



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

April/May 2006

SOUTHERN TOPICS

Working Together To Save Lives

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**E. A. DiLoreto
 1915-2006**

Edmund Anthony DiLoreto, former long time Meteorologist In Charge of the San Antonio Weather Service Forecast Office, passed away on April 20, 2006 after complications from a fall. He attended Ohio State University and graduated from Louisiana State University in 1949. He entered the Army Air Corps in 1941 at Kelly Field where they had dirt runways and slept in tents. Their group from Ohio was told not to take winter clothing to Texas because it was a hot southern state. When they arrived at Kelly Field, they experienced one of Texas' 20-degree weather surprises. Ed was a WWII veteran. He served in Midland, Texas where he met and married his wife, Gene Robeson. India was one of the many places he served as a meteorologist. After leaving the military, he continued his meteorology career with the National Weather Service (formerly the U.S. Weather Bureau) retiring in San Antonio after 42 years of service. A memorial service was held Thursday, April 27, 2006, at the Lackland Terrace Church of Christ in San Antonio. Graveside service was held Friday, April 28, 2006, at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER DIVISION

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH

Spring Severe Weather. Spring 2006 is shaping up as one of the busiest severe weather seasons for the Southern Region WFOs since the beginning of the NWS Modernization. Based on preliminary information for the period March 1 through May 15, approximately 6,344 Tornado and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings have been issued by SR WFOs so far this spring, and just over 5,000 severe weather reports have been received. While the latter total will probably decrease once duplicate reports are consolidated for entry to *Storm Data*, it's quite possible we'll record the most severe weather events for this 75 day period since at least the mid-1980s. While it appears we'll fall just



short of the record of 6,476 warnings which was set in 2003, we'll surpass every other year for activity during this spring period.

Virtually every WFO in Southern Region has experienced severe weather this spring, and many offices have been hammered repeatedly. In particular, the following WFOs issued at least 170 Tornado or Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, and preliminarily recorded at least 170 severe weather events during the April 15 to May 15 timeframe: Austin/San Antonio, Birmingham, Fort Worth, Jackson, Norman, San Angelo and Tulsa. Several other offices recorded a somewhat smaller, but still significant number of events during this period.

Most important, our field offices have provided stellar services during the many significant tornado, damaging wind, large hail and flash flooding events that have occurred so far this spring. While our region has experienced several tragic losses of life this spring, in the great majority of cases, tornado and/or severe thunderstorm warning lead times and detection rates have been very good, and hazardous weather communication between our WFOs/RFCs, their partners, and the public has been outstanding. Be it through conference calls, heads-up e-mails and pages, state/county radio systems, amateur radio, Instant Messaging, graphical web products, personal phone calls or face-to-face contact, effective impact communication and strong partner relationships remain core values within our region. These are attributes that have undoubtedly saved lives and minimized injuries during this busy severe weather season.

Corpus Christi Attends Marine Workshop in Monterey, CA. WFO Corpus Christi SOO Ron Morales attended a week long marine workshop with representatives from many coastal offices from throughout the NWS. This workshop, lead and organized by the Western Region, has been conducted for the past seven years, but this was the first time that a representative from the Corpus Christi office had attended. Packed with nearly 25 hours of lecture material, the workshop was a great mix of operational and theoretical marine information. Steve Lyons from the Weather Channel began the workshop with an extensive overview of wave theory and its application to the marine forecast program. Other speakers included folks from the Naval Post Graduate School, the Alaskan Tsunami Warning Center, the National Data Buoy Center, the Ocean Prediction Center, the NWS office at Eureka, and the Army Corps of Engineers. All of the presenters were experts in their fields and extremely enthusiastic. Ron looks forward to passing on what he's learned not only to the Corpus office, but to the other coastal offices across Southern Region.

NASBA EAS Summit II. Southern Region was represented by Walt Zaleski (Regional WCM) and Mike Mach (NWR Program Manager) at the second Emergency Alert System (EAS) Summit that was held in Washington, DC earlier this spring. This summit was hosted by the National Alliance of State Broadcaster Associations (NASBA), which has been assisting with EAS indirectly through broadcast inspection programs. The theme of this year's Summit focused on the role of broadcasters as first responders during major emergencies. EAS Summit II goals included helping the government and media gain a better understanding of the challenges faced in communicating information during a crisis or disaster, sharing best practices, and improving long-term professional relationships among local, state and federal officials and media. A number of case studies were examined and breakout sessions were formed along NWS Regional lines.

Spill Response Workshop. Southern Region Headquarters hosted the Spring 2006 Environmental Spill Response Workshop on May 9-11, 2006. Nineteen NWS IMETs from 5 of the 6 regions attended the course, which was led by 3 NOAA HAZMAT instructors. Southern Region attendees



included: Dan Byrd (WFO Jackson), Eric Christensen (WFO Miami), John Pendergrast (WFO Melbourne), Kent Prochazka (WFO Houston), Jason Runyen (WFO Corpus Christi), and Paul Witsaman (SRH). The course focused on learning about hazardous spills and how to mitigate the impact of these dangerous and sometimes deadly incidents. Special thanks are due to the following SRH staff members who provided logistical help to ensure the workshop's success: Bernard Meisner, Susan Beckwith, Bruce Marshak, Don Pham, Gilbert Sancen, Mario Valverde and Paul Witsaman.

Heatstroke Versus Sunstroke. What's the difference? How should we educate our customers on the two? The following brochure compares the symptoms and treatments of heatstroke and sunstroke:

<http://www.imlrma.org/RiskReminders/IMLRMA%20Risk%20Reminder%20702.pdf>

Important Fan Facts for the Summer. Fans are recognized as a good resource during the hot summer months, but many don't know they can be ineffective (or even harmful) to heat sensitive individuals if not used properly. Here are some reminders for your summer outreach materials:

Do-

- { Do use your fan in or next to a window. Box fans are best.
- { Do use a fan to bring in the cooler air from the outside.
- { Do use your fan by plugging it directly into the wall outlet. If you need an extension cord, the extension cord should be UL (Underwriter Laboratories) approved.

Don't-

- { Don't use a fan in a closed room without windows or doors open to the outside.
- { Don't believe that fans cool air. They don't. They just move the air around. The fans keep you cool by evaporating your sweat.
- { Don't use a fan to blow extremely hot air on yourself. This can cause heat exhaustion to occur more rapidly.

Tenacious Tennon Rescues Buras NWR. Faced with major Hurricane Katrina infrastructure failures that continued to plague parts of southern Louisiana, Regional Maintenance Specialist Larry Tennon initiated an interim solution to restore the Buras, LA NWR station WXL-41 to operational status. Hampered by the lack of commercial electricity, the NWS continues to utilize backup generator power provided by the tower owner, Stratos Offshore Services Company, to supply the transmitter equipment. With no telephone service available, Larry initiated a plan to take the broadcast audio from WFO Slidell to downtown New Orleans, then retransmit the signal via a microwave communications link to return NWR broadcasts to a large part of Plaquemines, Jefferson, and Lafourche parishes. Special accolades are due Larry Tennon for his effort to return service to the Buras NWR transmitter that also services Grand Isle, LA.

HYDROLOGIC SERVICES BRANCH

NWS/IBWC Meeting. The annual NWS/International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) meeting was held in Mercedes, TX on May 10th. The annual interagency meeting topics included



discussions about drought conditions affecting the upper and lower Rio Grande River basin, reservoir conditions in the Rio Grande River Basin, plans for rehabilitating the levee system in the lower Rio Grande River drainage, updating the Memorandum of Understanding between the NWS and the IBWC, and information about the upcoming 2006 hurricane season. NWS representatives included Jerry Nunn, Paul Greer, and Frank Bell from the WGRFC, Ben Weiger from SRH, Tim Brice from WFO El Paso, Jeff Cupo and Lora Mueller from WFO Midland, Joe Arellano from WFO Austin/San Antonio, Scott Cordero from WFO Corpus Christi, and Andy Patrick, Kurt Vanspeybroeck, and Buddy Martin from WFO Brownsville.

The main focus of the meeting discussion was the severe hydrologic drought currently underway in the state of NM and south-central and deep south TX, and its potential impacts in the upper and lower Rio Grande River Basin. Paul Greer and Tim Brice both mentioned that storage at Elephant Butte Reservoir is forecast to fall to a 35-year low by September. The March-July 2006 forecast flows are 11% of normal into the Elephant Butte Reservoir. This could have significant impacts on water supply and interstate water compacts.

At the end of the formal meeting, personnel from the IBWC's Mercedes field office took the NWS attendees on a tour of Anzalduas and Retamal dams. These are multi-purpose dams that provide flood protection and water supply for stakeholders upstream and downstream of these dams. During times of significant flood flows, these dams will divert flood flows to floodways on both the Mexican and U.S. side to mitigate the flood impacts to life, property, and extensive agricultural farmlands that are irrigated with water from the Rio Grande River.

Flood Plain Managers Meeting. On April 26th, Jerry Nunn, HIC from WGRFC, accompanied by Senior HAS forecaster Greg Shelton, HAS Forecaster Greg Story, and Hydrologists Gregg Waller and Tracy Howieson attended a day-long workshop at the Texas Flood Plain Managers Association meeting in Abilene, TX. Greg Shelton discussed HAS operations at the WGRFC, Greg Story discussed the use of the WSR-88D as a flash flood and flood forecasting tool, and Gregg Waller discussed the hydrologic forecast process at the WGRFC.

NSSL Visit. Kevin Scharfenberg, a research meteorologist performing contract work for the National Severe Storms Lab (NSSL), visited ABRFC to provide an overview of the Dual-Polarization Radar Project. ABRFC staff will be one of several groups evaluating products produced by the research radar. The ABRFC radar product evaluation will be conducted online and will commence in several months.

DISSEMINATION ENHANCEMENT TEAM

NOAANet. As part of the effort to keep you informed about developments involving the NWS IT Consolidation efforts, here's the latest status on NOAANet. The project is still moving forward, but at a slower pace than earlier expected.

A decision has been made to install another router at your office. This new router will NOT replace your current router. In the scheme of the MPLS world (Multi Protocol Label Switching), this new router is called a CE router (Customer Edge). It will replace the functionality of the present day DSU/CSU we utilize today. Instead of having a serial connection between the DSU/CSU and our router, the present design shows an ethernet connection being used for the connection between our present router and the CE router. At most Southern Region sites, we do not have an available



ethernet port to make the connection between our router and the new CE router. We are working with NWS Headquarters personnel to resolve this issue.

Part of the NOAA Net concept of operations will be centrally managed CE routers.

At this time, the plan is to have the carrier install, manage, maintain, and monitor these routers for NWS. A NOAA Net NOC (Network Operations Center) is being planned. The vision is that this center will be staffed 24x7 to support the network and will assume the management, maintenance, and monitoring functions of the network from the carrier once it is in place. Yes, a backup NOC is part of the plan. Where this backup NOC will be located is still in the discussion phase. The NWS has been designated the NOAA line office to provide network services within the "One NOAA" concept. Eventually, all NOAA network services should be part of NOAA Net.

The new CE router is envisioned to be installed in one of the AWIPS racks. A modification note will be provided to give the necessary authorization and instructions for the router (and any other NOAA Net equipment) installation that may be necessary.

In the security realm, the NWS will come up on our own NOAA Net MPLS VPN (Virtual Private Network). A pilot program is underway in Central Region to demonstrate the MPLS functionality to the AWIPS program, and we envision them coming up on their own VPN. Today, both regional WANs and AWIPS share the same DSU/CSU for frame-relay connectivity. In the MPLS world, the CE router will perform the same task. As of today, one of the requirements for the CE router is that it is supposed to be able to support multiple logical firewalls (one for the NOAA Net VPN, one for the AWIPS VPN, one for ???). Details of the security portion of NOAA Net are still in the planning stages.

The best estimate of when we will begin NOAA Net installations on a large scale basis is in the July 2006 to August 2006 time frame. In the meantime, we'll try to keep you informed. If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Marshak.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

New GOES WEST Satellite. GOES-11 is scheduled to replace GOES-10 as the GOES-West operational spacecraft on June 27, 2006. GOES-10 was launched April 25, 1997, and became the operational GOES-WEST satellite on 27 July 1998 after GOES 9 began failing. Now GOES-10 is nearing the end of its useful life. GOES-12 became the operational GOES-East satellite in April, 2003.

Characteristics of the GOES-11 Imager and Sounder are similar to those on GOES-10. GOES-11 is currently being taken out of on-orbit storage at 105 degrees West and being moved to the 135 degrees West position. Pending the successful launch and checkout of GOES-N (launch scheduled for May 20, 2006), and successful arrival of GOES-11 at 135 degrees West, GOES-10 will be moved to 60 degrees West at a rate of 0.6 degrees per day for South American support in October 2006. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.oso.noaa.gov/goes/>

Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology. Over 500 scientists participated in the American Meteorological Society's 27th Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology in Monterey, Calif. The conference included special sessions on the Diurnal Variability of



Precipitation; the North American Monsoon Experiment (NAMEX); NASA's Tropical Cloud Systems and Processes experiment that was based in Costa Rica during July 2005; the Coupled Boundary Layers Air-Sea Transfer Low Wind and Hurricane Components (CBLAST-Low and CBLAST Hurricane); and the Hurricane Rainband and Intensity Change Experiment (RAINEX), an aircraft investigation of hurricane intensity changes associated with eyewall-rainband interactions.

One highlight of RAINEX shown at the conference was Doppler radar data of the inner and outer eyewalls of Hurricane Rita collected during a 20 minute circumnavigation of the storm by the Naval Research Laboratory's P-3 aircraft. Another highlight was an evening discussion of what is known, and not known, concerning the relationship between hurricane intensity and global climate change.

The conference program is available at:

http://ams.confex.com/ams/27Hurricanes/techprogram/program_339.htm

Recorded versions of many of the presentations made during the conference are available through that link.

June Visit Teletraining Calendar. The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) calendar for June is available. A one-page printable planning version of the calendar is available at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/planning.html?5>

The teletraining calendar is available at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ecal.asp>

Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu

The sessions planned for June are:

- * Pulse Thunderstorms, Overview and Warning Strategy (Basic, June 6)
- * Forecasting Convective Downburst Potential Using GOES Sounder Derived Products (Basic, June 14, 28)
- * Use of GOES/RSO imagery with other Remote Sensor Data for Diagnosing Severe Weather across CONUS (Intermediate, Part I June 20, Part II June 21)
- * The Enhanced-V: A Satellite Severe Storm Signature (Basic, June 19)

Recorded VISIT sessions are available through the NWS Learning Management System catalog at: <http://e-learning.doc.gov/coursecatalog/index.cfm> (Select National Weather Service Courses, then search for the term VISIT.) All previous teletraining sessions, including those with recorded instructor audio and annotations, are available at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ts.html>

NAM Model Upgrade Still Set for June. On June 13th, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction plan to switch from the North American mesoscale Eta (NAM-Eta) model to the Non-hydrostatic mesoscale model (NAM-NMM) coded to the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model standard. (The NAM is simply the modeling slot where these models run and the WRF is a modeling framework.) The new NMM will run at the same horizontal resolution (12 Km) and across the same domain as the Eta, physics should be similar to the Eta, and AWIPS output grids from the new NMM will simply replace the output grids for the Eta. The differences will be mostly in the initial conditions, vertical resolution and coordinate system, numerics, and dynamics. For more details, see the COMET produced 90 minute Webcast on the new NAM-NMM available at: <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/nwp/NAMWRF/splash.htm>

The evaluation mentioned in the last version of topics should continue through early June. After the evaluation period, when final details are known and forecast lessons from the evaluation period have



been learned, a revised Webcast will be released as a source of background information on the model. The Webcast linked above is intended only for evaluators or anyone else needing this training before the public version is released. Additionally, after the evaluation period, teletraining will be developed focusing on forecast performance, with lots of case examples.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS			
<u>April/May 2006</u>			
<u>Southern Region Losses</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>From (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>From Title/Grade</u>
Howard Bookman	CWSU ATL	Retirement	Forecaster, GS-12
James W. Boone	WFO JAX	Retirement	HMT, GS-11
Michael J. Murphy	WFO OHX	Retirement	Service Hydrologist, GS-13
Paul M. Iniguez	WFO LZK	Transfer to WR	Intern, GS-11

<u>Southern Region Gains</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Randall A. Skov	CWSU ATL	Converted to career-conditional	Avn Met, GS-12
Bryan A. Mroczka	WFO TAE	Reassign from Central Region	Forecaster, GS-9
William C. Snyder	WFO LIX	Reassign from Western Region	ITO, GS-13
James C. Fairly	WFO JAN	New Hire	Intern, GS-7
Nicholas M. Fillo	WFO SHV	New Hire	Intern, GS-7
Kenneth B. Haynie	WFO LUB	New Hire	Elec Tech, GS-9
Edmund C. Tarver, Jr.	WFO JAN	New Hire	Met Inter, GS-7

<u>Within Region Transfers/Actions</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Mark J. Wiley	WFO CRP	Reassign	Forecaster, GS-12
Michael D. Castillo	WFO HGX	Reassign	Forecaster, GS-12
Jason T. Dunn	WFO FWD	Reassign	Forecaster, GS-11
Geoggrey Bogorad	WFO BRO	Promotion	Lead Forecaster, GS-13



<u>Within Region Transfers/Actions cont.</u>			
Gary Skwira	WFO LUB	Promotion	Forecaster, GS-9
Jeffrey Dobur	RFC ALR	Promotion	Senior Hydrologist, GS-13
Holly M. Allen	WFO HUN	New Hire (SCEP)	Met Intern, GS-11
John R. Crawford	WFO LCH	Reassign	Elec Tech, GS-11
Ashley Wester	WFO JAN	Promotion	Forecaster, GS-7
Brian J. Guyer	WFO ABQ	Transfer from ER	Forecaster, GS-11
Jesus Figueroa	WFO SJU	Promotion on station	Forecaster, GS-11
Samuel Shamburger	WFO LCH	Promotion on station	Forecaster, GS-9

Local Leadership Meetings at WFO Corpus Christi. On April 11th, several WFO Corpus Christi staff members participated in a leadership meeting, in what was the third in a series of leadership meetings that have been held in 2006. During the first two meetings staff members watched Coach John Wooden’s “Values, Victory and Peace of Mind”, as well as the original movie “12 Angry Men”, then participated in an informal discussion. During the latest meeting, staff members watched a Star Trek – Next Generation episode entitled “Tapestry”, which teaches many important elements of leadership. In attendance during the latest meeting were Mike Buchanan, Alan Del Castillo, Scott Cordero, Mike Gittinger, John Metz, Ron Morales, Jason Runyen, Joel Veeneman, and Mark Wiley.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

CROEM High School Tours WFO San Juan. On April 19 WFO San Juan forecaster Orlando Bermudez conducted an office tour for 26 students from CROEM High School from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. CROEM is a residential school for talented students selected from all over the island and specializes in math and science.

WFO Key West School Tours. Forecaster Laura Kasper and WCM Jon Rizzo provided a tour to 22 home-schooled students and parents. The students were educated on how weather observations are collected, how satellites and Doppler radar works, hurricane safety, and how NWS forecasts and warnings are made available to the public. Senior Forecaster Mike Rapsik also provided a tour of the WFO Key West facility and operations to students in the High School-High Tech program from Fort Myers, Florida. The program, a compliment to the instruction available at many Florida schools, provides high school students with learning disabilities an opportunity to learn about high-tech careers and technology in the workplace. As a result of the tour, the High School High Tech programs within the Florida Keys have scheduled sessions at the WFO Key West in future months.

COOP Appreciation Day in Albuquerque. WFO Albuquerque was filled with streams of cooperative weather observers at the 2nd annual "Cooperative Weather Observer Appreciation Day" on April 21. Numerous staff members were involved in making informal presentations, providing tours, and directing guests to the abundant food supply provided by the staff. Guests were from a



wide range of ABQ's constituency, and while a number of them were from the Albuquerque City Rainfall network, others traveled from as far away as Roswe.

Texas Hill Country Urbanization and Flash Flood Workshops. WFO Austin/San Antonio hosted two Flash Flood and Urbanization Workshops in April. The first was held on April 7 in San Antonio and was co-sponsored by the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG). The second was held on April 8 in Austin and was co-sponsored by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). The purpose of the workshops was to promote awareness among NWS partners of the increasing threat urbanization brings for flash flooding to the Texas Hill Country and Interstate 35 Corridor. The keynote speaker was Dr. Eve Grunfest of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Many in the NWS are familiar with her from previous conferences and meetings, and from her COMET Webcast on the societal aspects of flash flooding. Other speakers included Dr. John Sharp, Professor of Geology from the University of Texas at Austin, Roy Sedwick, Executive Director of the Texas Floodplain Manager's Association, and MIC Joe Arellano, WCM Larry Eblen, SOO Jon Zeitler, and SSH Mark Lenz from WFO Austin/San Antonio. Also attending the workshops were WFO Corpus Christi MIC Scott Cordero and Senior Forecaster Greg Wilk, WFO Brownsville SOO Kurt Vanspeybroeck, and West Gulf RFC HIC Jerry Nunn. A number of folks at WFO EWX deserve credit for organizing these workshops, including forecasters Mark Brundrett, Clay Anderson, Constantine Pashos, Cammye Sims, and ASA Norma Jones. Terrific job folks!

Shreveport Presents Bass Pro Outdoor Weather Safety Class. Through a partnership with Bass Pro Shops of Bossier City, Louisiana, WFO Shreveport forecasters Bill Parker and Mike Berry recently presented an Outdoor Weather Safety Class at the Bass Pro store in Bossier City. The subject of the class was severe weather safety for campers and boaters, and coincided with Bass Pro's "Camping and Fishing Extravaganza". A special camping and fishing tri-fold pamphlet was made by Mike Berry, which included topics from the slide presentation and a coverage list of NOAA Weather Radio transmitters for area lakes.

School Outreach. WFO Tallahassee Senior Service Hydrologist Joel Lanier recently gave a weather demonstration to 55 students and 4 teachers from Pineview Elementary in Tallahassee. At his presentation station, Joel provided information about an Ultimeter weather station, upper air equipment including balloon and radiosonde, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, various rain gages, and a hail display. The most important information shared with the students was the lightning safety 30/30 rule and a review of unsafe activities during a lightning storm. The second major hazard discussed was how to avoid and escape rip currents. These are the primary hazards children and teenagers face in the summer months in Florida. Joel also covered several other topics, including pre-planning for disasters with emphasis on pets, things *not* to do after a disaster, and actions to take in the event of a tornado.

WFO Little Rock Participates with Boy Scouts to Produce 30-Minute TV Program. On April 3rd WFO Little Rock Senior Forecaster Newton Skiles participated with a local Boy Scout troop to produce a 30-minute television program titled "Be Prepared." The program was funded by a local bank and other businesses. A portion of the program was taped at the WFO. The purpose of the program was to provide information regarding emergency protocol of the various agencies in the local area. Newton discussed the types of watches and warnings the (NWS) issues, how residents can get their severe weather watches and warnings, and how the NWS coordinates with other agencies during natural disasters.

RFC Fort Worth Goes to High School. On 04/10/06 Hydro Tech Joann Lewis participated in a



Teacher and Parent Appreciation Day activity at I.M. Terrell Elementary School in Ft. Worth. Joann graduated from I. M. Terrell when it was a high school, remains active in the Alumni Association and assists with various school activities.

NOAA Environmental Hero Award. On April 25 WGRFC HIC Jerry Nunn, accompanied by Deputy Regional Director Steven Cooper, Public Affairs Officer Ron Trumbla, HAS Forecaster Greg Story, and Hydrologist Tracy Howieson traveled to Abilene, TX to attend the Texas Floodplain Managers Association (TFMA) Awards Luncheon. At the luncheon Steven Cooper presented a NOAA Environmental Hero Award to the TFMA Executive Director Roy Sedwick.

WFO Memphis Area Spotter Talk. WFO Memphis had 164 attendees at the Agri-Center in East Memphis on April 8th for Spotter Talks. This diverse and record turnout was spurred by the two severe weather outbreaks on April 2nd and 7th.

WFO Amarillo Participates in Business Connection 2006. WFO Amarillo participated in the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce annual Business Connection 2006 on May 9th. The event was held at the Amarillo Civic Center and was a huge success with over 400 vendors on hand and nearly 10,000 visitors. Approximately 1000 people visited the Amarillo NWS booth. Chamber of Commerce officials touted the success of the event as having the largest number of attendees and vendors ever. WFO Amarillo has staffed a booth at the event for the last 5 years.

WFO Amarillo Interacts With Girl Scouts at Annual Event. For the second consecutive year, WFO Amarillo participated in a Girl Scout Day@ held at the Amarillo Civic Center on Saturday, April 22nd. Hundreds of girl scouts from across the Texas Panhandle participated by visiting many Aeducational@ booths staffed by area businesses and organizations.

WFO Amarillo Participates in the First Annual “Top of Texas Career Day”

On Wednesday May 3rd nearly 2500 high school sophomore students from across the Texas Panhandle attended the “Top of Texas Career Day” at the West Texas A&M University Special Event Center. Approximately 250 students visited the Amarillo NWS booth.

Kids Visit WFO Amarillo=s Booth at AGeneration 2000 - A Children=s Fair@. For the second consecutive year, WFO Amarillo participated in AGeneration 2000 - A Children=s Fair@ on Saturday, April 29th. The free event sponsored by Clear Channel Radio, is attended by thousands of elementary kids from the Amarillo area. Hundreds of businesses and organization provide information and Ahands-on@ activities specifically for kids. WFO Amarillo treated kids to a self-made Atornado-in-a-bottle@. The tornadoes were made in small plastic bottles filled with water, a touch of dishwashing soap, and food coloring. Over 800 kids visited the NWS booth and received their Acomplimentary tornado@.

WFO Midland Develops Severe Weather Safety Guides. WFO Midland is very excited to announce that WFO Midland, the Odessa American newspaper, and the City of Odessa have completed a project where they developed stunning, multi-color "Severe Weather Safety Guides" that are being distributed as an insert to 30,000 homes.

Turn Around Don’t Drown. WFO Midland worked with emergency managers and elected officials from Midland and Odessa, along with all the major television stations in the area to develop



flash flood public service announcements that are being run on-air during the spring and summer months. During last year's flooding in Midland County, 19 high water rescues were performed. This project involved inviting partners out to WFO Midland, where the PSAs were produced in front of emergency response vehicles. These PSAs also included the "Turn Around Don't Drown" message.

HAM Fest. WFO Midland ESA Wayne Patterson, ASA Beverly Martin and WCM Pat Vester participated in the Midland HAM Fest this year. This provided a great opportunity to meet with valued partners in the amateur radio community.

WFO Midland Host Live TV Special. WFO Midland hosted a live 30-minute TV special called the "5th Season" on Tuesday evening, May 2nd at the WFO. This TV special, by CBS-affiliate KWES-TV, discusses/highlights the current severe weather season across West Texas. WCM Pat Vesper will be providing live interviews during this TV special.

WFO Midland, Texas Participates in local Relay for Life. TEAM NWS Midland (from L to R Wayne Patterson, Rebecca Gould, Greg Jackson, Alline Brite, Lora Mueller, Eddie Brite, Beverly Martin, David Marsalek (not pictured) and Pat Vesper (not pictured)) participated in the local Relay for Life which benefits cancer research. This year's race was held on Friday, April 22 through Saturday, April 23 on the campus of Midland College.



There were a total of 22 teams in attendance at the relay and each team had to have at least one member on the track at all times

between 7PM and 7AM with the team baton. Each team also had to provide a game for other team members to take part in overnight.



TEAM NWS Midland chose to make a game similar to Pin the Tail on the Donkey, but instead 5 natural disasters (tornado, hurricane, blizzard, volcano, and earthquake) were chosen and the blind-folded participant would attempt to place the disaster in its most commonly found location on a national map. This educational game was intended to demonstrate that while most disasters tend to happen in certain geographical locations, they can and do happen anywhere. As TEAM NWS Midland walked along the track, they carried a



lightning bolt-shaped baton made especially for the event by ESA Wayne Patterson and wore a bright orange vest with lights, reflectors, and NWS identification to be easily located during the relay.

WFO Shreveport Meets with Jarvis Christian College. On May 2nd MIC Armando Garza, WCM Mark Frazier and Forecaster Bill Parker made a visit to meet with faculty members of Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, TX. Jarvis is listed as a Historically Black College and serves many minorities from the East Texas area. They met to discuss plans for the 2nd Weather Camp, which is a weather oriented learning program put on for middle and high school students visiting Jarvis every summer. This year they will spend four days at Jarvis over a two week period discussing topics about the Atmosphere, Oceans, Synoptic Meteorology, and Tropical Weather. Students will be



assisted in developing projects based on these four subjects to present to their peers and the faculty at the end of summer visit.

CWSU Memphis Participates in Summer Weather Hazards Workshop. The Memphis ATOMS team participated in a "Summer Weather Hazards" thunderstorm workshop for pilots on April 25. The workshop was held at the Pan Am Flight School in Memphis and attracted about 50 pilots. The show was an FAA WINGS event hosted by FSDO Safety Manager Nadine Yeager. ATOMS team members WFO MEG Lead Forecaster Anthony Cavallucci, CWSU ZME MIC Doug Boyette and retired volunteer Jim Duke provided presentations on thunderstorm formation and development, weather map clues to thunderstorm formation, and wind shear/microburst hazards.

WFO Shreveport Presents Bass Pro Outdoor Weather Safety Class. Through a partnership with Bass Pro Shops of Bossier City LA, WFO Shreveport forecaster Bill Parker and Lead Forecaster Mike Berry presented an Outdoor Weather Safety Class April 15th at the Bass Pro store in Bossier City. The subject was Severe Weather Safety for Campers and Boaters, and was focused around Bass Pro's Camping and Fishing Extravaganza. The class consisted of basic severe weather preparedness, however, tailored specifically for campers and boaters. A special camping and fishing tri-fold pamphlet was designed by Lead Forecaster Mike Berry and included topics from the slide presentation and a coverage list of NOAA Weather Radio transmitters for area lakes.



WFO Shreveport Forecaster Bill Parker (right) Lead Forecaster Mike Berry (center) with the Promotions Manager, Mr. David Gray (left).

SMG Participates in Career Days. SMG MIC Frank Brody, Contract Meteorologist Brian Hoeth and ASA Tammi Barreras, participated in Career Day events at Morales Elementary and Jessup Elementary in Pasadena, TX on April 28, 2006. Staff from SMG visited other elementary schools during the month giving presentation and encouragement to young minds.

WFO Birmingham Hosts Inner-City School. WFO Birmingham participated in Jefferson County's Project Impact for Community Safety and Awareness Day at the end of March. For the third year in a row, the grand prize winner selected from all participating schools had the opportunity to spend a morning at the office before being treated to lunch by the Project Impact Committee at a local pizza restaurant. This year's winner was Mrs. McConnell 4th and 5th grade classes from Cathedral Christian School. Being an inner-city Birmingham school there are not many chances to take field trips, so the classes were excited to be at the WFO. MIC Jim Stefkovich, and Lead Forecaster Faith Borden, taught the students about the National Weather Service and what we



do to protect lives and property.

WFO El Paso Celebrates Ten Years. On May 16, 1996 the National Weather Service Office (WFO) in Santa Teresa, NM (EPZ) was dedicated as it began its spin-up during the Modernization Era. Though the office had been serving the El Paso area from more than 10 locations since 1877, this commissioning was significant as the new building would accommodate the staffing of a full WFO and WSR-88D operations. Those present at the dedication was then Southern Region Director, Harry Hassel, and Meteorologist-In-Charge, Max Blood, as well as eight of the current staff members. On May 17, 2006, WFO EPZ will celebrate its 10 year anniversary of its facility by having an open house. In addition to a pot luck luncheon furnished by staff members, Borderland NWS partners and constituents including members of the area media, law enforcement, emergency management and EPZ retirees are among those invited. WFO EPZ is proud of its involvement with the communities within its area of responsibility and anticipates this relationship and high level of service to continue in the future. Congratulations WFO El Paso.

WFO and CWSU Albuquerque Present Aviation Weather. On April 14th WFO ABQ Forecaster David Craft and CWSU Albuquerque Meteorologist Alberta Vieira gave a presentation on aviation weather to Bode Aircraft pilots. A second aviation presentation was given to the New Mexico Air National Guard Pilots on April 28, 2006. The locally developed presentation covers a variety of weather hazards including smoke and haze obscurations, strong wind events, low level wind shear, thunderstorms, microbursts, the dryline, mountain wave turbulence and icing. Forecasters also explained the process of creating, monitoring and updating Center Weather Advisories, the Collaborative Convective Forecast Product, Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts and Transcribed Weather Broadcasts. The Power Point briefing concluded with a trip to the Internet, where pilots learned about new features like RIDGE-radar overlays, the Hourly Weather Graph, and graphical forecasts from the National Digital Forecast Database.

On April 3rd WFO ABQ MIC Charlie Liles and SOO Deirdre Kann both acted as guest lecturers for the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of New Mexico. Charlie met with students in a seminar class devoted to drought to give a talk on drought monitoring efforts in New Mexico, including past, present and future trends. Deirdre's lecture, for an Introduction to Meteorology class, covered severe weather climatology in New Mexico.

RFC Slidell Serves With FEB. Hydrologists Laurie Hall and Gina Tillis-Nash served on the Special Events/Outreach and Media/Publicity committees of the Federal Executive Board (FEB) to help bring the New Orleans FEB's Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) events to fruition. Their participation was especially valued this year, since Katrina left many agencies in the New Orleans metro area with limited resources for the PSRW celebration. The PSRW's "Serving Community before Self" festivities kicked off with an essay contest for high-school students. Since many schools had been devastated by Katrina, coordination was necessary with numerous school board districts and private schools to obtain contact information and encourage student involvement. The LMRFC team members completed most of the coordination.

WFO Tallahassee Gets Involved with the Deaf/Hearing Impaired. On March 29 MIC Paul Duval attended a meeting of the Alabama Committee for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired at Ft. Rucker, Alabama. The Ft. Rucker warning and notification programs were highlighted, and committee continued to explore ways in which existing technology could be utilized to provide



warnings and information to individuals who cannot hear audible alarms. Presentations were given by several private companies on what they had available and the estimated cost of providing such things as pagers to folks who are hearing impaired.

WFO Tallahassee Participates in Hurricane Preparedness Seminar. On March 30 Forecaster Jennifer McNatt participated at a joint hurricane preparedness seminar for residents of Jackson County, Florida, co-sponsored by the NWS, WJHG-TV Panama City, and a number of local government and emergency management officials, law enforcement and private agencies. Over 100 residents attended the evening seminar, which was held at the Marianna, Florida Ag. Center.

Fireline Refresher. On March 22nd, Fire Weather Focal Point Jason Runyen, from WFO Corpus Christi, attended the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge's annual fireline refresher. At the refresher, Jason gave a presentation covering the spring/summer drought outlook, hurricane outlook, and spot forecast process. He also participated in a table top exercise.

Corpus Christi, Houston, San Antonio, and SR SSD Help Revitalize CIAMS with Texas A&M College Station. Ron Morales (SOO WFO CRP), Jason Runyen (forecaster CRP), Steve Allen (SOO HGX), Kent Prochazka (lead forecaster HGX), Joe Arellano (MIC EWX), and Bernard Misner (SR SSD) attended a seminar series lead by Texas A&M College Station (TAMU) meteorology faculty members. Nearly 40 meteorology students from TAMU also attended the seminar. This meeting was an effort to reinstitute a more formal and regular exchange of science, technology and operational considerations related to atmospheric science between the NWS and the academic community. Meetings such as this were previously conducted under the Cooperative Institute for Applied Meteorological Studies ([CIAMS](#)). All parties have demonstrated a great deal of enthusiasm to continue these meetings on a regular basis. Presentations for the next meeting are scheduled for the Fall of 2006, and will be lead by the NWS Offices at CRP, HGX and EWX.

Corpus Christi Continues Annual Weather Training with Texas A&M International University (TAMIU). Ron Morales (SOO WFO CRP) gave a two hour presentation on South Texas severe weather to 20 non science students at TAMIU, Laredo. Similar presentations have been given annually for the past several years as a supplement to a basic atmospheric science class taught by Dr. Tobin (Director of the Center for Earth and Environmental Studies). Professor Tobin also had the class visit the WFO at Corpus Christi for a tour of the operations area, a presentation on NWS products and services, and an opportunity to watch a launch of the upper air balloon. Tom Dever (HMT CRP) and Tony Merriman (intern CRP) lead the upper air demonstration. The students then took the data from the launch back to their class to plot on a Skew-T. One of the students from the class is planning on pursuing a degree in meteorology at Texas A&M College Station. This same student also visited the Corpus Christi office last summer to shadow operations with Ron.

WFO Corpus Christi Hurricane Preparedness. Scott Cordero (MIC), John Metz (WCM), and Forecaster Mark Wiley participated in the Mid Coast Hurricane Conference held in Victoria Texas on April 30th. Over 300 people were in attendance including local elected officials, emergency responders, local business owners and general citizens. John conducted two back to back presentations titled "Prepare as if this was our Year." Within the presentation, John reviewed the unprecedented 2005 hurricane season, described the impacts the mid Texas coast may experience from a major hurricane, provided an outlook to the 2006 hurricane season, and encouraged everyone



to prepare as if this was our year for a direct hit from a major hurricane. Hurricane guides were distributed to all attendees.

WFO Corpus Christi also conducted training for elected officials and emergency responders at the Texas A&M Corpus Christi Hurricane Symposium on Apr 24th. John Metz (WCM) conducted training on Hurrevac and NWS Products during two breakout sessions. Approximately 40 people were in attendance. John Metz (WCM) participated in a town hall meeting to discuss hurricane preparedness at Port Aransas Texas on May 4th. The City of Corpus Christi Emergency Management Office, Texas DPS, and City of Port Aransas Mayor were all in attendance. John conducted a 45 minute presentation titled “Prepare as if this was our Year” and handed out brochures to all attendees. About 50 local citizens were in attendance. The meeting was broadcast live on the public access channel and taped for future playback.

