

NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley In Your Neighborhood...and Beyond!



Barry Goldsmith promotes the upcoming RGV Emergency Management Partners Hurricane Workshop at the 4th Annual South Texas Hurricane/All Hazards Conference in McAllen on March 23rd and 24th 2016.

March 2016

March 1: Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* conducted a **Skywarn** training class with the **City of Pharr**.

--*Barry Goldsmith* spoke at the **Master Naturalists Climate Course** in Edinburg on local and national climate and weather connections.

March 5: *Barry Goldsmith* conducted a **Skywarn** training class for the **RGV HAMS** field day in Harlingen.

March 7, 14, 21, 28: *Barry Goldsmith* and Observation Program Leader/Meteorologist *Erin Billings* participated by email, phone or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Telecon**.

March 14-19: *Barry Goldsmith* provided a daily weather briefing and related decision support services for the **SPI Spring Break Texas Week Health Consortium**. DSS became critical toward the weekend, when a strong cold front arrived during the peak concert events during Texas Week.

March 22: *Barry Goldsmith* participated in the **Rio Grande Valley Hurricane Evacuation Tabletop exercise** in Harlingen, led by the Texas Division of Emergency management.

Information Technology Officer *Pablo Gonzalez* gave an **office tour** to officials from the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife** service and members of his family.

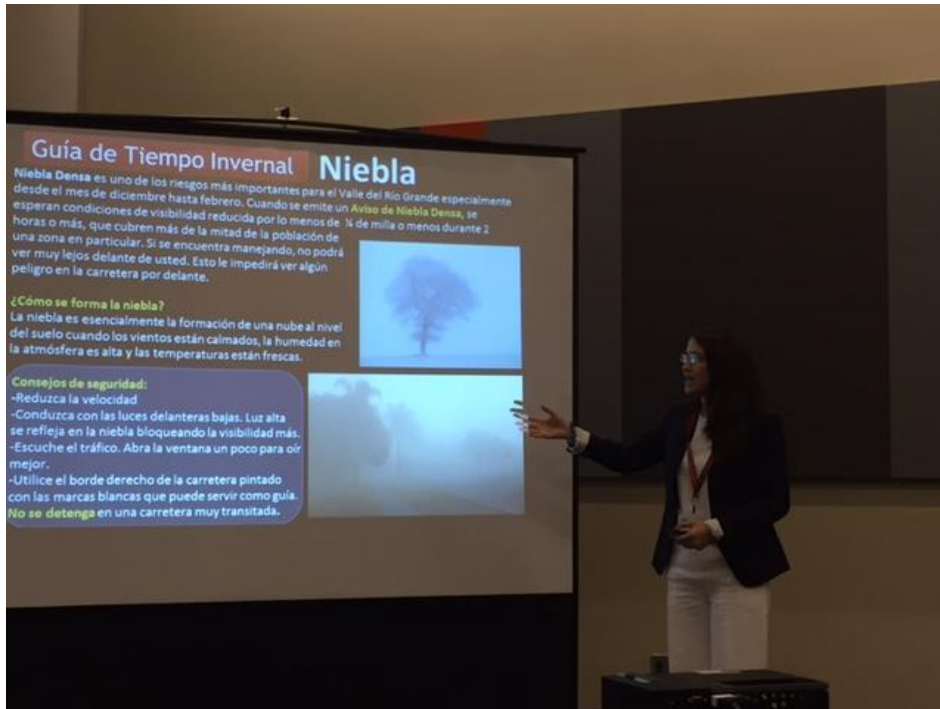
March 23-24: Meteorologists *Maria Torres* and *Chris Birchfield*, and *Barry Goldsmith* attended the fourth annual **South Texas All-Hazards and Hurricane (EM) Conference** in McAllen. Maria and Barry presented “Let’s “Go To Church”! How the NWS Forms Partnerships with RGV Religious Leaders to Improve Community Response to Dangerous Weather” on the 24th. Maria, Chris, and Barry staffed the booth on both days, where nearly 600 people passed by.

Senior Meteorologist *Joseph Tomaselli* gave a **presentation and office tour** to two groups of aviation honors ground school students from **Rio Hondo High School**.

March 29: Meteorologist *Blair Scholl* and *Barry Goldsmith* each conducted a **Skywarn** training class in **Brownsville**.

March 30: Senior Meteorologist *Mike Castillo*, *Blair Scholl*, and *Barry Goldsmith* each conducted a **Skywarn** training class in **Brownsville**

March 31: *Chris Birchfield* and Meteorologist *Jason Straub*, along with *Joseph Tomaselli* , provided an **office tour** a group of 5 winter Texans.



Above: Clockwise, from top: Maria Torres gives presentation to Texas Department of Emergency Management Conference on “Hablamos Tiempo en Español, Texas?”, on April 7th, 2016. Barry Goldsmith opens the National Tropical Weather Conference on April 14th with a presentation on tropical and non-tropical related flooding in the Rio Grande Valley in 2015; Goldsmith with KGBT CBS-4 Meteorologist Bryan Hale for an interview on social media efforts during hurricanes on April 21st, 2016.

April 2016

April 2: *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **Los Fresnos Safe Room/Community Center** ribbon cutting and grand opening. Barry visited the site and toured the facility, including the safe room.

April 2-3: *Barry Goldsmith* staffed a booth at the **RGV Home and Garden Show** in McAllen and spoke to 400 to 500 individuals who passed by the booth. On the 3rd, Barry also presented “The Four Seasons of Rio Grande Valley Weather” to around 15 people.

April 4, 11, 18, and 25: *Barry Goldsmith* and *Erin Billings* participated by email, phone or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Telecon**.

April 5 – 7: Meteorologist *Maria Torres* and *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **2016 Texas Emergency Management Conference** in Austin. On, the 5th Barry presented a reprise of “Becoming EF Hutton: How NWS Partnerships Texas NWS Offices and Emergency Managers Prepared Communities Prior to 2015 Flooding.”, to around 65 attendees. On the 7th, *Maria Torres* presented “Hablamos Tiempo en Español, Texas?” which described communication and outreach efforts in Spanish to provide DSS through traditional and social media, to around 20 attendees.

April 11-12: *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **FEMA L-320 Hurricane Preparedness Course** in Corpus Christi. Barry taught a session on impacts from tropical cyclone flooding and tornadoes on April to 50 emergency managers from the Houston/Galveston region to the Coastal Bend.

April 14-15: Meteorologist-in-Charge *James Reynolds*, *Barry Goldsmith*, and *Maria Torres* attended the **2016 National Tropical Weather Conference** on South Padre Island. Barry spoke to more than 50 attendees on “It Doesn’t Take a Hurricane to Know Which Way the Water Flows,” which detailed tropical-related flood events with no named storms in 2015 for portions of the RGV.

April 19: *Barry Goldsmith* conducted a **Skywarn** training class in McAllen. Fifteen new/recertified spotters were trained.

April 21: *Barry Goldsmith* gave a **structural resilience interview** at his home for a feature story on **KVEO Channel 23**.

Barry Goldsmith provided an **interview** to Bryan Hale from **KGBT Channel 4**, on NWS and social media, to be used on the station’s annual hurricane season special in May.

April 23: *Maria Torres* participated and spoke on Spanish Language products, services, and social media in the Rio Grande Valley at the **Univision Weather Workshop** for all Univision stations in Texas, in Austin.

April 24: Meteorologist *Chris Birchfield* and *Barry Goldsmith* staffed a booth at **StormFury 2016 at the Pharr Events Center**. Around 100 visitors stopped by the booth to visit and pick up informational brochures.

April 26: **CoCoRaHS National Coordinator Henry Reges and State Coordinator Bill Runyon** visited the office a provided a presentation, which was attended by five office members, three local observers, and **KVEO Channel 23**, who did a story on the visit.

April 27: *Barry Goldsmith* provided a **“Hurricane Strong: Readiness Interview”** at a property in Los Fresnos to **KVEO Channel 23**. Barry visited and surveyed the site for items to

fix/strengthen prior to the 2016 hurricane season, and the resident was interviewed to discuss what the owner will do to become #HurricaneStrong. The interview was the second of a two-part series on building resilience prior to the season.