



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

**July 2006**

**SOUTHERN TOPICS**

*Working Together To Save Lives*

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**NWS & Former President Carter Honor University of Georgia  
 Weather Observers**



**(L to R) WFO Atlanta Cooperative Observer Program Manager Nathan Mayes; Southern Region Cooperative Observer Program Manager Mike Asmus; President Carter; SW Research and Education Center Supt. Stan Jones; Dr. Steve Brown, Asst. Dean, University of Georgia Agriculture and Environmental Science Dept.; and, WFO Atlanta Science and Operations Officer Gary Beeley. (Photo: Christopher Carney, WFO Atlanta)**

Former President Jimmy Carter, officials from the National Weather Service Southern Region Headquarters and the Forecast Office in Peachtree City, Georgia, presented the "Honored Institution Award" to the University of Georgia's [Southwest Research and Education Center](#) in Plains. This



prestigious award recognized the center for 50 years of weather observations and cooperative service to the National Weather Service.

"I am pleased to be able to present this award to the exceptional staff of the Southwest Research and Education Center," said Carter. "As a resident of Plains and a farmer, I depend on the accurate reports collected by this outstanding facility."

Southwest Research and Education Center Supervisor Stan Jones accepted the award on behalf of the university and participating staff members. The center began providing weather observations in January of 1956. Currently, the staff monitors and provides daily reports on temperature, precipitation, evaporation and soil temperatures to the Weather Forecast Office in Peachtree City.

## CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER DIVISION

### METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH

**Heat Factoid.** Approximately 400 Americans die each year due to summer's heat and humidity. Excessive heat caused more deaths from 1994 to 2003 than floods, lightning, tornadoes, hurricanes, winter storms and extreme cold, making it the No. 1 weather-related cause of death. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Weather Service, cited by PRNewswire*

**Excessive Heat Events Guidebook and other Heat Resources.** After two years of conference calls and review, the EPA has announced the release of a heat guide entitled, *Excessive Heat Events Guidebook*. EPA worked with federal, state, local, and academic partners to develop guidance to assist communities in preparing for and responding to excessive heat events. The Guidebook was developed by EPA's Office of Atmospheric Programs (OAP) and EPA's Aging Initiative (in the Office of Children's Health) in collaboration with the NWS (including a few SR folks), NOAA, CDC, and FEMA, with input from a wide range of local officials and national experts on heat events. This guidebook can be downloaded at: [http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/about/pdf/EHEguide\\_final.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/about/pdf/EHEguide_final.pdf)

EPA has also prepared a "Guidebook in Brief" which contains a summary of key messages from the Guidebook: [http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/about/pdf/EHEguide-brief\\_final.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/about/pdf/EHEguide-brief_final.pdf)

Additional background information is available at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/about/heatguidebook.html>

EPA extreme heat webpage: <http://www.epa.gov/naturalevents/extremeheat.html>

**Service Backup.** Available on the Backup Intranet webpage is a list of important backup service reminders. Take a moment to look at this list and ensure you're ready for the expected (and unexpected) backup situation: <http://lucretia.srh.noaa.gov/srh/backup.html>

Backup may be one of the least glamorous topics in the NWS. However, because it's infrequent and can occur during a critical weather situation, it is important that we ensure proper coverage in drills, SDM reviews, and AWIPS installs/backup operations.



**Boater Safety.** It's crucial for NWS employees to stress during talks that people in boats need to WEAR their life jackets. It's not the life jacket that saves lives - it's wearing them that saves lives. Keeping your life jacket "handy" is like saying you'll buckle your seat belt when you see a crash coming. Additionally, the life vests nowadays are very sporty looking. To see more information about boating safety, view this [presentation](#) on the SR Intranet about Operation BoatSmart. See also: [Boating Safety Tips](#).

**Tsunami Resources.** A number of tsunami education materials are available at this website: [http://ioc3.unesco.org/ptws/awareness\\_education\\_materials.htm](http://ioc3.unesco.org/ptws/awareness_education_materials.htm)

Also, don't forget the Tsunami Glossary Customizable document (no available in MS Word), which can be found at: <http://ioc3.unesco.org/itic/contents.php?id=328>

TsunamiTeacher. A "TsunamiTeacher" Information and Resource Toolkit is being developed to assist in the communication of tsunami risk to the public. The Toolkit brings together a wealth of new and existing information on tsunamis into a single, reliable, and verified global resource that is widely accessible to individuals, groups and governments around the world. TsunamiTeacher aims to build awareness and the capacity to respond and mitigate the impact of tsunamis through the sharing of knowledge, research, and best practices. Materials are available that can be adapted to develop locally-relevant responses.

Presently, TsunamiTeacher is undergoing final review and editing and is planned to be available in hard copy (DVD) for a launching at the ICG/IOTWS-III in Bali, Indonesia at the end of July 2006. It will also be available electronically through the web. The base language is English. Presently, we have funding or contributions for the translation of TsunamiTeacher into Bahasa Indonesia, Bangladesh Bangla, French, Spanish, and Thai.

TsunamiTeacher Overview document: <http://ioc3.unesco.org/ptws/documents/TTOverview.pdf>

Information Document: [http://ioc3.unesco.org/ptws/documents/TsunamiTeacher\\_info\\_document.pdf](http://ioc3.unesco.org/ptws/documents/TsunamiTeacher_info_document.pdf)

**Graphiccasts Receive Accolades.** In a continuing effort to reach out to increasingly sophisticated users of weather information, WFO San Angelo implemented web Graphiccasts and audio/visual (multimedia) web briefings. These two web activities allow the WFO to better communicate developing and ongoing weather situations to users. The WFO received an unprecedented number of emails complimenting both services. Comments on the Graphiccasts included "a class act," "this page is SUPER," "just about tells it all on one screen," and "your office seems to put a notable amount of effort out to educate your audience." Comments on the web briefings included "an awesome way to cover interesting weather events," "thank you all for the invaluable service you give to our community," "wow! I'm impressed with the briefing," and "one of the best and most succinct presentations I have ever seen on the web."

**Vanderbilt becomes StormReady®.** Vanderbilt University, a major private university in Nashville, Tennessee, was recently recognized as a StormReady Community. This is the first university or college in the state of Tennessee to be recognized as StormReady, and the 14<sup>th</sup> in the U.S.

**Hurricane Guide for Coastal Residents of South Texas.** The 2005 Atlantic hurricane season forever changed the lives of tens of thousands of Gulf Coast residents. This unprecedented and record breaking season was just one season in the middle of what is one of the most active multi-decadal



hurricane cycles on record. Yet, in the midst of this cycle the Mid-Texas coastline has gone 36 years since experiencing a direct impact from a major hurricane. An entire generation of South Texans has grown up unaware of the power of a major hurricane and the life changing effects it can deal to a community. Recognizing this vulnerability, members of the WFO Corpus Christi Hurricane Brochure Team identified a need to develop a clear and concise roadmap for residents of the Coastal Bend of South Texas to follow for life saving actions before, during and after storms.

The team produced a 24-page guide which shared valuable lessons learned from impacted communities during recent hurricane seasons, while also focusing on how residents in the Coastal Bend can prepare for upcoming storms. The team was able to garner the support of six key partners and secure nearly \$30,000 for printing and distribution costs, which enabled the printing of 85,000 guides for over 300,000 residents along the Coastal Bend of Texas. You can view the complete South Texas Survival Hurricane Guide at: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/crp/tropics/2006Guide/guide.php>

Members of the WFO Corpus Christi Coastal Bend Hurricane Survival Brochure team included HMT Steve Smart, forecasters Mike Gittinger, Tony Merriman, Jason Runyen, and Jason Dunn (now at WFO FWD), WCM John Metz, and MIC Scott Cordero.

**SR Regional Director Attends AASC Conference.** The American Association of State Climatologists (AASC) held their yearly conference in Rapid City, SD on June 21-23. Bill Proenza attended the conference and addressed the national organization. The theme of Mr. Proenza's presentation was the strategic positioning of NWS WFOs to gather and convey climate and drought information for distribution to state and local decision makers in a timely manner.

**New Experimental Climate Product Unveiled.** July 21<sup>st</sup> saw the debut of the NWS' new local seasonal temperature outlook. The product, called the Local 3-Month Temperature Outlook (L3MTO) is available on all WFO climate websites under the "climate prediction" tab. The L3MTO is a 13 month long-lead temperature forecast downscaled for specific locations from the CPC monthly forecast package. Each WFO has about 10 locations within their County Warning Area for which the downscaled local long-lead forecasts are available. The temperature outlooks are provided for 3 categories (below, near, and above normal), and for the probability of exceedance. An example of the product can be seen here:

[http://www.weather.gov/climate/calendar\\_outlook.php?wfo=tsa&site=348992](http://www.weather.gov/climate/calendar_outlook.php?wfo=tsa&site=348992)

**WFO Tulsa Meteorologist Plays Key Role in Climate Training Program.** Nicole Kempf, Meteorologist Intern at WFO Tulsa, has played a key role in the NWS training program for the new L3MTO product. Nicole is the developer and presenter of a webcast entitled *L3MTO: Product Motivation and Methodology*. This webcast provides greater details of the L3MTO methodology and is recommended for all WFO and RFC employees who need to know the L3MTO development procedure. The training webcast is now available at Climate Services PDS PCU4 page (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/csd/pds/pcu4/IC4.2/index.htm>).

**ThreadEx Project Completed.** NWS WFOs have collaborated with the Regional Climate Centers (RCCs), and NCDC to standardize and lengthen the climate records for all SR locations that are published in NCDCs *Local Climatological Data*. *ThreadEx* is a project designed to address the fragmentation of stations over time due to station relocations. In many instances SR WFOs shared their local in house historical climate data with the RCCs and NCDC. This has allowed the historical climate database at all three entities to be lengthened and also has allowed for the first time the creation of a standardized NOAA climate database which is homogeneous. Locations at which the climate period of



record has been lengthened and standardized can be noted by the use of the word “area” (i.e. Dallas/Ft. Worth area) in the XM-ACIS web-based climate database which each WFO has access to.

**SR MIC Makes Presentation at Drought Workshop.** The New Mexico Drought Task Force and National Drought Mitigation Center held a one day workshop in Roswell, NM in late May. The event featured new tools to understand climate and agriculture risk in the coming year. WFO El Paso MIC Bill Alexander was the featured speaker during lunch. Bill gave an update to the producers and stakeholders on the new *NWS Precipitation Analysis Tool*, and also gave an update on the status of the drought situation in New Mexico and an outlook on the remainder of 2006.

## SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

**WFO Melbourne Hosts Visiting Scientists.** As part of a 3-year, multifaceted project between the Government of India and the National Weather Service, WFO Melbourne staff will provide training to two India Meteorological Department meteorologists during a 6-week period this summer. The training program will focus on operational aspects of tropical cyclone forecasting, as well as hazard communication and inter-agency coordination. Senior Meteorologist Scott Spratt, Principal Investigator for the sub-project will lead the training, and will accompany the trainees during a visit to the National Hurricane Center. The project is sponsored by the NWS International Activities Office, with funding provided by the US Agency for International Development.

**New Technical Attachment.** Bill Murrell, Forecaster at WFO Shreveport, has provided a new technical attachment entitled "Widespread Wind Damage from 2 June 2004 Derecho in the ArkLaTex" (<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/topics/attach/pdf/ssd06-03.pdf>). This paper details the synoptic, mesoscale, and radar aspects of a severe squall line that moved rapidly southeast through southeast Oklahoma, southwest Arkansas, northeast Texas, and northwest Louisiana area on 2 June 2004. This squall line produced widespread wind damage, and a variety of interesting radar and warning challenges. A WES case study of this event is also available at SRH / SSD.

**Southern Region Science and Operations Officer Conference.** The Southern Region Science and Operations Officers (SOOs) met for a three-day conference, July 11-13, in Huntsville, Alabama, at the NASA Space Science and Technology Center. The meeting was a joint effort between Southern Region NWS and the NASA Short-term Prediction Research and Transition (SPoRT) group with the goal of developing and fostering collaborative relationships among the SOOs, Southern Region Scientific Services Division, and the NASA scientists. Another more NWS specific goal was to form the first group of topical regional resource teams for identifying best practices and to provide advice to Southern Region Headquarters concerning their areas of interest and expertise. The meeting was a big success and should go a long way toward improving an already strong relationship with the NASA SPoRT group. Details on the meeting will be published in a forthcoming Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.





**COMET Partner's Projects.** Six Southern Region offices were awarded COMET Partner's Projects for the coming year. Partner's Projects are short-term collaborative research efforts involving a University and NWS partner; typically a researcher and his/her graduate student and a forecaster or hydrologist in the NWS. The following Southern Region projects were funded:

- “Validating DSP Precipitation Product Using 50 GBRA Rain Gauge Rainfall”, University of Texas at San Antonio and WFO Austin/San Antonio.
- “Total Lightning Observations in the Warning Decision Process for Severe Convection over the Southern Great Plains”, Texas A&M University and WFO Fort Worth.
- “The Climatology of Dew Points and Fire Weather Related Parameters in the Missouri-Arkansas Region”, University of Missouri-Columbia and WFOs Little Rock and Springfield.
- “Evaluation of the LMRFC Multisensor Precipitation Estimates using Independent Dense Rain Gauge Network and Disdrometer Measurements”, University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center (LMRFC).
- “Impact of Local Analysis and Prediction System on Coastal/Marine Forecasts from NWS Key West”, Florida State University and WFO Key West.
- “Improving the Meso-gamma Scale Prediction in Puerto Rico Region: Observation Analyses and Numerical Experiments of Streamers”, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez and WFO Puerto Rico.

**August VISIT Teletraining Calendar.** The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) calendars for August is available. A one-page printable planning version of the calendar is available at: <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/planning.html?7>. 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](mailto:visit@comet.ucar.edu)

The sessions planned for August are:

- \* The GOES 3.9um Channel (Basic, August 1, 15, 18)
- \* The Enhanced-V: A Satellite Severe Storm Signature (Basic, August 4 and 28)
- \* GOES Sounder Data and Products (Basic, August 11)
- \* Use of GOES/RSO imagery with other Remote Sensor Data for Diagnosing Severe Weather across CONUS (Intermediate, Part I August 16, Part II August 17)
- \* GOES High Density Winds (Basic, August 21)
- \* Cyclogenesis: Analysis utilizing Geostationary Satellite Imagery (Basic, August 29)

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>



## ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

<b><u>SOUTHERN REGION WORKFORCE TRANSACTIONS</u></b>			
<b><u>JULY/AUGUST 2006</u></b>			
<b><u>Southern Region Gains</u></b>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Timothy L. Shy	WFO ABQ	Transfer from AR	Lead Forecaster, GS-13
Jeffrey D. Vitale	WFO ABQ	New Hire	Met Intern, GS-9
Toni A. Goff	WFO LIX	New Hire	ASA, GS-7
William D. Edgar	WFO TUL	New Hire	Elec Tech, GS-10
Melissa Hurlbut	WFO JAX	Selected from WR	Met Intern, GS-9
Ernest N. Duxbury	WFO MRX	Selected from WR	Elec Tech, GS-11
Gordon Strassberg	WFO MFL	Selected from CR	Forecaster, GS-11
Andrew E. Tingler	WFO MFL	Selected from CR	Forecaster, GS-11
Tabitha Bray	WFO LZK	New Hire	Met Intern, GS-7
David Hamrick	WFO JAN	New Hire	Met Intern, GS-7
Roham Abtahi	WFO SJU	Selected from WR	Met Intern, GS-7
James A. Larosa	WFO OHX	Selected from CR	Service Hydrologist, GS-13
<b><u>Within Region Transfers/Actions</u></b>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>To (Office)</u>	<u>Action/Transfer</u>	<u>To Title/Grade</u>
Felecia Bowers	WFO LUB	Converted to CC	Met Intern, GS-9

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**NWR Campaign Meets the Largest Oil Producer in Texas.** WFO Lubbock WCM Brian LaMarre recently provided a weather safety presentation to employees of Oxy Permian's plant in Levelland, Texas. Oxy Permian is the largest oil producer in Texas, as a result of its recent acquisition of Altura Energy. Following an hour-long presentation on local WFO Lubbock services and overall weather safety, Brian met with the management of Oxy to answer questions about the NOAA Weather Radio – All Hazards campaign discussed during the presentation. The campaign continues to sweep across the United States, and WFO Lubbock partnered with their NBC affiliate, KCBD News Channel 11; United Supermarkets; and the key player in the campaign, Midland Radio Corporation. Oxy's management was so impressed with the presentation and how well their 120 employees responded to the material, they announced to the group that Oxy would purchase one NOAA Weather Radio for each of them – truly an expression of management's investment in the well-being and weather safety of their employees!



**Drought Outreach in New Mexico.** WFO Albuquerque MIC Charlie Liles joined forces with New Mexico State Engineer John D'Antonio on the "Stateline Show" July 7 on KNME-TV, the Albuquerque PBS affiliate, to discuss drought and water issues. Charlie and John fielded a number of questions from viewers during this live, call-in show. Timing of the show was quite interesting in that New Mexico has had a number of flash floods the past two years to add to the complexity of assessing long-term drought and the impact on water issues. The passion of some of the callers evoked remembrance of an old quote by Mark Twain: "Whiskey is for drinking. Water is for fighting!"

**Amber Alert in the Tennessee Hispanic Community.** WFO Nashville played host to a meeting on May 31 to discuss EAS in general, and EAS-in-the-Spanish-community in particular. MIC Larry Vannozzi met with officials from the TN Bureau of Investigations, the TN Association of Broadcasters, two TN radio stations, and a Hispanic advertising agency to discuss ways to spread Amber Alert information across the Hispanic community.

**Hamming It Up in North Texas.** Staff from WFO Fort Worth/Dallas played a prominent role at the HamCom amateur radio convention in Plano, Texas on June 9-10. Over 3,500 amateur radio operators from the south central U.S. attended the event. MIC Bill Bunting, WCM Gary Woodall, SH Bob Carle, and Met Interns Jennifer Dunn and Tara Dudzik staffed a booth throughout the event. The staffers answered questions, demonstrated various NWS websites, and provided brochures and SKYWARN frequency directories. During the convention, Bill Bunting presented a basic spotter training program, while Gary Woodall gave a seminar on basic radar interpretation and an advanced storm spotter session.

**State Police Learn About Radar from the Experts.** WFO Little Rock WCM John Robinson recently conducted a briefing for state police officials at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock. The state police had recently opened a new incident command center and wanted to know how they could acquire weather information for use during large incidents. John provided a guided tour of the WFO's web site, focusing in particular on the RIDGE radar products. He also took the officers through the information on JetStream's "Doppler University" so they could review various radar educational points as necessary. This is an excellent example of how the educational resources of JetStream can be utilized to support our partners in the emergency responder community. Kudos to Dennis Cain of WFO Fort Worth for his development of JetStream, and to John for exploiting it for the benefit of his local customers.

**Fort Smith Mall Hosts Safety Fair.** WFO Tulsa MIC Steve Piltz, Forecaster Brad McGavock, and Meteorologist Intern Nicole Kempf recently partnered with members of Sebastian County Emergency Management to staff an NWS informational display and safety booth at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Safety Fair in Fort Smith, Arkansas. This annual event was sponsored by KTCS radio station and the local ABC television affiliate. WFO Tulsa was one of a dozen organizations to participate in this day-long event. 100 people from west central Arkansas and east central Oklahoma stopped by the booth to ask questions and to pick up safety materials.

**New Orleans Talks Up Hurricane Preparedness.** WFO New Orleans WCM Frank Revitte was the luncheon speaker at a Chevron Hurricane Preparedness Conference in New Orleans on July 12. The two day conference was attended by 150-200 fuel distributors. Most were from the Gulf South region, but some were from inland areas such as Missouri and Ohio. During the conference there were meetings among the fuel distributors, as well as speakers and panel discussions where federal and state emergency response agencies were represented and discussed fuel distribution issues and preparedness for hurricane emergencies. Frank's presentation at the luncheon included information on the hurricane





seasons of 2004-2005, with a focus on Hurricane Katrina and NHC/NWS forecast responsibilities and products. Frank highlighted the need to take into account forecast error when making decisions, and the graphical products which can assist in depicting the average uncertainty cone. Frank also included a couple of slides on the new tropical cyclone wind probability product.

**WFO San Angelo.** The WFO Office Team created an interactive training program designed to prepare local officials to use NWS data, products and services in their emergency management decisions. Severe weather and flood scenarios were developed with products placed on a mock WFO San Angelo webpage. Periodically the scenarios were halted and participants were asked how they would respond to information received from the website and the WFO. The training has been provided to emergency managers at the Concho Valley Council of Governments and West Central Texas Council of Governments, 911 dispatchers, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department park rangers. Some county emergency managers, after participating in the training, have asked the team to bring the training to their counties so more local officials can participate.

**WFO Houston.** The WFO hosts one or more students each summer who "volunteer" for course credit. Usually the office gets a hard charging student who is looking to get some experience in the NWS to add to his/her credential upon graduation. The students become familiar with the entry level aspects of operations, do a worthwhile project, and write a short paper on their experience. Most of the time, MIC Bill Read says nothing remarkable happens in the short period of time the student is in volunteer status. This year, Sam Barnes, a sophomore at Texas A&M approached the MIC about doing the volunteer for credit. Sam was different in that he has a rather severe visual disability. His plan for the one month on duty was to examine how adaptable the NWS operational environment is for the visually impaired. Sam and his companion dog, Lexie, spent the month of June working at WFO HGX. Sam's report was very insightful and well written in Bill's opinion. As is usually the case, Bill says he probably gleaned more from Sam's experience than he did. Due to the length of the paper, it is not attached but available by contacting Gena Morrison, SRH.

**Sales of All-Hazards Radios Increases in West Central Texas.** Preliminary sales figures indicate that thousands of All-Hazards Radios have been sold in West Central Texas as a result of a preparedness campaign envisioned by WFO San Angelo forecaster Carl Wright. A partnership was formed of numerous local agencies including Boy Scout Councils, the Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps, TV stations, electric cooperatives, grocery store chains, local emergency planning committees, car dealerships, and Midland Radio Corporation to promote the idea that everyone needs an All-Hazards Radio in order to "Be Prepared."

**RFC and WFO Fort Worth.** The WFO and RFC conducted an office tour on Friday, July 10th, to an Upward Bound group from University of Texas in Arlington and a group from "The World Classroom. For the first part of the morning, WFO FWD MIC Gary Woodall gave a brief overview about the National Weather Service and other duties. Later RFC FWR Hydrologist Alana Mccants gave a brief description of the West Gulf River Forecast duties and hours of operation. Later that afternoon, RFC Senior Hydrologist Paul Greer gave the students a presentation on the importance of Water Supply in New Mexico and Colorado. Other members from the RFC and WFO spoke to the students in more detail about the importance of continuing their education and about math and science requirements for meteorology majors.



## WFO Amarillo Activities



WFO Amarillo MIC Jose Garcia and WCM Steve Drillette presented Vernon Alexander with a Special Service Award at a dinner in his honor on June 13th, 2006. Vernon recently retired from his position as the District 1 Emergency Coordinator for the Potter/Randall Counties Amateur Radio Emergency Services organization. Vernon has been a loyal Amateur Radio (HAMS) Skywarn spotter for the Amarillo National Weather Service since the mid 1980's. Despite his retirement, Vernon pledged to continue to assist in serving as a HAMS Skywarn spotter for the NWS.



WFO Amarillo WCM Steve Drillette and his son Josh staffed a booth at the annual Pampa Business Expo. This year's event took place on Saturday, June 23rd. There was an excellent turnout for the event with more than 250 local residents visiting the NWS booth. This is the 3rd consecutive year the Amarillo NWS has participated in this event.



**Corpus Christi participates in World Ocean Day at Texas State Aquarium (TSA).** WFO Corpus Christi OPL Larry Maifeld and WCM John Metz talked to hundreds of visitors at the TSA on World Ocean Day – June 8th. The Kids Discovery Center occupies the upper floor of the TSA and this room was dedicated to the NWS to set up a weather center. Corpus’s 12 foot display illustrated the hazards of a hurricane. At the top of every hour John and Larry presented a 20 minute show on how to take a weather observation using our mobile COOP weather station. Weather activities were available for all children on activity tables throughout the room. Children could make clouds using construction paper, cotton balls and colors, and construct a wind gauge. The kids and adults alike were also challenged with a flash flood quiz. The event was well covered by the television and print media, providing great visibility for the WFO and the National Weather Service.



WCM John Metz talks to students

**WFO Little Rock.** As part of a continuing outreach to aviation customers, Newton Skiles, WFO Little Rock Senior Forecaster/Aviation Focal Point recently participated in “Operation Skyhook”, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Fly-In of the Black Pilots of America (BPA). The fly-in was held May 25 – 28, 2006 at Grider Field in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. The BPA was established in 1997, and Pine Bluff is the location of its national office. Two of the primary purposes of the BPA are: To train youth to participate and advance in various types of employment within the field of aviation, and to stimulate and encourage broader job opportunities for under privileged youth in all phases of aviation. A total of 105 attendees registered for the fly-in with 40 aircraft participating. Attendees came from as far away as southern California, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, PA. Mr. Lewis Lynch, one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen was also in attendance. Newton presented a PowerPoint program to attendees at a safety meeting on the first evening of the fly-in. In his presentation, he described the products and services that the National Weather Service provides to the aviation community. Also, participating in



the safety meeting were representatives from the FAA and the Transportation Security Administration. As part of the NWS participation during the other days of the fly-in, Newton set up a display describing NWS aviation services and aviation weather hazards. Hand-outs on ASOS and informative aviation websites were provided to attendees. Also provided to attendees were Pilot Weather Resource CDs that contained Internet links to valuable aviation information. Newton also gave daily weather outlooks for the Pine Bluff area to the pilots. Fly-in activities included Flour Bomb Drops, Pylon and Formation Flying competitions, and a Balloon Bursting competition. Pilots also provided free plane rides to area youths.

**WFO San Juan.** Lead Forecaster, Hector Rivera and HMT Rosalina Vazquez conducted an office tour for 42 high school student belonging to the UPR – Rio Piedras Campus Upward Bound Program. The program provides academic and personal support designed to motivate and prepare students for college who may be the first in their family to consider going to college. Hector discussed global warming, hurricanes, and careers opportunities within the NWS. Rosalina conducted the office tour.

