



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

February 2005

SOUTHERN TOPICS

Working Together To Save Lives

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR

I am pleased to announce John Michael “Mike” Coyne has been appointed Meteorologist-in-Charge National Weather Service Forecast Office in Huntsville, Ala. He replaces John Gordon who transferred to the NWS Central Region.

Mike launched his NWS career as a Student Trainee Meteorologist at WFO Corpus Christi, Texas in 1993. He was promoted to Meteorologist Intern in 1996 and Forecaster in 1998. In 2002, he was promoted to Performance and Evaluation Meteorologist at Southern Region Headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas.

During his 10 years with the National Weather Service, Mike has developed hands on experience with a variety of weather events including tropical storms, hurricanes, thunderstorms, tornadoes and flooding. He also served as the web master for Corpus Christi and has been an innovative leader in developing software applications in support of NWS operational needs. He designed and constructed *Weather To Go*, the first forecast page to provide comprehensive inland, marine and travel forecasts in a printable format; and, the first NWS Office website for PDA computers providing current warnings, advisories and tropical weather information.

Please join me in congratulating Mike as he prepares to assume his new responsibilities in Huntsville.



CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER DIVISION

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH

Houston/Galveston Helps Convey Maritime Security Information. After 9/11, the USCG instituted Maritime Security Levels for their area of responsibilities over certain bays and waterways. It's important that this security awareness be passed on to maritime customers. The Houston/Galveston National Weather Service Office (WFO HGX) is now broadcasting the Coast Guard Maritime Security Level (MARSEC) status on NOAA Weather Radio, in keeping with our agency's support of the All Hazards NWR concept. The MARSEC system is comprised of three levels, with Level 1 representing the lowest and most prevalent threat. Under these conditions, WFO HGX will broadcast the MARSEC status message once per hour. When USCG raises the level to 2 or 3, they will call and fax a message for broadcast. The USCG appreciates the working relationship we've established with them concerning this important aspect of Homeland Security. The security broadcast procedure was established through the Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC) Security Outreach Work Group, in cooperation with WFO HGX as part of an ongoing effort to raise security awareness within the maritime community.

RAM Workshop in Kansas City. Paul Witsaman, SR Regional Aviation Meteorologist, attended the National RAM/Aviation Services Branch Workshop in Kansas City, MO during the week of February 14-18. Agenda items included approval of the latest update to the NWSI 10-4 series, and a review of the Aviation Weather Operations Course being put together by NWSTC. Time was also spent reviewing the CWSU Tiger Training Team module. Southern and Western Region RAMs made a strong case for increased national support to the CWSU program. They specifically highlighted the need to upgrade operational equipment, making it compatible with AWIPS and NAWIPS.

Region III Fire Weather Meeting in Albuquerque. The Southwest Area Operations Fire Weather Planning Meeting was held February 23-24, 2005 in Albuquerque, NM. Representatives from 4 Southern Region WFOs (El Paso, Albuquerque, Midland, and Amarillo) plus the Southern Region Fire Weather Program Manager attended the annual meeting. Along with 4 Western Region WFOs, the group met with land management officials to plan for the upcoming 2005 fire season.

Technical Attachment on Severe Weather Communications in Alabama. As our offices build on the already strong relationships that exist between themselves and their local emergency management and media partners, efforts remain focused on methods for improving the exchange of impact weather information with these groups. A wide variety of communication forms are now being employed at many of our offices, including pre-event press conferences, telephone and video conference calls and briefings, heads up e-mails and electronic pages, specialized graphical HWO/HLS and Graphicast web products, Warning Decision Update text products, Instant Messaging (IM) systems, and special emergency management radio systems.



While their audiences and mechanics differ significantly, these communication forms all share a common purpose: to save lives and mitigate property damage by enhancing the flow of impact weather information to the broadcast media and the EM community. This topic is the subject of a new SR Technical Attachment written by Tim Troutman (WFO Huntsville), Ken Graham and Faith Borden (WFO Birmingham) entitled “21st Century NWS Warning Communications: The Future of Warning Dissemination is Here”. Their Technical Attachment, which focuses on IM, UHF radio and paging initiatives in northern and central Alabama, can be found at the following URL: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/topics/attach/pdf/MSB05-02.pdf>

San Juan Coordinates with Last Resort Responders. WFO San Juan MIC Israel Matos participated in a teleconference with USGS, NOAA and USNORTHCOM, a military organization whose mission is to act as a "last resort responder", providing assistance to civilian agencies that are overwhelmed due to a major emergency. NORTHCOM expressed concern about the potential for tsunamis in their area of responsibility, which includes the Caribbean. This organization was in need of timely information from the USGS, the NWS and other NOAA entities that could help them during a crisis. Israel provided information on the Puerto Rico Tsunami Program, and referred them to the Puerto Rico Seismic Network homepage on tsunamis.

Visit from Director of NHC Director. WFO San Juan was visited by NHC Director Max Mayfield who conducted a presentation on the 2004 Hurricane season. Stanley Goldenberg from NOAA/AOML HRD, also visited the WFO and lectured on decadal trends of tropical cyclones in the Atlantic basin, plus other hurricane related subjects. Both scientists were invited to Puerto Rico by Spanish Media Network Univision and the NASA Puerto Rico Space Consortium to participate in a hurricane conference, held at the Puerto Rico Art Museum. The same was attended by over 400 people from academia and emergency management. Several WFO San Juan staff members participated in the conference, and the NWS booth was on display at the main entrance with hurricane brochures and maps.

NWR Dedications. WFO Shreveport MIC Lee Harrison and WCM Mark Frazier conducted an NWR dedication ceremony on January 25 for the new Center, TX NWR transmitter at the courthouse in Center, TX. Lee gave a presentation that highlighted the importance of NOAA Weather Radio, available products, and coverage area of the transmitter. Guests at the NWR dedication included local officials, the tower owner, and local media from TV, radio and the newspaper.

Another NWR dedication ceremony took place on February 16 for the new El Dorado NWR transmitter at the courthouse in El Dorado, AR on February 16. WFO Shreveport MIC Lee Harrison, WCM Mark Frazier and Forecaster Bill Parker conducted the dedication. Lee gave a presentation that again highlighted the importance of NOAA Weather Radio, available products, and the coverage area of the transmitter. Guests included local officials and local media from TV, radio and the newspaper.



HYDROLOGIC SERVICES BRANCH

New Service Hydrologist At WFO Atlanta. Kent Frantz, HAS forecaster at Southeast RFC (SERFC), was recently selected to become the new senior service hydrologist at WFO Atlanta. Kent will officially begin his new duties on March 20, 2005. Kent received his Associate Degree in Meteorology from San Jose State University in California. Kent began his NWS career in 1978 as a Meteorological Technician at WSFO Louisville. Between 1980 and 1994, Kent worked at WSO Sioux City, Iowa and WSO Savannah, Georgia as a Meteorological Technician. From 1994-1999, Kent was a forecaster at WFO Atlanta. Since 1999, Kent has been a HAS forecaster at SERFC. Kent, congratulations on your new job!!

VTEC For Hydrologic Products. Folks at NWSH have developed a set of draft timelines for the implementation of VTEC for the WFO hydrologic watch/warning/advisory products. The draft timelines include: (1) development of an OT&E plan by late March; (2) identification of field test sites by early April; (3) VTEC teletraining for the test sites and regions during the month of June; (4) a field OT&E from late June to late August, and (5) implementation of VTEC in hydrologic products in the November/December 2005 timeframe. We will keep you posted on this activity.

Dam Tabletop Exercise In NM. WFO Albuquerque Senior Service Hydrologist Ed Polasko played a lead role in the February 3rd Sandia Pueblo Dams tabletop exercise in Albuquerque, NM. The half day exercise was co-sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and brought together law enforcement, emergency management personnel, and other state, city and Sandia Pueblo officials to assess the usefulness of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) being developed for the Sandia Pueblo Dams. The four earthen embankment detention dams are unique in that dam failure(s) would not only pose a life and property threat to the Pueblo, but also result in the shutdown of the only north-south Interstate highway link between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. The estimated 100 year rainfall event needed to generate sufficient runoff from the west slopes of the nearby Sandia Mountains was developed by Ed to drive the exercise. Participants gradually realized that the urban difficulties that this hydrologic event would generate added considerably to the complexity of the responses required by nearly all agencies. The finalized EAP will include WFO ABQ as a primary contact for all response levels events, and list the WFO ABQ website as well as NOAA Weather Radio as real time weather monitoring resources.

Hydrologic Model Study. Janet McCormick, hydrologic forecaster at ABRFC, has researched available information about the hydrologic effects of small Natural Resources Conservation Service reservoirs. Stream gage and topographic data were collected for use in modeling a small study area containing these NRCS reservoirs in the Little Washita River basin of Oklahoma. The results of this study will be used to model the effects of these NRCS reservoirs in the Boggy Creek basins of southern Oklahoma, as well as other ABRFC locations.

NWS/COE Coordination Meeting. All Corps of Engineer (COE) districts within the COE's South Atlantic Division attended a coordination meeting at the Southeast River Forecast Center (SERFC) on February 25, 2004. Water managers from the Wilmington N.C., Savannah GA.,



Jacksonville FL., and Mobile AL. districts attended. Officials from the COE South Atlantic Division also attended the meeting. This meeting provided an opportunity to explore new avenues of interagency collaboration. Currently, the SERFC provides a monthly water resource briefing for the COE districts. COE officials indicated that these briefings were extremely valuable to management of their reservoir operations. The representatives from the COE stated that they could benefit from more frequent briefings when there is updated climatological information that could affect their operations (e.g., updated advisories from CPC on El Nino/La Nina). The SERFC agreed to provide more frequent water resource briefings to share late breaking/updated climatological information.

Lake Okeechobee Planning Meeting. On February 24, a status meeting for the Lake Okeechobee project was conducted at the SERFC. Reggina Cabrera (SERFC Project Leader), Rusty Pfost (WFO Miami), John Feldt and Brad Gimmestad (SERFC), and officials with the Jacksonville District of the COE attended.

This meeting focused on the current status of the Lake Okeechobee project as well as potential enhancements for Phase II. Currently, the SERFC has developed initial forecast capability for Lake Okeechobee elevations, as well as inflow projections for Fish Eating Creek. It was determined that Phase II of the project should include spin up of ensemble stream flow prediction capability, which would be of use to the COE. Further development work into linkage of storm surge models and their impact on the Lake Okeechobee elevation forecast would also be explored.

DIGITAL SERVICES

NWS Website Load Balancing Project. DET continues to lead the NWS radar website load balancing project. The purpose of this project is to install a capability that will send users to the NWS web site that will provide them with the best user experience. As an example, when our Southern Region web “ranch” is busy during severe weather outbreaks, the load balancers will sense that our site is busy and redirect some of our traffic to another NWS location. Initially, this capability will be utilized to load balance radar data. However, it can be quickly applied to other data such as satellite pictures from NESDIS or the NHC web site. We have set up a test configuration in our lab here at SRH with two web servers, the local load balancing appliance, and a caching device. Configuration data and lessons learned from our lab are being disseminated to other NWS regions, NWS headquarters, and the NOAA NOC. We will shortly add the global load balancing equipment to the lab environment to further our knowledge and refine our configurations.

New NWS Radar Data on the Web. Paul Kirkwood continues to work on the next generation of NWS radar web data display capabilities. Output from this capability is being generated on a limited basis and is available for selected sites at the following URL:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge/>



We are excited by these new capabilities and the way they are generated. Keith Stellman from SSD and Mike Coyne of CWWD are actively working with Paul to bring this project to fruition.

Section 508 Compliance. DET wants to remind all NWS offices that any new web pages that are developed MUST be Section 508 compliant. There are no exceptions!! If you have any questions, please call Susan Beckwith.

DNS Change Requests. To ensure that all Southern Region offices receive prompt service in response to their DNS change requests, please send all DNS change requests to the srh.det@noaa.gov e-Mail address. The purpose of this request is to ensure that if a member of DET is on leave or otherwise out of the office, another member of DET can take care of your request. We are also in the process of trying to integrate our present DNS system with the new Active Directory system.

Web Site Directory Structure Changes. DET wants to give all our offices a “heads-up” that a change in the regional web site directory structure is forthcoming. This change is intended to standardize the directory structure across all NWS web sites for global load balancing purposes. We intend to host a conference call in the near future to discuss this matter. Please contact Susan Beckwith or Paul Kirkwood with any questions you may have.

New Grids Going Operational. A big THANK YOU is due to all WFOs and forecasters for their hard work in ensuring the quality of the Temperature, Dewpoint and Weather grids, which are set to become operational on March 15th. We recognize the extra effort that’s been asked of all of you through the implementation of quality assurance tools and attention to border consistency. This dedication is greatly appreciated by the Southern Region Digital Services team. Please see the PNS (http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/tin05-12ndfd_t-td-wx.txt) which announces these grids to our customers. Thanks again for your hard work!

SRF Formatter Included in COMET Module. The SRF GFE formatter developed by Charlie Paxton (SOO, WFO TBW) will be included in a new Forecasting module now under development by COMET. Please see Charlie's GFE formatter, which can be run in a matter of minutes (and also includes configurable parameters for calculating the threat of rip currents), at: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tbw/IFPS_Formatters/index.htm

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

March VISIT Teletraining Calendar. The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) calendar for March is now available. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu The teletraining planning calendar with sessions by the Interactive Forecast Preparation System team and Warning Decision Training Branch (AWOC teletraining) is at: <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/planning.html>



The sessions for March are:

- Predicting Supercell Motion in Operations
- Modern Severe Weather Parameters
- Forecasting Convective Downburst Potential Using GOES Sounder Derived Products
- Using GOES to Forecast Winter Storms Parts 1 & 2
- Rapid Scan imagery with other Remote Sensor Data for Diagnosing Severe Weather across the CONUS
- Mesoscale Analysis of Convective Weather Using GOES Rapid Scan Imagery

The new session "Predicting Supercell Motion in Operations" is by Matthew Bunkers (SOO/Rapid City SD). The objective is to increase operational awareness of forecasting supercell motion and to lead to better nowcasts & pathcasts of severe convective weather. Additional information can be found in the student guide: <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/bunkers.html>

All previous VISIT teletraining sessions, including several with recorded instructor audio and annotations, are available at: <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/ts.html>

AMS Policy Statement Available For Comment. An updated American Meteorological Society (AMS) statement on the Bachelor's Degree in Atmospheric Science has been posted to the AMS website for a 30-day comment period prior to final vote by the AMS Council: <http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/draftstatements/index.html>

If you would like to submit a comment, please send it by e-mail to: statement_comments@ametsoc.org

Site Visits. Bernard Meisner visited WFO Tulsa/ABRFC and WFO Little Rock during the week of February 14th. He gave a seminar at each location on NCEP planned guidance model improvements and the WRF Developmental Testbed Center's Winter Forecast Experiment (DWFE). He also assisted the SOO at each site with the installations of the FX-Net client software on computers in the operations area. The forecasters are now able to compare the output from the DWFE WRF models with that from the operational GFS and NAM and provide feedback to the WRF Testbed Center model developers. More information about the DWFE, including links to the Fx-Net client software, is available at: <http://intranet.srh.noaa.gov/srh/ssd/WRF/>

New American Meteorological Society Chapter in the Shreveport area. WFO Shreveport in a joint effort with the 26th Air Weather Squadron at Barksdale Air Forecast Base, created a new American Meteorological Society Chapter in the Shreveport-Boosier City metro area. Representatives from the TV media were present at the meeting. The inaugural meeting took place on the 19th of January in Shreveport with approximately 30 people in attendance for the newly formed chapter.

Systems Operations Division



AWIPS. AWIPS OB4.1a has been installed at 31 of 38 Southern Region offices. As always, it is important to install Maintenance Releases (MR) in a timely manner as they contain critical fixes for problems with operational software.

OB4.2 has been tested at many offices across the country including Southern Region Headquarters, WFO Jackson, MS, and WFO Tulsa, OK. There were several issues discovered and fixed during the beta testing period. The MR should be approved for deployment to the initial DX sites in early March. Pre-requisites will be OB4.1, IFPS 16.2, Linux XTs, and the DX/NAS installed.

OB5 has been installed at Southern Region Headquarters and WFO Jackson, MS. So far, testing has gone well with few major issues. Gary Beeley, SOO WFO Peachtree City, GA, participated in OB5 testing at Central Region Headquarters (CRH) during the last week of February. The testing was part of a more formal new build test bed setup at CRH in hopes that more problems would be found and resolved before software makes it to the field. OB5 should be ready for national deployment in late March or early April.

DS replacement status, full deployment of the new DX/NAS hardware has been approved. Final details of the plan are still being developed with deployment likely to begin later this month. The deployment will be driven by the shipping of the new equipment rather than sites choosing dates and the equipment arriving. So, as the new hardware is delivered, we will schedule the installation. Additional information will be sent out as it becomes available.

The mod note for the DX/NAS install can be found at:

<http://www.ops1.nws.noaa.gov/awipsnew/software/SysMod24-DXupgrades-S.pdf>

WSR-88D. Rich Murnan from the Radar Operations Center (ROC) traveled to WFO Fort Worth, TX (FWD) on February 14, 2005 to perform the Beta Test of the RPG 6.1P software. NCEP confirmed the patch solved the issues with the SuperOB product which allowed the Beta Test to be concluded on February 22nd. RPG Build 6.1P software along with the associated load instructions should be ready for full system-wide deployment starting March 7, 2005.

ASOS installation of the new DTS1 sensor was put on hold pending the arrival of SIO boards to support the Mod note. However, NWSH has release the DTS1 kits without the SIO boards. Our Techs have been asked to reconfigure some systems in order to free up SIO boards or use the board in the spares kit which leaves them without a spare or order a replacement from NLSC with nothing to return to clear the due in. We know NWSHQ has order a number of spares but don't know when they will arrive at NLSC.

The false tips from the AWPAG's in Florida are on the rise again, causing many man hours to QC the data. The "Tree Frog" Screen worked until the Florida sun weakened the plastic allowing it to pull away from the metal ring which in turn allowed the frogs back into the catch bucket. Version 2.8 of the software is suppose to correct the false tip problem and is now going to field testing but



we're still 6 months away from seeing it deployed fully to the field, assuming no problems are encountered during testing.

Upper Air. NWSHQ has requested our help with ART-1's and the Vaisala/SPU-11 Radiosondes training Pacific Region. Charlie Lake our RSS for upper air will be going for 1 ½ weeks to going thru the ART-1 and training with several of the ETs from around Pacific Region.

In support of the RRS-1B testing, Southern Region Headquarters LDAD has been configured to ingest secure ftp data from Caribou, Maine. Verification was conducted by Jae Lee of the Test and Evaluation Branch at WSH. The RRS test products were added to the AWIPS A2A files. AWIPS will process the products and send them to NCEP for evaluation.

IT Security. Gary Petroski is acting as the NWS representative with the NOAA Working Group on Enterprise Patch Management. This group is trying to come to an agreement on the tool's criteria before presenting to them to the NOAA Information Technology Security Council and giving a recommendation for a solution.

We have been actively working with the OCIO on the implementation of the Tenable and Nexus scanners for our networks. We have also just acquired the new maintained contract for our Cisco routers, and plan deployed of the new IOS to the field. This will fix the multiple vulnerabilities that have shown up on the most current Harris scans.

Working with NWSHQ, we have installed and configured the RH Proxy patch server that is tiered to the Satellite patch server in NWSHQ. We have created all the channels and groups to start migrating all SR RH Linux systems to this new server.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Diversity.

WFOs Albuquerque and Lubbock recently got together for a meeting on diversity. This was held as part of a local BLAST (Building Leaders for A Solid Tomorrow) meeting, where two offices met via conference call to discuss various topics. Senior Forecasters Kerry Jones (ABQ) and Mark Fox (LUB) obtained the copies of the video tape, *Wealth, Innovation, and Diversity... Putting Our Differences to Work in the 21st Century*. The video was shown to groups in each office before initiating the conference call. A total of 22 people which included Met Interns, HMTs, forecasters, and both MICs, attended the group meeting. With such a diverse group in attendance, the discussion that ensued was well received by both offices. The combined meeting was a success. There are plans already in the works for more interoffice outreach.

Discovering Diversity Depots, is the title of the very informative paper authored by Ken Widelski, Journeyman Forecaster at WFO Lubbock and Jon Zeitler, SOO at WFO Austin/San Antonio. The paper offers an alternative form of Diversity training giving flexibility to employee needs and



desires. The paper has been posted on the intranet site <http://intranet.srh.noaa.gov/ewx.soo/> under ***Research***.

SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS			
<u>FEBRUARY 1 - 28, 2005</u>			
<u>Southern Region Losses</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>From (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>From Title/Grade</u>
Karen Trammell	WFO OUN	Transfer to CR	Met Intern, GS-9

<u>Within Region Transfers/Actions</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Eric Avila	WFO FFC	Converted to CC	HMT, GS-7

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Florida WCMs Provide Storm Damage Training. WCMs in Florida provided a storm damage survey workshop to 45 emergency management officials at the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association's 2005 Annual Conference in Orlando, FL. Storm damage surveys completed by the National Weather Service (NWS) determine the type of hazardous weather event that occurred and the effectiveness of the NWS watch/warning system. However, due to limited staff, NWS surveys are usually restricted to large events or those with extensive media coverage. In many cases, the NWS relies on emergency management to provide feedback on significant storm damage from their county. The purpose of this workshop was to give emergency management personnel the information they need to conduct accurate storm damage surveys.

Weather Palooza in Tulsa. More than 80 teachers from the Tulsa area attended a day-long weather workshop conducted by WFO Tulsa. This event was coordinated by SOO Steve Amburn and was sponsored by the Tulsa World Globe newspaper. Presentations during the workshop by Steve, forecaster Nicole Kempf and WCM Ed Calianese included topics such as El Nino, precipitation development, Doppler radar principles, weather observations, the water cycle, thunderstorms, lightning, and tornadoes. One of the goals of the workshop was to expose teachers to a variety of information and resources so they could better incorporate weather in their lesson plans. Forecaster Bruce Sherbon compiled and produced video clips that were provided to the teachers. The workshop was very well received and others like it will likely be held in the future.

Mobile Boat Show. For the fifth straight year, WFO Mobile staffed an NWS booth at the recent annual Mobile Boat Show. Nearly 1,000 people stopped at Mobile's display to chat with staff members. The WFO booth afforded show goers the opportunity to pick up hurricane tracking



charts, the ever popular SR cloud chart, and Hurricane Ivan posters. Attendees were also exposed to a live internet connection featuring the WFO Mobile web site. Those staffing the booth received accolades from customers about the enhancements and accessibility of the NWS's web services. Most customers indicated that they look to the local NWS web site exclusively for weather information.

Deep South Texas Boat Show. WFO Brownsville Lead Forecaster and Marine Team Leader Jeff Philo coordinated an office-wide effort to support the Rio Grande Valley Boat Show, held recently in Mercedes, Texas. Numerous Brownsville staff members participated. Approximately 2500 people stopped by to say hello, and nearly 300 registered to win a NOAA Weather Radio. A consistent theme of deep appreciation and satisfaction with NWS Brownsville services was received by all of the NWS Brownsville staff from the varied "Winter Texan" crowds.

RFC/WFO Outreach. John Schmidt, senior hydrologic forecaster at Arkansas-Red Basin RFC, gave a presentation on ABRFC operations and modeling of the Lee Creek drainage basin and reservoir to the public utility department of Fort Smith, Arkansas. He and the WFO Tulsa Service Hydrologist, Al Hong, also toured the area downstream of the reservoir with the Crawford County Emergency Manager. During their tour, they gathered reservoir and survey information to improve ABRFC's modeling of the reservoir. This information will be utilized to improve hydrologic forecast services immediately downstream of the reservoir.

TADD Outreach. Kandis Boyd, Hydrologic Services Program Manager for HSB, gave a Turn Around Don't Drown® presentation to the Texas Chapter of the American Public Works Association on February 8, 2005. Kandis addressed over 100 attendees and stressed the importance of promoting TADD at the local community level. Nancy A. Beward, Storm Water Operations Manager for the City of San Antonio, spoke about the City of San Antonio's efforts to promote TADD.

Tulsa Severe Weather Conference. Nearly 120 emergency managers, spotters, media members and the public attended a day-long severe weather conference conducted by WFO Tulsa, the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency, and the eastern Oklahoma and northwestern Arkansas SKYWARN steering committee. Presentations included advanced spotter training by WCM Ed Calianese, and an overview of new products and services from WFO Tulsa by Forecaster Brad McGavock. A local amateur radio operator gave a presentation on APRS and how it can be better utilized during severe weather operations. A number of storm chasers also presented some of their recent video highlights.

Alabama Severe Weather Awareness Week News Conference. Hosted by the Jefferson County, Alabama Emergency Management Agency, WFO Birmingham MIC Ken Graham and WCM Jason B. Wright conducted an Alabama Severe Weather Awareness Week kickoff news conference on February 15th. Jason talked about Alabama's severe weather concerns, and provided a review of the 2004 spring and fall severe weather seasons. Ken emphasized the importance of strengthening the already strong partnerships that exist between emergency management, media, and the NWS across Alabama - partnerships that save lives. Other speakers at this event included Mary M. Buckelew, Chairperson for the Jefferson County Emergency



Management Council, Cindy Bahri, Director of Emergency Services, Birmingham Chapter of the American Red Cross, Brian Peters, Chairman of the Alabama Skywarn Foundation Inc., and a representative from the Birmingham Mayor's Office.

Birmingham Staff Participate in Community Severe Weather Awareness Day Event. As another element of Alabama's Severe Weather Awareness Week, WFO Birmingham forecasters John Sirmon and Faith Borden, and WCM Jason B. Wright participated in the Tuscaloosa County 2005 Severe Weather Awareness Day, held at McFarland Mall in Tuscaloosa. The NWS contingent staffed a booth and provided a running slide show about WFO Birmingham. They also conducted live weather experiments, distributed NWS handouts, and answered specific severe weather questions. Other booths were staffed by several weather related industries, organizations, and schools of meteorology. Portions of this event were featured by all of the Birmingham and Tuscaloosa television stations during their noon, 5 pm and 6 pm weather broadcasts.

Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge. WFO Brownsville HMT Tony Abbott traveled to the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge to provide a presentation regarding NWS services. His audience consisted of 17 volunteers and 3 staff members. Tony briefed them on a variety of topics such as prevalent weather over Deep South Texas as well as NOAA Weather Radio and NWS Brownsville web services.

WFO Brownsville Office Tours and School Visits . Brownsville DAPM Jim Campbell gave an office tour to 32 senior "Winter Texans" from the Adventures in Learning group. Jim briefed the group on NWS services and history in the Deep South Texas. They were provided a real-time weather briefing by WCM Jesus Haro.

Forecaster Mike Castillo provided an office tour for approximately 50 people, students and parents from Kenmont Montessori School in Brownsville. Mike gave a Power-Point presentation which briefed the students on NWS operations and provided a real-time weather briefing.

HMT Tony Abbott and DAPM Jim Campbell visited Travis Elementary School in Harlingen, TX, and gave a presentation to 63 third graders. Jim and Tony talked about the history of the weather service in Brownsville, discussed office operations and weather that affects the Valley. A special emphasis to the past hurricane season as well as the historic snow on Christmas Day was discussed. There were 4 teachers, the librarian and the principal in attendance during the talk.

WCM Jesus Haro provided an office tour to the "Leadership Brownsville" development group. The group consists of competitively selected adults and civic leaders from the Brownsville area. Jesus provided the attendees with a presentation that elaborated on the role and accomplishments of the National Weather Service. They were also treated to a real-time weather briefing by Lead Forecaster Matt Lorentson.

NWS and TPC Employees Participate as Judges in Community Science Fair. Christopher Juckins, Information Technology Officer, WFO Miami, FL (middle), and Michelle Mainelli, Meteorologist/Programmer, Tropical Prediction Center (right), finish judging high school student



Vijay Rao's science fair project. Each year the Broward County Science Fair provides an opportunity for students to research topics in various fields of science and to display their results in a public setting. Juckins and Mainelli enjoy working with students in the community and have served as judges in the "Earth and Space" category at the fair for the past three years. This year's event, held on February 4th 2005, contained many skilled projects and included subjects ranging from hurricanes and beach erosion to Newtonian laws of gravity. Student Vijay Rao's project (pictured here) was exceptionally well done as he successfully calibrated new chemical analysis equipment at the University of Florida in Gainesville.



Photo by Dr. Sim Aberson, Meteorologist, NOAA/AOML/Hurricane Research Division.

WFO Little Rock Forecasters Judge Science Fair. On Friday, February 4, 2005, WFO Little Rock Senior Forecasters Newton Skiles and John MacLeod judged projects at the 19th annual Little Rock Central High School Science Fair. This was Newton's and John's 4th year to judge at this fair, and they judged Earth Science and Space Science projects. A total of 325 projects were entered, making it one of the largest science fairs held each year in Arkansas.

Judging a Science Fair and Giving an Office Tour. WFO Shreveport Forecaster Bill Murrell participated as a judge for the Science Fair for Eden Gardens Elementary School in Shreveport, LA. Bill judged several earth science projects and recommended the projects which should proceed to



the regional Science Fair. WFO Shreveport Forecaster Patrick Omundson, Met Intern Gary Chatelain and Forecaster Jim DeBerry gave an office tour to 22 students including teachers from Turner Middle School in Shreveport, LA. The tour included orientations of the operations of the WFO Shreveport, safety rules, NWR, Upper Air operations and news media coordination.

KTBS Boat Show in Shreveport, LA. Staff from WFO Shreveport participated in the annual KTBS Boat Show in Shreveport that had more than 30,000 people attend the four day event. Partnering with the Caddo-Bossier OHSEP, NOAA Weather Radio was promoted. The staff took the opportunity to share with the public the products available on the website and demonstrate the digital point forecasts using an internet connection. There was various literature handed out highlighting hazardous weather preparedness.

Training for U. S. Coast Guard. WFO San Juan WCM Rafael Mojica conducted the weather and boating training for 24 students for the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 1. The training was conducted at the West Marine Store in Fajardo, Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico Emergency Management Director Visits WFO. On February 23 the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Director and nine staff members visited WFO San Juan to discuss programs of mutual concern and pending issues from last year. WFO San Juan MIC Israel Matos, WCM Rafael Mojica and Senior Hydrologist Peter Corrigan met with the group and briefed them on NWS operations, the status of the Alert Hydrological Network. The visit ended with a brief office tour.

Tsunamis. WFO San Juan MIC Israel Matos, Lead Forecaster Walter Snell and WCM Rafael Mojica participated in the first 2005 meeting of the Puerto Rico Technical Advisory Committee on Tsunamis at the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency. Approximately 22 persons attended and represented local and federal government agencies as well as voluntary aid organizations. NOAA's tsunami initiative was presented as well as all short term plans for the upgrade of the local islands tsunami sensor network. The meeting ended with a press conference.

Jacksonville Forecaster Attends Home Show. NWS Jacksonville forecaster and Assistant Warning Coordination Meteorologist Angie Enyedi participated in the 2005 Flagler County Home Show during the weekend of February 12-13th. The Home Show attracted about 20,000 county residents who were interested in home safety. Hundreds stopped by the NWS booth for valuable weather information, and Angie passed out numerous resources including hurricane preparedness pamphlets and tracking charts. As she passed out hurricane information, Angie cautioned "Hopefully you won't need to use these this year, but we've all learned first-hand that preparedness is key." Many county residents shared their hurricane survival stories, and some shared their lessons learned from the 2004 hurricane season. Angie deemed the event a true success, and WFO JAX is looking forward to more opportunities like the Home Show for reaching out to their users in the First Coast area.



