



# The Dryline



The Official Newsletter of the National Weather Service in Amarillo

## NOAA HONORS BWXT PANTEX EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WITH MARK TRAIL AWARD

## WINTER 2007

On September 14, 2006, NOAA presented the Mark Trail Award to the BWXT Pantex Department of Emergency Management for support of the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards program. Steve Drillette, WFO Amarillo Warning Coordination Meteorologist, accompanied Kevin Starbuck, BWXT Pantex, who received this honor on behalf of BWXT Pantex at a ceremony in the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Celebrating its tenth year, the awards program honors individuals and organizations that use or provide NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards receivers or transmitters to save lives and protect property. Twenty-four award recipients were recognized nationally in 2006.



Fig. 1. From left to right, Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson (Ret.), Vice Adm. Conrad Lautenbacher, Jr. (Ret), Jack Elrod and Kevin Starbuck

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“With this award, we recognize BWXT Pantex for its important contribution to NOAA’s mission of protecting lives and property,” said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., Ph.D., NOAA administrator. “Whatever the danger, whatever the hour, when minutes count, count on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.”

BWXT Pantex is an independent company formed to manage the Pantex Plant, the nation’s only nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly facility, located northeast of Amarillo, Texas. The company’s Emergency Management Department is being honored for enhancing its operating area by applying for a specific NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) code for its Emergency Planning Zone (10 mile radius) warning system.

“As part of the enhancement, all residences and businesses within the zone received new weather radio receivers,” said Steve Drillette. “Pantex also partnered with our office to sponsor an educational “Kids Weather Hour” and purchase receivers for each participating school.

“We have a long-standing partnership with BWXT Pantex,” said Jose Garcia, Meteorologist-In-Charge for the Amarillo forecast office. “Their commitment and investment in this endeavor illustrates their confidence in the National Weather Service and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.”

The Mark Trail Awards are named for the nationally-syndicated comic strip character that serves as the campaign symbol for the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards program. Since 1995, Jack Elrod, writer and illustrator of Mark Trail, and King Features Syndicate have been strong advocates for publicizing severe weather safety through the use of the radios. In recent years, the strip's educational message has included the fact that anyone listening to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards has instant access to the same lifesaving weather reports and hazards information provided to meteorologists, emergency personnel and the media.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from a nearby National Weather Service office.

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Fig. 2. Mark Trail image (courtesy of North America Syndicate, Inc., World Rights Reserved).

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards broadcasts official National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other civil emergency information 24 hours a day. The network includes more

than 900 transmitters, covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the U.S. Pacific Territories.

### *David Hennig — September 2006 Employee of the Month*

David is our most experienced Journeyman Forecaster. He manages our Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) – the backbone of our forecast and warning operations. In addition, David is the leader of our Grid Team, and has contributed weather reviews, which are available through our local website. He gained eight years of weather observer and forecaster experience during his U.S. Air Force service before joining WFO Amarillo in 2002. David received his BS in Meteorology in 1994 from Texas A&M University, and completed some coursework through the Community College of the Air Force. During his free time, this Mathis, Texas native enjoys playing acoustic and electric guitar, basketball, fishing, camping, watching football and being a Dad.

**Brought to you by:**  
Amarillo National Weather Service  
Amarillo Emergency Management  
BWXT PANTEX

# 2007 National Weather Service Severe Weather Workshop

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**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**

Saturday, March 17, 2007  
Visit Booths: 9 AM–1230 PM  
General Session: 1230 PM – 5 PM  
Amarillo Civic Center

Learn about the new tornado rating scale,  
review the historic TX Panhandle wildfires & more!  
**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC !**

Visit the many booths available from local vendors and agencies from 9 am-1230 pm

For more information contact us at 806-335-1121  
Or visit us on the web at [www.srh.noaa.gov/ama](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ama)

Numerous Door Prizes Given Away during the  
General Session:  
Rain gauges, WX Radios, Free meals  
Portable stereos, Telephones, TV's & more!



StormReady® is a national preparedness program to help communities develop plans to handle local severe weather and flooding threats. It helps establish a commitment to creating an infrastructure and system that will save lives and protect property during hazardous weather. If your city, county or facility is interested in becoming StormReady®, contact Steve Drillette at 806-335-1121 or [steve.drillette@noaa.gov](mailto:steve.drillette@noaa.gov).

### *Armstrong County*



Fig. 3. Armstrong County Judge Hugh Reed (left) receives StormReady® certificate from MIC José Garcia.

Armstrong County received the distinguished StormReady® designation at a ceremony held at the Armstrong County Courthouse on September 11, 2006. Meteorologist-In-Charge José Garcia and Warning Coordination Meteorologist Steve Drillette presented the certificate and highway signs to Armstrong County Judge Hugh Reed on behalf of the new StormReady® community. Kathy Miller, Armstrong County Emergency Management Coordinator, David Solis, Regional Liaison, Texas Department of Public Safety, and Dee Dee Waldo, DPS Pantex Emergency Planning Officer were present.

### *BWXT Pantex*



Fig. 4. (From left to right) WCM Steve Drillette, Vince Hanson, Dan Glenn, Kevin Starbuck, MIC José Garcia, SRH Deputy Director Steven Cooper and Greg Meyer at Pantex Ceremony

On October 20, 2006, the National Weather Service in Amarillo recognized the Pantex Plant as a StormReady® community. Pantex accomplished the necessary requirements to better prepare their facility for, and to alleviate the effects of, extreme weather-related events. Dan Glenn, Site Manager of NNSA Pantex Office; Greg Meyer, Deputy General Manager of BWXT Pantex; Vincent Hanson, Manager of Emergency Management; and Kevin Starbuck, Manager of Emergency Planning and Preparedness received the certificate and two StormReady signs on

*(continued on next page)*

behalf of the facility. Steven Cooper, Deputy Director of the NWS Southern Region office and Jose Garcia, Meteorologist-In-Charge of the NWS Amarillo office presented the Pantex officials with their certificate and highway signs. Steve Drillette, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, and Tabatha Tripp, Hydrometeorological Technician also participated in the presentation.

Pantex is the nation's only nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly facility, located 17 miles northeast of Amarillo. The facility is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, and is operated by BWXT Pantex, an independent company formed specifically to manage the plant.

## New Perryton Weather Radio is Broadcasting

Residents of the northeastern Texas and eastern Oklahoma Panhandles are now able to access a 24-hour source of weather forecasts, watches and warnings by tuning into their new NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) transmitter in Perryton. The National Weather Service in Amarillo joined officials from Ochiltree, Beaver, Lipscomb and Hansford counties and the North Plains Electric Cooperative to dedicate the new NOAA Weather Radio transmitter. This new transmitter (KJY88) broadcasts weather and hazards information under the frequency of 162.475 MHz. For a detailed signal coverage map, go to <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/tx/perryton.gif>.

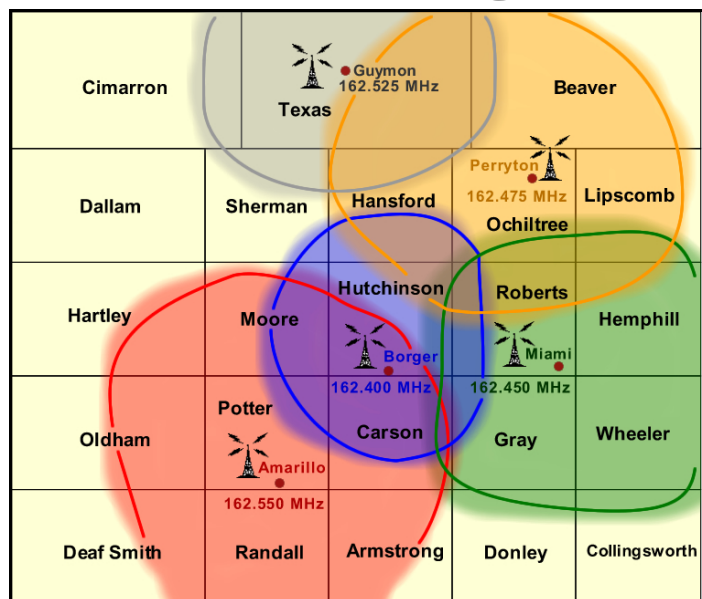


Fig. 5. NWR transmitters hosted by WFO Amarillo

In an effort to expand the All-Hazards warning system, another NWR transmitter is being installed in the Guymon area, and is tentatively scheduled to begin broadcasting by this summer.

### ***Dave Wilburn — October 2006 Employee of the Month***

Dave Wilburn has served Weather Forecast Office Amarillo as Electronic Technician since 2004. Born in the Steel Capital area, Dave is responsible for the electronics maintenance, primarily the WSR-88D Doppler radar and all computer hardware. He brought a wealth of experience from his 23 years in the U.S Air Force of which 12 ½ years were spent working on B-52s and 10 ½ years on heavy ground radar systems. Dave studied at the ICM School of Business, Penn State University, Community College of the Air Force, Embry Riddle University and Torou University where collectively he earned a BS in Computer Science, AS in Professional Aeronautics, AS in Specialized Business (Computers) and AS in Electronic Engineering. He enjoys hiking, cooking, computers, camping, scouting and his three boys.

# 2006 Year in Review

By John Brost and Chris Kimble  
General Forecaster Meteorologist Intern

The year 2006 was a year of weather extremes. From droughts and fires to floods and blizzards, this year had it all. The following is a brief summary of the major weather events from 2006.

## *January – March*

The year started off warm and very dry. Only 1.2 inches of snow fell and total precipitation was well below normal. The dry and warm conditions combined with strong winds to create rapid fire spreading conditions. It was a record year for total acreage burned by fires. The largest fire in Texas history was called the East Amarillo Complex and raged from March 12 through March 18. The fire started when strong winds knocked over power lines and ignited the dry vegetation. Nearly one million acres of land were burned including over 100 structures, 80 vehicles, and 7 miles of fence line. Unfortunately, 12 people

were killed as a result of the wildfires including one fire fighter.



Fig. 6. Wildfire near Skellytown (Photo courtesy of Amarillo Globe News)

## *April – June*

The spring months continued to be drier than normal, with a relatively inactive tornado season. Several rounds of thunderstorms produced hail and wind damage across the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles, but no tornadoes were observed until June. On June 21 and 22 nine tornados occurred across the area with most of them being rated F0 on the Fujita tornado intensity scale. One tornado in Texas County, Oklahoma was rated F1. Despite the numerous thunderstorms that occurred during June, most areas remained in a severe drought.



Fig. 7 (right): Landspout tornado near Turpin, Oklahoma on 21 June 2006. (Photo courtesy of Zahratu Shabrina.)

## *July - September*

The summer months brought significant rainfall, which eased the drought conditions that had plagued the area for most of the previous year. One thunderstorm on July 5 brought 3.27 inches of precipitation to Amarillo in one day. This one thunderstorm almost doubled the total precipitation for the year up until that point. August was cool and continued the wet trend. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> wettest August on record in Amarillo and officially brought the total precipitation for the year back to normal. Several places experienced slow-moving thunderstorms that caused flash flooding. On August 21, slow moving thunderstorms dropped very heavy rain across the western portion of Amarillo, which resulted in flash flooding and the

death of a young man. September was significantly cooler than normal, with Amarillo recording its second coldest September on record.



**Fig. 8.** Flood waters rise at the intersection of Mississippi Street and NW 5th Avenue on Monday, 21 August 2006.

## *October – December*

The fall months began with relatively tranquil weather. Dry conditions began to take hold of the area again in the middle of October and continued until the end of November. On November 29-30, a snowstorm brought snow to the area, with Amarillo receiving the most snow with 7.2 inches. This was just the first in a series of several winter weather events that continued through the end of the year. On December 28-30, a potent low pressure system brought very heavy snow and blizzard conditions to parts of the northwestern Texas Panhandle and the western Oklahoma Panhandle. Total snowfall amounts reached as high as 30 inches across northwestern Cimarron County with numerous reports of drifts in excess of 10 feet. Many people and

cattle were stranded and power was knocked out for many days. The multiple winter storms helped push December to the 6<sup>th</sup> wettest December on record.



**Fig. 9.** Aftermath of 29 November 2006 winter storm event at the National Weather Service Office in Amarillo.

*A more in depth report is available on our website at  
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ama/climate/2006wxreview.htm>*

# SCIENCE CORNER

By Matthew R. Kramar

General Forecaster and  
Science and Training Team Leader

## —Ask A Scientist—

*Do you have a question about the weather that you have always wanted to have answered? Ask A Scientist is your forum! Send your question to us by mail, or e-mail it to [matthew.kramar@noaa.gov](mailto:matthew.kramar@noaa.gov), and it could be featured in our next issue of the Dryline.*

*This month's question was e-mailed to us by Doug, in San Antonio, Texas.*

*Q: Why does it seem like cold fronts never make it to San Antonio? Can you help me understand more of the OVERALL picture of what's going on, instead of just the same old answer that "the jet stream is just not allowing the cold air to get down here?"*

*A:* What a timely question! The truth of the matter is that it is the jet stream that prevents the cold air from dropping south to the more subtropical parts of the country. As you alluded to in your question, there is a direct relationship between jet streams/jet streaks and cold air movement: vertical circulations around jet streaks (Fig. 10) help to strengthen the low-level temperature gradient ahead of the jet streak, and weaken it behind the jet streak. As a result, cold fronts thus tend to move south ahead of a jet, and stall behind the jet, and jet streaks appear to move along surface cold fronts. And because jets move quickly through, the southward advancement of the cold air is usually short-lived. But this doesn't get to the heart of the question: it's all well and good to say that jet streams don't allow cold air to reach San Antonio, but to be thorough, we need to explain *why* jet streams don't allow it. The answer amounts to a combination of some knowledge of a broader atmospheric structure and jet stream positioning.

### THE FOUR QUADRANT STRAIGHT JET MODEL

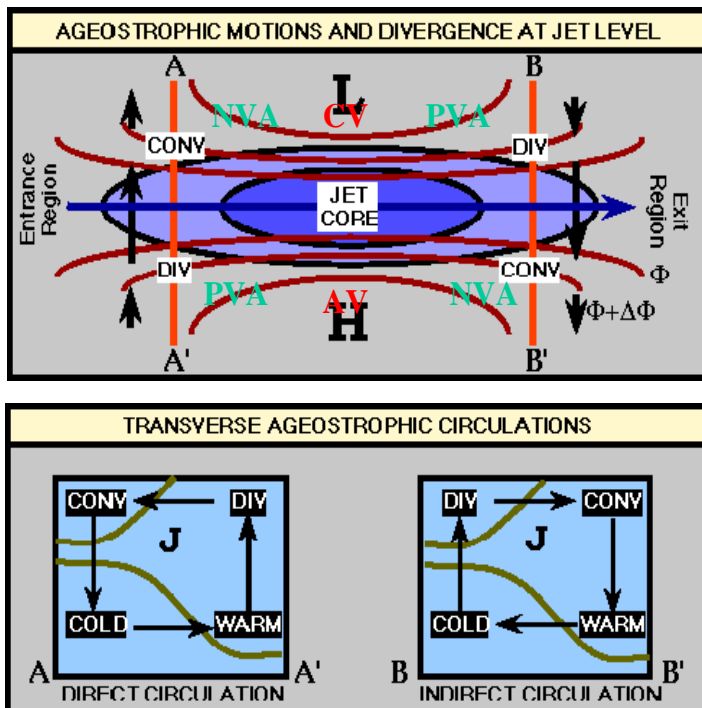


Fig. 10. The structure of vertical circulations around a jet streak. View from above (top image) and from along the jet (bottom) <http://www-das.uwyo.edu/~geerts/at5160/jetstreak.ppt#280.8.Slide 8>



The northern hemisphere is composed of three broad vertical circulations called cells (Hadley cells, Ferrel cells and Polar cells, Fig. 11). During the summer months, the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ, shaded area near equator, Fig. 12) shifts north of the equator, compressing the cells in the northern hemisphere, and shifting the region of Northeast Trade winds (and atmospheric subsidence and warming) north, in turn allowing more tropical air to shift north (hence the warm humid summers in San Antonio). In the winter, the ITCZ shifts south of the equator and stretches the cells in the northern hemisphere, thus allowing the Polar Jet to drop south into the Continental United States. However, since San Antonio is at or just below 30° N latitude, during the winter months, the midlatitude Ferrel cell can only stretch so far, placing San Antonio only at the southern periphery of the midlatitude circulation. As a result, it is rare that polar jets can make it so far south: it would require a massive contortion of the broader atmospheric vertical circulations (i.e. stretching the typically 60° latitude convergence zone between the Ferrel cell and the Polar cell almost 30° latitude further south).

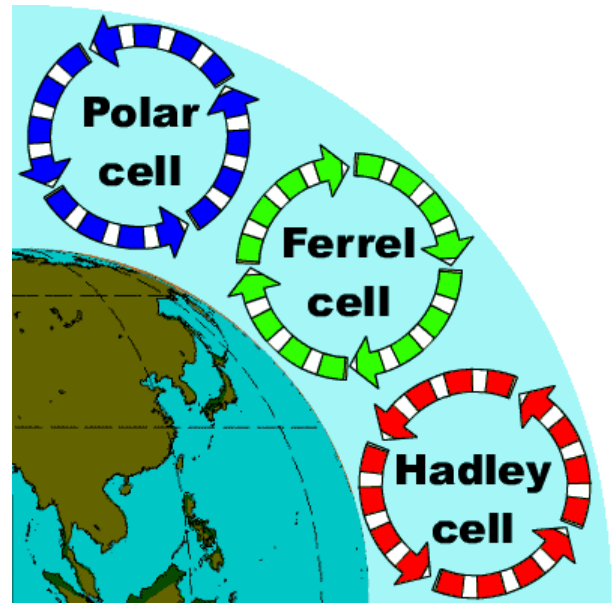


Fig. 11. The northern hemispheric broadscale atmospheric “cell” circulations.

From [http://sparce.evac.ou.edu/q\\_and\\_a/air\\_circulation.htm](http://sparce.evac.ou.edu/q_and_a/air_circulation.htm)

In addition, we can look from a jet perspective. During the winter months, the warmer waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean help to enhance what is called a split-flow pattern ( e.g. <http://www.theweatherprediction.com/blocking/split.gif> ) across the Continental United States—characterized by a warmer subtropical jet stream across the Southern US, and the colder polar jet across the Northern US (within which we find most of our upper disturbances owing to the more significant temperature gradients encountered). Usually the polar jet controls the southward movement of the cold arctic air, while the subtropical jet will help to hold the colder air further north than San Antonio except under extreme circumstances where the cold arctic air is so potent that it cannot be restrained. This will happen once or maybe twice a year (for example, the recent arctic outbreak in early January; and in 2004 when it snowed in Corpus Christi). When it *does* happen, usually it is a very strong, but very shallow cold air pool by the time it reaches 30° N latitude, and so only effectively lasts for a short period of time.

The short answer is that San Antonio is a subtropical climate too far south to be affected by the polar jet stream on a routine basis, and in order to be affected more routinely by midlatitude systems, you would need to situate yourself further north (i.e. in the midlatitudes—try Amarillo, for example!).

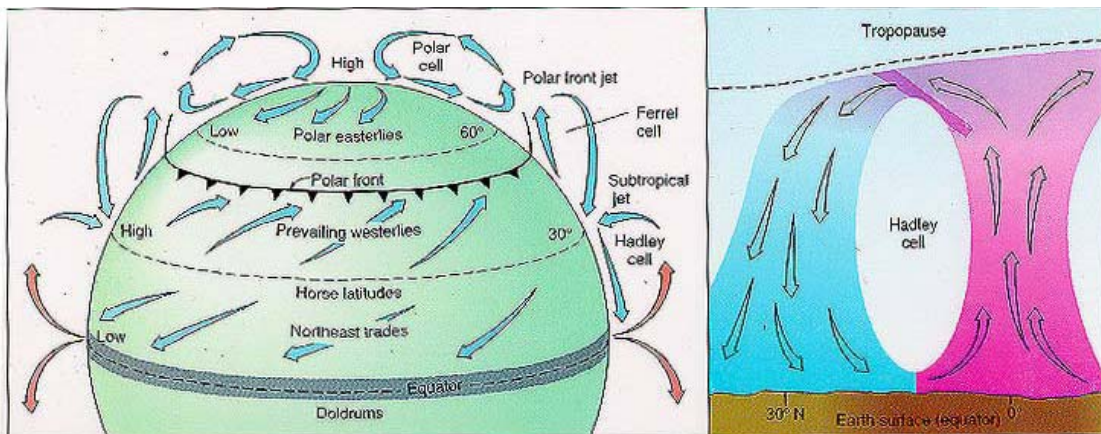


Fig. 12. A three-dimensional look at the hemispheric atmospheric circulations (left) and a cross-section of the Hadley Cell circulation. San Antonio is along the dashed line at 30° N latitude at the southern periphery of the Prevailing Westerlies. (From [http://sparce.evac.ou.edu/q\\_and\\_a/air\\_circulation.htm](http://sparce.evac.ou.edu/q_and_a/air_circulation.htm) )

# ***COOPERATIVE SPOTLIGHT ON...***

**By Tabatha Tripp  
CPM Focal Point**

*and*

**Chris Kimble  
Meteorologist Intern**

## **Frank Shepherd at Channing**

The NWS awarded Mr. Frank Shepherd his 10 year length of service award for his support of the Cooperative Observation program. Frank is a retired Postmaster General with 38 years of federal service. He also served our country in the U.S. Army. He is currently a livestock farmer.



**Fig. 13. Observer Frank Shepherd in Channing**

## **Jeanne Thompson at 4ESE of Hartley**

Mrs. Jeanne Thompson received her 15-year length of service award in support of the NWS Cooperative Observation program. Jeanne began observing in 1991 after the death of her husband, Jack (who began in 1983). The Thompsons became part of the cooperative weather network due to their farming interests. Jeanne now records her rainfall on the internet and provides our NWS office with rainfall as it happens! Thanks go to Jeanne and her family for being faithful observers for the last 23 years.



**Fig. 14. Observer Jeanne Thompson 4 miles ESE of Hartley**

## **LaVaun Kraft at Lipscomb**

LaVaun Kraft has lived in Lipscomb County her entire life. She has been married to Merle Kraft for 45 years. Merle is a rancher and LaVaun has retired from the Lipscomb Post Office after 30 years as Postmaster. Lavaun took over the observation duties for Lipscomb in 1996 when the previous observer was no longer able to take them.



**Fig. 15. LaVaun and Merle Kraft (center) at Lipscomb**

# Kids Weather Hour *Spring 2007*

Kids Weather Hour is returning for the Spring 2007 season. Many classes across the Texas Panhandle have participated in the last three years, and benefited from our educational, fun-filled program. With a new NOAA Weather Radio transmitter in Perryton, Texas, we have expanded our listening area, and Kids Weather Hour is now able to reach out to elementary schools in the Oklahoma Panhandle for the very first time.

Kids Weather Hour is a program designed for elementary school age children who have weather questions. National Weather Service meteorologists answer them during a LIVE broadcast over the NOAA Weather Radio. In December 2006, we mailed information packets to every elementary school in the Amarillo, Borger, Pampa and Perryton listening areas (Fig. 5). This information is designed to help school teachers register their classes for a future Kids Weather Hour broadcast. Students from participating classes will be

eligible for prizes, and every school involved in our program receives one free NOAA Weather Radio receiver courtesy of BWXT PANTEX.

If your school did not receive an information packet or if you are interested in registering your class, please send an e-mail to John Brost at [John.Brost@noaa.gov](mailto:John.Brost@noaa.gov). We look forward to having your school in our next Kids Weather Hour.



Fig. 16. John Brost during Kids Weather Hour

## ***Edward Andrade — November 2006 Employee of the Month***

An Arizona native, Edward Andrade is our most experienced Senior Forecaster, and one of the first forecasters to be hired when the Amarillo office went through its modernization in the early 1990s. Edward studied at the University of Arizona where he obtained BS and MS degrees in Atmospheric Sciences. Afterwards, he entered the National Weather Service as a Meteorologist Intern, and worked at the Weather Forecast Office in Brownsville, Texas before being promoted to a Journeyman Forecaster in Amarillo. His scientific and educational experience raised the standard at our office through his leadership in the Forecast and Warnings and Verification teams. Edward currently serves as the steward of the local union branch of the National Weather Service Employees Organization, and coordinates the operational schedule. When off-duty, he likes reading a good book and going bowling, a sport he has enjoyed since he was 8 years old.

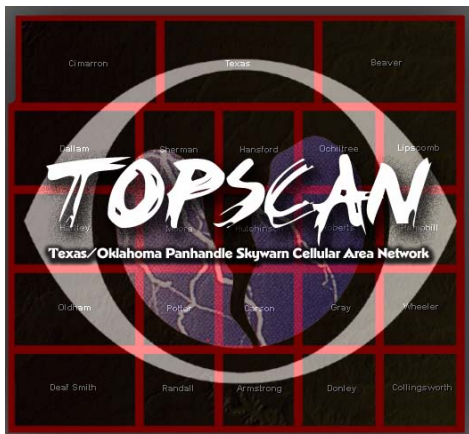
# ***In YOUR Community...***

The National Weather Service in Amarillo has participated in numerous outreach events since our last Dryline issued in September 2006. We would love to participate in an event ***In YOUR Community!!*** To schedule the NWS in your next community event, please email Steve Drillette at [steve.drillette@noaa.gov](mailto:steve.drillette@noaa.gov) , or call 806-335-1121.

Sep 7, 2006	HazCollect Training NWS Amarillo	Hosted by NWS Amarillo, local Emergency Managers and other officials attended training on a new method of disseminating emergency messages to the public.
Sep 11, 2006	StormReady Ceremony Claude, TX	A StormReady Induction Ceremony was held by WCM Steve Drillette, MIC Jose Garcia and Armstrong County Officials at the County Courthouse.
Sep 13-14, 2006	Chamber BBQ Amarillo, TX	The Amarillo NWS competed in the annual Chamber BBQ and took 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place in the Amateur Division!!
Sep 18, 2006	College Tour @ NWS Amarillo	WTAMU Hydrology Class toured the Amarillo NWS office.
Sep 19, 2006	Scout Tour @ NWS Amarillo	A local Girl Scout Troop toured the Amarillo NWS office.
Oct 2, 2006	Palo Duro High School Amarillo, TX	WCM Steve Drillette and Meteorologist Chris Kimble participated in the Cultural Fiesta Celebration at a local High School.
Oct 10, 2006	Scout Tour @ NWS Amarillo	Cub Scout Pack 29 toured the Amarillo NWS office.
Oct 18, 2006	Chamber AISD Education Day @ NWS Amarillo	Several students toured the office as part of the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Education Day with AISD.
Oct 19, 2006	Mega Market Amarillo, TX	WCM Steve Drillette participated in the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Mega Market networking event.
Oct 20, 2006	StormReady Ceremony BWXT Pantex – Amarillo, TX	NWS Deputy Regional Director and MIC Jose Garcia led the StormReady Induction Ceremony held at Pantex.
Nov 8, 2006	Winter Weather Awareness Day Texas & Oklahoma Panhandles	Amarillo NWS and KVII-TV Meteorologists staffed booths at United Market Street promoting winter weather safety and NOAA Weather Radio.
Nov 10, 2006	Emerson Elementary School Amarillo, TX	HMT Steve Bilodeau participated in Career Day at a local Elementary School.

Nov 13, 2006	Rotary Club (East) Amarillo, TX	WCM Steve Drillette gave a presentation on El Niño and the winter forecast to a local Rotary Club.
Nov 17, 2006	Bonham Middle School Amarillo, TX	HMT Steve Bilodeau & WCM Steve Drillette participated in “Career Day” at a local Middle School.
Nov 20, 2006	School Tour @ NWS Amarillo	90 Carver Elementary students toured the Amarillo NWS office.
Nov 21 & Nov 29, 2006	College Tours @ NWS Amarillo	WTAMU Education Majors toured the Amarillo NWS office .
Nov 28, 2006	Texas Master Naturalists Amarillo, TX	Science Officer Rich Wynne gave a presentation on winter weather safety to a local organization.
Nov 27 – 30, 2006	Homeland Security Conference San Antonio, TX	WCM Steve Drillette along with several local Emergency Managers attended the statewide Homeland Security Conference.
Nov 28, 2006	Scout Tour @ NWS Amarillo	Scout Troop 548 toured the Amarillo NWS in order to earn their merit badges.
Dec 1, 2006	Polk Street Lights Parade Amarillo, TX	NWS Amarillo entered a float in the annual “Night of Lights” parade sponsored by Center City of Amarillo.
Dec 5, 2006	NWR Dedication Ceremony Perryton, TX	MIC Jose Garcia, WCM Steve Drillette and local officials conducted a press conference / dedication ceremony for the new weather radio transmitter in Perryton.
Dec 9, 2006	Scout Tour NWS Amarillo	Scout Troop 86 toured the NWS Amarillo Forecast Office and witnessed the weather balloon release.
Dec 14, 2006	Regions Emergency Mgr. Meeting Amarillo, TX	WCM attended the quarterly regional Emergency Manager meeting held at the Civic Center in Amarillo.
<b>Upcoming Events Currently Scheduled</b>		
Feb - April 2007	Spotter Training Sessions Texas & Oklahoma Panhandles	NWS Amarillo staff will conduct spotter training sessions all across the Panhandles. To schedule a session in YOUR COMMUNITY, contact Steve Drillette at <a href="mailto:steve.drillette@noaa.gov">steve.drillette@noaa.gov</a>
Mar 4-10, 2007	Severe Weather Awareness Week Texas and Oklahoma	Tentative dates for Severe Weather Awareness Week as determined by the State Emergency Mgt. agencies.
Mar 10, 2007	Severe Weather Info Booth Westgate Mall – Amarillo, TX	NWS Amarillo will staff a severe weather safety and information booth at Westgate Mall.
Mar 17, 2007	SEVERE WX WORKSHOP Amarillo, TX	NWS Amarillo & Amarillo Emergency Mgt. will conduct a severe weather workshop <i>for the public</i> in the Amarillo Civic Center Heritage Room.

# Interested in becoming an Amarillo NWS Severe Storm Spotter?



## Join TOPSCAN!

TOPSCAN (Texas & Oklahoma Panhandle Skywarn Cellular Area Network) is comprised of trained volunteers, who utilize the cellular phone network to provide timely reports during severe weather.

For more information contact:  
James Mullins, Club President  
806-341-0033 or 806-570-6219  
[james.mullins@cox.net](mailto:james.mullins@cox.net)

### *Roland Nuñez — December 2006 Employee of the Month*

Roland Nuñez is our newest Senior Forecaster. He has been with the National Weather Service since 1989, and worked at the Rapid City, South Dakota and Fort Worth, Texas offices before coming to Amarillo. Roland attended Texas A&M University, where he earned a BS in Meteorology (1984), and studied Telecommunications at Oral Roberts University. While in the U.S. Air Force, he provided weather support to the Strategic Air Command flight operations. Roland currently oversees the Interactive Forecast Preparation System program – the vehicle we use to produce graphical and text forecast products. In addition, he is the chief editor of the Dryline and the team leader of our local leadership education program, called Building Leaders for a Solid Tomorrow (BLAST). When off-duty, Roland spends his time with his wife of 23 years and his five sons, and enjoys camping, hiking, cooking, singing, and when time allows, running.

### *The Dryline*

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•José Garcia—*Publisher and Meteorologist-In-Charge*

- Roland Nuñez—*Editor-in-Chief*
- Matthew Kramar—*Editor*
- Chris Kimble—*Editor*

- Richard Wynne—*Science and Operations Officer*
- Steve Drillette—*Warning Coordination Meteorologist*
- Angela Margrave—*Administrative Assistant*