

The Villages starts off Hurricane Expo Season

Hundreds of “Villagers” came out to attend a hurricane expo this past Thursday at the Savannah Center up in The Villages. National Weather Service meteorologists Ryan Sharp and Todd Barron set up a booth at the event to hand out preparedness brochures as well as answer questions about our products and services. The popular retirement community is growing quickly, with several attendees reporting that they were new to the Villages this year and that it would be the first year they could have to deal with a hurricane.

In addition to keeping up with the booth, Todd and Ryan joined former National Weather Service employee Karl Loeper on the radio, broadcasting live from the expo. The interviews were part of a “Focus on the Villages” talk show, hosted by Rob Newton. Questions about the upcoming hurricane season as well as hurricane preparedness were answered by the National Weather Service team, and personnel from the emergency management team for the Villages as well as for Sumter County were also interviewed on preparedness tips.



National Weather Service Meteorologists Todd Barron and Ryan Sharp bracketing Karl Loeper, a radio weather forecaster for WVLG in The Villages. *Photo courtesy of Roger Kass.*

While the hurricane season’s activity is tough to predict, the hurricane expo season will be a busy one across the 15-county area that The National Weather Service in Ruskin serves. Unfortunately, forecaster availability is limited so we cannot attend them all. However, we encourage you to attend any nearby expos. There will be lots of information on how you can protect yourselves and your property in case one of these dangerous storms crosses West Central or Southwest Florida this season.