth is lost due to infrastructure problems. Plans are underway to develop a water management plan for the Commonwealth to deal with the water issues facing the Commonwealth.

The activities during the week also served as an orientation for Peter Corrigan, the new senior service hydrologist at WFO San Juan who arrived two weeks earlier.

One of the discussion topics involved a status of the alpha testing underway for a SAC-SMA version of the WFO AWIPS site specific hydrologic model. The initial version of this model will be available to all WFOs as part of the AWIPS OB4 release this fall. WFO San Juan and Southeast RFC are collaborating with the Office of Hydrologic Development to provide feedback on the GUI/knobology associated with the application. SERFC is providing San Juan with updated model state parameters every 6 hours in support of the alpha testing.

A special thanks to Israel Matos and his staff for their hospitality and efforts in arranging the field visits and meetings with our partners in the Commonwealth.

**COLLABORATIVE DISTRIBUTED MODEL PROJECT MEETING.** On March 31, a meeting was held at West Gulf RFC to discuss activities associated with the collaborative distributed hydrologic model project between Vieux and Associates from the University of Oklahoma and Southern Region. People in attendance included HSB chief Ben Weiger, WFO Austin/San Antonio senior service hydrologist Mark Lenz, West Gulf RFC HIC Jerry Nunn, DOH Bob Corby, senior hydrologic forecaster Frank Bell, hydrologic forecaster Mike Shultz, and senior HAS forecaster Keith Stelman, and Baxter and Jean Vieux from Vieux and Associates. This project includes the set-up, calibration and real-time execution of a distributed hydrologic model developed by Vieux and Associates for three basins in the southern region (two in Texas and one in Puerto Rico). The meeting focused on the status of the project for Sandy Creek Basin in WFO Austin/San Antonio's hydrologic service area and the short term project goals. Another component of this project is for WGRFC to set up, calibrate and execute in real-time an Office of Hydrologic Development distributed hydrologic model. Both WGRFC and Vieux and Associates agreed to calibrate their models using the same historical flood events for the Sandy Creek Basin. There was also some initial discussions about forecast points to use in the model, sharing model outputs, and precipitation estimator applications to use for the project. The parties agreed to conduct a conference call in May to follow-up on project activities and actions from the meeting.

**HYDROLOGISTS VISIT DUKE POWER.** On March 25, Lower Mississippi RFC DOH Bob Stucky, SERFC senior hydrologist Todd Hamill, and service hydrologist Pat Tanner of the Greenville-Spartanburg (GSP) WFO, met with officials of Duke Power to discuss potential enhancements to NWS hydrologic products and hydrologic data and information exchange. In addition to the meeting with Duke Power, Bob and Todd had an opportunity to visit some river gauging sites in the WFO GSP HSA.

**MISSISSIPPI DAM BREAK.** Just after noon on March 12, Big Bay Lake Dam on Bay Creek failed. This lake is - or was - located near Purvis, in southern Mississippi, about 20 miles from Hattiesburg. This earthen dam is 57 feet high and impounded a lake of about 1000 acres. Below the dam Bay Creek flows into the Pearl River about 20 miles away. Effects of the flood were seen the entire distance; most catastrophic, of course, in the first five miles below the dam. More than 100 homes and businesses were damaged by the flood waters, about 50 of those completely destroyed. Thirty roads were damaged or closed during the event. Luckily, and probably because the event occurred during mid-day, there were no fatalities or serious injuries because of the flood. WFO Jackson has posted a summary of the event and damage photos on their Web site at: [http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/events/DamBreak/index\\_dambreak.html](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/events/DamBreak/index_dambreak.html).



**FLORIDA FLOODING PEAK FLOWS.** The USGS office in Tampa Bay recently issued a fact sheet on the official peak flows associated with the flood event that occurred in west-central Florida in June 2003. The flood caused \$11 million in damages, including damage or destruction of 119 homes. The flooding was most severe in the Myakka and Manatee river basins. Record flows were set at seven locations in these basins. The peak flows at Mayakka River near Sarasota (period of record - 67 years) and the Manatee River near Myakka Head (period of record - 37 years) were greater than 100-year floods.

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### **SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION**

**POST-EVENT REVIEW.** A relatively rare heavy snow in northern New Mexico prompted WFO Albuquerque senior forecaster Kerry Jones to post a well illustrated summary of the event on the office Web site (<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abq/quickfeatures/022304majorsnow.htm>). Most of New Mexico is known for its dry and mild climate...and currently the state is experiencing a severe drought. In late February, however, central and northern parts of the Albuquerque CWA were hit with one of the biggest winter storms in nearly five years. Many areas just east of Albuquerque and north along the east slopes of the mountains received well over a foot of snow, with a few places getting nearly two feet. The Albuquerque area received as much as an inch and a half of rain before accumulating about two inches of wet snow - which is nearly a quarter of the annual average precipitation! The office post-storm Web report is a great example of explaining what happened, why, and how it was handled by NWS forecasters.

**PICTURE OF THE MONTH.** This month we have a quiz: if you are at any office other than WFO Knoxville/Tri-Cities, estimate the F-scale strength of what you see in the picture below.



**AWIPS OB3 TRAINING.** To support the fielding of AWIPS software Open Build 3 (OB3), the Warning Decision Training Branch has prepared a recorded presentation on OB3 enhancements and changes to radar and warning functionality. The presentation includes audio and is 24 minutes long. There is also an associated 10 question quiz. As the current system does not have the capability to log the quiz results, WDTB recommends participants print out their feedback at the end of the quiz. The URL link to the "AWIPS OB3 Enhancements and Changes to Radar and Warning Functionality" training module is:

[http://wdtb.noaa.gov/modules/AWIPS\\_OB3](http://wdtb.noaa.gov/modules/AWIPS_OB3)

WDTB would appreciate comments or suggestions on how they can improve this type of training. Please send feedback to [John.T.Ferree@noaa.gov](mailto:John.T.Ferree@noaa.gov).

**AMS WEBCAST ON PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP POLICY.** The American Meteorological Society hosted a national live Webcast to discuss the National Weather Service's proposed policy on partnerships in the provision on weather, water, climate and related environmental information. The live Webcast took place on April 14, from 1 - 4 p.m. Eastern Time. Participation was open to all parties in the atmospheric science community who wanted to comment on the NWS proposed policy.

**NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST DATABASE INITIAL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY.** On March 31 the NWS reached a decision point to provide information on the status of our readiness to declare at least a portion of our NDFD grids operational. The decision, made by our new NWS director D.L Johnson was that the grids will remain in experimental status, and more information will be provided on the grid's status no later than June 30 to our users and partners.

Director Johnson has asked for a comprehensive review of the NWS Digital Services program by June 30. Arriving at detailed timelines and decision points critical to moving forward with NWS Digital Services is the goal of the Office of Service's Digital Services Project Office and its five action teams - Operations, Assessment, Systems and Communications, Training and Outreach, and Program Planning. These teams are composed of national and regional headquarters staff, and field personnel who have been selected to represent their component of the NWS to work the issues that need attention if we are to roll out Digital Services in a timely manner.

Monthly status reports on Digital Services will be provided to Director Johnson to assess our preparedness in declaring NDFD grids as operational. In June, we will decide upon a date when we will declare our grids operational, and all components of the NWS will need to work together to meet the set goals.

**DRYLINE SEMINAR.** Last month WFO Lubbock hosted a one-day seminar that focused on the dryline and best practices for dealing with it in GFE. In addition to local staff, forecasters from nearby WFOs Amarillo, Midland and San Angelo participated - 18 in all. A goal of the seminar was to improve communication and collaboration among offices, especially when forecasting the dryline. Lubbock SOO Steve Cobb began the workshop with a review of dryline climatology in West Texas. Forecaster Mark Fox from Amarillo discussed dew point verification, using data from the NDFD verification Web site. Midland SOO Jeff Cupo highlighted the use of FSL's GPS-derived integrated precipitable water observations as a useful data set for dryline interpretation. The seminar concluded with a roundtable discussion on forecasting the dryline within GFE, led by senior forecaster Brian Curran from WFO Midland.

The get-together was the first in a planned series of seminars to improve understanding and communication among neighboring offices. All agreed the meeting was useful and that it will assist forecasters in dealing with future inter-office collaboration. It also contributed to overall camaraderie among the offices by fostering a continued environment of knowledge-sharing. SOOs from each of the offices involved will be happy to share more information about the workshop and future plans.

**NASA HONORS WFO HOUSTON.** On March 22 Richard Lawrence, Chief of the NASA TRMM Satellite Validation Office, provided awards for Exceptional Scientific Support to WFO Houston SOO Steve Allen, and to the Houston/Galveston WFO staff for their dedicated support of the TRMM Ground Validation (GV) project. WFO Houston has provided radar data for ground validation since August 1996 - 15 months prior to launch of the TRMM spacecraft in November 1997. The TRMM (Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission) initially had a projected life of only three years, but the satellite is still providing valuable data and the TRMM GV project continues. For more about TRMM see <http://trmm.gsfc.nasa.gov/>. From the beginning of the project until the electronic transfer of Level II WSR-88D data from the Houston office stabilized last month, a total of 2779 days, the staff had been running an independent Level II tape archive, using equipment provided by NASA. In the process they wore out eleven 8 mm tape drives. The WFO will continue to provide TRMM with Level II data, but the automated electronic transfer alleviates the manual tasks of changing tapes daily, and mailing them twice each week ... efforts that have kept the project going for more than seven and a half years.

This collaborative effort with NASA has provided significant opportunities for science enhancement at the WFO. Texas A&M University also has a primary role in the TRMM GV effort, and they provided the additional means to acquire real-time Level II data from WFO Houston at TAMU's radar lab. This in turn led to more research on WSR-88D algorithms for WFO operations, including a multi-sensor evaluation of the Damaging Downburst Detection and Prediction Algorithm. The latter project involved collaboration among the WFO, TAMU and NOAA's NSSL in Norman, which resulted in installation of the Warning Decision Support System (WDSS) at Houston. Updated versions of WDSS hardware and software are still in use at the WFO to support severe weather operations, and in fact it is the newer hardware which now allows the capability to dispense with the old tape-based archive system.

The evolving collaboration at WFO Houston over the past several years provides an excellent example of how partnerships can grow and work to the benefit of all involved. NASA and TAMU acquired the data they needed for the ground validation program and new WSR-88D algorithm studies, while the WFO acquired capabilities for rapid reanalysis of radar data that were unprecedented during the early years of the project. The WFO also acquired (at no cost to NWS) a supplemental research workstation which doubled as an operational platform for N-AWIPS. In addition, the acquisition of the WDSS has significantly enhanced the WFO forecasters' severe weather warning analysis capabilities.

Congratulations to Steve and the WFO Houston staff for the recognition they received from NASA, and also for their dedicated efforts to build and maintain an excellent public service mission.

**LOCAL GFE TRAINING WORKSHOP.** WFO Austin/San Antonio hosted a successful local GFE workshop on April 8 covering issues such as editing techniques, collaboration and coordination, verification, and forecast methodology. In addition to the staff from the host office, SOO Kurt Vanspeybroeck and three forecasters from WFO Brownsville attended, making for a total of 15 participants.

## **SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION**

### **SYSTEMS INTEGRATION BRANCH**

**NOAA WEATHER RADIO ROOFTOP ANTENNAS.** Four NWR sites in Southern Region have antennas of 1000W transmitters located on building rooftops (Nashville, New Orleans, Austin/San Antonio, Brownsville). Due to the possibility that non-NWS personnel such as roofers or HVAC maintenance technicians could be exposed to excessive RF radiation, warning signs were made in English and Spanish and provided to the RMS for installation at these sites during the recent RMS Conference here at SRH.

**SRH ANNUAL SAFETY MEETING.** An SRH all-hands safety meeting was held in mid-March. Topics included relevant NWS Safety and Environmental Manual chapters, federal building occupant emergency plan evacuation procedures, a building tornado drill, and a safety video titled "Accidents Just Aren't One of Those Things," featuring a firefighter/paramedic discussing actual cases he responded to at home and work environments.

**AWIPS.** As of the end of last month AWIPS OB3 was installed at 11 Southern Region sites. Due to the addition of two new VCPs and several new products with ORPG Build 5, many changes are occurring with respect to the layout of the radar menus. Therefore, extra attention should be given to OB3 familiarization in that area.

Several bugs related to radar data display have been discovered in this build which has prompted the rapid completion of the OB3.1 Maintenance Release (MR). MR OB3.1 is scheduled for national deployment around April 15.

**DVB-S INSTALLS.** The Digital Video Broadcast over Satellite (DVB-S) hardware will be shipped to all sites and installed this month and into early May. This new demodulator for the SBN will ingest the new NWSTG2 (vacated when the GOES East and West channels were combined) channel that will provide additional model output to the field including Eta12 and more GFS fields.

**WSR-88D.** ORPG Build 5.0 beta test recently completed testing. A wrap-up meeting with all beta test sites, NWS Region Headquarters, and agency radar focal points was conducted on March 25. After a thorough review of the beta test results, all parties agreed to end the test of the RPG and OPUP and proceed with the deployment of Build 5.0. Deployment of the new build is to begin on March 29.

**ELECTRONICS PROGRAM.** SRH SOD hosted a Regional Maintenance Specialist (RMS) conference last month. We had several guests from outside the Region including Al Wissman WSH, Jerry Finke CRH, and Joe Lachacz WRH. The RMSs in Southern Region are Barry Brodnax WFO Atlanta, Terry Hempen WFO Austin/San Antonio, Mike Hughes WFO Tampa Bay Area, Jim McDaniel WFO Fort Worth, Phil Shideler WFO Lubbock and Larry Tennison WFO New Orleans.

Primary purpose for the conference was to discuss and agree on a standard electronics program review/QA check list for use within the region. We plan to implement the first electronics program reviews starting in May with this new checklist.

### **OBSERVATIONS AND FACILITIES BRANCH**

**SURFACE OBSERVATION PROGRAM.** Southern Region received 25 requests from the aviation community for new certificates, cancellations, and/or changes in type of surface certificates last month.

**SNOW-PAID.** The Southern Region surface program manager received 23 snow-paid contracts for the snow-network observers across portions of SR this winter season. All contracts from the field are sent to SRH for review by the program manager for completeness. Once signed by the SOD chief, the contracts are then forwarded to MASC for payment. Snowfall reports phoned into Southern Region WFOs during February totaled 111.

**STATION DATA ACQUISITION REVIEWS.** During the week of February 23-27, SR's upper air/surface programs manager completed the data acquisition program reviews at WFOs Jackson and New Orleans.

**UPPER AIR OBSERVATION PROGRAM.** Southern Region's upper air rankings were excellent in February with 18 of the 23 sites earning scores above the national average of 281.30. WFO El Paso upper air program earned the top spot in February with an outstanding score of 295.35 out of a possible 300.

**UPPER AIR SITE WITH BEST 12 MONTH AVERAGE.** After holding SR's top 12 month average for almost a year, WFO Little Rock's upper air program has relinquished the top honor to Del Rio. Del Rio, Texas is a contract upper air site managed out of the WFO Austin/San Antonio office over 200 miles to the east. Del Rio has done an outstanding job over the past twelve months maintaining an average of 294.76.

**WFO KEY WEST NEW CONSTRUCTION MEETING.** An orientation meeting with pre-approved Navy bidders was held late last month at NAS Key West on Boca Chica Key to review the project requirements and schedule. This meeting was followed by a site visit to White and United Streets in Key West where the contractors walked the site, and also by a visit to WFO Key West in the Adam Arnold Annex to determine the best method of relocating the UPS there. The Navy could award the contract in early May with the pre-construction meeting held later that month or early June. The groundbreaking ceremony is also estimated to occur in early June.

One concern expressed by potential contractors was the price and availability of structural steel. One contractor said his steel supplier is limiting him to 75% of his last year's orders, and another said his prices are 40% higher this year compared to last year. Steel pricing could possibly affect the contractors' final bids, making them higher than the government estimate. One contractor commented that the design drawings were very straightforward and the project offered no special challenges for construction.

**RADIOSONDE BATTERY ACTIVATION WATER DISPOSAL.** Two meetings with personnel from the city of Fort Worth wastewater treatment plant over NWS plans to dispose of UA radiosonde battery activation water in the municipal sewage have resulted in informal feedback that this will not be possible due to the limits on copper concentration imposed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The concentration of copper in the battery water from Vaisala sondes has been tested at 16.5 mg/l. City sanitation engineer Steve Nutter said their maximum is 3.0 mg/l and is independent of volume, i.e. it is the same regardless of the total mass of copper effluent. The alternatives are to collect the battery water for commercial disposal or evaporate it, or a combination of both. We are expecting a formal written response to our request in early April.

**MIAMI SEWAGE LIFT STATION.** The monthly sewage lift station pump meter readings were significantly higher from August to October 2003. These meter readings are provided to the Dade County Environmental Regulatory Agency (DERM) on an annual basis for renewal of the wastewater discharge permit for WFO Miami and NHC. With abnormally high readings, we began an investigation to determine if there was a system failure that would prevent WFO Miami/NHC from receiving our annual wastewater permit in August 2004 on the normal schedule.

With assistance from DAPM Suzanne Cawn we found that Miami had high rainfall in August and September, but not in October. High rainfall can translate to infiltration that either makes our lift station pumps run more than normal, or loads up the sewer main and prevents the pumps from discharging in the normal amount of time. Our system had a pressurized leak test with smoke a few years ago and passed, plus FET John Moss requested copies of the water bills for those months and found no unusual volume being used. The focus is now on one meter that may have run longer than normal due to an electrical fault when a pump breaker tripped. It is operating normally now and DERM wastewater engineer Richard Newmann said there is no regulatory concern unless the pumps run more than ten hours per day.

**MIAMI RDA BRUSH REMOVAL COSTS.** The Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) is requiring the NWS to remove excessive plant growth at the 10 acre WSR-88D Radar Data Acquisition site. Some of the overgrown plants are on a non-native species listing that makes their treatment more expensive than normal weed control, and DERM is estimating site maintenance costs up to \$30K initially with graduated smaller amounts in future years. Oversight of this activity is being conducted by MASC Real Property with environmental engineer Mark George as the primary contact for DERM. Mark has participated in past weed control projects for NOAA property in Colorado.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

### **DIVERSITY/EEO AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

**WEATHER OR NOT ACTIVITY.** WFO Albuquerque SOO Deirdre Kann and lead forecaster Kerry Jones participated in the 2004 Santa Fe Water Festival in late February. There were more than 500 fourth grade students from Santa Fe area schools in attendance. The Water Festival features 12 activities that are presented five times each day for a different group of students. Students are introduced to a wide range of the importance and functions of water. Deirdre and Kerry presented the activity “Weather or Not,” during which students are introduced to the topic of flash floods, including occurrence and injury/fatality statistics for New Mexico. Students then analyze meteorological and hydrological data to determine if a flash flood might occur, issue warnings and monitor the flood event.

**CWSU ALBUQUERQUE GETS INVOLVED IN CAREER FAIRS.** CWSU Albuquerque forecaster Alberta Vieira participated in the 5th Annual School to World Career Fair in Albuquerque. There were approximately 2000 students ranging from 5th through 12th grade from around the state participating in the event. There were around 150 vocations represented at the career fair. Alberta spoke to the students about careers in the NWS, as well as other agencies in NOAA. Alberta also participated in the Rio Grande High School Career and Health Fair on March 17. There were approximately 600 students from the 10th through 12th grades. The vocational representatives numbered between 40-50.

Alberta was also a judge at the Native American Science and Engineering Fair in Albuquerque. Students from around the nation from the 5th through 12th grades competed for scholarships, gift certificates and other awards. Alberta met students from Alaska, New York, North Carolina and Arizona, along with many other students from New Mexico. There were approximately 500 projects from the many sciences.

**“I THINK I’M GOING TO BE A METEOROLOGIST!”** WFO Atlanta MIC Lans Rothfusz manned the newly updated NWS booth at a career day for the Seaborn Lea Elementary School in College Park, Georgia. Several hundred students at the career day visited the booth and were given NWS brochures. Several of the older students stayed for an extended time to ask some really good questions about careers in meteorology. Some students even walked away saying, “I think I’m going to be a meteorologist!”

**SCIENCE AWARENESS.** WFO Atlanta WCM Barry Gooden attended Super Science Saturday, last month at the Hunt Elementary School in Fort Valley, Georgia. The purpose of the event was to provide an awareness of science and the various fields of science to both the students and the community at large. This was the second year that WFO Atlanta has taken part in the event. There were approximately 100 people who came by to ask questions and visit.

**WHAT IS THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE?** HMT Kristina Sumrall and forecaster Krissy Hurley gave a presentation to over 30 fifth grade students at a career day in Hoover. They had a special day set aside for careers in the National Weather Service for the students. The presentation centered on how to become a meteorologist, what it is like to be a meteorologist, and what is the National Weather Service?

**WFO BIRMINGHAM WORKS CLOSELY WITH EMERGENCY MANAGERS.** WFO Birmingham regularly submits entries to the state’s EMA newsletter. Updates are sent to every emergency manager via email. Below is an example of the latest submission:

The National Weather Service continues to dedicate an enormous amount of time to serve the people of Alabama better. Just over a year ago, the agency issued 24,000 forecasts a day. Today, we issue 48 million forecasts in a database out to seven days. In fact, most weather parameters are forecast each hour! What does this mean to emergency managers? It is more important than ever to let the National Weather Service know how to serve your forecast needs. With the worlds’ greatest forecast database, the EMA family can draw forecasts for specific areas. From fire weather parameters to hourly temperature forecasts, that data exists inside this giant database. All of this information is provided by your local National Weather Service office, who let’s face it, knows your area best since we live there.



Pinpoint Forecasts Are Here! What is a Pinpoint Forecast? With the National Weather Service's world class database, forecasts are not only given by the hour, but in geographical detail. Just enter in a zip code or click on the internet map, you will get a forecast with more detail than ever in our 130 year history. Alabama's weather has topographical, hydrological, Gulf of Mexico, soil, and other weather influences. The database line is a detailed forecast, which may be different for your neighbors down the road. Check in on our Web site: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bmx>, <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hun>, <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mob>, and <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tae>.

Peek into the next issue: The National Weather Service in Birmingham and Huntsville partner to have a ceremony in Athens for the Super Outbreak's 30th anniversary. Remember the Palm Sunday outbreak? It has been 10 years already.

**NEWLY DEVELOPED WORK STUDY PROGRAM PRESENTED AT COLLEGES.** WFO Houston MIC Bill Read, WFO Shreveport MIC Lee Harrison, and WFO Lake Charles MIC Steve Rinard met with meteorology students at Texas A&M University and the University of Louisiana at Monroe to discuss a newly developed work-study program in which a student can work at a WFO/RFC. The program, recently approved by the department chairmen of both universities, will enable a student to gain operational NWS experience while at the same time receive three hours elective meteorology credit. Students have already expressed interest in working at WFOs Houston, Shreveport, Little Rock and Lake Charles.

**SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES ARE PLENTY AT THE WFO LITTLE ROCK.** WFO Little Rock staff members have judged in several science fairs during the past few weeks. In late February, senior forecasters Newton Skiles and John MacLeod judged Environmental Science and Earth and Space projects at the Little Rock Central High School Science Fair. Newton and John have been judging projects at this fair for several years. This year's fair was the largest ever for Central High with over 400 projects entered.

In early March, Newton traveled to Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, to judge in the South Central Arkansas Regional Science Fair. He judged Earth and Space Science projects. Also, in early March, Newton traveled to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to judge in the Central Arkansas Regional Science Fair. He judged projects along with retired WFO Little Rock SOO George Wilken.

Newton will travel to the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Arkansas, in early April to judge in the Arkansas State Science fair.

**WFO LITTLE ROCK PARTICIPATING IN SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS.** WCM John Robinson recently spent the day with the emergency manager in Clark County in southwest Arkansas. The day included discussions of the operations of the county emergency operations center and travel to a middle school in the county. The middle school has a new principal and wanted recommendations before impending inspection from state officials. John and the emergency manager recommended some changes in the school's severe weather plan, especially in regard to some of the areas in which the students were being sheltered. They made recommendations of improved communications with two separate buildings on the school campus that had no direct method of communicating with the main building. Later in the day, they attended the county judge's signing of the proclamation for the county's Severe Weather Awareness Week, followed by a visit to another school to check on construction of a safe room. In the evening a spotter class was conducted. The expected audience was no more than 50 attendees but more than 80 people attended.

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.** WFO Little Rock WCM John Robinson and senior forecaster Newton Skiles recently attended the two-day mid-year meeting of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) in Conway, Arkansas. John briefed the emergency managers on an upcoming severe weather threat. Newton gave a presentation on IFPS and NDFD. His presentation was very well-received, with several emergency managers complimenting him on his talk. The next day, John returned to Conway for another severe weather briefing at the state Fire Coordinators' Meeting. John received thanks from the director of ADEM for providing the briefing.

WCM John Robinson recently participated in the "severe weather tour" of the ABC-affiliated television station in Little Rock. The tour went to several cities in Arkansas. In each city, three of the station's meteorologists gave presentations covering lightning, flash floods and tornadoes. Following each presentation a question and answer period was provided. John worked with the station's chief meteorologist to answer some of the questions, especially those of a more technical nature. The NWS contribution to the program was acknowledged on two of the station's newscasts. This was especially gratifying since this station has been reluctant to mention the NWS on the air in the past few years.

**WFO LITTLE ROCK APPEARS ON EDUCATIONAL TV SEVERE WEATHER SHOW.** On March 23, the Arkansas Educational Television Network telecast its annual live call-in show on severe weather. The one-hour program aired on five television stations in Arkansas, and could also be seen in parts of Oklahoma, Missouri and Mississippi. The program was hosted by a popular meteorologist from the Little Rock ABC-TV affiliate. WCM John Robinson appeared on the TV panel to answer severe weather questions, along with representatives from the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management; Entergy, the state's largest electric utility; and the American Red Cross. MIC Renee Fair watched the show's production from the director's booth. Taking viewer calls on the phone bank were senior forecasters Newton Skiles, John Lewis, and Chuck Rickard, and forecasters Brian Smith and Emilie Nipper.

**LITTLE ROCK TV STATION VISITS WFO LITTLE ROCK.** On March 24, a meteorologist from the Little Rock NBC-TV affiliate broadcast the station's early morning weathercasts from WFO Little Rock. Between 5 and 7 am, the station did 12 live shots from the WFO. WCM John Robinson participated in several of these, discussing severe weather, and forecaster Lance Pyle demonstrated AWIPS technology. In the last live shot of the morning, John and the TV meteorologist showed off the WFO storm shelter to indicate that NWS really does practice what it preaches about severe weather safety. That evening the same station aired a 30-minute severe weather special. John had previously taped three segments for the show. His topics included an "in his own words" review of the January 1999 tornado outbreak, the services that amateur radio operators provide the WFO, and a discussion of why Arkansas tornado averages are increasing while the state tornado death toll is decreasing.

**NWS EMPLOYEES SPEAK ABOUT CAREERS AND HAZARDOUS WEATHER AWARENESS.** WFO Miami HMTs Bob Ebaugh and Bill Locke participated in Palm Springs Middle School Career Day last month in Hialeah. Bob and Bill gave a combination career and hazardous weather awareness talk to about 120 students. Bill is a native speaker of Spanish and his ability came in handy as the NWS duo fielded questions on weather careers and severe weather from students.

**MIDLAND NWS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.** WCM Pat Vesper joined local TV meteorologist Tom Tefertiller in 15 outreach presentations during a trip to the Big Bend area of southwest Texas last month. Forecasters Cody Lindsey and Eric Platt, HMT Mike Young, SOO Jeff Cupo, WCM Pat Vester and MIC Ray Fagan manned an outreach booth at the Midland Amateur Radio Club St. Patrick's Day HAMFEST during the weekend of March 20-21. Pat and Ray gave an outreach presentation to Midland International Airport operations staff on March 23. Pat also gave a presentation "The National Weather Service: What We Can Do For You" at the 75th Annual West Texas County Judges and Commissioners' Association Conference in Midland on March 26.

**NOAA SHIP RONALD H. BROWN VISITS THE PORT OF SAN JUAN.** WFO San Juan MIC Israel Matos was one of the guest speakers on March 26, when the NOAA ship Ronald H. Brown visited the port of San Juan on its last leg of the AEROSE expedition 2004, a research mission in partnership with Howard University, the University of Puerto Rico, and the Spain Oceanographic Institute. A press conference and open house was held on March 27 at the U. S. Coast Guard docks in Old San Juan.

**TOUR, TOURS, TOURS.** WFO San Juan WCM Rafael Mojica conducted a tour and discussed the importance of NWS observation and climate programs on March 27 to a group of 16 high school students participating in the Metropolitan University Saturday Environmental Institute program. A group of 17 undergraduate geology students from Brown University toured WFO San Juan as part of their spring break activities. Forecaster Ernesto Morales conducted the tour. Students were able to see the upper air balloon launch and a demonstration of AWIPS.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SYMPOSIUM.** On March 30, WFO San Juan WCM Rafael Mojica participated in the first Public Health Symposium: Public Health Role in Emergency Management, Terrorism and Disasters. His presentation was on the role of the NWS during a public health emergency caused by bio-terrorism. The activity was attended by 300 emergency managers and health field professionals.

**PROJECT WEATHER WATCH.** WFO Shreveport forecaster Jason Hansford gave a talk to 300 8th grade students from Haughton Middle School in Haughton, Louisiana, as part of "Project Weather Watch." The purpose of the presentation was to elaborate on certain science topics that the students would be tested on during their LEAP test to be held later in the month. Topics discussed included layers of the atmosphere and what they did; Coriolis Effect, the water cycle, planetary wind patterns, as well as various weather instruments and what they measured and how they worked.

WFO Shreveport forecaster Bill Murrell participated as a judge for the earth science projects at the Northwest Louisiana Regional Science Fair at the Bossier Convention Center in Bossier City, Louisiana.

WFO Shreveport ASA Lisa Farrar gave an office tour, demonstrated an upper air release, and talked about the operations of the NWS to approximately 20 students and teachers from Youree Drive Middle School in Shreveport. HMT Steve Griffin gave a tour of the NWS office to college media students from Bossier City Community College of Bossier City. Steve was interviewed and filmed by the students as he talked about the operations. Steve had the students participate in the upper air release.

**HYDROLOGISTS VISIT DUKE POWER.** LMRFC DOH Bob Stucky, SERFC senior hydrologist Todd Hamill, and service hydrologist Pat Tanner of the Greenville-Spartanburg (GSP) WFO met with officials of Duke Power to discuss potential enhancements to hydrologic products the NWS prepares and sharing of data and information. In addition to the meeting with Duke Power, Bob and Todd had an opportunity to visit some river gauging sites in the GSP HAS.

**LMRFC PARTICIPATES IN SWE WEBCAST.** On March 2, four staff members from LMRFC attended the Society of Women (SWE) Professional Development Seminar Webcast, "Advance Your Career from the Cubicle to the Corporate Office." Deb Grubbe, a DuPont corporate director, presented career advancement strategies through communications, positive perception, and embracing diversity and change. After the presentation, there was an open discussion about professional concerns and issues, drawing on her wealth of experience and knowledge. After the Webcast, the LMRFC attendees discussed the merits of the Webcast and how to incorporate the information in their professional lives. Each person then shared tidbits about their professional past and how positive thinking enabled them to come to where they are today. The group then discussed how groups like SWE could encourage young people to explore career paths in math, engineering and science and how the NWS could help encourage the next generation of scientists.

SWE was founded in 1950 as an information center on women in engineering and to encourage female engineers to attain high levels of education and professional achievement. With over 17,000 members, SWE's priorities include education and outreach, professional leadership, and focus on issues of interest to women of all backgrounds in engineering and technical careers. For more information on SWE, please visit their Web site at <http://www.SWE.org>.

**WEATHER QUIZ AND BOY SCOUT BADGES.** WFO Tallahassee remained active in a wide range of EEO and Outreach activities in late February and March. EEO focal point Ron Block participated in a weather quiz game for students at the area Special Olympics. Ron also assisted several boy scout troops in obtaining their weather merit badges. Ron presented material on careers in meteorology to the Black Graduate Student Association jointly sponsored by Florida State University and Florida A&M University.

**WFO TALLAHASSEE MIC FEATURED SPEAKER AT LOCAL AMS CHAPTER.** WFO Tallahassee MIC Paul Duval was the featured speaker at the local AMS Chapter. His presentation discussed the history of weather forecasting. Paul also discussed weather hazards at the initial meeting of the Alabama Hazard Mitigation Council in Montgomery, Alabama. Forecaster Tim Barry lectured on the varied collaborative efforts between the NWS Tallahassee and Florida State University at a COAPS (Center of Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies) climate conference.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CLASS.** WFO Tallahassee staff continue to teach at the co-located Florida State University Meteorology Department the class entitled "Introduction to the National Weather Service." This twice weekly course has nineteen students, with lectures augmented by invited NOAA/NWS experts, and provides a unique overview of NWS career opportunities and operations.

**SPRING BREAK AT WFO TULSA.** During spring break last month, Jenks, Oklahoma High School junior Vivek Mahale spent six days at WFO Tulsa. Vivek is one of the top high school students in Oklahoma and has a passion for weather. Vivek analyzed surface maps, observed forecast operations, took advantage of the WFO library and helped on the office ham radio desk during two severe weather episodes. Vivek plans to attend the University of Oklahoma and envisions a career with the National Weather Service.

**WFO SAN JUAN COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN.** WFO San Juan was awarded the outstanding average gift award for the Puerto Rico Combined Federal Campaign 2003-2004 in the category of 11-49 employees. The WFO was also awarded the Outstanding Contribution Silver Award.

It was great to have Southern Region director Bill Proenza among us to present supergiver awards to five staff members, and also recognizing the WFO contribution. These awards would not have been possible without the leadership of our ASA Lucy Monett.

**SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS**  
**MARCH 1 - 31, 2004**

**Southern Region Losses**

<u>Name</u>	<u>From (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>From Title/Grade</u>
Christopher Liscinsky	WFO BMX	Transfer to ER	Forecaster, GS-12
Ira Brenner	WFO TBW	Retirement	MIC, GS-15

**Southern Region Gains**

<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Daniel Porter	WFO ABQ	Transfer from CR	Forecaster, GS-7
Peter Corrigan	WFO SJU	Transfer from CR	Sr. Service Hydrologist, GS- 13
Paula M. Campbell	WFO LIX	New Hire	PMO, GS-10

**Within Region Transfers/Actions**

<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Anthony Cavalucci	WFO MEG	Transfer from WFO LUB	Lead Forecaster, GS-13
Angel Montanez	WFO BMX	Transfer from WFO MOB	Forecaster, GS-9
John Sirmon	WFO BMX	Reassignment from WFO SHV	Forecaster, GS-7