



A Dozen Dedicated Amateur Radio Operators Come to “Field Day 2016” at NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley

On June 25, 2016, the largest group of Lower Rio Grande Valley (Cameron County) Amateur Radio Operators set up “camp” at NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley for the first Field Day to be hosted jointly with the NWS in many years. Despite a slow start due to solar interference among many frequencies, conditions cleared for a successful event, which began at noon and lasted through around 6 PM. Dozens of contacts were made around the region and around the world, including into the tropics of the Caribbean.

The field day gave NWS staff the opportunity to reconnect with long-time operators and meet new ones at an important time – a month ahead of the peak of the 2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Amateur radio operators are often the last line of communication when all else fails; building relationships with the staff ensures the office will have excellent support inside and outside of the office should a tropical cyclone or other significant weather system impact the Lower Valley. Future field days may be scheduled, along with reconnecting Lower and Upper (Hidalgo and Starr County) operators to fuse communication throughout the Rio Grande Valley in order to provide NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley real time reports of flooding, wind damage, and more.

Thanks to the local amateur radio clubs for their participation, and Brian Miller, Senior Forecaster (KE5AWU) for organizing this successful event.